Resolution on the social consequences of industrial restructuring

2001/2515(RSP) - 15/02/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted the resolution on industiral restructuring and mergers. The Parliament points out that many of the recent examples of company restructuring have taken place without informing employees and without consultation. In addition, there has not been adequate notice to allow alternatives to be sought to lessen the harmful social consequences of restructuring. Therefore, the Commission and the Member States are called upon to adopt a more proactive approach to industrial restructuring and its social consequences, with a view to avoiding any harmful impact on levels of employment and working conditions, social and economic cohesion or the level of competitiveness of Community industry. The need for continuous social dialogue ahead of restructuring, at undertaking, sectoral and regional level is stressed. Moreover, Parliament regrets that in many cases, there has not been full compliance with existing Community legislation. Each case concerned should be investigated thoroughly by the relevant authorities. The European works council directive, the collective redundancies directive and the directive on transfers of undertakings should be updated and the framework directive on informing and consulting employees should be adopted without further delay. Member States should ensure that the final decision on restructuring should be postponed where such a decision on will have considerable adverse consequences for employees. This is to enable consultations to continue with the aim of avoiding or mitigating such consequences. Lastly, the European Parliament reiterates its call to the effect that the granting of Community and national aid to undertkaings should help achieve the aims of long-term safeguarding of jobs in recipient undertakings and of promoting regional development and calls for it to be made possible to require undertakings to repay such aid if they do not fulfil the associated conditions.