

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1980 - 1981

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10 FEBRUARY 1981

1-886/80

### MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Miss HOOPER, Mr TYRRELL, Mr SIMMONDS,  
Mr SPENCER, Miss ROBERTS, Mr PEARCE, Mr DALZIEL,  
Mr HOPPER, Mr MARSHALL, Mr PRICE, Mr SHERLOCK,  
Mr MOORHOUSE, Mr FERGUSSON, Mr COTTRELL,  
Mr PROVAN, Lord BETHELL, Mr PURVIS,  
Mr HUTTON, Mr WELSH, Sir David NICHOLSON and  
Miss BROOKES

with request for urgent debate

pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure

on the crisis in the sugar cane industry

### The European Parliament,

- having regard to the decision by Tate & Lyle, the Community's biggest cane sugar refiners, to close their Liverpool refinery as soon as possible following earlier closures and reduction in capacity in London (Hammersmith), Scotland (Greenock) and Liverpool,
  - having regard to the Community's commitment to the ACP countries to import 1.3m tonnes of cane sugar each year from ACP producers,
  - believing that the decision made by Tate & Lyle is a direct result of the Council's refusal to agree the cuts in sugar-beet quotas proposed by the Commission for 1980 and again for 1981,
  - recalling Parliament's previous commitment to the reduction of agricultural structural surpluses and recognizing that the Council's refusal to cut these quotas will result in a structural surplus in sugar in 1981/82,
  - having regard to the forthcoming meeting of the Council of Agriculture Ministers on 25 February 1981, which could and should urgently consider this problem,
  - having regard to the exceptionally high unemployment levels in Liverpool where the Tate & Lyle closure is to take place, creating the loss of a further 1,650 jobs,
1. Notes that many ACP countries have economies which are totally dependent on sugar cane production;
  2. Insists that urgent consideration be given to the Sugar Protocol of the Lomé Convention and the Community's ability to fulfil its obligation in the light of the proposed reduction in cane sugar-refining capacity;
  3. Requests the Council to implement the best sugar quota reductions proposed by Commissioner Gundelach in 1980;
  4. Urges both the Council and Commission to find means of eliminating the unfair market margin which the present sugar régime gives to beet sugar refiners to the detriment of cane sugar refiners.

### JUSTIFICATION

The next meeting of the Council of Agriculture Ministers at which sugar quotas can be discussed takes place on 25 February.

The European Parliament delegation is meeting representatives of the Consultative Assembly of the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries in West Africa on 24 February and this item is likely to be on the agenda.

The decision to close down the Liverpool refinery could be avoided by appropriate urgent action.