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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, Stephen Hughes, Jan Andersson, Joel Hasse Ferreira, Jean Louis Cottigny, Alain Hutchinson, Edite Estrela and Jamila Madeira

on behalf of the PSE Group

on the economic and social consequences of company restructuring in Europe

European Parliament resolution on the economic and social consequences of company restructuring in Europe

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and 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, and 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 2002² on informing and consulting employees, Directive 98/59/EC of 20 July 1998 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to collective redundancies, and Directive 94/45/EC of 22 September 1994 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) and the opinion of the European Social and Economic Committee of 14 December 2005 (CESE 1495/2005),
 - having regard to the resolution of Parliament on 'Restructuring and Employment (2005/2188 (INI)) adopted on 16 March 2005,
 - having regard to the resolution of Parliament on 'Relocation in the context of regional development (2004/2254 (INI)) adopted on 14 March 2004,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on industrial restructurings and mergers,
 - having regard to the continuing job losses in the car industry in Europe,
 - 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. 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,

² OJ L 80, 23.2.2002, p. 29

- C. whereas solidarity needs a solid expression, both at present and for future generations, through economic and social cohesion which will help disadvantaged areas and population groups in the EU to eliminate disparities on a basis of enhanced growth and competitiveness,
- D. whereas General Motors Europe (GME) has failed to honour the undertakings made in the agreement reached with the Portuguese government over its plant in Azambuja, under which production in the car plant would be maintained,
- E. whereas GME has not honoured its commitments made in the European framework agreement signed with the European Employee Forum (EEF) on 8 December 2004, by which it committed itself to maintaining sustainable operations in future; whereas GME has not fully informed or consulted EEF in due time, nor has it communicated a detailed study of the management's claims regarding the profitability of the Portuguese plant,
- F. whereas the closing of large plants such as Azambuja means the loss of strategic industrial sectors in the EU, with serious consequences for the competitiveness of the economy and for employment in the region,
- G. having regard to the considerable public investment both by the EU and the Member States in developing local systems, infrastructures and vocational training, from which European businesses benefit,
- H. having regard to the renewed protests by the workers affected, their unions, the local community and the local authority representatives,
1. Calls on the Commission, as already requested in Parliament's resolution of 12 February 2004 (B5-0076/04), to adopt a more decisive strategy to tackle industrial restructuring and its social impact;
 2. Calls on the Commission to put in place 'one-stop shops' where citizens can obtain information on the means at their disposal to face restructuring, as already requested in Parliament's resolution on restructuring and employment;
 3. Calls on the Council to adopt as soon as possible the Globalisation and Adjustment Fund following the first reading in Parliament, in order to start interventions in cases of major industrial restructuring;
 4. Calls on the Commission to prevent companies in the EU that seek only to maximise profits from benefiting from EU funding and to ensure that companies respect their social and financial responsibilities, act in a corporately responsible fashion, and are fair to all stakeholders, including local and regional authorities and the communities where they are based;
 5. Reminds the Commission of the importance of a well-functioning European Works Council Directive that ensures that information and consultation of workers takes place in good time and at regular intervals before any decision by the company or group management, so as to allow the employees genuinely to influence the management's decision-making process; believes that decisions of central management or any other

management level should be valid only if information and consultation are properly carried out, with due regard to the principles of confidentiality of information;

6. Calls on the Member States and the Commission to promote initiatives to prevent the downscaling of the European car industry and the consequent losses of skilled jobs, particularly at those poles of excellence where there has been much investment in innovation;
7. Calls on General Motors, following the intervention by the Portuguese Government and the Commission, to maintain worker numbers and comply with the agreement signed with the EEf;
8. Expresses its solidarity with the workers affected and their relatives, whether employed at the Azambuja plant or in related activities, whose jobs are now at risk;
9. Considers that the use of Community funds, and especially funding for industry and from the European Social Fund, should be made subject to specific rules relating to innovation, local development, employment, and to the productive obligation at territorial level, in the long term, of the enterprises benefiting; calls in particular for the rules on use of the Structural Funds to be respected and reinforced; believes that companies not respecting those rules should be obliged to reimburse the funds they benefited from;
10. Calls on the Commission and the national governments to introduce legislation on corporate social responsibility in the interests of sustainable development;
11. Considers that Europe must promote innovation by developing its industrial interests and supporting appropriate industrial redeployment plans; emphasises that investment in research and development can be used to develop the new materials, designs and processes that can reconfigure traditional industries;
12. Asks the Commission to present a communication on the current state of the car sector and other sectors facing difficulties due to restructuring, and to strengthen consultation in existing internal reflection bodies;
13. Calls on the Member States to promote and step up the social dialogue on the basis of compliance with national and European legislation on informing and consulting employees, and to adopt effective measures aimed at protecting trade union representatives;
14. Calls on the Commission to work for a decision at WTO and OECD level which would ensure the protection of the Union's car industry on the international market;
15. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States, the WTO, the OECD and the social partners.