

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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14 September 1983

DOCUMENT 1-712/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr SASSANO, Mr ANTONIOZZI and
Mr NARDUCCI

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on measures to revive the European craft trades
as a contribution to the solution of the problem
of youth unemployment

PE 86.585
Or. It.

The European Parliament,

- A - reiterating its intention of marking 1983 as the year of the craft trades by proposing specific initiatives designed to bring about the revival of this important sector,
- B - having regard to the motion for a resolution tabled by Mrs Pruvot and Mr Habsburg on the creation of a European prize to stimulate the interest of young people in certain craft trades which are dying out (Doc. 1-19/83 of 15/3/1983),
- C - having regard to the motion for a resolution by Mr Eisma on the consultation of representatives of small and medium-sized undertakings and in the craft sector (Doc. 1-103/83 of 29/8/83),
- D - having regard to the motion for a resolution by Mr Deleau and Mr Remilly, which has already been adopted, on the situation of commerce and the craft industries in the Community (Doc. 1-399/83),
- E - having regard to the motion for a resolution by Mr Anglade on the creation of a European Centre for small and medium-sized undertakings and craft industries (Doc. 1-349/83 of 19 May 1983),
- F - having regard to the importance which the revival of the craft trades may have to promote the employment of young people at the present juncture of an employment crisis in the industrial sector,
- G - recognizing that the craft sector provides opportunities for a unique combination of individuality, talent, freedom of expression and vocational training in return for reasonable investment levels,
- H - considering that this type of work which elevates the human spirit, personality and creativity by escaping from mass uniformity and achieving independence and freedom of initiative, reflects more than any other the spirit and the letter of the Treaties,
- I - whereas measures to foster the craft trades simultaneously help to safeguard the cultural heritage and the traditions of Europe,
- J - considering that in this sector it is easy to overcome selfish nationalism since glass-blowers, potters, goldsmiths, silversmiths, cabinet makers, blacksmiths, makers of leather goods, lace-makers, and, in a different area, tailors, shoemakers, hairdressers, costumiers, scriptwriters, etc. are the most authentic reflection of the thousand year old culture of the regions of Europe,

K - whereas it is appropriate to develop as far as possible this spirit of European competitiveness in dealing with the major non-European markets which are richer in industrial technology and financial capacity but almost always poorer in historic motivation, creative individuality and outstanding professional skills,

1. Calls for the creation, in 1983 - the year of the craft trades - , in all regions of the European Community which have a valid craft tradition, of European craft training schools to introduce young people to this noble art while at the same time providing support to existing craft and trade schools;
2. Asks for authorization to be given for practical training courses to be offered in these schools not only by teaching staff holding formal qualifications but also by artisans who are distinguished in their own particular field and would be given the title of master-craftsmen;
3. Calls for the organization each year in one Member State of an exhibition of the European craft trades sponsored by the Community;
4. Proposes that, at the end of this exhibition, a prize and an award should be given to a European craftsman in each recognized sector;
5. Calls upon the Community and Member States to assist, by granting special credit facilities, small craft firms and shops;
6. Asks for greater facilities to be granted to those craftsmen who undertake the difficult task of preparing apprentices with all the necessary social guarantees, but without the obligation to offer almost immediate employment thereafter which is forcing many craft undertakings to abandon their activities;
7. Asks for agreement to be reached at European level on VAT in respect of craft products bearing in mind the fact that these activities should be encouraged and not penalized, as in certain Member States, where VAT charges on these products make their purchase prohibitive and where VAT cannot be refunded at the frontiers as is permitted in certain countries;
8. Calls finally on the Community not to allow this year dedicated to the craft trades to pass by without entering into undertakings in this sector to assist the vast number of European citizens who are still choosing to embark upon craft careers despite the many difficulties;
9. Instructs its President to forward this motion for a resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

