

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

---

14 SEPTEMBER 1981

DOCUMENT 1-478/81

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr GALLAND, Mr CALVEZ, Mr NORD,  
Mr DAMSEAUX, Mr BERKHOUWER, Mr PINTAT,  
Mrs PRUVOT and Mrs MARTIN on behalf of the  
Liberal and Democratic Group

with request for topical and urgent debate  
pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

on the free movement of goods within the  
European Community

PE 74.719

The European Parliament,

- whereas Article 3 of the Treaty of Rome states, in particular, that 'the activities of the Community shall include
    - the elimination, as between Member States, of customs duties and quantitative restrictions on the import and export of goods, and of all other measures having equivalent effect;
    - the abolition, as between Member States, of obstacles to freedom of movement for persons, services and capital,'
  - whereas the principle of the free movement of goods is the fundamental basis of the Common Market and whereas it must not come under attack,
  - whereas any measure taken unilaterally, without prior concertation, by a Member State of the Common Market, concerning the entry of goods into a country, may be considered as a protectionist measure in disguise,
  - whereas this kind of practice leads to escalation and sets precedents which are liable to undermine the very basis of the Common Market;
1. Regrets that, in order to safeguard their own markets, certain member countries have decided to close their frontiers on grounds which are legally questionable;
  2. Regrets that this kind of situation is often the result of distortions in national policies;
  3. Doubts whether the adoption of such measures is compatible with Community rules, in terms of both the speed with which they were implemented and their substance especially as regards their field of application;
  4. Considers that, instead of undermining Community rules by unilaterally changing their policies, the Member States ought to attempt to find solutions to their respective problems by working together;
  5. Calls upon the Commission to draw up rules in each sector - and in the agriculture sector in particular - to ensure better enforcement of the Treaty of Rome;
  6. Hopes that the Council, in taking political decisions, will give the Commission, which is responsible for the arbitration of trade conflicts, the means of settling this kind of problem without having to resort to an infringement procedure;
  7. Points out that the Council should take all necessary measures to ensure that the free movement of goods is not obstructed by the absence of a common economic and monetary policy;
  8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the governments of the Member States.