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B5-0329/2000

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council report and the Commission statement

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

by Jean-Louis Bernié

on behalf of the EDD Group

on the extraordinary European Council of 23 and 24 March on 'Employment, Economic Reform and Social Cohesion: Towards a Europe based on Innovation and Knowledge'

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Resolution on the extraordinary European Council of 23 and 24 March on 'Employment, Economic Reform and Social Cohesion: Towards a Europe based on Innovation and Knowledge'

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the conclusions of the extraordinary European Council held in Lisbon on 23 and 24 March 2000,
 - having regard to the Commission's work programme for 2000 (COM(2000) 155),
 - having regard to the Communication entitled 'e-Europe: An information society for all' (COM(1999) 687),
 - having regard to the conclusions of the European Council meetings in Luxembourg, Cardiff, Cologne and Helsinki,
- A. mindful of the new economic prospects and of the expectations raised by the 'new economy', with its strong potential to stimulate growth and create jobs,
- B. whereas action must be taken urgently to ensure that the benefits of this new climate for economic development and international competition are reaped to the full,
- C. mindful of the fact that 15 million Europeans remain temporarily excluded from the labour market, and that in addition to them, other people are in an insecure position or are living below the poverty line,
1. Welcomes the holding of the Lisbon European Council, which focused on employment and the setting of an agenda for economic and social renewal whilst also addressing other issues such as the Balkans, the situation in Russia and the common defence policy, which has made full employment one of the underlying aims of action by the Union in the years to come, and which has sought to combine enhanced competitiveness with stronger cohesion;
 2. Notes the economic growth target of at least 3%;
 3. Stresses the need to modernise, but also to keep in place the instruments for spatial planning and equality amongst citizens, especially in rural areas - electricity, postal services, public transport and so forth - which are vital to maintaining balanced and rational land management and to reducing regional imbalances and their considerable impact on unemployment and on access to information superhighways and the knowledge-based society;
 4. Believes that as much attention as possible should be focused on the transition to the information and knowledge-based society and on putting the Presidency conclusions

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to practical use in a programme of action which addresses the main challenges to be taken up and involves the Council in its different formations, most notably the Employment and Social Affairs Council;

5. Calls on the Commission to specify further what it means by a new open method of coordination at all levels;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the parliaments of the Member States.