Resolution on the economic and social consequences of companies restructuring in Europe

2006/2592(RSP) - 06/07/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution calling on the Commission to adopt a more decisive strategy to tackle industrial restructuring and its social impact. It felt that aid from public funds should be linked to long-term agreements by the management of a company in matters of employment and local development. Parliament asked the Commission, as well as the Member States, to withdraw the subsidies from aid programmes and to claim the reimbursement of these subsidies from companies that do not respect their obligations.

It went on to ask the Commission and Member States to promote a European dialogue on industrial restructuring as well as on structural reforms of the labour market to secure the advantages of globalisation, while minimising the negative social impact. The Commission was reminded of the importance of a well-functioning European Works Council Directive, which ensured that informing and consulting workers is properly carried out.

Parliament called on the Commission 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. The Commission should draw up an evaluation of the application of Directive 75/129/EEC and make proposals for measures to ensure compliance.

Parliament welcomed the forthcoming European Globalisation Adjustment Fund, which would support workers and improve the social and educational infrastructure with regard to collective redundancies, and called on the Council to adopt a common position as soon as possible after Parliament's first reading and to ensure that it could apply retrospectively where the effects of current closures carry over to 2007.

Finally, Parliament expressed its solidarity with all workers, their families and their communities affected by redundancies.