

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Session document

2.5.2007

B6-0197/2007

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Martin Schulz, Harlem Désir, Stephen Hughes, Jan Andersson, Kader Arif, Glyn Ford, Matthias Groote, Inés Ayala Sender, Alejandro Cercas, Harald Ettl and Anne Van Lancker

on behalf of the PSE Group

on strengthening European legislation in the field of information and consultation of workers

European Parliament resolution on strengthening European legislation in the field of information and consultation of workers

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in particular to its provisions regarding social rights, and to Article 136 of the EC Treaty, under which the Member States shall have as their objectives the promotion of employment, improved living and working conditions, proper social protection, dialogue between management and labour, the development of human resources with a view to lasting high employment and the combating of exclusion,
 - having regard to Directive 2002/14/EC of 11 March 2002¹ on informing and consulting employees, Directive 98/59/EC of 20 July 1998² on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to collective redundancies and Directive 94/45/EC of 22 September 1994³ on the establishment of European Works Councils; whereas the two last-named directives both concern the harmonisation of Member States' legislation on the instruments of dialogue between management and labour,
 - having regard to the Commission's communication 'Restructuring and employment - anticipating and accompanying restructurings to develop employment: the role of the European Union' (COM (2005) 0120 final) and the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of 14 December 2005 (CESE 1495/2005),
 - having regard to its resolution on 'Restructuring and Employment (2005/2188 (INI))', adopted on 16 March 2005,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on industrial restructurings and mergers,
 - having regard to the Commission's declaration to plenary on 25 April 2007 on the subject of strengthening European legislation in the field of information and consultation of workers,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Lisbon strategy aims to turn the EU into the world's most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy, capable of sustained economic growth accompanied by the creation of more and better jobs and greater social cohesion,
- B. whereas Europe needs coherent and effective policies in order to build bridges from the post-industrial society to a globalised knowledge society, while retaining its values and identities,

¹ OJ L 80, 23.2.2002, p. 29.

² OJ L 225, 12.8.1998, p. 16.

³ OJ 1994 L 254, p. 6.

- C. whereas strong social dialogue and collective bargaining, an innovation-oriented industrial policy and active labour market policies are key to reaching the objectives of smart and green growth as set out in the Lisbon Strategy and providing the conditions in which industrial activities that employ a large segment of the working population of Europe can be maintained and developed,
- D. whereas projects such as Galileo are key to attaining such innovation-oriented industrial policy,
- E. whereas the process of restructuring, mergers, relocations, etc., which affect all sectors of activity and bring about changes in the structure of companies, production and employment, has intensified,
1. Calls on the Commission, as already requested by the European Parliament on several occasions and most recently in its resolution of 16 March 2006 (2005/2188 (INI)), to review and modernise European legislation concerning consultation and information, in order to ensure a coherent and efficient framework of law, avoid legal uncertainty and improve the articulation of social dialogue between the national and the European levels;
 2. Calls on the Commission to ensure that proper implementation takes place in the Member States as regards information and consultation and to take action against those Member States where information and consultation directives are not implemented;
 3. Recalls that the EU must aspire to remain a major industrial power and not merely confine itself to developing the services sector, and therefore reminds the Commission of the need for a coherent industrial policy at European level; considers that the social partners have a key role to play in developing such a policy;
 4. Calls on the Commission to improve the internal coordination of its policies in the areas of employment and social affairs, economic and monetary affairs, industry, and research and development, and to encourage the social partners to take an active part in developing a coherent set of policies aimed at maintaining a competitive and innovative European industry;
 5. Calls on the relevant committees of the European Parliament to include in their work programme reports that would provide a basis for the Commission to develop more vigorous policies with which to address globalisation at European level, with enhanced social dialogue, increased private and public investment in R&D, better lifelong learning and active labour-market policies;
 6. Calls on the Commission to adopt a more decisive strategy for anticipating industrial restructuring and tackling its social impact, in order to diminish European citizens' fear of globalisation;
 7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, and the social partners.