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B5-0133/2003 }
B5-0139/2003 }
B5-0140/2003 }

RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 37(4) of the Rules of Procedure by

- Michel Hansenne and Mathieu J.H. Grosch on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Jean-Maurice Dehousse, Véronique De Keyser, Olga Zrihen Zaari, Anne E.M. Van Lancker, Kathleen Van Brempt and Stephen Hughes on behalf of the PSE Group
- Hélène Flautre, Pierre Jonckheer and Alain Lipietz on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Sylviane H. Ainardi, Hans Modrow, Gérard Caudron and Ilda Figueiredo on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- GUE/NGL (B5-0133/2003),
- PSE (B5-0139/2003),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0140/2003),

on the crisis in the steel sector

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PE 328.110}
PE 328.116}
PE 328.117} RC1

European Parliament resolution on the crisis in the steel sector

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and in particular the provisions on social rights, and the provisions of the EC Treaty, in particular Article 136 thereof, according to which the Member States have as their objectives the promotion of employment, improvement of living and working conditions, proper social protection and dialogue between management and labour with a view to lasting high employment and the combating of exclusion,
 - having regard to the Lisbon European Council conclusions of 23 and 24 March 2000, the Göteborg European Council conclusions of 15 and 16 June 2001, the Barcelona European Council of 15 and 16 March 2002, and the conclusions of 16 September 2002 on the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,
 - having regard to Directive 75/129/EC, as amended by Directive 92/56/EC, on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to collective redundancies,
 - having regard to Directive 94/45/EC on the establishment of a European Works Council,
 - having regard to Directive 2002/14/EC establishing a general framework for informing and consulting employees in the European Community,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on the steel sector and industrial restructuring and mergers,
 - having regard to the continuous loss of jobs in the steel sector,
- A. whereas the steel company Arcelor, formed as a result of the merger of Arbed, Usinor and Aceralia, announced in January that it intended to close hot rolling lines in all the group's continental sites, and whereas this will lead to thousands of job losses throughout Europe,
- B. having regard to the mobilisation of the employees concerned, their trade unions, the public and their elected representatives in the affected regions,
- C. whereas the unilateral US decision to impose extraordinary tariffs on steel imports, mainly from the EU, goes against the WTO Agreement and is causing considerable harm to the Community producers concerned,
1. Reminds Arcelor of its commitments as a company and demands that all its continental sites be treated equally and without discrimination;
 2. Reminds the Commission that, since the disappearance of the ECSC, it is responsible for dealing with the economic and social consequences which Europe's enlargement to include

new Member States will have for the steel industry;

3. Calls on the Commission, in cooperation with the authorities concerned, to look into ways of ensuring effective and targeted use of Community funds, particularly the European Social Fund, for professional training and reorientation of the workers concerned;
4. Calls on the Commission to continue to pursue vigorously, through both the OECD and the WTO, stricter multilateral rules against unfair competition from third countries, whether through subsidies, abuse of trade remedies or other measures;
5. Encourages the Commission to take bold measures to protect European firms from the negative effects of US unilateral action, while respecting multilateral trade rules and taking into account the long-term interests of the European economy;
6. Welcomes the creation of a group of Commissioners, chaired by Enterprise Commissioner Erkki Liikanen and including Commissioners for trade, competition, enlargement, economic, social and foreign policies, to chart a coherent response to the difficulties ahead; emphasises, however, that the Environment Commissioner, Mrs Wallström, should be associated;
7. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to promote innovation, develop new actions aimed at specialisation and quality also in this sector and/or provide for appropriate plans for retraining; considers it necessary to ensure that the EU maintains a strong, modern steel industry which is in a position to meet the needs of sustainable development and job creation, in particular with a view to enhancing employee and consumer protection;
8. Deplores the fact that during the many recent restructurings of businesses, Community provisions on collective redundancies, transfers of undertakings and European Works Councils have not been adhered to; calls for thoroughgoing case-by-case investigations to be carried out; in particular, calls on the Commission to verify, whenever necessary, that Member States apply Council Directive 98/59/EC on collective redundancies and Council Directive 94/45/EC on the establishment of a European Works Council or a procedure for informing and consulting employees;
9. Believes that all subsidies granted from public funds should be subject to agreements with regard to employment, local development and investment aimed at modernising production;
10. Calls on the Member States to promote and strengthen dialogue between management and labour, in compliance with national and European legislation on informing and consulting workers, and to adopt effective measures to protect trade union representatives;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and both sides of industry.