

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

11 November 1982

1-856/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr Wagner, Mr Moreau, Mr Mihr, Mr Rogalla,
Mr Franz, Mr von Bismarck, Mr de Ferranti, Mr Hopper,
Mr Bonaccini, Mr Wedekind, Mr Papantoniou, Mr Desouches,
Mr Macario, Mr Leonardi, Mr Welsh, Miss Forster, Mr Herman,
Mr Rogers, Mr Beazley, Mr Caborn, Mr Schinzel, Mr Beumer
and Mr Deolorozoy

with request for topical and urgent debate
pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure
on overcoming the European steel crisis

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the serious aggravation of the steel crisis in the European Economic Community, its catastrophic effects on economic and employment policy, particularly in the steel centres which have for a number of years, been in the throes of a radical restructuring process and the fact that it has already caused considerable closures and the sacrifice of a large number of jobs as well as social and human strains on the workers affected and their families,
- B. assuming that the further reduction of existing surplus capacity in the steel sector is unavoidable and that suitable measures must be introduced to guarantee the employees, undertakings and regions concerned appropriate aid for a limited transitional period and that in addition all public and private efforts must be supported which create an adequate number of secure jobs for the future through new products and services,
- C. having regard to the general difficulty of the economic and employment crisis and the steep increase in unemployment - particularly amongst young people - and the threat of further aggravation of employment and structural problems particularly in the coal and steel regions of the European Community,
- D. having regard to the urgent need to carry out firmly and effectively the crisis measures instituted under the ECSC Treaty in order to stabilize the steel market (by ensuring compliance with prices and quotas), to improve the situation of steel firms and regions, and to guarantee employment and the provision of comprehensive social flanking measures for the workers concerned,
- E. in connection with the Commission's document on GENERAL OBJECTIVES FOR STEEL FOR 1985, and with the punctual, intensive consultation of the European Parliament and in particular, of the employers' and employees' organizations, such consultation having hitherto been inadequate,
- 1. Once again, urgently calls on the Commission and the Council to launch, together with firms and trade unions, an economic and employment policy offensive based on a common strategy for the effective reduction of mass unemployment and the reattainment of full employment. There is a need for comprehensive efforts to bring about a qualitative growth of the economy via the provision of massive support for private and public

investment and the boosting of domestic demand;

2. Believes that resolute and effective implementation of restructuring and steel crisis measures taken under the ECSC Treaty in cooperation with the steel undertakings and in the context of EUROFER and EISA is a matter of great urgency, to ensure that the price improvements, market stabilization and the resulting protection of jobs, are not jeopardized again.
3. Asks the Commission to take appropriate steps against imports from third countries which enter the Community in contravention of the rules so that serious disruptions of the market and of the employment situation can be prevented in good time;
4. Asks the Commission to examine the agreements on voluntary restraints which it has concluded with various supplier countries and, in view of the continuing fall in demand for steel products, to conclude new agreements with the most important suppliers, and in addition to bring forward the deadlines within which the national import statistics must be communicated to Brussels;

in this connection the Commission is called upon to ensure the introduction at an early date of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy procedures and to implement these procedures firmly and more promptly;

5. Appeals to the Commission and the Council and to employers to do their utmost to protect jobs and to guarantee social flanking measures for the employees affected, to provide extra measures for further training and retraining of employees in the steel industry itself and outside in suitable vocational training establishments, and to ensure the full utilization of training facilities in the steel firms to provide proper training for young people.

This also applies to the urgent creation of replacement jobs in connection with restructuring measures in the regions afflicted by the steel crisis, supported by considerable financial aid and effective promotive measures. The Commission is once again called upon to work out, in cooperation with government and regional authorities, special regional support and assistance programmes for these steel crisis regions which suffer from a high level of unemployment and are characterized by a steel/coal monostructure, with the aim in good time of creating replacement jobs, improving the infrastructure and providing more advanced occupational training and retraining for the workers concerned. The undertakings,

the workers and their trade unions should be fully involved at an early stage in these measures;

6. Actively supports a much greater degree of coordination than has hitherto been the case of the resources of the Community's Regional and Social Funds and all other Community financial instruments. At the same time there must be a considerable replenishment of the funds for low-interest loans under the ECSC Treaty and in addition to that soft loans must be made available in the context of the New Community Instrument NCI (Ortoli facility), on the lines of the low-interest loans granted to some Member States in the context of the EMS;
7. Sees a need for a considerable increase in funds for research and development in the steel sector inter alia for the possibility of increasing the demand for steel and its use and for more effective coordination with related national measures. Here priority should be given to projects and installations in the steel regions affected by restructuring and to transfrontier cooperation activities;
8. Calls on the Commission to take account in the necessary additional dismantling of the present surplus capacity in order to restore competitiveness to the European steel industry of the closures made sine 1977 (beginning of the steel crisis) and the related high level of job losses, and to bear in mind the economic and social sacrifices for the workers and regions affected in its decision on the present steel restructuring programmes and the state aids provided in that connection. At the same time comprehensive social flanking measures and regional structural aid programmes scheduled to link in with the planned restructuring measures must be set in train;
9. Expects the commission and the Council, in view of the high level of debt of the European steel firms which are in the process of structural reorganization, to draw up and implement immediately an appropriate proposal for a community debt funding scheme which must produce tolerable interest burdens.
10. Calls on the commission immediately to ensure early and intensive participation, in the context of consultation on the Commission's draft 'GENERAL OBJECTIVES FOR STEEL 1985'. At the same time the continuous participation of the European Parliament should be guaranteed through the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs with interim reports on

the outcome of consultations with other parties concerned;

11. Calls on the Commission and the Council, in view of the aggravated crisis and the need for vital decisions, to report promptly and fully, in writing and orally, to the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs during the next year on the present situation and foreseeable developments in the steel sector, and on related measures and decisions taken by the Commission, the Council, national governments and the steel undertakings and in the context of EUROFER and EISA;
12. Agrees on the need for the own-initiative report on steel to be drawn up by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and for the related hearing procedure, in which European groupings of trade unions and employers as well as other experts should be asked to take part;
13. Proposes to the Commission and the Council that a European steel conference of representatives of the council and the Commission and of European groupings of trade unions and employers from the steel sector should be convened in view of the current emergency situation;
14. Instructs its President to forward the present resolution to the Commission and the Council and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.