

European Parliament Resolution on the White Paper on the completion of the Internal Market (15 October 1987)

Caption: On 15 October 1987, the European Parliament adopts a resolution on the European Commission's White Paper on the completion of the internal market.

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The European Parliament,

A. having considered the Second Report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the implementation of the Commission's White Paper on completing the Internal Market (COM(87) 203 final).

B. reaffirming that implementation of the Internal Market programme cannot be seen in isolation from necessary decisions on economic and social cohesion,

C. noting that the delay in the coming into force of the Single Act has had 'serious consequences',

D. recalling one of the principal aims of the EEC Treaty which is to improve the living and working conditions of the people of Europe,

1. Notes that the Council, in May 1987, was 'even further behind schedule than it was when the Commission published its first progress report in May 1986';

2. Notes with regret that at the time of the appearance of the second report on the implementation of the Commission's White Paper on the completion of the internal market, only 58 of the White Paper proposals from the Commission had already been adopted, with 112 still at present awaiting a decision by the Council;

3. Congratulates the Internal Market Council on 'its much better results' in the second half of 1986, and also since the publication of the Commission Second Report, but is appalled that Agriculture Council did not succeed in adopting a single proposal in the important agri-foodstuffs sector between May 1986 and May 1987, and Economic and Finance Council only two new proposals in the fiscal field;

4. Regrets also the failure of the Council during the first half of 1987 to make progress on freedom of movement and the Citizens' Europe, notably on the removal of border controls, the mutual recognition of higher education diplomas and the right of residence;

5. Congratulates the Commission on now having tabled 175 of the 300 proposals set out in the White Paper, while noting that a considerable backlog still exists in the agricultural sector;

6. Welcomes the publication in August of the Commission's proposals to abolish fiscal frontiers to which it gives its support in principle;

7. Wishes, however, to examine these proposals in detail and to prepare amendments; and therefore requires both the necessary time to carry this out and a recognition by both Commission and Council that Parliament must be fully involved in this area of Community legislation;

8. Stresses that the completion of the internal market is only possible if social and regional cohesion are greatly strengthened;

9. Emphasizes that the completion of the internal market requires standardization at a sufficiently high level;

10. As far as Parliament's own backlog is concerned, regrets that the Commission has not corrected the error (the figure 17) contained in its 1986 Report and notes that the Commission mentioned in its current report that 32 proposals were outstanding before Parliament; points out that, at present, only nine proposals are still outstanding before Parliament;

11. Stresses the need to keep up the momentum for implementation of the White Paper and resolves to give Internal Market proposals priority under its new procedures; insists, however, that proposals be transmitted

to Parliament in good time, and that Council and Commission resort less frequently to urgency procedures;

12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and Council.