

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

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

by the following Members: Zappalà, Suominen, Fiori, Tajani, Marini, Lisi, Nisticò, Fatuzzo, Brunetta, Mauro, Mantovani, Ferri, Podestà and Scapagnini

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on industrial restructuring in Europe

B5-0130/2000**Resolution on industrial restructuring in Europe**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the European Charter of workers' fundamental social rights of 1989, and the provisions of the EC Treaty, in particular Article 136, which states that Member States have common objectives concerning employment, improved living and working conditions, proper social protection and a social dialogue with a view to high and lasting employment and the combating of exclusion,
 - having regard to Directive 75/129/EC¹, amended by Directive 92/56/EC², on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to collective redundancies,
 - having regard to Directive 94/45/EC³ on the establishment of a European Works Council or a procedure in Community-scale undertakings and Community-scale groups of undertakings for the purposes of informing and consulting employees, as well as to the OECD and UN Codes of Conduct,
 - having regard to the Commission proposal on a general framework on information and consultation of workers in European undertakings,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on restructuring, relocations and closures of EC manufacturing plants,
- A. whereas companies should be as free as possible to make management decisions which secure the commercial growth of their enterprises and so help tackle the problem of structural long-term unemployment in Europe, while taking full account of the impact of their decisions,
- B. whereas decisions involving restructuring, relocating or closing down industries may reduce employment and jeopardise the economic and social cohesion of an area,
- C. whereas situations still arise where employees are informed after the decision, without any communication, consultation or involvement in any decision taken by the company,
- D. whereas the companies in question may have been granted over the years public aids and subsidies including tax relief,
1. Stresses that the emphasis should not be on bailing out firms with public money, but on helping firms to make their own management decisions under restructuring programmes, and in a way which represents best practice; in this connection, looks forward to

¹ OJ L 48, 22.2.1975, p. 29.

² OJ L 245, 26.8.1992, p. 3.

³ OJ L 254, 30.9.1994, p. 64.

considering the proposed Observatory of Industrial Change which is on the agenda of the European Council of 23-24 March;

2. Draws attention to the importance of creating European Works Councils to guarantee the transparency of relocation and restructuring decisions;
3. Invites the Commission to carry out an urgent evaluation of the implementation of the Directive on collective redundancies and closure of enterprises;
4. Stresses that the Commission should accelerate the re-examination of directive 94/45/EC;
5. Invites the Council to reach as soon as possible a common position on the proposal on a general framework on the information and consultation process of workers in European undertakings;
6. Invites Member States to favour social dialogue and co-operation within enterprises and regions;
7. Considers that any public subsidy should preferably be made conditional on long term agreements on employment and local development with the management of the undertakings;
8. In the topical case of the Goodyear/Dunlop plant at Cisterna di Latina, and bearing in mind the subsidies which have been received over the years, invites Goodyear/Dunlop to seek a business solution to keeping this plant open, which could include selling the operation to a European tyre manufacturer, thereby maintaining employment;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, and to the employees and management of the Goodyear/Dunlop plant at Cisterna di Latina.