Industry and international industrial competitiveness: Community action programme

1995/0081(CNS) - 27/10/1995 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Wilfried KUCKELKORN (PSE, D) on a policy for industrial competitiveness, Parliament approved the Commission's proposal with the following amendments: - attention was focused on the importance of a social dimension which, in Parliament's view, was inseparable from industrial competitiveness. With this in mind, Parliament drew special attention to the importance of social dialogue between the two sides of industry; - attention was also drawn to the fact that the industrial competitiveness of companies was hampered by the cost and quality of public services; - the importance of promoting intangible investments was emphasized. In this respect, the promotion of human resources and the opportunities offered by the information society were put to the fore, as was the importance of professional training as added value for industrial competitiveness; - to the main programme objectives, Parliament added that State actions should be put on a more modern footing so that public authorities might continue to play a role in introducing new regulations; - the Commission was criticized for the lack of priorities and absence of a financial assessment in its proposal and was called on to identify the priority actions together with the financial impact and the results which could really be anticipated from the proposed measures (particularly regarding employment and respect for the environment); - everything should be done to minimize the risk of social dumping in the EU; - special attention was paid to employment in general, and to that of women in particular, as well as to the provision of support for SMEs (particularly by improving their fiscal environment, encouraging the enterprise culture, analyzing cooperation as a success factor, introducing targeted marketing for SMEs and providing more information to this sector); - all forms of dialogue were encouraged, such as workers' participation in the running of companies, as an important element for sustainable economic growth, as well as their contribution to the identification of training requirements; - measures were also put forward for the harmonisation of social issues which were still unresolved at Council level, while further actions were proposed for promoting the ratification of ILO conventions; - annual reports are to be submitted to Parliament and to the Council in order to assess the impact of the programme (particularly as far as jobs are concerned).