

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

10 April 2000

B5-0320/2000}  
B5-0322/2000}  
B5-0333/2000}RC1

## JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 37(4) the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members:

Karas, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group  
Jensen and Cox, on behalf of the ELDR Group  
Nobilias and Crowley, on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing motions by :

- the PPE-DE Group (B5-0320/2000)
- the ELDR Group (B5-0322/2000)
- the UEN Group (B5-0333/2000)

on the Lisbon Summit

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the various documents submitted by the Commission, the Council and the Presidency of the Council,
  - having regard to its resolution of 15 March 2000<sup>1</sup> to wind up the debate on the preparation of this meeting,
  - having regard to the Presidency Conclusions,
1. Commends the European Council for setting Europe on the path of free enterprise, increased prosperity, and shortened dole queues;
  2. Welcomes the European Council's general political guidelines based as they are on strengthening the market economy;

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<sup>1</sup> Texts Adopted of that Sitting, Item 12.  
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PE 289.461}.....  
PE 289.463}.....  
PE 289.476}RC1  
Or. en

3. Recalls that competitiveness in global markets is a key element of a European strategy, and that more flexibility in the labour markets of some Member States is necessary;
4. Welcomes the proposal to draw up a European Charter for Small Firms, and the recognition that they are the main engines for job-creation in Europe;
5. Endorses the undertaking to alleviate the tax pressure on labour;
6. Endorses the direction of policy for achieving an information society for all, including an effective legal framework for E-commerce within the EU to be agreed this year, a fully-liberalised telecoms market by 2001, a Community-wide patent by 2001, and the introduction of a decentralised European diploma for basic IT skills;
7. Calls on the Commission to check that the timetables for the adoption of the legal framework for a digital environment agreed in Lisbon are respected and stresses the importance of ensuring that the necessary steps are taken to ensure low-cost, high-speed Internet access;
8. Stresses that reform must not discriminate in favour of the 'new economy' but that the European economy as a whole must be made more dynamic, and developed into a true European home market; therefore welcomes the prospect of the removal of persisting barriers to services and the prevention of new ones, further support for European R&D, a general reduction in state aids, and fully integrated financial markets in 2005;
9. Welcomes the European Council's backing for the speeding up of the overdue liberalisation in sectors such as gas, electricity, postal services and transport (especially in the railway sector); regrets, however, that no dates were fixed for completing this process, and therefore calls for the setting of these deadlines to be kept on the European Council's agenda;
10. In carrying out these modernising reforms, insists on the importance of retaining the values of the European social model; looks forward to the Commission's Communication on a European Social Agenda for the Nice European Council focusing on enabling self-reliance and avoiding state intervention creating dependency, while recognising that social protection systems will remain an essential feature in the future;
11. Agrees in general with the European Council's guidelines in the field of education and training, employment policy, modernising social protection, and promoting social inclusion; regrets that the European Council shelved addressing the sustainability of basic state pension systems, and asks to be associated with the work of the High-Level Working Party on Social Protection;
12. Recognises that the targets and deadlines which the European Council has chosen to set must be achieved through regional and national policies; particularly queries the status of the 3% growth rate mentioned by the European Council;

13. Calls upon the Commission to seize the opportunities presented to it, particularly the drawing up of a synthesis report to the European Parliament and the Council each Spring, and on organising the benchmarking of best practices; also points out the necessity for the Council in its various formations to work as a more coherent body;
14. Call upon the Council and the Commission to draw up the next macro-economic guidelines in accordance with the conclusions of the Lisbon Summit;
15. Warns against the benchmarking processes becoming an inward-looking bureaucratic exercise; the prime movers must be the private sector, and the citizens of Europe for whom this project is designed;
16. Warns against the temptation of some in the European Council to bypass the "communautaire " method in favour of a "directorate" of leaders;
17. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the European Council, the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the applicant states, the European Central Bank, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.