

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

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*Session document*

10 March 2000

B5-0242/2000

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

further to the Commission statement

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

by the following Members: Figueiredo, Gerhard Schmid, Ainardi, Brie, Cossutta, Bertinotti and Papayannakis

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the extraordinary Council to be held in Lisbon on 23 and 24 March 2000

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PE 288.733  
Or. fr

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**B5-0242/2000****Resolution on the extraordinary Council to be held in Lisbon on 23 and 24 March 2000***The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the document of the Portuguese presidency on 'employment, economic reform and social cohesion - for a Europe of innovation and knowledge',
  - having regard to the contributions of the Community and certain Member States with a view to the Lisbon European Council,
- A. whereas, despite growth, job creation is still insufficient and mostly does not entail secure jobs, especially in the cases of young people, women and ethnic minorities,
1. Notes the Portuguese presidency's objective of full employment, but considers that the measures proposed will not permit attainment of this objective as they fail to attack the real causes of unemployment;
  2. Is concerned at the priority given to boosting the competitiveness of enterprises where this is founded on the reduction of wage costs, labour market flexibility and increasing the power of the financial markets;
  3. Regrets the continued subordination of social and employment policy to fulfilment of the stability pacts and the introduction of the euro;
  4. Advocates a new approach to development based on sustainability, avoidance of inflation and job creation;
  5. Believes that sustainable development must be founded on a critical attitude to the stability pacts, a fairer distribution of wealth, an increase in households' purchasing power and the relaunching of public and social investment;
  6. Notes the launching of a 'European social agenda', and calls for this to be based on objectives which are quantified, binding and monitorable for growth, investment, job creation and training;
  7. Calls on the European Council to take the following decisions with a view to achieving a 75% employment rate by 2010:
    - to transform insecure jobs into stable jobs;
    - to phase in a reduction of working time with no cuts in pay or 'flexibilisation';
    - to step up the fight against all forms of discrimination;
    - to promote gender equality and integrate this principle into all Community policies;
    - to implement the principle of lifelong learning;
    - to develop research, especially into sustainable technologies;

- to tax speculative capital movements at Community level and step up the fight against tax fraud and tax evasion;
  - to contribute to the preservation of high standards of welfare provision, based on solidarity and not dependent on commercial interests or financial profitability;
  - to introduce new mechanisms for combating exclusion and to call on the Member States to refuse all notions of benefit conditionality, to introduce a minimum income and to increase minimum welfare entitlements;
  - to tighten the monitoring of public aid to companies, so as to ensure that the main effect of such aid is to preserve and create jobs;
  - to revise the directives on European enterprise committees and collective redundancies so as to strengthen the rights and powers of employees and their trade unions, especially in relation to mergers and restructurings (with the right of veto), and to set up a special unit to monitor industrial change;
  - to put an end to deregulation and privatisation and promote public services;
  - to redefine the responsibilities of the ECB so as to give priority to growth and employment, and to reorient the EIB's priorities towards job-creating investment;
  - to improve the support mechanisms for family farms and SMUs.
8. Considers that the involvement of all economic agents is essential if unemployment is to be effectively fought; expects that the Portuguese presidency will call a meeting of the Forum of representatives of the EU institutions, the governments and economic agents;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Governments of the Member States.