

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1980 - 1981

---

19 September 1980

Document 1-416/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on measures to combat tobacco addiction

The European Parliament,

- considering that health is one of the most valuable assets of the citizens of the nine Member States and conscious therefore of its duty to protect it in every respect and particularly in the sectors within its competence,
- recalling that, in the countries of the European Economic Community, at least 100,000 people die of lung cancer each year and that many other deaths may be ascribed to other consequences of smoking,
- conscious of and concerned by the hazards of tobacco smoking, which also affect non-smokers,
- noting the many authoritative opinions given on the dangers of smoking by eminent specialists in the Nine countries, including those invited by the European Parliament to a hearing on carcinogenic substances present in the environment held on 22/23 May 1978,
- recalling the request addressed by the Council of Ministers of Health to the Commission on 16 November 1978 to set in train :
  - an exchange of experience on measures already taken in the Member States,
  - the establishment of common methods by which to compare the results and to assess the effectiveness of health education campaigns on smoking,
  - health education programmes aimed particularly at young people;
  - the search for a common attitude on advertising,
- considering the opinion issued by the Consumers' Consultative Committee on the damage caused by smoking and the present situation in the various countries of the EEC to be still valid,
- whereas on 17 January 1978, in answer to a question on tobacco addiction tabled by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection of the European Parliament, Commissioners Vredeling and Burke - each speaking for his own sphere of responsibility - gave precise undertakings on this subject and - in particular - the former one on research into tobacco substitutes, and the latter one on tobacco advertising,
- concerned by the distortions of competition caused by the fact that, while some EEC countries have put a ban on tobacco advertising, others allow it and often transmit it to the countries that do not have it,
- considering it extremely worrying that this Western habit should have

spread to the countries of the Third World to which, moreover, cigarettes are sent that have been rejected by Western consumers because of their high nicotine content,

- regretting that the Commission of the European Communities has not yet taken any special action in this year of 1980, which the WHO has dedicated to the subject of smoking and health setting out certain objectives to be attained within a period of three years,
- surprised that the answers the Commission has given to various questions on this subject have been uncertain, evasive, out of date and very often late,
- referring to Council of Europe recommendation 716 of 1973 on the control of tobacco and alcohol advertising and on measures to curb consumption of these products,
- conscious of the increasing awareness of public opinion of health problems and particularly those connected with soft and hard drugs, legal and illegal,

1. Asks the Commission of the European Communities to ensure that:

- the requests made by the Council of Ministers of Health in 1978 are met as soon as possible,
- a survey is immediately presented of the legislation on smoking in the Member States,
- a comparative study is made of the States' tax revenue from the sale of tobacco and the economic and social costs (hospitalization, medicines, working days lost) incurred as a result of illness caused by tobacco smoking (lung cancer, bronchitis, emphysema, cardiovascular disease),
- research programmes are financed into new varieties of tobacco with a lower nicotine content which can be used to replace existing varieties,
- studies are made of ways to prevent the sale to Third World countries of cigarettes which have been shunned on Western markets because they are too harmful and to replace tobacco crops with food crops as part of the campaign against hunger and to avoid the waste of raw materials, such as wood, which are used in excessive quantities for the drying of tobacco;

2. Asks furthermore to draw up a report on this subject in view of the important social and economic effects of tobacco addiction and the sensitivity which the peoples of Europe are beginning to show to it.