

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

further to the Commission statement

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members: Wurtz, Markov, Bertinotti, Sjöstedt, Theonas, González Álvarez and Figueiredo

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on company restructuring

**B5-0192/1999**

**Resolution on company restructuring**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on company restructuring and relocations,
- A. deeply shocked that the Michelin management should have used the same occasion to announce 7500 redundancies and a 17% increase in profits,
- B. greatly concerned at the closure of the Wolber plant at Soissons, where 451 employees face redundancy in a region with acute unemployment,
- C. whereas the Michelin case is symbolic of the gathering pace of company closures and relocations across Europe, resulting in tens of thousands of redundancies, thereby making Community measures to boost employment and monitor company relocations all the more necessary,
- D. whereas many groups which restructure or relocate benefit directly or indirectly from financial aid from the Member States of the European Union,
- E. whereas multinational groups all too often take decisions without properly consulting or negotiating with trade unions or works councils,
- 1. Condemns the harsh, unilateral decision by the management of the Michelin group to close certain industrial sites, including the Wolber plant at Soissons, and make 7500 people redundant;
- 2. Rejects the arguments put forward by the Michelin management to justify the redundancies at a time when its profits are rising sharply;
- 3. Asks the Michelin management to revoke its decision and to enter into negotiations with the trade unions with a view to arriving at alternative solutions, such as fewer working hours for the same pay;
- 4. Expresses sympathy with the Michelin employees who have taken action to protest at the lay-offs;
- 5. Calls for a moratorium on Michelin's decision from the French Government and for the redundancy plans to be dropped;
- 6. Calls on the Member States to strengthen social legislation on redundancies by making it possible for employees' representatives and, if need be, the courts to examine both the financial grounds for redundancies given by the employer, so as to ascertain whether the planned lay-offs indeed prove necessary, and possible alternative solutions;
- 7. Calls on the Commission to initiate infringement proceedings against the decision by the Michelin group, in which no European works council exists;

8. Calls on the Commission to take the measures required to enforce Directive 94/45 on European works councils in all the undertakings concerned;
9. Calls on the Commission to propose increasing the powers and operational resources of European works councils as a matter of urgency by enhancing the rights of workers to information, genuine dialogue and involvement in strategic decisions, which may extend as far as the right to suspend redundancies;
10. Asks the Commission, in the light of the Michelin case, to reassess all aid for projects involving Michelin which have already been granted or are pending approval;
11. Considers it necessary to make all aid from public funds at national and Community level alike conditional on the conclusion of long-term agreements with the undertakings concerned on matters relating to jobs and local development, with provision made for penalties in the event of failure to comply with the commitments entered into;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.