

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

14 November 2003

B5-0478/2003

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mario Borghezio

on compensation from Germany for former Italian military internees

European Parliament resolution on compensation from Germany for former Italian military internees

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas reconciliation among the peoples of Europe after the horrors of the Second World War cannot exclude compensation to survivors of those appalling and tragic events,
- B. whereas the German foundation 'Memory, Responsibility and Future', a direct emanation of the German government and German industry, has decided that not only Italian military internees but also a large proportion of the civilian slave labourers should be excluded from the compensation payable to former internees,
- C. whereas in so doing the foundation is violating the principle of equality which is a fundamental element of the German Constitution,
- D. whereas this decision is based on an erroneous interpretation of the law which failed to take account of the fact that Italian military internees who were compelled to perform forced labour in German factories were not treated as prescribed by the Geneva Convention,
- E. having regard to its resolution on compensation for persons formerly employed as slave labour in German industry¹,
- 1. Considers that the payment of compensation to former Italian military personnel who were interned during the Second World War is a moral duty and a legal obligation of the German State;
- 2. Calls on the German authorities to pay such compensation, thereby avoiding intolerable discrimination;
- 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the German Bundestag, the German Government, the Federal Association of German Industry and the Presidency-in-office of the Council of the European Union.

¹ OJ C 36, 17.2.1986, p. 129.