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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

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

by Antonio Tajani, Giorgio Lisi and Generoso Andria

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the crisis in the steel sector

European Parliament resolution on the crisis in the steel sector

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers of 1989 and the action programme relating to it,
 - having regard to Directive 75/129/EEC,¹ as amended by Directive 92/56/EEC,² on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to collective redundancies,
 - having regard to Directive 94/45/EC³ on the establishment of a European Works Council or a procedure in Community-scale undertakings and Community-scale groups of undertakings for the purposes of informing and consulting employees,
 - having regard to the Lisbon European Council conclusions of 23 and 24 March 2000,
 - having regard to Directive 2002/14/EC⁴ establishing a general framework for informing and consulting employees in industries of the European Community,
 - having regard to Rule 37(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. concerned about Europe's opting out of high-level technological production which, in recent years, was regarded as a model of technological know-how and which must be protected,
- B. having regard to the EU's interest in providing conditions in which industrial activities that employ a large segment of the working population of the enlarged Europe can be maintained;
- C. having regard to the desirability of a reflection on the medium- and long-term initiative that the EU intends to introduce with a view to creating favourable conditions for the protection of European industrial interests in a free-market context,
- D. having regard to the significant public investment funding from which AST Thyssen Krup has benefited, including structural funds from Objective 2 and from the European Social Fund, for developing the local system, infrastructures and vocational training,
1. Supports the efforts undertaken by the Italian Government to achieve a positive solution to the recent crisis in the steel sector by taking the matter up at the highest political levels;

¹ OJ L 048, 22/2/1975, p. 29.

² OJ L 041, 18/2/1993, p. 50.

³ OJ L 254, 30/9/1994, p. 64.

⁴ OJ L 080, 23.3.2002, p. 29.

2. Welcomes the efforts made by European Commissioner Pascal Lamy in the steel conflict with the USA and expresses its concern about the loss of market share of Italian and European steel production; urges the Commission to act firmly within the WTO and OECD to guarantee that there is a level playing field in the global steel market;
3. Recalls that the industrial sector itself should be primarily responsible for its own management in a way which respects the social rights of its employees, and that the restructuring of the industrial sector through changes in company operation is compatible with a social market economy and the Union's policy for economic and social cohesion;
4. Asks for concrete protection of the interests of employees and European enterprises, which must have the opportunity to operate within international markets and not be subject to any kind of dumping;
5. Expresses solidarity with workers in the steel industry and recalls that where collective redundancies have appeared to offer the only solution to a company crisis, negotiations with the employees have helped to develop alternative plans which have allowed jobs to be safeguarded;
6. Expects the Commission, when it grants aid under the Structural Funds, to ensure that that aid is dependent on guarantees of long-term employment;
7. Asks the Commission and national governments to present the financial perspectives on the use of Community funds for future years, as well as an analysis of the priorities to be established to reconcile development and employment objectives, so that Europe will not lose its competitiveness and world market share;
8. Asks the Commission in particular, during the presentation of the third report on social and economic cohesion on 18 February, to clarify its intentions on the growth of the European industrial sector, in particular the steel sector, in the context of the new cohesion policy which will apply from 1 January 2007;
9. Considers that Europe must create favourable conditions for its industrial interests, especially for the advanced and high technological sectors; emphasises that investment in research and development, with the commitment of EU funds through the Sixth Framework Programme, can be used to develop the new materials, designs and processes that can reconfigure industrial sectors;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the social partners.