

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

20 February 1981

DOCUMENT 1-868/80

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment

on the motions for resolutions concerning the economic, social and vocational integration of disabled people in the European Community with particular reference to the International Year of Disabled Persons 1981

Rapporteur: Mrs Ann CLWYD

The President of the European Parliament referred, pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the following motions for resolutions dealing with the problems of disabled persons in connection with the International Year of Disabled Persons to the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment as the committee responsible:

- on 24 March 1980 the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Coppieters and others on the granting of an automatic reduction in public telecommunications charges to handicapped persons and senior citizens in the Member States (Doc. 1-25/80)
 - asked for its opinion: Committee on Transport
- on 24 March 1980 the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Coppieters and others on the granting of an automatic reduction in public transport charges to certain categories of citizens in the Member States (Doc. 1-26/80)
 - asked for its opinion: Committee on Transport
- on 24 March 1980 the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Coppieters and others on the introduction of the right of free entry for certain less fortunate citizens to all public buildings in the Member States in which art treasures are exhibited (Doc. 1-27/80)
 - asked for its opinion: Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport,
- on 22 May 1980 the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr O'Connell and others on Community action in favour of the handicapped (Doc. 1-180/80)
- on 23 May the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Ghergo and others for the accession of the Member States of the European Community, and of the European Community itself, to the resolutions of the Council of Europe on the granting of facilities to handicapped persons and the introduction of a European Pass for the handicapped (Doc. 1-205/80)
 - asked for its opinion : Legal Affairs Committee,
- on 9 July 1980 the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Patterson and others on the International Year of the Disabled (Doc. 1-303/80)
 - asked for its opinion: Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport,
- on 19 December 1980 the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Cottrell on the role of the handicapped (Doc. 1-754/80).

On 29 May 1980 the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment appointed Mrs Clwyd general rapporteur.

It considered the motions for resolutions and the draft report at its meetings of 28 and 29 October 1980, 1-3 December 1980, 19 and 20 January 1981

and 26 and 27 January 1981. At its meeting of 27 January 1981 the committee unanimously adopted the draft report.

Present: Mr Van der Gun, chairman; Mr Peters, vice-chairman; Mrs Clwyd, rapporteur; Mrs Baduel Glorioso, Mr Bonaccini (deputizing for Mr Ceravolo), Mr Boyes, Mr Calvez, Mrs Cassanmagnago Cerretti, Mrs Dekker, Mr Frangos, Mr Henckens (deputizing for Mr Verhaegen), Mrs Kellett-Bowman (deputizing for Miss Brookes), Mr McCartin, Mrs Tove Nielsen, Mr Oehler, Mr Prag, Mr Rieger (deputizing for Mr Salisch), Mr Sarre and Mr Spencer.

The opinions of the Committee on Transport and the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport are attached.

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The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for ensuring the integrity and reliability of financial data. This section also outlines the various methods and tools used to collect and analyze financial information.

The second part of the document focuses on the role of internal controls in preventing fraud and errors. It details the various types of controls, such as segregation of duties and authorization procedures, and explains how they are implemented within an organization.

The third part of the document discusses the importance of regular audits and reviews. It explains how audits help to identify weaknesses in internal controls and provide recommendations for improvement. This section also covers the different types of audits, including internal and external audits.

The fourth part of the document addresses the challenges of financial reporting and the need for transparency. It discusses the various factors that can affect the accuracy and reliability of financial statements and provides guidance on how to ensure that they are prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

The final part of the document provides a summary of the key points discussed and offers some concluding thoughts on the importance of sound financial management. It emphasizes that a strong financial foundation is essential for the long-term success and sustainability of any organization.

The Committee on Social Affairs and Employment hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the motion for resolutions concerning the economic, social and vocational integration of disabled people in the European Community with particular reference to the International Year of Disabled Persons 1981

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the motions for resolutions on disabled people tabled by Mr Coppieters (docs. 1-25/80, 1-26/80, 1-27/80, Mr O'Connell on behalf of the Socialist Group (doc. 1-180/80), Mr Ghergo (doc. 1-205/80), Mr Patterson (doc. 1-303/80) and Mr Cottrell (doc. 1-754/80);
- having regard to Article 118 of the Treaty of Rome, which commits the Member States to closer cooperation in the social field;
- having regard to the report of the Commission (COM(79) 572 final) on the first Community action programme in favour of disabled people, including future action on their behalf;
- having regard to the conclusions adopted by the Council on 9 June 1980 in favour of disabled people (doc. 6472/80 Annex III);
- having regard to the Council of Education Ministers' resolution of 13 December 1976 on behalf of disabled people;
- having regard to the fact that there are between 13 to 20 million disabled people in the Community representing 5-9% of the population, according to the Commission pamphlet, E 8/80;
- having regard to the resolution for granting facilities to the physically disabled in Member States of the Council of Europe on 22 May 1975, including the granting of priorities and facilities free of charge to disabled people resident in their territory and to disabled people from other Member States;
- having regard to the fact that on 4 November 1977 France, West Germany and Italy adopted a resolution to this end which constitutes a partial agreement limited to the signatory states, introducing a European pass for disabled people which establishes their status for the purposes of travel in the other states;
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment and to the opinions of the Legal Affairs Committee, Committee on Transport and Committee on Youth Affairs, Culture, Education, Information and Sport (Doc. 1-868/80).

1. Recognizes the particular problems faced in many aspects of their lives by Community citizens with severe physical, mental or sensory disabilities. Recommends that the Commission should review in the light of this resolution all ways in which action at Community level could alleviate their difficulties and assist them to live the fullest possible life at work and leisure, and asks the Commission to present a new comprehensive programme of action to Parliament early in the International Year of Disabled Persons 1981;
2. Recognizes that poverty is a distinctive feature of the lives of many disabled people on account of both their total or partial loss of the ability to earn and the extra expenses their handicap incurs, calls upon Member States to make full compensation for the financial disadvantages of disability by ensuring disabled people have an adequate income and provide a disablement allowance graded according to the severity of their handicap;
3. Considers that disabled people should be fully integrated into the Member States' social security systems; notes that some Member States have included them in a subsidiary system which, in the present crisis, is likelier to be affected by austerity measures;
4. Considers that the economic integration of disabled people must go hand in hand with their social integration and urges the Council, the Commission and the Parliament to adopt the following:
 - (i) Member States should implement the charter for the United Nations International Year of the Disabled (IYDP), especially the 13th article of the declaration: 'Disabled persons, their families and communities shall be fully informed by all appropriate means of the rights contained in this declaration'¹;
 - (ii) Member States should be asked during the IYDP to adapt public buildings to improve access for the disabled; this programme of adaptation should continue so that access to all buildings used by the public can be made available to the disabled;
 - (iii) Member States should be asked to strengthen either planning law or building regulations to ensure that all future buildings contain adequate facilities and ease of access for disabled people;
 - (iv) The Commission is urged to formulate a housing policy for both the private and public sectors based upon the 'two level' recommendations of its report on architectural barriers², and to continue to fund to an increasing extent projects and research based on that report;

¹UN Resolution 1180-80

²COM(75) 432 final

(v) Advises that for those, in particular the mentally handicapped and mentally ill who are unable to live totally independent lives, but for whom institutionalization is deplored, should be provided with appropriate facilities for care in the community such as hostels or sheltered housing and sheltered workshops;

5. Recommends that the Commission should study the quota system on the employment of handicapped workers particularly that which exists in West Germany, and consider issuing directives to Member States on a 'workable' quota system, and asks that the Commission incorporates in its rules governing Community grants a provision that the granting of funds to firms will depend on the applicant's policy on the employment of handicapped people.

(i) Member States should be asked to ensure that disabled people are not exploited and receive the appropriate wage in both open and sheltered employment and for home-work as well as the full integration of handicapped persons in normal occupations, and to grant subsidies and tax relief to firms engaging disabled employees;

(ii) The Commission should carefully monitor the conditions in workshops which receive Community funds, as one of the purposes of Community funding is to raise the standards of rehabilitation practice. This should include: wages, technical facilities, environmental facilities and the training of staff;

(iii) The Council and Commission are asked to review the Social Fund regulations and to reconsider the decision to fund all projects for disabled workers under Article 5, instead of Article 4 as recommended by the Commission, since the effect has been to inhibit innovative ideas and exclude the majority of disabled citizens from any possibility of Community aid;

(iv) Believes that the European Parliament should be more involved in the policies and the operation of the Fund.

Reiterates the view of the European Parliament that the income of the European Social Fund is gravely inadequate to its tasks and that it should receive a far higher proportion of the Community's total budget;

6. All Member States should ensure that in close cooperation with local authorities and voluntary organizations, the coordination of national policies for disabled people is conducted at national government level.

7. Urges the appropriate authorities in the Member States to continue their work on integrating disabled children into ordinary schools where feasible and desirable and insists that sufficient money should be made available at Community level to enable the Community to make a substantial contribution in support of the efforts of the Member States. Such Community support should give special attention to the preparation of disabled children and young people for active adult life and to the teacher training implications of integration measures;
8. Recognizes the major role played by a disabled person's family and by voluntary organizations, and recommends:
 - (i) that Member States should increase the services provided to disabled people and their families in their own homes;
 - (ii) that the Commission should provide financial assistance to national organizations of disabled people in Member States in order to help them coordinate their representations to Community institutions on behalf of disabled people;
9. Considers that the Commission should update its previous studies on the social and economic conditions of disabled people in each Member State because statistical comparisons are valuable for the prevention of disability as well as determining the provision of services and general policy decisions, and would contribute to the previously mentioned United Nations declaration about IYDP in the coming year;
 - (i) The working party on technical aids should produce a Community wide and updated catalogue of aids for the disabled;
 - (ii) The Commission is urged to consider carefully, in the light of the initial Community action programme in favour of the disabled, the organizing of advanced courses for training personnel so that Member States can benefit from the exchange of ideas. The Commission is also urged to finance exchanges of disabled people;
10. Calls on the Commission to give a full account to Parliament on the work in progress by the various Directorates General to facilitate the economic, social and vocational integration of disabled people, in the short term and the long term, with particular reference to the International Year of Disabled Persons 1981;
11. Suggests that the Commission should take responsibility for publishing an up-to-date international directory of aids for disabled people which is updated annually;

12. Recommends that additional staff should be made available for Directorate-General V if the Commission is to play its part as a coordinating body for the handicapped;
13. Urges the Commission to comply with and recommend to all Member States to agree to the resolution of the Council of Europe granting facilities to disabled people; wishes the Commission to make proposals to Member States based on the recommendations made by both the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe concerning parking and traffic facilities for the disabled and furthermore recommends the Commission and Council to arrange with Member States for national passes for disabled people to be valid throughout the Community, which would entitle disabled persons to take advantage of the above-mentioned facilities in an unhindered way;
14. Suggests that full use should be made of the media to focus attention on the International Year of Disabled Persons and considers that thought might be given to raising money for a joint Community project by organizing a television money-raising event on the lines of a 'telethon' (much used in the USA to raise money for charity and in the UK recently raised at least 5m ECU). A 'Eurothon' organized by the ten countries could raise a substantial sum of money during the International Year of the Disabled; the disabled themselves should suggest how the money thus collected is used. It would be preferable for the proceeds from this 'Eurothon' to be paid into a European fund rather than being remitted to the Member States;
15. 'Urges the Member States to examine means of granting leave to the parents of disabled children, so that the burden of such a situation does not fall mainly on women';
16. 'Invites the Commission to take the initiative for a uniform definition of 'disabled person' that would apply in all the Member States';
17. 'Considers that no effort should be spared in action to prevent certain disabilities, which should include programmes of research as well as measures to protect mother and child during the perinatal period';
18. Emphasises that the field of disability and rehabilitation has been the subject of numerous official reports of high quality over the last 30 years. The need is not to establish principles, which are by now generally agreed, but to forge a new determination to implement policies based upon them;
19. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its Committee to the Council and Commission of the European Communities and to the European Broadcasting Union.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT1. BACKGROUND

1. A Council Resolution of 27 June 1974^{1.} establishing the initial Community Action Programme for the vocational rehabilitation of handicapped persons stated that its general aim:

'....must be to help these people to become capable of leading a normal independent life fully integrated into society. This general aim applies to all age groups, all types of handicaps and all rehabilitation measures'.
2. The aforementioned resolution was the outcome of a previous Council Resolution of 21 January 1974^{2.} concerning the Social Action Programme that provided for the implementation of a programme for both the vocational and social integration of handicapped persons.
3. The specifically economic aspects of the Community Action Programme is the result of a Commission Document, "Employment of Handicapped Persons in the Open Market"^{3.} The emphasis on the economic has been commented upon by the European Parliament in which proposals were demanded covering all problems, especially social ones, concerning the integration of the handicapped into society.^{4.}
4. Adopting the definition that a handicap is 'any limitation, congenital or acquired, of a person's physical or mental abilities which affects his daily activity and his work by reducing his social contribution, his employment prospects, his ability to use public services' the Commission drew up

1. OJ No. C 80 9.7.74, page 30.
 2. OJ No. C 13 12.2.74, page 1.
 3. Doc. No. 16 70/72-E.
 4. E.P. Working Documents Doc. 353/73, 11.2.74 and 354/73, 11.2.74.
 5. OJ No. L 28 4.2.71, page 15; see also the Council Decision 27 June 1974 for details of social fund allocations.

the first Community Action Programme with the specific aim of,
'....improving the opportunities for vocational rehabilitation
available within the Community....Vocational rehabilitation shall
be considered in all its aspects; guidance, training, employment
and assistance during adjustment to the job.

5. Three basic activities were decided upon:

- a) The setting up of a European Network of rehabilitation and training centres for the exchange of information: staff and directors were to meet regularly to define principles and methods and to organise advanced courses for institutions in vocational guidance.
- b) Setting up of short term demonstration projects to improve the quality of vocational rehabilitation facilities currently in operation.
- c) Long term projects were to be undertaken using the measures referred to in points 1 and 2.

Concomitant to the programme just outlined the intention was to have two types of projects:

- a) Co-ordination of study and research on rehabilitation.
- b) Information campaigns aimed at the general public with a view to the social integration of handicapped persons.

The Commission's role was to be one of co-ordinating and directing the programme: they were to be assisted in this by a working party of experts consisting of one representative from each member state each being assisted in turn by up to two experts.

6. The aim of Commission funding was, '....to improve opportunities for vocation rehabilitation rather than simply to supplement inadequate financial means'. Funds for the initial Community Action Programme were originally allocated under articles 4 and 5 of the European Social Fund (E.S.F.) as reformed 1 February 1971.^{5.} Article 5 granted funds, 'for measures for the absorption and reabsorption into active employment for the disabled', 4 concerned special workers. In January 1978 all allocations were to be made under article 5 only and the original guidelines for E.S.F. assistance in the Community Action Programme were then defined in Com. 79 (346) final as follows:

- a) for programmes for the integration or re-integration of handicapped persons into open employment carried out in zones in which such activities are least developed, and
- b) for new demonstration actions within the limits of one per member state. The aforementioned report says that it has proved impossible to apply the above mentioned guidelines because of the need to observe the provisions of Article 9(2) of the Council Decision 71/66/EEC(1) which requires at least 50% of the E.S.F.'s resources to be allocated to actions carried out in European Regional Development Fund (E.R.D.F.) regions under article 5.

7. The Commission has produced a number of documents concerning the work of the Community Action Programme as well as a number of other works in favour of disabled people in the areas of education and housing.

7.(1) As far as education is concerned the Commission's interest vis a vis disabled people stems from 2 Resolutions of the Council of Ministers of Education¹ concerning measures to be taken to improve the preparation of young people for work including both the physically and mentally handicapped.

In consort with the Italian Minister of Education a conference was held in Rome in 1978² to discuss the problem of integrated and/or special education. The conference was primarily organised around a survey of special education in the Community by Professor Jorgensen, Head of Special Education in the Danish Ministry.

In the Foreword to that conference, Commissioner G Brunner stated that:

'The integration of handicapped children into the normal school systems is a challenge which is being faced in all our member states and an issue where greatest possible benefit would result from exchange of experience at European level'.

The conference was attended by experts from the member states and the outcome is that the Commission has prepared a discussion paper on the issues concerning special and integrated education.³

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1. Resolutions of 9.2.76, OJ No. C 38, 12.3.76 and 13.12.76 in Bulletin of the European Community Supplement 12/76, paragraph 42.
 2. in Studies: Special Education in the European Community;
 3. "Education Series", 1980, No.II. Education of the Handicapped in the European Community Consultative document prepared by the Commission's Education Services.

7.(2) As regards Housing or more technically 'Architectural Barriers' the Commission made an early start with a comprehensive document, (Comm. 75 (432) final), on their elimination by drafting in this report two levels of minimum requirements necessary to allow simple access to normal dwelling for wheelchair users (level 1) or their permanent housing in special dwellings (level 2). The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted 3 November 1977¹ a resolution on the adaptation of housing and surrounding areas to the needs of disabled people. Seven of the nine member states of the Community (the exceptions are Denmark and Ireland) have since committed themselves morally to applying standards analogous to those referred to in the above mentioned report.

The Commission has also supported programmes of construction and renovation of dwellings in member countries.

8. However, it is clear that the main concern of the Commission has been the Community Action Programme and (Comm (79) 572 final), using information gathered over the duration of the project and from the Luxembourg Conference in March 1979, reviews the success of the programme and suggests future plans. The Council responded by adopting certain conclusions on 9 June 1980.²

The above mentioned report is primarily concerned with the lessons that have been learned during the first Community Action Programme, especially from the network of rehabilitation centres and the demonstration projects. It also deals with problems facing disabled people following rehabilitation. The report goes on to

1. Resolution AP (77-8)

2. Annex 64.72/80/111

say that these projects could be better prepared and co-ordinated in line with more explicit aims and it is especially concerned with the effect of present economic problems on rehabilitees. The Commission outlined the principles and concepts that are necessary at these times:

- a) the aim of vocational rehabilitation is to provide a person with the capacity to work and become a normal worker;
- b) the person concerned has to be prepared, assisted and followed up in a special way and his real working capacity can be gauged only when he has been fully rehabilitated; the role of his fellow workers is of crucial importance;
- c) the effort made by the handicapped person and the Community during rehabilitation requires in return a guarantee of employment;
- d) in the case of invalidity (when working capacity is partial or non-existent) the problem of guaranteeing an income arises.

8.(1) The following policy lines were proposed to meet the above points:

- a) specific help for employers and involvement of the unions;
- b) increasing the effectiveness of normal placement, training and vocational guidance facilities to make them more accessible to handicapped persons;
- c) to create links between employment policy and other policies affecting social and vocational integration such as education, housing, transport, health and social assistance by planning services at a local level for populations between 100-200,000;

d) to raise the quality of the facilities provided for severely handicapped people with increasing emphasis on ability rather than disability.

8.(2) For their part the Council emphasised the importance that it attaches to occupational rehabilitation and the social integration of handicapped persons. It also felt that work should continue along the guidelines of the Commission report with particular reference to the following considerations:

- a) The Employment Policy should make a greater contribution to solving employment problems of the handicapped persons;
- b) The role of undertakings with regard to the employment of handicapped persons should be strengthened;
- c) The role of local authorities and services should also be strengthened;
- d) Occupational guidance, training and placement services dealing with workers who are not handicapped should be accessible to handicapped persons;
- e) The Social Fund should continue to play an important role;
- f) Information and Education campaigns aimed at the public at large to improve information about the handicapped;
- g) The measures adopted in favour of the handicapped should aim to overcome the handicaps as far as possible and to eliminate suggestion of discriminatory or inferior treatment of handicapped persons.

With regard to the above the Council wishes the Commission to submit a further report after the second stage of implementation of the programme.

9. Finally the various Directorate Generals of the Commission have, as of the 30 June 1980, the following 'actions in progress':

- 9.(1) The statistical office is to update Mr. G. Rouault's ¹ report, collecting data that are more comparable.
- 9.(2) The Custom's Union Service have implemented the U.N.E.S.C.O. "Nairobi Protocol" relating to the importation free of Common Customs Tariff of articles for use by the blind and other handicapped persons.
- 9.(3) D.G. III; A Commission document, (Comm. (79) 650 final) sets out ideas concerning the improvement of communication systems vis a vis the living conditions of the elderly and handicapped; applications of new technologies for the teaching of handicapped persons and also for developing facilities to make work less arduous for them.
- 9.(4) D.G. V; This directorate deals specifically with the Community Action Programmes giving priority to:
 - a) vocational integration, especially the quota systems;
 - b) the training of staff;
 - c) a campaign for social communication for the social integration of handicapped persons: a film has been produced as a first step, entitled, "As Others See Us", by Solanas and Saladin.

The rehabilitation network is continuing and the Commission promises to support 'extraneous' factors such as housing and access for wheelchair users.

¹ No. CA-24-78-172

- 9.(5) The Commission is nearing completion on a study on the income of disabled people with varying degrees of earning power including the distribution of money vis a vis the 'cause' of the handicap.
- 9.(6) Also they have made recommendations to the European Parliament concerning the elimination of gaps and deficiencies in various social security systems for the protection of those not covered by existing schemes.
10. D.G. VII; Recognising the importance of mobility and access to means of transportation they are studying a 1972 draft directive on the harmonization of legislation of driving licences. The Commission has drawn attention to the lack of an overall plan for the improvement of infrastructures and means of transport.
11. D.G. XII; In education the Commission is updating the Jorgenson report and organising a conference on 'preparing handicapped children and young persons for working life'. The Commission is also encouraging Member States to organise concerted research projects concerning medical and public health research.
12. D.G. XIII; Being responsible for both information markets and innovation, this Directorate General identified the need for technical and market information about equipment designed to help the handicapped (and elderly). The goal was twofold: to encourage innovative firms to tackle the growing Community-wide market as an economically and socially rewarding activity, and thus also to offer a wider range of equipment to handicapped persons at lower unit cost, benefitting from the economies of scale in production. A symposium was organized in Berlin in November 1979 with participation from industry, consumer protection organizations, the medical and paramedical professions, organizations for the handicapped, research workers from the disability field as well as officials. As part of the follow-up to this, under the action programme for scientific and technical information and documentation, a definition study is being launched to establish the characteristics and feasibility of a European data - bank on technical aids for aged and/or handicapped people; this data bank should be based on a multilingual thesaurus; be accessible on - line, and allow multilingual publication of catalogues. Also being discussed is an inventory of ongoing research in this and other fields.

JUSTIFICATION PARAGRAPHSAN ADEQUATE INCOME

1. The three original resolutions of the European Parliament, 1-25,26,27/80, all have some drawbacks. It is generally held in 'disablement circles' that, except for some special cases, 'concessions' should not as a rule be made to the handicapped. Rather what should happen is that the disabled person be supported with money so that he or she can have the freedom and ability to consume what he or she desires. If the disabled person has an allowance by right of disability to help them pay for the extra costs of daily living then there is no need for arbitrary financial concessions. This allowance will allow the disabled to chose what to buy thus giving him or her some control over his or her destiny.

Furthermore the continual granting of 'patchy' concessions makes the possibility of securing an adequate income for disabled people more and more difficult; one would, we suspect, rather be warm in one's own house than have free entry to a national museum! Also it is a very difficult administrative problem to actually determine in a fair way who should and should not get certain concessions; many 'undeserving' may get concessions which the general public feel are unwarranted whilst many 'deserving' may get left out. Generally concessions continue the social segregation of the disabled and are often seen as patronizing. The operating costs of concessions for the member states could be high and the extra money spent could be used for the disabled in other sectors.

1.(1) As mentioned above in the recommendations poverty is a distinctive feature of disablement. Townsend's study of poverty in the U.K. showed that 6.6 million people had a disablement condition that had a specific marked effect on their activities. Government estimates appear to be about half of what they should be and there is very little reason to assume that things are radically different in other member states. Within Townsend's group there were more unskilled manual workers than others: 58% of those with a severe incapacity were in households below or close to the government supplementary benefit standard. Increasing incapacity correlated with falling cash income and at successive ages greater incapacity was associated with greater risk of being poor.

1.(1.1) Poverty is both cause and effect of handicap;^x cause as revealed in the higher perinatal and infant mortality statistics of socio-economic class V and the general ill-health and deprivation which arise from malnutrition, poor housing etc: there is a higher incidence of accidents among people who are forced to undertake manual employment throughout their lives; effect in that the handicap reduces the person's ability to earn and also may greatly increase the cost of maintaining a similar standard of living. Coupled to these points is the fact that the advance in medical science increases the probability that disabled infants will survive and that victims of accidents, due to remarkable prosthetics, will be returned to society.

^x The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (U.K.), Peter Mitchell

1.(2) The benefits of a Disablement allowance are many:

It means that the handicapped would no longer be exploited in either open or sheltered employment: in the long run some sort of national disability benefit will be advantageous to society to help people play a fulfilled rôle by making them financially self-sufficient; Disabled people with adequate incomes generally require less help with rehabilitation and are less of a burden on local authorities than those who cannot make ends meet; furthermore, the social and vocational intentions of member states are to encourage the independence of the disabled but they are often vitiated by the lack of an adequate income: this lack of independence frequently forces the disabled into an institution at substantial cost to the community. The Economist Intelligence Unit Ltd.

lists as a primary cause of institutionalization the lack of care at home which, given an adequate and stable income, would no longer be a vital factor because the disabled person could pay for help²; the psychological benefits of the kind of independence that an income would bring is demonstrated by the fact that 1/3 of the inhabitants in the Swedish 'Fokus', which provides accommodation and community and home help for the disabled, are married or living together, whereas before arrival it was only 10%.

¹ See "Sheltered Employment for the Disabled: Consultative Document, 17, 1973.D.O.E. Basic wages in local authority varied between £15.56 to £27.60 in 1973 whereas the average earnings were £38.10: out of 32 voluntary workshops 12 paid a basic weekly wage of £15.00 for the mentally handicapped things were even worse; in Adult training centres there was in 1975 a £2 limit on weekly wages.

Shearer has estimated that on average the disabled need about 2.5 hours home help per day, in "Housing to fit the Handicapped", 'Guardian' 26.6.73. Also European experiments such as the Dutch 'Het Dorp', and the Swedish 'Fokus' have shown the value in economic and social terms of home help.

I.3 What is needed is a disablement benefit or allowance which recognises in a general way the distortion or restriction of a person's range of abilities¹ and does not take into consideration the 'cause' of the disablement.

Paragraph I has put the care for an adequate income for the disabled in both open and sheltered employment. It should be added here that the Commission will have to take into consideration two related aspects of this problem:

- a) disability has to be assessed in terms of 'function' and not the 'cause', i.e. how have the person's functions been affected and what is his or her potential
- b) income must be related to the earner's potential, the average industrial wage and the Disability Benefit so that those who are limited in their income capacity can be supplemented to a reasonable standard of living. This gets round the objections that a flat rate Disability Benefit will discourage handicapped people from finding a job and consequently retarding social integration and annoying the tax payer.

The arguments for a decent income have been put above but it is perhaps worth stating here that it should be a simple human right to live to the average standard of living in one's own community and if, as the Commission has said, the handicapped have the same basic rights and duties of other citizens³, then the Council's, the Commission's and Parliament's duty in the coming year to fulfil the above-mentioned resolutions is quite clear

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"Policy Statement", Disablement Income Group 1974; The Commission report comparing Member States vis-à-vis rehabilitation for the handicapped, Doc. 3229/74 shows that the U.K. is the rule not the exception on this subject. However, lately France seems to have made improvements with a minimum wage in sheltered employment at 90% the average.

2. Including as Appendix B is a classification according to function; as M. BOISSEAU points out in the Comparative Study referred to in note 16 traditionally benefits for the disabled are related to cause, with the most going to victims of industrial accidents or war and those suffering from congenital illness receiving at best charity. This is obviously unfair and inhumane.

3. Answer to question No. 326/77

2. Member States and the Commission are well aware that they cannot only provide vocational rehabilitation and as he or she start to put to use the skills learnt through technical help, frustration and depression are bound to develop to the detriment of not only the disabled but the Community. Therefore adequate and careful thought must be given by all the institutions of the Community to the social context within which the rehabilitee finds his or her self.

2.(i) As a start it is important that the disabled actually know what rights the Community and its Member States have legislated for them as well as those declared by the United Nations. It should also be noted that one of the aims of the year is to inform the public of the positive attributes of the disabled and take away the negative connotations that remain around the words 'impairment', 'handicapped' and 'disabled'. (Cf. para. xi).

ADAPTATION OF BUILDINGS

2.(ii) The original resolution, I-180-80/2 is far too sweeping to be realistic. But it should be possible for at least a number of buildings to be adapted to Commission agreed standards in each locality during the coming year. Having done this it may come to the attention of the authorities that other buildings can similarly be made accessible to the disabled.

HOUSING

2.(iii) The place of adequately designed and available housing is vital for social integration. Some disabled people require residential care but the majority need properly designed accommodation with or without support services. The majority of buildings are poor examples of efficient planning, safety and common sense. For young and ablebodied people badly designed homes are a nuisance, but for the disabled they are a cause of frustration.

The Member States of the Community appear to have very weak provisions for housing in both the private and public sectors; these ran from simple circular to 'guideline' for builders which were easy to ignore.

The Commission made a good start on the topic of architectural barriers (cf. 7.2) but little has been seen of this since then and it is now, during the International Year of Disabled Persons, a good time to develop techniques and policies for this vital area.

TRANSPORT

In terms of public and private transport the Commission has not been very active; there is no point at all in rehabilitating people if you do not provide in your society adequate and convenient transport to work. Failure to do this encourages the creation of sheltered workshops with hostels attached, i.e. increases segregation where it may not be necessary. It has been shown that accessibility for the disabled built in at the design stage significantly reduces the cost as it does in the design and construction of buildings. Furthermore, there is an argument in the last case that the removal of steps, which is the primary obstacle for the old and the disabled, as functional necessities in buildings would be of benefit to all. Nowhere is the thoughtlessness of the able-bodied planner/builder/designer more evident than in the provision of access. The Silver Jubilee Committee on Improving Access for Disabled People¹ showed that in the U.K. the 'vast majority of people are ignorant of the needs of disabled people' and, 'far too many planners, architects and owners of buildings used by the public are either unaware of any access legislation or unwilling to bother much about it'².

On the other hand the Committee heard of many cases where once the disabled person had made representations about certain thoughtless obstacles these were adapted once the problem was explained. (Cf. para. xi).

Finally, in many ways it seems that the provision of an adequate private motor car for the disabled is solely a British preoccupation and it would be interesting for the Commission, as part of their updating research, to include other Member States' interest in this problem and subsequently to fund research if the general need is there.

¹

"Can the Disabled Go Where You Go?", June 1979. (U.K. publication)

²

The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970-amended 1976, provides for adequate provision for Disabled Persons for those who provide buildings and premises to which the public are admitted; also toilets in these buildings must meet the demands of disabled persons. The Department of Health and Social Security (UK) is currently carrying out a follow-up study on Discrimination vs. the Disabled; their questionnaire is appended as 'A'.

MINISTER FOR THE DISABLED

2. (iv) It seems clear that the disabled must be represented at senior government level so that the person concerned has sufficient influence to ensure political action. It is a common complaint within the Community that responsibility for the disabled is too dispersed, and not sufficiently coordinated.

QUOTA SYSTEM

2. (v) The Commission is correct in its view that the 'quota system' of positive discrimination is unsatisfactory [Cf. 9.4.(a)]. In an answer to Mr MULLER, 30/78, the Commission reported that 6 out of the nine Member States had quota systems ranging from between 2 and 6%.

The Commission also noted, quote correctly, but certainly as an understatement, that in the public sector these obligations are not observed and it is also true to add that this is the case in the private sector as well to the extent that in Italy firms would rather pay the fines incurred than employ disabled people. Generally, it can be said that for the most part throughout the Community quota legislation is avoided by employers and not enforced by governments.

An interesting exception to this which is worthy of Commission research and development is the system that exists in West Germany which has one of the highest quotas, 6% in both private and public concerns. If a firm fails to employ the specified number of disabled people then it is fined at 100 DM per month for each place not filled. These fines are then paid into a special fund for disabled people which then finances vocational training schemes or the building and equipping of workshops for the disabled. So, for example, from 1977-78 about 1,300 disabled found employment thanks to this fund at a cost of £36,640,000 from a total fund of £120,000,000. The interesting aspect of this system is that it finances rehabilitation and could therefore free E.S.F. resources for other aspects of the disablement problem.

In the above-mentioned answer to a parliamentary question the Commission says that 5% of its workforce is disabled. This is a high percentage vis-à-vis the Member States but there is no binding policy on the Commission to employ them. It would therefore be important for the Commission to apply the directive, referred to in Resolution 3, to itself as well.

The experience of the quota system in the UK will give the Commission some interesting ideas for this directive.

The Manpower Services Commission (M.S.C.) in the UK have recently issued a document¹ on the subject in which they show that the present system (a quota for all employers with 20 or more workers of 3% registered disabled workers applicable to all commercial and industrial firms, local and health authorities and nationalised industries) offers little protection and few benefits relative to the administrative burden it imposes on employers and themselves, i.e. the M.S.C. staff. The system is criticised as being counter-productive because it is based upon threats and has very little 'teeth'. However, the report seems to suggest that some form of positive discrimination is necessary but this is opposed by a small but strong minority that feels that quotas could be abandoned, without statutory replacement, provided strong educational campaigns were undertaken with employers and trade unions. However, it is difficult to see even the most skilled campaign succeeding here where interests are so strong; on the other hand, it is something for the Commission to consider vis-à-vis resolution

SOCIAL FUND

2. (vi) It seems obvious that the Commission must inquire into all aspects of rehabilitation centres where the Social Fund is being used. On the other-hand it must be pointed out that the Social Fund itself, during the operation of the Community Action Programme, went seriously astray and it will be argued below that if the Commission is determined to improve both quality and quantity of facilities then included in the proposed inquiry must be the workings of the E.S.F. itself.

The Consultative Committee of the European Social Fund has six representatives from each Member State, two from government, two from employers' organizations and two from trades union bodies. The Committee is consulted on general policy, including the areas of intervention, the priority categories and the arguments for a proper share of the Community budget. If this is accepted as its main function then there is obviously a strong case for involving Members of the European Parliament in its work.

The major problem for the European Social Fund is that its financial resources are so small. Its budget payment allocation in 1980 was 700 700 000 EUA, representing 4.4% of the total estimated expenditure of the Community in that year, whereas the budget for agriculture amounted to over 74%. At the same time applications had reached an estimated excess of 82% over its budget.

¹ "The Quota Scheme for the Employment of Disabled Persons: A Discussion Document" Manpower Services Commission 1979

As mentioned in para. 6 of the Background section the total funding for the initial Community Action Programme was transferred in January 1978 to Article 5 and in para. 6(a) it was noted that assistance was contingent upon their use in 'zones' in which 'such activities are least developed' and, in point (b) new demonstrations were limited to one per Member State.

However, these zones did not always coincide with the E.R.D.F. regions which, under article, 9(2) of Council Decision 71/66/EEC(I) accounts for 50% of funds under article 5.

In recent years the Social Fund has undergone many difficulties and endured considerable criticism. Some of the administrative problems have been overcome and now its most serious defect is its pitiful inadequacy in the face of soaring unemployment. There are, however, still some serious criticisms of its operations for handicapped people.

The first question to ask is what the Social Fund is trying to achieve. The obvious answer might be to increase activity in the areas in which it operates. In this it is not wholly successful since the bulk of the funds to the UK merely subsidise operations of Government agencies which would have proceeded in any event. This problem of 'additionality' also has another aspect; where public agencies cannot afford their share. This factor may become important with the accession of Greece, Spain and Portugal, although the Social Fund already pays an increased proportion of the cost in regions of absolute priority. Doubtless large parts of the three new Member States will be added to these.

The second question is whether the Fund successfully combines what has been called 'qualitative' and 'quantitative' intervention: that is to say, supporting new schemes of an innovatory character (demonstration projects) and straight subsidy of programmes of integration into open employment. Originally the two programmes for disabled workers were funded under Article 4 and Article 5 respectively. It was agreed by the Council and the Commission that this division was unsatisfactory; the Commission wished to fund all programmes for disabled workers under Article 4, but the Council finally decided to transfer both to Article 5. (See paragraph 6 of the background section). As noted in the background section the zones in which activities were least developed did not always coincide with ERDF regions and this attempt to match Fund intervention to specific areas within the Community of underprovision lapsed. Furthermore, in 1979, out of a total Social Fund budget of 767.50m EUA, and within that 387.00m EUA for Article 5, only 3.25m EUA were left for projects outside ERDF regions¹. The Commission decided to use this small amount in the field of technical progress and

¹

8th Report on the Social Fund for 1979 (COM(80) 365 final) page 17

groups of firms because it 'would have been wholly inadequate to deal with applications totalling around 30m EUA for operations for handicapped people outside the ERDF regions'. With the immense pressure on the Social Fund budget it can therefore be seen that under present rules intervention for disabled workers has become largely a form of regional assistance.

The rules of the Fund only allow assistance for current expenditure; grants cannot be given, for example, for buildings and infrastructure. This naturally operates to the advantage of Member States, and areas within them, in which services have already reached a reasonable stage of development. With the accession of three new Member States, the Social Fund may ironically, despite the emphasis given to regions of absolute priority, be unable to provide assistance in areas where it is most required because there is nothing there to build on. So, although the Social Fund has tilted strongly towards regional assistance it may, both because of the 'additionality' requirement and the bar on capital spending be prevented from assisting the most deprived areas.

Redistribution of resources within the Community must be a priority for the European Parliament as a whole. It is, however, important to recognise that the problems of disabled people vis-à-vis their disability do not vary greatly according to where they live; the important variable is the general social environment. It would therefore seem appropriate to make a clear distinction between assistance from the Social Fund designed to improve the training and rehabilitation of disabled workers throughout the Community, and assistance which is part of the general redistribution of wealth within the Community's budget as a whole. This could be done by reinstating assistance for disabled workers in Article 4 and giving it a specific budget which is not influenced by Council decision 71/66/EEC.¹ This budget should be specifically for demonstration projects. The Commission should improve its monitoring of the quality of such projects and the dissemination of the results of the work. Genuine additionality should be made a condition and the Commission should be allowed to provide 100% funding (as in pilot schemes). The bar on projects lasting for more than three years could also be lifted. The logic behind these proposals is that if the Commission is genuinely seeking to extend the frontiers of knowledge in this area then it should ensure it gets the best possible value for money and should not be hampered by artificial rules.

The bulk of Social Fund assistance for disabled workers, however, must continue to go to the most deprived areas of the Community. Because of the problems mentioned above, there does however seem strong argument in favour of combining Social Fund money with Regional Fund money so that assistance

¹ OJ L28 4.7.71, p.15

can be given to the same project for both capital and current costs. With the limitations on the Social Fund and the increased demands that will arise from the accession of three new Member States, consideration might be given to restricting this part of the Social Fund intervention to regions of absolute priority. This is already foreshadowed in the guidelines for 1981-83.

EDUCATION

2. (vii) There is a general consensus today that integrated education in some form is essential for both social and vocational acceptance of the disabled. The Commission has done excellent work in this field and the Rome Conference mentioned above is part of that work.

Professor COMPARETTI clarified the important issues that came out of this conference which differentiate two groups of 'integrationists':

(a) those who wish full integration based on the affirmation of the handicapped child's right not to be segregated; 'socialization' is the best instrument for bringing about integration and, indeed, one could not exist without the other.

(b) the second group does not deny the right to integrations but it is based on the assumption that one of the conditions needed for integration is that the handicapped must first be given all possible technical assistance to enable them to compete at the highest level of their capacities.

Although this contradiction seems slight it has the consequence, in the case of the (b) group's ideas, of continuing 'special schools' which are seen as a concealed form of segregation.

The answer to this can be seen in the concept of 'supported integration' outlined in the Snowdon Report¹. This is defined as follows:

'....a system which caters for the special needs of handicapped children within the ordinary school framework and is supported by a range of facilities geared to meeting the needs of children suffering from different kinds and degrees of handicap, including such separate attention and protective arrangements as may be required.'
(my emphasis)

¹ Snowdon: "Integration of the Disabled".

What is needed then is a range of special provisions which are fundamentally integrated into the ordinary school¹ .

The Snowdon Committee believe that even the very special needs of the great majority of disabled children, including the need for special care, can be fully catered for within the range of provision which is basically integrated.

The case for supported integration can be put in two points:

(a) the first premise is that disabled children have the right to grow up as full members of the community and it is harder to integrate them when they are separated from the start;

(b) there is a need of genuine acceptance of both able and disabled; prejudicial stereotypes are based upon ignorance and this is bound to arise wherever the disabled are kept in isolation for a substantial part of their formative years. The fact is that special schools tend to institutionalize the differences. When the all important question of funding is asked it is found that like so many questions concerning the disabled generally the notions of short term loss and long term gain come to the fore. It is admitted that supported integration will be expensive in the short term because of the radical shift of resources in Educational Budgets.

However, the Snowdon report makes it clear that there are long run savings to be made in that the present system of financing special schools will be cut back as will staff who are resident in them so their salaries will be saved. Once again, too, the Swedish seem to be making great strides in this area; it is the practice there to educate children in ordinary classes with necessary special support. In addition, the United States have developed the 'Cascade System' of supported integration which provides for varying levels of support given the needs of the children.

There are many ideas that the Commission can look at and it is, of course, doing so, but it must be stressed that with regard to the two Council resolutions mentioned and the work of the Commission the time is right in the

¹ Special schools that are provided will have to be for the very severe cases

International Year of Disabled Persons to ensure that integration at school level is a reality throughout the Community because it is the foundation of social and vocational integration of the future; to this end the Commission should make funds available.

COMMISSION REPORTS ON DISABLED PEOPLE

2. (viii) The Commission has produced two reports mentioned above concerning the disabled, their employment and their legal rights within the Community. Although these reports are good they suffer from two main drawbacks.

In the first place both of them are obsolete and this is mainly the Commission's fault in that their work under the first Community Action Programme caused a lot of change in Member States' policies toward the disabled; all this change has been for the good.

Secondly, the statistics presented are not really comparable and this is, of course, an extremely serious problem.

Statistical comparisons within the Community are needed for the planning of Commission policy and the prevention of handicap. It is a matter of regret, which the present resolution should put right, that there are not even comparable statistics on such normal variables such as sex and age. In the U.K. 68% of the disabled are women, and 65% are over 65 years old; although it is difficult to tell because of the above there is no reason to believe that the situation is very different in other Member States. This becomes very important when it is realised that almost all Community action is towards disabled people in employment.

Further there is a Commission working party (Cf. para 12) concerned with technical aids for the disabled and it is hoped that the Commission will adopt that part of the resolution calling for a catalogue of aids which is always kept up to date and which helps to inform the disabled of what their society has provided for them.

2. (ix) The Commission under the initial Community Action Programme has done good work, culminating in the Luxembourg Conference but as well in numerous meetings throughout the duration of the programme, towards the exchange of ideas concerning rehabilitation. It is hoped that the intention of organising advanced courses at the European level will be carried through. Further,

it must be realised that disabled people themselves have to take more of a part in programmes on their behalf so that the real needs can be assessed. Thus it is important that the Community finance exchange visits for disabled people and that they are made to feel welcomed in the different Member States (Cf. para. 3 this section).

2. (x) Education of the public was intended to be one of the parts of the original programme (Cf. para. B 5(b)). However, these 'information campaigns' were not undertaken but in para. 24.2 of the final report they say, '.... the Commission is now in a position to examine what information might actually be of use and to prepare a working plan involving possible collaboration with associations for handicapped persons'. It is to be hoped that this actually materialises. But it is of vital importance that the disabled themselves are included in these plans, not just the organizations.
2. (xi) There is no doubt that as supranational organizations the Commission, the Council and the Parliament are extremely well placed to carry out some of the measures referred to in the resolutions. The first Community Action Programme, although facing difficult financial (i.e. funding) and extra-neous problems (i.e. the recession) has been extremely useful.

The time is right therefore in the International Year of Disabled Persons to initiate a second Community Action Programme incorporating the measures above which will benefit it by making it more pervasive and, most importantly, more social, which it is universally agreed must go hand in hand with the economic.

3. It has already been pointed out that from the point of view of transport the Commission has not been very active (Cf. 2(ii)). Furthermore there already exist in several countries excellent facilities for the disabled at major airports and a lot of work has already been done by the International Standards Organization, the International Civil Airports Authority and the US Department of Transportation on all aspects of travel. The Commission should make proposals based on the recommendations made by these institutions to Member States. Further, the Commission, although they have entertained the idea (see answer to question 326/77), must now accept the viability of the European Pass, especially in the light of the partial agreement reached by France, Italy and West Germany on 4 November 1977. It is an important and timely step to take in that the handicapped must have some positive expression of European solidarity with them and as long as the facilities granted are not 'free of charge' (Cf. para. I C: Justification)¹ then there can be no reason - certainly no financial reason - why the Commission should not agree to it.

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Keeping paragraph I C in mind it should be pointed out that it is best that these facilities are not free of charge for reasons that are made clear in the aforementioned paragraph.

SUMMARY

The Rapporteur realises that the most important and difficult resolution is that concerning an adequate income and the Disablement Allowance; they are, however, the key to the total and genuine integration of the disabled person. With it he or she will have self-management, self-expression and self-esteem - in fact the right to choose and this is a basic human right that the Community as a whole cannot ignore. The incorporation of these resolutions can only give strength and support to future action on behalf of the disabled.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT

Draftsman : Mr R. MORELAND

On 18 June 1980 the Committee on Transport appointed Mr MORELAND draftsman.

It considered the draft opinion at its meeting of 30 January 1981 and adopted it unanimously.

Present: Mr Seefeld Chairman; Mr Moreland draftsman; Mr Buttafuoco, Mr Doublet Mr Gabert Mr Gendebien, Mr Janssen van Raay, Mr Rey and Mr Moorhouse.

I INTRODUCTION

1. The motions for a resolution by Mr COPPIETERS and others emphasize the reliance by handicapped persons and senior citizens on transport and telecommunications as a means of maintaining touch with the outside world.

2. The authors of the resolutions request the Council of the European Community to issue a directive providing for a fifty per cent reduction in all fares for public transport by land, sea and air and also in subscriptions, licences and installation charges for public telecommunications services such as telephones, radios and televisions to handicapped persons and people of sixty years of age and over in the Member States.

II CURRENT SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY

3. Handicapped persons and senior citizens are provided with discount fares by many transport undertakings and with special rates from a number of public telecommunications undertakings in the Community.

4. Concessions on transport charges vary as between undertakings, between Member States and, particularly in regard to local public transport, between local governments. There is no Community policy on such concessions and the decision to provide them lies often with local governments. Some attempts have been made through the European Conference of Transport Ministers to obtain reciprocal facilities across Member State boundaries. Nevertheless, only a limited number of concessions are effectively transferable across national, and even, local boundaries.

III CONCESSIONS TO THE HANDICAPPED AND SENIOR CITIZENS

5. As illustrated in the previous section, notwithstanding a general policy across the Community of providing concessions to the handicapped and senior citizens, there is no uniformity of approach and the level of concessions in Member States are usually below the level advocated by Mr COPPIETERS and others. In addition the definition of those entitled to concessions (according to the nature of the handicap and/or age) varies considerably.

6. As the Community has approximately 50 million senior citizens and 13 to 23 million¹ handicapped, the introduction of the concessions for all modes of transport advocated would be at a very considerable financial cost.

¹ This varies according to the definition of 'handicapped'. Defining handicapped is a major obstacle, as will be explained in a later section, in determining groups entitled to concessions.

7. On grounds of cost it might be considered impossible for the Parliament to recommend such concessions and almost certainly for certain Member States to introduce such concessions. Nevertheless, the Committee on Transport realizes from discussions with organizations concerned with the handicapped and senior citizens that mobility can be such a problem for these groups that heavy public expenditure may be necessary to meet their needs.

8. Consequently, cost alone should not be an obstacle for the Parliament's consideration of the concessions proposed. More pertinent is the extent to which the proposed concessions are high on the list of priorities of the needs of the handicapped and senior citizens.

These groups are likely to find difficulty as regards mobility in three respects:

- (i) Their ability to travel is limited by their inadequate incomes;
- (ii) (Particularly as regards the handicapped) they require specialized transport facilities;
- (iii) They require transport that is particularly expensive.

Providing concessionary fares for travel may not fully solve any of these problems. Indeed providing general concessions on the criteria proposed would cover many whose handicap does not restrict their ability to travel or many senior citizens with adequate incomes and who have no serious disability¹.

On the other hand providing concessions on fares has no meaning for severely handicapped people who, for example, may have considerable difficulty in moving from their home to the nearest bus stop.

Many organizations which assist handicapped people and senior citizens would prefer to see additional finances being made available for the specific needs of the handicapped and senior citizens.

The solutions required to meet the problems of these groups are:

- (i) to provide them with adequate incomes to meet, inter alia, the cost of transport;
- (ii) to provide special facilities for their specific needs (which will be discussed in the following section).

These comments apply equally to telecommunications.

¹ For example: a number of airlines will argue that a discount for senior citizens would often provide benefits for those with mortgages paid off, children off their hands and reasonable pensions while still placing air travel beyond those who live off modest pensions.

Consequently we believe that the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment should recommend that the costs of transport to the handicapped and senior citizens should be met by ensuring that the incomes of these groups are adequate to cover such costs.

9. Although the Committee on Transport does not believe that concessionary fares of the level proposed are the first priority in meeting the needs of the handicapped and senior citizens, it does believe that, particularly when the costs to the transport and telecommunication undertakings are small, every effort should be made to grant concessions.

10. In this context it suggests that as a means of using up excess capacity (i.e. as a matter of commercial criteria), concessionary fares should be granted for 'off-peak' travel. This is granted by many transport undertakings. But there are restrictions placed by IATA and certain civil aviation organizations on concessions to the handicapped and senior citizens. Such restrictions should be removed and airlines allowed to give appropriate concessions for off-peak travel.

11. The Committee also proposes that transport undertakings should ensure that reciprocal facilities are given across the boundaries of Member States. This would be welcomed by the handicapped and senior citizens as it would remove some of the frustrations of travel in the Community. In particular it urges the railway undertakings to provide reciprocal concessions in all Member States. The European Conference of Transport Ministers in 1977 recommended more reciprocity of concessions and that more urgency should be given to the task of implementing the recommendations. The Committee recognizes that differing definitions of 'handicapped' and differing starting ages for concessions for senior citizens makes reciprocity between Member States difficult. Nevertheless it believes that these problems are not insoluble and should not stand in the way of easier travel for these groups.

IV SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR THE HANDICAPPED AND SENIOR CITIZENS

12. The Committee stresses that both the handicapped and senior citizens have special needs in the field of transport. Initiatives in this field should be taken as follows:

- (i) local public transport services should be obliged by law to have regard to the convenience of persons who are handicapped or are senior citizens - for example by requiring bus stops on routes which have day or residential centres for the elderly or handicapped;

- (ii) the design of the transport mode should take full account of the needs of the handicapped and senior citizens. (This is particularly important for local transport but also applies to airlines, seeing that only one airline in the Community has a specialized Incapacitated Passenger Handling Unit);
- (iii) financial assistance should be given for the purchase of special vehicles for the use of the handicapped and for organizations transporting the handicapped and senior citizens;
- (iv) special parking facilities should be provided for the handicapped and senior citizens (particularly for those who have difficulty in walking);
- (v) encouragement should be given to local organizations providing transport services for the handicapped and senior citizens. In particular encouragement should be given to voluntary assistance to drive vehicles (the admirable work of such voluntary workers too often goes unrecognized);
- (vi) facilities should be provided allowing easy access for the handicapped and senior citizens at airports and railways. No additional charge should be made for these services. Such charges as exist (for example, by the British Airports Authority) should be abolished immediately.

13. The Committee stresses that attention should be paid to special needs for the handicapped and senior citizens in the field of telecommunications. For example, attention should be given to easier access to public telephones. We welcome efforts that have been made by the various telecommunications organizations in this field and urge that further efforts be undertaken.

V COMMUNITY ACTION

14. The designation of 1981 by the United Nations as 'International Year for the Disabled Person' should act as a spur to action. Yet the Commission devotes only one paragraph to transport needs in its pamphlet 'The European Community and the Handicapped'. It appears to consider that 'unified standards relating to the physical and mental aptitude of drivers' is the most important issue for handicapped people. In fact, if such a proposal has any meaning it is likely to restrict rather than enhance their freedom.

The Committee believes that there is greater scope for Community action. It supports the Council (as stated in 1974) that

'The general aim of Community efforts on behalf of the handicapped is to help them to become capable of leading a normal independent life fully integrated into society.'¹

This aim can be achieved only if the handicapped are able to be as mobile as other citizens. A similar statement can be made in relation to senior citizens.

If the Council is determined to achieve its stated aim then such determination can be demonstrated by support for the following actions:

- (1) The provisions of the Social Fund should be amended to enable the Fund to be used for pilot schemes for the improvement of transport facilities (such as special vehicles) for the handicapped and senior citizens.
- (2) Regulations should be formulated relating to access and minimum level of facilities for the handicapped and senior citizens at airports and railway stations and on various modes of transport (much detailed work on similar regulations has been done: the International Standards Organization on public buildings, the International Civil Airports Authority (ICAO) on airports and the US Department of Transportation on modes of transport).
- (3) Although there are problems in defining a 'handicapped person' and consequently deciding who should be entitled to concessions, a 'European Pass' should be introduced to ease automatic reciprocal facilities to the handicapped when visiting other Member States. It is time the Council and Commission respected the opportunities provided by such a 'Pass' rather than allow the difficulties mentioned above to preclude action. In order to avoid abuse, such a pass should include a photograph of the holder and be renewed at regular intervals, e.g. every five years
- (4) In considering the harmonization of VAT a nil level should be adopted on vehicles and adaptations to vehicles specifically for the handicapped.

¹ Council Resolution of 27 June 1974, OJ No C 80 9.7.74, Title 1, p. 30

- (5) A research programme should be proposed for Community financing covering improvements in the design of transport facilities specifically to ease the mobility of the handicapped and senior citizens. For example, research could be undertaken into the feasibility of harnessing the economies of scale of production for the Community of purpose-built vehicles for certain categories of the disabled.

Similarly a research programme should be proposed for the design of telecommunication systems such as telephones to enable them to be more easily used by differing categories of the handicapped.

VI CONCLUSIONS

15. The Committee on Transport believes that there is considerable scope for improvement in assisting the handicapped and senior citizens in the fields of transport and telecommunications. Concessions on fares and charges can be helpful and should be pursued, particularly when the cost of such concessions is minimal through the utilization of otherwise empty seats. Nevertheless, the main priorities must be to provide the handicapped and senior citizens with incomes adequate to meet the costs of transport and telecommunication needs and to finance the additional mobility costs caused by disability and the facilities needed specifically for the transportation of categories of the handicapped and senior citizens.

Consequently the Committee on Transport requests the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment to give attention to the cost of transport and telecommunications when considering the income needs of the handicapped and senior citizen. In addition, it requests the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment to include the following paragraphs in its resolution.

As regards transport

1. Believes that the main priorities in assisting the mobility of the handicapped and senior citizens must be to provide them with incomes adequate to meet the costs of their transport needs and through the provision of transport facilities specifically to meet their transport problems.
2. Believes that concessionary fares can be a useful means of assistance particularly when offered for the utilization of otherwise empty seats.

3. Urges each Member State and transport undertaking to give greater attention to the opportunities for reciprocal concessions to the handicapped and senior citizens throughout the Community.
4. Urges the Council to agree on a uniform definition of a handicapped person and to issue a pass to those so defined enabling them to obtain concessions for the handicapped on presentation of the pass.
5. Urges the Member States to ensure that transport services - particularly local public transport services - have regard to the convenience of persons who are handicapped and senior citizens.
6. Urges Member States to give support and encouragement to local organizations providing transport services for the disabled and senior citizens; in particular, it urges that encouragement be given to volunteers who help the handicapped and senior citizens in their transport needs.
7. Requests the Commission to produce amendments to enable the Social Fund to be used for pilot schemes to improve transport facilities for the handicapped and senior citizens.
8. Requests the Commission to formulate regulations relating to access and minimum levels of facilities for the handicapped and senior citizens at airports and railway stations and on the various modes of transport.
9. Urges the Commission in considering taxation harmonization to propose a nil level of VAT on vehicles and facilities specifically for transporting the handicapped.
10. Requests the Commission to propose a research programme for Community financing into improvements in the design of transport modes to ease the mobility of the handicapped and senior citizens.

As regards telecommunications

1. Urges Member States and telecommunication undertakings to ensure that the handicapped and senior citizens have access to telephone, radio and television.
2. Requests the Commission to propose a research programme for Community financing into improvements in the design of telecommunication instruments to ease their use by the handicapped and senior citizens.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, CULTURE, EDUCATION,

INFORMATION AND SPORT

Draftsman : Mr W. HAHN

The Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport appointed Mr Hahn draftsman on 30 May 1980.

It considered the draft opinion on 24 November 1980 and 27 January 1981 and adopted it at the latter meeting unanimously with two abstentions.

Present : Mr Pedini, chairman; Mr Hahn, vice-chairman and draftsman; Mr Abens, Mr Arfe', Mr Beyer de Ryke, Mr Coppieters, Mr Del Duca, Mr Forth (deputizing for Mr Curry), Mrs Gaiotti de Biase, Mr Henckens, Mr Hutton, Mr Papietro, Mr Schall, Mrs Viehoff, Mr Vlahopoulos.

1. The Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport has considered the motion for a resolution on the introduction of free entry to public museums, exhibitions, historic buildings, etc, for 'less fortunate citizens', ie. the under-25s, handicapped persons and the over-60s.
2. The committee is firmly convinced that museums, galleries, historic buildings, etc, play a vital cultural and recreational role in our societies and should therefore be made as widely accessible as possible to the public at large and especially to those 'less fortunate citizens' who may find entry fees prohibitive.
3. However, the committee has certain reservations about the use and definition in the motion for a resolution of the term 'less fortunate citizens'. While some - though certainly not all - young, disabled or elderly people may be unable to afford even modest admission fees, others not thus classified - eg. low income families, the unemployed, etc. - may in practice have an equal need to benefit from reductions or free entry.
4. Moreover, while accepting the general premise that no citizen should be denied access to publicly owned and operated cultural facilities for reasons of cost alone, the committee must recognise that many such facilities depend to a greater or lesser extent for their upkeep or very survival on entrance fees and could ill afford to lose the revenue thus obtained.
5. Admissions policy to public museums, etc, varies widely from Member State to Member State and may indeed vary widely within individual Member States themselves, according to whether the facility concerned is owned and operated by national, regional or local authorities. In some countries and some museums free admission is already the rule, in others students and pensioners are offered reduced rates, in others free admission is available on certain days of the week.
6. The committee believes that a unified system of concessionary admission charges - besides lying outside the competence of the Community institutions to enforce - would be neither practical nor desirable given the widely differing financial circumstances of the museums concerned and their potential patrons.

7. However, it considers that Member States should be encouraged to continue and extend such arrangements as they already have for making their museums and cultural facilities accessible to the widest possible public and suggests that, where no concessionary arrangements already exist, the fairest solution would be the introduction of free entry for all on specific days, eg. on Sundays or public holidays.

8. The committee also supports the system of 'cultural passes' where it already exists (eg. in Belgium), and the special card issued on request by the Council of Europe to students and cultural workers to provide free entry to museums, etc, in all Member countries; however, it does not at present see any possibility of linking such cultural passes to the proposed uniform European passport as suggested in the motion for a resolution.

XL. WAYS OF FACILITATING ACCESS TO AND USE OF MEANS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT BY DISABLED PEOPLE

(Resolution adopted by the Joint Committee in May 1974 and by the Committee of Ministers on 23 October 1974 at the 237th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)
(AP (74) 8)

The Representatives on the Committee of Ministers of Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, these states being parties to the Partial Agreement in the social and public health field, and the Representative of Austria, a state which has participated in the activities of the Joint Committee on the Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the Disabled of the above-mentioned Partial Agreement since 11 September 1962,

1. Having regard to the recommendation on ways of facilitating access to and use of means of public transport by disabled people, adopted by the Joint Committee on the Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the Disabled on 10 May 1974;
2. Considering that, under the terms of its Statute, the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its Members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage and facilitating their economic and social progress;
3. Having regard to the provisions of the Brussels Treaty signed on 17 March 1948, by virtue of which Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland declared themselves resolved to strengthen the social ties by which they were already united;
4. Having regard to the Protocol modifying and completing the Brussels Treaty, signed on 23 October 1954 by the signatory states of the Brussels Treaty, on the one hand, and the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy on the other hand;
5. Observing that the seven states parties to the Partial Agreement, which have resumed, within the Council of Europe, the social work hitherto undertaken by the Brussels Treaty Organisation and then by Western European Union (which derived from the Brussels Treaty as modified by the Protocol mentioned at paragraph 4 above) as well as Austria, which participates in the activities of the Joint Committee on the Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the Disabled, have always endeavoured to be in the forefront of progress in social matters and also in the associated field of public health and have for many years undertaken action towards harmonisation of their legislation;

6. Considering that in the states parties to the Partial Agreement as well as in Austria, legislative authorities and public and private enterprise have agreed to intensify their efforts to achieve the social and occupational integration of the disabled;

7. Considering that among the measures to achieve this aim particular attention should be paid to those concerning certain categories of disabled persons with impaired motor or sensory systems in order to facilitate their use of public transport;

8. Considering that the lack of difficulties in a disabled person's journey is a major factor in achieving successful resettlement,

Recommend that the governments of the seven states parties to the Partial Agreement and the Government of Austria :

I. Ensure that the authorities responsible for public transport be invited :

1. to facilitate journeys for this category of passengers with a view to facilitating their social and occupational reintegration;

2. to take into account in the course of studies on :

- the design or planning of means of public transport including infrastructure,

- the building of transport facilities,

- the accessibility of these means or facilities,

difficulties experienced by these disabled persons and, to this end, to ensure co-operation between the administrative departments concerned and representative organisations of the disabled;

3. to draw the attention of transport companies to :

a. measures which could be taken at once to facilitate the use of public transport by disabled people, and the importance of the assistance to the handicapped that transport staff can provide;

b. the difficulties and dangers which should be removed, reduced or avoided in the various sectors of public transport;

II. Promote the development of aid, financial or practical, from public and private organisations to severely disabled people who are virtually unable to gain access to means of public transport and who require the provision of transport.

PE 68 345/ fin./Ann. II

20 March 1980

DOCUMENT 1-25/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr COPPIETERS, Mrs DEKKER, Mr VAN MINNEN and Mrs VIEHOFF

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on the granting of an automatic reduction in public telecommunications charges to handicapped persons and senior citizens in the Member States

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 118 of the Treaty of Rome, which commits the Member States to closer cooperation in the social field,
 - having regard to the fact that telecommunication media have made an invaluable contribution to the efforts to achieve European integration and are also an excellent practical means of achieving a more socially-oriented Community policy,
 - whereas handicapped persons and senior citizens often rely on telecommunications to keep in touch with the outside world,
 - whereas the main aim of a social policy must be to prevent the citizens of the Member States, and particularly those in less fortunate circumstances, from being alienated from society,
1. Requests the Council of the European Communities to issue a directive providing for a fifty per cent reduction in subscription, licence and installation charges for public telecommunications services such as telephones, radios and televisions to handicapped persons and people of sixty years of age and over in the Member States;
 2. Instructs its appropriate committees to work out the practical details;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and Council.

20 March 1980

DOCUMENT 1-26/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr COPPIETERS, Mrs DEKKER, Mr VAN MINNEN and Mrs VIEHOFF

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on the granting of an automatic reduction in public transport charges to certain categories of citizens in the Member States

The European Parliament.

- having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 118 thereof, which seeks to promote closer cooperation among the Member States in the social field,
 - having regard to the fact that a social policy should include common welfare provisions and that one of its objectives should be to prevent the citizens of the Member States from becoming alienated from society,
 - whereas the introduction of Community social measures to help less fortunate social categories such as handicapped persons and senior citizens could greatly encourage the citizens of the Member States to become more involved in the process of European integration,
 - whereas the increasing mobility of workers in the Member States has often been accompanied by a profound feeling of cultural and social alienation on their part, and one of the European Communities' main humanitarian concerns should be to facilitate contacts with the area of origin, particularly in the case of pensioners, by means of a socially-oriented transport policy,
 - having regard to the fact that the common transport policy is an excellent means of bringing about a more socially oriented Community policy.
1. Requests the Council to issue a directive providing for a fifty per cent reduction on all forms of public transport by land, sea and air in the Member States for handicapped persons and people of sixty years of age and over.
 2. Instructs its appropriate committee to work out all the practical details and thus actively help the Commission and the Council to prepare the directive.
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and Council.

20 March 1980

Document 1-27/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr COPPIETERS, Mrs BONINO, Mrs VIEHOFF, Mrs DEKKER
and Mr VAN MINNEN

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on the introduction of the right of free entry for certain less fortunate citizens to all public buildings in the Member States in which art treasures are exhibited

The European Parliament

- having regard to the desire on the part of the European Communities to take specific Community initiatives in the cultural field which was clearly expressed at the summit conferences of 1969, 1972 and 1973,
- having regard to the resolution adopted unanimously by it on 13 May 1974 asking the Commission to deal also with the cultural aspects of life in the European Communities,
- having regard to the resolution adopted unanimously by it on 8 March 1976, approving the initial presentation of the main lines of Community action in the cultural sector, which was reaffirmed in its resolution of 16 January 1979,
- whereas a number of Member States exhibit their art treasures free of charge in public museums, historic buildings and exhibition halls,
- whereas if this became standard practice, it would constitute an important instrument for cultural action at Community level,
- whereas the introduction of the right of free entry to exhibitions of art treasures in public buildings in the Member States would be of particular benefit to those groups of people in the Community who are in a less fortunate position from the financial and social points of view, e.g. young people, handicapped persons and senior citizens,
- whereas no special cultural card need be introduced as the Community cultural initiative could most usefully be linked to the uniform European passport as indicated in the recitals of Mr Pedini's motion for a resolution, which was approved on 12 March 1980,

1. Instructs its Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport to work out as quickly as possible the detailed arrangements for the introduction of the right of free entry for those Member States' citizens who are under twenty-five, over sixty or handicapped to all public museums, exhibitions, monuments, historic buildings and areas of scenic beauty.
2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission,

22 May 1980

Document 1-180/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr J. O'CONNELL, Mrs E. DESMOND, Mr L. KAVANAGH, Mr M. O'LEARY, Mr T. MEGAHY, Mr P. LEZZI, Mrs B. WEBER, Mrs Y. ROUDY, Mrs M. GROES, Mr W. ALBERS, Mr B. KEY, Mr J. VAN MINNEN, Mr R. BALFE, Mr G. ADAM, Mr K. SCHOEN, on behalf of the Socialist Group

Pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure
on Community action in favour of the handicapped

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 118 of the Treaty of Rome which states that 'the Commission shall have the task of promoting close cooperation between Member States in the social field',
- having regard to the Treaty of Rome, Article 123, which sets out provisions for a Social Fund to improve employment opportunities for workers and raise the standard of living,
- having regard to the 1974 Council resolution establishing the Initial Programme for the Vocational Rehabilitation of Handicapped Persons,¹
- having regard to the Commission Report on the Initial Community Action Programme for the vocational rehabilitation of handicapped persons,²
- noting that 1981 is the International Year of Disabled Persons,
- concerned by the fact that there are 10 million disabled persons, including both mentally and physically handicapped, in the European Community,
- noting with concern the discrimination faced by the disabled in terms of, for example, access to the environment, employment, education and housing, and conscious of the wide disparity of services and rights in Member States for the disabled,
- conscious of the lack of adequate public information and education on the rights of disabled persons,
- noting the fact that there is no positive policy for the employment of disabled people in Community institutions,
- recalling the European Communities' commitment to human rights,

Calls on the Commission:

1. To urge all Member States of the European Community to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons by 1981 - the International Year of Disabled Persons;
2. To call on Member States to ensure within a specific time limit that access to the environment is open to the disabled in terms of adaptations of all school buildings, publicly-owned buildings, buildings opened to the public whether by payment or otherwise, and public transport vehicles; and to ensure that disabled drivers are provided all opportunities to avail themselves of cars suited to their special needs. Social Fund resources should be made available for these purposes;

¹OJ No C 80/74

²COM(79) 572 fin.

3. To encourage all Member States to appoint someone with responsibility for the handicapped at governmental level, either on a regional or national basis;
4. To call on Member States to formulate policies on housing both in the public and private sectors which would ensure adequate provision of accommodation in the Community for disabled persons and thus minimise the necessity to institutionalize such persons and maximise the opportunities for full social and economic integration;
5. To ensure that all Community institutions implement a policy of positive discrimination by introducing a quota system in their own employment of handicapped persons and by ensuring that similar systems operate in the private and public sectors of each Member State with the allocation of Community resources being made conditional upon the operation of such a system of positive discrimination for the employment of such disabled persons;
6. To encourage Member States to promote the establishment of an adequate wage level for the handicapped in sheltered and non-sheltered employment, based on the average industrial wage;
7. To introduce a special inquiry into wages and conditions in rehabilitation workshops, where Community funds are used, and an inquiry into all vocational training facilities funded by the Community to ascertain if these training facilities are accessible to the disabled with the allocation of Community resources being made conditional upon such facilities being made so accessible;
8. To ensure that disabled children are integrated into normal educational establishments, wherever possible;
9. To institute a Community study on the social and economic conditions of the disabled in Member States (income supports, conditions in homes and institutions) as part of its contribution to the Year of the Disabled;
10. To encourage and support exchanges between Member States of both teaching and training personnel and the handicapped themselves, to allow for both groups to avail themselves of the different possibilities within the Community, particularly those aided by the Social Fund;
11. To initiate, forthwith, the information campaign aimed at the general public, called for in the Initial Action Programme for the Vocational Rehabilitation of the Handicapped; doing so, in conjunction with the

Member States through a campaign of school education, radio and television programmes, exhibitions and conferences dealing with the rights of the handicapped in society in order to combat prejudice and eliminate misconceptions about the handicapped; and also to inform them, themselves, of their rights;

12. To introduce a new Community Action Programme incorporating the measures proposed in this Resolution.

Instructs its President:

To forward this Resolution to the Commission, the Council and the governments of all Member States, and requests the Commission to furnish the European Parliament with a written opinion by the end of 1980.

23 MAY 1980

Document 1-205/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr GHERGO, Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI, Mrs MAIJ-WEGGEN,
Mr DEL DUCA, Mr BARBI and Mr NARDUCCI

Pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

for the accession of the Member States of the European Community, and of
the European Community itself, to the resolutions of the Council of Europe
on the granting of facilities to handicapped persons and the introduction
of a European Pass for the handicapped

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Resolution for the granting of facilities to the physically handicapped in the Member States of the Council of Europe adopted on 22 May 1975 by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, (Doc. 75-15),
 - having regard to the request contained in this Resolution to the Governments of the Member States to grant priorities and facilities free of charge to handicapped persons resident in their territory and to extend this benefit to handicapped persons from other Member States,
 - bearing in mind that on 4 November 1977 France, West Germany and Italy adopted a Resolution to this end which constitutes a partial agreement limited to the signatory States, introducing a European Pass for the handicapped, which establishes their status for the purposes of travel and residence in the other States,
 - having regard to the fact that this Pass gives no entitlement to assistance or facilities for which a charge is normally made,
 - noting that it is unlikely that the French, German and Italian authorities will be issuing this Pass during 1980,
 - considering that some tangible proof of the European dimension of our society is due to the handicapped of the Community Member States,
 - recalling that 1981 will be proclaimed the International Year of the Handicapped by the UN,
 - being of the opinion that the simultaneous accession of all the other Member States, and of the European Community, to the two abovenamed Resolutions could form one part of the Community's contribution to the celebration of the International Year of the Handicapped,
1. Invites the Commission to encourage the other Member States to accede to the two Resolutions;
 2. Invites the Commission to propose to the Council that the European Community should accede to these Resolutions;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this Resolution to the Commission of the European Communities.

8 July 1980

Document 1-303/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr PATTERSON and Miss BROOKS

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure
on the International Year of the Disabled

The European Parliament,

- in view of the inadequate answer given by Commissioner Vredeling on 8th July to question No. 9 at Question Time;
- concerned at the apparent lack of preparation on the part of the Commission for the International Year of the Disabled in 1981;
- believing that the International Year of the Disabled provides the Community with an opportunity to make a major contribution to meeting the needs of every handicapped person;

Resolves that the appropriate committees of the Parliament should, as a matter of urgency, develop with the Commission appropriate plans in the social and educational fields.

18 December 1980

Document 1-754/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr Richard COTTRELL

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on the role of the handicapped

The European Parliament,

- Viewing as a necessity the need to assist the handicapped to develop and perform a useful role in society,
- Recognising the Social Fund as a useful instrument for this purpose,
- Regretting, however, that the present guidelines of the Fund require the qualification that assistance can only be given on the basis of training the handicapped for full-time employment,
- Observing that this presents two fundamental difficulties:
 - (i) many handicapped persons will never be able to compete effectively with those who enjoy full ability
 - (ii) the handicapped face particular difficulty in all Member States in competing for jobs because of widespread unemployment;

THEREFORE

Calls upon the Commission to re-define the guidelines of the Social Fund to enable the Community to assist projects which aim to provide a working environment for the handicapped, without necessarily preparing them for full-time employment.