

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Group of the European People's Party
(Christian-Democratic Group)

Secretariat

Luxembourg, September 1987

Report on the activities

July 1986 — July 1987

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END OF TEXT.

Foreword

The 1986/87 Annual Report of the Group of the European People's Party appears at a time when the long-awaited reform of the Treaties of Rome has become a reality; in recent years our Group has concentrated its efforts on formulating these reforms, that is the Single European Act, which entered into force on 1 July 1987. The Act, the most important reform since the signature of the Treaties of Rome thirty years ago, was held up at the last minute owing to the constitutional reservations of the Irish Supreme Court and was not approved by the Republic of Ireland until 27 May 1987 following a referendum. The SEA, which was ratified by the other 11 Member States at the end of 1986, marks the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the Community. For European Christian Democrats its greatest merit is that, after numerous unsuccessful attempts, our governments have finally succeeded in taking a first decisive step towards European Union. Consequently, there are high expectations attached to the implementation of this reform on all sides. From the outset our Group has been aware that the decisive factor will be the contribution that we, the initiators of the Act, make to its implementation. Consequently, this issue was at the forefront of our two study days, the first from 25 to 29 August 1986 in Porto Carras and the second from 1 to 5 June 1987 in Berlin. Work in committee was also determined in large measure by the magic date of 31 December 1992, by which the internal market will finally be completed, from the BARON CRESPO (SOC-SP)/von WOGAU (EPP-D) report on the Commission communication 'Making a success of the Single Act' and the HERMAN (EPP-B) report on the European Parliament's strategy for achieving the European Union to, for example, the four major technical reports on harmonization and liberalization in the transport sector. This left no doubt that the EPP regards economic integration as a vital interim goal but far from being the conclusion of the process of European union. We welcome the Single European Act as an important step on the route marked out by the founding fathers of the Community but, looking to the future, we have agreed on a dual strategy which is designed firstly to make full use of Parliament's wider legislative powers and the new procedures under the Act in seeing through the planned further development of the Community smoothly and on schedule; in parallel, however, we intend to pursue more radical initiatives based on the draft Treaty adopted by the European Parliament in 1984 and the draft constitution produced by our Group, with a view to amending the Treaty to achieve 'European Union'.

During the period under review, we have lost no opportunity, either during the British or the subsequent Belgian presidency of the Council, to make it clear to those responsible that the Community's objectives in terms of reforms, particularly in relation to the creation of a single economic area, cannot be achieved unless

1. the Community's financial base undergoes radical reform;
2. there is a restructuring of agricultural policy;
3. achievement of this economic area is paralleled by the creation of a common 'social area' as part of a cooperative growth strategy;
4. the economic and social cohesion of the Member States is strengthened.

Even before the European Council meeting of 29/30 June 1987 in Brussels, at which, for the first time in the history of the Community, the President of the European Parliament was invited to present the views of the House on the future development of the Community, we achieved a notable success in this area. At the EPP summit conference on 30 May 1987 in Brussels the representatives of Christian-Democratic parties and governments endorsed this programme and adopted a resolution drafted by the Bureau of the EPP Group, the final clause of which stated that: 'Only rapid Community action in these fields, together with the expansion and refinement of the European Monetary System, will ensure that the renewed momentum gained by the Community with the adoption of the Single European Act is maintained and extended to other fields'.

Despite the pressure of dealing with internal Community affairs, the Group did not lose sight of developments beyond the frontiers of Western Europe on the international political scene, in East-West relations, and in the other half of Europe, as shown by the EPP summit in Brussels referred to above, where the Group Bureau tabled a further motion, this time on European security. In this area there had been new developments, from the Reagan-Gorbachev summit on 11-12 October 1986 in Reykjavik to the Soviet proposals on the withdrawal of intermediate-range nuclear weapons, and there was a danger of Western Europe's specific security interests being sacrificed on the altar of general disarmament euphoria. The starting-point for our deliberations on the zero option was that all disarmament issues should be looked at globally and that any measure at a specific level must be seen in terms of its impact on the overall situation. This applies particularly to the recently-opened negotiations on shorter-range intermediate-range weapons.

Although it is quite right to point out that the chance of reaching an agreement on intermediate-range weapons should not be lost because of shorter-range weapons, at the same time such systems must not be left out of the discussion. In our view it would be totally unacceptable and extremely dangerous for the unity of the Community if a zero option were adopted in both areas - this would amount to withdrawing to a 500 km line - with no agreement on the 0-500 km range, which might even become the theatre of further rearmament. This scenario, which would mean the stockpiling of weapons essentially threatening only Germany and the dismantling of other deterrent systems, is not only short-sighted but is also devoid of European solidarity and might even ultimately alienate the Federal Republic of Germany from the Western alliance and sooner or later force it into neutrality. What we in fact need are solutions which include in the disarmament negotiations all ranges of weapons down to short-range and tactical weapons. Moreover, we should not be satisfied even with this, since it is also important not to overlook conventional and chemical weapons.

The negotiations now under way or in preparation are not without hope of success, as shown by the visit to Moscow by the Group Bureau from 16 to 21 March 1987 at the invitation of the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet, Mr TOLKOUNOV. It emerged from our talks there with prominent figures in political and public life in the Soviet Union that the Soviets are serious about consolidating relations between the two halves of Europe, which entered a decisive phase on 22 September 1986 with the opening of talks between experts from the EEC and COMECON. As we see it, there are no longer any insurmountable obstacles to the establishment of official relations between the two organizations and the issuing of a joint declaration. Our assessment of the disarmament talks is somewhat similar. However, we were told by no less a person than Georgij ARBATOV, the Director of the renowned North America Institute, that 'we believe that it is logical to begin disarmament with nuclear weapons but that there must also be disarmament in the conventional field, covering chemical and meteorological weapons, until we have reached a point at which these weapons are used exclusively for defensive purposes. There must be a fundamental change in international attitudes; we cannot enter the electronic age with a Stone-Age mentality'.

Nevertheless, we must be aware that none of the negotiations - whatever the weapons concerned - will result in any tangible improvement in European security unless we in the West bear two things in mind, firstly that issues of such a complex nature as disarmament cannot be decided by majority decisions but are a matter for experts and, secondly, that we are only playing into the hands of the Eastern bloc and its decoupling strategy if we allow Gorbachev's proposals to drive a wedge between us..

The turbulent course we are in danger of taking in the next few years was evident - apart from the now regular budgetary disputes with the Council - from the results of the elections held during the period under review. I am not of course referring here to such welcome events as the election of Lord PLUMB (ED-GB) as President of the European Parliament with the support of our Group at the January 1987 part-session, the re-election of the Group Bureau on 4 December 1986, the subsequent election of Mrs Johanna MAIJ-WEGGEN as the fifth vice-chairman of the Group on 15 January 1987 or the election of the Luxembourg Prime Minister, Jacques SANTER, as President of the EPP on 31 March 1987. I am thinking more of the disappointing results of many of the national elections held during the same period; most in the European elections in Spain, in addition to the sad loss of Llorens BARGES, who died on 1 January 1987, we suffered the loss of a further four valued Spanish members of the Group. Signs of a reversal of this trend were not seen until the end of the period under review when, in the first direct elections to the European Parliament held in Portugal on 19 July 1987, our Portuguese colleagues made an unexpectedly strong showing, gaining almost four times the share of the vote they obtained in the elections to the national parliament held concurrently. We should take heart from this strengthening of our Group which will allow us to meet with optimism the challenges of the next few years - not least the third direct elections to the European Parliament in 1989 - and, drawing confidence from the achievements outlined in this Annual Report, we should continue working for European integration with renewed enthusiasm and energy.

I should like to thank all those involved in the preparation of this Annual Report and in particular the Deputy Secretary-General, Friedrich FUGMANN, for overall editorial responsibility and Mrs Inge KOTZAK for administrative and technical assistance.

Dr Egon A. KLEPSCH

Chairman of the Group of the European People's Party
(Christian-Democratic Group) of the European Parliament

KEY EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

- July 1986: Start of the British Presidency
- August 1986: Tenth realignment of the currencies of the Member States linked in the European Monetary System: devaluation of the Irish pound by 8%.
- 25 - 29 August EPP Group study days in Porto Carras/Greece on the following topics:
- I. the political situation in Greece
 - II. the political situation in the European Community
 - III. the Single European Act
 - IV. European unification and culture
- September 1986:
EP part-session,
8 - 12 September Adoption of four reports on harmonization and liberalization in the transport sector in response to the judgment of the ECJ of 22 May 1985 (maritime transport, conditions under which non-resident carriers may transport goods or passengers by inland waterway and may operate national road haulage services with simultaneous harmonization of taxes and charges).
- 15 - 19 September GATT meeting in Punta del Este/Uruguay
- 28 September -
2 October Meeting of the ACP Joint Assembly in Lisbon
- October 1986:
EP part-session,
6 - 10 October Presentation of the report by the Committee of Inquiry into the Drugs Problem in the Member States of the Community

Debate on South Africa on the basis of oral questions (failure of the mission by the British Foreign Minister, Sir Geoffrey HOWE, economic sanctions agreed by the Council of Ministers)

BLUMENFELD (EPP/D) and ANTONIOZZI (EPP/I) reports on the EP's relations with the Council and Commission respectively.

11/12 October

REAGAN/GORBACHEV summit on security and disarmament

EP part-session,

20 - 24 October

Rejection of the own-initiative report on the introduction of harmonized speed limits in the Community

Rejection of the report on arms control and disarmament following the adoption, with the left-wing groups voting in favour, of an amendment by the Greens for declaring the Community a nuclear weapon-free zone; nevertheless, adoption of resolutions on the REAGAN/GORBACHEV summit in Reykjavik.

Adoption of an own-initiative report on the future financing of the EC, which aimed to extend the own resources system, strengthen the EP's budgetary powers, establish powers to pass fiscal legislation and dispose of agricultural stocks with the aid of a special fund. Adoption of a report on the management of stocks criticizing the Commission for its failure to stem the growth of intervention stocks to record levels.

Adoption of a report on the Commission proposals on the improvement of the dairy quota arrangements (criticism of the Council's compensation arrangements).

November 1986:

EP part-session,

10 - 14 November

First reading of the 1987 Community budget, culminating in the adoption of EP amendments raising payment appropriations to 35 958 billion ECU and commitment appropriations to 37 492 billion ECU. In addition, the EP called on the Member States to allocate a further 2.5 billion ECU to the disposal of agricultural stocks. The EPP Group tabled an amendment which was adopted, forming the basis for the further limitation of surplus milk production by means of the transfer of resources from intervention payments to compensation for quota cuts.

Debate on and adoption of a report on EC social policy, centring on the implementation of European measures to combat unemployment.

17 November

Through the adoption by the Council of a directive on certain measures to liberalize capital markets (lifting of national restrictions regarding long-term commercial credits, the admission to markets and purchase of listed securities), for the first time in many years progress was made towards achieving free movement of capital.

December 1986:

4 December

Dr Egon A. KLEPSCH (D) re-elected Group chairman; Giovanni GIAVAZZI (I), Panayotis LAMBRIAS (GR), Michel DEBATISSE (F) and Lambert CROUX (B) elected vice-chairmen

5-6 December

Meeting of the European Council in London : commitment to complete the free internal market, introduce a cooperative growth strategy to strengthen world trade and institute the next phase in the development of the free movement of capital within the EC. Mr DELORS, President of the Commission, was authorized to visit the

Heads of Government in order to inform them of the Commission's views on the Single European Act (Community financing, CAP and achievement of cohesion).

No firm decisions were taken. The European Council condemned the occupation of Afghanistan by the USSR, which had by then lasted seven years.

EP part-session,
8-12 December

Second reading of the 1987 General Budget by the EP, in which the EP exceeded the expenditure fixed by the Council at second reading by 151 million ECU in respect of payment appropriations and 186 million ECU in respect of commitment appropriations. As, in the opinion of the Council, these decisions raised expenditure beyond the EP's margin for increase, in accordance with the judgment of the ECJ of July 1986 the budgetary procedure was declared incomplete and had to be continued until the consensus was reached.

Adoption of amendments to the Rules of Procedure, which came into force following the ratification of the Single European Act and which were primarily intended to regulate the new cooperation procedure.

Debate on the London European Council with the British Prime Minister, Mrs THATCHER, taking part. At the conclusion of the debate, a Communist resolution was adopted with the EPP Group, who opposed the statement contained in it on South Africa, voting against, along with a resolution on the adoption of the ERASMUS Programme.

The EP adopted urgent resolutions on preventing the discharge of harmful substances into waterways at the instigation, amongst others, of Marcelle LENTZ-CORNETTE (EPP/L) (Sandoz accident).

January 1987:

Start of the Belgian Presidency

11 January

11th realignment, since its creation in 1978, of the currencies of the Member States linked in the European Monetary System: revaluation of the DM and the Fl by 3% and of the Bfr by 2%.

15 January

Election of Johanna MAIJ-WEGGEN (NL) as fifth group vice-chairman

25 January

General election in the Federal Republic of Germany
The CDU/CSU-FDP coalition maintained its majority;
Helmut KOHL re-elected Chancellor.

EP part-session,

19-23 January

Election of Lord PLUMB (ED/GB) - supported by the EPP Group - as President of Parliament for the second half of the parliamentary term. Criticism by the Spanish Socialist Commissioner MARIN of the voting tactics employed by the Spanish Conservative MEPs, which was rejected by centre groups.

Debate on the Council statement on the Belgian Presidency and the Commission statement on its programme of activities. The key Commission statements concerned the free internal market, the improvement of economic and social cohesion, new own resources and a reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

Adoption of urgent resolutions on a Community aid programme for the free distribution of food to deprived groups in the EC.

Adoption of ten reports on topics concerning development: North-South relations, indebtedness, EC-Member State coordination, ecological questions, the combating of hunger, aid to refugees.

In an urgent resolution on EC-USA trade relations, the EP called on the Council to take equivalent retaliatory measures should the USA limit EC exports or impose punitive duties on them.

February 1987:

17 February

General election in Ireland, from which Fianna Fail emerged as the strongest party. The previous Fine Gail/Labour coalition was replaced by a Fianna Fail government under the new Prime Minister, Charles HAUGHEY.

EP part-session,

16 - 20 February

Debate on the Commission programme for 1987 and adoption of the FORMIGONI (EPP/I) report on a vote of confidence referring to the renewal of the mandate of the President of the Commission. The debate centred on the topics referred to by the Commission in January, which have been given practical expression in Commission Communication (87) 100 'Making a Success of the Single Act'.

Final approval of the 1987 budget by the EP on the basis of the Council decision of 13 February on the Commission's Rectifying Letter; thereafter, adoption by the President of the EP.

March 1987:

EP part-session,

9 - 13 March

Continuation and conclusion of the debate on the Commission Programme.

Report on respect for human rights in the world in 1985/86.

Report on issues involving the right of asylum, which was adopted despite the EPP Group's reservations regarding its lack of conceptual clarity (e.g. the bracketing of applicants for asylum and refugees).

Report on the deferment of guarantee payments to the Member States: despite serious reservations regarding the possible violation of key budgetary principles, but ultimately in order to achieve savings on storage, the EP approved the proposal to carry over to the financial years from 1989 the losses of 3.2 billion ECU resulting from the sale of 1 million tonnes of butter from storage (primarily to the USSR).

12 March

Judgment of the European Court of Justice on beer purity regulations: this invalidated the sales ban in Germany and Greece for beers not produced in accordance with those countries' purity regulations.

16 - 21 March

Trip to Moscow by the EPP Group Bureau at the invitation of the President of the Supreme Soviet, Mr TOLKOUNOV.

25 March

30th anniversary of the signing of the Treaties of Rome. The EPP Group held a ceremony to mark this on 4 March at the Capitol in Rome attended by many leading European Christian Democrats and the President of the European Parliament.

25 March

To mark the 30th anniversary, Belgium issued gold and silver coins with a face value of 5 and 50 ECU.

31 March

Jacques SANTER, Luxembourg Prime Minister, elected President of the European People's Party.

April 1987:

9 April

Judgment of the Irish Supreme Court preventing the Irish Government from ratifying the Single European Act without first amending the constitution.

27 April

In accordance with Article 237 of the EEC Treaty, the Council of Ministers decided to open the procedure regarding Turkey's application for membership.

EP part-session,

6 - 10 April

Formal sitting to mark the visit by His Majesty
BAUDOUIN I, King of the Belgians

Discharge in respect of the 1985 General Budget:
deferment of discharge pending fulfilment of a series of
conditions by the Commission.

Adoption of the LENTZ-CORNETTE (EPP/L) report on the
consolidation of the own resources system recommending,
amongst other measures, a switch to a supplementary
value added tax to replace the current VAT percentage.

Adoption of the von WOGAU (EPP/D) report on technical
harmonization and standards. The EP called for the
legislative procedure to refer to technical standards
drawn up by the European Standards Institution, with the
Community no longer laying down such standards itself.

Adoption of six reports on energy policy, the EP
approving the use and development of nuclear energy on
the basis of closer Community monitoring of safety
standards, the left-wing groups voting against these
decisions.

The EP examined a list of Commission proposals awaiting consideration by the Council and came down in favour of applying the procedure introduced by the Single European Act to matters falling within the field of cooperation on which the consultation procedure had already been concluded.

May 1987

4 - 8 May

In view of the imminent European elections in Spain, the EPP Group held its customary preparatory meeting in Madrid.

10 May

The Central Bank Council of the Bundesbank decided to take measures enabling private individuals in Germany to hold bank accounts in ECU.

27 May

The referendum in Ireland on the amendment to the constitution produced the following result: 69.9% of votes cast in favour, 30.1% against. This opened the way for Irish ratification of the Single European Act.

EP part-session,

11 - 15 May

Baron CRESPO (SOC/SP/von WOGAU(EPP/D) report on behalf of the Temporary Committee on the Commission communication 'Making a Success of the Single Act'.

In a resolution adopted with a clear majority, including the votes of the EPP Group, the EP expressed support for the Commission plans regarding measures to establish a free internal market, strengthen economic and social cohesion in the Community, reform the Common Agricultural Policy, Community financing and the budget.

MARCK (EPP/B) report on the farm price proposals for 1987/88.

The original report proposed no price changes (in place of the price reductions planned by the Commission in a number of key sectors), but supported the proposal for the introduction of a levy on fats.

By means of amendments, a majority of left-wing and conservative MEPs pushed through the Commission's price reduction proposals.

The Commission justified its preliminary draft for a first supplementary budget for 1987. It calculated a deficit of 3 to 3.5 bn ECU, which was to be covered by depletion of the VAT ceiling, a switch, in respect of guarantee payments to the Member States, from advances to refunds and exceptional payments by the Member States of 1.5 bn ECU. Otherwise the Commission would be forced to make pro-rata cuts on Guarantee resources, the Regional Fund and research funding with effect from the autumn.

30 May

Summit conference of the European People's Party in Brussels in preparation for the next European Council. (Topics covered: current EC problems and the security situation in the light of the East-West dialogue on disarmament).

June 1987:

1 - 5 June

EPP Group study days in Berlin on the following topics:

- European electoral law
- strategy for achieving European unification
- financial system of the EC and possibilities for its reform
- the situation in Berlin
 - . economic aspects
 - . political aspects
 - . relations with the European Community
 - economic aspects
 - political aspects
 - relations with the European Community

8 - 10 June

World economic summit in Venice

10 June

Local, regional and European elections in Spain
The governing Socialist Party (PSOE) saw a further drop in its share of the vote, resulting in the loss of 8 MEPs.

New division of seats among the Spanish MEPs :

PSOE	28
AP	17
CDS	7
IU	3
CiU	3
HB	1
EA-ERC-PNG	1

11 June

General election in the UK. The Conservatives maintained their majority; Margaret THATCHER became Prime Minister for a third term.

14 - 15 June

Elections to the Chamber of Deputies and Senate in Italy. The DC (Christian Democrats) increased its share of the vote; the Finance Minister GORIA (DC) was asked to form a new government.

EP part-session,

15 - 19 June

The EP adopted a resolution initiated by the EPP Group and addressed to the European Council calling for extraordinary, additional revenue for the 1987 Community budget and for revenue for 1988 to be covered in full, coupled with threats to reject the budget if these demands were not met.

The EP expressed support for the withdrawal of all American and Soviet medium range missiles deployed on

European territory (double zero option). Thereafter, the negotiations should be started on the controlled reduction of short-range nuclear missiles and conventional weapons.

The EPP Group did not take part in the vote on the Armenian question, which condemned Turkey for an act of genocide committed 70 years ago, because it did not regard it as one of the tasks of the EP to pass judgment on distant historical events.

The Socialist Group prevented a vote on the EPP Group's request for a debate on measures taken by the East Berlin police against young people listening to a rock festival in West Berlin, because they wished to link this with measures taken by the West Berlin police against anti-Reagan demonstrators.

Adoption of the HERMAN (EPP-B) report on the strategy of the EP for achieving European Union.

Approval of Commission proposals on vehicle exhaust emissions and the lead content in petrol.

Approval of a Commission proposal on the raising of the VAT exemption limit for small undertakings.

21 June

Chancellor KOHL proposed the establishment of an integrated Franco-German brigade; President Mitterand, Prime Minister CHIRAC and Defence Minister GIRAUD supported the proposal.

29 - 30 June

European Council in Brussels, to which, for the first time, the President of the EC was invited in order to set out the EP's views on the future development of the EC.

Decisions on the abolition of monetary compensatory amounts, a supplementary budget for 1987 and the use of research funds (as a temporary solution pending the entry into force of the multiannual framework programme, which had yet to be adopted).

Approval by 11 delegations (the UK being the exception) of guidelines and a working programme on matters covered by the Single Act. This listed a series of internal market measures (not fiscal harmonization) : to be completed by the end of 1988); principles for an increase in real terms in the structural fund (without accepting the Commission objective of a doubling of funds), new budgetary discipline, principles for new own resources and correction of budget imbalances (new decision on own resources, subject to ratification, designed to come into force retrospectively for the 1988 financial year; making a Council decision by the end of the first quarter of 1988 essential).

Budgetary discipline, structural funds, decision on own resources and correction of the budgetary imbalance linked as a package.

30 June

Decision by the Council of Agriculture Ministers on the farm prices for 1987/88 and agri-monetary measures, the latter in accordance with the guidelines issued by the European Council.

30 June

Collapse of negotiations in the Council on adoption of the directive on the liberalization of air transport. Spain vetoed the measure in protest at the British wish to include Gibraltar airport.

July 1987

1 July

Entry into force of the Single European Act.

Start of the Danish presidency

30 June - 3 July

EPP Group meeting in Luxembourg, held in conjunction with an international colloquy organized by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation on local government politics.

EP part-session
6-10 July 1987

Formal sitting to mark the visit by Her Majesty MARGARETHE II, Queen of Denmark.

Debate on the European Council, introduced by Mr MARTENS, the Belgian Prime Minister, and adoption of a resolution expressing regret that no decisions had been taken, merely general guidelines laid down, primarily in the financial sector, without accompanying formal commitments. Warning against the unilateral infringement of the EP's budgetary powers through the establishment of stricter budgetary discipline. Nevertheless, the EP expressed its readiness to cooperate in such a process.

The EP passed the Supplementary Budget for 1987 No. 1 submitted by the Council; a motion for rejection failed to win the necessary majority.

This decision did not avert the feared high budget deficit for 1987, but reduced it (carry over of expenditure to 1988, depletion of the 1.4% VAT ceiling, reductions in expenditure).

The Council rejected an exceptional, additional contribution to revenue by the Member States.

In conjunction with the condemnation of the ETA attack on a supermarket car-park in Barcelona and other attacks in Turkey, EPP Group speakers reiterated their case for the setting up of a central agency with Community wide powers to trace terrorists.

Debate on the programme for the Danish Presidency which promised to set out the broad lines of the financial reform of the EC, on the basis of the Commission proposals, before the end of the six month period of office.

15 July

The Commission presented its proposals on the harmonization of indirect taxes which aim to eliminate fiscal barriers in the Community and, as a result, all frontier tax formalities by 31 December 1992 at the latest.

With regard to VAT, this would be achieved by a switch to the country of origin principle with mutual compensation, the application of only two rates (normal rate and reduced rate) and a reduction in the disparities among the various national rates to 6 or 5 percentage points.

19 July

General election in Portugal and first Portuguese direct elections to the European Parliament.

Percentage of the vote and division of seats:

	General election		European election	
	%	Seats	Seats	%
PSD	50.2	149	10	37.4
PS	22.2	60	6	22.5
CDU	12.2	30	3	11.5
PRD	4.9	7	1	4.4
CDS	4.4	4	4	15.4

PSD/PPD (Social Democratic Party), Liberals

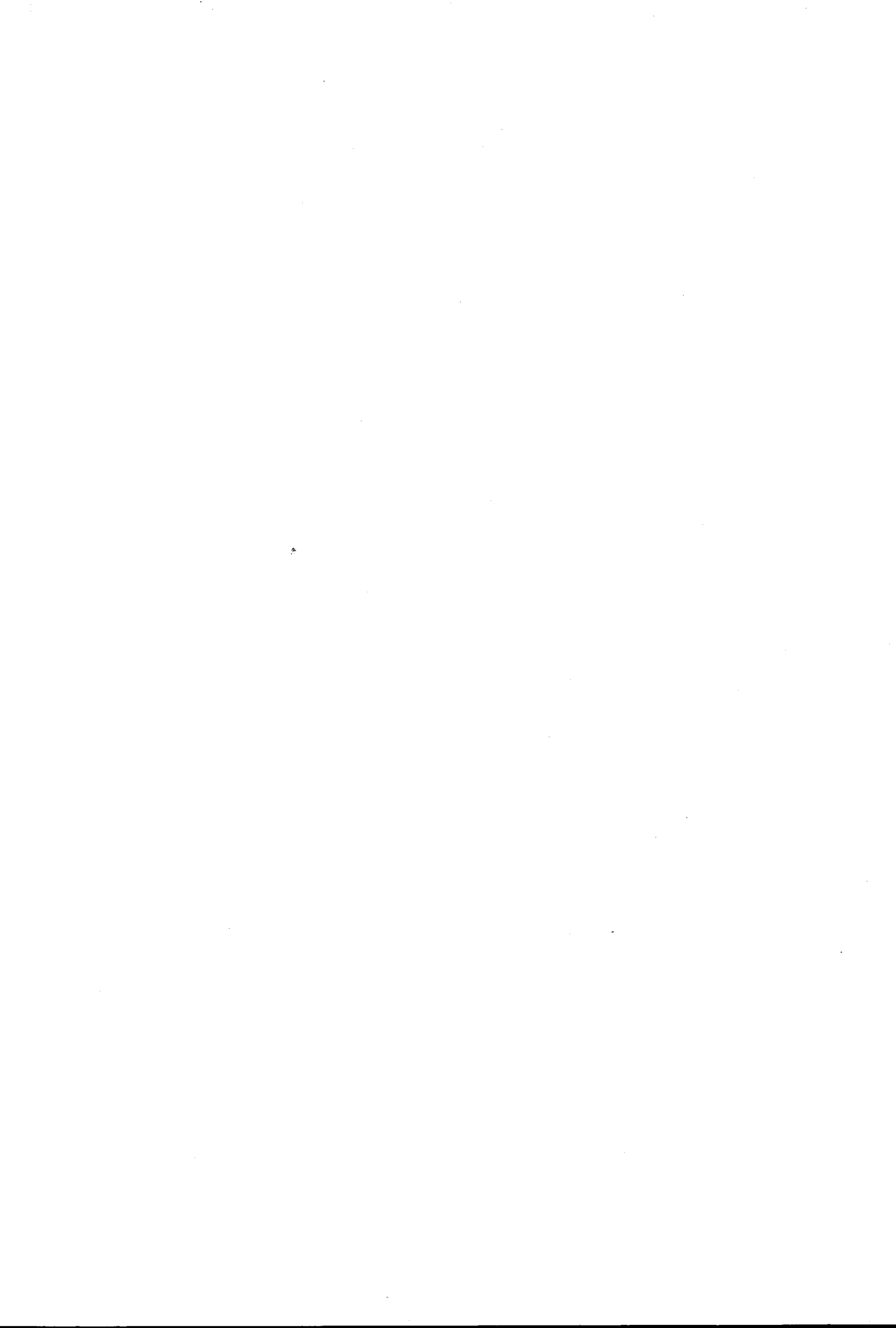
PS (Socialist Party), Socialists

CDU (United Democratic Coalition), Communists

PRD (Democratic Renewal Party), RDE

CDS (Democratic Social Centre Party), EPP

Friedrich FUGMANN



POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- I. Allocation of responsibilities among EPP Group Members
- II. Review of the work of the Political Affairs Committee in the period 1986-87
 - A. Resolutions by the Political Affairs Committee adopted in plenary
 - B. European political cooperation in the light of the Single European Act
 - C. Relations between the Community and Latin America
 - D. Work in progress in the Political Affairs Committee
 - E. Conclusions
- III. Detailed account of resolutions by the Political Affairs Committee adopted in plenary in the period 1986-87
 - A. Institutional matters
 - B. Foreign policy
 - C. Human rights

Annex

- 1. List of urgent resolutions
- 2. Security policy

POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

I ALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES AMONG EPP GROUP MEMBERS

Chairman: Sergio ERCINI (I)
Group coordinator: Otto von HABSBERG (D)
Deputy Group coordinator: Jean J.M. PENDERS (NL)

<u>Members:</u>	<u>Substitutes:</u>
Dario ANTONIOZZI (I)	Mary BANOTTI (IRL)
Erik BLUMENFELD (D)	Reinold BOCKLET (D)
Nicolas ESTGEN (L)	Elmar BROK (D)
Antonio IODICE (I)	Leopoldo CALVO-SOTELO (ES)*
Egon KLEPSCH (D)	Lambert CROUX (B)
Marlene LENZ (D)	Roberto FORMIGONI (I)
Pierre PFLIMLIN (F)	Erhard JAKOBSEN (DK)
Hans-Gert POETTERING (D)	Jacques MALLET (F)
Ioannis TZOUNIS (GR)	Alberto MICHELINI (I)
Fritz PIRKL (D)	
Gustavo SELVA (I)	
Willem VERGEER (NL)	

Subcommittee on Human Rights

Group coordinator:	Marlene LENZ (D)
<u>Members:</u>	<u>Substitutes:</u>
Erhard JAKOBSEN (DK)	Mary BANOTTI (IRL)
Alberto MICHELINI (I)	Lambert CROUX (B)
Willem VERGEER (NL)	Nicolas ESTGEN (L)
Antonio IODICE (I)	

Subcommittee on Security and Disarmament

Chairman:	Hans-Gert POETTERING (D)
Group coordinator:	Jean PENDERS (NL)
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Ioannis TZOUNIS (GR)	Erik BLUMENFELD (D)
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II Review of the work of the Political Affairs Committee in the period 1986-87

A. Resolutions by the Political Affairs Committee adopted in plenary

The period July 1986-July 1987 covered by this report was marked by events of some significance for the Community's institutional and political development, which had repercussions on the activities of the European Parliament's Political Affairs Committee and the parliamentary initiatives taken by the Group of the European People's Party.

First of all, we should mention the entry into force of the Single Act, which, despite its limitations at least affords an opportunity for extending the Community's and Parliament's powers and means that political cooperation can be developed on new bases.

The proposals for disarmament put forward during the negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union in Geneva which, since they concerned European territory, have brought home to the Community countries the urgent need to find an identity of their own in the context of foreign policy and security.

With regard to institutional matters, before the procedures for ratifying the Single Act were concluded, the Political Affairs Committee wanted to assess the consequences of the new treaty by considering all its political and sectoral implications (PLANAS report(1)). This enabled the EPP Group to make a constructive critical analysis of the Single Act. Although the latter cannot be equated with the political plan for European integration which has always been advocated by the Christian Democrats, it should be regarded as a step towards European union and all its possible applications should be exploited to the full.

The EPP Group is also aware that the Single Act cannot be effectively implemented without revision of the European Parliament's institutional relations with the Commission and the Council. This area is dealt with in the reports - it is no coincidence that they were both drawn up by Christian Democrat rapporteurs - by Mr ANTONIOZZI¹ on relations between the European Parliament and the Commission, which proposed that the two institutions should draw up a draft joint declaration in order to strengthen interinstitutional cooperation and Parliament's role in taking initiatives² and by Mr BLUMENFELD (D)³ on relations between Parliament and the Council of Ministers, which aims to remedy the lack of democracy in the Community by providing for Parliament's greater involvement in the democratic process.

The European Parliament also wanted to confirm its supervisory power over the Commission by attaching political value to the vote of confidence when the President of the Commission is reappointed. This was the purpose of the report by Mr FORMIGONI (EPP,I)⁴ and Mr ERCINI (EPP,I)⁵, which advocated that the programme of the 'reappointed' President of the Commission should be the subject of a vote of confidence by the European Parliament.

With regard to the political aspects of international relations and matters connected with political cooperation, Parliament continued to stimulate the other Community institutions and the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation, by expressing its view in a series of reports drawn up by the Political Affairs Committee or by adopting resolutions tabled under urgent procedure.

Developments in Poland and the contribution made by the Community to improving that country's economic situation and hence its progress towards democracy were the subject of the report by Mr GAWRONSKI (LDR,I) adopted in December 1986⁶.

On the basis of an initiative by Mr von HAPSBURG (EPP,D), Parliament adopted a report on relations between the Community and the People's Republic of China⁷ which calls for a strengthening of economic, cultural and political cooperation with China, in response to the promising signs of reform emerging from that country.

During a debate on oral questions tabled by various political groups, the European Parliament expressed its opinion on the process of democratization in Turkey with a view to normalizing bilateral relations with the Community and the operation of the Association Agreement⁸.

South Africa and apartheid continued to be the subject of many of Parliament's resolutions, often tabled under urgent procedure. At the end of a wide-ranging debate on questions tabled by Mr VERGEER (NL) on behalf of the EPP Group and by other groups to the British presidency, Parliament adopted, during the second part-session in October 1986, a resolution tabled by Mr Jan PENDERS (EPP,NL)⁹ which, as well as condemning apartheid, stressed that negotiation and dialogue were the only possible means of solving the South African problem and that it was essential for the Twelve to adopt a common position with regard to the State of South Africa.

The EPP Group repeatedly drew the attention of Parliament and the other Community institutions to the Soviet Union's continuing occupation of Afghanistan. The urgent resolution tabled by the EPP Group and adopted by Parliament in December 1986¹⁰ called upon the Soviet Union immediately to withdraw its troops from Afghan territory, in the interests of restoring peace and made an urgent appeal to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States to step up their efforts for the benefit of the refugees and prisoners of the Kabul regime.

Parliament also expressed its views on several occasions on the situation in Central America and South America (to be dealt with at greater length in a separate paragraph), the situation in Sri Lanka and terrorism. The EPP Group has repeatedly called for increased cooperation between Member States to combat terrorism and reinforce the Trevi group, most recently in a resolution tabled by Mr BROK(D) and Mrs LENZ(D) during the part-session in July 1987¹¹.

In the field of human rights, catered for by a special subcommittee of the Political Affairs Committee, Parliament continued to be concerned with the violations committed in various countries and adopted the annual report on human rights in the world and on Community policy on human rights (GUIMON UGARTECHEA report)¹². In this sphere too, the EPP's attitude was steadfast but constructive. Whilst it strongly condemns all violations wherever they occur, it also offers special support to those countries - as for example in Latin America - which are trying to strengthen democracy and are finding it far from easy to uphold human rights.

Specific cases of violations of human rights condemned by the EPP Group include those committed against the Jews in the Soviet Union, with particular reference to the request that the families of dissidents be reunited¹³.

The EPP has repeatedly stressed - also in connection with the continuing work of the CSCE in Vienna - how important it is for the USSR to abide by the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act dealing with human rights and that it must be implemented in its entirety.

In the sector of security policy, dealt with in the subcommittee chaired by Mr Hans-Gert POETTERING (EPP,D), the most significant events were the new developments in East-West relations and the Geneva negotiations.

The EPP Group's activities over the last few months have definitely brought the Community a step closer to the creation of a European security policy. The Group called for a broad interpretation of the provisions of the Single Act on the political and economic implications of security¹⁴.

In June 1987 the European Parliament adopted a report on the consequences for the European Community of the CSCE/Conference on Disarmament in Europe (BOESMAN report)¹⁵ which emphasized the importance of the confidence-building and control measures drawn up during the Stockholm Conference and the need for a Community concept of European security, and a report on the implementation of the Helsinki Agreement (CAMPINOS report)¹⁶. The latter was adopted despite the opposition of the EPP Group, which advocated that more stress should be laid on the Soviet Union's persistent violations of the Helsinki Final Act.

During the same part-session, Parliament adopted, by a large majority, a resolution¹⁷ tabled by Mr POETTERING (EPP,D) closing the debate on his oral question on cooperation on security in European political cooperation¹⁸. In this resolution Parliament called on the Foreign Minister meeting in political cooperation to fulfil the mandate contained in the new provisions of the Single Act, in order to promote a European concept of security and assert Europe's political identity in this sphere.

With regard to the negotiations for an agreement between the USA and the USSR on dismantling medium-range nuclear systems (intermediate and short-range), the EPP Group insisted that such an agreement - covering American and Soviet missiles - should not create zones with varying degrees of security in Community countries and that negotiations should also be initiated for the controlled reduction of short-range missiles (a range of less than 500 km) aimed at achieving a balance ('gleiche Obergrenzen').

The EPP Group stressed the objective of guaranteeing security by creating a balance of military strength at the lowest possible level²⁰.

It also stressed the need to restore a balance in conventional arms and totally eliminate chemical weapons all over the world²¹.

B. European political cooperation in the light of the Single Act

The provisions contained in Title III of the Single Act will increase the European Parliament's powers in the sector of foreign policy.

Despite certain legal reservations regarding the nature of these innovations - reflected in the cautious wording, the reference to the Member States as High Contracting Parties and the idea of an independent secretariat for EPC - it is recognized that some progress is being made towards a concept of foreign and European policy covering security and towards the inclusion of this policy within the Community's powers.

As far as the activities of the Political Affairs Committee are concerned, it is of particular interest that Parliament is to a certain extent associated with EPC, since the presidency is committed - even if not obliged - to take Parliament's views into consideration.

The reference to a European identity in the field of foreign policy, the coordination of the Member States on the political and economic aspects of security and the undertaking to safeguard the technological and industrial conditions of security²² are all matters of great topical interest at a time when Europe is facing up to its responsibilities to guarantee the security of its territory.

C. Relations between the Community and Latin America

Relations between the Community and Latin America are one of the EPP Group's political priorities for historical, political, economic and cultural reasons, as well as because of shared values rooted in a humanist and Christian traditions.

The EPP Group has therefore taken an active interest in the progress made by the South American continent towards restoring democracy and integration on a regional basis. On the other hand, the difficult economic situation Latin America finds itself in and the size of some countries' foreign debt increasingly call for a global strategy for cooperation between the Community and Latin America in their mutual interest.

The Group's activities in connection with Latin America consist not only in contacts through the usual parliamentary bodies (Political Affairs Committee, Interparliamentary Delegations for Latin America and Central America and urgent debates in plenary) but also in regular contacts with Christian Democratic parties in Latin America in connection with the IDC²³, meetings with Latin American politicians, Group missions to various countries and seminars.

A delegation from the EPP Group²⁴ visited Central America - Guatemala, Nicaragua and Salvador - in September 1986. In March 1987 another delegation²⁵ went on a mission to Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay in order to ascertain the growing strength of democratic government in countries such as Argentina and Uruguay and to express their active solidarity with the countries still struggling to achieve democracy.

A large number of Latin American delegations were also received in Europe. During the April 1987 part-session, the EPP Bureau received a delegation of Chilean Christian Democratic ex-members of parliament who had come to request the Group's support for a campaign for free elections in Chile.

As a result of this meeting, a delegation from the EPP Group, together with a delegation from the European Parliament will attend the Second International Parliamentary Assembly for Democracy in Chile, which will be held from 4 to 6 September 1987 in Santiago, in which former members of parliament, members of the Chilean democratic opposition and members of parliament from Europe, the United States, Australia and other continents will take part.

During the part-session in June, the EPP Group received Ricardo GOMEZ, President of the Guatemalan Parliament, who spoke about the progress made in the peace plan for Central America and the preparations for the Esquipulas Conference.

Representatives from the Andean Parliament were also received in Strasbourg prior to the interparliamentary conference in Lisbon held from 21 to 25 June 1987. At this conference discussions were held on subjects of major importance: drug trafficking - rapporteur Mrs GIANNAKOU-KOUTSIKOU (EPP,GR) - and the economic situation and indebtedness - rapporteur Mrs SALISH (SOC,D). Other subjects covered were human rights and the situation of women in Latin America.

The GIANNAKOU report, which was met with widespread approval both in Europe and Latin America, stressed the links between drug trafficking and consumption, its political and socio-economic implications, the links between the traffic in drugs and the sale of arms, the corruption of certain political regimes linked with trafficking and the threats of destabilization for democratic governments and, finally, the need to create a comprehensive joint strategy to combat the sale and consumption of drugs.

With regard to economic questions, the conference revealed a determination to strengthen political dialogue between the Community and Latin America in order to promote not only an economic but also a political solution to the problem of debt and to encourage exports from Latin American countries and cooperation on trade.

During the debate on political questions, the members of the EPP Group confirmed their support for the process of democratization and stabilization throughout the Latin American continent and stressed the importance of respect for human rights and the independence of judicial power. Quoting the examples of El Salvador and Guatemala, the European Christian Democrats appealed to other countries such as Nicaragua to initiate dialogue with the armed opposition forces confronting them.

The EPP Group expressed its strong support for all moves towards integration on a regional basis, particularly the idea of setting up a Central American parliament, elected by direct universal suffrage, as proposed by the Christian Democratic President of Guatemala, Vinicio CEREZO.

At the end of the conference Mr LANGES (EPP,D), together with other Members, tabled a motion - which met with widespread approval - calling upon the Commission and the Council of Ministers to furnish adequate financial support for running the IRELA, the Institute for European-Latin American Relations, set up on 2 September 1985 at the request of the VIIth Interparliamentary Conference and with the support of the European Parliament.

D. Work in progress in the Political Affairs Committee

Current work includes:

- the report by Mrs LENZ (EPP,D) on South America, which, following the 1986 interim report²⁶ is intended to complete the analysis of the situation in South America with regard to consolidating the process of democratization in certain countries, developing forms of regional integration, the role of the mass media and of both sides of industry;

- the report by Mr PENDERS (EPP,NL) on security in Western Europe;
- a report on the role of the European Parliament in the conclusion of international agreements;
- a report by Mr SELVA (EPP,I) on religious freedom in the world;
- a report by Mr SABY (SOC,F) on the situation in Chile;
- a report by Mr MEDINA (SOC,ES) on relations with the United Nations;
- a report by Mr GLINNE (SOC,B) on Central America²⁷.

The reports by Mr GALLUZZI (COM,I) on a European security strategy²⁸ heavily amended by the EPP in committee and the report by Lord BETHELL (ED,GB) on relations with the United States²⁹ are on the agenda for the September 1987 part-session.

E. Conclusions

From this survey of Parliament's activities in the area covered by the Political Affairs Committee, the EPP's central role in the sectors of international relations, security policy, human rights and European integration comes out very clearly.

Many of the reports adopted during the period in question were drawn up by an EPP rapporteur or were the outcome of an initiative by the Christian Democrat Group.

The Group has increasingly managed to secure healthy majorities for its well-balanced amendments which have met with consensus among the moderate political forces in Parliament. The EPP has played an important role in the field of human rights, seeking to improve Parliament's work in this area through basing it on more objective criteria and preventing it from being exploited in demagogic fashion by certain groups.

Positive results have also been achieved in the field of security policy over the last few months. The EPP Group gained widespread support in the House for its initiatives prevailing on Parliament to change its tone in favour of an active European security policy.

The outcome of debates on urgent resolutions were more variable when adjustments had to be made because of the new Rules of Procedure, which have given rise to some discrepancies in interpretation (cf. July 1987 part-session). A more radical trend on the part of the Left in debates on certain subjects meant that many questions had to be settled by a majority vote. Given the smallness of majorities in this electoral period, it is obvious that not only the EPP Group but other Centre groups must be well represented in plenary.

Because the last few committee meetings were well attended by EPP members, it was possible to make substantial amendments to several problematic reports. We can only hope that these positive results will be consolidated and repeated at the part-sessions in the coming months.

III. Detailed account of resolutions by the Political Affairs Committee adopted in plenary in the period 1986-1987.

A. Institutional matters

Report on relations between the European Parliament and the Commission in the institutional context of the Treaties³⁰

Rapporteur: Dario ANTONIOZZI (EPP,I)

Adoption in plenary: 8 October 1986³¹

In the interests of strengthening collaboration between the Commission and the European Parliament for the benefit of the Community and in order to guarantee Parliament a broader role in the Community legislative process, the report proposes that the two institutions should sign a joint declaration to which they should adhere in carrying out their respective functions and refers to a draft Joint Declaration on relations between them, which was drawn up during the first electoral period. The version of the declaration proposed in the report covers the following aspects:

- after its appointment, the Commission would submit its programme to Parliament, which would vote on it as well as its annual programme;
- the Commission would take greater notice of amendments adopted by the European Parliament in the decision-making process;
- The Commission would keep Parliament more closely informed of progress of work in the Council and in the committees of experts and undertake to consult Parliament once again if substantial amendments were made to proposals that Parliament had considered;
- Parliament would have a larger role in the drawing-up of treaties and international agreements, in line with the improvements set out in the Single European Act.

The draft Joint Declaration attributes great importance to the European Parliament's role as initiator, specifying that the Commission should take account of and act on its initiatives or, if not, justify within a reasonable period of time its unwillingness to do so.

Finally, Parliament and the Commission should work together to persuade the Council to decide on further steps to improve interinstitutional relations in the framework of the Treaties and the Single Act.

The Commission was represented in plenary by Commissioner Sutherland when the report was being debated; he expressed the Commission's approval for a strengthening of interinstitutional cooperation and pointed out how the Single Act itself implied improvement of the dialogue between the two institutions.

The result of the vote on the resolution was as follows:
274 in favour, 37 against (SOC,GB) and 8 abstentions (ERDA,F,COM,F).

Report on relations between the European Parliament and the Council³²

Rapporteur: Erik BLUMENFELD (EPP,D)
Adoption in plenary: 8 October 1986³³

This report took as its starting-point the fact that, despite certain improvements the Single Act had introduced with the cooperation procedure into certain sectors of Community legislation, there was still a widespread lack of democracy and an imbalance between the institutions in the EEC. Relations between Parliament and the Council must therefore be improved further by guaranteeing Parliament the power of co-decision in the whole budgetary sector, extending it to all international agreements for which national parliaments have lost their powers, respecting and extending the Parliament's right to be consulted on all Community acts, extending the cooperation procedure to all those sectors which are of particular importance for the Community, such as agricultural policy and regularly informing Parliament of the action taken on its opinions by the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation. Parliament should also be informed of the content of discussions held in the Council, with particular reference to the reception of Parliament's amendments and opinions.

One paragraph in the resolution refers to the judgment of the Court of Justice of 22 May 1985 in the case brought by Parliament against the Council for its failure to act and underlines the need for the Council to adopt the legal acts specified in the Treaties by the deadlines laid down.

Finally, the resolution proposes that the Council should submit its half-yearly reports to Parliament for its vote and the Council should henceforth be represented at meetings of all parliamentary bodies at the appropriate political level.

The resolution was adopted by 251 votes in favour, 48 against (mostly SOC,GB,ERDA and ARC) and 17 abstentions (SOC,GR,COM).

Report closing the procedure for consultation of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission^{34,35}.

Rapporteur: Klaus KAENSCH (SOC,D)
Adoption in plenary: 23 October 1986³⁶

The report closed the procedure for Parliament's consultation on a proposal for a regulation concerning the rules governing the committees of experts to which mainly consultative and administrative powers have been assigned by Community practice. A declaration attached to the Single Act stated that, before the entry into force of the Act, the Community bodies were to adopt the principles and norms on the basis of which the Commission's executive powers were to be determined.

The report was considered once again in plenary in October 1986 after Parliament had already, on 9 July 1986, expressed its disapproval of the proliferation of such committees and amended the Commission's text so that only consultative and administrative committees should be retained and the 'regulatory' committees should be abolished. In the meantime, the Commission had reconsidered the amendments adopted by Parliament in July 1986 and its position was now nearer to that of Parliament.

In its resolution of 23 October, Parliament accepted the opinion of the Committee on Institutional Affairs and the EPP Group's position and stressed once again that the system of regulatory committees weakened the Commission's implementing powers and Parliament's supervisory powers. The Commission was requested to keep Parliament informed of progress made in the negotiations with the Council on the proposal for a regulation.

A roll-call vote was held at the request of the EPP Group and Parliament adopted the resolution by 236 votes in favour and 36 against (SOC/Labour, some Communists and the ERDA Group).

Follow-up:

On 22 June 1987 the Council adopted the regulation in question, ignoring Parliament's proposal. On 9 July 1987, in a resolution winding up the debate on an oral question tabled by the Committee on Institutional Affairs, Parliament protested both at the decision, which, by establishing seven 'committee procedures' instead of the two approved, did not bring about any improvement in the application of Community law and at the fact that it was not consulted in time about the Council's intention to make substantial amendments to the text amended by Parliament and approved by the Commission (cf. the report by the Committee on Institutional Affairs).

Report on the Single European Act³⁷

Rapporteur: Luis PLANA PUCHADES (SOC,ESP)
Adoption in plenary: 11 December 1986³⁸

This is an own-initiative report in which the European Parliament sought to weigh up the political merits of the Single Act and - with the aid of the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, Energy, Social Affairs, Regional Policy the environment, Youth and Culture and Institutional Affairs, assess its effects in various sectors.

In line with the position of the EPP Group, the resolution asserted that even though the Single Act did not make European union a reality and did not fulfil Parliament's hopes, all the opportunities it offered should be exploited to the full and further progress should be made along the road to political union.

Consistent with this attitude, Parliament reaffirmed that the objectives set in the Single Act must be achieved by the dates envisaged, in particular the completion of the internal market by 1992. The resolution also stressed the close links between the creation of the internal market and economic and social cohesion, the importance of the intended reform of the structural funds, revival of environmental and research policy and the strengthening of the EMS.

Seconding the view expressed by Mrs Cassanmagnago-Cerretti, on behalf of the Committee on Social Affairs, that the completion of the internal market should be accompanied by appropriate measures in the social sector, Parliament proposed that the Commission should draw up a schedule similar to that laid down for the establishment of the internal market, regarding initiatives intended to ensure economic and social cohesion.

With regard to the cooperation procedure introduced into various sectors by the Single Act the resolution stressed that, although it was a step in the right direction, it was not equivalent to the new power of co-decision frequently demanded by Parliament. Nevertheless, it was necessary to strengthen relations between the institutions and establish a permanent dialogue between the Commission and parliamentary institutions. The Council's Rules of Procedure would have to be amended to facilitate majority voting and avoid unjustified delays.

With regard to the changes in the sector of political cooperation introduced by the Single Act, Parliament expressed its concern that the influence of Community institutions in this sector should remain substantially modest, whilst expressing uncertainty as to whether Community activities and political cooperation should be separated and whether the latter should have an independent secretariat. It therefore stressed that Parliament should be more closely associated with the work of political cooperation, one of the possibilities being the submission of periodic reports to Parliament.

Parliament expressed its approval of the call for closer collaboration on the political and economic aspects of security, with a view to developing a common foreign and security policy.

Parliament adopted the resolution by 231 votes in favour, 14 against (COM,GR/F/P/DK,ARC/D/DK) and 20 abstentions (SOC/GB,DE,ARC/NL).

Report on a vote of confidence ratifying the renewal of the mandate of the President of the Commission³⁹

Rapporteur: Roberto FORMIGONI (EPP/I)
Adoption in plenary: 19 February 1987⁴⁰

This resolution, tabled on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee by its former chairman Roberto Formigoni (EPP/I) stresses the value of Parliament's participation in the installation of the Commission and attributes political significance to the Parliament's vote of confidence ratifying the renewal of the mandate of the President of the Commission (the mandate is for a period of two years for the President and the vice-Presidents).

Since President Delors' mandate was renewed by the Council in January 1987, Parliament, adopting this resolution, decided to hold a debate on the guidelines for the Commission's programme for the next two years during the March part-session and hold a vote of confidence on the renewal of this mandate after the debate.

Resolution on the renewal of the mandate of the President and vice-Presidents of the Commission⁴¹

Author: Sergio ERCINI (EPP/I)
Adoption in plenary: 11 March 1987⁴²

In accordance with the provisions of the resolution adopted in February⁴³ (see above) the European Parliament, having studied the guidelines and plans for reform submitted by the Commission, expressed its confidence in the Commission on the occasion of the renewal of the mandate of its President and vice-Presidents. In reminding the Commission of the new duties imposed by the Single Act, in addition to those deriving from the Treaties, Parliament's resolution called upon the Commission to carry out the reforms announced by President Delors in the context of the Commission's annual programme and to lay down the annual legislative programmes in agreement with Parliament.

The resolution was adopted by 253 votes in favour, 8 against and 34 abstentions.

Resolution on the programme of the Commission for 1987⁴⁴

Adoption in plenary: 11 March 1987⁴⁵

During the same part-session, Parliament adopted, by a very large majority, a joint text based on the resolutions tabled by Mr KLEPSCH on behalf of the EPP Group⁴⁶, by Mr ARNDT on behalf of the Socialist Group⁴⁷, by Mrs VEIL on behalf of the Liberal Group⁴⁸, by Mr CERVETTI on behalf of the Communist Group⁴⁹ and by Mr PROUT on behalf of the European Democratic Group⁵⁰, thereby adopting the programme of the Commission for 1987. In accordance with what Mr KLEPSCH had said on behalf of the EPP Group during the debate, Parliament's resolution stressed that the Commission's role must consist in implementing the Single Act and achieving the objectives linked to it, such as the internal market, the reorganization of community finances, the revision of the CAP, economic and social cohesion and the launching of new policies. The EPP Group also stressed its conception of the Single Act as a step towards the achievement of European union.

B. Foreign policy

Report on the situation in Poland⁵¹

Rapporteur: Jas GAWRONSKI (LDR/I)

Adoption in plenary: 11 December 1986⁵²

Against the background of the events of the last four years since the lifting of martial law, which brought about a slight improvement in the economic situation, and a cautious response to the demands of the Polish people for civil and political liberties, this report by the EPP Group expressed the hope that Poland would make progress in its quest for a national compromise between all political and social forces and that its efforts would be supported by the solidarity of the international community. It urged the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to draw up a joint EEC strategy on Poland having regard to the events of recent years. The Group was against the political isolation of Poland and economic sanctions and called for economic and trade cooperation with Poland, provided that Poland took steps towards a new financial

structure, economic reforms and increased cooperation with firms in the West. Poland's substantial financial debt was one of the main problems to be solved. In this context, the granting of new loans would be made dependent on measures such as the development of the private sector. This condition prompted the Socialist Group to abstain in the final vote on the report. Nevertheless, the most important aspect of relations between the Community and Poland was humanitarian aid to the Polish people, which should be stepped up. Parliament welcomed the release of political prisoners whilst calling upon the Polish authorities to refrain from further persecution of citizens engaged in political activities.

The resolution was adopted by 148 votes in favour (EPP,LDR,ED,ER), 41 against (COM) and 108 abstentions (SOC).

Report on a political solution to the Armenian question⁵³

Rapporteur: Jaak H. VANDEMEULEBROUKE (ARC/B)

Adoption in plenary: 18 June 1987⁵⁴

The report dealt with the tragic events of 1915, which involved the Armenian population in what is now Turkey - namely their deportation - and the safeguarding of the rights of this minority (estimated at approximately 50 000 people) by the present Turkish government. The most controversial question was whether or not the events of 1915 ought to be considered as genocide within the meaning of the UN charter of 9 December 1948. The text drawn up by the Political Affairs Committee had solved the problem by acknowledging the grave injustice and great suffering to which the Armenian people had been subjected, without, however, stating whether these events should be classified as genocide.

Amendments, tabled mostly by the French Socialists and Gaullists and Greek members of various political groups, (in particular amendments 20, 21, 46 and 71) were adopted in plenary, which meant that Parliament was definitely in favour of recognizing the Armenians to be victims of genocide, as a gesture of moral rehabilitation towards the Armenian people.

responsible for the injustice suffered by the Armenians under the Ottoman Empire, the resolution called upon Turkey to recognize the events as genocide and abide by the rules laid down to safeguard the non-Muslim minorities now living on its territory. It strongly condemned all acts of terrorism perpetrated by isolated groups, which were not representative of the Armenian people.

A minority of Parliament, representing a wide range of political opinion, including a large proportion of the EPP Group, Liberals and Conservatives, considered that the discussion of this subject was outside the European Parliament's competence and consequently did not take part in the vote.

The resolution was adopted, with the Left, some members of the EPP Group and French and Greek members of the various political parties voting in favour.

Report on relations between the European Community and the People's Republic of China⁵⁵

Rapporteur: Vincenzo BETTIZA (LDR/I)
Adoption in plenary: 18 June 1987⁵⁶

The report, based on a resolution tabled by the EPP Group member Otto von HABSBURG, called for closer economic, cultural and political cooperation with the People's Republic of China. Reasons adduced to support the demand are China's importance in maintaining equilibrium in the region, the positive results of the process of reform now under way in the country and the Chinese Government's declared desire to strengthen relations with the European Community. The Council was urged to carry out a thorough revision of the cooperation agreement of 21 May 1985 and even allocate increased resources thereto. The system of generalized preferences should be maintained for as long as China's economic development required. The resolution also advocated that the People's Republic of China should become a member of GATT, provided China found the GATT rules acceptable. The Commission was called upon to promote an exchange of information in the field of development aid and a cultural exchange programme.

Parliament adopted the report with a large majority once slight modification has been made.

Resolution to wind up the debate on oral questions to the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation on relations between the EEC and Turkey⁵⁷

Authors of the oral questions submitted on behalf of their respective political groups:

Ernest GLINNE (SOC/B)⁵⁸

Simone VEIL (LDR/F)⁵⁹

Dimitrios ADAMOY (COM/GR)⁶⁰

Brigitte HEINRICH (ARC/D)⁶¹

Adoption:

11 December 1986⁶²

When a meeting of the EEC-Turkey Association Council was called on 16 September 1986, the questioners, with varying degrees of severity, called in question the extent of the improvements made in the process of democratization in Turkey and the desirability of normalizing institutional and inter-parliamentary relations between EEC and Turkey.

The President-in-Office of the Council explained that the calling of a meeting of the Association Council did not mean that the Council underestimated the Turkish Government's need to make further progress where democracy and human rights were concerned.

At the end of the debate, Parliament adopted the Socialist's Group resolution by 138 votes in favour (mostly SOC, COM and ARC), 91 against (mostly EPP, ED and ER) and 36 abstentions (LIB and some EPP). This resolution acknowledged the progress made in Turkey towards the reestablishment of democracy but considered this inadequate to justify the normalization of relations between the Community and Turkey. With regard to the situation of Turkish workers, the resolution backed the offer made by the Council of Ministers regarding freedom of movement, taking into account the difficult employment situation in the Community and the transitional rules governing the status of Greek, Spanish and Portuguese workers, who are all Community citizens.

The resolutions by the ARC Group and Group of the European Right were rejected and the EPP Group withdrew its resolution⁶³.

Resolutions winding up the debate on oral questions to the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation on South Africa⁶⁴

Authors of the oral questions submitted on behalf of their respective political groups:

Willem VERGEER (EPP/NL)⁶⁵
Oliver d'ORMESSON (ER/F)⁶⁶
Simone VEIL (LDR/F)⁶⁷
Francis WURTZ (COM/F)⁶⁸
Rudi ARNDT (SOC/D)⁶⁹

Debate: October 1 1986
continued on 21 October 1986
Adoption in plenary: 22 October 1986⁷⁰

Three months after the last debate held on the subject, during the July part-session, new oral questions were submitted to the Foreign Ministers by the main political groups by way of comment on recent developments in the situation: the failure of the mission to Pretoria by Sir Geoffrey Howe, British Foreign Minister, the partial agreement reached by the Council of Ministers on 15 and 16 September 1986, the sanctions decided by the US Congress and the resolutions adopted by the last ACP-EEC Joint Assembly in Vouliagmeni.

Since the President-in-Office of the Council could not answer all the questions in the first October part-session, the debate was continued and concluded during the second part-session.

During the debate Parliament tackled the difficult problem of whether to adopt economic sanctions and, if so, what kind. The EPP Group expressed strong condemnation of apartheid and confirmed that negotiation and dialogue were the only possible means of reaching a fair and lasting solution to the South African problem. The Council of Ministers' informal agreement on the joint sanction measures was undoubtedly an important signal to South Africa. Nevertheless, consideration should be given not only to negative measures but also to positive ones, in particular, the suspension of measures which put pressure on the economy,

as soon as specific conditions are met.

At the end of the debate a resolution tabled by Mr PENDERS (NL) on behalf of the EPP Group, and based on these principles, was adopted by Parliament by 309 votes in favour, 11 against, 6 abstentions⁷¹.

It also adopted a text tabled by the Liberal Group declaring support for the South African organizations working for the establishment of a pluralist and non-racist democracy⁷².

On the other hand a majority of the EPP Group dissociated itself from a resolution tabled by the Socialist Group, adopted by 200 votes in favour and 133 against (EPP,ER,some ERDA and LDR)⁷³ and put up solid opposition to a resolution by the Communist Group which was passed by a slim majority: 106 in favour (SOC,COM,ARC) and 160 against (EDP,ED,LRD,ERDA,ER)⁷⁴.

C. Human rights

Report on human rights in the world for the year 1985 - 1986 and Community policy on human rights⁷⁵

Rapporteur: Julen Guimon UGARTECHEA (ED/ES)
Adoption in plenary: 12 March 1986⁷⁶

In accordance with its undertaking to draw up a report on human rights in the world every year, Parliament noted that there were, in the period 1985 - 1986, still substantially more countries in which human rights were violated than countries in which they were generally respected. It also deplored the fact that more than 50 governments were guilty of violations of human rights and that fewer than half the ACP countries respected these rights.

The report for 1985-86, unlike the previous years' report did not concentrate on the number of violations of human rights committed in various third countries but rather on the kind of violation and the circumstances involved (problems affecting refugees, death penalty, torture, etc.). The worst examples of disregard for human

rights were found in Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa, Central America, the Gulf, Lebanon, Indonesia and the Soviet Union.

Positive developments include further steps towards democratization in Latin America, the overthrow of various dictators (e.g. in the Philippines and Haiti), a reduction in the number of executions and the abolition of the death penalty in some countries.

With regard to Community action to safeguard human rights, the role of political cooperation is very important, especially in the light of the new provisions of the Single Act and the fact that it includes the furtherance of human rights among the objectives of the Treaties and assigns responsibilities to Community institutions in this field.

It is a positive development that the question of human rights has been included in various treaties concluded by the Community with third countries, for example the Lomé Convention. Nevertheless, paragraph 33 of the resolution rightly specifies that any action taken against a government accused of violating human rights must in no event worsen the situation of the people already oppressed by such régimes.

With regard to the outcome of the CSCE, the resolution deplores the fact that, ten years after the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, sufficient improvements have not yet been made in most Eastern countries and it stresses that the three baskets of the Helsinki Final Act, international law, economic relations and human rights are interdependent and inseparable.

Collaboration between Member States and the United Nations in the field of human rights must also be improved.

Finally, the European Parliament, reaffirming that one of its essential tasks is to safeguard and promote respect for human rights, undertook to improve the procedures dealing with this subject, particularly the procedures for considering urgent resolutions and for collaboration with interparliamentary delegations.

The EPP Group backed the report, stressing the importance of a more positive attitude towards those countries which are trying to escape from the spiral of violence and prevarication to make progress along the difficult road towards democratic government.

Parliament adopted the resolution by large majority.

Riccardo RIBERA d'ALCALA'(*)

(*) with the assistance of Ursula BAUSCH

Annex

1. List of urgent resolutions, compiled by Cecile CARTON
2. List of resolutions adopted by the Subcommittee on Security and Disarmament, compiled by Jan BLOHM
3. Notes

Annex

1. Urgent resolutions

Most of the resolutions are on subjects within the field of competence of the Political Affairs Committee or its sub committees.

The most important urgent resolutions are listed by subject and were either tabled by Members of the EPP Group alone or in collaboration with other groups, and were adopted:

LATIN AMERICA

South America

- Chile Compromise amendment signed by the SOC, EPP, COM and LIB (Doc. B 2-685-689/87)
adopted on 9 July 1987

Central America

- Ministerial conference in Guatemala City (Doc. B 2-1420/86)

signed by the SOC, EPP, COM, LIB and ARC Groups
adopted on 22 January 1986

The European Parliament requests that its President should take part in the meeting to be held in Guatemala City on 9 and 10 February 1986 to discuss the creation of a Central American parliament. It stresses that all the appropriations allocated for aid to Central America from the Community budget should be used as soon as possible.

- Sri Lanka HAHN (EPP/D) (Doc. B2 - 1076/86)
compromise amendment
(Doc. B 2-1073-1076/86)
adopted on 23 October 1986
The European Parliament calls upon the Foreign
Ministers meeting in political cooperation to express
their support for a negotiated settlement of the
conflict in Sri Lanka.

- Afghanistan POETTERING (EPP/D) (Doc. B 2-1265/86)
compromise amendment SOC, EPP, LIB, ED
(Doc. B2-1250-1265/86)
adopted on 11 December 1986
The European Parliament calls on the Soviet Union
and the Kabul regime to allow the Red Cross to enter
Afghanistan immediately to bring humanitarian aid
to the victims of the conflict.

Terrorism

- Istanbul and
Karachi ZARGES (EPP/D) (Doc. B2-734/86)
compromise amendment EPP, SOC, ED, LIB, ERDA, CERVETTI
and others (Doc. B2-733-734-745-762-771-779/86)
adopted on 11 September 1986

- Barcelona BROK (EPP/D) (Doc. B2-708/87)
compromise amendment SOC, EPP, LIB, ED, COM
(Doc. B 2-652-656-662-692-709/87)
adopted on 9 July 1987

Various

- on the CCBMDE closing document from Stockholm, the forthcoming summit
meeting in Reykjavik and the CSCE follow-up conference in Vienna
POETTERING (EPP/D) (Doc. B 2-913/86)
compromise amendment by EPP, SOC and ER
adopted on 8 October 1986

Human rights

Indonesia

BEUMER (EPP/NL)

(Doc. B2-918/86)

The European Parliament condemns the death sentences recently carried out in Indonesia adopted on 8 October 1986

Birmingham

RAFTERY (EPP/IRL)

(Doc. B2-1271/86)

adopted on 11 December 1986

The European Parliament calls on Her Majesty's Government to submit the file on the Sikhs arrested in Birmingham to the Court of Appeal and to implement the Criminal Appeal Act 1968

The situation
of Jews in
Lebanon

HABSBURG (EPP/D)

(Doc. B2-1566/86)

adopted on 19 February 1987

The European Parliament calls on the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to inform the Lebanese Government of the Community's interest in and concern about this matter.

Jews in the
USSR

(Doc. B 2-1569/86)

signed by EPP, ERDA, ER and LIB

adopted on 19 February 1987

The European Parliament renews its appeal to the Soviet Government that all Jews requesting to leave the USSR and join their families should be authorized to do so without impediment, in particular Ida Nudel, Josef Begun, etc.

- Chile

PENDERS (EPP/NL)

(Doc. B 2-219/87)

compromise amendment signed by the SOC, EPP, ER, LIB, ERDA and COM Groups

(Doc. B 2-185-219-224-298/87)

adopted on 8 April 1987

The European Parliament calls on the Council and the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to support the democratic and non-violent opposition to the Pinochet regime and hopes that Chile may restore its image as a democratic country enjoying civil liberties by holding free elections by secret ballot and reestablishing all the fundamental freedoms.

- Jews in the USSR BOOT (EPP/NL)
 (Doc. B2-228/87)
 adopted on 8 April 1987
 The European Parliament calls on the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to continue to show a keen concern for the plight of Soviet Jews and to insist on the full implementation of the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act.
- on the death sentence passed on Paula Cooper in the American State of Indiana CASSANMAGNAGO-CERRETTI (EPP/I)
 (Doc. B2-372/87)
 compromise amendment (Doc. B2-356-372/87)
 adopted on 14 May 1987
- Singapore compromise amendment
 (Doc. B 2-514-521-551/87)
 signed by the SOC, EPP, LIB and COM Groups
 adopted on 18 June 1987
 The European Parliament calls on the Government of Singapore to release 16 prisoners

1. Security policy

During the period under consideration the aspects of security policy *) dealt with in the reports of activity for 1984-1985 and 1985-1986 were developed constructively. However, the parliamentary Left managed to prevent the adoption of all the reports by the Centre Right (especially the important report by Sir Peter VANNECK (ED) on arms control and disarmament, whilst the reports by the Left (BOESMAN and CAMPINOS) were adopted.

The controversial subjects became increasingly predictable from 1985 onwards. This makes it all the more satisfying that the series of oral questions by the EPP Group to the Council and resolutions on the most urgent topical questions connected with security were adopted.

The two most important were the following:

- on the CCBMEE closing document from Stockholm, the forthcoming summit in Reykjavik and the CSCE follow-up conference in Vienna (Doc. B2-913/86 of 8 October 1986)
- on cooperation on security policy in the context of European political cooperation (Doc. PE 112.251 of 10 March 1987, table in June 1987 pursuant to Rule 42(5) on the basis of an oral question to the Belgian presidency of the Council requesting action on security policy in accordance with the provisions of the Single European Act).

Hans-Gert POETTERING (D) and Jan PENDERS (NL) were the spokesmen for the EPP.

After a very difficult year for the security policy of the moderate forces in Parliament, all hopes are now pinned on the PENDERS report on the development of a European concept.

*) cf. especially Doc. B2-632/85 of 4 July 1985 on the political and economic aspects of European security in the context of EPC.

3. Notes

- (1) Doc. A2-169/86 OJ No C7/105, 2.1.1987
- (2) Doc. A2-102/86 OJ No C238/39, 10.11.1986
- (3) Doc. A2-103/86 OJ No C238/36, 10.11.1986
- (4) Doc. A2-198/86 OJ No C76/135, 23.3.1986
- (5) Doc. B2-1673/86 PE volume 3/87 p. 43
- (6) Doc. A2-129/86 OJ C7/102, 12.1.1987
- (7) Doc. A2-56/87 PE 114.764
- (8) Doc. B2-1234/86 OJ C7/109, 12.1.1987
- (9) Doc. B2-948/86 OJ C297/54, 24.11.1986
- (10) Doc. B2-1250/86 OJ C7, 12.1.1987
- (11) Doc. B2-708/86 PV PE 115.654
- (12) Doc. A2-208/86 OJ C99/157, 13.4.1986
- (13) Doc. B2-1569/86 on Ida Nudel, Josef Begun and others and
Doc. B2-228/87 OJ C76, 23.3.1987
- (14) Debate of 21.10.1986 on the Reykjavik Summit OJ Annex No 2-344
- (15) Doc. A2-26/87 PV 17 I PE 114.763
- (16) Doc. A2-77/87 17 I PE 114.763
- (17) Doc. B2-447/87 PV 17 I PE 114.763
- (18) Doc. B2-393/87, 12.5.1987
- (19) Debate of 16.6.1987 - CRE p.45
- (20) *ibid* p.52
- (21) *ibid* p.46
- (22) Title III para. 6 of the Single Act
- (23) A Latin American contact group, set up in 1985 within the EPP-EUCD, with the support of the CDI, has maintained regular contacts between the EPP and the CD parties of Europe and Latin America
- (24) consisting of Mr LIGIOS (I), Mr MUENCH (D), Mrs FONTAINE (F), Mrs GIANNOKOU (GR) and Mr MONFORTE (ES)
- (25) consisting of Mr LANGES (D), Mr LIGIOS (I) and Mr VEGA y ESCADON (ES)
- (26) Doc. A2-187/85 OJ No C88, 24.3.1986
- (27) PE 96.988/rev.
- (28) PE 107.683/rev.
- (29) Doc. A2-105/87
- (30) Doc. A2-102/86
- (31) OJ No C238/39, 10.11.1986
- (32) Doc. A2-103/86
- (33) OJ No. C283/36, 10.11.1986
- (34) COM(86)35 OJ No. C70/6, 25.3.1986
- (35) Doc. A2-138/86
- (36) OJ No C297/94, 24.11.1986

- (37) Doc. A2-169/86
- (38) OJ No C7/105, 12.1.1987
- (39) Doc. A2-198/86
- (40) OJ No C76/135, 23.3. 1987
- (41) Doc. B2-1673/86
- (42) Texts adopted by the EP, volume 3/87, p.44
- (43) OJ No C76/99, 23.3.1987
- (44) Commission Bulletin, Supplement 1/87
- (45) Texts adopted by the EP, volume 3/87, p.43
- (46) Doc. B2-1678/86
- (47) Doc. B2-1677/86
- (48) Doc. B2-1671/86
- (49) Doc. B2-1674/86
- (50) Doc. B2-1675/86
- (51) Doc. A2-129/86
- (52) OJ No C7/102, 12.1.1987
- (53) Doc. A2-33/87
- (54) PV 18/II, PE 114.764 p.30
- (55) Doc. No A2-56/87
- (56) PE 114 764
- (57) Doc. B2-1234/86
- (58) Doc. B2-1173/86
- (59) Doc. B2-1186/86
- (60) Doc. B2-1187/86
- (61) Doc. B2-1185/86
- (62) OJ No C7/109, 12.1.1987
- (63) Doc. B2-1243/86
- (64) Doc. B2-947/86 on behalf of the Socialist Group
Doc. B2-948/86 on behalf of the EPP Group
Doc. B2-950/86 on behalf of the Liberal Group
Doc. B2-951/86 on behalf of the Communist Group
- (65) Doc. B2-891/86
- (66) Doc. B2-892/86
- (67) Doc. B2-893/86
- (68) Doc. B2-894/86
- (69) Doc. B2-895/86
Doc. B2-896/86
- (70) OJ No C297/54, 24.11.1986
- (71) *ibid*, p.54
- (72) *ibid*, p.55
- (73) *ibid*, p. 52
- (74) *ibid*, p.56
- (75) Doc. A2-208/86
- (76) OJ No C99/157, 13.4.1986

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

I. POSTS HELD BY MEMBERS OF THE EPP GROUP

Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (52 members, including 12 from the EPP Group)

First vice-chairman: Isidor FRÜH (D)
Group coordinator: Joachim DALSSASS (I)
Deputy coordinator: Pol MARCK (B)

Members:

Reinhold BOCKLET (D)
Franco BORGIO (I)
Joachim DALSSASS (I)
Michel DEBATISSE (F)
Josep A. DURAN I LLEIDA (ES)
Isidor FRÜH (D)
Pol MARCK (B)
Ferruccio PISONI (I)
Nino PISONI (I)
Leopold SPATH (D)
Konstantinos STAVROU (GR)
Teun TOLMAN (NL)

Substitutes:

Mark CLINTON (IRL)
Roberto COSTANZO (I)
Manfred EBEL (D)
Gerardo GAIBISSO (I)
Jon GANGOITI LLAGUNO ((ES)
Vincenzo GIUMMARRA (I)
Erhard JAKOBSEN (DK)
Giosué LIGIOS (I)
John Joseph McCARTIN (IRL)
Meinholf MERTENS (D)
Ernest MÜHLEN (L)
Thomas RAFTERY (IRL)

Subcommittees of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Subcommittee on Fisheries

(21 members, including 5 from the EPP Group)

Chairman: Konstantinos STAVROU (GR)

Members:

Mark CLINTON (IRL)
Manfred EBEL (D)
Jon GANGOITI LLAGUNGO (ES)
Vincenzo GIUMMARRA (I)
Konstantinos STAVROU (GR)

Substitutes:

Franco BORGIO (I)
Michel DEBATISSE (F)
Pol MARCK (B)
Leopold SPATH (D)
Teun TOLMAN (NL)

Working Party on the Monitoring of Dairy Quotas

8 members, 4 each from the Committees on Agriculture/Budgetary Control
(2 from the EPP Group)

Chairman: Pol MARCK (B)

Members:

Isidor FRÜH (D)
Pol MARCK (B)

for the Committee on Agriculture
for the Committee on Budgetary Control

Committee of Inquiry into the Problem of Stocks
(15 members, including 3 from the EPP Group)

Rapporteur: Michel DEBATISSE (F)

Members:
Reinhold BOCKLET (D)
Michel DEBATISSE (F)
Pol MARCK (B)

Substitutes:
Heinrich AIGNER (D)
Franco BORGIO (I)
Mark CLINTON (IRL)

II. ASSESSMENT OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES POLICY

1. Key aspects of the work of the EPP Group in the period covered by this report

- Rejection of a policy of fixing restrictive agricultural prices as being ineffective in limiting production

In the person of P. MARCK (EPP/B), the EPP Group provided the rapporteur on the farm prices for 1987/88.¹ Through his amendments to the 42 regulations and his report as adopted in committee, he modified the Commission proposals² which sought to introduce price reductions in key sectors. As part of a revision of the common organization of the market (COM) in oils and fats, the olive oil and oilseeds sector is to be adapted to the needs of the Community of Twelve (more details in the section on Mediterranean agriculture). In this context, the rapporteur on the farm prices and a large majority of Group members came down in favour of price stabilization through the introduction of a levy on fats.

As a first step towards the abolition of the co-responsibility levy in the dairy sector in the medium term, and as a measure to support small farms, the co-responsibility levy would no longer be paid by farms whose annual milk production does not exceed 60 000 kg.

The Christian Democrat rapporteur also called for the increased supply of beef created by the recent milk quota cut to be taken into account, and for monetary compensatory amounts (MCAs) to be abolished rapidly, with farmers receiving compensation if this should have a negative effect on their incomes. The majority of these demands, although not the rejection of the price reduction, were adopted in plenary³. A majority voted in favour of the Commission's price reduction proposals, illogically in the opinion of the Christian Democrats, because such a price reduction puts pressure on farmers' incomes without limiting production. For this reason, the EPP Group does not regard the Council decision on the farm prices for 1987/88^{3a} as entirely satisfactory.

¹Doc. A 2-40/87

²COM (87) 1 Parts I, II, III; Doc. C 2-1/87

³PE 114.204 of 14 May 1987

^{3a}1182 Meeting of Agriculture Council of 30 June 1987

- Reduction of stocks and limitation of surplus production through the effective use of budgetary resources

In the medium term, agricultural expenditure can only be reduced if practical measures - if necessary supported by a special fund - are taken to reduce existing, expensive intervention stocks; this is the tenor of a resolution tabled by I. FRÜH and M. EBEL (EPP/D)⁴ which was adopted by Parliament with a sizeable majority at the July 1986 part-session. The same reasoning is applied to continuing surplus production in the amendment to the 1987 budget drawn up by I. FRÜH and H. LANGES (EPP/D)⁵. The budgetary cost of compensating dairy farmers for not filling their milk quotas is lower than that generated by marketing guarantees.

Both these views were incorporated in Commission proposals⁶ and after Parliament had delivered its opinion in the reports by E. WOLTJER (SOC/NL)⁷ and I. COLINO SALAMANCA (SOC/ES)⁸, they were adopted by the Council of Agriculture Ministers⁹.

In a resolution tabled by R. BOCKLET (EPP/D)¹⁰, the EPP Group called for special programmes to promote the disposal of surpluses within the Community, whether sporadically or as a permanent measure to aid the socially deprived. In an urgent debate at the January part-session, Parliament voted in favour of a special programme of this type to aid those people worst affected by the cold spell¹¹. A corresponding Council decision duly followed in the same month¹².

A final report¹³ on the impact of the dairy quota arrangements in force since 1984 is currently being drawn up under the chairmanship of P. MARCK (EPP/B) from the Working Party on the Monitoring of Dairy Quotas, and will be presented to plenary before the end of 1987.

A Committee of Inquiry into the Problem of Stocks in the Agricultural Sector was set up. The rapporteur M. DEBATISSE (EPP/F) will also table his report¹⁴ before the end of the year. The report, which is divided into three sections - (a) current storage problems, (b) possible ways of reducing stocks, (c) measures to prevent re-accumulation - is the result of intensive discussions and various hearings with the professional groups concerned.

⁴ Doc. B 2-518/86; OJ No. C 227

⁵ Doc. C 2-99/86; Amendment No. 607

⁶ COM(86) 510 (amended)

⁷ Doc. A 2-139/86

⁸ Doc. A 2-238/86

⁹ 1141 Meeting of Agriculture Council of 9/10 March 1987

¹⁰ Doc. B 2-803/86 of 8 September 1986

¹¹ OJ No. C 46, 23.2.1987, p.78

¹² 1137 Meeting of Agriculture Council of 19/21 January 1987

¹³ Draft report WOLTJER (SOC/NL), PE 109.397/rev.

¹⁴ PE 113.181

- Closer bilateral and multilateral relations with the leading agricultural exporting countries leading to joint action on the reduction of surpluses

Measures to limit production taken by the Community as one of the world's leading exporters of agricultural produce can be effective only if its main competitors also lend their weight to the rationalization of the world agricultural market. In order to sound out the possibilities for such cooperation, the EPP Group sent a delegation to the USA¹⁵. The delegation was led by M. DEBATISSE (EPP/F), and he was accompanied by J. DALSSASS (I), T. TOLMAN (NL), L. SPÄTH (D) and K. STAVROU (GR). Their talks with representatives of the government, the House of Representatives, producers and producer organizations and the agricultural export industry in Washington, Minnesota and Chicago showed US agriculture to be in the same parlous state: rising agricultural expenditure on the one hand, and on the other falling farmer incomes. Measures to reduce production have been mooted in the USA, and the government and administration wish to persevere with such a policy. The politically highly influential producer organizations are strongly opposed to any form of export limitations, particularly towards Europe. Cautious moves towards bilateral and multilateral agreements, in particular within the framework of GATT, as called for by the committee in the WOLTJER (SOC/NL) opinion¹⁶ on the ZAHORKA (EPP/D) report¹⁷ on the GATT negotiations must at present be the most sensible way of tackling the problems facing the world agricultural market.

- Development of measures concerning agricultural structures in order to establish a policy of compensation for less-favoured mountain areas, income support, the remuneration of farmers for their work in preserving the rural agricultural landscape and a policy designed to facilitate structural adjustments

The Commission proposals on socio-structural measures¹⁸ and Parliament's opinion contained in the THAREAU (SOC/F) report of 10 July 1986¹⁹ produced initial results in the Council of Ministers²⁰. These results are unsatisfactory in that no decision was taken on the overall programme and important production limitation measures such as the withdrawal of land from cultivation were made merely optional. Therefore, in the resolution²¹ tabled by L. SPÄTH (EPP/D), the Committee on Agriculture is called upon to draw up a comprehensive report on the alternative use of agricultural land.

In the opinion drafted by J. DALSSASS (EPP/I)²², the Committee on Agriculture called for special consideration to be given to mountain areas under the policy for equal regional development in the Community. The Commission has since supplemented these socio-structural measures with proposals on direct income aids and a pre-pension scheme²³. The debate in the Committee on Agriculture, which has just been set in train by the draft report by B. THAREAU (SOC/F)²⁴, will centre on the financial provisions accompanying the proposals. The EPP Group is opposed to unstructured, general income aid as a cover for continuation of the price reduction policy. This problem will be dealt with again in the section on Mediterranean agriculture.

¹⁵Final report by the EPP Group delegation to the USA (EPP Group documentation)

¹⁶PE 106.954

¹⁷Doc. A 2-87/86

¹⁸COM(86) 199; Doc. C 2-39/86

¹⁹Doc. A 2-79/86; Doc. C 2-39/86

²⁰1147 Meeting of Agriculture Council on 2/3 March 1987

²¹Doc. B 2-157/87

²²PE 105.138

²³COM(87) 166/3

²⁴PE 105.938

- Continued development of the common fisheries policy, paying particular attention to structural policy, research and monitoring, agreements with third countries, and the fisheries situation in the Mediterranean

In the period covered by this report, the Subcommittee on Fisheries, which has been meeting since the beginning of 1987 under its new chairman K. STAVROU (EPP/GR), debated a wide range of topics - see the list in part III of this report. The EPP Group attached particular importance to the following topics: measures to improve and adapt structures in the fisheries sector. In Parliament's opinion contained in the BATTERSBY (ED/GB) report of 12 December 1986²⁵, attention is drawn to the need for a long term, adequately funded structural policy. The EPP Group gave priority to gearing fishing capacities to assured long-term catch quotas.

The estimation and management of fish resources and the monitoring of actual catches formed the subject of the own-initiative report by F. GAUTIER (SOC/D)²⁶ and the report by I. VASQUEZ FOUZ (SOC/ES)²⁷ on the Commission proposals on financial assistance for the development of fisheries control facilities²⁸, which were adopted in plenary on 20 February and 10 April 1987 after detailed discussion in the Subcommittee on Fisheries. The EPP Group is opposed to a general licence system as a replacement for the existing fisheries quota. Although the current system has shortcomings which must be remedied, its advantages make it preferable to an expensive licensing procedure. In this connection, the monitoring of fishing activities plays an important role. The Commission's decision to provide financial assistance for the development of a control system is to be welcomed; however, the funds provided will probably not be sufficient to ensure the establishment of a uniform control standard in the EC in the medium term.

Guaranteed supplies of fish and fisheries products are an important reason justifying the wide variety of fisheries agreements with third countries. During the debate on the corresponding report by P. PASQUALE (COM/I)²⁹, EPP Group members made it clear that such agreements must not be 'one-way streets'. Alongside the financial concessions granted by the Community, it is very important for the Community, for political and economic reasons, to provide third countries, especially developing countries, with technical and scientific support for their fishing activities.

Further key areas of inquiry were Mediterranean fisheries, the common organization of the market for fish and fisheries products and aquaculture. This topic will be examined more closely in the chapter on EPP Group policy on Mediterranean agriculture and fisheries.

2. Key aspects of the work of the EPP Group in the field of Mediterranean agriculture and fisheries

²⁵ Doc. A 2-176/86

²⁶ Doc. A 2-209/86; OJ No. C 76, 23.3.1987

²⁷ Doc. A 2-24/87; PE 113.705

²⁸ COM(86) 661

²⁹ Doc. A 2-160/86; OJ No. 76, 23.3.1987

III. REPORTS, OPINIONS AND RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES SECTOR DISCUSSED IN PLENARY

Farm price debates 1987/88; reform of the oils and fats sector

1. P. MARCK (EPP/B) Report on the general guidelines for the common agricultural policy in connection with the fixing of the agricultural prices for 1987/88
Doc. A 2-40/87
Vote on 14 May 1987 - Minutes PE 114.204
Adoption of the report with the majority of the EPP Group voting in favour, although in the vote on the amendments the price reduction proposal was approved.
Group speaker: R. BOCKLET (D)
2. J. MOUCHEL (ERDA/F) Report on the reform of the overall oils and fats policy
The report approved the levy on fats as proposed by the Commission.
Doc. A 2-3/87
Vote on 14 May 1987 - Minutes PE 114.204
Adoption of the report with the majority of the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: E. MÜHLEN (L)
3. J. COLINO SALAMANCA (SOC/ES) Report on the olive oil sector
The report deals with the new organization of the olive oil sector and should be considered in conjunction with the Mouchel report.
Doc. A 2-15/87
Vote on 14 May 1987 - Minutes PE 114.204
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: G. GAIBISSO (I)

Opinion of the Committee on Agriculture on the 1987 budget with regard to the agriculture and fisheries budget

4. S. MARTIN (LIB/F) 1987 budget, CURRY report, Part III,
B. NIELSEN (LIB/DK) Commission (COM(86) 200)
Doc. A 2-147/86
Vote on 13 October 1986 - OJ No. C 322, 15.12.1986
Adoption of the opinions
Group speakers: M. DEBATISSE (F), M. EBEL (D)

Horticultural sectors

5. E. WOLTJER (SOC/NL) Report on extending the regulation governing prices and aid for protein products
Doc. A 2-222/86
Vote on 13 March 1987 - Minutes PE 112.805
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: T. RAFTERY (IRL)

6. M. CHIABRANDO (EPP/I) Report on three Commission proposals concerning the wine sector (COM(86) 577)
Doc. A 2-215/86
Vote on 20 February 1987 - OJ No. C 76, 23.3.1987
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
7. G. ROMEOS (SOC/GR) Report on Community action in the forestry sector
Doc. A 2-116/86
Vote on 23 October 1986 - OJ No. C 297, 15.12.1986
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: J. McCARTIN (IRL)

Animal production sectors

8. E. WOLTJER (SOC/NL) Report on the Commission proposals
I. amending Regulation (EEC) No. 857/84
II. amending Regulation (EEC) No. 804/86
in the milk and milk products sector
(COM(86) 510)
Doc. A 2-139/86
Vote on 23 October 1986 - OJ No. C 297, 15.12.1986
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: R. BOCKLET (D)
9. E. MÜHLEN (EPP/L) Report on the problems facing the market in poultrymeat and eggs
Doc. A 2-126/86
Vote on 14 November 1986 - OJ No. C 322, 15.12.1986
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
10. M. SIERRA BARDAJI (SOC/ES) Report on the Commission proposals on
I. A financial measure for the eradication of African swine fever in Spain (COM(86) 391)
II. A financial measure for the eradication of African swine fever in Portugal (COM(86) 392)
Doc. A 2-125/86
Vote on 14 October 1986 - OJ No. C 283, 10.11.1986
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: F. BORGIO (I)
11. E. WOLTJER (SOC/NL) Follow-up report on the implementation of the dairy quota arrangements in the Community
PE 109.397/rev. 2
The report is to be put to the vote in plenary during the second half of this year.

Policy on agricultural structures

12. Commission proposal for a Council regulation (EEC) establishing a special emergency measure for the less-favoured areas in Ireland (COM(86) 560)
Doc. A 2-123/86
Vote on 14 November 1986 - OJ No. C 283, 10.11.1986
Approval of the proposal with the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: M. CLINTON (IRL)

13. T. RAFTERY (EPP/IRL) Report on Community financing for amenities in rural areas
Doc. A 2-54/87
Vote on 10 July 1987 - Minutes PE 115.655
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
14. B. THAREAU (SOC/F) Working document on a framework system for aids to agricultural income (COM(87) 166)
PE 113.464
The report is to be put to the vote in plenary during the second half of this year.

Reduction of stocks

15. J. ELLES (ED/GB) Oral Question to the Commission on a stock disposal programme
Doc. B 2-434/86
Vote on 11 July 1986 - OJ No. C 227, 8.9.1986
Adoption of the resolution by I. FRÜH (EPP/D) (Doc. B 2-520/86) on a special fund to reduce stocks and other resolutions, with the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: I. FRÜH (D)
16. J. COLINO SALAMANCA (SOC/ES) Report on the financing of interventions by the EAGGF (COM(87) 6 final)
Doc. A 2-238/86
Vote on 11 March 1987 - Minutes PE 112.803
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: R. BOCKLET (D)
17. M. DEBATISSE (EPP/F) Reduction of stocks
PE 113.181
The report is to be put to the vote in plenary during the second half of this year.

Foreign agricultural trade

18. Rule 48 motions on the trade dispute between the USA and the EEC, SILVA DOMINGOS and MARTIN on the Agreement between the EC and the USA, PERY, COLINO, SEELER and others, on American pressure on EEC/USA trade relations, PIQUET, CERVETTI and others
Docs. B 2-1550/86, B 2-1557/86, B 2-1572/86
Vote on 19 February 1987 - OJ No. C 76, 23.3.1987
Adoption of a compromise text with the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: J. MALLET (F)
19. T. MAHER (LDR/IRL) Report on the impact of the CAP on agricultural trade with third countries and the employment situation in the Community
Doc. A 2-61/87
Vote on 10 July 1987 - Minutes PE 115.655
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: G. GAIBISSO (I)

Further topics concerning the agriculture sector

20. R. SIMMONDS (ED/GB) Report on animal welfare policy
- Doc. A 2-211/86
Vote on 20 February 1987 - OJ No. C 76, 23.3.1987
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: M. MERTENS (D)
21. F. GRAEFE ZU BARINGDORF (ARC/D) Report on the effects of the use of biotechnology on the European farming industry
- Doc. A 2-159/86
Vote on 16 February 1987 - OJ No. C 76, 23.3.1987
Adoption of the resolution with the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: T. RAFTERY (IRL)
22. Urgent resolution (Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure) by Sir H. PLUMB on the need for a World Food Conference
- Doc. B 2-1060/86
Vote on 23 October 1986 - OJ No. C 297, 24.11.1986
23. Urgent resolution (Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure) by LLORCA VILAPLANA and others on the forest fires in the Community
- Docs. B 2-732, 744, 756, 772, 786, 798, 802/86
Vote on 11 September 1986 - OJ No. C 255, 13.10.1986
24. Urgent resolution (Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure) by NAVARRO and others on the damage to agriculture caused by bad weather
- Docs. B 2-731, 754, 736, 743, 773, 775, 796, 799, 776, 742, 753, 777, 737, 741, 793/86
Vote on 11 September 1986 - OJ No. C 255, 13.10.1986

Common Fisheries Policy

25. J. VAZQUEZ FOUZ (SOC/ES) Report on the Commission proposals
- I. for a regulation on the coordination and promotion of research in the fisheries sector
- II. for a decision adopting Community research and coordination programmes in the fisheries sector for the period 1985/89 - (COM(85) 590)
- Doc. A 2-61/86
Vote on 12 September 1986 - OJ No. C 255, 13.10.1986
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: P. MARCK (B)

26. J. VAZQUEZ FOUZ (SOC/ES) Report on the Commission proposal for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 2057/82 establishing certain control measures for fishing activities by vessels of the Member States (COM(86) 474)
- Doc. A 2-175/86
Vote on 12 December 1986 - OJ No. C 7, 12.1.1987
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: P. MARCK (B)
27. R. BATTERSBY (ED/GB) Report on the Commission proposal for a regulation on Community measures to improve and adapt structures in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors (COM(86) 446 final)
- Doc. A 2-176/86
Vote on 12 December 1986 - OJ No. C 7, 12.1.1987
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: M. EBEL (D)
28. F. BORGIO (EPP/I) Report on the revision of the common organization of the market in fisheries products
- Doc. A 2-210/86
Vote on 20 February 1987 - OJ No. C 76, 23.3.1987
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
29. K. STAVROU (EPP/GR) Report on Mediterranean fisheries
- Doc. A 2-158/86
Vote on 27 November 1986 - OJ No. C 322, 15.12.1986
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
30. P. DE PASQUALE (COM/I) Report on fisheries agreements between the Community and third countries
- Doc. A 2-160/86
Vote on 20 February 1987 - OJ No. C 76, 23.3.1987
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: M. EBEL (D)
31. J. QUIN (SOC/GB) Report on the protection and management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic
- Doc. A 2-184/86
Vote on 20 February 1987 - OJ No. C 76, 23.3.1987
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: M. CLINTON (IRL)
32. R. GAUTHIER (ERDA/F) Report on the estimation and management of fish stocks
The report calls for the introduction of a general licence system. The EPP is opposed to this.
- Doc. A 2-209/86
Vote on 20 February 1987 - OJ No. C 76, 23.3.1987
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting against
Group speaker: F. BORGIO (I)

33. J. VAZQUEZ FOUZ (SOC/ES) Report on the Commission proposal for a decision on financial participation by the Community in operations of monitoring and supervision of fishing activities in the waters falling under the sovereignty or within the jurisdiction of Portugal (COM(86) 673)
- Doc. A 2-23/87
Vote on 10 April 1987 - Minutes PE 113.705
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: K. STAVROU (GR)
34. J. VAZQUEZ FOUZ (SOC/ES) Report on the Commission proposal for a decision on Community financial assistance for the development of fisheries control facilities (COM(86) 661)
- Doc. A 2-24/87
Vote on 10 April 1987 - Minutes PE 113.705
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: K. STAVROU (GR)
35. G. GUERMEUR (ERDA/F) Report on the Commission proposal for a regulation concerning the conclusion of the agreement between the EC and the Republic of Mozambique on fisheries relations (COM(87) 87 final)
- Doc. A 2-58/87
Vote on 19 June 1987 - Minutes PE 114.765
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: K. STAVROU (GR)
36. W. EWING (ERDA/GB) Report on aquaculture in the Community
- Doc. A 2-59/87
Vote on 19 June 1987 - Minutes PE 114.765
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: K. STAVROU (GR)
37. R. BATTERSBY (ED/GB) Report on national aid in the fisheries sector
- Doc. A 2-60/87
Vote on 19 June 1987 - Minutes PE 114.765
Adoption of the report with the EPP Group voting in favour
Group speaker: F. BORGO (I)

IV. P R O S P E C T S

The expensive common agricultural policy has always been closely linked with the problem of financing and, more than ever, the success of the current, initially promising measures to adapt the CAP will depend on how this problem is tackled.

The amendment of Regulation (EEC) No. 1883/78 on the financing of interventions by the EAGGF Guarantee Section will, despite the pre-financing of the special measures for the disposal of stocks by the Member States, place a heavy strain on the Community budget until genuine savings on storage costs are achieved in the medium term.

The quota cuts in return for compensation which have recently been imposed on dairy farmers must first be successfully implemented on a Community-wide basis before a market balance, and thus budget savings, are achieved in this sector. The controversial levy on fats will offset only a proportion of the expenditure in the oils and fats sector.

These problems, quoted here as examples, will have to be solved during the 1988 budget procedure. In the person of I. FRÜH (EPP/D), the EPP is providing the draftsman of the opinion on the agricultural expenditure in the 1988 budget. The whole area of socio-structural measures and income aid is equally closely linked with the question of financing, as already outlined in Part II of this report. Measures to reduce production, such as extensification, the withdrawal of land from cultivation, pre-pension schemes and the release of land for ecological reasons, will produce genuine budgetary savings in the medium term, but cost money here and now.

The EPP will do everything to ensure that only those measures are implemented which actually reduce surplus production and ensure the preservation of rural areas by a healthy, small-scale farming industry. Only in this way will the farming industry win the support it needs from the population as a whole, a farming industry which will play an important future role in Europe as a guarantor of healthy food supplies and as a significant ecological, economic and social factor in the rural areas of the European Community.

MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURE

In the last report, emphasis was placed on an event of great historical and political importance: the accession of Spain and Portugal. Consideration was also given to the effects that the membership of these two countries might produce in future.

In January 1987, one year after enlargement, the Community was able to take stock of its current situation and the outlook for the future. The major questions broached include: the Single Act, the problems of the 1987 budget, the future financing of the Community, social policy, and two aspects of the common agricultural policy: the abnormal rise in surpluses and a prudent prices policy.

In this context, during the annual agricultural price review, the oils and fats sector occupied a central role in the Commission's and Parliament's considerations.

As is known, this sector of Community production is particularly important covering different groups of oils and fats that are, for the most part, in competition with each other and which fall into two major categories: animal oils and fats and vegetable oils and fats contained in seeds or fruit which, when processed industrially, are destined mainly for human consumption. This sector has always received the attention of the EPP. In this context, olive cultivation is essential for the economies of the southern regions of the Community and for the ecological use of Community territory. However, with the accession of the new Iberian countries, olive oil supplies are in surplus. On the other hand, the Community is deficient in vegetable oils and fats while consumption of this product is on the increase.

Consequently, the goals to aim for in the sector are, on the one hand, to protect olive oil consumption and, on the other hand, to supply and support production of oleaginous products replacing olive oil.

The current regulation of the market in the sector provides for an import levy on olive oil and low or zero-rated customs duties on other vegetable oils and fats.

Until 1990, imports into Spain are restricted with a view to protecting olive oil consumption.

The Commission was proposing to introduce a price stabilization mechanism as follows:

- the average level of prices for refined soya oil obtaining in the Community in recent years (1981-85) to be taken as the reference level for the mechanism;
- every year the average level of prices of the preceding year to be compared with the reference level of the mechanism.
The difference calculated in this way constitutes the tax to be levied on all vegetable or marine oils and fats in the Community intended for human consumption. If the average level of prices is higher than the reference level of the mechanism and should this situation threaten to have an adverse impact on oil consumption, there are plans to provide aid to consumption. The tax would be levied when the product leaves the refinery or when imported.

The MOUCHEL report (ERDA/F) proposes a non-discriminatory system based on a representative price for olive oil on minimum guide prices for other categories of vegetable and marine oils, on appropriate price ratios linked to world prices and on a system of variable contributions.

The mechanism provided for should enable a closer alignment between the prices of other seed oils and olive oil, help to improve the balance of consumption of these products, stabilize the price of oils and fats, encourage the production of oleaginous products in short supply and promote the diversification of agricultural production.

The system proposed by the Commission has met with opposition from various quarters on the ground that it could increase consumer prices, that the mechanism would be contrary to the spirit of GATT and would conflict with the agreements concluded within the framework of the Lomé Convention and with the ASEAN countries.

There has also been opposition to the system within the EPP Group, but a majority of the group decided to vote in favour of the introduction of this tax at the plenary sitting in Strasbourg.

As regards the olive oil sector, which was the subject of a special report by Mr COLINO SALAMANCA (S/ES), Parliament has approved the Commission's proposals fixing a guarantee threshold for production aid.

However, a number of suggestions are made as regards the necessary restructuring of olive cultivation depending on the region. Meanwhile, measures are called for to strengthen controls in order to prevent fraud and improve quality.

To this end, Mr Teun TOLMAN (EPP/NL)¹ was given responsibility in October to put forward a proposal amending the Commission's regulation laying down measures applicable to the olive oil sector, in particular regarding the setting up of monitoring agencies. The report criticized the delay in setting up these bodies.

At its meeting of 30 June, the Council of Ministers made changes only to the aid to production laid down for small-scale producers with a maximum of 200 kg of oil and did away with the provisions limiting the extent of land under olive cultivation eligible for production aid. This aid would be extended in 1991 to Spain and Portugal at the same level applied to the Community of Ten, adjusted to take account of the difference existing between intervention prices and the effect of customs duties on competing oils.

On the whole, the vegetable oils and fats sector has been given a fairly raw deal by the Council of Ministers despite the overall deficit of these products. It entails the introduction of a threshold guarantee system for olive and soya oil and the strengthening of the criteria applying to the guarantee thresholds for colza and sunflower oil together with a price reduction for these products, a limitation on intervention and abolition of monthly increases for olive oil accompanied by increased aid for small-scale producers.

¹ TOLMAN: Doc. A 2-123/86 - Adopted on 24 October 1986
Proposal for a regulation COM(86) 357 final

In conclusion, the stabilization mechanism in the oils and fats sector, agreed by the decisions of the Council of Ministers for Agriculture taken within the framework of the agricultural price package for 1987/88, will be subjected to further examination and consultation with the principal partners of the Community. The relevant conclusions will be presented at the next European Council meeting in Copenhagen.

The European Parliament turned its attention to the wine-growing sector during the February 1987 part-session following certain Commission proposals for regulations. These involved, essentially, new measures designed to relieve the market through experimental use of concentrated grape must, in place of molasses, for animal feed. The rapporteur was Mr CHIABRANDO (EPP/I).

On this matter, the EPP Group gave its unanimous support consistent with its previous receptive attitude to innovatory solutions - where appropriate - designed to tackle the need to rationalize budget expenditure and maintain wine-growers' incomes. The report confirmed the need to find new market outlets for wine, including non-traditional means of processing and marketing the product (grape juice etc.), through advertising campaigns, the harmonization of taxes, improving quality and updating Community wine-growing registers.

Another subject of particular interest was that of rural amenities.

In view of the expiry on 31 December 1985 of the financial regulation guaranteeing these measures in Italy and France, Mr COSTANZO (EPP/I) tabled a motion for a resolution with a view to refinancing and relaunching these measures.

The failure to enter the necessary appropriations in the Community budget for the subsequent financial year led to increased pressure from the EPP for the Committee on Agriculture to draw up an own-initiative report on the problem. The report was drawn up by Mr T. RAFTERY (EPP/IRL) and was adopted unanimously in committee and by Parliament at the July part-session. The report called on the Commission to submit to the Council a specific proposal for a regulation on rural amenities to apply to all Community countries as an integrated development instrument for internal and economically disadvantaged rural areas.

Then, in a broader context, there are the new proposals for Council regulations establishing a number of socio-structural measures on behalf of the agricultural sector. These involve, in particular:

- a Community system to support agricultural incomes - co-financed by the Community budget - aimed at facilitating the adjustment of agricultural holdings affected by the current changes in the markets,
- organizing national aids for agricultural incomes so as to clarify the system governing the granting of national income support while ensuring that these do not conflict with the spirit of the Treaty which expressly forbids them,
- an early retirement scheme to help to meet the social objectives of market rationalization or, alternatively, the structural development of farms.

The package of measures proposed has not yet been examined by the EPP Group which, in principle, - subject to the implementing provisions for the measures as a whole - supports the measures that the Commission intends to implement or continue with a view to directing and supporting the gradual process of market adjustment that the agricultural sector must undergo.

As regards topical and urgent problems concerning the agricultural sector, the EPP Group has also tabled resolutions calling on the Commission for specific measures and aid in the following sectors:

- Mr T. O'DONNELL (EPP/IRL) on the agricultural crisis in Ireland exacerbated by disastrous climatic conditions;
- Mr M. DEBATISSE (EPP/F) on the consequences of the drought in France and the effects of the forest fires in south-east France;
- Mr J. A. DURAN I LLEIDA (EPP/ES) on forest fires in the southern part of the Community;
- Mr G. LIGIOS (EPP/I)² on the severe and prolonged drought in Sardinia.

In particular, the forestry sector was dealt with in a report by Mr ROMEOS (S/GR) in connection with a Commission proposal that provided for measures throughout the whole of the Community not only in terms of production but also as a valid substitute for surplus cultivation.

Finally, the specific sector of poultry and eggs was dealt with by Mr E. MUHLEN (EPP/L) having regard to the cyclical crises that frequently disrupt the sector. Intersectoral organizations, such as the representatives of producer organizations, should be given responsibility for organizing the sector's operations with suitable financial support from the Community.

Over the last year, progress has been made with the common fisheries policy.

At Community level, there is a new regulation on structures as an instrument for modernizing the existing fleet, the productive equipment and the processing and marketing of fish.

At international level, a number of EEC-third country agreements and EEC-developing country agreements have been renewed or renegotiated.

The reason is obvious: the exclusion of Community fishermen from several traditional fishing areas in the north Atlantic has stimulated interest in fishing in tropical waters, particularly in the light of the vast experience of the new member countries of fishing in these waters.

At the political level, the European Parliament has given particular attention to this sector devoting at the February 1987 part-session considerable time to a debate on the problems of the common fisheries policy and adopting several important reports, including some giving particular attention to the problems of fishing in the Mediterranean.

² LIGIOS: B 2-554/87 - Minutes 18 June 1987, PE 114.764

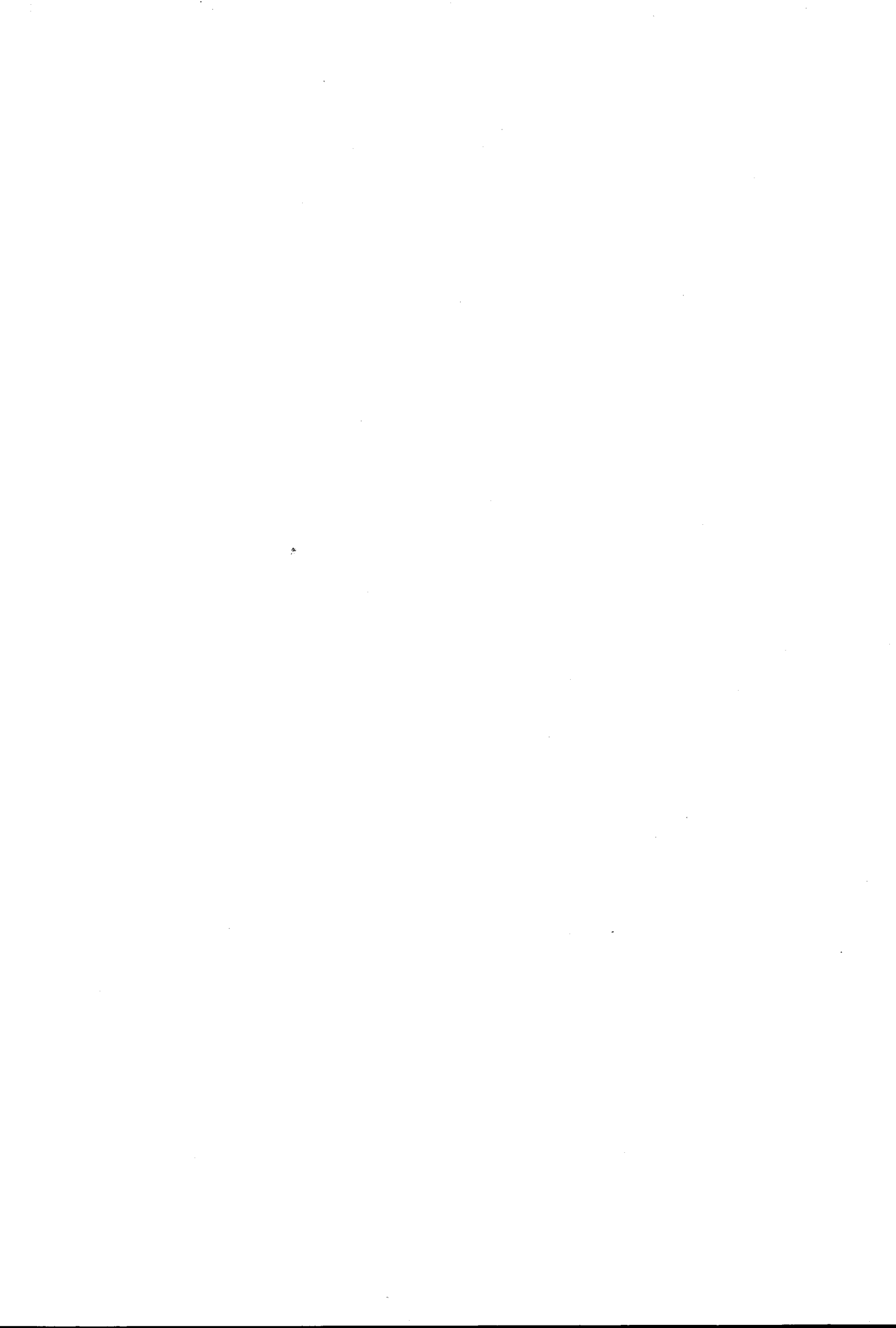
The report by Mr C. STAVROU (EPP/GR) called for a fisheries policy for the Mediterranean basin in view of the fact that fifteen countries, including four Community countries (France, Greece, Italy and Spain) border on this sea. The resolution contained proposals for structural development, the development of coastal fishing, the harmonization of social security, the conservation of resources and environmental protection. The report by Mr F. BORGIO (EPP/I) dealt with the problem of the common organization of the fisheries market (COM).

This report calls for an increase in the number of species of fish contained in the COM, mitigation of the adverse effects brought about by independent producers, preferential support for members of producer organizations for the construction and modernization of the fleet and the extension of fish processing capacity.

As regards the marketing sector, it called for Community preference to be respected and the harmonization of laws so as to avoid the creation of surpluses following Spanish and Portuguese accession.

Werner KRÖGEL

Franco SESTITO



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The 1987 Budget

On 10 September 1986 the Council submitted the Draft General Budget for the 1987 Financial Year.

Group spokesman Efthimios Christodoulou (GR)¹ said 'We now have to approach the budgets of the Community in a spirit entirely different from that which prevailed up to about two years ago. So numerous, that is, are the external factors that affect the shape of the budgets and their development that, for a start, we should not be surprised by whatever turns up, and we must then regard them as indicators and not as budgets in the way that these financial projections are habitually treated in the Member States of the Community'.

He then discussed the problems of the 1986 Budget and explained to what extent they would affect the 1987 Budget.

'So it is that now, in September, an amending letter from the Commission to the budgetary authority is anticipated regarding a shortfall in the 1986 Budget in the order of 770 million ECU. I think therefore that we shall have to start to show a much greater flexibility on these matters and that we must keep alive the fruitful climate which existed between the Commission and the arms of the budgetary authority in July in order to get a result.

So I should like to say this. First, as regards the 1986 Budget. In view of the fact that the Council has not accepted the Commission's amending budget I think that the position to which the European Parliament must hold is that the budget for 1986 is feasible exactly as signed by our President, Mr Pflimlin: If, in the course of the procedure, it emerges that certain elements warrant changes or transfers, we can examine them. But our basic line must be that this budget should be regarded as feasible exactly as it was formulated in July...

¹Proceedings of the European Parliament, 10 September, 1986, page 102

The second point I want to mention is that the European Commission must appreciate that the principles which govern non-compulsory expenditure constitute for us the European Parliament's policy cornerstones. Mr Dankert and Mr Christophersen spoke earlier about the great importance of the two sectors which are being cut back, development on the one hand and research and technology on the other. How can it be possible that the things which are the most dynamic components for the development of the Community are those which are worst hit in the 1987 Budget?'

ALFEO MIZZAU (I)² referred to the need for agricultural reform. Surpluses would have to be removed and no new ones allowed to develop, because they constituted an obstacle to sound agricultural policy.

CHRIS O'MALLEY (Irl)³ stated that the budget submitted by the Council was unacceptable because it provided insufficient resources for the three structural funds. Consequently, there was no scope for adequate transfer of resources to create the conditions for developing the Internal Market by 1992.

Mr CORNELISSEN (NL)⁴ was very critical of the Council's cuts in research and development aid. He went on to mention the 'disguised budget deficit of ca. 3 billion ECU' in agricultural expenditure because an excessively high dollar exchange rate compared with the ECU had been used in the draft budget (in July 1987 this deficit was to rise to 4.3. billion (ECU)-.

² Proceedings of the European Parliament, September 1986, p. 109

³ Proceedings of the European Parliament, September 1986, p.111

⁴ Proceedings of the European Parliament, September 1986, p.113

Draft Budget Appropriations

The Council had made the following amendments to the Commission's preliminary draft budget (in brackets: commitment appropriations).

Administrative expenditure	- 16.417.526 Ecu
Agricultural Structural Funds	+ 16.348.840 Ecu
	(+ 871.867) Ecu
Fisheries	- 12.976.360 Ecu
	(- 79.063.784) Ecu
Regional Policy	-143.156.572 Ecu
	(-104.921.648) Ecu
Transport	- 13.230.426 Ecu
	(- 21.391.840) Ecu
Social Policy	- 94.139.923 Ecu
	(- 34.338.161 Ecu
Culture and the Environment	- 35.962.513 Ecu
	(- 39.983.593) Ecu
Research and Industry	-164.196.540 Ecu
	(-412.952.158) Ecu
Refunds to Member States	- 69.977.821 Ecu
	(-104.670.067) Ecu
Development Aid	-197.834.689 Ecu
	(-283.591.801 Ecu
<hr/>	
TOTAL	-730.224.637 Ecu
	(-1.098.202.316) Ecu

Implementation of the 1986 Budget

On 23 October 1986 Horst Langes (D)⁵, on behalf of all the Groups, presented the oral question under the Notenboom Procedure on the implementation of the 1986 budget. He noted that the question was important in order to check during the year whether the Commission and the Council were implementing the budget as established by the European Parliament. He stressed that all parliamentary committees should monitor whether and how the budget was implemented throughout the year. The budgetary powers acquired so laboriously by the European Parliament were of no consequence unless the amounts decided on by the Parliament were spent on the policies included in the budget; this was particularly true of non-compulsory expenditure.

Heinrich Aigner (D)⁶ supported the appeal to the parliamentary committees. His main concern, he said, was the conflict between Parliament's budgetary powers and the Council's legislative powers. Parliament regarded the budget as a sufficient legal basis for the implementation of expenditure. The Council, on the other hand, always required a directive first. Even though the Commission had in a number of cases supported Parliament and recognized the budget as a legal basis, it ought to do so more often.

Future Financing of the Community

On 23 October 1986 Parliament also discussed the Budget Committee's report on future financing (Barón Crespo report - Doc. A 2-124/86). Horst Langes (D)⁷ said that the Fontainebleau special arrangements could not be extended any further.

⁵Proceedings of the European Parliament, October 1986, p. 192

⁶Proceedings of the European Parliament, October 1986, p.196

⁷Proceedings of the European Parliament, October 1986, p.202

'They have not helped in any way; they have been a nuisance; they have rendered the entire financing of the Community less transparent'. He also stressed that there should be a punctual transfer of direct taxes to the Community. '...that could mean petrol tax and road tax, for example, since these taxes have to be harmonized anyway if we want a free internal market by 1992'. Parliament, he said, would have to assume direct responsibility towards the people if it were to increase such taxes.

Parliament's first reading of the 1987 budget

The debate and vote on the first reading of the 1987 budget took place on 12 and 13 November 1986.

Horst Langes (D)⁸ said that if the intention was to complete the free internal market by 1992, the northern countries would have to realize that only an increase in the structural funds would create the conditions for this. At the same time, however, it was necessary to increase the funds for Community research, technology and industrial policy since such funds were intended to lead to higher economic growth and hence create the possibility for increasing the 'solidarity' transfers. He went on to criticize the Council for making substantial cuts in funds for development aid. With regard to agricultural policy he presented the EPP Group's draft amendment aimed at reducing the milk quota by 5% and at the same time compensating farmers for the milk not supplied.

The following members of the EPP Group also took part in the debate: Pol Marck(B), Maria-Luisa Cassanmagnago (I), Marlene Lenz (D), Otto Bardong (D), Francesco Lucas Pires (P), Pam Cornelissen (NL), Chris O'Malley (Irl), Wolfgang Hackel (D), Michel Debatisse (F), Joachim Dalsass (I); Manfred Ebel (D), Jacques Mallet (F)

⁸Proceedings of the European Parliament, 12 November 1986, p.85

Marietta Giannakou-Koutsikou (GR) Hans Potschki (D), Georgios
Anastassopoulos (GR), Marcelle Lentz-Cornette (L), Renate Charlotte Rabethge (D)

At its first reading, the European Parliament added the following amounts
to the Council's Draft:

Administrative expenditure	+ 11.380.358 Ecu
Agricultural Structural Funds	+ 54.185.967 Ecu
	(+ 75.239.897)Ecu
Fisheries	+ 10.269.988 Ecu
	(+ 78.357.462)Ecu
Regional Policy	+ 96.318.000 Ecu
	(+ 317.110.000)Ecu
Transport	+ 7.081.840 Ecu
	(+ 42.081.840)Ecu
Social Policy	+ 66.641.392 Ecu
	(+ 73.073.559)Ecu
Culture and the Environment	+ 30.587.374 Ecu
	(+ 33.598.454)Ecu
Research and Industry	+ 79.325.399 Ecu
	(+ 238.986.909)Ecu
Refunds to Member States	+ 15.686.151 Ecu
	(+ 19.681.151)Ecu
Development Aid	+ 179.412.604 Ecu
	(+ 205.454.705)Ecu
Agricultural Guarantees	+1.962.000.000 Ecu
	<hr/>
TOTAL	+2.512.788.153 Ecu
	(+3.056.969.515)Ecu

On 26 and 27 November the Council held its second reading and accepted the following increases over the first reading:

Administrative expenditure	+	3.807.000 Ecu
Agricultural Structural Funds	+	13.050.529 Ecu
	(+)	4.018.768) Ecu
Fisheries	+	9.269.988 Ecu
	(+)	77.357.462) Ecu
Regional Policy	+	77.312.000 Ecu
	(+)	67.110.000) Ecu
Transport	+	5.000.000 Ecu
Social Policy	+	44.374.720 Ecu
	(+)	42.168.400) Ecu
Culture and the Environment	+	21.210.000 Ecu
	(+)	23.210.000) Ecu
Research and Industry	+	47.290.000 Ecu
	(+)	195.690.000) Ecu
Refunds to Member States	+	16.468.943 Ecu
Development Aid	+	64.374.349 Ecu
Agricultural Guarantees	+	31.427.304 Ecu
		<hr/>
TOTAL	+	302.057.529 Ecu
	(+)	461.257.877) Ecu

In the Council's opinion these increases would leave 62 million ECU in payment appropriations for the European Parliament to juggle with although there was no margin for additional commitment appropriations.

As far as compulsory expenditure is concerned, the Council's approach to the proposals submitted on the initiative of the EPP Group to reduce the milk production quota by a further 5% while making compensation payments to producers for milk not supplied was positive in the sense that it accepted a heading in the budget for this without, however, entering the necessary amounts for compensation in the budget and merely making a token entry.

Parliament's second reading was from 9 to 12 December 1986. Group spokesman Efthimios Christodoulou (GR)⁹ said that the second reading by the Council was not a solution to

1. the unavoidable carry-over to the 1987 budget of the deficit from the current financial year (1986);
2. the fact that in 1987 agricultural expenditure would be exceeded by roughly 4 billion ECU;
3. Parliament's margin for manoeuvre on non-compulsory expenditure.

On this last point the failure of the Council and Parliament to agree on what constitutes compulsory and non-compulsory expenditure had given rise to a pointless situation where it was no longer clear what precisely the margin of the European Parliament was. 'The important thing for the Community is not whether our margin is 50 or 100 million ECU greater or smaller, but how the Community's goals can most fully be served'. In its second reading Parliament would therefore adopt a pragmatic approach and not exploit to the full the margin to which it believed it was entitled.

After a long conciliation procedure with the Council which failed to produce any agreement, Parliament agreed to the following increases:

Payment appropriations

Administrative expenditure	+ 4.5 Mio Ecu
Regional Policy	+ 7.3 Mio Ecu
Social Policy and the environment	+ 10.3 Mio Ecu
Industry, Energy and Research	+ 19.8 Mio Ecu
Development Aid	+ 109.2 Mio Ecu
TOTAL	+ 151.1 Mio Ecu
Commitment Appropriations	- 186.5 Mio Ecu

⁹ Proceedings of the European Parliament,
December 1986, p. 91

In the Council's opinion Parliament's decision would necessarily lead to a rise in the rate of increase for both payments and commitments. Since the European Court of Justice had ruled in June 1986 that Parliament and the Council would have to agree on the maximum rate of increase, and that agreement had not been reached, not even after the long period of conciliation with the Council prior to the vote, the President of the European Parliament was unable to declare the Budget adopted.

For the first time in the history of the European Communities, therefore a situation had arisen whereby at the end of the year the budget had neither been adopted nor rejected. A 'third' reading would therefore be necessary. In fact the clocks were stopped until an agreement was reached. In the opinion of the various spokesmen of the EPP Group agreement would be possible if the Council were to make the following concessions:

1. The Council would have to go some way towards accommodating Parliament's views on increasing payments and commitments. A dialogue would have to be started on the classification of compulsory and non-compulsory expenditure and hence the European Parliament's margin for manoeuvre which in Parliament's view was 900 m ECU and in the Council's view 300 m..
2. The Council of Agriculture Ministers would have to take specific decisions on the lines of Parliament's proposals concerning a reduction in the structural agricultural surpluses.
3. The Council would have to adopt a clear policy on financing the Budget deficit, estimated to be in the order of 4 billion ECU.

The following members took part in the debate: Efthimios Christodoulou (GR), Pol Marck (B), Pam Cornelissen (NL), Wolfgang Hackel (D) and Francesco Lucas Pires (P).

The dialogue that had been requested took place on 9 January 1987 but it produced no solution to the question of increasing non-compulsory expenditure. The Commission then took the initiative and presented a modified budget, proposing that some of the amounts in question be placed in a negative reserve.

Its proposals were:

1. 62m ECU of the payment appropriations would have to be accepted; 88m ECU would have to be placed in the negative reserve.
2. The commitment appropriations would have to be increased by 62 m ECU, which would involve a corresponding rise in the rate of increase; The remaining 123.7m ECU would be transferred to the negative reserve.

At its sitting of 21 January 1987 the European Parliament unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Council to make a fresh offer to Parliament on the basis of the new proposals from the Commission so that it could finally adopt the budget in February 1987. Only after two sessions, the second lasting 14 hours, was the Council able to make a counter proposal stating its willingness to increase the commitment appropriations by 5 m ECU and at the same time presenting an ingenious formula whereby it would not be obliged to step up the rate of increase for commitment appropriations. The remaining payment and commitment appropriations were transferred to the negative reserve.

On 19 February 1987 the European Parliament almost unanimously (304 for, 41 against (Socialist, Rainbow, Communist) and 5 abstentions (Rainbow and Communist Groups) adopted a resolution expressly raising the rate of increase for the commitments by 0.049% in accordance with the increase of 5 m ECU approved by the Council. The 1987 Budget was then declared adopted by the President of the European Parliament.

Future financing of the Community in the light of the objectives of the European Act

In order to achieve the objectives set out in the European Act - completion of the free internal market, and greater convergence of the economies of the Member States - the Commission proposes a different form of financing for the European budget.

Since the decision of April 1970 the Community has enjoyed Financial autonomy as a result of the creation of own resources:

1. customs duties
2. levies
3. VAT basis with a ceiling of 1%

However, since 1984 these own resources have been insufficient to cover expenditure. As a result, in 1984 and 1985 on the basis of inter-governmental agreements, advances amounting to 0.14% and 0.23% of the VAT ceiling were granted by the Member States. From 1986 onwards the VAT ceiling was increased to 1.4% (decision of 7.5.1985). The Fontainebleau agreement of 25 and 26 June 1984 also included a decision to compensate the United Kingdom in respect of its contribution. The result of this was that from 1986 onwards the 1.4% was no longer enough to finance the budget. Total debts of 840 billion ECU for 1986 were carried over to 1987.

Although the Fontainebleau Agreement stipulated that VAT could be increased to 1.6% the Commission proposed a different approach because otherwise the Community's own resources would increase by too little to cover expenditure, the reasons being:

1. reductions in customs duties and levies because of multilateral agreements;
2. the VAT basis was increasing at a slower rate than the GNP,
3. as a result of the Fontainebleau agreement the 1.4% was in reality only 1.27% (only 0.69% for the UK).

Because expenditure had been increasing, not least because of the policy measures needed to complete the internal market, and revenue had declined the Commission proposed supplementing existing own resources by a sort of financial contribution from the Member States consisting of a percentage of the difference between 1 - 1.4% VAT and the GNP of Member States.

The EPP Group discussed the financing proposals at its study days in Berlin from 1 - 5 June 1987 when the following statistics were submitted by Wolfgang Hackel (D) to give an impression of financing in the period 1975 - 1985 in comparison with what the Member States received back from the Community Budget.

1987 (1)					1976 - 1985 (2)	
Population in millions	GNP (EC=100)	VAT revenue of the EC		total		
		per capita EC=100	Ecu per capita	Net Contributors(+) Net Recipients(-) in million ECU (3)	Net Contributors(+) Net Recipients(-) ECU per capita	
1. LUXEMBOURG	0,3	128	219,3	165,5	+ 165,4 (4)	+ 551 (-7.781) (5)
2. DENMARK	5,1	124	134,8	101,7	- 2.049,4	- 401
3. GERMANY	61,1	123	136,1	102,7	+ 20.835,5	+ 341
4. FRANCE	54,9	113	124,6	94,0	+ 2.046,7	+ 37
5. BELGIUM	9,8	109	100	75,4	+ 2.736,2	+ 279 (-240) (5)
6. HOLLAND	14,4	103	107,7	81,3	- 1.872,8	- 130
7. UNITED KINGDOM	56,4	101	69,7	52,6	+ 9.270,8	+ 164
8. ITALY	57,0	93	82,5	62,2	- 4.220,6	- 74
9. SPAIN	38,3	74	100	75,4	-	-
10. IRELAND	3,5	71	79,3	59,9	- 6.318,4	- 1.805
11. GREECE	9,9	53	44,9	33,9	- 4.041,2	- 408 (6)
12. PORTUGAL	10,0	50	44,4	33,5	-	-

- Figures supplied by the German Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF/vb 287 - Annex 3 and 4)
- Calculated by W. HACKEL from the last ten annual reports of the European Court of Auditors, cf. Annex 1, and presented during the study days of the EPP Group in June 1987
- These figures include the compensation payments to the UK. They do not include the administrative costs, nor the expenditure for development aid to third countries.
- Bearing in mind in the 1985 budget year there was expenditure of roughly 1 billion ECU in Belgium and roughly 500 million in Luxembourg and that the administration and the officials spent the greater proportion of this money in those Member States, and bearing in mind that in 1976 - 1985 these sums were roughly five times as much, we see that Belgium was a net recipient and Luxembourg a major net recipient
- The figures in brackets take account of the fact that the countries mentioned in 4 were net recipients.
- Five years (1981-1985).

The EPP Group criticized the Commission's proposals in that they differed from the hard-won system of own resources intended to guarantee the financial autonomy of the Community. At the suggestion of Horst LANGES (D) the EPP Group adopted the following policy position:

FINANCES AND FINANCIAL REFORMS IN THE EEC

As agreed by the EPP in its closed session in Berlin from 1 to 5 June 1987

1. For the 1987 Budget the Community needs considerable additional revenue in order to plug the gap in the budget and to prevent an even greater negative balance thereby freeing the budget for 1988 from debts carried over from previous years.
2. The EPP Group expects the Council to submit a draft budget for 1988 in which expenditure is covered in full by revenue; if not, then there is a risk of the 1988 budget being rejected by the European Parliament at its first reading.
3. The EPP Group advocates implementation of the objectives of the Single European Act, the most important point being completion of the free internal market. In the light of the budgetary situation for 1987 and 1988 and given the financial requirements imposed by implementation of the Single European Act, it urges the Community to adopt a new financial system as soon as possible to give it adequate and guaranteed own resources.
4. The EPP Group concurs with the Commission's idea of using GNP as the criterion, but believes that the methods proposed by the Commission - calculating the GNP of the countries of the EC and using this as a basis for calling up an additional contribution per country- is a retrograde step compared with the contribution system used in the past.
5. Solutions will therefore have to be found to maintain the system of own resources. One solution might be to introduce additional VAT with autonomous tariff rights for the Community which would take adequate account of the differences in standards of living in the Member States.

6. An alternative might be to relinquish revenue from one of the major existing national consumer taxes: for example the duty on oil (gasoline).
7. The Commission has also proposed discontinuing 10% refund on the customs duties and agricultural levies collected by the Member States and paying the ECSC levies into the Community budget; we support these proposals, although Member States should be given a lump-sum compensation for the actual costs of collection.
8. Harmonization of VAT must be completed according to schedule, if only for the purpose of the internal market programme submitted by the Commission.
9. This new financial system must be approved as soon as possible. Its objective must be to create an equitable, shared-liability and adequate source of revenue for the Community; failing this it will not be possible to realize the objectives of the Single European Act by 1992.

Supplementary budget No. 1 for 1987

On 1 June 1987 the Commission submitted a supplementary budget.

The following are the deficits for 1987:

Debt from 1986	840 million ECU
Reduced revenue, customs duties	1.310 million ECU
VAT	140 million ECU
Additional expenditure on agriculture	2.790 million ECU

	5.080 million ECU

These figures are correct only if the Commission's proposals for agricultural prices are approved. If, for example, the duty on fats is abolished the deficit will be 2 million ECU greater by July 1988.

The Commission proposes financing the deficit as follows:

Reserve up to a ceiling of 1.4% of VAT	630 million ECU
Government agreement on advances	1.666 million ECU
Amending agricultural regulations to scrap advances with payments being made only at the time of intervention	2.790 million ECU

In addition there are debts of 17 billion ECU for 1987 of which 9 billion are debts carried over from the structural funds and 8 billion for depreciation and sale of agricultural surpluses.

Only after the European Council had given 'instructions' to the Budget Council was the latter able to submit the supplementary budget. The Council took no notice whatsoever of the Commission's proposals and presented what Group spokesman Horst Langes described as a financial "hotch-potch", the distinguishing feature of which was that the Council believed the Community to be richer than it really was.

The Council has made some ingenious calculations to make own resources higher than they really are and in addition the Member States are not refunded the 10% costs of collecting own-resources over the last 6 months of 1987. However,

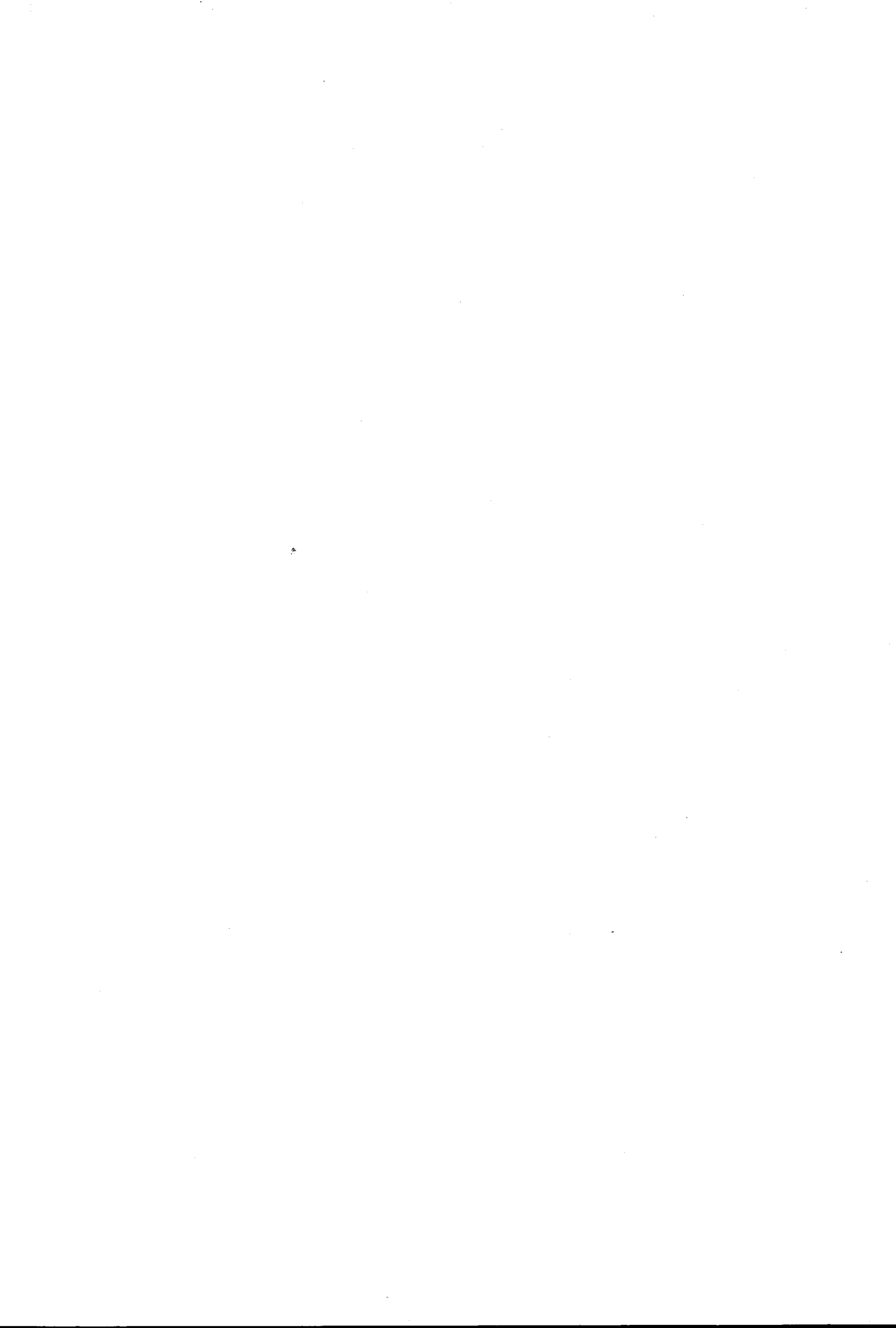
because these costs will be refunded in 1988 (possibly with interest) this is only pseudo-financing. The only sensible proposal from the Council is to use VAT up to 1.4% which supplies an additional 627 million ECU.

Since the Agricultural Ministers have now taken decisions on the price package which differ considerably from the Commission's proposals the deficit on the agricultural budget has risen to 4.3 billion ECU. In reality the deficit on the 1987 budget has increased to 6.5 billion ECU. Hence, what the Council's proposals really mean are that only 10% of the deficit will be covered. The rest will in fact be passed on to the 1988 budget. Parliament discussed this supplementary budget at its 1987 July session. By that time the Agricultural Council had still not taken its decision on changing the system of agricultural financing from advances to post-payments. As a result a situation had arisen which made it impossible for Parliament to accept the Council's budget proposals.

A proposal by the EPP members of the Committee on Budgets to get the Council to extend by the gentlemen's agreement used in the past the 45 day period provided for in the Treaty so that Parliament could hold its first reading in September, since by then the agricultural ministers would also take a decision, was rejected by the other Groups.

The Committee on Budgets then adopted a resolution proposing to Parliament that the supplementary budget be rejected because in reality all the problems had been passed on to a 1988 budget. However, because this resolution received only 232 of the requisite number of votes, thereby failing to reach the qualified majority provided for in the Treaty, rejection of the budget was not accepted, although there were only 80 votes against with 40 abstentions. The President of Parliament was therefore obliged to declare that the supplementary budget No. 1 for 1987 had been adopted.

Jan WESTENBOEK



COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS AND INDUSTRIAL POLICY

I. Functions of members of the EPP Group

Chairman:

Bouke BEUMER (NL)

Coordinator:

Fernand HERMAN (B)

Deputy coordinator:

Otmar FRANZ (D)

Members:

Luis BEIROCO (P)

Bouke BEUMER (NL)

Philipp VON BISMARCK (D)

Otmar FRANZ (D)

Ingo FRIEDRICH (D)

Fernand HERMAN (B)

Robert HERSANT (F)

Ernest MÜHLEN (L)

Roger PARTRAT (F)

Thomas RAFTERY (IRL)

Giovanni STARITA (I)

Karl VON WOGAU (D)

Substitutes:

Jean-Pierre ABELIN (F)

Ursula BRAUN-MOSER (D)

Efthimios CHRISTODOULOU (GR)

Joachim DALSSASS (I)

Sergio ERCINI (I)

Giovanni GIAVAZZI (I)

Rudolf LUSTER (D)

Christopher O'MALLEY (IRL)

Günter RINSCHKE (D)

Rudolf WEDEKIND (D)

In the period under review the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy focussed its attention on progress towards the completion of the European internal market by 1992. The new cooperation procedures under Article 100A of the EEC Treaty which came into force on 1 July 1987 and the remaining provisions of the Single European Act will undoubtedly influence future developments in this area. The committee made a special effort to reduce the backlog of Commission proposals not yet approved by Parliament, particularly those relating to technical harmonization.

In spite of the 'new approach', which involves easing the burden on the Community's legislative procedure by replacing detailed harmonization provisions by reference to technical standards, the committee was inundated once again in the period under review by a flood of harmonization directives which contained extensive technical descriptions and annexes and were therefore rejected.

However, talks with the Commission produced compromise solutions in each instance and the majority of the proposals are now being dealt with under the new cooperation procedure.

As a result of the efforts of the committee and of Parliament to reduce the backlog and those of the Ministers on the extremely active Council for matters relating to the internal market, the delay between debates in Parliament and the final adoption of a proposal by the Council has been significantly reduced.

Since the time of the Dutch Presidency, the committee has been asked to send its rapporteurs for unofficial talks on items on the Council's agendas relating to the internal market. This caused problems initially in that items took so long to appear on Parliament's agendas that some rapporteurs had resigned from Parliament in the meantime and others had died. One of the consequences of the efforts to reduce the backlog was that the political relevance of the work done by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy in relation to the internal market was increased enormously.

Topical issues in the field of economic policy and in particular the general development of the economy, the crisis in the steel industry, progress towards the completion of the internal market, the World Economic Summit in Venice, the monetary policies of the Member States and the EMS were raised by the committee in the form of oral questions or during topical and urgent debates. This enabled the Committee on Economic and Monetary

Affairs and Industrial Policy, under its new chairman, Bouke BEUMER (NL), to exert greater influence in discussions relating to economic and trade policy and to improve its public image.

The European Parliament's decisions on economic policy during the period under review can be divided into the following sectors:

- general economic policy and convergence
- monetary policy
- competition policy
- completion of the internal market:
 - (a) general - White Paper
 - (b) technical harmonization
- sectoral industrial policy.

GENERAL ECONOMIC POLICY AND CONVERGENCE

The EP shares the aims of the Commission which involve not only increasing international competition but also concentrating on increasing indigenous growth potential. In connection with the implementation of the cooperative growth strategy, Parliament has pointed out that there has been little improvement in economic performance in terms of real growth and effective employment and very little change in the level of unemployment. The Community should aim at an average annual growth rate of 3 - 3.5% in the period 1986-1990, in order to reduce the level of unemployment effectively to below 7% by 1990 (1).

(1) CASSIDY report, Doc. A 2-128/86, on the proposal from the Commission, COM(86) 530 final, for a decision adopting the annual report on the economic situation in the Community and laying down economic guidelines for 1986-1987

Urgent resolution on the world economic situation on the basis of three motions for resolutions (1)

In the compromise text which the European Parliament adopted to replace the three motions for resolutions, it refers to the plans for a World Economic Summit in Venice from 8 to 10 May 1987 and the 'Textile and Apparel Trade Act of 1987' which was being discussed at that time in the US Congress. The aim of this act was to lay down an overall quota for imports of textile and clothing products into the United States which represents unilateral violation of the provisions of GATT and calls the new Multifibre Arrangement into question. Parliament stressed the importance of a strong EMS for the world monetary system and called on the Heads of State and Government meeting in Venice to take the Louvre Agreement as their example and to conclude agreements to restore stability to the world currency markets.

Resolution to wind up the debate on the economic situation in 1987 (compromise text to replace four motions for resolutions) (2)

Following a debate in which Bouke BEUMER (NL) and Christopher O'MALLEY (IRL) spoke on behalf of the EPP Group, Parliament adopted a resolution based on the motion tabled by Egon A. KLEPSCH (D), Karl VON WOGAU (D) and Fernand HERMAN (B).

It called on the Community to play a decisive role in giving impetus to the objective of growth by completing the internal market, implementing the cooperative strategy for growth and employment, promoting free trade, pursuing an active foreign trade policy and improving cooperation on monetary policy. A package of measures was put forward in connection with each of these proposals.

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- (1) Doc. B 2-168/87 by the ED Group on the threat to the stability of the world trading system, Doc. B 2-177/87 on American restrictions on textile imports and Doc. B 2-221/87 on the world economic summit in Venice
- (2) Joint resolution on the economic situation in 1987 replacing motions for resolutions Docs. B 2-503, 504, 506 and 508/87 (18 June 1987)

MONETARY POLICY

Referring to its earlier resolutions on monetary policy, Parliament repeated its demands in all discussions on monetary issues for:

- greater cooperation between the Member States on monetary, budgetary, and fiscal policy,
- a stronger and wider role for the ECU and
- further development of the EMS to create an autonomous European central banking system.

(See resolution on the economic situation of 18 June 1987)

EUROPEAN MONETARY SYSTEM

Topical and urgent debate of 22 January 1987 - Joint resolution on the European Monetary System (1) based on six motions for resolutions

Parliament took note of the parity realignments agreed to by the Council of Finance Ministers in Brussels on 11 January and called on the Commission to draft new proposals to strengthen the EMS whose specific aims would be to:

- coordinate exchange policies with regard to the dollar,
- strengthen the international role of the ECU,
- improve the rules governing intervention by central banks within fluctuation margins,
- reinforce the role of the EMCF in consolidating the EMS.

LIBERALIZING CAPITAL MOVEMENTS - Article 67 of the EEC Treaty

BUENO VICENTE report on the proposal from the Commission COM(86) 326 final for a directive amending for the third time the first Directive for the implementation of Article 67 of the EEC Treaty (liberalization of capital movements) (2)

The European internal market cannot be completed unless capital movements are liberalized. The EP called for uniform economic policies in the Member States to facilitate liberalization of capital movements in the Community.

(1) Docs. B 2-1444/86 and B 2-1446/86 (rejected)

Docs. B 2-1412/86 (HERMAN/EPP), B 2-1414/86 (FOURÇANS/LDR), B 2-1426/86 (DE LA MALENE/ERDA) and B 2-1448/86 (BONACCINI and others)

(2) Doc. A 2-110/86

Parliament felt that, in the spirit of the Single European Act, this process must help to increase economic and social cohesion in the Community and that provisions must be made for monitoring and controls to curb any abuses and fraudulent practices that are encouraged by the liberalization of capital movements. Parliament welcomed the Commission's recent programme for gradual liberalization. The report also dealt with such matters as the safeguard clause and Community loans, the admission of securities to the capital market, the merging of Lists A and B (under the 1960 Directive) and, finally, the transitional provisions for the new Member States, Spain and Portugal.

COMPETITION POLICY

GASOLIBA I BÖHM report on the fifteenth report of the Commission of the European Communities on competition policy (1)

In its resolution on the Commission's fifteenth report on competition policy, Parliament stressed the importance of this policy but noted that competition was still being distorted, partly and perhaps chiefly by public authorities. These problems could not be resolved solely by reference to competitions rules; there was a need for further common policies in various sectors of economic policy. Parliament insisted that it be involved in the elaboration of block exemption regulations and that the annual report on competition policy be submitted earlier. It stressed, in particular, the need for a common air transport policy and called for greater transparency in and attention to matters relating to block exemptions, distribution franchises, joint ventures, merger controls, the media, copyright and concentration. Special reference was made to state aid (including that granted covertly) and other action taken by public authorities which has the effect of distorting competition. Parliament also drew attention to the need for uniform application of Community law and more extensive use of that law by the courts. It called for greater transparency of procedures and results in connection with the monitoring of aid. The report was adopted on the basis of a roll-call vote taken at the request of the ED and EPP Groups by 124 votes to 51 with 1 abstention. Karl VON WOGAU (D), Reinhold BOCKLET (D) and Ingo FRIEDRICH (D) spoke on behalf of the Group.

(1) Doc. A 2-136/86

INTERNAL MARKET

(a) General - Implementation of the provisions of the White Paper

Oral question B 2-975/86 on the internal market - Joint resolution B 2-1023/86 tabled by PATTERSON/ED, VON WOGAU/EPP, DE VRIES and SCRIVENER/LDR and ROGALLA and BONACCINI

In its resolution, Parliament expressed concern over the fact that the internal market programme has fallen behind schedule. Speaking on behalf of the Group, Karl VON WOGAU (D) expressed doubts as to whether the Heads of State and Government were serious in proposing 1992 as the date for completion of the internal market. He described the Single European Act as a minimum requirement for the completion of the internal market and called on all Member States which had not ratified the Act to do so as soon as possible. Group spokesman: Karl VON WOGAU (D).

Completion of the internal market in services (1)

This own-initiative report (request submitted by the EPP Group) deals with freedom to provide services, which is a vital aspect of the internal market. It deals specifically with services connected with insurance, banking, advertising, the media, consultancy and tourism.

Introduction of common border posts (2)

The proposal for a directive contains provisions to simplify customs clearance procedures at the internal borders of the Community, which currently involve clearance at the exit point of the exporting country and the entrance point of the importing country, by ensuring that all procedures are carried out at a single customs post.

Group spokesmen: Pam CORNELISSEN and Tom RAFTERY

(1) ROGALLA report, Doc. A 2-167/86, on the economic aspects of achieving the internal market in services

(2) ROGALLA report, Doc. A 2-34/87, on a proposal for a regulation on the abolition of exit formalities at internal Community frontiers - introduction of common border posts

(b) Technical harmonization

Technical harmonization and standards (1)

Parliament's resolution refers to the need for common European technical standards to remove technical barriers to trade and to establish the internal market in advanced technologies and calls for the legislative procedure of reference to technical standards to be applied in future. It also calls for European standards to be established as the first stage of standardization for all new products of the 'sunrise' technologies. Parliament points out that manufacturers, users and consumers must play an appropriate part in drawing up European standards. Additional appropriations should be entered in the Community budget to subsidize the administrative costs of the European standardization bodies such as the CEN and CENELEC. The mutual recognition of certificates of conformity is another important aid to abolishing barriers to trade. In his remarks, the rapporteur, Karl VON WOGAU (D), pointed out that the internal market will become the main growth factor for European companies in the coming years. Standards will provide impetus for progress towards the internal market and advanced technologies will provide major growth potential. The report was adopted with a substantial majority. Group spokesmen: Karl VAN WOGAU (D), Maria Luisa CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI (statement submitted in writing).

BEUMER report, Doc. A 2-10/87, on the proposal from the Commission COM(86) 704 final - Doc. C 2-191/86, for a directive amending Directive 76/116/EEC in respect of fluid fertilizers

Extension of the CADDIA programme (2)

The report advocates the extension of the CADDIA programme which was due to expire in April 1987. This would reflect the importance that this programme has assumed during its initial term beyond its original parameters and allow it to become a key factor in the computerization of the European Communities.

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- (1) VON WOGAU report, Doc. A 2-54/86, on technical harmonization and standards in the European Community
 - (2) VON WOGAU report, Doc. A 2-35/87, on the proposal from the Commission, COM(87) 59 final - Doc. C 2-223/86, for a decision concerning the extension of the period of validity of the Decision 85/214/EEC of 26 March 1985 and the Decision 86/23/EEC of 4 February 1986

Parliament called for a debate on each annual report on the CADDIA programme and for full information on the work of the Steering Group. Parliament adopted the resolution.

PATTERSON report, Doc. A 2-213/86, on the proposal from the Commission, COM(86) 491 final - Doc. C 2-104/86, for a directive amending Directive 84/534/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the permissible sound power level of tower cranes

Direct satellite television broadcasting (1)

In response to repeated demands from the European Parliament for a common technical standard for direct satellite broadcasting in connection with television in Europe, the Commission submitted a proposal for a directive choosing the MAC/packet family of standards (MAC = multiplexed analogue components) as the most feasible compromise available. The aim is to avoid a recurrence of the split in the European market generated by the PAL and SECAM systems.

Roll-over protection structures on tractors (2)

Parliament's opposition to the original Commission proposal resulted in the text being cut from 105 pages to 59 without detriment to the aim of ensuring the safety of narrow-track wheeled tractors! The efforts of the rapporteur mark a further victory in the battle against red tape.

VISSER report, Doc. A 2-81/87, on the proposal from the Commission, COM(86) 112 final - Doc. C 2-11/86, for a directive on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to simple pressure vessels

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- (1) DE VRIES report, Doc. A 2-108/86, on the proposal from the Commission, COM(86) 1 final, for a directive on the adoption of common technical specifications of the MAC/packet family of standards for direct satellite television broadcasting
 - (2) VON WOGAU report, Doc. A 2-86/87, on the amended proposal from the Commission, COM(86) 776 final - Doc. C 2-203/86, for a directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to roll-over protection structures incorporating two pillars and mounted in front of the driver's seat on narrow-track wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors

BEAZLEY report, Doc. A 2-84/87, on the proposal from the Commission for a directive amending Directive 70/156/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to type approval of motor vehicles and their trailers and adapting to technical progress Directive 80/156/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to type approval of motor vehicles and their trailers.

TAX HARMONIZATION

OPPENHEIM report, Doc. A 2-90/86, on the proposal from the Commission for a directive imposing a standstill on VAT and excise duties.

Eighteenth and Nineteenth Directives on value added tax (1)

The directives are concerned with exemptions from the general VAT regulation (Sixth VAT Directive) for certain types of goods such as cultural events etc. The Eighteenth Directive deals with new exemptions from existing fiscal provisions (e.g. VAT on parcel post) and with existing VAT exemptions which should be rescinded. The Nineteenth Directive deals mainly with the standardization of the exemption arrangements organized by public suppliers and includes provisions for granting exemptions in the art and culture sector.

The motion for resolution proposes changes affecting gold, newspapers etc. and attempts to rationalize the scope of exemptions and to avoid imbalances and injustice.

VAT rules applicable to the operation of a future cross-Channel fixed Link (2)

The main thrust of the proposal for a directive is to secure VAT exemptions for passenger transport in the Channel tunnel from 1993 to prevent the distortion of competition in passenger transport in relation to other modes of transport (ferries) as these are already free of VAT. This exemption was granted on the basis of the transitional provisions of Article 23.3b of the Sixth VAT Directive but it expires in 1990.

(1) WEDEKIND report, Doc. A 2-249/86, on the proposals from the Commission for an Eighteenth and Nineteenth Directive on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes - common system of VAT

(2) BEUMER report, Doc. A 2-162/86, on the proposal from the Commission for a directive on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes - VAT rules applicable to the operation of a future cross-Channel fixed Link

SECTORAL INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND STRUCTURAL POLICY

Small firms (1)

This own-initiative report provides an initial assessment of Community policy on small firms and examines the Commission's action programme for small and medium-sized undertakings. Administrative, legal and fiscal constraints and the lack of own capital, which means that the firms have no access to capital markets, create barriers to the exploitation of the innovation potential of small firms, hinder growth, create problems for setting up new companies and leave new markets untapped. The aim of the Commission's action programme is to promote greater flexibility. It calls for the involvement of small firms in the activities of existing instruments:

- EIB financing/block grants,
- the Commission's innovation programme,
- the development of science parks,
- encouragement for transnational technological cooperation,
- the development of innovation and business establishment centres,
- training programmes financed under the Social Fund.

A few minor amendments were made to the resolution which was adopted with a substantial majority (from all political groups). The following spoke on behalf of the Group: Mrs Marietta GIANNAKOU-KOUTSIKOU (GR), Ingo FRIEDRICH (D), Jochen VAN AERSSSEN (D) and Jon GANGOITI LLAGUNO (P).

STEEL

On 23 October 1986, Parliament adopted a resolution tabled by the Socialist Group, despite the opposition of the EPP Group. It called on the Commission to withdraw its proposals for the gradual withdrawal of individual products such as wires, rods and various kinds of sheeting and heavy sections from the crisis cartel. It also called for an immediate halt to imports of steel.

(1) NIELSEN report, Doc. A 2-27/87, on small and medium-sized enterprises and craft industries

(2) Resolution Doc. B 2-1089/86 on the worsening of the situation in the European iron and steel industry and the liberalization measures which the Commission intends to introduce in the steel sector

Commission statement on the steel industry (March 1987)

Karlheinz NARJES, Vice-President of the Commission, gave a report on the situation in the steel market and answered Members' questions, including one by Fritz PIRKL (D). The Peak Marwick & Mitchell report commissioned by Eurofer concludes that voluntary reduction of capacity would be possible in principle. In general terms this would involve roughly 11.5 m tonnes of capacity and approximately 22 000 jobs. This would be politically unfeasible, particularly in respect of major public companies and new techniques.

Topical and urgent debate of 14 May 1987 (1)

In a compromise resolution on the worsening of the situation in the European steel industry, Parliament called on the Council and Commission to continue with the Community steel crisis system for three or four more years and improve it in order to provide comprehensive job security and to prevent a new, damaging round of escalating subsidies and avoid distortion of competition.

Other measures needed to adapt production capacity and restructure the steel industry include:

- improvement of the quota arrangements,
- the speeding-up of the anti-dumping procedures,
- a revision of all agreements including the existing supply agreements with 15 countries, strict application of the 'triple clause' and effective controls.

The Council and Commission were called upon to allocate the funds needed to finance the extended and supplemented measures to provide social and regional support and, using other Community instruments (EIB, NCI, ECSC), to put forward plans for integrated structural programmes in steel regions affected by the crisis.

Group spokesmen: Otmar FRANZ (D) and Ernst MÜHLEN (L)

(1) Joint resolution based on motion for a resolution Doc. B 2-362/87 tabled by Otmar FRANZ on behalf of the EPP Group on the situation of the steel industry in the European Community

SHIPBUILDING (1)

The aim of the Commission's proposal for a Sixth Directive on aid to shipbuilding was to introduce a full Community policy on the expiry of the existing regulations at the beginning of 1987. Under the existing system, the Member States had virtually a free hand to determine the extent and grounds for granting aid in this sector, which has been badly affected by the crisis. The maximum rate of 26% of production costs for all types of shipping in all the Member States should put a stop to the unending round of aid whilst maintaining competitive shipbuilding capacity in the Community.

In the vote on the motion for a resolution, a majority of the members of our Group abstained since the arguments put forward by the rapporteur in respect of aid in this sector were not consistent with the votes on the proposal for a directive and did not reflect the EPP Group's line on this issue. Bouke BEUMER asked the Commission whether it would be prepared to withdraw the proposal to take Parliament's opinion into consideration. The Commission refused to do so and announced that it maintained its text. Consequently, Bouke BEUMER proposed that the final vote on the motion for a resolution be postponed under Rule 36(3) of the Rules of Procedure and that the proposal be referred back to committee. Parliament rejected this motion. It approved the Commission proposal and adopted the resolution.

Group spokesmen: Konstantinos STAVROU (GR), Manfred EBEL (D), Bouke BEUMER (NL) and Luis BEIROCO (P).

CAR INDUSTRY (2)

The BEAZLEY report, the latest in a series of reports by the European Parliament on the situation in the Community's car industry and a common strategy for a corresponding industrial policy, refers to differing levels of viability in the car industry, surplus production capacity in certain sectors of the market, trade flow within the Community and, above all, Community exports and imports.

(1) QUIN report, Doc. A 2-181/86, on the proposal from the Commission, COM(86) 531 final, for a Sixth Directive on aid to shipbuilding

(2) BEAZLEY report, Doc. A 2-171/86, on the European Community automobile industry

It deals specifically with:

- the conditions for establishing a true common market for cars,
- the possibility of restricting imports from Japan throughout the Community by means of voluntary restraint agreements,
- the need for Community regulations on the introduction of 'local content' provisions with the aim of ensuring that Japanese and other vehicles assembled in the Community have an 80% local content,
- the fields of research and development, which will enable the European car industry to maintain its drive for innovation and progress at international level,
- the need for social measures to accompany plans for restructuring and rationalization aimed at adapting production capacity,
- measures taken by certain governments which directly or indirectly distort competition, particularly measures taken to assist public companies.

CHEMICALS INDUSTRY (1)

The report by Aldo BONACCINI examines developments in the price of oil, taking into account fluctuations in the exchange rate of the dollar, and calls for:

- a sustained Community energy policy,
- corresponding measures to prevent a further upsurge in the use of oil and refinery products,
- full exploitation of the advantages for the economy as a whole and the Community's policy of cutting interest rates and public debts.

It deplores the fact that some Member States reacted to the drop in oil prices by introducing uncoordinated increases in excise duties. The Community must seize every opportunity to coordinate negotiations on supplies, prices, prospecting and research and should use the ECU in its contracts all in order to stabilize the market. The opinion delivered by the Committee on Energy refers to an energy tax as a viable means of promoting energy policy.

Parliament adopted the resolution by 135 votes to 0 with 8 abstentions.

(1) BONACCINI report, Doc. A 2-245/86, on the consequences of the sharp drop in the price of oil products in the European Community and its Member States

At its sitting of 9 March 1987, Parliament decided, on the basis of a proposal submitted by the political group chairmen (Doc. B 2-62/87), to set up a temporary committee under Rule 91(2) of the Rules of Procedure to draw up a report on the communication from the Commission entitled 'Making a success of the Single Act - a new frontier for Europe'.

EPP members:

Franco BORGIO (I)

Efthimios CHRISTODOULOU (GR)

Karl VON WOGAU (D)

Substitutes:

Bouke BEUMER (NL)

Fernand HERMAN (B)

Hans POETSCHKI (D)

Chairman: Lord PLUMB (UK)

Rapporteurs: Karl VON WOGAU (D),
Enrique BARON CRESPO (ES)

The abovementioned communication (COM(87) 100 final) contained a package of measures aimed at guaranteeing and reforming the Community's financial capacity and autonomy, reforming and modernizing agricultural policy and completing the internal market with a parallel policy of solidarity and cohesion under the Social Fund. These were submitted to the Council for its consideration. On the basis of this communication, the special committee drew up a report, which was adopted by Parliament on 13 May, calling on its President to submit Parliament's opinion at the European Council meeting (1).

The report drew attention to the cost of maintaining the internal frontiers and stressed the enduring aim of European Union. It called for immediate progress following the publication of the Single European Act in the following areas:

(1) BARON CRESPO/VON WOGAU report, Doc. A 2-42/87, on the communication from the Commission entitled: 'Making a success of the Single Act - a new frontier for Europe' - COM(87) 100 final

1. Abolition of frontiers - Common social area: greater economic policy convergence should be achieved, without triggering higher inflation, through the cooperative growth strategy and the creation of jobs. The main aspects of monetary policy must be the extension of the EMS, wider use of the ECU and the development of the EMS to form a European central banking system. A list of criteria is set out in the fields of economy, foreign trade, social and development policy, environment and energy and special importance is attached to public contracts, freedom of capital movements, standards, harmonization of fiscal policy and the social dimension.
2. Economic and social cohesion: The report lists the main aims in the field of social policy. It calls for the extension of the structural funds, with a recommendation that their resources be at least doubled, and for greater convergence of new policies dealing with all aspects of the less-developed regions with special attention being devoted to potential comparative economic advantages of certain productive sectors in those regions.
3. Reform and modernization of the common agricultural policy: The main problems in this area include curbing surplus production by means of a comprehensive policy which is not restricted solely to price controls, supporting family farms by pursuing a particularly active incomes policy and increasing direct income support, promoting less intensive farming methods in the interests of environmental protection, protecting the interests of consumers and aligning agricultural policy with domestic and world markets. The report advocates limiting guarantee funds to 50% of the agricultural budget.
4. Financial capacity and budgetary autonomy: in view of the additional funds required for the implementation of the measures called for in connection with the aims of the Single European Act, the report approves the proposal to set the budget ceiling at 1.4% of aggregate GNP, taking account of the relative prosperity of Member States and advocates proposals for possible new own resources. It rejects repayment systems and the practice of setting annual ceilings which would constitute a return to the system of national contributions. Parliament invites the Council to negotiate with it on a system of budgetary discipline involving annual negotiations with the Council. It underlines the need to consolidate these policies in external economic terms.

The adoption of a number of amendments tabled by EPP members to the sections dealing with agriculture and the budget resulted in a number of textual improvements and the following substantial changes:

Formal criticism of the inadequacy of the proposed arrangements, marginalization of the use of the internal market for the purposes of economic recovery in favour of international competition rules for less-favoured regions, a call for the structural funds to be increased to 25% of the agricultural budget and the creation of effective legal instruments to prevent additional budget resources from being channelled into the guarantee sector and a clear statement that the increase in resources should be used to enable the Community to effect expenditure in place of the Member States, thereby relieving the latter's budgets.

In the debate, the President of the Commission, Jacques DELORS, placed particular emphasis on structural policy, North-South issues, the internal market, capital movements, the social dimension and the budget.

The President of the Council, Leo TINDEMANS, felt that the aims of completing the internal market, reforming the CAP, overcoming the problems caused by enlargement and generating social and economic cohesion were inextricably linked and announced that the Council was deeply involved with the reform of the CAP, the reform of the budget and the promotion of greater cohesion on the basis of the Commission's proposals.

Speaking on behalf of the Group, Panayotis LAMBRIAS (GR) stated that the negotiations on structural policy were a vital prerequisite and that the EPP Group considered more far-reaching policies essential. Franco BORGIO (I) and Nino PISONI (I) placed the emphasis on the reform of the CAP which must provide special support for family farms. Other points raised included environmental protection and the sale of agricultural products outside the Community. Bouke BEUMER (NL) spoke in favour of the founding of a central banking system with a federal structure. Other speakers were critical of the Commission paper, particularly in respect of budgetary, structural and regional policies, the CAP and tax harmonization (Soc. and Lib. Groups).

Explanation of vote: In explaining why he voted against the report in the final vote, Nino PISONI (I) criticised the fact that the Single European Act advocated a CAP under which farmers would be penalized for doing their work. He felt that quota arrangements, co-responsibility levies etc. were all the products of shortsighted policy-making which must not be extended to other

sectors. Reinhold BOCKLET (D) explained that he had voted against the report, like Leopold SPAETH (D) and Franz Ludwig Graf STAUFFENBERG (D), because the restrictive price policy advocated in the report was a thinly disguised version of the Commission's price-cutting policy which would be implemented at the expense of Europe's farmers. His proposal that agricultural and environmental policy should go hand in hand and should be applied over large areas with premiums for farmers maintaining local crops and methods was rejected. He also criticised the fact that guarantee funds had been restricted to 50%. Isidor FRÜH (D) spoke for himself and on behalf of Manfred EBEL (D) and Maria Luisa CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI (I) saying that he had voted against the report despite reservations.

The report was adopted on the basis of a roll-call vote taken at the request of the EPP Group by 226 votes (76 EPP, 17 ED, 95 SOC, 20 LIB, 12 ERDA, 5 Rainbow, 1 Non-attached, 0 COM/ER), to 38 (5 EPP, 1 ED, 15 SOC, 6 Rainbow, 2 Non-attached, 9 COM) with 63 abstentions (3 EPP, 20 ED, 8 SOC, 16 COM, 2 LIB, 6 ERDA, 8 ER).

Group spokesmen: Karl VON WOGAU (D), Panayotis LAMBRIAS (GR), Franco BORGIO (I), John J. McCARTIN (IRL), Roger PARTRAT (F), Bouke BEUMER (NL), Nino PISONI (I) (explanation of vote), Reinhold BOCKLET (D), Maria L. CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI (I), Christopher O'MALLEY (IRL) and Isidor FRÜH (D) (in writing).

Stefan PFITZNER

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

I. ALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES AMONG EPP GROUP MEMBERS (until December 1986)

Vice-Chairman: Bernard SÄLZER (D)
Group Coordinator: Günter RINSCHÉ (D)
Deputy Group Coordinator: Giovanni STARITA (I)

Members

Michelangelo CIANCAGLINI (I)
Nicolas ESTGEN (L)
Jacques MALLET (F)
Werner MÜNCH (D)
Günter RINSCHÉ (D)
Bernard SÄLZER (D)
Leopold SPATH (D)

Substitutes

Dominique BAUDIS (F)
Lambert CROUX (B)
Otmar FRANZ (D)
Karl-Heinz HOFFMANN (D)
Giovanni STARITA (I)
Konstantinos STAVROU (GR)
Karl von WOGAU (D)

I. ALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES AMONG EPP GROUP MEMBERS (from January 1987)

Vice-Chairman: Bernard SÄLZER (D)
Group Coordinator: Mauro CHIABRANDO (I)
Deputy Group Coordinator: Dominique BAUDIS (F)

Members

Dominique BAUDIS (F)
Mauro CHIABRANDO (I)
Michelangelo CIANCAGLINI (I)
Gabriele PEUS (D)
Günter RINSCHÉ (D)
Bernard SÄLZER (D)
Rudolf WEDEKIND (D)

Substitutes

Otmar FRANZ (D)
Karl-Heinz HOFFMANN (D)
Werner MÜNCH (D)
Tom O'DONNELL (IRL)
Giovanni STARITA (I)
Konstantinos STAVROU (GR)
Karl VON WOGAU (D)

INTRODUCTION

1987 will mark the start of a new phase in the process of European integration.

The Community institutions and national parliaments have adopted the Single Act, which constitutes a revision of the Treaties.

For a fuller explanation of the value and contents of the Single Act, readers are referred to the reports on the subject mentioned in this document, but we can say that this revision has, by providing a legal basis, confirmed the determination to pursue a policy for scientific research and technology on Community bases.

It is still too early to assume that this new phase will lead to the development of existing Community activities in the field of research and technology, but there is no doubt that this revision will provide an instrument for increasing the Community's commitment in this sector.

These subjects were discussed at length by the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology in the context of the framework programme for scientific and technological research for the period 1987-1991, for which the vice-chairman, Mr Bernard SALZER (PPE, D), was rapporteur.

The framework programme covers all EEC research activities and consists of a series of specific measures listed in detail in the annex.

From the Commission's original proposal to increase expenditure to 9 billion ECU, which was approved by the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology, we have gradually arrived at an overall figure comparable with that for the last framework programme, because the Council of Ministers were not able to reach a unanimous decision.

The trial of strength between the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers has delayed by several months the execution of many specific research projects, which has seriously jeopardized the continuity of Community measures.

For this reason, during the meeting of 15 July the rapporteur Mr Bernard SALZER (PPE - D) recommended that the members of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology should accept the compromise reached by the Council of Ministers (5 396 million ECU) and abandon the idea of conciliation, which would in fact further hinder scientific and technological research programmes.

The question of financing research activities was also considered by Mr Mauro CHIABRANDO (PPE, I) in his opinion for the Committee on Budgets on the future financing of the Community.

Mr CHIABRANDO (EPP, I) stressed that a reform of the mechanisms for financing Community policies must be based on the need to strengthen the policies which actually play an active role in the process of European integration and development of the Community.

He was therefore critical of the Commission's proposing an increase in Community expenditure without providing for a real increase in expenditure on research.

The committee also devoted a great deal of discussion time to the four establishments belonging to the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

Both Mr CHIABRANDO and Mr Rudolf WEDEKIND (EPP, D) have often stressed that the four establishments should not continue to be maintained unless the projects are clearly defined and the establishments are run efficiently.

They advocate a broad-based re-organization of the JRC, to enable it to execute efficiently the tasks assigned to it under the treaties.

Mr CHIABRANDO also stressed the need to reinforce the JRC's activities by giving it a leading role in the process of European integration.

Many of the debates held during this period concerned the use of nuclear energy, following the accident at Chernobyl.

The EPP Group backed various initiatives, listed in the following chapter, aimed at shedding more light on this area, which is extremely delicate because of its implications for public order and energy policy.

When participating in debates, the EPP Group has always stressed the need for closer cooperation between the countries which use nuclear energy, so as to reduce the risk of accidents to the minimum, and has urged the Commission to strengthen its role in the international organizations which deal with such problems.

ENERGY POLICY

Resolution by Mr MATTINA (SOC, I) on health protection measures after Chernobyl¹

Because of the public health hazards resulting from the Chernobyl disaster, the European Parliament calls upon the Commission to organize an information campaign on the effects of nuclear radiation and submit a multi-annual programme of epidemiological studies on the population of the Community, and calls on the Council and the Member States to finance a research programme in this field.

Resolutions by Mr TURNER (ED, UK), Mrs LENTZ-CORNETTE (EPP, L) and Mr VON WOGAU on Chernobyl²

Following the Chernobyl disaster, which was bound to arouse unfavourable reactions in the international community, the European Parliament requests detailed information. It feels that international consultations should be held through the IAEA and the authorities should set standards for reactors and limit values for radiation.

It also urges the Commission to assert the Community's right of petition against the USSR.

Resolutions by Mrs BLOCH VON BLOTTNITZ (ARC, D) and Mr WAGNER (SOC, D) on the Cattenom nuclear power station³

After the accidents in the Cattenom nuclear power station, Parliament calls upon the Commission to request copies of the safety studies carried out by the Rhineland TUV and the EDF and to incorporate them in the opinion which it is drawing up pursuant to Article 37 of the EURATOM Treaty. Action should also be

¹Doc. B 2-730/86

²Docs. B 2-746/86, B 2-794/86, B 2-805/86

³Docs. B 2-788/86, B 2-786/86

taken to ensure that the entry into service of the Cattenom power station is suspended until this opinion is submitted. The Commission is also urged to support the action brought against the authorization decision.

Report by Mr STAES (ARC, B) on energy saving in buildings⁴

This is an own-initiative report based on two motions for resolutions tabled pursuant to Rule 47 on planned measures for a European policy on the rational use of energy in the building sector and on the creation of jobs associated with such rational use.

Parliament mentions the policy of public authorities in general, the policy of the European Community, the Member States and the policy of local authorities.

Report by Mr ADAM (SOC, UK) on the follow-up to the 1995 EC energy objectives⁵

The Council's view, expressed in its resolution of 16 September 1986, that the objective of any energy policy must be to provide a sufficient amount of safe energy under economically satisfactory conditions, was revised after the continuing fall in fuel prices and the Chernobyl disaster.

The points in favour of a Community energy strategy are as follows:

- a) security of energy supply,
- b) greater geographical diversification of sources of supply outside the Community,
- c) reduced dependence on imports,
- d) promotion of energy efficiency and saving,
- e) development of new and renewable sources of energy,
- f) achievement of environmentally acceptable energy production and use,
- g) assistance for Third World countries in increasing their energy resources,
- h) flexibility of energy systems, not least through the development of interconnecting networks, wherever necessary,
- i) control of expenditure in the implementation of energy policy measures and application, in all areas of consumption and for all forms of energy, of the Community principles for the formation of energy prices approved by the Council.

⁴Doc. A 2-232/86

⁵Doc. A 2-242/86

Parliament calls on the Commission to undertake a comprehensive and longer-term review of energy objectives.

Report by Mr SELIGMAN (ED, UK) on the future of nuclear energy⁶

The European Parliament is in favour of continuing to develop the use of electricity produced in both nuclear power stations and in coal-burning power stations. It calls for an extension of Community competence in the field of nuclear safety, for as long as nuclear power stations remain in service in certain Member States, in particular regarding the fixing of common safety standards based on the most up-to-date technology. It therefore advocates a thorough revision of the EURATOM Treaty. It calls upon the Commission and the Member States to insist within the AEA that nuclear power stations outside the Community conform to the most stringent and verifiable safety standards. In addition, the Commission should take the following steps:

- evaluate the feasibility of the wider use in the Community of reactor types with enhanced safety features;
- in connection with this, respond favourably to the official proposal from the USSR to cooperate in the design of a safer and simpler next-generation reactor;
- evaluate the relative economic and environmental merits of reprocessing spent fuel, as against the 'once through' method;
- improve its provision of information to the public on all aspects of nuclear energy;
- submit new, tougher proposals for Community legislation on the siting of nuclear plants in frontier areas;
- promote the harmonization of insurance against nuclear accidents;
- promote the development of small nuclear power-plants to meet the needs of developing countries willing to sign the non-proliferation treaty;
- cooperate in enhancing the effectiveness of the Nuclear Energy Agency Incident Reporting System (IRS) etc.

⁶Doc. A 2-1/87

Report by Mrs BLOCH VON BLOTTNITZ (ARC, D) on the contamination of foodstuffs following the Chernobyl disaster⁷

This report deals with the radioactive contamination of human foodstuffs and stresses that between 50 and 90% (depending on the country) of the harm done to human beings following the Chernobyl disaster was due to the consumption of foodstuffs contaminated by radioactivity. It states that parts of the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece and Italy were among the areas worst hit.

The resolution therefore makes various demands aimed at reducing this pollution or contamination or keeping it at a very low level. It calls for a ban on the use of contaminated animal feedingstuffs and for the fixing of uniform limit values in the Community and demands that all foodstuffs and fodder which do not comply with these limits should be destroyed. With regard to imports and exports, it calls for rigorous checking both within the EEC and in trade with third countries. It calls on the Commission to demand damages from producers who, after receiving EEC aid for contaminated and unusable produce, have nevertheless sold it or tried to sell it. Severe penalties should be laid down for the marketing of highly contaminated foodstuffs and feedingstuffs.

The Commission is urged to set the limit values at a scientifically justified level as from 1 July 1987.

The Commission is asked to report to the European Parliament every two years on pollution of the environment by radioactivity after the Member States have informed it precisely of the situation in their territory. Finally, the resolution calls for the extent of pollution of the soil to be charted and for the radioactivity in soil, fertilisers, feedingstuffs and foodstuffs to be constantly monitored.

Report by Mr SCHMID (SOC, D) on the reaction of the Community to Chernobyl⁸

The report considers the actual course of events after Chernobyl compared with the optimum course of action the Community should have taken and the measures it should have adopted both to evaluate the situation correctly and limit the damage done. The report underlines the findings of the Commission which were as follows:

⁷Doc. A 2-5/87

⁸Doc. A 2-4/87

- the data transmitted by the Member States did not enable the Commission to assess the potential risks correctly,
- there were grave shortcomings in the dissemination of information,
- the Commission did not issue a directive in accordance with the powers assigned to it under Article 38 of the EURATOM Treaty,
- no threshold values were set in good time for foodstuffs, owing to a lack of consensus in the Council.

The main reason for the Community's inability to take action was that the legal framework provided by the EURATOM Treaty, which provides for basic standards for the protection of the health of the general public and workers, has never been used systematically to issue the relevant regulations.

Finally, the report notes that the Commission, in its last communication at the end of 1986, withdrew many of the requirements set down in its first outline communication of 13 June 1986. In view of this, the resolution notes that the proper steps should be taken to react effectively after a nuclear disaster, notes the lack of coordination between the Member States when the accident happened and deplores the fact that the Commission does not push strongly enough for the measures which it recognizes as being essential.

It calls on the Commission to submit a proposal without further delay, pursuant to Article 130 S of the Single European Act, to the effect that the Community should take environmental protection measures to avert the dangers resulting from such disasters, and conduct an exhaustive study of the short and medium-term repercussions of the Chernobyl accident on public health in the European Community. Finally, it calls on the Council to take a decision on these matters by a qualified majority.

Report by Mr ALBER (EPP, D) on the safety of nuclear power stations and the questions of mutual assistance and compensation⁹

The report notes that the immediate and rapid abandonment of nuclear energy worldwide is not feasible in political terms. However, safety must take precedence over profitability, hence the need to establish binding international safety standards. The IAEA's NUSS programme (nuclear safety standards), like the EURATOM Treaty and the NEA (nuclear energy agency) of the OECD, do not lay down binding rules for the safety of power stations, but simply make recommendations.

Binding rules are therefore laid down only at national level, which means that the design of power stations differs according to national requirements.

Identical standards must therefore be drawn up under identical conditions, which it must be possible to assess unequivocally. With regard to the safety of power stations, the report concludes that each type of reactor has its own advantages and disadvantages, but stresses that the type of reactor used in Chernobyl is one of the least safe, because of its instability.

⁹Doc. A 2-11/87

With regard to liability and compensation, the report refers to the Paris and Brussels Conventions as well as the Vienna Convention on liability in the field of nuclear energy, the former being more satisfactory with regard to the amount of compensation paid.

Nevertheless both are considered inadequate, since the amounts offered are too low and because they are not recognized by all States and neither of them by the countries of Eastern Europe.

The resolution therefore deplores the fact that there are no binding international standards. The NUSS could provide a basis for binding rules but it would be important for the countries of Eastern Europe to be covered by them. Standards could be introduced in the Community by means of provisions added to the EURATOM Treaty. Neighbouring Member States should be given equal rights in safety monitoring, if a power station is situated less than 100 km from their borders and all States should give an undertaking that their nuclear power plants may be examined by IAEA experts.

The resolution deplores the present state of affairs with regard to liability and compensation and recommends that countries which operate nuclear plants should jointly subscribe to a single international liability system, in which loss or injury should be defined clearly, and that the prescription period should be extended from 10 to 30 years. A solidarity fund should be set up to facilitate the accession of other States to the Brussels Convention.

Report by Mr SPÄTH (EPP, D) on the consequences of the Chernobyl accident¹⁰

In view of the fact that the civil use of nuclear power plays an essential role in Europe and the situation is unlikely to change in the near future, the rapporteur centres his report on the measures to be taken to develop the use of nuclear power more judiciously, by guaranteeing the safety of users and the general public and protecting the environment. The Commission is called upon to strengthen the role laid down for it in the Treaties and to adopt all necessary measures to guarantee greater protection in all fields involving legal provisions. The Council is requested to convene, within two months following the adoption of the resolution and in accordance with Article 204 of the EURATOM Treaty, a conference of representatives of the governments of the Member States for the purpose of amending the EURATOM Treaty to this effect.

Report by Mr IPPOLITO (COM, I) on the dangers of the privatization of nuclear energy¹¹

The report emphasizes that the choice of the nuclear option automatically involves the public authorities.

¹⁰Doc. A 2-243/86

¹¹Doc. A 2-165/86

It calls upon the Commission to draw up a directive aimed at subjecting the building and running of nuclear power stations and all the industrial activities involved in the fuel cycle to public supervision.

Report by Mr PONIATOWSKI (LDR, F) on fast breeder reactors¹²

The case for further development of fast breeder reactors rests on the following propositions: the technology in question is already at an advanced stage, considerable working experience has already been acquired and Europe occupies a leading position.

Furthermore, fast breeders present considerable safety advantages as compared with conventional nuclear technology.

It is also considered that because of the uranium efficiency inherent in the system, fast breeders will, in the long run, be economically competitive with all other forms of energy.

The report calls for continued validation of fuel and reactor designs, reactor operation and safety and fuel reprocessing, so that reliability, safety and economies can be proved to the point where fast reactors could be introduced commercially.

RESEARCH POLICY

Report by Mr FITZSIMONS (ERDA, IRL) on measures to counteract the rising concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere¹

Referring to the disastrous consequences for the environment and the economy of the rise in the earth's temperature resulting from the 'greenhouse' effect, the European Parliament calls on the Commission, in its activities in the fields of agriculture, industry and energy, to put forward measures with a view to a substantial reduction in harmful discharges. It also calls for a policy of reafforestation and for financial measures to put an end to the destruction of tropical forests in Third World countries.

The Council is urged, when drawing up the new framework programme for research, to allocate more resources to the area of climatology, and the committees responsible are urged to take this factor into account in their future opinions.

Report by Mr PINTO (LDR, P) on a machine translation system of advanced design (EUROTRA)²

Since the programme is being extended to include the new Community languages Spanish and Portuguese, the Commission plans an increase in funds from 27 to 45 m ECU (27 million to be provided by the Community and 18 million by the Member States) and an 18-month extension of the programme from five and a half years to seven years.

Parliament approves these proposals with certain reservations, since it considers that the extension of the programme to include Spanish and Portuguese cannot by itself justify increasing the funds by 60%, that the number of extra staff should be limited and any additional posts which may prove necessary should be filled by staff transferred from the Commission's translation departments. It also holds the view that before the third stage of the programme is started on 1 September 1987, the work already carried out should be assessed by an independent committee of experts and the European Parliament should be consulted if the programme is to be modified.

Report by Mr SALZER (EPP, D) on a framework programme of Community activities in the field of research and technological development³

Under this programme, for which 7 735 m ECU have been allocated upon a proposal by the Commission, the first four-year framework research programme (1984 - 1987) is to be replaced by an updated and supplemented programme. Research is to cover the following main fields: environment and health, information technology and telecommunications, new industrial and processing technologies, new materials and raw materials, energy resource in the broad sense, biotechnology and marine research.

¹Doc. A 2-68/86

²Doc. A 2-127/86

³Doc. A 2-155/86

Report by Mr LINKOHR (SOC, D) on a decision revising a research programme to be implemented by the Joint Research Centre for the European Atomic Energy Community and the European Economic Community⁴

The report calls upon the Commission and the Council to allocate to the Joint Research Centre tasks centred on environmental and safety research and to provide for scientific support for environmentally and socially acceptable sources of energy. Parliament expects the Commission to alter the Joint Research Centre's management structure by giving researchers more independence and increasing their personal responsibility.

Report by Mr STAVROU (EPP, GR) on framework agreements for scientific and technical cooperation⁵

This report advocates the drawing-up of framework agreements for scientific and technical cooperation with the EFTA countries. Balanced mutual cooperation will also be guaranteed by means of bilateral agreements, when there is a substantial imbalance between the economic importance of the parties concerned. In view of the shortage of funds for the research sector, such agreements must not lead to a cut in the funds allocated to universities, laboratories, research centres and the Member States of the EEC. The committee responsible is instructed to draw up a general report on the procedures for scientific and technical cooperation between the Community and third countries.

Report by Mrs VIEHOFF (SOC, NL) on biotechnology in Europe⁶

This own-initiative report on biotechnology, intended to give renewed impetus to Community action in this field, calls on the Commission to review its biotechnology action programme (BAP) in order to give the Community an efficient strategic programme.

The rapporteur hopes that the revised biotechnology programme will specify priority fields of action and that it will involve the industrial community as far as possible while remaining at the stage of precompetitive research. Priority must be given to projects which contribute to socially useful products with high development costs and relatively low profits.

This applies particularly to products of medical biotechnology.

Priority must also be given to measures to develop products which do not harm the environment.

Finally, the report urges that the revised BAP should take into account the possible lower level of development attained in Portugal and Spain and make additional resources available to those countries.

Report by Mr BONACCINI (COM, I) on a plan for the transnational development of the supporting infrastructure for innovation and technology transfer (SPRINT)⁷

The Commission's proposal provides for a two-year extension of the programme, with the intention of drawing up a five-year programme. The six proposed

⁴Doc. A 2-174/86

⁵Doc. A 2-179/86

⁶Doc. A 2-134/86

⁷Doc. A 2-241/86

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amendments are concerned, in particular, with improving the situation of the SMEs and increasing the amount allocated for the execution of the programme from 21 to 31 m ECU, special account being given to the inclusion of Spain and Portugal in the programme.

Resolutions by Mr DE GUCHT (LDR, B), Mr FORD (SOC, UK), Mr GANGOITI (EPP, ESP), and Mr CHIABRANDO (EPP, I) on the Community research programme⁸

In these resolutions Parliament deplores the narrow-minded attitude adopted by the government of the United Kingdom which, motivated by purely national and budgetary considerations, is preventing the final adoption of the framework programme.

Report by Mr PONIATOWSKI (LDR, F) on Europe's response to the modern technological challenge⁹

This report deals with Europe's role in world technology.

It concludes that the technological challenge facing Europe has become more demanding over the last two years.

Europe's technological backwardness is not caused by a lack of creative or innovative capabilities or basic research but by its difficulty in producing and selling competitive technological goods on the world market. The report urges the Council to adopt forthwith the second multiannual Community framework programme of technological research and development and calls on the European Investment Bank substantially to reinforce its action and calls for the introduction of all measures - whether to provide funds or infrastructure - at both national and Community level, needed to make an effective response to the technological challenge.

Report by Mr TOKSVIG (ED, DN) on European space policy¹⁰

The report expresses the view that European space operations must be stepped up.

It calls for coordination of the space activities which the Community is already carrying on in fields such as telecommunications and remote sensing, calls for support for the work of the European Space Agency (ESA), the training of specialists, if necessary supported by the Social Fund, and the creation, at European level, of a post-graduate qualification in space science and engineering.

Paolo LICANDRO

⁸Docs. B 2-173/87, B 2-190/87, B 2-220/87, B 2-227/87

⁹Doc. A 2-14/87

¹⁰Doc. A 2-66/87

The main research, development and demonstration programmes now under way

All the Community research and technology programmes - which make up the framework programme of Community research and technological development activities (RDT) - are implemented according to the following three complementary procedures:

- shared-cost research in universities, research centres or private companies, on the basis of contracts involving, mainly, 50% participation by the Community and 50% by the contracting party. This kind of research is also the basis for Community demonstration activity, which is designed to test the industrial value and profitability of innovations.
- 'in-house' or 'direct action' research carried out in the 4 establishments belonging to the Joint Research Centre (JRC) at Ispra (Italy), Geel (Belgium), Petten (Netherlands) and Karlsruhe (Germany) and wholly financed by the Community.
- coordinated research - also called concerted action - the programme for which is outlined by the Community, which guarantees the exchange of know-how and the coordination of research, which is itself financed by the Member States.

In order to clarify the ways in which they are being executed, the Community's most important current programmes are listed below under these three categories, whilst research based on the ECSC Treaty, because of its very nature, is listed separately

A. SHARED-COST RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

1. Promotion of industrial competitiveness

- 1.1. **ESPRIT**: Information technologies, OJ No. L 67, 9.3.1984 -
OJ No. L 81, 24.3.1984 - OJ No. L 55, 23.2.1985 -
OJ No. L 365, 31.12.1985

Council Decision of 28 February 1984 on a programme for research and development in information technology. The aim of the programme, which covers the following fields:

- software technology (ST),
- advance information processing (AIP),
- office-automation systems (OS),
- computer-integrated manufacture (CIM),
- advanced micro-electronics (MEL),

is to set up reasonably durable research teams of a 'critical size' to obtain valid results. ESPRIT should also reduce the backwardness resulting from dependence on imported technologies in these fields, particularly compared with the United States and Japan.

Community financing: 750 m ECU for the first 5-year phase.

Period: 1984 - 1988

1.2 BRITE: Basic technological research and the applications of the new technologies.

Council Decision of 12 March 1985, OJ No. L 83, 25.3.1985.

This programme, laid down along similar lines to the ESPRIT programme, is intended to encourage cooperation between European industries and improve their competitiveness in technologies such as laser, catalysis and particle technology, joining techniques and techniques to increase reliability, the reduction of wear and deterioration, new testing methods, including on-line testing and computer-aided testing, CAD/CAM and mathematical modelling, new materials (composites, polymers etc.), new production technologies suitable for products made from flexible materials (especially textiles), etc.

Community financing: 125 m ECU.

Period: 1985 - 1988.

1.3 Biotechnology

OJ L 83, 25.3.1985.

Council Decision of 12 March 1985 adopting a multiannual research action programme in the field of biotechnology, which may be considered as an extension of the earlier biomolecular engineering programme.

The programme covers bio-informatics, collections of biotic materials, enzyme engineering, genetic engineering, physiology and genetics of species important to man, the technology of cells and tissues cultured in vitro, screening methods for the evaluation of the toxicological effects and of the biological activity of molecules and the assessment of risks.

Community financing: 55 m ECU.

Period: 1985 - 1989.

1.4 RACE: Telecommunications

Council Decision of 25 July 1985 (RACE: Research and Development in Advanced Communications Technologies for Europe) on a definition phase for a Community action in the field of telecommunications technologies for Europe. OJ No. L 210, 7.8.1985.

RACE is part of a Community strategy for designing and establishing a European telecommunications infrastructure by 1995. The definition phase consists of two parts, the first concerning the formulation of a reference model for integrated broad band communication (IBC) to be carried out in association with specialized organizations, and part II comprising technology evaluation projects carried out by means of contracts.

Community financing (part II): 14 m ECU.

Duration of the definition phase: 18 months.

1.5 Community Bureau of Reference (BCR)

Council Decision of 21 December 1982 adopting a research and development programme for the European Economic Community in the field of applied metrology and reference materials. OJ No. L 26, 28.1.1983.

This programme aims to reduce discrepancies between measurements in fields of economic importance to the Community. The BCR produces standards for physical measurements and reference materials for chemical analyses.

Community financing: 25 m ECU.

Period: 1983 - 1987.

1.6 EUROTRA: Machine translation system of advanced design

Council Decision of 4 November 1982, OJ No. L 317, 13.11.1982.

The aim of this programme is to overcome the language barriers to the full exploitation of the benefits of teleinformatics and communication and information networks at Community level. The machine translation system should be capable of handling all the Community's official languages.

Community financing: 16 m ECU.

Period: 1982 - 1988.

2. Improved management of energy resources

2.1. Energy produced by nuclear fission

(a) Management and storage of radioactive waste

Council Decision of 12 March 1985, OJ No. L 83, 25.3.1985.

This programme consists of two separate parts : the first covering various research studies concentrating on the safety aspect (treatment, conditioning, disposal, burial, safety problems etc.), whilst the second deals with the exploitation of knowledge already acquired and the building of experimental underground storage facilities in various geological media (in particular in the Asse salt mine in Germany, in the argillaceous layer under the Mol nuclear site in Belgium etc.).

Community financing: 62 m ECU.

Period: 1985 - 1989.

(b) Decommissioning of nuclear installations

Council Decision of 31 January 1984, OJ No. L 36, 8.2.1984.

The aim of the programme is the joint development of systems for managing nuclear installations which have been finally shut down and the radioactive waste produced in their dismantling, whilst providing mankind and the environment with the best protection possible.

Community financing: 12 m ECU.

Period: 1984 - 1988.

(c) Safety of reactors

Council Decision of 19 December 1984.

This shared-cost programme is to be carried out by the Joint Research Centre in close collaboration with the JRC's direct action programme.

2.2 Controlled thermonuclear fusion

Council Decision of 12 March 1985, OJ No. L 83, 25.3.1985.

The programme deals with the development of research leading to the construction and subsequent marketing of prototypes. The programme comprises the following three areas:

- JET (Joint European Torus), the focal point of the programme, which now makes the Community a world leader in this field; there is, however, still room for improvement, especially as regards powerful plasma heating methods. JET is organized in the form of a 'joint undertaking', in accordance with the EURATOM Treaty, and 80% of the financing is provided by the Community budget.
- A supplementary programme on physics projects carried out in associated laboratories: 5 large-scale devices are to be constructed in laboratories in the Member States to deal with the confinement of plasma, which cannot be studied under the JET programme.
- NET (Next European Torus) and reactor technology: as an extension of JET, the aim of NET is to demonstrate the technological feasibility of fusion from 1990 - 1992 onwards. For this purpose a substantial reactor technology programme should be developed to perfect the essential elements of NET and various long-term studies.

The scale of this European fusion programme should enable the Community to collaborate on equal terms with the other major fusion programmes in the world (Japan, USSR and USA).

Community financing: 690 m ECU.

Period: 1985 - 1989.

2.3 Non-nuclear energy

(a) Council Decision of 12 March 1985, OJ No. L 83, 25.3.1985.

The programme is divided into two sections, with nine scientific and technical sub-programmes:

- Development of renewable sources of energy: solar energy, energy from biomass, wind energy and geothermal energy;
- Rational use of energy: energy conservation, utilization of solid fuels, production and utilization of new energy factors, optimization of hydrocarbon production and use, and energy systems analysis and modelling.

The programme also covers exploration of potential resources, the development of technologies and the execution of pilot projects for demonstration and marketing.

Community financing: 175 m ECU.

Period: 1985 - 1988.

(b) Demonstration programme

Council Regulation of 20 December 1985, OJ No. L 350, 27.12.85.

- 4 sectors:
 - liquefaction and gasification of solid fuels
 - alternative energy sources
 - energy saving
 - substitution of hydrocarbons

Community financing: 360 m ECU.

Period: 1986 - 1989.

3. Improved management of raw materials

OJ No. L 159 of 14.6.1986.

Council Decision of 10 June 1986.

The programme covers the following areas of research:

- primary raw materials (minerals), exploration, mining technology and mineral processing: 20 m ECU.
- wood as a renewable raw material: production, harvest, storage and transport of wood, properties and processing of wood, manufacturing of paper and board and chemicals from wood: 10 m ECU.
- secondary raw materials (recycling), recycling of non-ferrous metals, recycling and utilization of waste: 10 m ECU:

- advanced materials (EURAM), metals, ceramics, composite materials and other new materials: 30 m ECU.

Community financing: 70 m ECU

Period: 1986 - 1989.

4. Promotion of agricultural competitiveness

Council Decision of 12 December 1983, OJ No. L 358, 22.12.1983.

The programme deals with the coordination of agricultural research in the following fields:

Utilization and conservation of agricultural resources, (energy in agriculture, land and water use and management), structural problems (Mediterranean agriculture, other less-favoured regions and agro-food), improvement of animal and plant productivity.

Community financing: 30 m ECU.

Period: 1984 - 1988.

5. Improving living and working conditions

5.1 Protection of the environment and climatology

Council Decision of 10 June 1986, OJ No. L 159, 14.6.1986.

This research and development programme in the field of the environment (protection of the environment and climatology), is mainly intended to provide scientific support for the Community's policy in this field and covers the following research sectors:

- environmental protection: 55 m ECU.
- climatology and natural hazards (earthquakes): 17 m ECU.
- major technological hazards: 3 m ECU.

Community financing: 75 m ECU.

Period: 1986 - 1990.

5.2 Radiation protection

OJ No. L 83, 25.3.1985.

Council Decision of 12 March 1985.

This research and training programme in the field of radiation protection includes the following research fields:-

- radiation dosimetry and its interpretation,

- behaviour and control of radionuclides in the environment,
- non-stochastic effects of ionizing radiation
- radiation carcinogenesis,
- genetic effects of ionizing radiation,
- evaluation of radiation risks and optimization of protection.

This programme is carried out by research contracts on a cost-sharing basis.

Community financing: 58 m ECU.

Period: 1985 - 1989.

6. Multi-sector measures

6.1 FAST

OJ No. L 293, 25.10.1983.

Council Decision of 17 October 1983.

This research programme on forecasting and assessment in science and technology is concentrated on three main fields: new forms of 'growth' for Europe (including relations between technology, employment and work and the integrated development of renewable natural resources); transformation of service activities and technological change; new strategic industrial systems, in particular the communication and food industries.

Community financing: 8.5 m ECU:

Period: 1983 - 1987.

6.2 Stimulation

Council Decision of 12 March 1985, OJ No. L 83, 25.3.1985.

The stimulation plan for European scientific and technical cooperation and interchange aims to provide incentives for intra-Community cooperation by helping teams from various Member States to work together on advanced, often multidisciplinary projects, increasing the mobility of EEC researchers, encouraging young scientists to specialize in promising research fields, especially in industry. This comprehensive operation - which thus supplements the specialized research programmes - is intended to enable the Community to make better use of its scientific and technical potential.

The projects are to promote large-scale cooperation between researchers in the Community and hence help to create a European research and technology area.

The Commission is to negotiate and conclude the agreements needed to carry out the projects which have been adopted.

The stimulation plan is to be implemented with the aid of:

- multisectoral incentive measures: laboratory twinnings, operations, research grants. These actions imply a European network of research centres on which they will rely;
- contextual measures to encourage the mobility of scientists.

The choice of stimulation incentive measures and the teams concerned will be made by the Commission, which, with the help of the Committee for the European Development of Science and Technology (Codest), will make use of a peer review system. The Commission will see to it that there is consistency between stimulation activities and programmed R & D activities by consulting committees set up under its aegis to assist it in programme management.

Community financing: 60 m ECU.

Period: 1985 - 1988.

6.3 COMETT: Programme on cooperation between universities and enterprises regarding training in the field of technology

Council Decision of 24 July 1986, OJ No. L 222, 8.8.1986.

The aim of the programme is to give a European dimension to cooperation between universities and enterprises in advanced training relating to innovation and the development and application of new technologies. It is to foster the exchange of experience, the sharing of resources and the achievement of economies of scale by the joint development of advanced training programmes.

FIELDS OF OPERATION

- (1) Aid for the setting up and management of a network of university-enterprise training partnerships (UETPs);
- (2) Specific aid to promote the transnational exchange of trainees, including new graduates, and university staff and the staff of undertakings through:
 - (a) grants for trainees, including new graduates, undergoing periods of training in undertakings established in other Member States;
 - (b) fellowships for university staff seconded to undertakings in specialized fields;
 - (c) fellowships for the staff of undertakings and business personnel seconded to universities.
- (3) Aid for the devising, developing and testing at European level of joint projects for training initiated by high technology undertakings in connection with the universities concerned, in fields where there is a shortage of qualifications;

- (4) Support for multilateral initiatives with regard to multi-media training systems using new technologies, particularly for the training of training officers and the managerial staff of undertakings;
- (5) Additional measures implemented by the Commission to promote university-enterprise cooperation, including:
 - (a) the creation of a data base and the exchange of information and experience;
 - (b) the creation of a network of university-enterprise training partnerships.

Community financing: 45 m ECU.

Period: 1986 - 1989 (first phase).

7. Back-up for development aid

Council Decision of 3 December 1982, OJ No. L 352, 14.12.1982.

The programme comprises R & D measures in the fields of tropical agriculture (improvement of agricultural production and utilization of the environment, post-harvest techniques and training) and medicine, health and nutrition in the tropics.

Community financing: 40 m ECU.

Period: 1983 - 1986.

The main direct research programmes, research programmes based on the ECSC Treaty and coordinated research (concerted action) are briefly listed below:

B. Direct research (also called 'in-house' research) by the Joint Research Centre

Council Decision of 22 December 1983, OJ No. L 3, 5.1.1984.

In view of the scale of the JRC and its scientific and technical activities, it fulfils a specific and unique role in various major areas of Community interest, in particular nuclear and non-nuclear safety, environmental protection, the development of new sources of energy and the establishment of rules and standards (especially nuclear ones) needed to promote industrial competitiveness in the Community.

The main elements of the present programme are as follows:

1. Research on industrial technologies

Nuclear measurements and reference materials.

High-temperature materials:

- research on steels, alloys and sub-assemblies,
- research on ceramics,
- data bank and information centre on high-temperature materials.

2. Research on fusion

Fusion technology and safety:

- studies in respect of reactors and technology of the breeding blanket,
- studies on structural materials and risk assessment,
- studies concerning a tritium-handling laboratory.

3. Research on fission

Reactor safety (including reliability and risk assessment, research on light-water reactors and fast reactors, abnormal behaviour in systems and construction models relating to accidents, etc.).

Management of radioactive waste (including waste management and the fuel cycle, safety of storing waste in continental geological formations and deep ocean sediments).

Safeguarding and management of fissile materials (including methods and instruments for the determination of fissile materials and for containment, monitoring etc.).

Nuclear fuels and actinides research.

4. Research on non-nuclear energy resources

Techniques for solar energy tests: photovoltaic and heat conversion.

Management of energy in dwellings: evaluation of hybrid systems, passive technologies and energy audit.

5. Research on the environment

Environmental protection: chemical products in the environment, quality of the environment, energy and the environment.

Application of remote-sensing techniques: agriculture and soil management, protection of the marine environment, natural disasters.

Industrial hazards: accident prevention and accident management control.

6. Activities of scientific departments

Exploitation of the HFR reactor.

Community financing: 700 m ECU.

Period: 1984 - 1987.

C. Research carried out under Article 55 of the ECSC Treaty

1. Steel research

Medium-term guidelines 1986 - 1990.

Community financing: 28.5 m ECU in 1986
OJ No. C 159, 24.6.1982
OJ No. C 294, 6.11.1985.

2. **Pilot and demonstraton projects in the iron and steel sector**

Community financing: 50 m ECU for the period 1983-1987
OJ No. C 81, 24.3.1983.

3. **Coal research**

Medium-term guidelines for coal research 1986 - 1990.

Community financing: 22 m ECU for 1986
OJ No. C 165, 4.7.1985.

4. **Safety at work in the coal and steel sector**

- (a) Effects on the health of workers of physical and other occupational factors at the workplace.

Community financing: 9 m ECU for the period 1981 - 1986.
OJ No. C 307, 27.11.1981.

- (b) Ergonomics in the coal and steel industry.

Community financing: 15 m ECU for the period 1985 - 1989.
OJ No. C 270, 22.10.1985.

- (c) Industrial hygiene in mines.

Community financing: 11 m ECU for the period 1983 - 1987.
OJ No. C 332, 8.12.1983

- (d) Mine safety:

Community financing: 12.5 m ECU for the period 1982 - 1986.
OJ No. C 195, 29.7.1982.

- (e) Technical control of nuisances and pollution at the place of work and in the environment of iron and steel works.

Community financing: 20 m ECU for the period 1985 - 1990.
OJ No. C 338, 31.12.1985.

D. **Coordinated research**

In the field of coordinated research (also called 'concerted action'), we should mention the following:

1. Medical research conducted solely according to this method.

Council Decision of 17 August 1982, OJ No. L 248, 24.8.1982 - OJ No. L 254, 31.8.1982.

The programme mainly covers the prevention and early diagnosis of diseases and rehabilitation.

Community financing: 13.3 m ECU.

Period: 1982 - 1986.

2. COST - European cooperation in the field of scientific and technical research.

General resolution of the Ministerial Conference on European cooperation in the field of scientific and technical research held in Brussels on 22 and 23 November 1971.

The aim of this programme is to promote basic applied scientific and technical research for studies which will allow the achievement of specific objectives. Such studies are halfway between fundamental research aimed at making more or less specific new discoveries and technical development activities conducted with the aim of developing new products in the context of cooperation between the European Community and third countries.

The COST project offers a framework and scope for Community cooperation with certain European countries in the field of technical and scientific research.

The 'club' of COST countries comprises 19 European States, including the Member States of the European Community.

COST does not have a legal personality of its own but nevertheless has its own financial resources, which are administered jointly by the General Secretariat of the Council and the Commission.

Following the Ministerial Conference in Brussels (1971), steps were taken to sign agreements to implement COST projects. These are agreements between States which undertake to participate in the project in question and abide by the rules governing such participation.

Paolo LICANDRO



COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

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Coordinator:

Roberto COSTANZO (I)

Deputy coordinator:

Axel N. ZARGES (D)

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Teun TOLMAN (NL)

II. Introduction

The work of the Committee on External Economic Relations for last year came under the usual headings: reports on countries, dealing with the particular economic and commercial problems of individual countries, such as China, Japan, Yugoslavia, Canada and the US, or of regional associations or regions, e.g., Antarctica, EFTA, the Gulf States, Mediterranean countries, the Pacific Basin, or SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation): reports on specific issues, such as technology transfer and Cocom, the international tin crisis, the services sector, and export refunds; opinions on proposals from the Commission (particularly on 'technical proposals', whether concerned with the enlargement of the Community and changes in quotas and tariffs (e.g., for 'high-quality beef') or conditions (e.g., harmonizing customs procedures); opinions on reports by other committees (budget discharge, agricultural prices, etc.); decisions on urgent requests submitted by the Commission, several of which caused the Committee to complain of having been given insufficient time for the exercise of its parliamentary right to be consulted, and therefore having been forced to take hurried decisions. During the year the Committee delivered a greater number of opinions 'under the procedure without report' (former Rule 99, now Rule 116). As a rule, these were opinions on 'technical reports' (e.g., amendment of Regulation No. 1514/76 on imports of olive oil originating in Algeria; amendment of Regulation No. 1180/77 on Community imports of certain agricultural products originating in Turkey (1986/87).

There were requests for urgent procedure on problems of trade with the USA, by way of a warning to counter the menace of the increasingly protectionist measures adopted by the USA (e.g., Gephard amendment, agricultural trade, pasta, airbus), and avert the more or less permanent threat of a trade war, which like all protectionist measures, would only harm all concerned.

In discussions on the most varied issues - from the EC's commercial problems with the USA or Japan, to the development of economic and commercial relations with Latin America or other developing countries - the new round of GATT discussions was repeatedly cited as a source of possible solutions. The interim report on the latest round of GATT discussions¹ therefore figured very prominently in the committee's deliberations.

¹ Doc. A2-87/86

A tangible consequence of the protracted discussion of this report was a much praised symposium organized by the EPP group on 9 and 10 February 1987, at the initiative of the rapporteur, Hans-Jürgen ZAHORKA (D). All the members of the Committee on External Economic Relations took part. There were some 200 invited guests, mainly diplomats from most of the developing countries, representatives of various organizations and international officials. The principal subjects under discussion were: the European Community and the GATT system; the role of state-trading countries within GATT; Japan, the USA and the EC - unbalanced equilibrium; the developing countries and the new GATT round; international trade in services and protection of intellectual property; international agricultural trade and the new GATT round; the responsibilities of the EC in the Uruguay round. Notable contributions were made not only by the EPP members of the Committee on External Economic Relations but also by the diplomatic representatives of Japan and the USA, the representative of the GATT secretariat from Geneva and Commissioner Willy De Clercq. It was stressed that in the new round of GATT negotiations the EP, represented by the Committee on External Economic Relations, should be present as a permanent observer at the very least, so that the interests of all European citizens could be represented. A follow-up was proposed to this international symposium with its specialist presentation of the issues, so that the interests of all concerned could be not merely voiced, but, where possible, fed into the negotiations through the EP. This would mark a real contribution to finding an urgently needed constructive solution to the problems of world trade within the framework of a reformed GATT, which would itself provide the corresponding contractual instruments.

During the period covered by this report, the chairmen of EP Delegations travelling to third countries were 'briefed' as to the committee's standpoint on the economic and commercial problems facing the countries in question. The committee restated its regret that even after the reconstitution of committees and delegations for the second half of the electoral term, the committee was only represented by a substitute member on the EP/US Congress Delegation, despite its major importance for commercial and economic relations. The EPP members in particular repeated their demands that members of the committee should be included in delegations of vital commercial importance to the EC, notably those for the USA and Japan.

After Parliament's decision not to reconstitute the Delegation for relations with EFTA in the second half of its term, this responsibility was transferred to the Committee on External Economic Relations, pursuant to Annex VI (vi) of the Rules of Procedure. This transfer of responsibility gave rise to considerable discussion with the Parliamentary directorates involved, and also caused annoyance in various quarters - particularly amongst the parliamentary members of the partner-delegation, who repeatedly stated during delegation visits that they were unable to understand the reason for the restructuring, which to some extent was seen as discrediting the delegations from the individual EFTA countries.

The development of EC/EFTA relations is to be discussed during the coming study days to be held by the EPP group in Konstanz on 2 September. Topical commercial and transport problems will head the agenda, with, possibly, consideration of the future position of EFTA vis-à-vis the completed EC internal market after 1992.

The reconstitution of the committees for the second half of the electoral term has left the EPP in a weakened position on the Committee for External Economic Relations, with 6 members as opposed to 7. However, under their coordinator Axel N. ZARGES (D) the members put across their political convictions and philosophy by means of rational argument and, when necessary, in contested votes. For the EPP, a market economy which answers society's needs is the only peaceful way to increase the prosperity of Europe's citizens and to improve commercial and economic relations with third countries, thereby contributing to better living standards, above all in the Third World.

III. Summary of resolutions adopted by the EP

MOORHOUSE (ED)	Trade and economic relations
Doc. A 2-86/86	between the European Community
OJ No.C 255/149, 13.10.1986	and Japan
Vote: 11 September 1986	

The second revised version of the motion - the first was withdrawn under pressure from the EPP members - begins with a compendious catalogue of the multiple problems of the trade and Community's economic relations with Japan. The 'structural' trade deficit with regard to the Community is in large measure due to the fact that Japan imports raw materials and exports enormous quantities of manufactured products targeted at specific markets (primarily

high technology goods like video recorders, computers, hi-fi, telecommunications and office equipment, cameras, and motor vehicles), without opening up its internal market is a corresponding extent to imports of European goods. Protectionist measures, including formal non-tariff barriers, combined with obstacles to imports which arise from the Japanese trade and retail system itself and from the different structure of Japanese demand and consumption, have led to a US\$ 12 billion EC-Japan trade deficit (USA-Japan deficit is US\$ 45 billion). The motion sets out some 70 suggestions for measures by Japan, America, Europe and the international community (e.g., GATT), designed in the long term to bring about approximate commercial equilibrium and ward off the dangers which currently exist.

There were 140 amendments to the report including fundamental amendments from EPP members Otmar FRANZ (D) and Yvonne VAN ROOY (NL), whose adoption (by 224 votes to 3 with 11 abstentions) allowed the EPP Group to vote for the report. Group spokesmen were: Axel N. ZARGES (D), Yvonne VAN ROOY (NL) and Otmar FRANZ (D).

ZAHORKA (EPP)

Doc. A 2-87/86

OJ No. C 255/69, 13.10.1986

Vote: 9 September 1986

The new round of multilateral trade negotiations within GATT

This motion without an explanatory statement is in the first instance intended as a preliminary statement of Parliament's position with respect to GATT and its further development, prior to the next GATT ministerial conference which begins in Uruguay on 15 September, and is Parliament's way of 'inputting' its concerns, wishes and demands into the negotiations in good time. Since the new GATT round, should it take place, will go on for some time (perhaps as long as five years), further interim reports will be necessary during the course of the negotiations. The present report calls in the first place for the implementation of agreements reached in previous rounds and programmes which either have not yet been put into practice or still await implementation by some of the members of GATT (e.g., codes on technical barriers to trade, subsidies, countervailing duties, anti-dumping measures, the Import Licencing Code, government procurement). With reference to the need for rapid solutions and increased effectiveness, especially in view of the worsening situation of threshold countries and Third World nations, the report calls for GATT to be a permanent negotiating body. It goes on to

present a catalogue of specific demands on the problems of the developing countries, international agricultural trade, subsidies, safeguards, trade in services (e.g., insurance, banking), trade in counterfeit goods, advanced technologies. Under procedural questions a new element is the demand that an ad-hoc delegation from the EP be sent to future GATT conferences as observers.

Most of the 50 amendments tabled were rejected by our group and most of the house, so that the report was adopted basically unaltered by a large majority (250 for, 26 against, 12 abstentions). Spokesmen for the group were: Hans-Jürgen ZAHORKA (D), Jochen VAN AERSEN (D), Yvonne VAN ROOY (NL), Giorgios SARIDAKIS (GR), Isidor FRÜH (D), POL MARCK (B) and Raf CHANTERIE (B).

THOME-PATENOTRE (RDE)

Doc. A 2-73/86

OJ No. C 283/16, 10.11.1986

Vote: 6 October 1986

Anti-dumping and anti-subsidy
measures and associated foreign
trade issues

Since the number of complaints about dumping shows no sign of diminishing, and there is consequently still general concern about protective trade measures, the report sets out a list of demands and suggestions to the Commission, since the latter has sole responsibility for applying the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. It calls for improvement and simplification of the procedures by more rapid provision of more accurate and more extensive statistics (use of data processing in gathering statistics), which requires the introduction of electronic data processing in national customs administrations. The Commission should be more active not only in the fight against dumping and subsidies but also other 'identifiable practices' such as counterfeiting and place of origin of products, for example. To enable the Commission to deal adequately with these tasks, Parliament would use its budgetary powers to support the creation of new posts.

Dumping by state-trading countries presents special problems (especially in the transport sector); these should be dealt with in future negotiations with COMECON and in the new GATT round. The Commission is also called upon to define the concept of 'social dumping' and then take due account of the definition in future measures and agreements. Dumping and barter agreements should also be dealt with in the context of GATT. All these proposals are designed to reduce the harm which dumping causes the Community economy, and so to save jobs.

The resolution was adopted by 81 to 1 with 1 abstention.

Group spokesman was Hans-Jürgen ZAHORKA (D).

FORD (S)

Counter-trade

Doc. A 2-117/86

OJ No. C 279/8, 24.11.1986

Vote: 20 October 1986

The motion expresses concern about the departure which counter trade represents from the normal procedures of the international trading system, as established by GATT. It is steadily growing (it currently accounts for 10 - 15% of world trade) not only in the traditional East-West trade but in North-South trade as well.

It is recognized that the non-convertibility of the currencies of most of the State-trading countries means that counter-trade arrangements are frequently the only way of conducting trade between the EC and these countries. With regard to the developing countries, both their indebtedness and the Community's dependence on them for raw materials, combined with the need to increase trade with these countries in line with the objectives of the Community's development policy, mean that counter-trade arrangements are often the only means of conducting trade. Where it is unavoidable, the Community should continue to participate in counter-trade in order to be able to trade at all; but the contracts negotiated should be of limited duration, so they can be replaced at the earliest opportunity by normal trade practices.

The motion for a resolution was adopted without any difficulty.

Group spokesman: Hans-Jürgen ZAHORKA (D)

ROBERTS (ED)

Doc. A 2-118/86

OJ No. C 297/12, 24.11.1986

Vote: 20 October 1986

Proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(86) 379 fin. - Doc. C 2-67/86) for a Regulation opening for 1986, as an autonomous measure, a special import quota for high quality, fresh, chilled or frozen beef falling within sub-heading 02.01 A II (a) and 02.01 A II (b) of the Common Customs Tariff

This 'technical report' deals with the Commission's proposal to import a special quota of various kinds of beef from Brazil, despite the fact that Community beef stocks are already very high because of intervention buying and storage

of these stocks is expensive. Moreover, the Commission has in recent months exported 2 000 tonnes of beef, bought into intervention at between 3,300 - 3,500 ECU per tonne, to one of the world's major beef producers, namely Brazil, at 400 to 500 ECU per tonne. The report deplores this squandering of Community funds and expresses concern about developments on the beef and veal market which may put a strain on trading. Nevertheless, the committee approved the proposal, because the Commission had successfully shown that it was 'in the interest of the Community to maintain harmonious commercial relations with the third country concerned'.

Both the Commission proposal and the virtually unaltered motion for a resolution were adopted.

Group spokesmen were: Yvonne VAN ROOY (NL) and Mark CLINTON (IRL).

VAN AERSSEN (EPP)

Doc. A 2-194/86

OJ No. C 46/102, 23.2.1987

Vote: 23 January 1987

Economic relations between the
European Community and Latin
America

In view of the desperate economic situation of the countries of Latin America, the motion sets out an extensive list of measures and demands aimed at making it economically possible in the short term for these countries not only to diversify and increase their exports in order to enable them to service their debts, but also to enjoy positive economic growth, especially in view of the deep-rooted links that inevitably exist in all countries between economic development and social and political stability, and also, respect for human rights.

This draft report was discussed at some length, partly in order to achieve the broadest possible consensus of all political groups, and above all in order to involve the Spaniards and the Portuguese, with their long special historical relationship with Latin America.

The resolution was adopted unanimously in a roll-call vote, with 186 votes in favour.

Group spokesmen were: Jochen VAN AERSSEN (D) and Marlene LENZ (D).

SEELER (S)

Doc. A 2-187/86

OJ No. C 46/71, 23.2.1987

Vote: 22 January 1987

Relations between the European Community and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) and the Eastern European member states of the CMEA

Recent political developments gave this draft report a high profile, with the result that the draft was accompanied by an extensive corrigendum and many amendments were tabled to bring it right up to date. If certain conditions were met, amongst them the formal recognition of the EC by the USSR and other member states of the CMEA, talks could begin on the possibility of concluding EC-CMEA agreements on the shape of foreign trade and cooperation relations. At the same time it must be possible to open or continue bilateral negotiations between the EC and member states of the CMEA.

The report sets out a list of possible subjects for negotiation, including economic affairs, ecology, institutional arrangements, research policies, and policies in general, to some extent with reference to bilateral agreements, whether already concluded or yet to be negotiated.

The resolution was adopted by 177 votes to 69, with four abstentions.

Group spokesmen were: Axel N. ZARGES (D), Philipp VON BISMARCK (D), and Otto VON HABSBURG (D). Explanation of vote: Hans-Jürgen ZAHORKA (D), Rudolf WEDEKIND (D).

PRANCHERE (COM)

Doc. A 2-225/86

OJ No. C 76/196, 23.3.1987

Vote: 20 February 1987

Proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(86) 426 final - Doc. C 2-92/86) for a regulation increasing the volume of the Community tariff quota opened by Regulation (EEC) No. 1726/86 for animals of certain mountain breeds.

This resolution covers a specific technical problem, namely the amending of the Community tariff quota for agricultural trade, and in particular the special arrangements governing imports of heifers and cows of certain mountain breeds. A distinction is drawn between a quota (Reg. EEC No. 1726/86) of 38 000 head at 4 % duty for animals of certain mountains breeds, and an increase of 4 600 head in two tranches at 4 % duty. Last year alone 442 000 tonnes of beef and veal were imported under the special arrangements, out of an import total of some 450 000 tonnes. Imports from EFTA countries accounted for 43 000 tonnes, which, despite the problematic situation on the beef and veal market in the EC,

have their own importance and justification, as they help to consolidate and strengthen cooperation between EFTA and EEC countries.

The committee expressed its surprise that

- despite the current EC stocks of beef and veal, the Commission should be continuing to apply special arrangements which were worked out when the EC was suffering a beef and veal shortage,
- no financial record was submitted along with the proposal for a regulation,
- the EP was not always consulted about the various import schemes.

In order to pre-empt future discrepancies in trade policy, the committee calls on the Commission to submit to Parliament a study of all the import agreements and the legal bases of these agreements.

The Commission proposal and the resolution were adopted by the EP.
Group spokesmen were: Reinhold BOCKLET (D) and Heinrich AIGNER (D).

COSTANZO (EPP)

Doc. A 2-199/86

OJ No. C 76/190, 23.3.1987

Vote: 20 February 1987

Economic and trade relations between
the EEC and the Gulf States

In view of the EEC's economic dependence (oil crisis) on the individual members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Kuwait, Bahrein, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Saudi Arabia) what is being sought is a long-term agreement leading to the stabilization and harmonization of balanced relations between the EEC and the Arab world. This would be to the advantage of both parties; EC supplies of oil and oil-related products would be secured, while the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council would be aided in the development and maintenance of their internal economies. Such aid could take the form of wide-ranging cooperation agreements covering increased investment, transfer of technology, the energy sector, scientific and technological cooperation, vocational training, the agricultural and agro-industrial sector, control of refuse and waste water, plants for desalination and conveyance of sea water, cooperation on the organization of public services in urban areas and transport infrastructures, joint participation in cooperation and assistance programmes for developing countries.

Beyond this, links of all kinds to encourage mutual understanding - e.g., cultural exchanges - should be strengthened.

The resolution was adopted with few amendments.

Group spokesmen were: Roberto COSTANZO (I) and Axel N. ZARGES (D).

PONS GRAU (S)

International tin crisis

Doc. A 2-62/87

Vote : 10 July 1987

The report was drawn up because of the crisis which has affected the international tin market since 1985 and the growing catastrophic effects of price drops of over 50%. For the International Tin Council the ensuing collapse of the tin market on the London Metal Exchange and consequent £900 million debt incurred by brokers and banks led to the breakdown of the VIth International Tin Agreement.

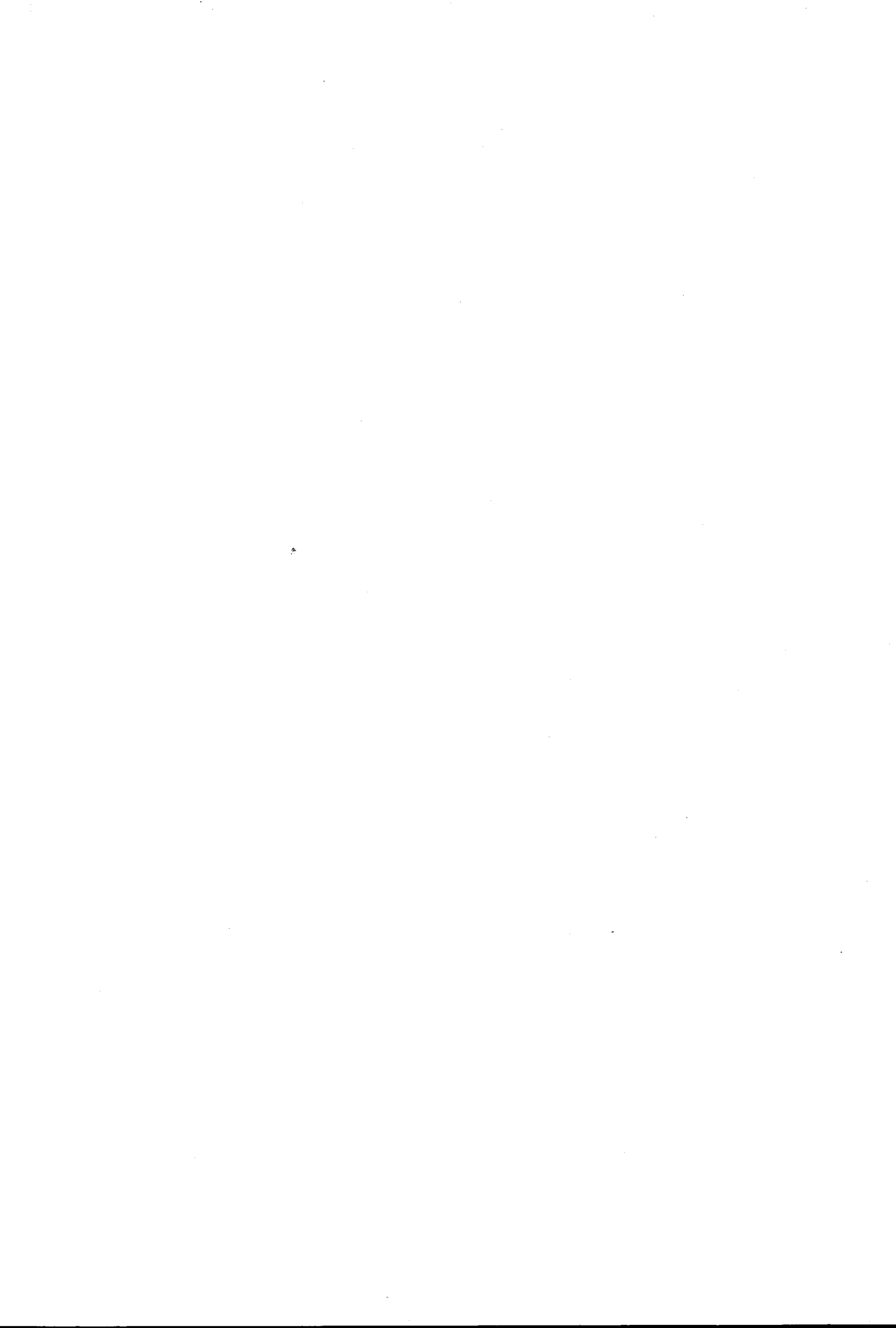
Also affected by the disaster are the producer countries, mostly developing countries whose economies are heavily dependent on tin exports and, of course, the relevant branches of industry in the Member States of the EC. The fate which has befallen the VI International Tin Agreement is absolutely exceptional and atypical and no comparisons can be drawn with other raw material agreements. The political importance of this is boosted by the fact that EC agreements on raw materials are measures for stabilising the external trade and hence the markets and economies of developing countries.

The resolution therefore expresses regret about a situation which has arisen from a number of different causes and factors, and calls on the Commission in particular to take steps to bring about a solution to the current situation, to stabilize markets and to seek possible solutions within the framework of an international study group, including for example, establishment of strategic Community stocks along the lines of the American GSA.

The resolution was adopted by 82 votes to none with one abstention.

Group spokesmen were: Georgios SARIDAKIS (GR), Hans-Jürgen ZAHORKA (D) and Jochen VAN AERSSEN (D).

Bruno OHLS



COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS AND CITIZENS' RIGHTS

Positions held by members of the EPP Group

First vice-chairman: Georgios SARIDAKIS (GR)
Coordinator: Nicole FONTAINE (F)
Substitute coordinator: James JANSSEN VAN RAAY (NL)

Members

Carlo CASINI (I)
Egon A. KLEPSCH (D)
Kurt MALANGRE (D)

Substitutes

Dario ANTONIOZZI (I)
Elise BOOT (NL)
Eolo PARODI (I)
Francisco LUCAS PIRES (P)
F.L., Schenk Graf von STAUFFENBERG (D)
Luis VEGA Y ESCANDON (E)

COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS AND CITIZENS' RIGHTS

Introduction

As in the previous parliamentary year, the Legal Affairs Committee has been active in two main fields. In the first, its role is to deal more specifically with legal technicalities and consider Community initiatives which relate, by their very nature, to development of the Community's legal system on the basis of the Treaties in a number of sectors where harmonization entails drawing up new legal standards or standards to supplement those already in force in the Member States.

This has mainly entailed looking into the numerous issues raised by specific proposals submitted by the Commission to the Council, which was required to seek Parliament's opinion before it could conclude its own deliberations.

These issues are referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights as the committee responsible and relate in particular to the removal of administrative customs barriers, the right of establishment and freedom to provide services. The law governing companies, banking and insurance is one of the key areas in which the Legal Affairs Committee is required to define the position to be adopted by Parliament after meticulously examining proposals originally put forward by the European Commission.

It is this type of work - which we have labelled 'legal technicalities' in order to distinguish it more clearly from other types - which sets the Legal Affairs Committee apart from the other committees in that, in addition to its above-mentioned substantive work, it also receives - indeed one might say is submerged by - requests for opinions from other parliamentary committees. These committees are competent to consider many of the European Commission's proposals and are in the best position to assess their technical validity, but they also need the Legal Affairs Committee to assess either their compatibility with the general legal framework for the area under consideration or the most suitable regulatory structure for their implementation.

The predominantly legal character of our committee also accounts for another aspect of its work. Alongside the committees which are more directly responsible for institutional matters, the Legal Affairs Committee has often been required to state its position - usually in the form of an opinion but sometimes as the committee responsible - on the balance in relations between the different Community institutions.

This is not so much with the admittedly exciting but legally sometimes rather dubious aim of determining how these relations should develop within the ideal constitutional framework we have always wanted as a stable foundation for the Community. It is far more a question of assessing them on the basis of existing constitutional law, though this is legitimately examined in terms of the purpose and requirements of a community, such as the European Community, which is governed by the rule of law and is in the process of development.

- 2) The other main area of our committee's activity in the parliamentary session just ended is 'citizens' rights', a term which has been an integral part of the committee's name since the last direct elections to the European Parliament in order to highlight the role of the committee, and of the European Parliament as guarantor of the fundamental rights of Community citizens, under both secondary Community legislation and the Laws of individual Member States.

Contradictions between parallel legislation may often give rise to considerable difficulties, particularly for those who point to the European Community and try to turn the potential it offers for liberalization to their advantage in their daily activities which are still, however, partly and sometimes even wholly governed by rules established and upheld within one Member State or another. This can easily lead to situations which, measured against the democratic 'standard' with which all the Member States identify within their own territory, would appear unacceptable and indeed often liable to call into question one or other of the fundamental rights vaunted by the Constitutions.

In conclusion, this then is an area in which our committee, while attempting to confine itself to legal affairs, cannot avoid straying into political territory where some development is clearly necessary and even urgent, in order to restore the overall legal framework for the daily lives of many Community citizens to a state of coherence and credibility.

In this area it is most often as a result of parliamentary initiatives rather than consultations that the Committee on Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights defines the position to be adopted by the European Parliament in plenary sitting.

- 3) Review of the reports drawn up by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights and adopted in plenary by the European Parliament between September 1986 and July 1987

- TURNER (ED, GB)
Doc. A 2-88/86
Vote 12.9.86

Report on the Commission's proposal for a directive on the legal protection of original topographies of semiconductor products

Content

In the resolution which it adopted the EP advocates legal protection for original topographies of semiconductor products - known as 'micro-electric chips' - in view of the legal protection given by the USA since 1 October 1985 and the need for reciprocity if European companies are not to be disadvantaged.

It approved the Commission's amended proposal and adopted the resolution unanimously by 156 votes, following a vote by roll call at the EPP's request.

- PRICE (ED, GB)
Doc. A 2-83/86
Vote: 12.9.86

Report on the Commission's proposals for

- I. a Regulation laying down special and exceptional provisions applicable to officials of the European Communities serving in a country which does not belong to the European Communities
- II. a Regulation introducing special transitional measures for the recruitment of overseas staff of the European Association for Cooperation as officials of the European Communities

Content

The purpose of these regulations is to establish the need for the Staff Regulations to contain special and derogating provisions relating to officials serving in an overseas territory. Subject to certain amendments, the EP approved the Commission's proposal for special measures for the recruitment of overseas staff of the European Association for Cooperation as officials of the European Communities.

The EP adopted the Commission's proposal and the resolution by 149 votes to 1 with 1 abstention following a vote by roll call at the EPP's request.

- DE GUCHT (LDR, B)
Doc. A 2-48/86
Vote: 11.9.86

Report on the Community's powers with regard to the law of the sea and the prevention of marine pollution

Content

The EP considers that despite the difficulties arising from the obligations assumed by each Member State in the context of international and regional cooperation, the conditions are now right for establishing Community jurisdiction over protection and conservation of the marine environment.

Vote by roll call at the EPP's request, adoption by 200 votes to 3 with 0 abstentions.

- VAYSSADE (S, F)
Doc. A 2-71/86
Vote: 9.10.86

Report on the position of the European Parliament in the context of actions for annulment brought before the Court of Justice under Article 173 of the EEC Treaty

Content

On the basis of a report studying various decisions by the Court, opinions in specialized literature and positions adopted by Parliament in proceedings before the Court, the EP notes that an action for annulment brought against

acts of the European Parliament intended to have legal force with regard to third parties is admissible. Acts of Parliament of a purely internal nature are not subject to legal review. In the interests of balance between the institutions Parliament must also have the right to bring actions.

The EP adopted the resolution, following a vote by roll call at the EPP's request, by 241 votes to 1 with 0 abstentions.

- ROTHLEY (S, D) .
Doc. A 2-157/86
Vote: 12.12.86
- Report on the proposal COM(85) 848 final for a regulation introducing special measures to terminate the service of temporary staff of the European Communities

Content

The regulation introducing special measures to terminate the service of temporary staff of the EEC applies to certain categories of temporary staff. The EP proposes amendments to the Commission's proposal to ensure that the requirements of temporary staff are catered for more fully.

The EP approved the Commission's amended proposal and the resolution.

- PRICE (ED, GB)
Doc. A 2-217/86
Vote: 19.2.87
- Report on the Commission's proposal (COM(84) 730 final) for a directive on the freedom of establishment and the free supply of services in the field of mortgage credit

Content

The proposed directive would repeal all the institutional and technical provisions under the First Banking Directive (No. 77/780/EEC adopted on 12 December 1977) preventing or restricting mortgage credit business by credit institutions other than in their home Member States. It would create the legal framework for credit institutions to engage in mortgage credit in several Member States by establishing a sort of mutual recognition of the financing techniques permitted in the various Member States. In the resolution which it adopted, the EP called on the Commission to incorporate the amendments to its proposal, to publish, after adopting the present directive, an information document explaining the directive and describing the financing techniques and to submit as soon as possible a proposal for a directive relating to mortgage bonds.

- DONNEZ (LDR, F)
Doc. A 2-121/86
Vote: 10.3.87
- Report on the draft Protocol revising the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities of 8 April 1965 in respect of Members of the European Parliament

Content

Pursuant to Article 96 of the ECSC Treaty, Article 236 of the EEC Treaty, and Article 204 of the EAEC Treaty, the European Parliament was consulted, by

letter of 8 May 1985, by the Council on the draft protocol revising the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities of 8 April 1965 in respect of Members of the EP.

In the resolution which it adopted, the EP considered that the purpose of parliamentary immunity was to guarantee the independence of the EP and its Members in relation to other authorities and that therefore its aim was ultimately to ensure the proper functioning of Parliament and the Communities. The importance of this aim was fully recognized by the Commission and by the Court of Justice which held, in a recent judgment, that a temporal restriction on immunity might prejudice the conduct of Parliament's activities as a whole. It delivered a favourable opinion on the convening by the President of the Council of a conference of representatives of the governments of the Member States for the purpose of adopting amendments to the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the EEC, the Commission's main proposals having been amended as follows by the EP: 'No restriction of any kind shall be imposed on the free movement of Members of the European Parliament travelling within the Communities, or within territories where the Direct Elections Act applies and which belong to Member States of the European Communities.'

'Members of the European Parliament shall not be subject to any form of inquiry, detention or legal proceedings, in connection with civil, criminal or administrative proceedings, in respect of opinions expressed or votes cast during debates in the European Parliament, in bodies created by or functioning within the latter or on which they sit as Members of the European Parliament.'

- DE GUCHT (LDR, B)
Doc. A 2-163/86
Vote: 12.3.87

Report on the Commission proposal to the Council for a Directive amending Directive 85/611/EEC as regards jurisdiction in disputes arising from the marketing of units of undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities (UCITS)

Content

The main provision of the directive submitted by the Commission is that a person who has acquired UCITS units in a Member State other than that in which the UCITS is situated may bring disputes relating to compliance with the provisions contained in this Section before the courts of the Member State in whose territory he acquired those units, whether he acquired them direct from the UCITS or through a representative or agent of that UCITS. In its examination of the proposal for a directive, the report specifically mentions the Brussels Convention on Jurisdiction and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters and hopes that there will be further efforts to coordinate the rules relating to the marketing of UCITS units in Member States other than those in which they are situated which could be prevented by these other Member States.

Parliament approved the Commission's proposal and adopted the resolution.

- DE GUCHT (LDR, B)
Doc. A 2-223/86
Vote: 12.3.87

Report on the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(86) 315 final) for a directive amending Directive 85/611/EEC on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities (UCITS) as far as concerns the investment policy of certain UCITS

Content

The Commission proposes the following two measures: firstly, the UCITS must be given the option to invest their assets to a maximum of 35% in the transferable securities of an issuer if these securities are bonds which are equivalent to transferable securities issued or guaranteed 'by a Member State, by its local authorities, by a non-member state or by public international bodies of which one or more Member States are members. Secondly, the enlargement of the scope of Directive 85/611/EEC, by way of derogation from Articles 19 to 26 (Section V), to common investment funds termed 'parallel UCITS', which invest savings raised from the public only in units issued by other UCITS managed or controlled by the same management company or by the same group of companies as that which manages or controls the fund.'

The committee therefore approves the Commission's proposal for a directive which seeks to add new paragraphs 4 and 5 to Article 22 and a new Article 26a in Council Directive 85/611/EEC and stresses the paramount importance of ensuring that the new provisions guarantee investors a level of protection equivalent to that offered by the provisions of Directive 85/611/EEC. With this aim and with a view to preventing traditional UCITS being placed at a disadvantage, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights recommends making several amendments to Article 26(a) proposed by the Commission.

Parliament approved the Commission's amended proposal and, pursuant to Rule 36(1) of the Rules of Procedure, the report was referred back to committee until the Commission stated its position on the EP's amendments.

- VETTER (S, D)
Doc. A 2-227/86
Vote: 12.3.87

Report on the right of asylum

Content

This report is based on surveys carried out in certain Member States (Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Spain, France, Italy and the United Kingdom) on the legal basis (except in Germany) for the treatment of asylum-seekers, the procedures followed, the social situation of asylum-seekers and refugees and the role of the welfare organizations. Essentially, the report records a deterioration in the legal and social situation of asylum-seekers and refugees (visa requirement and a policy of discouraging them) and the lack of any long-term policy. The report draws attention to Recommendation No. 81(16) of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on asylum procedures (for example, while the procedure is continuing, the applicant must be permitted to remain in the country of refuge unless his request is fraudulent and bears no relation to the criteria of the

Geneva Convention).

The report calls for: application of the principle of non-refoulement (not returning the applicant) to the first host country, freedom to choose the country of asylum in the European Community, freedom of movement for recognized asylum-seekers; access to the labour market after six months, access to social security and to educational establishments; a total ban on extraditions while the procedure is in progress; the prohibition of forced assignment to residence camps, residence requirements, and bans on employment, which violate human dignity; equality of treatment for de facto refugees, persons persecuted because of their sex, spouses and dependents; application of the definition of a refugee proposed in the OAU's charter and in the handbook of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees; the sharing between the Member States of the financial burden imposed by the influx of refugees and asylum-seekers, using the Community budgetary scale as a basis.

During the debate the restrictive application of the right of asylum and refuge was criticized. The EPP (and the ED) stressed the importance of clarity in the concepts of asylum-seekers and refugees, and the lack of coherence in the background analysis was condemned.

There was disagreement on the limitations to the concept of refugee (voiced for example by Mr Barzanti and Lord Bethell).

61 amendments. Adoption in particular of the compromise amendment concerning paragraph 10 and rejection of the group's initial resolution. Parliament adopted the resolution.

- BOOT (EPP, NL)
Doc. A 2-152/86
Vote: 13.3.87

Report on consumer redress

Content

The Commission has published a memorandum in which it describes the situation in the Member States. In it, it proposes to encourage measures designed to facilitate access to justice by providing financial support for pilot projects, aid from qualified experts and support for consumer organizations. The EP asks for the memorandum to be updated in the light of Portuguese and Spanish accession. In the resolution it adopted, Parliament approves the Commission's technical and financial support for activities designed to facilitate access to justice and calls on the Commission to publish a report on the results of such activities within three months of the adoption of its resolution.

The Commission is also called upon to propose a directive harmonizing the laws of the Member States to provide for the protection of the collective interests of consumers, giving consumers' associations the possibility of acting in legal proceedings on behalf of the category they represent and of individual citizens. Consumer associations must be able to represent these interest groups in court.

The EP adopted the resolution by 141 votes to 0 with 1 abstention, following a vote by roll call at the EPP's request.

- FONTAINE (EPP, F)
Doc. A 2-196/86
Vote: 13.3.87

Report on non-profit making
associations in the European Community

Content

This is an own-initiative report which considers:

- the definition of the associations forming the subject-matter of the report,
- the comparative situation of the association movement and the legislation governing associations within the Community,
- the advisability and legal basis of Community action in respect of non-profit making associations, and
- the proposed provisions.

In the resolution it adopted, Parliament calls for any discriminatory measures against citizens of the Member States based on nationality and relating to the right to belong to, form or administer an association to be rapidly abolished throughout the Community. The Commission is requested to draw up a proposal for a directive incorporating a Community-wide statute for associations for use by associations operating in more than one Member State and national associations wishing to act in concert at European level. It also requests that, when drawing up its annual report, the Court of Auditors verify that the subsidies paid to associations from the fund have been distributed and used in accordance with the criteria laid down by the budgetary authority.

Parliament adopted the resolution by 144 votes to 7 with 0 abstentions, following a vote by roll call at the request of the EPP.

- | | |
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| - VAYSSADE (S.F)
Doc. A 2-239/86
Vote: 13.3.87 | Report on the proposal from the Commission to the Council for a directive on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the reorganization and the winding-up of credit institutions. |
|--|--|

Content

The Commission White Paper on the completion of the internal market stressed the importance of greater European financial integration which would allow the creation of a uniform financial area; Community legislation in this field must be extended; at present the basic text is the first Directive of 12 December 1977 on the coordination of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the taking-up and pursuit of the business of credit institutions.

Recent crises within multinational credit institutions, with head offices within or outside the Community, have shown the need for certain specific measures to strengthen the protection of savings and have led the Commission to submit the proposal for a Council Directive on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the re-organization and the winding-up of credit institutions.

The method adopted by the Commission is that of mutual recognition of decisions by the competent national authorities, made possible by the minimum coordination of rules; this recognition means that in certain specific situations each Member State may apply, instead of its own rules, those of the country in which the branch of the credit institution in its territory has its head office.

Parliament approved the Commission's proposal and adopted the resolution by 128 votes to 4 with 0 abstentions, following a vote by roll call at the EPP's request.

- PROUT (ED, GB)
Doc. A 2-2/87
Vote: 9.4.87

Report on application of the procedures laid down in the Single Act to Commission proposals pending in the Council

Content

In January 1987 the Commission forwarded to the EP a list of the amendments it intended to make to the proposals pending in the Council pursuant to Article 149(2) of the EEC Treaty. This own-initiative report examines the procedures to be applied to Commission proposals pending in the Council in the absence of any transitional provisions under the Single Act. The report advocates exploiting to the very limit the possibilities offered by the Single Act and particularly recommends strengthening the legislative power of the European Parliament. Parliament is broadly in agreement with the new legal bases proposed by the Commission, with the exception of eight proposals based on Article 238 of the EEC Treaty, on which, after consulting all the parliamentary committees concerned, the report dissents with the Commission.

During the debate mention was made of the VREDELING directive, which the Commission wishes to defend on the basis of Article 100 and not Articles 118 and 118(a) of the EEC Treaty.

Parliament adopted the resolution.

- VETTER (S, D)
Doc. A 2-229/86
Vote: 9.4.87

Report on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a directive amending Directive 78/660/EEC on annual accounts and Directive 83/349/EEC on consolidated accounts as regards the scope of these directives.

Content

The proposals for directives concern the extension of the obligation to produce accounts to partnerships, limited partnerships and unlimited companies.

The EPP Group asked for the report to be referred back to committee with a view to amending it to include exemptions for SMUs. Following a roll-call vote, the amendment was rejected (by 71 votes to 47, with 2 abstentions). During the debate, the EPP Group, with the exception of the German members, who argued for more protection for SMUs and exemptions for small undertakings, declared its support for the motion for a resolution.

Parliament adopted the resolution by 188 votes to 17 with 4 abstentions.

- PROUT (ED, GB)
Doc. A 2-255/86
Vote: 9.4.87

Report on the proposal from the Commission of the EEC to the Council for a directive on information to be published when major holdings in the capital of a listed company are acquired or disposed of.

Content

Directive 79/279/EEC, which is to be amended, already contains the obligation

for companies listed on a stock exchange to inform the public of any changes in the structure of major holdings in its capital. The new proposal for a directive extends and reinforces the present provisions by obliging shareholders of a listed company to inform it each time the percentage of subscribed capital they hold exceeds or falls below 10%, 20%, one third, 50%, two thirds and 90%. The company is then obliged to inform the public in each of the Member States in which its shares are listed. In each case, a deadline of seven calendar days must be respected. The report proposes ten amendments to the Commission's proposal. These amendments concern the protection of investors and the method of publication of the information and provide certain clarifications. Parliament adopted the Commission's amended proposal and the resolution by 210 votes to 2, with 1 abstention.

- VAYSSADE (S, F)
Doc. A 2-96/87
Vote: 7.7.87

Report on the proposal for a directive
on the own funds of credit institutions.

Content

The report approves this proposal for a directive, subject to certain amendments, the most important of which allows for 'subordinated liabilities', considered as 'external elements' in the Commission's proposal, to be considered 'internal' provided they fulfil certain conditions. A report to Parliament on the application of the directive within three years of its notification was requested.

Parliament adopted the proposal by 206 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.

- PRICE (ED, GB)
Doc. A 2-85/87
Vote: 7.7.87

Report on freedom to provide insurance
services other than life assurance.

Content

The report assesses achievements to date, in the light of the recent decisions of the European Court of Justice and the proposals for directives pending in the Council, deplors the Council's failure so far to reach a decision on the matter, and calls upon the Council to adhere to the timetable contained in the Commission's White Paper for the adoption of the proposals for directives in question. There was no political division over this report. Parliament adopted the proposal.

Giovanni Perissinotto



COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT

Positions held by members of the EPP Group

Vice-chairman: John Joseph McCartin (IRL)
Coordinator: Elmar Brok (FRG)

Members

Elmar BROK (FRG)
Michelangelo CIANCAGLINI (I)
Marietta GIANNAKOU-KOUTSIKOU (GR)
Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN (NL)
John Joseph McCARTIN (IRL)
Andoni MONFORTE ARRGUI (E)

Substitutes

Philipp von BISMARCK (FRG)
Giovanni BERSANI (I)
Ferruccio PISONI (I)
Jean-Marie VANLERENBERGHE (F)
Raphael CHANTERIE (B)
Nicolas ESTGEN (L)

Oral question to the Commission of the European Communities and resolution to wind up the debate on immigration policy

By Ferruccio PISONI (EPP/I)
on behalf of the EPP Group¹

Debate and adoption in plenary: 6 to 10 October 1986

In his answer, Commissioner Marin criticized the Member States for the lack of progress in this field. In order to step up pressure on the Council, the Commission intended to publish a manual detailing existing legislation and a summary of the changes in the Member States' national laws. It would also organize a meeting with the various migrants' associations.

At the close of the debate, Parliament adopted the resolutions tabled by a number of political groups², including the resolution submitted by Mr PISONI on behalf of the EPP Group³ which was adopted by 237 votes to 6 with 3 abstentions.

¹ Docs. B 2-897/86, B 2-864/86 (by Mrs Marinaro on behalf of the Communist Group), B 2-867/86 (by Mrs Salisch and others) and B 2-870/86 (by Mr Tridente on behalf of the Rainbow Group)

² Docs. B 2-882/86 (by Mrs Dury on behalf of the Socialist Group) and B 2-883/86 (by Mrs Marinaro on behalf of the Communist Group)

³ Doc. B 2-881/86

European labour market

The Committee on Social Affairs and Employment submitted eight reports on the subject of restructuring the Community labour market with a view to proposing to the Council, within the framework of a major debate on social affairs, measures for improving the labour market situation in the Community:

Report on flexibility in the labour market¹

Rapporteur: Jean-Paul BACH (S/F)
Adoption in plenary: 10 to 14 November 1986

The report points to the adverse effects of the increasing liberalization of the labour market and more especially the increase in the 'special types of employment contract' (home work, work on call, minimum-maximum contracts, etc.). It therefore urges the Commission to draw up a framework directive to protect employees who are not covered by current legal safeguards, so that such employment contracts are covered by traditional collective wage agreements.

The European Parliament considers that the harmonization of labour laws (the EPP tabled an amendment to this point calling for the fundamental rights of workers to be included therein) is necessary for the achievement of the European internal market.

The European Parliament adopted the report by 232 votes to 27 with 35 abstentions.

¹Doc. A 2-132/86

Report on the European social area

Rapporteur:

Raphael CHANTERIE (EPP/B)¹

Adoption in plenary:

10 to 14 November 1986

The report reviews the current economic and social situation in the Community (economic crisis, unemployment and considerable regional imbalances) and stresses the importance of a European social policy. It calls on the Commission to implement a 'cooperation strategy for growth and employment' combining the twin objectives of an internal market and a European social area, since only in this way will it be possible to undertake the restructuring of the labour market (reduction in working time, the introduction of new technologies, etc.), with the active participation, naturally, of the social partners. The Commission is accordingly urged to promote social dialogue at Community level.

The European Parliament adopted the resolution by 223 votes to 15 with 4 abstentions.

Report on the role of the social partners in the labour market²

Rapporteur:

Andrea RAGGIO (COM/I)

Adoption in plenary:

10 to 14 November 1986

The report emphasizes the importance of consensus between the social partners in order to tackle the major challenges facing Europe (high unemployment and technological development), with a view to achieving an integrated European market (EPP amendment). It therefore calls for the agreement reached at the Val Duchesse meetings to serve as a basis for a general directive laying down the fundamental rights of workers (EPP amendment).

¹ Doc. A 2-141/86

² Doc. A 2-144/86

The report calls for a directive with guidelines on the role of the social partners in the labour market, taking into account the experience of collective bargaining in the various countries and respect for the autonomy of the social partners (EPP amendment).

The European Parliament adopted the report.

Report on education and training in new technologies¹

Rapporteur: Jessica LARIVE-GROENENDAAL (L/NL)
Adoption in plenary: 10 to 14 November 1986

The report lists a series of measures aimed at introducing new technologies into school and university education and vocational training.

The Commission is accordingly urged to draw up a NEPTUNE (New European Programme for Technology Utilization in Education) five-year programme. The report also calls for a COMETT II programme to continue the work done in COMETT I.

The European Parliament adopted the report by 227 votes with 2 abstentions.

Report on unemployment problems at regional level²

Rapporteur: Gene FITSGERALD (ERDA/IRL)
Adoption in plenary: 10 to 14 November 1986

The report considers that the establishment of an internal market entails the promotion of a process of integration by removing regional imbalances. A suitable way of combating regional disparities would be to create and develop a network of small and medium-sized undertakings. The report also mentions the important role of public bodies.

The European Parliament adopted the report by 193 votes to 8 with 1 abstention.

¹Doc. A 2-142/86

²Doc. A 2-130/86

Report on social security in the European Community¹

Rapporteur: Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN (EPP/NL)
Adoption in plenary: 10 to 14 November 1986

The report highlights the importance of making structural adjustments to social security systems so as to make provision for the socially disadvantaged categories, taking into account the considerable differences between the individual Member States.

It sets out the basis for a fair policy for financing social security and emphasizes that the main objective of the approximation of the various social security systems must be to combat poverty (it recommends a series of specific measures to this end).

The Commission is requested to consider the possibility of establishing a basic income to help back up social security systems.

The report was adopted by 153 votes to 3 with 21 abstentions.

Report on the contribution of the European Regional development Fund to the creation of jobs in the Community²

Rapporteur: Christopher BEASLEY (ED/GB)
Adoption in plenary: 10 to 14 November 1986

The report states that it is difficult to isolate the effect which the ERDF can have in promoting employment. In fact, the requirement that investment by this structural fund must ensure that a minimum number of jobs are created was dropped from the Regulation of 1 January 1985, which is deplorable.

The resolution was adopted by Parliament.

¹ Doc. A 2-137/86

² Doc. A 2-120/86

Report on the problems encountered by women in connection with the restructuring of the labour market¹

Rapporteur: Ursula BRAUN MOSER (EPP/FRG)
and others
Adoption in plenary: 10 to 14 November 1986

The report is divided into three chapters which deal with, respectively, flexibility in women's employment (it is considered that flexible work contracts may result in reducing women's opportunities on the regular labour market), the effects of new technology on the employment market (it might be thought that women would be particularly affected by new technology, owing to its impact in offices and in trade, but there is insufficient statistical evidence for this argument) and the position of women under social security systems in the Community (attention is drawn to the disturbing degree of differences in social security cover for women in the various Member states, which tends to become more pronounced with the overall reduction in social security cover).

Report on compliance with and the consolidation of international labour standards²

Rapporteur: Raymond DURY (SOC/B)
Adoption in plenary: 9 to 13 March 1987

The report calls for Community action in respect of the ratification of and compliance with ILO standards, which would contribute to the creation of the European social area. It also calls for a higher degree of coordination of Member States' positions within the International Labour Organization and the appointment of a single spokesman. Following an EPP amendment the report calls upon the Commission to take part in the preparation of the ILO's regional conferences and to act upon the findings thereof.

The resolution was adopted.

¹ Doc. A 2-146/86

² Doc. A 2-177/86

Report on the proposal from the Commission to the Council for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1365/75 on the creation of a European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions¹

Rapporteur: Mario DIDO (SOC/I)
Adoption in plenary: 9 to 13 March 1987

The European Parliament has already had occasion to express its disagreement with the Regulation concerning the Dublin Foundation (EISMAN report).

The amendments recently proposed by the Commission were also rejected by Parliament. The report emphasized the importance of close cooperation between the European Parliament and the Foundation and requests that a delegation of Members of the European Parliament should attend meetings of the Administrative Board.

Parliament therefore rejected unanimously the Commission's proposal (which was withdrawn) by 155 votes.

Report on the communication from the Commission to the Council concerning the follow-up to the Council resolution of 7 June 1984 on the contribution of local employment initiatives to combat unemployment²

Rapporteur: Nikolaos PAPAKYRIAZIS (SOC/G)
Adoption in plenary: 11 to 15 May 1987

The report outlines the special features of the local employment initiatives and the progress made to date.

The resolution was adopted.

¹Doc. A 2-200/86

²Doc. A 2-70/87

Report on adult training in firms¹

Rapporteur:

Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN (EPP/NL)

Adoption in plenary:

11 to 15 May 1987

In this report, which consists solely of a motion for a resolution, Parliament also refers to previous initiatives and mentions in particular the eight resolutions which it adopted on 11 November 1986 on:

- the European social area
- the role of the social partners in the labour market
- flexibility in the labour market
- education and training in the new technologies
- unemployment problems at regional level
- social security in the European Community
- the contribution of the ERDF to the creation of jobs in the Community
- the situation of women in connection with the restructuring of the labour market.

The European Parliament urges the Commission to submit an integrated action programme on the restructuring of the labour market based on the above resolutions.

As regards continuous training for workers, the European Parliament urges the Commission to:

- draw up a recommendation on paid educational leave
- clarify the financing of its medium-term Community action programme for the training of workers in firms.

The European Parliament adopted the report by 32 votes.

¹Doc. A 2-71/87

Report on child labour¹

Rapporteur:

Fernando SUAREZ GONZALES (E/ED)

Adoption in plenary:

15 to 19 June 1987

The report mentions the factors which are directly related to child labour (in particular education and socio-economic circumstances) and expresses concern at the effect which the rise in the underground economy in the Member States is having upon child labour.

In view of this situation, the report calls on the Commission to draw up a directive harmonizing national legislation on child labour, incorporating inter alia, a ban on the employment of young persons under 16 years of age, with the exception of casual and light work compatible with schooling (EPP amendment), the requirement of authorization to work from parents or legal representatives for young persons aged between 16 and 18 (an EPP amendment recommends that certain forms of work for young people of this age, such as nightwork, should be prohibited) and a recommendation that, in the case of young persons aged between 16 and 18, time spent with the employer's consent in vocational training should count as working time.

The report was adopted by the European Parliament.

Report on shelter for the homeless in the European Community²

Rapporteur:

Antonio LACERDA DE QUEIROZ (LIB/P)

Adoption in plenary:

15 to 19 June 1987

The report establishes a direct link between the phenomenon of homeless persons - often as a result of political, social and economic conflicts and, in particular, lack of income - and the different forms of poverty and general inability to find a place in society.

It urges the Commission to examine the problem and decide whether a basic income can help to solve it. It also calls for positive action to be taken under the second Community action programme to combat poverty.

¹ Doc. A 2-67/87

² Doc. A 2-246/86

The report states that it is vital that the rights of the homeless to be housed in decent and appropriate housing suited to their needs be recognized, given that the right to a home is recognized as a fundamental right laid down in the constitutions of most of the Member States, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the European Convention on Human Rights. In order to alleviate the problem of the homeless, the report calls for suitable housing policies on the part of the Member States, the formulation of a Community housing policy, an end to discrimination against the homeless and a social assistance policy which caters in particular for the unemployed.

The European Parliament adopted the report by 176 votes to 1 with 10 abstentions.

Report on social accounts¹

Rapporteur: Rodolfo CRESPO (SOC/P)

Adoption in plenary: 6 to 10 July 1987

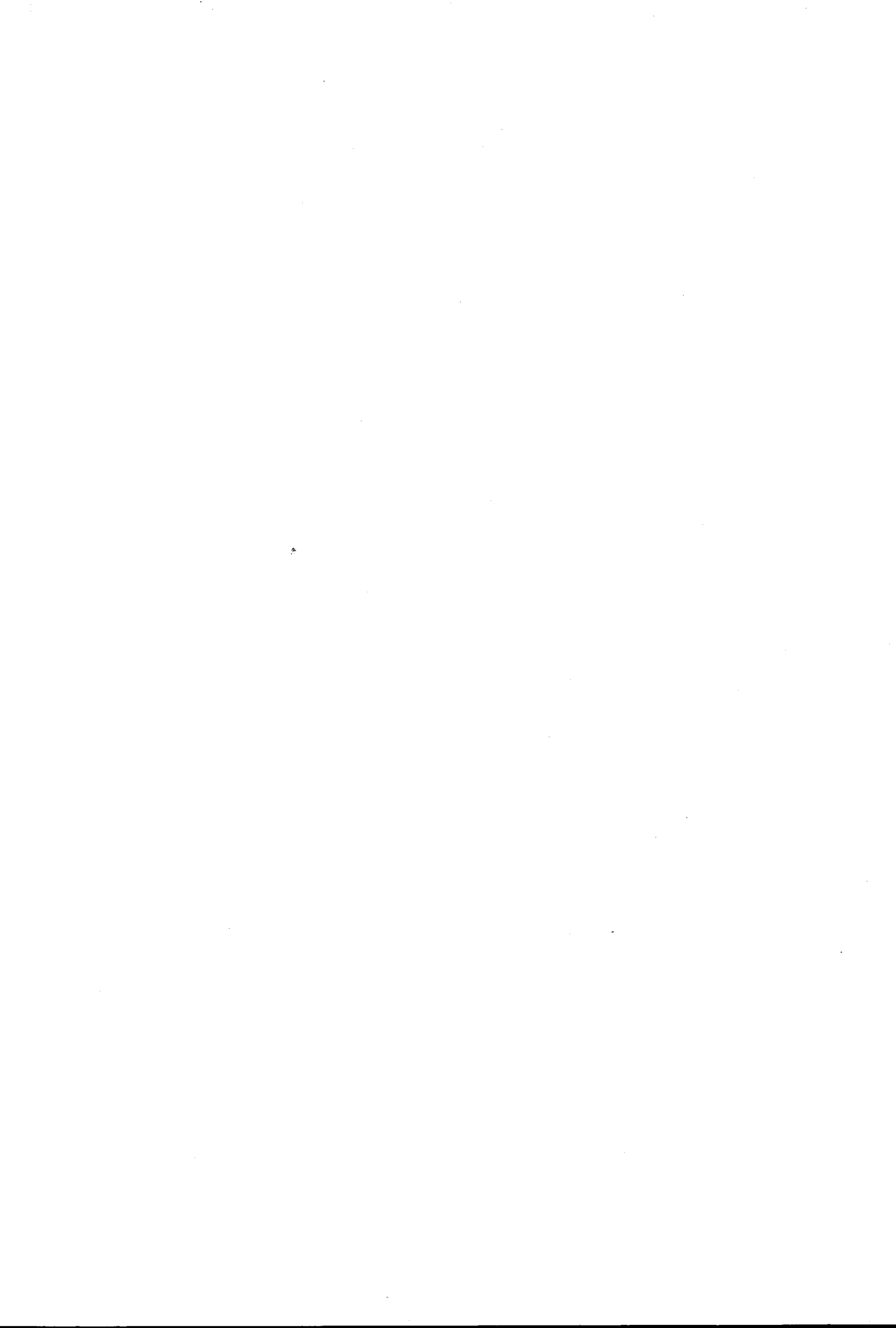
The report states that undertakings in a market economy have social responsibilities, and proposes the introduction of a standard social balance sheet which would form a basis for dialogue between the two sides of industry.

It urges the Commission to carry out by June 1988 a detailed study, taking into account the possibility of drafting a directive on this matter.

The report was adopted by Parliament.

Gerardo GALEOTE

¹Doc. A 2-74/87



COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL POLICY AND REGIONAL PLANNING

I. Mandate of members of the EPP Group

Coordinator: Jon GANGOITI LLAGUNO (ES)

Assistant coordinator:

Full members:

Elise BOOT (NL)
Vincenzo GIUMMARRA (I)
Panayotis LAMBRIAS (GR)
Giosuè LIGIOS (I)
Tom. G. O'DONNELL (IRL)
Hans POETSCHKI (D)

Substitute members:

Luis Filipe BEIROCO (PT)
Mark CLINTON (IRL)
Mauro CHIABRANDO (I)
Kyriakos GERONTOPOULOS (GR)
Hans-Gert POETTERING (D)
Leopold SPAETH (D)

II. INTRODUCTION

During the period from July 1986 to July 1987, the major feature of the activities engaged in by the members of Parliament's Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning was their work in connection with the regulation governing the operation of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The committee was kept particularly busy by the two annual reports (10th and 11th) drawn up by the Commission on the activities of the ERDF and by the need to submit proposals for the new review of the regulations governing the structural funds required by the Single European Act. By taking stock of the operation of the old regulation (Francois MUSSO, ERDA/F) and making a critical analysis of the results achieved in the application of the regulation now in force (José Antonio BRITO APOLONIA, COM/PT) it was able to provide the Commission, through the report by Panayotis LAMBRIAS (EPP/GR), with the general guidelines for a further review of the ERDF regulation so that it can be adapted to the new requirements and perspectives introduced by the Single European Act.

However, the period in question (July 1986 - July 1987) was not only a year in which the committee studied ways of making the ERDF regulation function correctly, but was also a year in which it achieved a broader examination of regional policy.

Tangible proof of this is provided by the reports drawn up on regional development policy in relation to education and training (Colette GADIOUX, S/F), to transfrontier cooperation (Hans POETSCHKI, EPP/D), to the cooperative movement (Paraskevas AVGERINOS, S/GR), to national regional policies (Alasdair Henry HUTTON, ED/GB) and to job creation (Christopher BEAZLEY, ED/GB).

The committee has also considered special regional problems. Its activities in this field include the drawing up of two reports concerning the implementation of two integrated development programmes: one for Northern Ireland (Thomas MAHER, LDR/IRL) and one for the French Overseas Departments (Giosuè LIGIOS, EPP/I). Meanwhile, the committee has been closely following developments with regard to the implementation of the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes (oral question with debate in the Assembly and publication of a resolution) and the problems of regions with an industrial tradition (David MARTIN, S/GB).

Part of the committee's work was also taken up by hearings with politicians and Community officials responsible for regional policy, with whom the committee members exchanged views. Views were thus exchanged with the President-in-Office of the Council responsible for regional policy, the English Minister Mr G. SHAW; the following Members of the Commission: Mr PFEIFFER (responsible for regional policy), Mr VARFIS (responsible for the coordination of the structural funds) and Mr SUTHERLAND (responsible for competition); the member of the Court of Auditors (responsible for regional policy) Mr A. J. MIDDELHOEK, and the Directors-General of the Commission Mr LANDABURU (regional policy) and Mr BARLEBO-LARSEN (coordination of the structural funds).

The committee's opinions were delivered only on absolutely essential matters. Of the four opinions produced in total, two referred to the budget for 1987 (Jaak H. VANDEMEULEBROUCKE, ARC/B) and 1988 (Kostas FILINIS, COM/GR), one to Community action in the field of tourism (Manuel PEREIRA, LDR/PT) and one to SMUs and the craft industry (Anne ANDRE, LDR/B).

Matters pending include:

- (a) the report on mountain regions (François MUSSO, ERDA/F) which has been adopted by the committee but has not yet been submitted to the Assembly and
- (b) the approval of the five-part report on Community regional policy and the role of the regions (Assembly at the end of the year).

In conclusion, during the period in question the committee has achieved the correct balance of theory and practice in its work and been highly productive. In view of the pressing need for support experienced by regions with acute regional problems (lack of infrastructures or industrial decline) and the favourable conditions created by the signing and ratification of the Single European Act, this is precisely what was required of it.

CONTENT OF THE REPORT:

The tenth report summarizes ten years of operation of the ERDF and covers the final year in which the amended 1975 regulation was in operation, thus offering an appropriate opportunity to examine, and draw conclusions from, the operation of this regulation. The verdict was fairly unfavourable. According to the rapporteur the ERDF has not operated as it should have. During the ten years of its operation it has failed to achieve its main objective: to close the gap between the rich and poor regions; moreover the situation of the most disadvantaged regions has deteriorated despite the fact that the Fund has helped to create or preserve some 640 000 jobs in the productive sector. Unfortunately the policy pursued was a policy of subsidy rather than development. To make the ERDF truly effective the Commission would have to ensure respect for the principle of the additionality of ERDF financing and Member States would need to achieve a better balance in their requests for aid for infrastructure investment. The rapporteur expressed regret that only 15% of the aid committed in 1984 was allocated for projects involving services, industry and craft industries instead of the 30% originally planned. He also expressed regret that of the aid spent on infrastructure 80% went on roads and motorways at the expense of ports, airports and railways. Finally he deplored the fact that the 40 million ECU allocated to the non-quota section had either been transferred to the quota section, or carried over, or purely and simply cancelled. In conclusion he advocated greater participation by local authorities and large-scale integrated regional programmes.

Seven amendments were tabled, of which only one was adopted.

GROUP SPOKESMAN: Tom O'DONNELL

* Doc. A 2-76/86, adopted on 8 September 1986

CONTENT OF REPORT:

The declining industrial regions have three common characteristics: (a) a high dependence on a limited number of traditional industries which have disappeared or have been forced sharply to reduce their work force, (b) a high level of structural unemployment and (c) declining per capita GDP. The report by David MARTIN notes that the purpose of the ERDF is 'to contribute to the correction of the principal regional imbalances within the Community through participation in the development and structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind and in the conversion of declining industrial regions'. Regional policy must therefore concern itself without discrimination with two groups of disadvantaged regions: peripheral, rural, under-developed regions on the one hand and declining TIR on the other. He then listed the regions of the eight countries (B, F, D, I, L, NL, ES, GB) which are considered to be TIR, and the five most importance common characteristics and he pointed out that for several decades the TIR were the driving force in economic development and prosperity and all the peoples of Europe have benefited. He also took the view that the Community could help the traditional industrial regions to restructure their production potential through:

- better integration of the instruments currently in operation (ERDF, Social Fund, ECSC, EIB);
- consideration of the interests of traditional industrial regions in the formulation of Community policies;
- a guaranteed multiannual financial commitment;
- the improvement of the physical environment;
- the creation of a range of management and technical assistance services for SMEs;
- encouraging companies to invest in the latest technology.

To help these regions to restructure their production potential he did not propose the creation of a new Community instrument but a general increase in the appropriations of the various existing funds (ERDF, ESF, ECSC, EAGGF, EIB)

* Doc. A 2-77/86, adopted on 9 September 1986

and the implementation of the IMPs. In conclusion David MARTIN called on the Commission to submit proposals either in the context of an integrated development operation or a Community programme under the ERDF.

Thirty-two amendments were tabled, of which sixteen were adopted, twelve rejected, two cancelled and two withdrawn.

Result of a roll-call vote on the motion for a resolution as a whole: 290 in favour, 2 against and 4 abstentions.

GROUP SPOKESMEN: Hans POETSCHKI, Thomas RAFTERY

Christopher BEAZLEY: THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
(ED/GB)* TO THE CREATION OF JOBS IN THE COMMUNITY

CONTENT OF REPORT:

While the legislative texts governing Community regional policy since its inception in 1975 attribute a central role to job creation, the rapporteur has noted considerable fluctuation both in theory and in practice with regard to the implementation of provisions on job creation. The ERDF which has enabled more than 541 000 jobs to be created and more than 96 000 to be maintained between 1975 and 1984 should nonetheless pursue and expand its activities giving priority to investment in the work force. The rapporteur considers that in future the maximum level of aid for a job created or maintained should be fixed not by individual project but by integrated programme or activity and aid should be concentrated on undertakings which can be made competitive. He also took the view that the interests of the majority would be better served if we met the challenge of technological progress by adapting to it and not by resisting it just because in the short term it would entail a number of job losses. Finally, he pointed out that the jobs created in the future would in large part be in small and medium-sized undertakings and he wished to promote the concept of 'selfhelp'.

Eleven amendments were tabled, five of which were adopted and six rejected.

GROUP SPOKESMAN: Tom O'DONNELL

* Doc. A 2-120/86, adopted on 11 November 1986

CONTENT OF REPORT:

The report by Thomas Joseph MAHER primarily reminds the communities in Northern Ireland of the need to put an end to age-old rivalries by establishing joint social and economic interests as a basis for broader and deeper relationships among peoples long divided by bloody conflicts; it considers that the pursuit of these joint interests would strengthen the case for continued preferential support measures. With regard to the purely agricultural aspects of this programme the rapporteur notes that agriculture plays a more important part in the Northern Ireland economy than in the economies of the rest of the United Kingdom and observes that its agricultural production is concentrated on a narrow range of products (dairy, beef, poultry, pig-rearing and sheep). He then points out that the incomes of many people in rural areas in Northern Ireland depend in large measure on social benefits and thus considers that it is urgently necessary to maintain certain services (e.g. sub-post offices, public transport) in rural areas, by granting relief from local taxes. He also calls for the provision of a mobile welfare advisory service in rural areas. Finally the report examines several aspects of this programme such as education, the environment, economic recovery, tourism, reforestation, energy, fisheries industry, processing plants, transport and telecommunications. In conclusion Thomas Joseph MAHER calls on the Commission to draw up, in conjunction with the Northern Ireland authorities and the British Government, an integrated development programme comprising in particular nine special recommendations listed in detail in this report.

Ten amendments were tabled, none of which was adopted. (Nine were rejected and one withdrawn.)

Result of the roll-call vote requested by the EPP Group on the motion for a resolution as a whole: 155 votes in favour and 1 vote against.

GROUP SPOKESMEN: John Joseph McCARTIN, Mark CLINTON

* Doc. A 2-105/86, adopted on 14 November 1986

CONTENT OF REPORT:

The report by Colette GADIOUX firmly stresses the importance of education and training to enhance the economic potential of the regions: the free play of market forces is not sufficient to ensure that the public sector and private industry find trained staff on the spot. Voluntary programmes are therefore called for, particularly rationalization and decentralization programmes for which the European Community must offer incentives, in particular through the coordination of its financial instruments such as the Regional and Social Funds. Young people should receive an all-round basic training to prepare them for mobility in working life. This training should aim to develop a spirit of initiative and a sense of responsibility, particularly in under-developed or declining industrial regions, and should take account of the economic and social situations in the various regions. Cross-border exchange programmes in the field of education should be diversified and pilot projects of the Strasbourg-Karlsruhe type which make provision for the organization of examinations for 'Community apprentices' should be increased. The rapporteur called on the Commission to draw up a Community programme aimed at increasing the number of SMEs and improving their growth rate and which will help to establish new specialist centres on the problems of SMEs, cooperatives and craft undertakings, particularly in regions where traditionally there are not many SMEs. In conclusion Colette GADIOUX said that in the most disadvantaged regions emphasis must be laid on the setting up and development of SMEs or cooperatives with favourable tax arrangements, a high level of capitalization, and guarantees with regard to job flexibility and technical, legal and management training.

Three amendments were tabled and adopted. The report was adopted unanimously.

GROUP SPOKESMAN: Tom O'DONNELL

* Doc. A 2-133/86, adopted on 9 March 1987

CONTENT OF REPORT:

The rapporteur took the view that the transfrontier regions of the Community were at a disadvantage despite the fact that they represent the cement of the Community. They frequently suffer from defective infrastructure, inadequate communications and ... the existence of borders. Parliament has repeatedly called on the Commission to draw up a specific Community programme for these regions to encourage social, economic and cultural cooperation, paying particular attention to the problems of regional planning. This wish has for a long time been no more than a pious hope. On behalf of the Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning Hans Poetschki therefore rose to the challenge and called on the Community to first of all ratify the European outline convention on transfrontier cooperation between territorial communities or authorities drawn up by the Council of Europe. He also called on the Commission to submit a series of directives with a view to establishing mutual consultation on national measures with a direct or indirect impact on border areas in neighbouring countries. In conclusion he also called for a regulation which would oblige states to apply in its border regions where there is a risk of pollution beyond their borders, the emission levels in force in the neighbouring country, where they are more stringent than domestic levels.

Eighteen amendments were tabled, of which nine were adopted, six rejected, two withdrawn and one lapsed.

GROUP SPOKESMEN: Hans POETSCHKI, Elise C. A. M. BOOT

* Doc. A 2-170/86, adopted on 12 March 1987

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE ON THE INTEGRATED MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMMES*

Twenty-three members of the Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning tabled a motion for a resolution with request for an early vote pursuant to Rule 42(5) of the Rules of Procedure to wind up the debate on the oral question on the implementation of the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes. Parliament's resolution asked the Commission:

- (a) to inform the European Parliament, the States and the regions concerned of the deadline by which the Mediterranean Programmes will be approved;
- (b) to announce the criteria it has adopted or intends to adopt to ensure that each programme has a financial endowment commensurate with the quality and content of the programmes presented, the degree of backwardness of the regions concerned and their size in terms of area and population;
- (c) to provide, when they are about to be approved, information to the appropriate committee of the European Parliament on the content of the individual programmes;
- (d) to ensure that the additionality of the aid granted under the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes is respected and highlighted in comparison with the normal activities of the structural funds and the EIB in the regions affected by the programmes;
- (e) to take immediately all the necessary measures to ensure the coordination and integration of the procedures and activities of the various Community instruments in the framework of each single programme, without waiting for the future reform of the funds provided for in the Single Act;
- (f) to propose, for the next draft budget, appropriate budgetary lines to highlight the proportion of financing from the structural funds to be allocated to the Mediterranean Programmes;
- (g) to ensure appropriate technical assistance during the various stages of the implementation of the programmes, especially for those regions which display serious shortcomings in their management and administration.

Efthimios CHRISTODOULOU, Panayotis LAMBRIAS, Tom O'DONNELL, Giosuè LIGIOS and Hans POETSCHKI signed this motion on behalf of the EPP Group.

GROUP SPOKESMAN: Panayotis LAMBRIAS

* Doc. B 2-78/87, adopted on 13 March 1987

CONTENT OF REPORT:

The report recommended in particular integrated development operations and national programmes of Community interest and most of all, on the model of the IMPs - Integrated Mediterranean Programmes -, IPFOD - Integrated Programmes for the French Overseas Departments, with adequate funding. It stressed that Community aid must supplement French aid and not represent a partial repayment of this aid. Support was needed in particular for transport, vocational training, agricultural production, fisheries and aquaculture, tourism integrated with the local economy and cooperatives. The report recommended greater cooperation between the FODs, OCT and ACP countries in the same area and schemes for inter-regional development with the countries of Latin America. The resolution considered that national measures should be adopted to make the present rules on rum from the FODs less rigid since consumption of types of rum different from those from the FODs is growing in the rest of the Community and in the world. The FODs have moreover considerable disadvantages to overcome: an insular and peripheral situation, low industrialization and hydrological problems (cyclones). Finally it is stressed that the economic situation of the FODs is worsening from year to year, the GDP being 40% lower than that of metropolitan France, while unemployment is 30% higher and exports 3 billion francs compared with imports at 21 billion. The EP adopted only five of the twenty amendments tabled (one amendment lapsed). The report was adopted without being much amended, so that the production of bananas from the FODs was not affected.

GROUP SPOKESMEN: Giosuè LIGIOS, Kyriakos GERONTOPOULOS,
Jean-Marie VANLERENBERGHE

* Doc. A 2-250/86, adopted 11 May 1987

José BRITO APOLONIA: ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT (1985) OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF)

CONTENT OF REPORT:

The verdict after one year of the 'new' ERDF: appropriations misused or under-used, inadequate resources from the fund, lack of information and transparency. Better management is called for. The Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning took the view that there was still much to be done. The appropriations available for commitment still only represented 7.5% of the Community budget, a percentage which has remained practically the same for five years. The entering of ERDF appropriations under a single budgetary heading does not make for transparency. The opportunities for advances and accelerated payments have not been used as they should be. The establishment of a systematic method of assessment of the impact of Community and national guidelines and measures on the various regions of the Community is obviously necessary. Finally, if the Commission's eleventh report did not confine itself to an essentially descriptive role it might acquire greater stature by providing a strict assessment of practical and more important matters connected with the use of the ERDF and the application of regional policy in the Community.

Eleven amendments were tabled, five of which were adopted and six rejected.

GROUP SPOKESMEN: Hans POETSCHKI, Tom O'DONNELL

* Doc. A 2-41/87, adopted on 18 June 1987

CONTENT OF REPORT:

According to this report cooperatives could make for economic growth with greater job creation potential. However, the cooperative movement does not have a joint strategy commensurate with its potential. Cooperatives are still particularly rare in under-developed regions. The Commission is thus called upon to promote the cooperative spirit in these regions, to make provision in particular for training programmes in modern management techniques and technological, legal, accounting and management assistance for new cooperatives. A certain level of aid should be set aside for cooperative companies under the structural funds. Moreover, a European guarantee fund should guarantee the financing of investment in cooperatives and national legislation in this field; legislation should be harmonized under a European cooperative code. Nine amendments were tabled, only one of which was adopted.

GROUP SPOKESMEN: Tom O'DONNELL, Mauro CHIABRANDO

Spyridon EFSTATHOPOULOS

* Doc. A 2-12/87, adopted on 9 July 1987

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT

I. Functions of members of the EPP Group

Chairman : Georgios ANASTASSOPOULOS (GR)
Spokesman : Manfred EBEL (D)
Deputy Spokesman : Ursula BRAUN-MOSER (D)

Members:

ANASTASSOPOULOS Georgios (GR)
BRAUN-MOSER Ursula (D)
EBEL Manfred (D)
HOFFMANN Karl-Heinz (D)
STARITA Giovanni (I)
3rd vice-chairman

Substitutes:

BAUDIS Dominique (F)
CHIUSANO Vittorino (I)
CORNELISSEN Pam (NL)
FRIEDRICH Ingo (D)
ZAHORKA Hans-Jurgen (D)

II. Development of the Common Transport Policy during the period covered by the report

A. General Survey

Despite pressure from Parliament, it is the Council of Transport Ministers which determines the pace of progress of the Common Transport Policy and the quality of this policy. On 30 June 1986 the very last day of the Dutch presidency, the Council of Transport Ministers achieved some progress in the Community's transport policy, notably in the following areas: it increased Community quotas, introduced market mechanisms for inter-Community road haulage and fixed the weight of the drive axle (11.5 tonnes) in the field of weights and measurements in road haulage with a view to creating the common internal market by 1992, as laid down by the Council of Transport Ministers on 14 November 1985 in its decision of principle on the Commission's proposal (White Paper).

Furthermore, the Council of Transport Ministers has confirmed the need gradually to introduce a coherent system for Community air transport policy; they have examined this matter repeatedly from different angles but have so far failed to achieve a break-through. In the field of maritime transport, on the other hand, a four-point agreement was concluded under the British presidency. Despite some encouraging developments, the Common Transport Policy has still had little impact on the transport market which has begun to develop since the judgment of 22 May 1985 (ECJ 'Proceedings for Failure to Act'). The far-reaching change from a variety of different national transport policies in the Member States to a common European policy, can only be achieved if there is a simultaneous liberalization and harmonization of rail, road and inland waterways transport. This means that the Common Transport Policy requires a comprehensive master plan laying down a schedule for gradual development of this policy and joint coordination. The Council of Transport Ministers has however so far been unable to tackle this fundamental task, as its budgetary policy in the field of transport infrastructures (Chapter 581) and its prolonged hesitation in approaching third countries (transit countries) in this matter indicate. The Council of Ministers has achievements to its credit (notably in the field of maritime transport) but has also failed in other areas (notably in the field of civil aviation at its meeting of 24 June 1987); however there is no doubt

that a real European transport policy does not yet exist.

The European Parliament, and notably its Committee on Transport, has condemned this state of affairs and warned the Commission of the consequences of supporting the transport policy pursued by the Council (e.g. maintaining bilateral quotas and additional cabotage). The tension between the three EC Institutions referred to above in the field of transport policy has increased during the year under review and there have even been serious differences of opinion. After the entry into force of the Single Act the adoption of the Commission's proposals for regulations and directives should enhance the quality of legislation in the field of transport. This means in real terms that the Commission and the European Parliament should adopt a common approach during the first reading and defend it vis-à-vis the Council of Ministers.

B. Survey of work undertaken by the Committee on Transport during the period covered by the report and legal acts published by the Council of Ministers

(a) Reports and opinions submitted by the Committee on Transport (including urgent procedure)

I. Reports submitted during 1986/87, the period covered by the report, listed by group:

1. Reports	Reference Doc./PE No	Rapporteur
<u>Group (SOC)</u>		
- Maritime Transport	Doc. A2-53/86 Doc. A2-95/86	Kenneth STEWART (S/GB) Georgios ANASTASSOPOULOS (EVP/GR)
- Transport and third countries	Doc. A2-69/86	Günter TOPMANN (S/D)
- Local public means of transport (under consultation)	Doc. A2-69/86	Leslie HUCKFIELD (S/GB)
- Community quota for the carriage of goods by road between Member States (Report without debate)	Doc. A2-186/85	Jan KLINKENBORG (S/D)
- Combined Transport	Doc. A2-193/85	Jan KLINKENBORG (S/D)

Reports	Reference Doc./PE No	Rapporteur
- Speed-limits (rejected)	Doc. A2-115/86	Ben VISSER (S/NL)
- Pillage and destruction of lorries	Doc. A2-25/87	Jesus CABEZON ALONSO (S/ES)
- Services by coach and bus between Member States	COM(83) 295	
- River ports	PE 111.078	Antonio COIMBRA MARTINS (S/PT)
- Transport for the handi-capped and elderly persons	PE 112.167	Juan de Dios RAMIREZ HEREDIA (S/ES)
- Pipelines	PE 109.221	Marcel REMACLE (S/B)
- Road Safety Year	A2-48/87	Horst SEEFELD (S/D)
- Carriage of goods by road	PE 112.406	Enrique SAPENA GRANELL (S/ES)
- Groups of countries outside the Community (under consultation, hearing)		Horst SEEFELD (S/D)
- Rational use of energy in the field of transport (under consultation)		Jesus CABEZON ALONSO (S/ES)
- Quota for 1987	A2-39/87	Enrique SAPENA GRANELL (S/ES)
- Safety at sea		Leonidas LAGAKOS (S/GR)
<u>EPP</u> - Liberalization and harmonization of the transport sector	A2-96/86	Georgios ANASTASSOPOULOS (EPP/GR)
- Infrastructures	A2-252/86	Karl-Heinz HOFFMANN (EPP/D)
- Border formalities (under consultation)	COM(84) 749 fin.	Petrus CORNELISSEN (EPP/NL)
- Postal communications and the use of new technologies (under consultation from September 1987)		Ursula BRAUN-MOSER (EPP/D)

Reports

Reference Doc./PE No Rapporteur

Reports	Reference Doc./PE No	Rapporteur
- Transport with the COMECON countries (under consultation from September'87)		Manfred EBEL (EEP/D)
- Community measures in the field of air transport	PE 112.116	Georgios ANASTASSOPOULOS (EPP/GR)
- National road haulage services within a Member State	A2-72/86	Ursula BRAUN-MOSER (EPP/D)
- High-speed trains	PE 109.323	Giovanni STARITA (EPP/I)
- Port on the Dollart (withdrawn)		Karl-Heinz HOFFMANN (EPP/D)
- Eurocontrol	PE 98.213	Petrus CORNELISSEN (EPP/NL)
- Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) (urgent)	A2-13/87	Ursula BRAUN-MOSER (EPP/D)
- Public pan-European digital mobile communications (Urgent Procedure)	PE 112.194 Doc. A2-178/86	Ursula BRAUN-MOSER (EPP/D)
- Carriage of persons by bus (under consultation)		Karl-Heinz HOFFMANN (EPP/D)
- Speed-limits		Ursula BRAUN-MOSER (EPP/D)
<u>ED Group</u> - Interregional air services	PE 112.202	William NEWTON DUNN (ED/GB)
<u>Liberal Group</u> - The bicycle as a means of transport	A2-183/86	Florus WIJSENBECK (LDR/NL)
- Application of Article 85(3) of the Treaty to categories of agreements, decisions and concerted practices in air transport	PE 112.381	Florus WIJSENBECK (LDR/NL)
- International carriage of passengers by coach and bus		Florus WIJSENBECK (LDR/NL)
<u>COM. Group</u> - Transport in the Mediterranean	PE 107.531	Giorgio ROSSETTI (COM/I)
- Technical controls on motor vehicles	A2-214/86	Angelo CAROSSINO (COM/I)

Reports	Reference Doc./PE No	Rapporteur
- Technical controls on motor vehicles	A2-214/86	Angelo CAROSSINO (COM/I)
- Consequences of enlargement for transport policy		Angelo CAROSSINO (COM/I)
<u>EDA Group</u> - Road transport and road taxes	PE 109.259	Patrick LALOR (RDE/IRL)
<u>ER Group</u> - Reserve petrol canisters	B2-1043/86	Antonio BUTTAFUOCO (DR/I)
- Transfrontier cooperation		Antonio BUTTAFUOCO (DR(I)
<u>NA Group</u> - Transport of goods and passengers by inland waterway	A2-75/86	Leen van der WAAL (Na/NL)

2. Opinions in 1986/87, the period covered by the report, listed by Group:

<u>Socialist Group</u> - 1986 budget	PE 100.124/fin.	Marcel REMACLE (S/B)
- Dollart harbour	PE 103.503	Jan KLINKENBORG (S/D)
- Cooperation agreements between the Community and Central America		Leslie HUCKFIELD (S/GB)
- Community measures in the field of tourism	PE 107.232/fin.	Leonidas LAGAKOS (S/GR)
<u>EPP Group</u> - Community space policy	PE 98.601	Hans-Jürgen ZAHORKA (EPP/D)
<u>ED Group</u> - 1987 Budget	PE 107.489/fin.	William NEWTON DUNN (ED/GB)
<u>LIBERAL Group</u> - Islands and coastal regions	PE 105.243/fin.	Carlos BENCOMO MENDOZA (LDR/ES)

3. Urgent procedure:

- Public pan-European digital mobile communications		Ursula BRAUN-MOSER (EPP/D)
- Agreement between the Community and Switzerland on the international carriage of passengers by road by means of occasional coach and bus service (ASOR) (without report on 8.5.87)	COM(87)151 fin.	without rapporteur
- ISDN	Doc. A2-13/87	Ursula BRAUN-MOSER (EPP/D)

4. Legal Acts adopted by the Council and the Commission.

(a) Transport in general and tourism:

- Commission Regulation (EEC) No. 1062/87 of 27 March 1987 on provisions for the implementation of the Community transit procedure and for certain simplifications of that procedure (OJ No. L 107, 22.4.1987).
- Council Directive of 15 December 1986 amending Directive 83/643/EEC on the facilitation of physical inspections and administrative formalities in respect of the carriage of goods between Member States (87/53/EEC) (OJ No. L 24, 27.1.1987).
- Council Directive of 22 December 1986 establishing a consultation and cooperation procedure in the field of tourism (86/664/EEC) (OJ No. L 384, 31.12.1986).
- Council recommendation of 22 December 1986 on the coordinated introduction of the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) in the European Community (86/659/EEC) (OJ No. L 382, 31.12.1986).
- Commission Regulation (EEC) No. 3696/86 of 3 December 1986 extending the period of validity of Regulation (EEC) No. 2826/77 introducing a Community transit declaration form for use in automatic or electronic data-processing systems (OJ No. L 341, 4.12.1986.)
- Resolution of the Council and of the representative of the governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 13 November 1986 on the introduction of appropriate signboards at the Community's external frontiers and internal borders (86/C 303/01) (OJ No. C 303, 27.11.1986).

(b) Combined transport, general transport, rail transport and transport by inland waterway

- Council Directive of 18 December 1986 amending Directive 78/1015/EEC on the approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to the permissible sound level and exhaust system of motorcycles (87/56/EEC) (OJ No. L 24, 27.1.1987).
- Council Decision of 16 December 1986 fixing the allocation to Member States of the extra Community authorizations for 1987 resulting from the annual and additional increase in the Community quota for the carriage of goods by road (86/647/EEC) (OJ No. L 382, 31.12.1986).
- Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3690/86 of 1 December 1986 concerning the abolition within the framework of the TIR Convention of customs formalities on exit from a Member State at a frontier between the Member States (OJ No. L 341, 4.12.1986).
- Commission Directive of 6 November 1986 adapting to technical progress Council Directive 71/127/EEC on the approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to the rear-view mirrors of motor vehicles (86/562/EEC) (OJ No. L 327, 22.11.1986)

- Council Directive of 10 November 1986 amending Directive 75/130/EEC on the establishment of common rules for certain types of combined transport of goods between Member States (86/544/EEC) (OJ No. L 320, 15.11.1986).
- Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3300/86 of 27 October 1986 instituting a Community programme for the development of certain less-favoured regions of the Community by improving access to advanced telecommunications services (STAR Programme) (OJ No. L 305, 31.10.1986).
- Commission Decision of 30 September 1986 fixing the allocation to Member States of the extra authorizations resulting from the increases in the Community quota for the carriage of goods by road for 1987 (86/491/EEC) (OJ No. L 285, 8.10.1986).
- Council Directive of 24 July 1986 relating to proof of compliance of vehicles with Directive 85/3/EEC on the weights, dimensions and certain other technical characteristics of certain road vehicles (86/364/EEC) (OJ No. L 221, 7.8.1986).
- Council Directive of 12 June 1986 amending Directive 84/631/EEC on the supervision and control within the European Community of the transfrontier shipment of hazardous waste (86/279/EEC) (OJ No. L 181, 4.7.1986).
- Council Decision of 18 June 1986, accepting, on behalf of the Community, the recommendation of the Customs Cooperation Council of 16 June 1982 concerning the use of a code for the representation of modes of transport (86/257/EEC) (OJ No. L 167, 24.6.1986).

(c) Transport Infrastructures

- Council Regulation (EEC) No. 4059/86 of 22 December 1986 on the granting of financial support to transport infrastructures (OJ No. L 378, 31.12.1986).

(d) Maritime Transport

- Council Regulation (EEC) No. 4055/86 of 22 December 1986 applying the principle to provide services to maritime transport between Member States and between Member States and third countries (OJ No. L 378, 31.12.1986).
- Council Regulation (EEC) No. 4056/86 of 22 December 1986 laying down detailed rules for the application of Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty to Maritime Transport (OJ No. 378, 31.12.1986).
- Council Regulation (EEC) No. 4057/86 of 22 December 1986 on unfair pricing practices in maritime transport (OJ No. L 378, 31.12.1986).
- Council Regulation (EEC) No. 4059/86 of 22 December 1986 on the granting of financial support to transport infrastructure projects (OJ No. L 378, 31.12.1986).
- Council Regulation (EEC) No. 4058/86 of 22 December 1986 concerning coordinated action to safeguard free access to cargoes in ocean trades (OJ No. L 378, 31.12.1986).

- Council Decision of 16 December 1986 extending the collection of information concerning the activities of carriers participating in cargo liner traffic in certain areas of operation (86/646/EEC) (OJ No. L 382, 31.12.1986).
- Commission Opinion of 26 November 1986 to the Portuguese Government on implementation of Council Directive 79/115/EEC concerning pilotage of vessels by deep-sea pilots in the North Sea and English Channel (86/597/EEC) (OJ No. L 348, 10.12.1986).

III. Major working areas

Members of the Committee on Transport adopted the following positions with regard to the main working areas of the common transport policy during the period covered by the report.

The committee chairman, Mr Georgios ANASTASSOPOULOS, (EPP/GR), made the following statement during a working lunch given by the FNTR-AFTRI on 26 February 1987 on the common transport policy:

'The historical judgment handed down by the European Court of Justice on 22 May 1985 without doubt marks the beginning of this new process. One could even say that it is the turning point. As a result of the action brought by the European Parliament, the all-powerful Council of Ministers has been found guilty, for the first time since the foundation of the Community, of omissions, failure to act and infringements of the Treaty of Rome.

For the first time the Court of Justice has defined the limits of the Council's powers. This amounted to a transition from "absolute to constitutional monarchy", as one lawyer put it, a phrase which clearly illustrates the importance of this decision in the institutional field.

Twenty months after the judgment of the Court of Justice it is clear that there has been a change in transport policy. Of course, the Ministers have not yet fulfilled the obligations imposed on them by the Court; no spectacular steps have been made and progress has been limited.

Nevertheless, there are signs that things are beginning to change in a number of transport sectors. A new wind is blowing bringing about decisive changes; it is still weak but is becoming stronger by the day.

Last December the Council of Ministers adopted a package deal of four proposals for regulations on maritime transport. Given the scale of the crisis which has affected maritime transport for a number of years, it took far too long for these proposals to be adopted. I have no illusions: these measures are unconvincing. I at least, as chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on Transport, who have the honour and pleasure to be here today, remain unconvinced that the measures adopted under this package agreement will enable us to check the decline of Community shipping. Nevertheless, the Community has taken the first steps towards a Community shipping policy and thus created the foundation on which something positive may, indeed must, be built.

We should not, therefore, dismiss this progress as insignificant.

The task facing the Community this year is to integrate road haulage and air transport in its transport policy despite the persisting difficulties. The Commission has already submitted its proposals to the Council of Ministers. The memorandum on greater flexibility as regards air transport was submitted to the Council over two years ago! It must be dealt with and dealt with quickly: as some of you rightly pointed out, some of the proposals submitted by the Commission are still pending a Council decision. You will recall that the first Commission proposals on coastal shipping date from 1967 and that the Council undertook to make a statement on the free movement of services in the transport sector in 1969 at the end of the first transitional period. Nothing whatsoever was done and this is the reason why the Council of Ministers was condemned by the Court of Justice. Why then should one expect anything different this time?

Of course a number of problems still exist: geographical and economic problems, problems due to the divergence of national policies some of which give priority to rail transport while others give preference to road haulage and problems due to the interdependence of the transport sector with numerous other sectors of economic activity. These will not facilitate the task of the common transport policy as laid down specifically in Articles 74 and 75 of the Treaty of Rome whose 30th anniversary we shall be celebrating in a few weeks. However, I am certainly not the only one who believes that these problems, problems which should not be underestimated, can be overcome providing there is the political will for change.

There are concrete and complicated problems for which there are no easy solutions.

2. However, there are also questions of principle which prevent progress in practical matters. I should like to refer in this connection to the conflict which has existed for some time between supporters of 'liberalization at any price' and those who believe that harmonization should come first; this prevents any tangible progress in the introduction of a European transport policy.

The formula of simultaneous liberalization and harmonization measures which I introduced into the debate after the judgment of the Court of Justice has, I hope, enabled us to escape from this dead-end and put an end to an entirely superfluous dispute. The Council of Ministers took up this formula and has been working on it since June 1986.

I am absolutely convinced that a coherent and balanced transport policy is only possible if it is based on simultaneous liberalization and harmonization. Since the conditions of competition between individual carriers and Member States differ so markedly, it would be a mistake to believe that one is possible without the other in the Community. Liberalization must be accompanied by harmonization measures to avoid serious disturbances in the transport sectors which might disrupt trade both within and outside the Community, upset the national transport systems of some Member States and have a catastrophic effect for a number of transport undertakers and businesses.

The European Parliament will not abandon this course. It insists that this commitment must be honoured and that progress should not only be made in one direction while totally neglecting the other. It also realizes quite clearly that it is easier to talk about the harmonization of taxation than to put it into practice. But we cannot always avoid problems. The Community must find the will to make a decision and find solutions.

Parliament demands that a sincere dialogue be launched on this matter. The tactic adopted by some Member States of clinging to some or other doctrine to defend purely national or partisan interests can only damage the European cause. Progress cannot be halted if it has the necessary means at its disposal.

The demand for delay, derogations and even exemptions is an entirely different matter provided, of course, that they are justified by the particular circumstances and do not continue indefinitely. The purpose of such measures must be to allow more time for those who have difficulty in keeping up with the others. Excuses only lead to paralysis. The exceptions should not become rules and should under no circumstances replace the system.

The European Parliament also insists that the rules should be fixed in advance and that stages should be agreed on. This is the only way of avoiding a climate of uncertainty such as exists at present in the transport sector.

It would be absolutely utopian to wish to change everything from one day to the next. Ambitious proposals for solutions should not be dismissed out of hand but plans should always remain realistic.

In this overall framework of a European transport system whose foundations are now being laid, France must occupy its rightful position.

We are the beginning of a new transitional period. But this time everything suggests that we shall not stay still and remain inactive. Things are beginning to move.

This new wind may well in the next few years develop into a new dynamic force. To this end it is essential to prepare French citizens for this just like other citizens of Europe, this Europe about which so many promises are made and for which so little is actually done.

The message is clear and straightforward: the 'appropriate period of time', will run out. The European transport system of tomorrow will be more competitive and more flexible. A new, wider area will come into being, the European area, in which European transport undertakings will be able to carry out their activities.

It is self-evident that national frontiers will not longer be as important as they are today. And it is better to become familiar with the realities of tomorrow in good time if one does not wish to be overtaken by events, even though they may seem impalatable to some people. In France - like in other Community countries - a large number of European transport undertakings will, in the foreseeable future, develop their activities in an area which was previously a national presence. Other European countries must also realize that French transport undertakings will be competing for part of their national markets.

This development is not of course without its dangers. It will be necessary to avoid distortions of competition, unfair practices and an all-out trade war.

The restructuring which will gradually bring us a free market in the European transport sector must proceed carefully. It is at present the main issue in the discussions initiated by the Community authorities. As for you I should like to ask you only for your cooperation. It appears strange to us that the French are largely absent from this lively but very rewarding discussions which will in time bear fruit. May I refer in this connection to the old proverb which says that the absent are frequently - if not always - in the wrong?

Ursula BRAUN-MOSER (EPP/D) expressed her concern at the development of European transport policy in the 'Europa Im Blickfeld' programme in the following words:

'In view of the rapid progress towards a European transport market following the judgment of the European Court of Justice of May 1985 and the plan to complete the internal market by 1992, it is clear that those responsible (governments, parliaments and associations) must choose between total renunciation of any market organization and total opposition to a common market without access restrictions and quotas. Conflicts are inevitable.

- the power to take decisions, for example, to lift restrictions on sectors of the market, no longer lies with the national parliaments but nor does it lie with a democratically elected European Parliament.
- a time schedule has also been established. By the end of 1992 the transport markets, road haulage, inland waterways transport and civil aviation should be liberalized and foreign undertakings should be allowed to operate within the national frontiers of other Member States without discrimination. If the latter measure is implemented before the former national approval requirements, quotas and tour-de-role arrangements may be maintained since formerly they constitute equal treatment between foreign and domestic competitors; initially different conditions will continue to prevail as regards access to markets.
- there is no advantage for the Council of Transport Ministers in failing to take decisions. Not only will it thereby risk being condemned once more for failure to act, but also gaps in harmonization and conflict will increase as the first liberalization measures are introduced. Countries such as the Federal Republic of Germany which have taken budget decisions in recent years in favour of an excessively high level of road vehicle tax and oil tax should act swiftly on the Commission's proposal to eliminate distortions of competition and to harmonize vehicle taxes, mineral oil taxes and road taxes. Consultations and decisions at national level may prevent European proposals establishing an overall cost burden for users (territoriality instead of nationality principle) which might result in a failure to cover road costs and insufficient income from taxation for the state.
- a further conflict may occur when national market organizations, especially when very restrictive, are subjected to the necessary adjustments: 'serious market disturbances' may occur and many countries may invoke the Commission's crisis clause in this connection. The Commission's document

proposes indicators such as 'the overriding interests of the transport market' or 'when environmental protection so demands that restrictions on the freedom of services or restrictions of capacity may be maintained or introduced'. The harmonization of conditions of competition and the adaptation of the burden of taxation as well as the realisation of a common transport market would thus become increasingly unlikely.

On 11 September 1986 Manfred EBEL (EPP/D) issued a statement on the Community's inland waterway transport policy whose contents apply also to other inland forms of transport:¹

'Mr President, Honourable Members, on behalf of my group I will speak solely on the Van Der WAAL report. As in the case of road haulage, the main principle that must apply in regulating the freedom to provide services by inland waterways is not to go ahead too suddenly with the impending guidelines of transport policy aimed at the creation of a common internal market, and to ensure that they do not prejudice the smallest and weakest, otherwise whole branches of industry may be left behind in many Member States, which could do irreparable social damage even if this could perhaps be justified from the point of view of Community policy.

In the case of transport by inland waterway we must pay special attention to the small firms and also to the individual carrier. We can agree only to a regulation which guarantees their survival by ensuring fair competition on the newly to be created market and the same starting conditions. But that is precisely where the weak point of this proposal lies. There is not a word in it about the need to reduce the largely tax-based distortions of competition and not one measure is proposed, however small, to tackle the not inconsiderable effects of opening the market on the central problems of inland shipping, namely capacities. As in the case of road haulage, once again the Commission is forging ahead on the road to liberalization, but dragging its feet on the question of the necessary harmonization.

The rapporteur has therefore quite rightly pointed to the many obstacles to the smooth operation of the proposed Community regulations. Above all, we must immediately abolish the tour-de-rôle systems, since they keep producing wrong estimates of business investment and capacity utilization risks, thereby contributing greatly to the formation of surplus capacity.

We do not need to lay down national cargo reservation rights but must create general freedom of shipping, including also the principle of freedom to provide services in material terms. That also means finally putting an end to the distortion of competition caused by state subsidies. I will spare you the long list of such subsidies but insiders know what I mean when I mention investment premiums, deficiency guarantees, countervailing levies for repairs, disparities, trade taxes, corporation taxes, and many others.

Here too we can only agree with the rapporteur when he calls on the Commission to provide without delay a summary clearly showing the general public what practical measures will have to be taken in this context by 1992 and how they will interact to produce balanced market conditions. Only a proposal incorporating these aspects - and I am thinking not least of the creation of an anti-crisis mechanism to carry out the necessary scrapping measures - can ensure that the proposed opening up of the market does not exacerbate the old problem of surplus capacities and therefore threatened to throw out from the market precisely those firms which have in the past served as the worthy backbone of our inland waterway fleets, namely our small undertakings, especially the private owners.

I therefore ask you to endorse the Commission proposal as amended by the Committee on Transport. But I cannot hide the fact that I would really have preferred an even more stringent and less lenient approach towards the very superficial Commission proposal. But if need be I can accept this report. It merely remains to be hoped that with our willingness to compromise we will not be disappointed by the Commission.

At the plenary sitting of 6 April 1987 Karl-Heinz Hoffman (EPP/D), rapporteur, expressed his views on the medium-term financial plan provided for in the Commission's transport infrastructure programme (Doc. C 2-69/86), an important landmark in the Common Transport Policy¹:

'It has emerged that seven Member States support the Council's Community transport infrastructure programme, while five Member States are opposed to it. It is important now to make the right choice. Through the judgment handed down by the European Court of Justice the European Parliament has set in motion the Common Transport Policy after 25 years of inactivity on the part of the Council.

Our committee considered this judgment and stated what the transport policy should consist of, namely a simultaneous process of liberalization and harmonization. The medium-term transport infrastructure programme is one of the basic pillars on which the harmonization policy rests. It is important, by eliminating bottle-necks and overcoming the isolation of marginal areas, to give undertakings in all parts of the Community the same opportunities of access to the future common transport market.

¹Report of proceedings, Monday 6 April 1987.

It would perhaps be surprising if opposition to the medium-term infrastructure programme came from quarters which specifically support the liberalization of transport policy, but it is not as simple as that. The strongest opposition comes rather from those Member States which have supported harmonization of the common transport policy. This is regrettable for harmonization cannot be applied unevenly: each Member State should subordinate its national interests and what directly benefits its national transport undertakings to the common goal. Otherwise there will be a lack of credibility.

Parliament must, therefore, together with the Commission, pursue the right course laid down by the Committee on Transport. In doing so the rights of both institutions, Parliament and the Commission, must be equally respected. Together with the Commission we must win over those Member States still opposed to the programme, and we can only achieve this if we have a large majority in Parliament which shows which way we wish to go.

The major internal market will only be able to realize its full potential if the Common Transport Policy develops in the right way. The common transport market and the transport infrastructure policy needed to this end are essential for the full development of the internal market. In addition, this policy will have positive repercussions for the labour market. It will also promote environmental protection, energy saving and technical innovation. A forward-looking medium-term transport infrastructure policy will favourably influence the economic and social cohesion of the Community.

Our committee welcomes the Commission's proposals but considers that in some points it will disadvantage peripheral regions of the Community and the new Member States. The committee has therefore decided on significant changes to the proposal for a regulation and confirmed its position in its resolution. The committee adheres to its view that the Member States should continue to be competent as regards national infrastructure policies.

The Klinkenborg Report adopted by Parliament in 1984 specifically emphasizes this point. Beyond the sphere of competence of the Member States, the Community has the task of exercising a coordinating role by stepping up consultation and drawing up guidelines, and providing financial support to speed up the right Community projects, the implementation of which is in the general interest. Special priority should be given to the modernization and extension of the railway network. The modernization of the European railway network would enable a far better utilisation of the existing infrastructure, ease the traffic on the roads, save energy and check the destruction of our countryside.

The committee emphasizes in particular the need to extend the road networks in countries which have recently acceded to the Community, namely Spain, Portugal and Greece. This policy must be accompanied by the coordination at an early stage of all measures with the plans of neighbouring third countries.

It is high time that the Council gave the Commission more room for manoeuvre in negotiations on infrastructure measures in third countries; the Council should no longer refuse to help improve transport infrastructures in these countries.

Transit countries such as Austria, Switzerland and Yugoslavia cannot be expected to bear the main burden of transit traffic from the EEC on their roads indefinitely. If nothing is done they will, of course, take measures to protect their interests, such as imposing road levies, bans on night traffic and reprisals against transport undertakings and lorry drivers. This misguided Council policy will thus have repercussions on undertakings and

employees: this is not the way to conduct a European policy. The Council of Ministers must finally come down to earth. It will never solve problems by behaving arrogantly towards third countries. The most important thing is a spirit of partnership and a recognition of the interests of transit countries. Only in this way will it be possible to prevent the collapse of essential transit routes even before the creation of the common internal market.

The committee calls for a rational coordination of the various transport bodies in selecting projects. The emphasis should be on the development of railway infrastructures. Special priority should be given to connecting the transport networks of Spain and Portugal and integrating them with the Community's network. Adequate attention must be paid to the development of harbour and airport infrastructures to ensure that islands and remote regions are better integrated.

The committee considers that special attention should be paid to the development of the magnet cushion train as a means of transport of the next generation. It should be pointed out even at this stage that a standard European solution should be adopted in this area. The Committee on Transport encourages the Commission to continue its contacts with business circles to raise new capital for funding this form of transport infrastructure. The committee insists that these new financial measures should respect state planning which is in the public interest and that the functioning of transport undertakings should not be interfered with and that no new barriers to transport should be created.'

The STARITA report on the high speed train network in Europe was removed from the agenda of the July part-session at short notice so that only a summary of the report to be submitted by Mr STARITA (EPP/I) can be given below:

'The European Parliament's Committee on Transport adopted a report by Mr STARITA (EPP/I) on the development of a European high-speed train network. This document which will be submitted to the plenary during one of the forthcoming part-sessions describes the various initiatives related to a European high speed train network which are at present being planned, executed or are already functioning within the Community. In the committee's view the most important objective is to ensure that the new initiatives also promote the modernization and revitalization of the transport of passengers and goods by rail. Furthermore, measures should be taken to link peripheral regions to the centre of the Community. The Committee on Transport points to the need for efficient rail connections between the Community's rail network and those of the countries of Eastern and Northern Europe; in this connection it supports both the list of recommendations submitted by the Commission (Horizon 2000) as well as the recent agreement on major international railway lines pending ratification by the UN Economic Committee for Europe in Geneva (ACT Agreement). In its resolution the Committee on Transport argues that a high-speed train network should be given the status of 'project of European interest' with the legal and financial consequences which this entails. This would therefore represent the first concrete realization of the recommendations contained in the HOFFMAN report on funding transport infrastructures (adopted by Parliament during the May part-session) and in the financial proposals submitted by Commissioner Matutes.

Mr Yorck von Wartenburg

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

I. Functions of Members of the Group of the EPP

Vice-chairman:	Ursula SCHLEICHER (D)
Coordinator:	Marcelle LENTZ-CORNETTE (L)
Deputy coordinator:	Mary BANOTTI (IRL)

Members:

Siegbert ALBER (D)
Mary BANOTTI (IRL)
Marcelle LENTZ-CORNETTE (L)
Meinolf MERTENS (D)
Gerardo GAIBISSO (I)
Eolo PARODI (I)
Ursula SCHLEICHER (D)

Substitutes:

Franco BORGO (I)
Panaiotis LAMBRIAS (GR)
Salvatore LIMA (I)
Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN (NL)
Roger PARTRAT (F)
Gabriele PEUS (D)
Rudolf WEDEKIND (D)

II. INTRODUCTION

In the period under review the European Parliament's environmental policy focused on a number of key areas. The fact that 1987 is Year of the Environment provided the framework for the major debate on the environment held by the EP in May 1987, which was preceded by a joint debate during the April 1987 part-session week on the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear reactor accident of April 1986. The European Year of the Environment was seen by the EPP as an occasion for taking appropriate action; the Group considers that it is precisely the often difficult problems of environmental policy which need to be treated in a soundly-based, sober manner.

On 19-20 November 1986 a hearing of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection entitled 'The Present Position and the Application of Existing Legislation on Conservation in the European Community and its Member States' was held in Brussels. The Community directive on the protection of birds, the Washington Agreement on the protection of species and the Bonn and Berne Conventions were discussed. In addition, a colloquium was held in November 1986 in Bonn (Germany) by the EPP and the parliamentary Group of the EPP, which focused on the EC directive on large-scale combustion plants, particle emissions from diesel-powered vehicles and special protection for forests.

In its joint debate in May 1987 the EP considered the following matters: an environmental action programme 1987-1992, measures in the field of environmental impact studies, and public access to information on environmental pollution.

The Group supports in principle the guidelines of the Fourth Environmental Action Programme for the period 1987-1992, as it makes environmental policy an integral part of other Community policies, gives preference to preventive measures in the sphere of conservation and proposes solutions to the problem of environmental pollution. It is unfortunate that the Commission has not yet taken stock of the programmes already implemented. It should do so by the end of 1987.

The Group sees environmental impact assessment as an important component of conservation and believes that it is important to create a climate of trust if the environment is to be protected. However, in the matter of information on environmental pollution, attention should be drawn not only

to the rights of industry and the public but also to their duty to protect the environment. One of the most important aspects of environmental policy at present is prevention, which is possible only if environmental policy is firmly integrated into other policies. The need for 'balance' of several kinds is already recognized in economic policy; the 'balance of nature' must also be taken into account. We need nature as well as economic policy, ecology as well as economics; the EPP Group is in favour of an active environmental policy on this basis.

During an urgent debate on 11.12.86 on the Rhine chemical pollution disaster (Sandoz/Basel) the EPP Group called for conclusions to be drawn throughout Europe from this accident. It believes that immediate inspections of all storage sites in the chemical industry are needed. Awareness of hazards should not be focused exclusively on the chemical production processes; the dangers inherent in the storage of chemical products must also be recognized. The Group argued for cross-border disaster protection and information and also for joint preventive measures, since such accidents are no respecters of borders.

The EP's joint debate of 8.4.1987 on the consequences of Chernobyl was based, inter alia, on the ALBER report (EPP/D) on the safety of nuclear reactors and the problems of responsibility and mutual assistance. This report also calls for the Community to be capable of taking action, since reactor accidents have particularly serious cross-border effects. The rapporteur sees mutual exchanges of information on the design of nuclear reactors as indispensable if appropriate measures are to be taken in a crisis. Since the use of nuclear energy is an international problem, the EPP Group calls on the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament to make every effort under the auspices of the Vienna Agency to make nuclear energy safer. Only with uniform European legislation can the necessary safety measures be guaranteed. To this end the following are needed:

- cross-border crisis contingency plans,
- higher European safety standards for nuclear power stations,
- clear definition of responsibilities,
- a shared information network,
- European early and advance warning systems,
- compulsory, scientifically accurate radiation limits and protection standards,
- a system for settling compensation claims.

Finally, a special effort must also be made to support the promotion, research and development of new, environmentally acceptable forms of energy.

In March 1987 a major joint debate was held in the EP on legislation on foodstuffs and consumer protection. It was strongly influenced by the EPP Group, which contributed four of the nine reports. A central element in the debate was the Commission's 'Communication on the completion of the internal market: Community legislation on foodstuffs'. The Commission explains in this document how it hopes to overcome the hold-up in decision-making within the Council on such legislation.

The EPP Group argued that no trade barriers should be erected for 'health reasons'. Harmonization must not mean approximation of laws at the lowest level which hindered trade least. Harmonization was desirable and necessary to improve the quality of foodstuffs, to guarantee the consumer's right to health and to maintain fair competition.

In the area of public health the EP adopted a Commission amendment to Directive 82/501/EEC on the dangers of serious accidents in certain industrial activities. At its meeting of 19-20.3.87 the Council also adopted this amendment.

PREVIEW

At its July 1987 plenary session the Parliament will vote on the following reports:

- Report by Mrs LENTZ-CORNETTE (EPP/L) (Doc. A 2-65/87) on the establishment and conservation of Community nature reserves. This own-initiative report takes stock of the problems created by the destruction, decay and exploitation of living natural resources and the need to protect and conserve them with the help of international agreements and treaties. The conservation of vital natural resources must be taken into account in the planning and decision-making processes for socio-economic development. The report calls for the Berne Convention (1979) on the conservation of wild animals and plants and their natural biospheres in Europe to be ratified by all EC Member States. In the spirit of this agreement the establishment of national parks or other protected areas (biotopes) provides, without doubt, the best protection for biospheres. As a practical proposal, the report therefore calls for a European nature reserve to be created during 1987, the Year of the Environment, which would include the existing French and Spanish national parks in the central Pyrenees. The Commission should take an active part in establishing and managing the reserve, and should also make every effort to ensure that the Community's structural policy instruments do nothing to reduce the ecological value of the biotopes and the protected areas.

As regards the classification of the protected areas, the report says that a standard internationally recognized system should be applied at Community level, as laid down by the Council of Europe and the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources).

The rapporteur believes that the establishment and management of such protected areas would help to create jobs, many of which would be in the new professions.

The report considers that priority must be given to increasing public awareness of environmental problems, and to alerting young people also to these issues.

Finally, the report asks the Commission to start negotiations on accession to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, and to sign the joint declaration by the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany and Denmark so that the Waddenzee can be designated a 'Community nature reserve'.

- Report by Mr GRAZIANI (COM/I) (Doc. A 2-20/87) on the erosion of agricultural soils and on wetlands in the European Community
Shadow rapporteur for the EPP Group: Mr MERTENS (EPP/D)

- Report by Mrs LE ROUX (COM/F) (Doc. A 2-55/87) on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. C 2-55/86 - COM(86) 344 final) for a decision concerning the conclusion, on behalf of the Community, of the Convention for the Protection (Management and Development) of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region and the two Protocols annexed thereto.
Shadow rapporteur for the EPP Group: Mr LAMBRIAS (EPP/GR)

- Report by Mr SHERLOCK (ED/GB) (Doc. A 2-21/87) on the threatened extinction of pearl mussels in Europe's rivers and streams.
Shadow rapporteur for the EPP Group: Mrs PEUS (EPP/D)

The Group will vote in favour of all these reports.

The Chernobyl disaster and its consequences

For the debate on topical and urgent subjects on 11.9.86 six motions for resolutions pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure were tabled in the EP on the subject of nuclear power, including the resolution by Mrs LENTZ-CORNETTE (EPP/L) and others of the EPP Group on the consequences of the Chernobyl accident (Doc. B 2-794/86) and the resolution on Chernobyl by Mr von WOGAU (EPP/D) on behalf of the EPP Group (Doc. B 2-805/86).

The Commission was called upon to draw up standard maximum levels for exposure to radiation by food, and was asked whether it intended to draw up recommendations to Member States for the treatment and disposal of highly radioactive food and whether it could guarantee that the contaminated goods had in fact been taken off the market.

Finally, a joint debate was held at the plenary sitting of the Parliament of 8.4.87 on the Chernobyl disaster and its consequences. The debate was based on six reports, including three reports by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection:

- BLOCH von BLOTTNITZ report (ARC/D) (Doc. A 2-5/87) on the problem of the contamination of foodstuffs following the Chernobyl disaster
- SCHMID report (S/D) (Doc. A 2-4/87) on the reaction of the Community to Chernobyl
- ALBER report (EPP/D) (Doc. A 2-11/87) on the safety of nuclear power stations and the questions of mutual assistance and compensation.

The oral question by Mrs WEBER, Mr ALBER (EPP/D), Mrs BLOCH von BLOTTNITZ, Mr SCHMID, Mr ADAM, Mr SPATH (EPP/D), Mr SELIGMAN and Mr PONIATOWSKI (Doc. B 2-86/87 - 0 - 246/86) on the Commission's report on the Chernobyl nuclear disaster was included in the debate.

Report by Mrs BLOCH von BLOTTNITZ (ARC/D) (Doc. A 2-5/87):

The report examines the radioactive contamination of foodstuffs and emphasizes that 50 to 90% (depending on the country) of the contamination suffered by human beings after the Chernobyl disaster was due to consumption of radioactively contaminated foodstuffs. The report states that the worst-affected places were parts of Germany, Greece and Italy. In the motion for a resolution on the report certain demands were therefore made, in order to reduce the contamination or to limit it as far as possible. The demands included a ban on feeding livestock with radioactively contaminated products, the establishment of standard prescribed limits for the EEC and the

destruction of all products intended for human or animal consumption which exceed these limits. With regard to imports and exports, very strict controls were called for both within the EEC and in trade with third countries. In this connection the Commission should demand refunds from producers who received Community payments for produce which had become unusable because of contamination but who nevertheless sold or tried to sell this produce. Severe penalties should be imposed for marketing highly contaminated food and feedingstuffs. The resolution calls on the Council to set prescribed limits at a scientifically acceptable level by 1 July 1987. The Commission is called upon to inform the EP every two years about radioactive contamination of the environment after it has been informed by the Member States of the precise situation in each country. Finally, the report calls for the extent of soil contamination to be charted and for constant monitoring of the radioactivity in the soil, fertilizers, feedingstuffs and foodstuffs.

The EP adopted the resolution on 8.4.87 by a roll-call vote requested by the EPP Group, with 325 votes in favour (all Groups), 8 against (EPP, ERDA, ED and S) and 4 abstentions (COM, SOC, L).

Report by Mr SCHMID (S/D) (Doc. A 2-4/87):

The report compares the actual events after the Chernobyl accident with steps the Community could ideally have taken and the measures which a correct assessment of the situation and attempts to limit the damage would have called for. The report therefore stresses the Commission's findings, according to which

- the data provided by the Member States did not enable it to make a correct assessment of the potential hazards,
- there are serious deficiencies in procedures for forwarding information,
- the Commission did not issue a directive, which would have been possible under Article 48 of the EURATOM Treaty,
- owing to the lack of agreement in the Council, no early decision was taken on prescribed limits for food and feedingstuffs.

The main reason given for the Community's inability to react is that the legal framework which is furnished by the Community's EURATOM Treaty and provides for the establishment of basic standards on health protection of the public and employees has never been regularly used to issue the regulations needed.

Finally, the report points out that in its final communication of late 1986 the Commission retreated substantially from the demands made in its initial outline communication of 13 June 1986. In its resolution the EP therefore (1) states that steps must be taken to ensure that the Community can react effectively to a nuclear disaster, (2) claims that there was a lack of coordination among the EC states in the first few days after the disaster and (3) condemns the Commission for not pursuing energetically enough the measures which it had itself acknowledged to be necessary. It calls on the Commission to propose without delay, under Article 130 S of the Single Act, measures to prevent the dangers arising from such disasters and to put in hand a comprehensive study of the short and long term effects of the accident on public health in the EC. Lastly, the Council is called upon to take decisions by a qualified majority.

A roll-call vote was taken on a request from the EPP Group and the resolution was adopted on 8.4.1987 with 309 votes in favour, 1 against and 3 abstentions.

Report by Mr ALBER (EPP/D) (Doc. A 2-11/87):

According to the report it is politically impossible to abandon nuclear power either immediately or rapidly throughout the world. However, safety must come before economic criteria and it is therefore imperative to lay down compulsory standards at international level. The NUSS Programme (Nuclear Safety Standards) of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency), the EURATOM Treaty and the NEA (the Nuclear Energy Agency of the OECD) contain no compulsory rules on safety in nuclear power stations; they merely make recommendations. Compulsory rules are therefore issued only at national level, which leads to differing ideas about nuclear power stations according to national needs. Therefore it is crucial that where equivalent conditions exist, equivalent rules be laid down which can be established without controversy. As far as the assessment of safety in nuclear plants is concerned, the report comes to the conclusion that each type of reactor has its advantages and disadvantages, but it emphasizes that because of its instability the Chernobyl type was one of the least safe. On the matter of safety, however, the report says that nowadays it is possible to establish a number of criteria which should be heeded in the construction of nuclear power plants. With regard to responsibility and compensation, the report refers to the Paris and Brussels Conventions and the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage. The Paris Convention is far more satisfactory

on the question of the amount of compensation to be paid than is the Vienna Convention. However, both agreements are inadequate as the compensation payments are too small, and they are in any case not recognized by all states and in particular not by any East European states. The report therefore says that none of the nuclear energy plants operating in Europe satisfies the highest safety standards, and deplores the lack of binding international standards. The NUSS programme could provide a basis for mandatory rules, but the East European countries would then have to be brought into the system. As far as the Community is concerned, standards could be set through the addition of provisions to the EURATOM Treaty. The report also considers that neighbouring countries should have the right to participate in safety monitoring and controls at nuclear power stations, if these are located less than 100 km from their border, and that all states should undertake to allow IAEA experts to inspect their nuclear power plants. The resolution considers that fast-breeder reactors should not be used for the generation of energy because they constitute a serious safety hazard. However, the most important point in the resolution, as modified by amendments from the Rainbow Group, is the demand that no new nuclear power stations should be built or brought into service, and any building work on nuclear plants should be halted immediately, and that the Commission should submit proposals on how to do without nuclear energy. Lastly, the resolution regrets the present state of affairs with regard to liability and compensation, and calls for states which use nuclear power stations to subscribe to an international system to deal with questions of liability which would clearly define the types of damage which might occur, as well as extending the claims limitation period from 10 to 30 years. In addition, a solidarity fund should be set up which would make it easier for other states to accede to the Brussels Convention.

A roll-call vote was taken on a request from the Socialists and the EPP Group and the resolution was adopted on 8.4.1987 with 297 votes in favour (all groups), 13 against (COM, S, ERDA) and 3 abstentions. The following spoke on behalf of the Group:

Mr CHIABRANDO (EPP/I)	Mrs LENTZ-CORNETTE (EPP/L)	
Mr SALZER (EPP/D)	Mrs MAIJ-WEGGEN (EPP/NL)	Mrs SCHLEICHER (EPP/D)
Mr CIANCAGLINI (EPP/I)	Mr ALBER (EPP/D)	Mr SPÄTH (EPP/D)

1. PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

a) Air pollution

- VITTINGHOFF report (S/D) (Doc. A 2-99/86) on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(85) 377 final - Doc. C 2-73/85) for a directive amending Directive 75/716/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels.

In the EP's view, the Commission's proposal on the above amendment merely gives legal force to the reduction in sulphur content already achieved. The Parliament therefore proposes a compulsory reduction as of 1.7.87 to 0.2% by weight which Spain and Portugal could defer to 1.1.93, while the other Member States would be able to make a further reduction in the meantime. The EP calls on the Commission to take up its amendments and to publish the final version of the directive in an appropriate form for the sake of legal clarity.

The Parliament adopted the amended Commission proposal and the resolution by a roll-call vote requested by the EPP, with 129 votes in favour, 33 against and 1 abstention on 10.10.86.

Group spokesman: Mrs LENTZ-CORNETTE (EPP/L).

- COLLINS report (S/GB) (Doc. A 2-89/87) on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(87) 33 final - C 2-21/87) for a directive amending Directive 85/210/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the lead content of petrol.
- This proposal for a directive to amend Directive 85/210/EEC seeks to eliminate ordinary leaded petrol from the national markets of those Member States that wish to introduce unleaded petrol more quickly in order to give their citizens greater protection from lead emissions. The Member States that want this can therefore prohibit the marketing by garages of leaded petrol with an engine octane number (EON) of less than 85.0 and a research octane number (RON) of less than 95.0 on the justified grounds of protection of the environment and of public health. Advance notice for such a measure should be at least six months. In addition the Commission must be informed in advance of all measures that the Member States intend to take.

Nevertheless, the proposed directive envisages that the Member States will continue to ensure that leaded petrol is available and that outlets are evenly distributed in their territory. The Commission will submit further proposals on the matter in the near future.

The report approves the Commission's proposal without amendment. However, the motion for a resolution included in the report also states that a network of petrol stations selling unleaded petrol and with reliable supplies should be set up, taking into account remote areas of the EEC and the needs of tourists. In addition, the Member States are advised to encourage the use of lead-free petrol through tax incentives. Lastly, the report calls for a study on whether 'mixer' type petrol pumps are used for unleaded and leaded petrol and whether it is common for both types of petrol to be transported in the same tankers.

Proposed directive and resolution adopted on 19.6.87

Group spokesman: Mr ALBER (EPP/D).

- VITTINGHOFF report (S/D) (Doc. A 2-88/87) on proposals from the Commission to the Council (Doc. C 2-63/86) for:
 - I. a directive amending Directive 70/220/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to measures to be taken against air pollution by gases from engines of motor vehicles (COM(86) 261 final - Doc. C 2-63/86)
 - II. a directive for the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the measures to be taken against the emission of gaseous pollutants from diesel engines for use in vehicles (COM(86) 273 fin. - Doc. C 2-63/86)

The report considers two proposals for directives from the Commission which seek to limit particulate emissions from diesel engines and to further reduce gaseous emissions. Directive 86/261 is the first proposal for the limitation of particulate emissions from diesel engines in the Community. In contrast to the Commission, the EP calls for stricter limits on the emission of particles, which should take effect in two stages from 1.10.88 and from 1.10.93. In addition, limit values should be laid down regardless of cubic capacity and injection system. The EP calls on the Commission to submit an outline directive as soon as possible in which emission values would be laid down for all other diesel engines so far not listed - inland shipping, railway vehicles, construction machinery and stationary plant.

On a proposal from the EPP Group the Commission proposals and the resolution were adopted by a roll-call vote on 19.6.87 (38 votes in favour, 0 votes against and 16 abstentions).

Group spokesman: Mr ALBER (EPP/D).

b) Water pollution

Joint debate on the

- DE GUCHT report (LDR/B) (Doc. A 2-48/86) on the Community's powers with regard to the law of the sea and the prevention of sea pollution. In the EP's opinion, despite the difficulties which might arise as a result of the commitments of the individual Member States under international and regional agreements, the conditions now exist for the Community to be given its own powers with regard to the conservation of the marine environment.

On a proposal from the EPP Group a roll-call vote was held with the following result: 200 in favour, 3 against and 0 abstentions. The resolution was thus adopted on 11.9.86.

and the

- MUNTINGH report (S/NL) (Doc. A 2-98/86) on the proposal from the Commission to the Council (COM(85) 373 fin. - Doc. C 2-80/85) for a directive on the dumping of waste at sea.

The aim of the proposed directive is to approximate the rules for the implementation of international agreements so far as this is necessary for the Common Market to function smoothly and for the implementation of this programme.

In a roll-call vote proposed by the Socialists the Parliament approved the amended Commission proposal, with 205 votes in favour, 23 against and 1 abstention on 11.9.86. The resolution was referred back to committee on a proposal from the rapporteur pursuant to Rule 36(2), as the Commission did not wish to deal with the dumping of radioactive waste at sea in the same directive.

The oral question by Mr DE GUCHT and others (Doc. B 2-604/86) on the results of the international conference held in Bremen on protection of the North Sea was included in the debate. This question asks the Commission to explain why the Member States have shown such reticence with regard to drafting a general agreement on the protection of the North Sea.

Group spokesmen: Mrs FONTAINE (EPP/F) and Mrs MAIJ-WEGGEN (EPP/NL).

In the Commission's statement on the SANDOZ accident in Basel and the resultant pollution of the Rhine the Commissioner, Mr CLINTON DAVIS, speaking at the plenary session on 13.11.86, emphasized that as a consequence of the accident the Commission would be proposing an improvement in the alarm system. In addition, attempts should be made to conclude conventions with countries such as Switzerland with provisions similar to those of the SEVESO Directive. First of all, however, this latter directive must be incorporated into national legislation by the Member States themselves. Replying to a question, the Commissioner stated that in this connection legal proceedings had been opened against Greece and Italy and similar steps were being considered with respect to the Benelux countries. The monitoring of chemical storage sites would also be dealt with. Group spokesmen: Mrs LENTZ-CORNETTE (EPP/L), Mrs MAIJ-WEGGEN (EPP/NL).

Closing a debate on topical and urgent subjects, based on 7 motions pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure, on 11.12.86 the EP adopted, inter alia, the motion tabled by Mrs LENTZ-CORNETTE (EPP/L) and others on behalf of the EPP Group on the many accidents and the dumping of harmful substances in rivers. The motion makes reference to the SEVESO-Directive and calls on the Council to examine its decision of 12.6.86 in which it had agreed, after consideration of the Commission's proposed directive amending the above directive, on lower limits than those suggested by the Commission. The Commission is also called upon to examine, as part of cooperation between the EC, EFTA and the OECD, in what form the Community's legal rules on industrial accidents and disaster prevention could also be adopted by the Member States of EFTA and the OECD.

On a proposal from the Commission the accident at SANDOZ was placed on the agenda of the Council of Ministers for the Environment for 24 November 1986. The resolution adopted by the Council consists of three main parts:

- 1) closer harmonization of the laws regulating the handling of dangerous chemicals,
- 2) the need for a better disaster warning system and closer international cooperation,
- 3) the need for immediate measures to deal with contamination, and the establishment of a compensation procedure according to the principle that the polluter pays.

- Second MUNTINGH (S/NL) report (Doc. A 2-19/87) on the proposal from the Commission to the Council for a directive on the dumping of waste at sea (COM(85) 373 fin. - Doc. C 2-80/86)

In this second report the proposed amendments to the directive as well as the motion for a resolution are influenced by the results of the discussions with the Commission and thus constitute the compromise which the Committee on the Environment proposed to the Commission. Thus the report considers the directive's place among the international conventions currently in force and takes the view that the directive should set out in a separate annex the differences between the annexes to the directive and the annexes to the international conventions. At the same time the report regrets the fact that the ban on dumping radioactive waste and marine pollution originating on land, matters which affect the North Sea in particular, are not included in this proposal. Lastly, the report calls for the Community's jurisdiction to be extended to ships of Member States even when these are outside Community territorial waters (in cases of unauthorized dumping). The proposed amendments in the report obviate the above difficulties to some extent.

The motion for a resolution contained in the report calls on the Commission, inter alia, to implement the Paris Convention by proposing directives relating to the prevention of marine pollution by sources of pollution on land, and to implement the MARPOL Convention by proposing directives concerning the dumping of waste by ships. The Commission is also asked, firstly to submit a memorandum with its ideas on these questions, and secondly to submit a memorandum on the special situation in the North Sea before the Conference in mid-1987. Lastly, the resolution calls for a proposal for a directive to be submitted on the discharge of the dangerous substances listed in Directive 76/464 and the ban on dumping of radioactive waste at sea.

The Commission's amended proposal and the resolution were adopted on 19.6.1987.

Group spokesmen: Mrs MAIJ-WEGGEN (EPP/NL) and Mrs BANOTTI (EPP/IRL).

- SCHLEICHER (EPP/D) report (Doc. A 2-29/87) on the Commission proposal for a Council directive on water quality objectives for chromium (COM(85) 733 fin. - Doc. C 2-163/85)

The proposed directive follows on from Directive 76/464/EEC concerning pollution resulting from the discharge of certain dangerous substances into Community waters and the 1981 definition by national experts of a number of priorities for the Member States: chromium, zinc, copper, nickel, lead and arsenic. The main aim of the proposal is to lay down at Community level water quality objectives for chromium which must be taken into account in programmes by individual states to reduce water pollution. The report aims to amend the proposed directive by lowering some quantity objectives. In addition, the deadline by which the Member States must communicate to the Commission summaries of their programmes on chromium should be set at 15 September 1988 at the latest. The report calls on the Commission to submit a draft directive within one year, the annexes to which contain specific rules on zinc, copper, nickel and lead.

The Commission proposal thus amended was adopted at the plenary session on 19.6.1987.

Group spokesmen: Mrs SCHLEICHER (EPP/D).

(c) Dangerous substances

- MERTENS (EPP/D) report (Doc. A 2-97/86) on the proposal from the Commission to the Council for a directive amending Directive 75/439/EEC on the disposal of waste oils (COM(84) 757 fin. - Doc. 2-1744/84).

Parliament approved the Commission proposal with substantial changes and stricter requirements for regeneration and combustion and with new definitions for the terms 'waste oil', 'non-reusable waste oil' and 'regeneration'.

It recognizes that waste oil containing a certain proportion of dangerous substances, such as PCB, must be treated as special waste, but it calls for a clear dividing line above which this would occur and a clear ban on mixing heavily contaminated and relatively uncontaminated waste oil. It calls for the licensing of a sufficient number of undertakings to collect waste oil and the establishment of enough collection points. The same rules should apply to the military. In addition, producers should share in the task of disposing of waste oil.

On a proposal from the EPP Group the resolution was adopted by a roll call vote, with 33 votes in favour and 18 abstentions on 12.9.1986.

Group spokesman: Mr MERTENS (EPP/D).

(d) The environment in general

- MARTIN (LDR/F) report (Doc. A 2-22/87) concluding the procedure for consultation of the EP on the draft resolution submitted by the Commission to the Council on the continuation and implementation of a European Community policy and action programme on the environment (1987-1992).

The EC's fourth action programme on environmental protection deals with the problem of prevention and monitoring of environmental pollution and proposes action in certain areas such as air pollution, fresh and salt water pollution, chemicals, biotechnology, noise and nuclear safety. At international level the programme looks at cooperation with international organizations and third countries as well as with developing countries with respect to environmental problems. With regard to the European Year of the Environment the Commission expresses the view that the most important goals are the prevention of damage to the environment, the inclusion of ecological criteria in all social and economic policy measures and the demonstration of the contribution which environmental policy can make to economic growth and job creation.

The report amends the recitals of the proposed Council resolution to include Article 130 S(2) of the Single Act as the legal basis for the proposals contained in the action programme as well as the application of the cooperation procedure with the European Parliament. As far as the resolution amended on the basis of the various adopted amendments is concerned, the action programme is endorsed principally because the Commission gives priority to preventive measures and job creation through specific measures in the area of environmental protection. The report also calls on the Commission to critically review the 'polluter pays' principle once again so that the industries responsible can be made accountable and penalized.

Resolution adopted on 14.5.1987.

Group spokesman: Mr ALBER (EPP/D).

- LLORCA VILAPLANA (ED/E) report (Doc. A 2-53/87) on the proposal from the Commission to the Council for a regulation on action by the Community relating to the environment (COM(86) 729 fin. - Doc. C 2-193/86).

The EP believes that present and future budget resources for the environment are completely inadequate. Sufficient resources should be set aside in the budget so that all important applications to the Commission can be taken into account. The promotion of 'clean' technologies, support for new procedures to monitor the quality of the natural environment, the maintenance and/or re-establishment of seriously endangered biotopes and the conservation of endangered species must be seen as not only important but imperative.

Resolution adopted on 15.5.1987.

Group spokesman: Mrs LENTZ-CORNETTE (EPP/L)

- WEBER (S/D) report (Doc. A 2-18/87) on environmental impact studies.

This is an interim report on the basis of a motion for a resolution pursuant to Rule 47. It emphasizes the importance of environmental impact studies, which should lead to the prevention of projects which could damage or alter the natural environment. In connection with the adoption of Directive 85/337/EEC on the environmental impact assessment of certain public and private projects, the report calls for a new directive to be drawn up, the subject of which would be not only projects but also all public and private plans and programmes which might affect the environment. The Group rejected the report because it considers it unnecessary, particularly as Directive 85/337/EEC has already been adopted on the same subject and is currently being transposed into national law by the Member States.

Resolution adopted on 15.5.1987.

Group spokesman: Mrs SCHLEICHER (EPP/D).

- VAN DER LEK (ARC/NL) report (Doc. A 2-30/87) on public access to environmental pollution information.

This report deals with the right of all members of the public to information on all matters related to the environment, including military projects. The report recommends almost complete freedom of information and thus calls for all information to be available. This right to information should be made the subject of a Community directive on free access to environmental information, which would be incorporated into the laws of the Member States. The report makes clear, *inter alia*, that everybody should have this right of access to all environmental information, i.e. not only all citizens of the Member State in question but also the citizens of other states.

The EPP Group raised objections against this almost unlimited right to information which would be granted to everybody whether they were citizens of a Member State or not. It also objected to the increasing workload on the State authorities unless the latter take on extra staff, and also had reservations regarding the use that would be made of the information and the objectives of those seeking information. For these reasons the Group rejected the report.

The resolution was rejected on 14.5.1987 (21 votes in favour, 150 votes against and 5 abstentions).

Group spokesman: Mrs PEUS (EPP/D).

SCHLEICHER (EPP/D) Report (Doc. A 2-234/86) on the proposal from the Commission for a Council Directive concerning the prevention of environmental pollution by asbestos (COM(86) 632 fin. - Doc. C 2-145/85).

The proposed directive is concerned with prevention of environmental pollution by asbestos. It is not concerned with protection of workers since there is already a Council Directive on this matter (83/477/EEC). The proposed directive sets out prescribed limits for emissions into air and water and rules for the use of asbestos, the demolition of buildings and disposal of asbestos waste. The Commission points out, however, that a total ban on asbestos would be impractical at the present time, particularly in the light of its mechanical properties and its resistance to combustion and to temperature changes. After the committee had rejected by a majority the first draft report, which would have altered the proposed directive substantially, on 17 December 1986 it came out in favour of adopting the proposed directive unamended. Following the vote and the resignation of the rapporteur from the Socialist Group, Mr HUGHES, Mrs SCHLEICHER (EPP/D) took over the report.

Group spokesmen on 20 February 1987: Mrs SCHLEICHER (EPP/D) and Mr SARIDAKIS (EPP/GR). The resolution was adopted on 9 March 1987 (roll call vote on a proposal from the EPP Group).

Following the Council's adoption of this directive on 19 - 20 March 1987, asbestos will be the first dangerous substance in the EC which is monitored through all stages from mining through production and use to waste disposal.

In its debate on topical and urgent subjects on 11 September 1986, the EP adopted seven motions for resolutions pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure - including two from members of the EPP Group (Doc. B 2-798/86 and Doc. B 2-802/86) - on the devastating forest fires in the south of the European Community.

- MUNTINGH (S/NL) report (Doc. A 2-153/86) on a regulation amending Regulation EEC No. 3636/82 on the implementation in the Community of the Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora (COM(86) 167 fin.).

The report is concerned with the ban on the importation into the Community for commercial purposes of certain species of butterfly which should no longer be considered as endangered (by trade).

Resolution adopted on 11 December 1986.

Group spokesman: Mrs PEUS (EPP/D).

ROELANTS DU VIVIER (ARC/B) report (Doc. A 2-31/87) on the waste disposal industry and old waste dumps.

This report consists of two parts:

The first part of the report, dealing with the waste disposal industry, points out that most of the goals laid down in action programmes in the field of environmental protection have not been achieved despite the five directives issued between 1974 and 1984. Following the Seveso disaster Community policy on the waste disposal industry has clearly reached a turning point. Since Seveso, cross-frontier transport of dangerous waste is subject to controls, but the question of civil and financial liability has not yet been settled. The report deplores the lack of a joint policy for preventing the formation of waste, e.g. through information and publicity campaigns directed at the public and the industries and professions concerned. The report points out that nothing has been done to approximate waste disposal standards. Essentially, the report calls on the Commission to draw up a long-term Community strategy for the waste disposal industry, to implement the measures envisaged in all its own action programmes, to provide a survey of the techniques and pilot projects on waste treatment, sorting and recycling, to introduce a European seal of approval for environmentally acceptable products in order to limit waste production, to lay down common rules for the waste disposal industry and to monitor the transposition of Community directives into national law.

The second part of the report considers the problem of old waste and contaminated sites, emphasizing in particular the need for registration of sites, risk-assessment and the measures to be taken. New methods for treating contaminated sites must be developed, and Community support for research in this area is thus imperative. The report also proposes that a standard tax should be levied on all products which cause dangerous waste, in order to cover the costs of processing such waste.

On the basis of the above, the resolution calls for all places where toxic waste has been stored to be recorded and identified, in application of Directive 78/319, and calls on the Commission to draw up a list of all dangerous dumps and to conduct a survey of the technical methods for cleaning them up. With regard to the question of liability, the resolution believes that a private or public fund must be set up to guarantee the cleaning up of contaminated sites and any compensation for victims, if those responsible are insolvent or cannot be identified. In addition, the Commission is called upon to consider whether in future the storage of certain types of dangerous waste should be banned and recycling of waste made compulsory in all cases.

Resolution adopted on 16.9.1987.

Group spokesman: Mrs SCHLEICHER (EPP/D)

(e) Protection of animals

- JACKSON (ED/GB) report (Doc. A 2-94/86) on the proposal from the Commission for a directive on the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes (COM(85) 637 fin.).

The aim of the proposal is to introduce, as part of Community rules, the principles, aims and main points contained in the European Convention of 6 December 1985 on the protection of vertebrate animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes. This is the first time that the EC has tried to lay down common provisions in the Member States for supervising the use of live animals for experimental purposes and the first time that the Commission has taken steps to set up a licensing system.

Parliament hopes that the directive will help limit the number of animal experiments, with the aim of completely abolishing experiments involving pain and suffering. The figure for the annual reduction is 20%. The EP is in favour of a basic ban, with an exemption for licensed experiments, and calls for a clear system of authorization of persons competent to perform experiments and of the establishments where they are performed, subject to certain conditions regarding the experimenters, the purpose and the manner of conducting the experiments.

In order to avoid duplication, results of experiments should be mutually recognized. The Member States should be required to establish data banks. Research using alternative procedures which achieve the same results without animal experiments should be encouraged. In addition a committee should be set up to ensure that animal experiments in the Member States are reduced.

The EPP Group supports all efforts to prevent duplication of animal experiments and calls for limits on such experiments for teaching purposes. Correct care and treatment of animals used for experiments is important and maximum efforts should be made to avoid inflicting pain and suffering.

Resolution adopted on 12.9.1986.

- Group spokesmen: Mrs SCHLEICHER (EPP/D) and Mrs MAIJ-WEGGEN (EPP/NL).
- SQUARCIALUPI (COM/I) interim report (Doc. A 2-92/86) on woodland rabies. The report refers to a motion for a resolution (Doc. B 2-232/85) by Mr RAFTERY (EPP/IRL) on rabies.

Parliament sees the vaccination of foxes as the most effective way of combating woodland rabies in Europe. It gives the Commission advice on preventing diseases, which it should take into account in its proposal: monitoring methods, registration of vaccinated animals and documentation on the state of health of the animals. In addition it would be helpful if the announced proposal for a directive on combating rabies were submitted promptly with a pilot scheme of preventive measures against rabies. The EP reserves the right to give an opinion on the proposed directive as soon as the latter has been submitted by the Commission.

On a proposal from the Socialists the resolution was adopted by a roll-call vote, with 142 votes in favour, 8 against and 3 abstentions, on 10.10.1986.

Group spokesman: Mr RAFTERY (EPP/IRL).

2. PUBLIC HEALTH

- SHERLOCK (ED/GB) report (Doc. A 2-224/86) closing the procedure for consultation of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission to the Council for a directive amending Directive 82/501/EEC on the major-accident hazards of certain industrial activities (COM(85) 572).

In October 1985 the Commission submitted a proposal amending Directive 82/501/EEC, as provided for in Article 19 of this Directive (OJ No. L 230/82). This is a minor amendment to the annexes in respect of certain details and threshold levels, which was necessary to correct certain technical errors and inaccuracies. However, this did not entail a substantial amendment to the field of application or the content of the directive.

In its resolution Parliament condemns the Member States which have not yet incorporated the rules of Directive 82/501/EEC in national legislation (they were supposed to come into force as of 8 January 1984 in all Member States; following the recent industrial accidents it transpired that eight Member States have not yet transposed rules into their national legislations) and calls on the Council to review its decision of 12.6.86, by which, when considering the amending directive to the 'Seveso Directive' submitted by the Commission, it agreed on prescribed levels which were significantly lower than those proposed by the Commission.

The report calls on the Commission to submit a proposal within six months by which suitable measures would be included in the directive in order to avoid further risks deriving from synergic reactions between various substances during production or storage. Parliament approves the Commission proposal, provided that the Commission accepts the amendments adopted by Parliament.

On a proposal from the Socialists the resolution was adopted by a roll-call vote, with 123 votes in favour (EPP, ED, ERDA, LDR), 117 votes against (SOC, COM, ARC) and 3 abstentions, on 19.2.1987.

Group spokesman: Mrs SCHLEICHER (EPP/D).

The Commission explained that as yet it could not accept the EP's amendments to its proposal as this would lead to a further delay in adopting the Commission's own amendments to the basic directive (Seveso Directive). However, it hoped to submit in the near future a new proposal amending this basic directive, taking into account a number of the EP's amendments. The Council adopted the proposed amendments to Directive 82/501/EEC at its meeting of 19-20.3.1987.

- WEBER (S/D) report (Doc. A 2-51/87) on the proposal from the Commission to the Council for a directive on the inspection and verification of the organizational processes and conditions under which laboratory studies are planned, performed, recorded and reported for the non-clinical testing of chemicals (Good Laboratory Practice) (COM(86) 698 final - Doc. C 2-190/86). On a proposal from the EPP Group, Parliament approved the Commission proposal and adopted the resolution by a roll-call vote, with 115 votes in favour, no votes against and no abstentions, on 15.5.87.

3. CONSUMER PROTECTION

- WEBER (S/D) report (Doc. A 2-164/86) on the proposal from the Commission to the Council for a regulation on the rationalization and improvement of health conditions in slaughterhouses in Belgium (COM(85) 657 fin. - C 2-146/85).

The Commission proposal which is the subject of this second report and the accompanying financial statement had already been rejected on 11.7.86 by the EP and referred back to committee, since special treatment of a Member State conflicts with the principle of equal treatment among Member States with the same problems. However, the Commission did not submit a new proposal and stated in the plenary sitting of 12.12.86 that it was unable to accept the EP's amendments either to its proposal or to the financial statement. The EP's amendments were aimed at implementing a 'single action programme' with appropriations of 80 million ECU, with a view to bringing sanitary and hygiene conditions in slaughterhouses in the Community into line with to the norms laid down in Directive 64/433/EEC.

Should the Council intend to depart from the EP's opinion, Parliament reserves the right to open the conciliation procedure.

On a proposal from the EPP Group a roll-call vote was taken: the resolution was adopted on 12.12.86, with 131 votes in favour, 39 against and 7 abstentions.

LENTZ-CORNETTE (EPP/L) report (Doc. A 2-189/86) on the proposal for a Council directive amending Directive 77/99/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products (COM(85) 678 final).

Adopted without debate at the plenary sitting of 23.1.87.

Joint debate on the following nine reports:

- SCHLEICHER (EPP/D) report (Doc. A 2-228/86) on the proposal for a directive closing the procedure for consultation of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission for a Council directive amending for the eighth time the Directive of 23 October 1962 on the approximation of the rules of the Member States concerning the colouring matters authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption.

Resolution adopted on 10.3.87.

- JEPSEN (ED/GB) report (Doc. A 2-240/86) closing the procedure for consultation of the European Parliament on the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council

I. for a directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs, and

II. for a directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional users (COM(86) 90 + 91 final)

Resolution adopted on 10.3.87

SCHLEICHER (EPP/D) report (Doc. A 2-235/86) on the proposal from the Commission to the Council

I. for a directive amending Directive 79/112/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the ultimate consumer

(COM(86) 89 final - Doc. C 2-24/86)

II. for a directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning food additives authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption (COM(86) 87 final - Doc. C 2-23/86)

In general terms and with respect to both proposals the report takes the view that all proposals for laws on additives in foodstuffs should aim to reduce their use to a minimum. Countries with stricter quality and safety standards should be allowed to keep them despite the introduction of Community standards. In addition, the report calls for an outline directive to be proposed instead of individual directives and for the EP to be consulted in all cases, despite the procedure involving the Standing Committee on Foodstuffs mentioned in the Commission proposals. In the motion for a resolution the Commission is called upon, inter alia, to submit a basic directive with standard definitions of the most important concepts in foodstuffs legislation. At the same time the report points out with regret that the Commission has not eliminated all possible exceptions under these directives. It also states that the Commission should ensure that a form of labelling of foodstuffs is used which is complete, clear, easy to understand and, where at all possible, uniform.

Resolution adopted on 10.3.87.

SCHLEICHER (EPP/D) report (Doc. A 2-236/86) on the proposal from the Commission to the Council for a directive amending for the fourth time Directive 70/357/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the antioxidants authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption (COM(86) 384 final - Doc. C 2-70/86).

Parliament rejected the Commission proposal. On the basis of Rule 35(1) of the Rules of Procedure the rapporteur requested the Commission to make known its stance on Parliament's vote on the proposed directive. She requested referral back to committee pursuant to Rule 35(3), since the Commission was unwilling to adopt a clear position on the procedure to be followed next. On 10.3.87, on a proposal from the EPP Group, the report was referred back to committee by a roll-call vote with 190 votes in favour, 37 votes against and 2 abstentions.

- JACKSON (ED/GB) report (Doc. A 2-195/86) on the completion of the internal market: Community legislation on foodstuffs

The Commission's communication on the completion of the Internal Market is of fundamental importance for the development of European legislation on foodstuffs. However, the consumer should not pay a price, in health terms, for the completion of the Internal Market. In this communication the Commission explained how it hopes to overcome the holding-up of decisions in the Council of Ministers on legislation on foodstuffs:

1. through outline directives (the EP to be consulted and the Council of Ministers to take decisions)

2. through increased mutual recognition of standards and regulations.

Following a 2-day hearing on foodstuffs policy and consideration of written opinions from the European food industry and consumer organizations the committee welcomed the Commission's communication, but criticized certain deficiencies in the policy which need to be eliminated. For example, the report calls for publication of a supplementary communication by the Commission on the legal situation resulting from Articles 30 to 36 of the Treaty and emphasizes the need for a clear account of the Commission's proposals in the field of foodstuffs legislation so that the proposals are easy for the consumer to understand. At the same time the Commission must ensure that the application of uniform EC standards is monitored.

With respect to the implementation of the simplified procedure by the Commission, the report points out that such a procedure can only be approved if the European Parliament participates in discussions on the adoption of decisions.

Resolution adopted on 10.3.87.

- BLOCH VON BLOTTNITZ (ARC/D) report (Doc. A 2-216/86) on the irradiation of foodstuffs

The EPP Group expressed the view that an irradiation ban was pointless and impossible to check so long as there was no way of detecting whether and to what degree foodstuffs had been irradiated. It was in favour of three main principles: no curbs on the freedom to carry out research; compulsory uniform rules in the EC; labelling of all irradiated foodstuffs.

The resolution thus amended was adopted on 10.3.87.

PEREIRA (LDR/P) report (Doc. A 2-149/86) on the transport of foodstuffs in containers and tankers

This own-initiative report stresses the imprecision of existing Community laws on types of transport and the storage of foodstuffs, and expresses its concern regarding the food contamination which may occur as a result of inadequate rules on transporting foodstuffs and non-foodstuffs alternately in containers and tankers. However, the report says that a solution to this problem should not be paid for by the final consumer through higher prices. Lastly, the proposed directive must make it simpler to check containers and tanks and there should also be checks on the storage of foodstuffs.

Resolution adopted on 11.3.87

- DUARTE CENDAN (S/E) report (Doc. A 2-248/86) on the mass poisoning in Spain in 1981

The report calls on the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, to take the measures needed to ensure more effective monitoring of foodstuffs from production to consumption including transport, so that within the shortest possible time all dangerous products can be removed from the market. The report also calls for the establishment of a system for the rapid exchange of information in order to combat epidemics and poisoning of this kind.

Resolution adopted on 11.3.87

- PEUS (EPP/D) report (Doc. A 2-188/86) on the adulteration of Community wine with ethylene glycol and other poisons

The report outlines the Community's present legal position and calls on the Council, the Commission and the Member States to take steps. It calls on the Council to issue rules without delay making it compulsory to show alcohol content on labels (in States where current legislation makes no provision for this), to set up a register of vineyards in line with the Commission proposal and to ban any artificial manufacture of wine and the blending of EEC table wines.

Resolution adopted on 11.3.87

In the joint debate the following spoke on behalf of the Group:

Mrs SCHLEICHER (EPP/D), Mrs PEUS (EPP/D), Mr RAFTERY (EPP/IRL), Mr ESTGEN (EPP/L), Mrs MAIJ-WEGGEN (EPP/L), Mrs BOOT (EPP/NL) and Mr BOCKLET (EPP/D).

- COLLINS (S/GB) report (Doc. A 2-64/87) on the proposal from the Commission to the Council for a directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning products which, appearing to be other than they are, endanger the health or safety of consumers (COM(86) 499 fin. - Doc. C 2-109/86).

The EPP Group welcomes the Commission proposal, but has reservations regarding the Commission's plan to create its own information system in order to put this directive into effect. An information system on accidents caused by consumer goods has already been decided upon by the Council of Ministers with the support of the EP and work on it has already started.

Resolution adopted on 15.5.1987.

Group spokesman: Mrs SCHLEICHER (EPP/D).

- BANOTTI (EPP/IRL) report (Doc. A 2-68/87) on the proposal from the Commission to the Council (COM(86) 576 fin. - Doc. C 2-154/86) for a directive laying down the health rules for fresh meat and the level of the fees to be charged in respect of such meat pursuant to Directive 85/73/EEC.

On 15.5.1987 the EP decided to refer the report back to committee.

- WEBER (S/D) report (Doc. A 2-52/87) on the proposals from the Commission to the Council (COM(86) 653 fin. III+IV - Doc. C 2-170/86) for
 - a directive amending Directive 75/106/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making-up by volume of certain pre-packaged liquids, and
 - a directive amending Directive 80/232/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the ranges of nominal quantities and nominal capacities permitted for certain pre-packaged products.

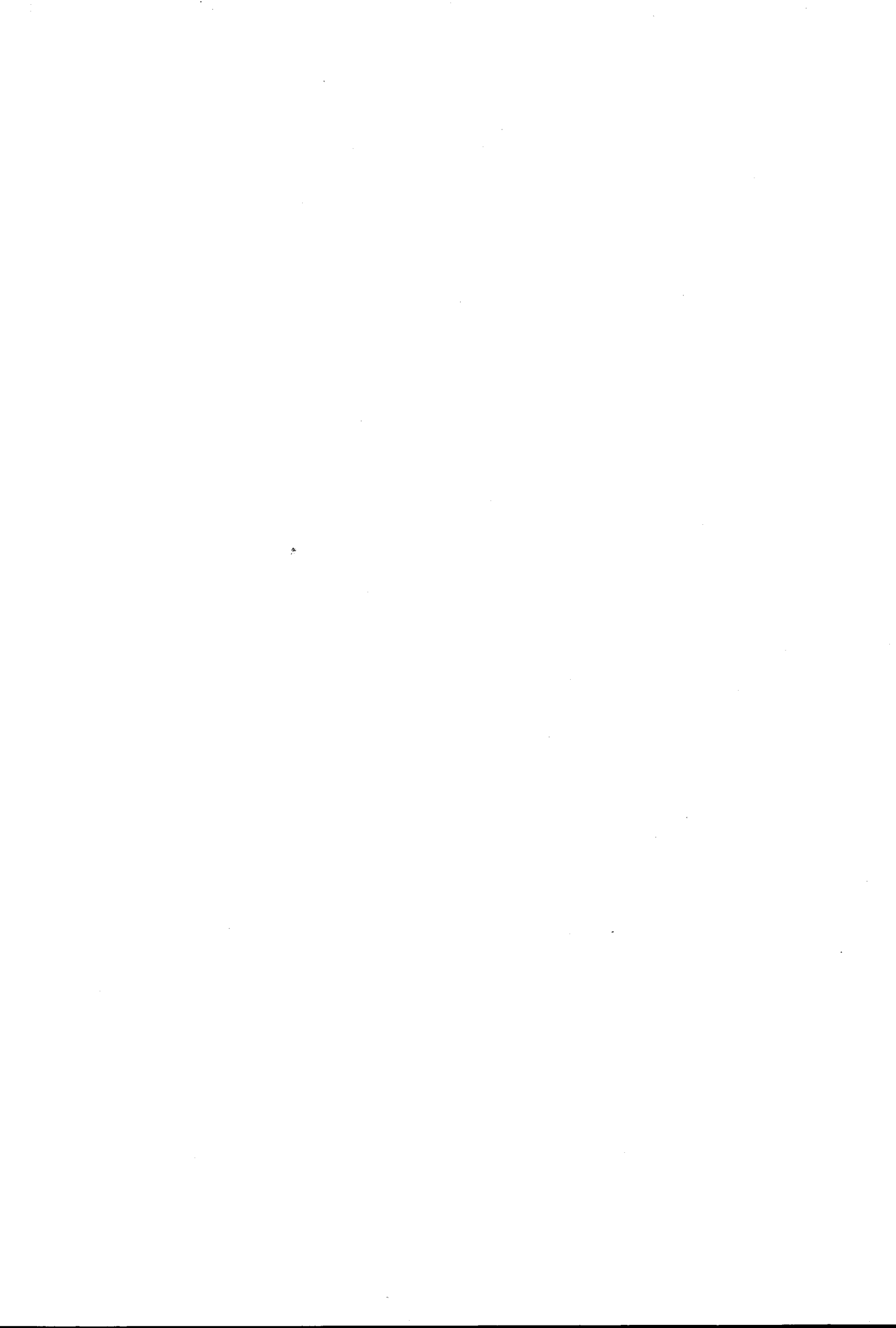
Resolution adopted without debate on 15.5.1987.

- On 15.5.1987, under the procedure without report and without debate (Rule 99) the following proposals for directives were approved by the EP:

- Proposal for a directive amending Directive 77/461/EEC on veterinary inspection problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat and Directive 72/462/EEC on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries (COM(87) 44 fin. - Doc. C 2-5/87).
 - I. Proposal for a Council directive amending Directive 64/433/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat
 - II. Proposal for a Council directive amending Directive 72/462/EEC on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries (COM(86) 532 fin. - Doc. C 2-127/86)
- Directive 80/215/EEC on veterinary inspection problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products (COM(87) 51 fin. - Doc. C 2-7/87).

3.7.1987/da

Mareile ALDINGER-TZIOVAS



**PROGRESS REPORT
JULY 1986 - OCTOBER 1986**

**COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO THE DRUGS PROBLEM
IN THE MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMUNITY**

COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO THE DRUGS PROBLEM
IN THE MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMUNITY

- Number of members: 15

- Members of the EPP Group sitting on the committee:

Mrs Marietta GIANNAKOU-KOUTSIKOU (GR), chairman
Mr Elmar BROK (D), coordinator
Mrs Mary BANOTTI (IRL), shadow rapporteur
Mr Carlo CASINI (I)

Substitutes:

Mrs Marcelle LENTZ-CORNETTE (LUX)
Mr Boucke BEUMER (NL)
Mr Michelangelo CIANCAGLINI (I)
Mrs Gabriele PEUS (D)

I. INTRODUCTION

A committee of inquiry into the drugs problem in the Member States of the Community was set up by the European Parliament in October 1985 pursuant to Rule 95 of the Rules of Procedure and at the request of several Members.

The committee of inquiry's terms of reference established by the European Parliament were to submit within one year a report on the drugs problem in the Community, which is assuming dramatic proportions.

The primary objective of the committee of inquiry, chaired by a member of the EPP Group, Mrs GIANNAKOU-KOUTSIKOU (GR), was to compile as much information as possible at first hand, to persuade the two other Community institutions, namely the Council and the Commission, to take the action required, as set out in the conclusions to the report of the committee of inquiry.

From October 1985 to July 1986 the committee of inquiry appointed its rapporteur, Sir Jack STEWART-CLARK (ED, GB), established its programme of work and structure of the final report and subsequently organized hearings involving experts and considered the following three topics:

- drug addiction and rehabilitation,
- legislation, illicit drug trafficking and control of the supply of drugs,
- prevention and education.

In July 1986 the rapporteur submitted an initial draft containing conclusions (recommendations) which was thoroughly discussed in committee, the final version being adopted by a majority of the committee on 22 September 1986 (Doc. A 2-114/86).

II. SUBSTANCE OF THE REPORT

The drugs problem is a world-wide one and drug traffic and the arms traffic are often linked. Measures to combat this threat therefore require a common strategy, at international level, laws and suitable coordinated measures and international legislation, the enforcement of which should be rigorously coordinated.

Whether at international, national or local level, all links in the chain of production, supply and demand for narcotic drugs must be tackled.

A. Production of drugs: crop substitution

The report endorses the objectives and action taken by the governments of the Member States and by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) to finance crop substitution programmes in the producing countries and calls for a financial contribution from the Community to the activities of UNFDAC.

Apart from contributing to the work of UNFDAC, there is considerable room for the Community and the Member States to contribute under the special aid agreements concluded with the countries concerned and constant diplomatic pressure should be exerted upon them to cooperate fully in combating drug production and trafficking.

The granting of loans by the IMF and the World Bank to producing countries should be subject to a code of conduct.

Uniform Community legislation should be introduced to monitor and control the trade in the precursors of drugs and chemicals used in the illicit production of drugs. For this purpose, a central Community data base should be set up in cooperation with the INCB in Vienna to keep track of all movements of such chemicals, under the auspices of INTERPOL or the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC).

As regards psychotropic substances and substitute drugs, it is recommended that all Member States should apply in full the provisions of the two main international conventions on drug control: the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 (amended in 1972) and the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. Manufacturers of substitute drugs should be encouraged to include additives in their products to prevent their abuse through sniffing.

B. Legal measures at Community level

The report recommends that courts in all the Member States of the Community should impose similar sentences on drug traffickers and calls for a common approach to sentences for all drug-related offences, including smuggling and supplying. The report also emphasizes that the extradition of drug criminals is necessary to prevent national legal borders being used as an escape.

Common legislation throughout the Community is also required on the seizure and freezing of assets arising from drug trafficking.

As regards sentencing in all the Member States of the Community, the report advocates that courts should distinguish between big-time operators, small-time pushers, often themselves drug addicts, and occasional users. In many cases indeed, occasional users actually fall prey to serious addiction while in prison.

The courts should also be in a position to distinguish between drug addicts charged with possession and traffickers. Prison welfare services should also be able to provide facilities for those preferring rehabilitation as an alternative to custodial sentences and to establish therapeutic communities or other treatment facilities within prisons.

On the important issue of legalization of drugs, on which there was a great deal of controversy within the committee of inquiry, the report concludes that no drug should be legalized since this is likely to increase the number of addicts.

The EPP Group strongly opposed legalization because of the dependence which results from the use of drugs.

All the Member States are therefore urged to become signatories of the international conventions designed to combat drug abuse and the European Community is requested to explore means of influencing all EEC countries to honour these conventions.

Law enforcement

Urgent action is needed to improve coordination and efficiency of all law enforcement agencies involved with drug trafficking across the Community. The report recommends that a European Community Drugs Task Force be set up, with a national task force in each Member State and coordination between all these bodies.

The dismantling of customs and control barriers within the Community borders must go ahead and should not be held up because of drug trafficking, although there must be tighter controls and customs checks at the Community's external frontiers. Use should be made of all new electronic detection systems and sniffer dogs.

Cooperation between the customs authorities should be stepped up and extended to European countries which are not Member States of the Community, within the Customs Cooperation Council. All the Member States should therefore install compatible computer information networks along the lines of the 'Automated Cargo Selection System' that exists in the United States.

Education and prevention

While recognizing that law enforcement plays a part in combating drug abuse, the report above all emphasizes the importance of preventive action through education. Education and the creation of awareness about the dangers of drugs needs to take place on a greatly increased scale. Use should be made of the experience of former drug addicts. The education of children, parents, teachers and professional workers - at all levels - is necessary since the main objective is to reduce demand, given that it is impossible to reduce supply in the short term.

Since young people are at the greatest risk, the report advocates that as early as primary school level there should be an elementary health education programme to make all young children realize clearly the dangers which exist. In secondary education it is important that education programmes should be designed to involve both teachers and pupils. The most successful programmes should be communicated widely throughout the Community. Drug awareness and prevention programmes should also be continued into institutes of higher education.

A special course should be included in teacher training throughout the Community and there is also a strong case for setting up a central training schools for teachers who would go on to train teachers from schools in their own countries.

For parents, an informative report should be drawn up containing as complete a list as possible of the public and private, religious, cultural, social and school measures directed against drugs. Every parent should have access to free literature on the essential facts about drugs and, in particular what signs need to be looked for in children, and how and where to get help and treatment. Parents' self-help groups should also be encouraged so that experiences in different countries can be shared.

The curricula of medical and nursing schools in the Community should follow the recommendations of the WHO, which is currently carrying out a review of curricula to improve teaching on drug addiction.

As regards public information and the media, public information campaigns undertaken in a responsible manner can be a useful tool in informing and influencing the population. The importance of television is underlined since it can play a major role in the area of education through special programmes prepared by experts with long experience in the field.

Finally, the report underlines the education and prevention role of local communities in designing and implementing projects to encourage better liaison between the statutory agencies, community groups and non-governmental organizations.

Treatment and rehabilitation

It is essential that governments make available sufficient monies to regional and local health authorities to provide rehabilitation facilities for drug addicts. Since there are not enough facilities for drug addicts who want to receive treatment, there is no point in discussing whether treatment should be compulsory or voluntary. It is also important to encourage as many drug addicts as possible to register so they can be treated. Such voluntary registration should of course be confidential.

On the subject of methadone treatment, the report concludes that the use of methadone does not solve the problem; it has so far failed to produce the expected results and cannot therefore be regarded as a valid method of treatment.

A further method of treatment is that of therapeutic communities; these should be given financial support by governments and local authorities. The European Federation of Therapeutic Communities could be a valuable resource for Member States in deciding the type of therapeutic community most suitable for each of the Member States, depending on the drug concerned and patterns of drug taking, and in establishing the standards to be met by the Community.

As regards Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), a coordinated public information campaign should be carried out to give the facts about AIDS and to minimize panic. Drug users should be encouraged to change their habits and to use sterile syringes, with which they should be provided. The Community should cooperate in this field with the WHO, which is the competent authority and centralizes all the relevant information.

The report suggests that the Commission should provide a set of guidelines for planning the reintegration of former addicts into society and work, also using the European Social Fund. The guidelines should include: vocational training programmes, the establishment of a social workers' network in the aftercare process, the creation of employment opportunities and special assistance to find work, provision of suitable social work and the possibility of part-time work.

Research and information

The report proposes the setting up of a European Research and Information Centre and a data bank to centralize information on all existing initiatives and research aimed at tackling drug abuse.

In the context of research and information, it is necessary to continue with scientific research (to find new remedies for drug addiction), provide information on the activities of research centres, compile statistics, determine the economic and social costs of drug addiction, evaluate various methods of treatment and prevention so that they can be adjusted periodically to new requirements and organize seminars and meetings with a view to comparing experience.

Finally, the European Parliament should make a study of the possibility of establishing a drug abuse control committee which would work in collaboration with the Council of Europe Pompidou Group in formulating a coherent European drug policy.

POSITION OF THE EPP GROUP AND FINAL RESOLUTION

The EPP Group made a major contribution to the final version of the report both through the comments and observations of its members and the 45 or so amendments tabled, the large majority of which were adopted.

The EPP Group endorses and supports the recommendations/conclusions in the report as adopted by the majority of the committee of inquiry and regrets that certain political groups were unable to subscribe to the recommendations and advocated that the Community should adopt an anti-prohibitionist policy, despite the conclusions to the contrary drawn by most experts.

During the first part-session in October 1986, at which the main topic of the debate was combating drug abuse, the EP noted the final report of its committee of inquiry (Rule 95) and winding up the debate on an oral question (Rule 42) tabled by the members of the committee of inquiry, Parliament adopted by a very large majority a resolution tabled by the six main political groups, including the EPP, which pressed particularly hard for the drafting of a joint resolution in order to strengthen the EP's position vis-à-vis the Council and the Commission.

In this resolution, which was adopted on 9 October 1986, the European Parliament calls on the Council to adopt a draft resolution submitted to it by Parliament on concerted action to tackle the drugs problem.

In this draft resolution the Council would undertake to:

- develop joint Community policies to alleviate the alarming rise and rapidly changing nature of the drugs problem, while affirming the illegality of drugs;
- provide increased funds for drug crop substitution programmes;
- establish practical guidelines for the sentencing of drug traffickers, procedures for their extradition and the freezing and confiscation of their assets;
- spare no effort to combat criminal organizations engaged in arms trafficking, the drugs trade and terrorism;
- introduce measures for dealing with the laundering of money from drug trafficking;
- improve and strengthen cooperation between customs authorities in the Community and above all improve as a matter of extreme urgency preventive education at all levels of society, and the rehabilitation treatment of drug addicts.

SUBSEQUENT ACTION

Since the EP's calls for action, the Council has adopted a decision (on 27 January 1987) authorizing the Commission to participate in the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illegal Trafficking organized by the UN in Vienna from 17-26 June 1987.

As regards North-South relations, this decision provides for the opening of a political dialogue with the producer countries, the implementation of integrated development measures and programmes to prevent the production of drugs and specific development projects and schemes in the field of health, training, information, education and research.

Two budget headings were therefore entered in the 1987 budget - 9490 for Community funding of the activities of the UNFDAC in the field of crop substitution programmes: 500 000 ECU (non-differentiated appropriations) and 9491 'concerted programme of North-South cooperation schemes in the context of the campaign against drug abuse': 5 million ECU in commitment appropriations and 2 million ECU in payment appropriations.

Furthermore, in its communication COM(86) 601 concerning Community actions to combat the use of illicit drugs, the Commission proposes to add budget headings in the 1988 and 1989 budget for initiatives in the area of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation with appropriations of 1 250 000 ECU for each year (1988-1989).

In conclusion and in the light of the response to the EP's call for action, it would undoubtedly be true to say that the setting up of the committee of inquiry has been instrumental in bringing about action within the Commission and the Council and it has managed to make those two institutions aware of the need to combat the threat to our society posed by the drugs problem.

Ilias KAVALIERAKIS

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, CULTURE, EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND SPORT

I. Offices of members of the EPP Group

Vice-chairman: Gustavo SELVA (I)
Coordinator: Werner MÜNCH (D)
Vice-coordinator: Kyriakos GERONTOPOULOS (GR)

<u>Members:</u>	<u>Substitutes:</u>
Roberto FORMIGONI (I)	Nicole FONTAINE (F)
Wilhelm HAHN (D)	Antonio IODICE (I)
	Pol MARCK (B)
	Bernhard SÄLZER (D)
	Ursula SCHLEICHER (D)

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INFORMATION

Vice-chairman: Wilhelm F. T. HAHN (D)

<u>Members:</u>	<u>Substitutes:</u>
Gustavo SELVA (I)	Nicole FONTAINE (F)
	Werner MÜNch (D)

II. Main areas of activity

The committee is concerned to promote more intensive and extensive cooperation in the field of education and culture and a community policy on the media as an important precondition for the creation of a People's Europe and as a vital complement to economic integration. It observes with dismay and impatience the unsatisfactory progress achieved in these fields and the time taken by the Council of Ministers in dealing with important proposals.

In the field of education the EPP Group has from the outset supported the goals of student mobility and exchanges and repeatedly urged the Council of Ministers to produce a decision on the ERASMUS programme. The Council at last took a decision on this programme in May 1987, which meant that it could come into effect on 1 July 1987. The appropriations made available for the programme by the Council represent, however, in the EPP Group's opinion, only a minimum contribution which may serve as a beginning.

The YES for Europe programme to promote youth exchanges is of crucial importance for the creation of the People's Europe, because it is intended to foster understanding among young Europeans and to improve facilities for the collection and exchange of information by Member States. Therefore the EPP Group has deplored the fact that the Council is not yet in a position to adopt this programme. In its opinion European integration can succeed only if young people want it to and begin the process amongst themselves (rapporteur: Nicole FONTAINE (F)).

In this context, too, the committee, in particular its EPP members, has been pressing for the removal of remaining obstacles to educational mobility. This was the purpose of the report by the committee's EPP coordinator, Werner MÜNCH (D) on measures to promote teacher mobility in the EC. A report on the European dimension in the school is endorsed by the EPP Group in principle. The group considers that one of the essential prerequisites for the qualitative development of European integration lies in overcoming misconceptions and prejudice. For this it is necessary to stress the European dimension both in school and in adult education and the media.

As before, the EPP Group lays particular emphasis on European media policy, which it was responsible for initiating. It therefore welcomed the Commission directive on broadcasting¹. Attempts by the Socialist Group to block these proposals with perfectionist demands were unsuccessful, thanks to the determined stand by the EPP Group (draftsman for the committee was Wilhelm HAHN (D)).

Matters relating to youth, culture, education and information were examined and a number of study meetings organized by the group. One of the topics discussed at the group's study days in Porto Carras (Greece) in September 1986 was the cultural dimension in the process of European integration². In September 1987, during its study meeting in Constance (Germany), the group will consider European media policy in the light of cross-border technologies (TV without frontiers). Culture and media policies were a principal theme of the congress on local government held by the EPP group and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Luxembourg in July 1987³.

III. Résumé and assessment of the resolutions adopted by the EP

PELIKAN (SOC)

Doc. A 2-50/86

OJ C 283/13 of 10.11.1986

Vote: 6.10.1986

Establishment of a European Foundation for East European Studies

The primary tasks of such a foundation will be:

- to organize and select information on Soviet and East European Studies within the Community
- to ensure flexible coordination of research plans and policies;
- to organize regular conferences, symposia, and seminars;
- to support the publishing of important research work;
- to promote exchanges with scientists and scholars from Eastern Europe;
- to initiate studies of pan-European interest;
- to establish links with establishments of higher education in the Community which already include Eastern European Studies in their curricula.

¹ COM(86) 146 final

² cf EPP European Note Book No. 53

³ cf final resolution of the Congress on local government

This should prepare the way for better communication and exchange of information on research concerning the USSR and Eastern Europe in the Community and thereby establish an 'European stance' on East-West matters and better understanding within Europe of the problems involved.

A working party composed of representatives from the Community institutions, the Council of Europe and researchers (which has already begun work and which includes Wilhelm HAHN (D) of the EPP Group) has been entrusted with the task of drawing up the Foundation's constitution.

The resolution was adopted by 72 votes in favour, with one abstention. Group spokesmen: Wilhelm HAHN (D) and Otto VON HABSBURG (D).

MÜNCH (EVP)

Doc. A 2-119/86

OJ C 297/158

Vote: 24.10.1986

Encouraging teacher mobility in the EC (recognition of teaching qualifications and the Community's Statute for Teachers)

In the resolution Parliament recommends that in future nationals of the Member States should have the right to be employed as teachers on the same terms as nationals of the country concerned, including State probationary service, irrespective of whether the post is in a private or public educational establishment. The 'horizontal' concept of recognition recently developed by the Commission in its proposal for a directive for general arrangements relating to the recognition of university degrees is considered a useful approach which could equally be applied to the recognition of teaching qualifications acquired in other Member States and the Council is asked to examine this proposal for a directive without delay and apply it to the teaching profession. The Commission is asked to submit at the earliest opportunity the promised proposal for legislation on the interpretation of Article 48(4) of the EEC Treaty and to remove teaching from the exclusions in this indent so that teachers are covered by the general rules on free movement applicable to other workers. At the same time, a Community statute for teachers should be drawn up containing common legal provisions for teachers working in a country other than their country of origin, particularly in regard to social security, promotion prospects, opportunities for further training and old age pensions.

The resolution was adopted by 85 votes to 4 (ARC, SOC, COM).

Group spokesmen: Gabriele PEUS (D), Nicolas ESTGEN (L), Antonio IODICE (I) and Chris O'MALLEY (IRL).

Draftsman for the Committee on Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights: Nicole FONTAINE (F).

FONTAINE (EPP)

Doc. A 2-109/86

OJ C 322/160 of 15.12.1986

Vote: 13.11.1986

Proposal for a Council decision adopting an action programme for the promotion of youth

exchanges in the Community - YES for EUROPE -

1987 - 1989 (COM(86) 52 final)

The YES programme for encouraging and improving the quality of youth exchanges in the Community is to be implemented over a period of three years (1987 to 1989). 80% of the budget appropriations of 30 m ECU proposed by the Commission for the programme will be used for direct funding of youth exchanges. Priority will be given to projects which bring together young people from different social, financial and cultural backgrounds, which make young people more aware of the European dimension, which are designed with young people from underprivileged backgrounds in mind and which involve regions where such activities are underdeveloped. In addition, the remaining 20% will be spent on supplementary measures to safeguard the quality of the exchange programme: support for the national coordinating agencies' work of organizing and disseminating information, financial aid for the setting up of non-governmental organizations involved in youth exchange programmes, grants for the training of youth workers and the funding of exchanges of experience.

In the report the YES programme is endorsed and described as indispensable, not only to give fresh impetus on a more coordinated basis to current exchange activities, but also to enhance their multilateral character and expand them in recognition of the equality of all young people irrespective of their nationality. Amendments proposed by Parliament to the Commission's proposal concern inter alia increasing the proposed appropriations from 30 to 50 m ECU, the introduction of a European youth card and the possibility for young people from non-Community countries to participate.

The Commission's proposal and the resolution were adopted by 161 votes to one, with 3 abstentions (ARC).

Group spokesmen: Gabriele PEUS (D), Chris O'MALLEY (IRL) and Reinhold BOCKLET (D).

McMILLAN-SCOTT (ED)

Doc A 2-172/86

OJ C 7/327 of 12.1.1987

Vote: 12.12.1986

Community action in the field of tourism
(COM(86) 32 final)

Proposals from the Commission to the Council
for

- a resolution on a better seasonal and geographical distribution of tourism
- a recommendation on standardized information on existing hotels
- a decision establishing a consultation and coordination procedure in the field of tourism

The Commission proposals constitute basically encouragement for Community cooperation with a view to improving the distribution of tourism, provision of information on hotels for the consumers and the coordination of policies on tourism in the Community.

The report approves of these proposals as a modest first step towards a Community policy on tourism. It points out that off-season tourism could be greatly enhanced by encouraging alternative forms (e.g. 'activity holidays', social, rural and cultural tourism) and if administrations, trade, industry and the service sectors were actively to promote the staggering of holidays. In regard to standardized information on hotels it expresses the view that price displays in ECUs and the acceptance of travellers' cheques in ECUs might lead to more stable pricing across the Community and increase people's awareness of Europe. Lastly, the report calls for the setting up of an advisory Tourism Committee comprising representatives of the Member States, the Commission and interest groups affected by tourism.

The Commission proposals and the resolution were adopted by 73 votes in favour.
Group spokesman: Ursula BRAUN-MOSER (D)

BAGET BOZZO (SOC)

The European Community's information policy

Doc. A 2-111/86

OJ C 7/74 of 12.1.1987

Vote: 11.12.1986

Among other things the report calls for the implementation of an action programme which would include the following aspects:

- a policy of arousing public awareness by highlighting major themes such as environmental protection, aid to the Third World, measures to combat poverty and unemployment;
- the dissemination of information on the role of the Community and its current achievements such as progress on completing the internal market and the effects of a people's Europe;
- the strengthening of information policy channelled towards groups and associations which act as opinion multipliers;
- specific action for young people.

The report calls for effective cooperation between the information services of the various institutions, the use of the most appropriate means of communication and the systematic use of instruments for gauging public opinion, such as Eurobarometer.

The resolution was adopted with the Socialists and Communists voting in favour. In the EPP group the report encountered criticism because it did not answer the need to set up an operational programme in the field of information policy for the third Europe elections but instead remained bogged down in theoretical ideas. Information, however, according to the EPP spokesman, means a systematic effort by an institution to establish and present its objectives to describe more accurately the message which it wants to convey, to identify the target groups and to determine the procedures and means by which this is to be brought about.

Group spokesmen: Pol MARCK (B), Wilhelm HAHN (D), Gabriele PEUS (D) and Nicolas ESTGEN (L).

PEUS (EPP)

European Schools

Doc. A 2-244/86

OJ C 125/63 of 11.5.1987

Vote: 7.4.1987

The report calls for a comprehensive reform of the European Schools to include a review and adjustment of the administrative and financial provisions and also of the educational criteria. The proposals concern the admission of more 'non-entitled' pupils to the European Schools (for example children of migrant workers from Community countries and all children whose parents are forced to have their children educated abroad), curriculum questions (e.g. the introduction of courses not leading to the Baccalaureat but providing a basis for vocational training later on, questions concerning European integration), better career guidance, an adequate provision of computers and the introduction of the new information technologies and matters concerning the teaching staff (restriction of teachers' secondment to the European Schools to 10 years, utilization of their European experience on their return to their home countries).

The resolution was adopted by a large majority.

Group spokesman: Pol MARCK (B).

EWING (RDE)

Open Universities in the EC

Doc. A 2-69/87

Vote: 10.7.1987

In view of the Open Universities' function as major providers of part-time higher education and their growing importance in adult education the Commission is asked to promote a network of Open Universities at European level and in doing so to ensure in particular

- that they are involved as far as possible in Community schemes for cooperation in the fields of higher education and training, notably ERASMUS and COMETT,
- they are involved in the development of advanced open learning at the European level, notably through the proposed DELTA programme.

The Open Universities should intensify their efforts, for instance by offers of financial support, to recruit students among those most isolated from conventional centres of learning and aid should also be allocated for this purpose from the European Regional and Social Funds. In addition course credits should be mutually recognizable and transferable between Open Universities and conventional establishments of higher education and Open University degrees should be recognized at both national and European level.

The resolution was adopted by 49 votes to 14, with 3 abstentions. Some of the EPP members voted against the report, because it made no distinction between distance and Open Universities and rejects the imposition of entry requirements for students to these universities. The critics of the report pointed out that the university is a concept implying excellence and this must be maintained.

Group spokesmen: Werner MÜNCH (D) and Michelangelo CIANCAGLINI (I).

BARRAL AGESTA (SOC)

The European dimension with regard to books

Doc. A 2-76/87

Vote: 10.7.1987

The diversity of legal provisions governing freedom of expression and authorship and the disparities in tax arrangements applied to authors in the different Member States are detrimental to the smooth operation of the book trade in the Community and to an expansion in the sale of books by authors from Community countries.

Therefore the Commission is asked to draw up Community rules

- to limit the duration of the right of disposal of copyright and thereby to facilitate the reproduction of books;
- to standardize procedures for dealing with infringements of intellectual property;
- to harmonize VAT on literary works, publishing and the book trade within the Community;
- to harmonize the rules governing the book trade and exemption from customs duties on the import and export of books.

Other proposals concern the drafting of a European Statute on Authors' Rights, the creation of a Community fund for translation and a Community Library Centre.

The resolution was adopted by a large majority.

Group spokesmen: Gustavo SELVA (I) and Mary BANOTTI (IRL).

Ute ZURMAHR

I. Positions held by members of the EPP Group

First vice-chairman : CASSANMAGNAGO-CERRETTI (I)
Coordinator : DE BACKER-VAN OCKEN (B)
Deputy coordinator : MICHELINI (I)

Members

Giovanni BERSANI (I)
Maria-Luisa CASSANMAGNAGO-CERRETTI (I)
Raf CHANTERIE (B)
Mark CLINTON (IRL)
Rika DE BACKER-VAN OCKEN (B)
Rudolf LUSTER (D)
Alberto MICHELINI (I)
Fritz PIRKL (D)
Renate Charlotte RABBETHGE (D)
Willem J. VERGEER (NL)

Substitutes

van AERSSSEN (D)
GIUMMARRA (I)
HABSBURG (D)
HACKEL (D)
LANGES (D)
LECANUET (F)
LIGIOS (I)
LEMMER (D)
PENDERS (NL)
TZOUNIS (GR)
ZARGES (D)

II. OUTLINE OF MAIN DEVELOPMENTS¹

1. The Third Convention of Lomé has come into force; all the 'programming missions' have now been carried out. Broadly speaking, agreement has been reached between the Community and each of the 66 countries concerned on use of available resources, giving greater emphasis than before to rural and agricultural development. Concerning Africa, mention should be made of the special UN session convened with a view to increasing donor contributions, in conjunction with more suitable government policies in the areas concerned. In Africa the entry into force of the African Charter of Human Rights, has paved the way for major progress in this area.
2. So far as it is not covered by the Convention of Lomé, the development budget has been affected by the general Community budgetary problems. Although the Group was once more able to ensure that 'development' was treated as a priority, during the year under consideration deficits elsewhere in the Community budget led to internal agreements for the transfer of unspent funds from the development section. It is extremely probable that the same thing will occur in 1987-1988, especially in cases where the rapid increase in available resources outstrips (administrative) assimilation capacity.
3. In February the question of North-South relations as a whole was discussed in Parliament (see 'reports' section). This resulted in a considerable degree of consensus, especially concerning the role of the Community in respect of debt problems. At the Venice summit conference the Community as such was for the first time given specific terms of reference in this area.
4. At institutional level the main development was a new and greatly improved food aid regulation following close cooperation between the British Presidency and the relevant parliamentary committee. A STABEX system was set up for the least developed countries outside the Convention of Lomé. At the end of the period under consideration, the first amendments

¹ See relevant chapter for the texts adopted by the ACP-EEC Joint Assembly

to a number of cooperation agreements were submitted to Parliament, which under the Single European Act, now require the approval of Parliament instead of its opinion, as was the case before.

5. An increasingly conspicuous role was played by the Spanish and Portuguese Members in attracting attention (and funds) to relations with Central and South America. For 1987 this led to a reallocation of funds earmarked for the Asian and South American countries respectively (65:35 instead of 75:25 to date).

III. SUMMARY

DALY (ED/GB) Report on the recruitment of stagiaires
Doc. A 2-57/86 for employment in EEC Delegations to
Vote: 11.9.86 developing countries

Contents: It is recommended that two-year traineeships be introduced, for which citizens from all Member States would be eligible; 10 trainees would be recruited in the first year and the number would subsequently rise to about 40.
The scheme would be financed under the General Budget.

Group spokesman: -

CAMPINOS (SOC/PT) Report on the Regulation on food-aid
Doc. A 2-140/86 policy and food-aid management
Vote: 24.10.86

Contents: The main objective is to achieve a degree of separation between the formulation and implementation of food aid on the one hand and the Community agricultural policy on the other.
In addition, attention is drawn to the need for a more rapid understanding of food-aid situations.

Group spokesman: RABBETHGE (D)

LEHIDEUX (DR/F) Generalized tariff preferences scheme
Doc. A 2-151/86 for 1987
Vote: 14.11.86

Contents: Approval of Commission's proposal, in particular concerning a degree of differentiation based on the level of development.

Group spokesmen: DE BACKER (B) - ZAHORKA (D)

SABY (SOC/F) Stabex system for least-developed countries
Doc. A 2-156/86
Vote: 12.12.86

Contents: Arrangements similar to the existing Stabex system under the Convention of Lomé would be introduced by the European Community for the least-developed countries outside this Convention.

Group spokesman: Without debate

CONDESSO (LDR/PT)

Joint Assembly proceedings

Doc. A 2-206/86

ACP-EEC 1985-1986

Vote: 23.1.87

Contents: The report informs the European Parliament of proceedings during the year under consideration, taking up the main items contained in the resolutions of the Joint Assembly.

Group spokesman: Without debate

MEDEIROS-FERREIRA (RDE/PT)

Food Aid Convention 1986-1989

Doc. A 2-154/86

Vote: 23.1.87

Contents: Approval of the three-year Convention and the apportionment to the Community Member States of the quantities provided for therein.

Group spokesman: Without debate

FOCKE (SOC/D)

North-South cooperation

Doc. A 2-203/86

Vote: 19.2.87

Contents: This document recapitulates the nine reports below, which were considered at the same time, and the main conclusions, including the need to devote 0.7% of GNP to public development aid. It calls for consideration to be given to a review of the Community agricultural policy.

Group spokesmen for
the ten reports:

VERGEER, BLUMENFELD, BERSANI, PIRKL, RABBETHGE
and DE BACKER-VAN OCKEN

COHEN (SOC/D)
Doc. A 2-205/86
Vote: 19.2.87

The Community's relations with developing
countries with regard to trade

Contents: The report calls for the introduction of the 'Common Commodity Fund'. The 'newly-industrialized countries' should grant tariff preferences to the poorer developing countries.

VERGEER (EPP/NL)
Doc. A 2-201/86
Vote: 19.2.87

Indebtedness in the developing countries

Contents: The excessive debts can be controlled only if further growth is achieved in the North and South. One means of achieving this is the strengthening of development cooperation. Limiting debt servicing to a percentage of export earnings could be a matter for negotiation. Consideration should be given to this question by the EC as such.

TRIVELLI (COM/I)
Doc. A 2-202/86
Vote: 19.2.87

Development and disarmament

Contents: It is claimed that the arms race directly encumbers development; the two superpowers bear equal responsibility for the amassing of armaments in the North. Depending on the degree of détente achieved, talks on development cooperation should be held between Western and Eastern Europe.

JACKSON (ED/GB)
Doc. A 2-212/86
Vote: 19.2.87

Coordination of development aid

Contents: Coordination enhances the effectiveness of aid. First and foremost Community aid should be coordinated with that of the Member States. The various Community policies should then be brought into line with each other.

MEDEIROS-FERREIRA (RDE/PT)

The fight against hunger

Doc. A 2-193/86

Vote: 19.2.87

Contents:

Once more stresses the importance which should be attached to agricultural and rural development.

CHINAUD (L/F)

Desertification

Doc. A 2-192/86

Vote: 19.2.87

Contents:

The report, which is mainly based on the activities of the ACP-EEC Joint Assembly, urges that account be taken of ecological considerations in all development projects or programmes. In particularly vulnerable areas, provision should be made for special conservation and restoration measures.

GUERMEUR (RDE/F)

Fishing Agreements

Doc. A 2-204/86

Vote: 19.2.87

Contents:

The basic argument of the report is that fishing agreements are possible only if they allow operations to be conducted on a remunerative basis. At the same time, as much attention as possible should be paid to development aspects (funding, training etc.).

ULBURGHS (NI/B)

Non-governmental organizations

Doc. A 2-185/86

Vote: 19.2.87

Contents:

The report emphasizes the great importance of non-governmental organizations and calls for their involvement in 'regular' food aid programmes. NGOs from the South should have more direct access to the EC Commission in order to submit their projects.

VERBEEK (ARC/NL)

Refugees

Doc. A 2-122/86

Vote: 19.2.87

Contents:

First and foremost, it is necessary to avoid conflict. Priority should be given to repatriation and then to settlement in the host country. After emergency aid has been provided, the refugees should be helped to provide for themselves and to establish good relations with the local population.

SIMPSON (ED/GB)

General guidelines for 1987

Doc. A 2-247/86

concerning financial and technical

Vote: 13.3.87

aid to Latin American and Asian

developing countries

Contents:

Continuation of the 1986 guidelines with a slight modification in the allocation of funds by geographical area to the benefit of the Latin American countries.

Group spokesman:

DE BACKER-VAN OCKEN (B)

CINCIARI RODANO (COM/1)

EEC/UNRWA Convention

Doc. A 2-47/87

Vote: 15.5.87

Contents:

Approval of the renewal for three years of the EEC/UNRWA Convention providing food aid and financial resources for education programmes. It calls for extra funds to be provided if education programmes are expanded.

Group spokesman:

DE BACKER-VAN OCKEN (B)

COHEN (SOC/NL)

Seventh session of UNCTAD

Doc. A 2-75/87

Vote: 22.6.87

Contents:

The report recapitulates the matters raised in the North-South debate of February 1987 (Cohen and Vergeer Reports). In addition, if the introduction of the Common Commodities Fund is postponed any longer it calls for other measures (for example diversification) to ensure that the (financial) commitments entered into are channelled towards the same goal.

Group spokesman:

DE BACKER-VAN OCKEN (B)

Arthur HILDEBRANDT

AFRICAN POLICY OF THE EPP GROUP

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THE AFRICAN FOUNDATION

- A. Set up as a non-profit-making association on 25 May 1980¹ and reorganized within the Group on 10 July 1985, the African Foundation holds meetings of its Committee almost every month at its headquarters in Brussels at the secretariat of the EPP Group.

On each of these occasions, the Committee, which consists of EPP members who are interested in Africa, representatives of international CD organizations, and friendly foundations and NGOs concerned with development in the African continent, examines the situation in the various ACP countries in which Christian parties, movements or groups are working.

The Committee also examines the initiatives taken or to be taken in future by the EPP delegation to ACP-EEC meetings as well as the preparation or outcome of EPP Group missions to the African countries.

Finally, the measures taken by NGOs concerned with development in Africa are discussed.

- B. As part of this work, the African Foundation and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) held a first 'Round table of foundations and NGOs working in Africa' on 17 September 1986 at the offices of the KAS in Brussels.

This round table brought together for a day representatives of the EPP Group and its African Foundation and representatives of the following organizations: CDI (Christian-Democrat International), the ADC (African Development Committee), the World Confederation of Labour, the World Solidarity Group including the MOC-ACW (Belgium), the KAS (Konrad Adenauer Foundation) (FRG), the Hanns-Seidel Foundation (FRG), the Bischoefliches Hilfswerk Misereor (FRG), the German Africa Foundation (FRG), the European Centre for Agricultural Training (CEFA) (Italy), the Amaro da Costa Institute (Portugal) and the ACT (Association for Technical Cooperation) (Belgium).

¹ Published in the Moniteur belge on 10 July 1980

This round table provided an opportunity on the one hand to gain familiarity with the Group's concerns and initiatives in Africa and the work of its Foundation, thanks to speeches made by the chairman, Giovanni BERSANI, Mrs Rika DE BACKER and Mr F. PIRKL, and, on the other hand, to give an outline of the work of each of the organizations represented in Africa.

The main conclusion reached during the day was that a more systematic exchange of information was required together with official coordination of individual actions. It was also agreed that an annual meeting should be held.

- C. Between November 1986 and July 1987, the African Foundation published seven information bulletins, providing an extensive review both of Africa in general and its different regions. A Ugandan worker at the Foundation, Mr Joseph LUKYAMUZI, is responsible for the preparation, publication and distribution of the bulletin at the office of the Group's Secretariat (tel. 234.23.29).
- D. The African Foundation and the ADC (African Development Committee), which brings together our African partners, jointly held a training seminar in Dakar (Senegal) from 25 February to 4 March 1987, on the subject: 'Local community participation and development through Lomé III.'

This seminar was chaired by Mrs Anne-Marie SOHAI, a Senegalese Member of Parliament and President of the CAD, and brought together representatives of socio-political movements and development organizations from about ten African countries, as well as a delegation from the EPP Group, including vice-chairmen Johanna MAIJ-WEGGEN and Michel DEBATISSE, the chairman of the African Foundation, Giovanni BERSANI, and Mr Rudolf LUSTER.

Mrs SOHAI laid emphasis on the fundamental innovation introduced by Lomé, the promotion of human dignity. This aim of ACP-EEC cooperation was being pursued by 'stepping up all activities designed to satisfy the needs of the population, particularly in rural areas, through the participation of local communities in development measures'.

She pointed out that 'popular participation of this kind is based on the identification of needs and priorities to enable suitable projects to be drawn up and requires adequate technical support for the population. National NGOs can fulfil this role, provided they are prepared to commit more skills and display a much greater degree of professionalism'.

The originality of the Dakar seminar lay in its ability to move away from the conference room and organize visits on the ground, most notably the meeting with a village community in the district of TOSS-BETHIO near Saint-Louis, a community faced with numerous problems, including the improvement of irrigable land following the construction of the DIAMA dam.

A report by Mr Ibrahima FALL, delegate of the Senegalese Ministry of Social Development, entitled 'the role and experience of NGOs in popular participation - the example of Senegal' prompted the following conclusions:

1. The relations between NGOs and States or their public authorities must make it possible for a minimum of coherence and coordination to be achieved between different development programmes. NGOs tend to work in accordance with their own philosophy and working methods without taking account of the priorities of the country concerned.
2. It is important to improve the relationship between national NGOs and external NGOs, which in many cases are absorbed with their own financial and technological power. It is necessary to move beyond colonial-style relationships and display more humanity in helping people to take charge of their own problems themselves.
3. Both national and local NGOs must display more professionalism.
4. A greater degree of coordination is needed between external and national NGOs on the basis of programme contracts. External NGOs should operate through local NGOs, which are more familiar with local conditions.
5. It is vital to take account of local communities and local situations. Too often when an NGO arrives in a village it seeks to organize people when a whole organizational structure already exists. It is therefore important not to seek to organize, but to encourage the development of local organizations.

6. A strategy of participation must seek to promote concern amongst people about the everyday problems they experience. This strategy should be geared to the dynamics of the local situation. The agents of change should be prepared to listen and seek to inform, rather than follow the general tendency to manipulate people in line with the needs of a project devised without their involvement.

The DIAMA project is not a ready-made one but rather a whole process through which the population devises its own projects.

One day of the seminar was devoted to a celebration of the entry into force of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, which was adopted by the 18th Conference of Heads of State and Government of the OAU on 28 June 1981 and came into force on 21 October 1986, following ratification by a majority of the Member States of the OAU.

The day's proceedings were chaired by Henry SSEWANNYANA, representative of the Democratic Party of Uganda, former DP member for MASAKA and Secretary-General of the FAD (Foundation for African Development) and opened with an introductory report by Professor TAFSIR MALICK NDIAYE, lecturer in public law at the University of Dakar.

To wind up the debate, a final resolution drawn up by a working party was adopted by all participants.

This resolution, whose main points were endorsed by the political bureau of the CDI on 27 June 1987 in Brussels, welcomes the entry into force of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights in October 1986 and calls on all African countries to support its full implementation and on those which have not yet done so to ratify it (paragraphs 1, 2 and 3).

It calls on the international community and the ACP-EEC countries to bring effective pressure to bear to dislodge the apartheid regime in South Africa and to do all in their power to enable peoples still under domination to achieve self-determination (Namibia) (paragraphs 4 and 5). It also calls on the OAU, the ACP-EEC institutions and the international community to bring pressure to bear and, where appropriate, to take the necessary measures against countries which have ratified the African Charter but which continue to violate its provisions (paragraph 7 inserted by the Ugandan delegate).

The resolution welcomes the adoption of the EPP proposal on human rights by the ACP-EEC Joint Assembly on 5 February 1987 in Arusha, which instructs the Bureau of the Assembly to consider all questions or complaints concerning human rights violations and to take any necessary initiatives to inform and make representations to the countries concerned (paragraph 8).

The resolution also calls for the alleviation of the excessive burden of tax which is affecting a number of African countries and preventing them from continuing to invest in their own development, and it expresses concern at the economic readjustment programmes imposed by the IMF without consulting the debtor countries and their social partners (paragraphs 10 and 11).

Finally, the Secretary-General of the ACD, Mr Ernest MIHAMI, introduced the main points of the 1987-1988 programme, including in particular the visit to the Portuguese-speaking ACP countries, a training course in English on the management of small-scale projects in BOUEA (Cameroon), an advanced course in French on the management and development of the IFOCAP in DRAVEIL (France), other initiatives involving friendly NGOs (CINTERAD, etc.), and the forthcoming ADC-African Foundation seminar due to be held in the first half of March 1988 in KAMPALA (at the invitation of the Democratic Party of Uganda).

- E. During the Dakar seminar, a meeting was held on 27 February 1987 between the delegation from the EPP Group and the GEADECIS or 'study and action group for the development of civic responsibility in Senegal'.

The GEADECIS brings together a variety of Christians active in political, social and cultural circles, in an effort to take action on the letter by Senegalese bishops on the temporal commitment of Christians.

This meeting made it possible to gain a proper understanding of the difficulties encountered by the Christian minority (8%) in a country where it is necessary to protect secularity in society and its institutions from certain aspects of an all-powerful Islamic culture. The main priorities of Senegalese Christians were identified as being in educational organization and the allocation of study grants.

F. The General Meeting of the African Foundation was held in Brussels on 2 April 1987.

1. Mr DEBATISSE informed the meeting of the fresh impetus to be given to African policy by the Group's new Bureau, which, at its meeting of 2 February 1987, decided that the African Foundation, which had been an internal body of the Group since July 1985, should be even more closely involved in the political concerns of the EPP and that the vice-chairman responsible for financial matters should also be responsible for the African Foundation.

In view of the special role played by the EPP Group within the ACP-EEC institutions and the international Christian-Democrat movement in Africa, the Bureau also decided that the African Foundation should avail itself of the services of an African adviser, Mr Ernest MIHAMI, who is in charge of the African section of the CDI.

2. The General Meeting ratified the new Committee:

- the administrators (voting rights only) were:

- (1) representatives of the Group Bureau
Mr Michel DEBATISSE, Mrs Hanna MAIJ-WEGGEN
- (2) the Co-President of the ACP-EEC Joint Assembly
Mr Giovanni BERSANI
- (3) the spokesman for the Committee on Development:
Mrs Rika DE BACKER-VAN OCKEN
- (4) representatives of each national delegation:
Germany: Mr Rudolf LUSTER and Mr FRITZ PIRKL (substitute)
Belgium: Mrs Rika DE BACKER-VAN OCKEN
France: Mr Jacques MALLET
Greece: Mr Konstantinos STAVROU
Ireland: Mr Mark CLINTON
Italy: Mrs Maria-Luisa CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI
Luxembourg: Mr Nicolas ESTGEN and Mrs Marcelle LENTZ-CORNETTE
(substitute)

Netherlands: Mr Willem VERGEER

Portugal: Mr Francisco Antonio LUCAS PIRES

(5) Secretary-General of the Group: Mr Sergio GUCCIONE

Members invited

- representatives of the Christian-Democratic organizations: CDI and EPP
 - representatives of friendly foundations and NGOs: Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS), ACT, CEFA. V. MICHEL Foundation, CEBEMO, IFOCAP, Amaro da Costa Institute, Hans Seidel Foundation, etc.
3. The General Meeting appointed Mrs Marcelle LENTZ-CORNETTE and Mrs Rika DE BACKER-VAN OCKEN auditors and Mr Alain DE BROWER Secretary-General.
4. The new administrators approved forthwith the composition of the new Bureau of the African Foundation:

-Chairman: Mr G. BERSANI

-Vice-Chairman: Mr DEBATISSE

Mrs MAIJ-WEGGEN

Mr LUSTER

-Treasurer: Mr COLLING

-Secretary-General: Mr DE BROUWER (seconded to the African Foundation by the Secretary-General of the Group)

II. ACP-EEC JOINT ASSEMBLY

A. 1. EPP delegation¹:

16 members²

substitutes

Otto BARDONG (D)

Alfeo MIZZAU (I)

Giovanni BERSANI (I)

Gabriele PEUS (D)

Maria-Luisa CASSANMAGNAGO-CERRETTI (I)

Ursula SCHLEICHER (D)

Mauro CHIABRANDO (I)

Efthimios CHRISTODOULOU (GR)

Rika DE BACKER-VAN OCKEN (B)

Michel DEBATISSE (F)

Nicolas ESTGEN (L)

Isidor W. FRUH (D)

Rudolf LUSTER (D)

Alberto MICHELINI (I)

Christopher Gerard O'MALLEY (IRL)

Renate-Charlotte RABBETHGE (D)

Konrad SCHON

Willem VERGEER (NL)

2. EPP Bureau members:

European Co-President: Giovanni BERSANI (I)³

3. Coordinator of EPP delegation:

Rika DE BACKER-VAN OCKEN

¹ Situation at 1 June 1987

² 16 out of an EP delegation of 66 members, in other words 24% of the European representatives

³ This is the 10th anniversary of Mr BERSANI's co-presidency, which began in 1977 in the days of the former Joint Committee

B. Action taken by the EPP delegation at meetings of the ACP-EEC Assembly

1. in VOUGLIAMENI, Greece, from 22 to 26 September 1986

President BERSANI opened the Assembly by recalling the importance to North-South relations of the Lomé Convention, which linked the EEC and its twelve Member States on the one hand and the 66 ACP countries on the other. The relations involved under Lomé, whether free or contractual, involved four regions - the EEC, Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, with 750 million inhabitants, almost a sixth of the world's population. These were tried and tested relations which had rested on a firm footing for 25 years. 52% of contributions to ACP development came from the EEC and 40% of exports from ACP countries went to the Community.

President BERSANI went on to stress the gravity of the problem of North-South relations, on which world peace was largely dependent today and would be even more so in the future. A peace that was more than the mere absence of conflict and wars, but also the positive construction of a world based on genuine international justice, required both the control and reduction of East-West tensions and the building of a system of fair relations of cooperation between North and South.

We could not envisage a better future, a different situation, when so many countries, representing a majority of the human race, were living without reasonable hope of enjoying a personal and social life worthy of man.

The President pointed out that one of the main subjects on the Assembly's agenda was the problem of apartheid and its pernicious effects both within the Republic of South Africa and in ten adjacent or nearby countries: Botswana, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Angola, southern Tanzania and the mining region of Zaire, an area representing almost a quarter of Africa and its most densely populated and potentially most prosperous region, but also, unfortunately - a factor beyond its control - its most turbulent and bloodstained area.

Mr BERSANI pointed out that it had been in 1967 that our Assembly had first adopted a stance on the situation in southern Africa; since that time 20 years had elapsed and the question had become increasingly crucial because of the gradual deterioration in the situation. The issue had prompted a number of initiatives and debates by our Assembly and its delegations, including most notably the fact-finding mission undertaken by a joint delegation in 1979 and 1980 to the front-line states mentioned above. The final document, which achieved unanimous agreement among the representatives of all political forces on the delegation, was one of the most widely respected studies at international level, for its view of the overall situation in southern Africa and the disastrous consequences of apartheid throughout this part of the world.

Finally, Mr BERSANI highlighted the role of the ACP-EEC Joint Assembly as the democratic heart of the Convention. It offered a guarantee of participation and dialogue between representatives embodying the will of the people unequalled in any other international context.

Our Assembly had been, and still was to an even greater extent today, the body which breathed creative strength into the very heart of the Convention; almost all the ideas and instruments which made the Convention what it was had been the outcome of our internal debates and our discussions with the Commission and the Council.

The EPP delegation was responsible for a number of initiatives which influenced the debates.

1. First, the Group spokesman on human rights, Willem VERGEER (NL), stressed the vital need to include the promotion of basic human rights as part of ACP-EEC cooperation during the application of Lomé III, in order to ensure the continuation and strengthening of development measures and mobilize public opinion on this issue, given that the matter had previously been treated as peripheral to the workings of the Convention or as a diplomatic secret ...

Mr VERGEER tabled two motions for resolutions on behalf of the EPP Group:

- (a) the first dealing with human rights (Doc. ACP-EEC 122/86) recalls the commitment made by all the signatory states to Lomé III in Annex I of the Convention to protect the right of each individual 'in his own country or in a host country, to respect for his dignity and protection by the law' and, in the light of reports by humanitarian organizations, appeals to the authorities concerned to ensure that 'those imprisoned without charge are released and that the possibility of granting an amnesty to those deprived of freedom for their convictions be considered'.

This motion stresses the positive link between extending ACP-EEC cooperation and allowing fundamental freedoms to 'flourish in a climate of reconciliation and dialogue'.

The VERGEER resolution was adopted without amendment on 25 September 1986:

- (b) the second resolution concerned the role of the ACP-EEC Assembly in the field of human rights (Doc. ACP-EEC 121/86) and was referred to the rapporteur responsible for drawing up the rules of procedure of the Bureau of the Assembly, to enable the problem of human rights to be included within the latter's terms of reference.
2. In addition, a motion for a resolution by Mr VERGEER on terrorism was tabled on behalf of the EPP Group (Doc. ACP-EEC 119/86).

The motion strongly condemned the terrorist attacks carried out in Europe and called on all parties to Lomé III 'to demonstrate their solidarity, and participate in international efforts to stamp out acts of terrorism'. This resolution was adopted on 25 September 1986 along with two others.

3. With regard to the situation in South Africa, Willem VERGEER (NL), Renate-Charlotte RABBETHGE (D), Rika DE BACKER (B), Maria-Luisa CASSANMAGNAGO (I), Michel DEBATISSE (F) and Nicolas ESTGEN (L) tabled a motion for a resolution (Doc. ACP-EEC 120/86), certain

points of which were incorporated in the final compromise resolution adopted by the Assembly on 25 September 1986, including the abolition of apartheid by peaceful means and dialogue and the preparation of a democratic post-apartheid society.

The EPP approved the measures designed to bring economic pressure to bear on South Africa decided by the Member States of the European Community in September 1985 and September 1986, despite the absence of a ban on South African coal imports, which represent twice the value of imports of iron, steel and gold coins, and insisted on a stringent application of these measures, while recognizing the need to consider possible further measures.

4. A motion for a resolution by DE BACKER, CASSANMAGNAGO and VERGEER on the action to be taken on the resolution on the implementation of the social aspects of Lomé III and the role of the social partners (Doc. ACP-EEC 101/86) was tabled on behalf of the EPP and adopted without amendment on 25 September 1986.

This resolution is a follow-up to the one by Mrs DE BACKER adopted in EZULWINI on 30 January 1986 and is justified by the lack of response shown in the preparation of the national indicative programmes for the 6th EDF to the directives contained in Title VII of the Convention (cultural and social cooperation). It calls for the setting up of an ad hoc working party with the participation and help of the Economic and Social Committee and the ACP Group, with the aim in particular of ensuring the effective integration of the social aspects of development into the planning of the 6th EDF and promoting pilot projects in fields of particular importance to the social partners, such as training schemes and socio-professional projects and projects involving the participation of local people, whether as part of national indicative programmes, regional cooperation or co-financing operations with the ILO.

Rika DE BACKER and Maria-Luisa CASSANMAGNAGO, EPP delegates to the annual meetings with the ACP-EEC social and economic partners, notably the meeting held on 4 and 5 December 1986 at the ESC in Brussels, sought to inform participants of the scope of the Vouliagmeni resolution and the action which should be taken on it at various levels.

5. A motion for a resolution by Mrs CASSANMAGANGO concerning the implementation of provisions of Lomé III in regard to aid for ACP refugees (Doc. ACP-EEC 117/86) was tabled on behalf of the EPP and adopted without amendment on 25 September 1986.

Evoking the gravity of the situation of refugees in Africa - according to the UNHCR figures for 1985, there are more than 2.5 million, mostly in the Horn of Africa and southern Africa - and the need to provide lasting aid for the victims of the combined effects of civil war and famine, the resolution called for a report to be drawn up on the implementation of Articles 204 and 205 of Lomé III on aid for refugees and returnees and hoped that 'the programme for the integration and reintegration of the refugees will be extended and that regional cooperation will be encouraged, enabling adequate funds to be mobilized with a view to finding longer-term solutions'.

The resolution called on the EEC and ACP States to step up their cooperation with the UNHCR and with the NGOs, which are often closer to the needs of the local people, and decided to set up a working party to look more closely at the question of immediate and long-term aid for refugees.

6. A motion for a resolution by DE BACKER (B), RABBETHGE (D), CASSANMAGNAGO (I), VERGEER (NL), LUSTER (D) and ESTGEN (L) on the special role of the NGOs as partners in development within the framework of ACP-EEC cooperation (Doc. ACP-EEC 108/86) was tabled on behalf of the EPP and referred by the Bureau to the general rapporteur, to allow a new chapter to be devoted to NGOs in the annual report on the application of Lomé III.

Noting the expanding role played by NGOs in development policies, this resolution calls on the EEC to step up aid to NGOs, simplify and accelerate the administrative co-financing agreements in force and increase the volume of food aid channelled through the NGOs, with particular reference to substitute measures.

It calls on the ACP and EEC States to ensure that greater emphasis is placed on initiatives by both European and ACP NGOs in the national indicative programmes, particularly in the implementation of micro-projects and projects meeting the needs of local people, and to encourage coordination and training measures by ACP NGOs in the context of regional cooperation.

It calls on the Commission delegations in the ACP countries to be more responsive to initiatives by local NGOs, since the latter can provide invaluable assistance in identifying needs and tackling certain urgent or difficult situations (refugee problems).

Finally, the resolution calls for a study of the possibility of giving ACP NGOs direct access to Community financing.

7. A motion for a resolution by Michel DEBATISSE (F) on Haiti's request for accession to Lomé III (Doc. ACP-EEC 118/86) was tabled on 23 September 1986 on behalf of the ACP and was also forwarded by the Bureau to the future general rapporteur to be followed up in the next annual report.

The resolution, which calls on the ACP-EEC Council to give favourable consideration to the renewed application for accession by Haiti, a country whose economic structure and output are comparable to the majority of ACP countries, was warmly welcomed by the church and democratic opposition circles in Haiti. This support was reaffirmed on the occasion of the visit by the Secretary-General of the National Democratic and Progressive Alliance (RDNP), Leslie MANIGAT, to the Group and the CDI in May 1987. Indeed, the latter failed to understand the significance of the draft agreement between the EEC and the island of HISPANIOLA, since there are no links between Santo Domingo and Haiti.

2. In ARUSHA (Tanzania) from 2 to 6 February⁰ 1987

The EPP delegation led by Rika DE BACKER-VAN OCKEN was responsible for a number of initiatives:

1. A motion for a resolution by VERGEER (NL), DE BACKER (B), DEBATISSE (F), LUSTER (D), CASSANMAGNAGO (I), CHRISTODOULOU (G), and SCHON (D) on human rights in ACP-EEC cooperation (Doc. ACP-EEC 156/87) was tabled on behalf of the EPP and adopted without amendment by a substantial majority on 5 February 1987.

Whereas the resolutions previously adopted in this field (Inverness in 1985 and Vouliagmeni in 1986) were general in scope, the VERGEER resolution is a procedural motion with a firm objective. It assigns a specific task to the Bureau of the Joint Assembly - the task of examining the cases of violation of human rights submitted by humanitarian organizations such as Amnesty International and taking steps to inform and make representations to the authorities of the countries concerned or their diplomatic representatives, as well as accepting all motions for resolutions and individual questions by Members in connection with human rights and taking appropriate action on them. The practical aim is to avoid exchanges in plenary on specific cases concerning one or another country, while allowing the Bureau to deliberate in private and inform and make representations to those concerned.

In return for this transfer of competence for human rights to the Bureau, the latter will be required to submit a regular general report on its activities to the Joint Assembly.

A letter on the same subject was forwarded on 4 February 1987 to the Co-Presidents of the Joint Assembly by Konrad SCHON (D), drawing the Bureau's attention to the report by Amnesty International on prisoners of conscience in a number of ACP countries.

The VERGEER resolution and the action by Mr SCHON will make it possible in future to make progress with issues such as those raised in the resolution by Willy KUIJPERS on the human rights situation in Burundi, which was tabled on 3 February 1987 in Arusha and declared inadmissible by the Bureau.

Finally, it should be borne in mind that the vote on the VERGEER resolution in Arusha was the completion of a long process begun by the adoption of the resolution by Mr PENDERS (NL), setting up the working party on human rights at the meeting of the Joint Committee in Kingston in February 1983.

2. A motion for a resolution by DE BACKER, VERGEER, CASSANMAGNAGO, DEBATISSE, CHRISTODOULOU, LUSTER, HACKEL and SCHON on the participation of the economic and social partners, and the representatives of the NGOs (non-governmental organizations), in ACP-EEC cooperation (Doc. ACP-EEC 157/87) was tabled on behalf of the EPP Group and adopted on 5 February 1987 in slightly amended form.

This resolution lays emphasis on the special role of the social partners and NGOs working on the ground in the process of social development and democratization. It calls on the Commission and the ACP authorities to remedy the current lack of information and consultations between the economic and social partners in the practical implementation of Lomé III. It requests that in the immediate future both the social partners and the NGOs should be able to take part in the work of the follow-up committees monitoring planning in each ACP country.

3. A motion for a resolution by LUSTER, DEBATISSE, CHRISTODOULOU, DE BACKER, CASSANMAGNAGO and VERGEER on health and ACP-EEC cooperation (Doc. ACP-EEC 167/87) was tabled on behalf of the EPP.

In the face of the precarious situation of the population's health, reflected in the high rates of infant and puerperal mortality, the stagnation in life expectancy and the continued existence of endemic diseases and the emergence of new diseases (AIDS), the motion calls for priority to be given to policies designed to make health services accessible to all, both geographically and financially.

The motion urges that consideration be given to all the possibilities of improving funding of health policies and private and public insurance schemes. It calls for the EEC to support 'essential medicine' policies in the ACP countries, for the reorganization of training for doctors and paramedical staff to take better account of the needs of rural communities, which are all too often neglected, and for special action to combat the increasing incidence of blindness (c.f. initiative by Mr VERGEER in Parliament).

The original impetus for the motion for a resolution by Mr LUSTER was the setting up of a restricted joint working party on health, with the task of submitting practical conclusions to the next meeting of the Assembly in September 1987, on the basis of the LUSTER proposals and other initiatives concerning measures to combat AIDS (including the proposals of the Working Party on Women and Population chaired by Mrs RABBETHGE).

4. The EPP tabled two motions for resolutions in Arusha concerning the problems of southern Africa:
 - a. Mr VERGEER tabled a motion on the situation in South Africa and southern Africa (Doc. ACP-EEC 176/87).

The motion calls for concrete steps to be taken to follow up the four resolutions adopted by the European Parliament on 22 October 1986 and the VOULIAGMENI resolution of 25 September 1986, which provides for 'a peaceful process of dialogue in order to arrive at just and lasting solutions'. It calls again for the release of political prisoners including Nelson MANDELA. It supports the increase in cooperation with the SADCC and the concentration of aid in the transport and food supply sectors and welcomes the increase from 10 to 20 m ECU in the appropriations set aside in 1987 for positive aid measures to the victims of apartheid.

It calls for close monitoring of the restrictive measures adopted on 15 September 1986 by the EEC and for the Commission to play a more active role in coordinating and harmonizing the implementation of these measures by the Member States.

Finally, it proposes that the ACP-EEC and South African social partners should examine together the application of the EEC code of conduct for European undertakings with subsidiaries in South Africa and the initiative to bring about the dismantling of apartheid at the workplace.

Large parts of the VERGEER motion for a resolution figure in the final compromise text adopted by the Assembly on 5 February 1987.

- b. Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO and most of the EPP tabled a motion for a resolution on the protection of children and adolescents in South Africa and southern Africa (Doc. ACP-EEC 170/87).

This motion was co-signed by twelve ACP members and calls for a joint diplomatic initiative by the Member States of the EEC urging Pretoria to release children and adolescents held in South Africa and calling for an increase in the aid provided through independent NGOs for children who are victims of war and apartheid (particularly orphans) and whose health and education are under serious threat in southern Africa.

The main points of this motion were included together with a proposal by Rose WARUHIU (Kenya) in the final resolution adopted on 5 February 1987.

5. During the debate on the interim report drawn up by Mr SENE (Senegal) on behalf of the Working Party on Rural Development and Environmental Problems, Michel DEBATISSE (F) again stressed the vital importance of EDUCATION in rural development. He pointed out that acknowledging the failure of traditional educational systems in rural areas of Africa was a vital first step in changing the way people think. Previously education had been too geared towards the habits and needs of city dwellers or to purely intellectual studies with no heed to the real requirements of the rural world. This produced a type of education which fostered a passive outlook or encouraged the rural exodus. Experiments in alternating education had been undertaken in France by family and rural centres which had developed a type of education suited to the needs of agricultural life.

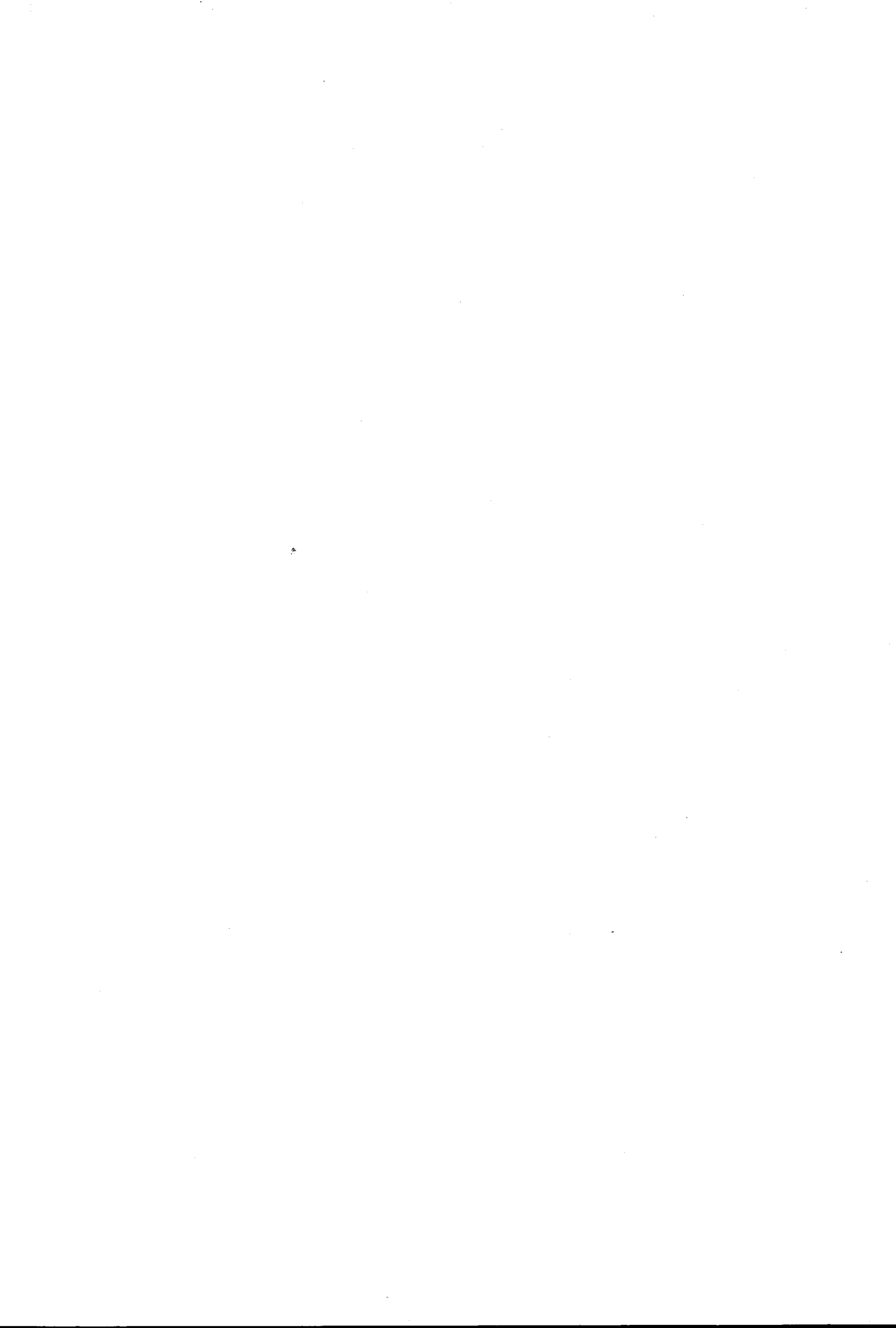
Mr DEBATISSE stressed one of the conclusions reached by the working party. Too often agricultural and rural development policies were devised at ministerial level and spread abroad by counsellors claiming to teach farmers their own trade! Before telling farmers what to do, we should listen to what they have to say and find out their real needs.

Mr DEBATISSE regretted that the ACP States had been unable to develop genuine supporting policies and programmes to provide back-up for farmers and their needs both upstream and downstream. It would require a prices policy offering incentives, easily available farm credit, an appropriate system of aid for the acquisition of equipment and fertilizers and pesticides (often too expensive) and the existence of a storage and marketing network controlled by farmers and their cooperatives.

Finally, with regard to Chapter I of the SENE report dealing with the EEC's agricultural production and its effect on the ACP countries, Mr DEBATISSE pointed out that the two agricultural systems complemented each other in the main, with the exception of certain Mediterranean products, and that the CAP was designed to protect farmers against market fluctuations through a policy of guaranteed prices.

Through the STABEX system, the ACP countries were only asking for the same as European farmers! He concluded that those who wished to dismantle the CAP instead of adjusting and adapting it to the needs of ACP countries were doing nothing to serve the interests of close cooperation between the ACP and EEC.

Alain de BROUWER



COMMITTEE ON BUDGETARY CONTROL

I. POSTS HELD BY MEMBERS OF THE EPP GROUP:¹

Chairman: Heinrich AIGNER (D)

Coordinator: Konrad SCHON (D)

Members:

Heinrich AIGNER (D)
Dario ANTONIOZZI (I)
Otto BARDONG (D)
Gérard DEPREZ (B)
Konrad SCHON (D)

Substitutes :

Isidor FRUH (D)
Marietta GIANNAKOU (GR)
Marcelle LENTZ-CORNETTE (L)
Pol MARCK (B)
Kurt WAWRZIK (D)

JOINT WORKING PARTY FOR THE MONITORING OF DAIRY QUOTAS

8 members,

four each from the Agriculture and Budgetary Control Committees

Chairman: Pol MARCK (B)

Member: Isidor FRUH (D)

¹ With effect from 21 January 1987, membership of the committee was reduced from 38 to 20 and declared 'exclusive'.

II. GENERAL SURVEY

The main cause of the acute financial crisis in the Community is the steep rise in agricultural guarantee expenditure, which has doubled in the last five years alone (from 12.2 bn ECU in 1982 to an estimated 25.7 bn ECU in 1987).

Even then these figures do not reflect the true increase in costs, because budget expenditure does not take into account measures to defer expenditure to future financial years nor the depreciation which occurs when intervention stocks are sold off. The effectiveness of the budgetary discipline measures taken unilaterally by the Council in 1984 has been to say the least questionable: agricultural expenditure has not remained below the rate of increase for the own resources base and no real reduction in costs has achieved.

In these circumstances, the Committee on Budgetary Control felt it had no option but to do everything in its power to check the rise in guarantee expenditure.

The following reports deal with this topic:

- the HOFF report on the management of agricultural stocks
This report deals with storage costs, which have quadrupled within the last five years (1982 1 bn ECU, 1987 in all probability over 4 bn ECU). The Commission is called upon to pursue a planned, cost-effective and active stock disposal policy which sets high losses on sales against future savings as regards technical and financial storage costs (see also under III, point 1).

- This report was probably the decisive impetus behind the Commission proposal amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1883/78, submitted at the beginning of 1987, which postponed the reimbursement of the Member States for losses on sales of over 1 million tonnes of butter in public storage to the financial years from 1989. The sum involved is 3.2 bn ECU.

The Committee on Budgetary Control, asked to deliver an opinion, stated that it fully understood the Court of Auditors' decision to reject the proposal on

the grounds of maintaining budgetary clarity and coherence because the postponement of the reimbursement to the Member States of the costs incurred constituted a blatant violation of the principle of the annuality of the budget and placed a heavy future burden on the European budget.

Nevertheless, the committee decided to approve the proposal (AIGNER opinion in Doc. A 2-238/86) because the continued storage of over 1.3 million tonnes of butter would only further increase losses. The Council adopted the regulation on 16 March 1987 (OJ No. L 79/87, p. 14), ignoring the EP's request for conciliation.

- One of the reasons behind the rise in guarantee expenditure certainly lies in the system of financial relations with the EC Member States. Advances are paid from the EC budget, initially without even being charged against the accounts for a specific sector of expenditure. They are finally settled three or four years later.

In the TOMLINSON report on the possibilities for improving the financial system and mechanisms of control in the EAGGF Guarantee Section (see below under III 14) the Committee on Budgetary Control reiterated its basic criticisms. The externalizing effect of the guarantee expenditure finance system induces the Member States to play fast and loose with Community resources. If the Commission is now proposing to switch from a system of advances to a reimbursement system (COM(87) 212 final), it is doing so not only because of pressure to fill empty coffers but also because of consistent pressure from the Committee on Budgetary Control.

The Committee on Budgetary Control approved the AIGNER opinion (PE 115.006) which views the future procedure as a step in the right direction, but which continues to regard as the ultimate objective a procedure whereby expenditure is effected only after comprehensive and detailed examination of whether the payments are in accordance with Community regulations.

- Two reports by the Committee on Budgetary Control deal with export refunds (see under III, points 16 and 17). The budgetary cost of this sector runs to 6.7 bn ECU. The Committee on Budgetary Control naturally wishes to retain on export refunds as an effective instrument to secure agricultural

incomes in the Community, but is greatly concerned at the increase in fraud directed against the Community's finances and the lax way in which the Member States carry out their monitoring duties.

Mr CHRISTOPHERSEN, Commissioner for the Budget, has put the losses suffered by the Community as a result of fraud at over 3 bn ECU annually; the monitoring procedures applied by the Member States help to recover no more than between 12 and 20 m ECU. In the light of this discrepancy, the committee welcomes the Commission proposal to tighten up monitoring arrangements, and has itself made a series of additional suggestions for improvements.

- Finally, the Committee on Budgetary Control has addressed the general problem of the combating of fraud (see under III, point 12). The suggestions made in that report are based on the experience gained in the quarterly examinations of individual cases of fraud and the hearing held in April 1986.

At this hearing, recognized experts had put the volume of fraud at around 15% - a figure which tallies with the most recent statements by Mr CHRISTOPHERSEN, Vice-President of the Commission - and made a wide variety of proposals for improvements, some of which have already been included in the Commission's organisational measures.

The second important sector to which the Committee on Budgetary Control has paid particular attention concerns the own resources system and the monitoring thereof. This sector is particularly topical at present because the new Commission proposals are on the table, albeit in draft rather than final form, and the EP must shortly adopt a basic position on them.

The EPP Group discussed this topic during its study days in Berlin in June 1987 (cf. the resolution adopted and included in the report on the work of the Committee on Budgets). Attention was concentrated on the Commission's proposals for a 'compulsory additional levy' fixed by reference to GNP and designed to swell Community funds to a ceiling of 1.4% of Community GNP.

If one sets this arrangement against the current own-resources system, it becomes clear that it could generate up to 50% of total Community revenue, thus becoming a key resource.

In its report on the consolidation of the own resources system, the Committee on Budgetary Control had proposed a very different solution, namely the introduction of a supplementary value added tax levied in addition to national value added tax, making the distribution of national value added tax revenue between the Community and the Member States superfluous, the relevant rate of levy being determined by the EP alone.

During the study days the experts invited endorsed this approach, primarily because a return to the system of contributions would naturally also pose a threat to the EP's budgetary powers.

The report adopted by the EP (see under III. point 13) was a contributory factor in the Council's decision to take a fresh look at the Commission proposals to amend Regulation (EEC) 2891/77, which had been pending since 1982, and to open a conciliation procedure with the EP on this matter.

With regard to the monitoring of the own resources system of the Member States, the Commission wishes to be granted the independent monitoring right which has previously been denied it. The chairman of the Committee on Budgetary Control, Mr AIGNER, strongly defended the Commission proposal at the conciliation meeting on 15 June 1987, because it obviously echoes the demands made by his committee for the Commission's monitoring powers in the own resources sector to be brought into line, at the very least, with its existing powers in the guarantee sector. Amazingly the Council representatives refused to adopt the position shared by Parliament and the Commission on this issue although, at the height of a financial crisis, it would surely have been in their interests to do so.

The most important, but at the same time the most difficult task of the Committee on Budgetary Control is the preparation of the discharge. It is difficult not only because the Community budgetary procedure sometimes conceals more than it reveals, but also because it involves the division of responsibilities among the institutions, whereby due consideration must be given to the fact that the Commission is not part of the budgetary authority (i.e. a decision-maker in the process of establishing the budget), but is merely responsible for the implementation of the budget.

The decision taken at the April 1987 part-session not to grant the Commission a discharge in respect of the 1985 budget, but rather to defer this until it had fulfilled a series of conditions, was supported by the EPP Group. This decision was taken at a time when the Commission itself was referring with unprecedented frankness to the 'budgetary tricks' which it had employed in the past and which would have to be abandoned in the future. There is not the slightest doubt that Mr CHRISTOPHERSEN has been sincere in his efforts - never before has a budget Commissioner made such efforts to put a stop to the malpractices which have become ingrained over the years.

During the debate the coordinator from the Committee on Budgetary Control, Konrad SCHON, furnished him with a long list of problems to be tackled. It is no longer acceptable for the Commission to calculate a technical deficit of 23 m ECU when the actual deficit amounts to 20 bn ECU. The causes of this lie in the delays in Member States paying over revenue, the ever increasing burden of the past in the form of commitment appropriations, the unassessed depreciation of stocks, the failure to settle the 1984 deficit and even a 'black hole' of 1.7 bn ECU. If these matters are not fully resolved, as the conditions set out in the decision on the discharge stipulate, and if the Commission does not do everything in its power to remedy the situation, it is hard to imagine how it can be granted a discharge in respect of the 1985 budget.

To this must be added the sharp criticism expressed over many years by Mr AIGNER, the committee chairman, of the Commission's failure to dispose of agricultural stocks at the appropriate juncture in accordance with market conditions.

There is still hope that improvements will be made in some of the problem areas identified by the Committee on Budgetary Control, as was stated at the beginning of this survey.

The importance of Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control is being recognized and accepted by an increasing number of MEPs and also by the public, for it is only by means of this instrument that the implementation of the budget can be monitored and thus compliance with the political will of the EP guaranteed.

III. SUMMARIES OF REPORTS ADOPTED

1. HOFF (S/D) on the management of agricultural stocks under
A 2-104/86 the EAGGF Guidance Section's common organizations
Vote: 23 October 1986 of the market

Contents:

This own-initiative report drawn up on the basis of several Rule 47 motions for resolutions on which the Committee on Agriculture delivered an opinion, was prompted by the steep rise in storage costs (1982 1 bn ECU; 1984 2.7 bn ECU; 1986 an estimated 4 bn ECU). It culminates in a call to the Commission to submit a plan for stock disposal (Para. 9) and corresponding proposals for funding (Paras. 24-27). The report draws a distinction between a short-term policy geared to stock disposal and a long-term policy designed to reduce future storage costs (Paras. 8, 11 and 12). On disposal the intervention price should be maintained as far as possible; however, losses are acceptable if greater spending is thereby avoided in the longer term (Para. 13). In addition, long-term export contracts should be concluded for the future (Para. 12) and if normal intervention stock levels are exceeded, this should act as a trigger for stricter production controls.

With regard to future intervention buying-in (Paras. 17-21), the following points should be taken into account:

- restriction of intervention buying-in at the end of the marketing year;
- the abolition of the premium for top-quality produce;
- awarding of storage contracts by public tender procedure;
- replacement of the flat rate for the reimbursement of financing costs incurred by the Member States by one geared to interest rate differences;
- preference to be given to private over public storage;
- Community-produced cereals to be used as animal feed in order to eliminate zero-duty feed imports.

With regard to stock depreciation (Paras. 22 ff) and the monitoring of stocks (Paras. 29 ff), the resolution both reiterates known EP positions and calls for a marked strengthening of the Commission's monitoring powers (particularly Paras. 29 and 31).

With regard to the policy for the organization of the market, greater weight should be attached to the principle that the producers of surplus commodities should share the sales risk.

In addition, in its intervention policy the Community should draw a clearer distinction between social and agricultural objectives (Para. 7).

The report contains much useful statistical information, but unfortunately no regional breakdown of intervention measures. Such a breakdown shows that in Germany roughly 90% of skimmed milk powder and in Italy a very high proportion of beef are bought into intervention and stored.

Butter is only bought into intervention in its country of origin, as no common quality standards have been established under EC law.

In a roll-call vote requested by the Socialists, the EP adopted the resolution with 163 votes in favour (SOC, COM, ARC, ED), 69 against (EPP) and 12 abstentions. The reasons for the EPP Group's no vote was the result of the vote on the amendments (e.g. restricting intervention buying-in at the end of the marketing year, abandonment of the premium for top-quality produce) which, in the opinion of the group, was excessively hostile to agriculture and would render the proposals ineffective.

Group speakers: MARCK (B), AIGNER (D), CORNELISSEN (NL), RAFTERY (IRL)

Implementing and monitoring Parliament's budget

2. BARDONG Principles for implementing and monitoring
A 2-106/86 Parliament's budget
Vote: 24 October 1986

Contents:

The report sought to bring about a decision in plenary on the principles for the revision of the 'Internal Rules for the Implementation of the Budget of the EP'. This revision was prepared by the rapporteur on the basis of the Administration's draft and the opinion of the Financial Controller and

On no clear grounds, the EP (with the Left giving a lead) rejected the report. Beforehand the criticism was put forward that the Committee on Budgetary Control would be taking on too much if it intended to deliver an opinion on the content of information policy. No proof of this was provided, however.

Discharge to be granted to the Commission in respect of the ECSC accounts for the financial year 1984

4. HARLIN (D) Second report on the proposal for a decision on
Doc. A 2-161/86 the discharge to be granted to the Commission of
(no debate) the EC in respect of the ECSC accounts for the
Vote: 23 January 1987 financial year 1984 (Doc. C 2-158/85 + Ann.)

Contents:

Granting of the discharge in respect of the 1984 ECSC budget, which had been deferred by the decision of 18 April 1986 (Doc. A 2-14/86) pending an assessment of the ECSC's policy on reserves by a firm of consultants. The report comes to the conclusion that the ECSC's policy on reserves (taking into account the risk lending of roughly 30% of a total of 7.25 bn ECU) is not extravagant. Reserves total 588 m ECU, provisions for the financial year 113 m ECU and the profit for the financial year 80.3 m ECU.

The following points are stressed in the resolution:

- transfers from the general budget of the Communities to the ECSC operating budget should only be made when funds are actually needed (Para. 6) (the last planned but not executed transfer from the 1985 general budget amounted to 122.5 m ECU!)
- the ECSC's credit rating is not an end in itself (Para. 1), the attainment of the objectives set in the ECSC Treaty must have priority (Para. 2), the ECSC's policy on reserves must therefore be shaped to ensure the greatest possible deployment of funds available (Para. 3)
- the Commission still owes the EP additional information and explanations (Paras. 4, 5, 7 and 12)
- when granting global loans and subsidies, the Commission should expand its assessment activities, take cost benefit considerations into account, give top priority to job creation and develop procedures for granting loans which can be coordinated with other structural funds (Paras. 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12).

Parliament approved the decision and adopted the resolution.

No group speakers.

5. BATTERSBY (ED/UK) Common organization of the market in fisheries
Doc. A 2-186/86 products (special report of the Court of Auditors
Vote: 20 February 1987 - OJ No. C 339, 31.12.1985)

Contents:

The common organization of the market in fisheries products does not regulate surplus production; excess demand is covered by imports from third countries. In addition, there is no great difference between prices in the Community and on world markets, so that export refunds are set at zero.

These are the reasons why guarantee expenditure (primarily financial compensation for strictly limited market withdrawals by producer organizations) is not escalating; the annual figure is roughly 40 m ECU.

The resolution recommends greater support for producer organizations because their level of organization is not yet satisfactory, and only through them can better and more protective management of fisheries resources be guaranteed.

The controls carried out by the Court of Auditors had revealed violations of the common organization of the market, but their impact was limited. The role of EC fisheries inspectors should be extended beyond resource management to include supervision of the application of the intervention system in the ports.

No amendments to the report were tabled; Parliament adopted the resolution.

Examples of uneconomic management are the most recent marketing programme for butter, the extension of the transferability of milk quotas, the mixing of cereal intervention stocks with lower grade cereals or the setting of unrealistic figures for advances to the Member States. In the case of the structural funds, the lack of powers prevented the effective use of resources. The main faults in accounting and financial management in 1985 were:

- unreliable and incomplete entering of the annual deficits in the accounts
- incomplete presentation of the Community's liabilities
- failure to respect the system of provisional twelfths.

Two EPP Group amendments, which were adopted, criticize the fact that unfinancable debts have been incurred through the commitment appropriations entered and call on the Commission to apply Regulation (EEC) 964/86 (OJ No. L 89/86, p.1), within the framework of Regulation (EEC) 1883/78, in such a way that value adjustments for stocks, classified by product, are carried out in accordance with uniform criteria. Two further amendments extended the list of requirements and one added the fifth recital.

8. FUILLET (S/F)	Report on the discharge to be granted to the
Doc. A 2-9/87	Commission in respect of the financial
Vote: 7 April 1987	management of the third, fourth and fifth
	European Development Funds for the financial year
	1985

Contents

This report contains two decisions on discharges in respect of expenditure effected in 1985, the first covering payments under the third EDF amounting to 5.9 million ECU and under the fourth EDF amounting to 105.6 million ECU, the second covering payments under the fifth EDF amounting to 697 million ECU.

The EP's power to grant a discharge in respect of the EDF is contested by the Council but consistently claimed by Parliament invoking Art. 206(b) of the EEC Treaty. The most important comments accompanying the discharge are:

- the low utilization rates;
 - at the end of 1985, 76.3% of programmable aid under the fifth EDF had been committed but only 42.5% paid (para. 5 of the resolution).
- criticism of accounting procedures
- excessive level of calls for contributions, the late payment of those contributions by certain Member States, inadequate accounting records (para. 6 of the resolution).

- inadequate joint financing on the part of recipient states (para. 8 of the resolution)
- failure to observe the principle of the complementarity of Community and national development aid (para. 10 of the resolution)
- problem of the development aid managed by the EIB on behalf of the Commission: auditing of these funds is made more difficult by the EIB's failure to provide adequate information; the expenditure included in the accounts by the EIB whilst refusing to accept any risk is too high; legal action may be taken to resolve the matter (paras. 13-15 of the resolution)
- reiteration of Parliament's demand for the EDF to be budgetized from 1990-1991 at the latest.

9. SCHON (EPP/D) Report on a proposal for a decision concerning the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training and a decision concerning the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions
- Doc. A 2-6/87
- Vote: 7 April 1987

Contents

The report contains proposals for decisions on the granting of a discharge.

10. WETTIG (S/D) Interim report on the deferral of the discharge of the EP
- Doc. A 2-254/86
- Vote: 7 April 1987

Contents

The discharge is deferred pending the outcome of proceedings before the ECJ regarding the distribution of funds for European campaigns among the political groups. In addition, the Court of Auditors questions the validity of the imprest account and calls in particular for the abolition of the imprest accounts for the Members' cash office (para. 2.4 of the Court of Auditors' report).

11. SCRIVENER (LDR/F) Interim report on action taken by the Commission in response to the comments made in the resolution accompanying the decision granting a discharge in respect of the implementation of the 1984 budget (COM(86) 423 final)
- Doc. A 2-253/86
- Vote: 7 April 1987

Contents:

In accordance with Article 85 of the Financial Regulation, the Commission must report on the measures taken in response to the EP's binding comments which appear in the decisions giving discharge. It submitted an interim report on the matter which was favourably received by the committee. The procedural and practical improvements introduced by the Commission are welcomed (paras. 1 and 2 of the resolution). In addition, stress is laid on the following points:

- the new guidelines on the medium term financial forecasts are welcomed; they should be drawn up in collaboration with the EP (paras. 3 and 4 of the resolution);
- as regards the reform of the structural funds, in accordance with the Single European Act the Community should assume effective responsibility and be given greater autonomy (in place of mere complementarity) or, failing this, a general policy of financial equalization should take the place of the structural funds (para. 5 of the resolution, p. 8 of the explanatory statement);
- the excessively restrictive interpretation of the Joint Declaration of June 1982, especially as far as the legal basis is concerned, is criticized (para. 6 of the resolution); the explanatory statement points out that the Council must take the blame in all six cases where the utilization of appropriations against budget lines has been held up by the absence of a legal basis, because it had failed to meet the deadline fixed by the Joint Declaration (p. 9);
- in accordance with the GUERMEUR and TOMLINSON reports, the resolution calls for the introduction of a system of incentives or sanctions covering EAGGF Guarantee Section payments (i.e. a reversal of the interests of the Member States, who are currently profiting from the tolerance of frauds directed against Community resources) (para. 8 of the resolution);
- in the explanatory statement the introduction of a system of financial co-responsibility, making the Member States responsible for granting excessively large monthly advance payments, is proposed (p. 10).

12. GUERMEUR (RDE/F)

Doc. A 2-251/86

Vote: 7 April 1987

Report on stepping up measures to combat fraud specifically aimed at the Community budget

Contents

This own-initiative report contains a summary of the proposals made by the committee on the basis of the experience gained by the rapporteur, who was given the task of examining and summarizing the quarterly Commission reports on irregularities and fraud.

Paragraph 1 of the resolution sets out five points designed to form the basis of measures to combat fraud with the title 'European area for the combating of fraudulent practices'. Alongside a series of technical proposals designed to improve efficiency (paras. 4-9 of the resolution), in paras. 10-12 demands are put to the Commission and Council for consideration during the drafting of Community legislation (the spelling out of the economic objective of a piece of legislation, inclusion of a clause ruling out Community funding in the event of attempts to circumvent legislation, introduction of the concept of subsidy fraud into Community legislation).

13. LENTZ-CORNETTE (EPP/L)

Doc. A 2-256/86

Vote: 7 April 1987

Report on the consolidation of the own resources system

Contents

The resolution tabled contains a basic appraisal of the question of own resources as developed by the EPP Group over the years and findings which have emerged from the practical implementation of the system. The rapporteur and the EPP members took great pains over this resolution; they succeeded fully in imposing their views in committee. It must be taken into account that this is an ex post facto evaluation. The Commission has now drawn up new proposals on future financing (COM(87) 100), the submission of which coincided with the drafting of the LENTZ-CORNETTE report. However, this in no way detracts from the validity of the statements made in the report; on the contrary, the experience gained from evaluating the existing system must be of use in developing a future system.

The key points of the report are as follows:

- first of all, a list of violations of the principles of the own resources system in current budgetary practice (third and fourth citations);

- the conclusion is drawn from this that the own resources system has only been realized in part and that it would be a step backwards to return to dependence on financial contributions (para. 1 of the resolution);
- paragraph 2 of the resolution sets out the objectives of the essential reform of the financial system;
- the consolidation of the system of own resources from VAT should involve a switch to a supplementary value added tax (para. 9 of the resolution);
- to ensure greater clarity, a revised version of the code on own resources should be submitted (para. 16 of the resolution);
- the Commission's legal position vis-à-vis the Member States should be strengthened (by granting it a right of off-set to cover further demands for own resources, cf. para. 21, first indent; through a computerized monitoring system, cf. para. 11; by bringing the legal basis into line with the monitoring powers for EAGGF Guarantee expenditure, cf. para. 14);
- finally, the attitude of Member States should be changed in such a way that they attach the same importance to reductions in own resources as they do to cuts in national revenue (cf. para. 21, indents three to five, paras. 20, 13 and 6 to 8).

14. TOMLINSON (S/E)

Doc. A 2-8/87

Report concerning the possibilities for improving the financial system and mechanisms of control in the EAGGF Guarantee Section

Vote: 7 April 1987

Contents:

The report is based on the findings of the hearing of experts held from 22 to 24 April 1986, but fails to develop them adequately. For example, no consideration is given to the well-founded criticism that because of its rigid divisions, the existing legal and monitoring system covering agricultural expenditure, tends to place excessive emphasis on formal criteria with the result that trusting people with legitimate claims suffer sanctions which often threaten their livelihood, whereas the detection and investigation of genuinely fraudulent practices are neglected. Parliament's well-rehearsed demands are summarized as follows:

- codification and revision of regulations covering the agricultural sector (para. 1, an initiative on the same topic is currently awaiting consideration by the Legal Affairs Committee),
- measures to improve the Commission's marketing strategy (paras. 2 to 4, 11),

- improvements regarding the payment of monthly EAGGF Guarantee advances in order to prevent over-financing, this to involve a fundamental re-examination of the value of the instrument; a speeding up of the procedure for the clearing of accounts (paras. 5, 7).
- a more effective campaign against fraud (paras. 8 to 12); this should involve fraud being combated equally intensively in all the Member States, the establishment of FLYING BRIGADES and the adoption of the Commission proposal to amend Regulation No. 1468/81 on the mutual assistance between the administrative authorities of the Member States and the 1976 treaty proposal concerning the legal protection of the Community's financial interests.
- stronger action against Member States who make errors in administering the common market organizations (para. 12).

Group speakers on paras. 7-14: SCHON, AIGNER, LENTZ-CORNETTE, GIANNAKOU-KOUTSIKOU, EBEL, MARCK; McCARTIN (explanation of vote)

European Schools

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 15. SCHON (EPP/D) | Interim report on the use of the subsidies from |
| Doc. A 2-180/86 | the Community budget to the European Schools |
| Vote: 7 April 1987 | |

Contents

60-70% of the revenue of the European Schools is covered by a payment from the general budget (cf. p.10 of the explanatory statement, breakdown of revenue). In the absence of any agreement (para. 1 of the resolution), in practice the General Budget covers the deficit which is partly the result of uneconomic management by the Board of Governors. In an effort to bring about improvements, on several occasions Parliament has blocked the subsidy. The report serves partly as the basis for a future decision on the release of funds (cf. point 5 of the explanatory statement). The report sets out clearly the shortcomings in the financial management of the schools and puts forward a series of practical institutional and administrative proposals designed to remedy them.

16. MARCK (EPP/B)
Doc. A 2-50/87
Vote: 19 June 1987

Report on the special report of the Court of
Auditors on the system for the payment of refunds
on agricultural exports

Contents:

The own-initiative report also contains an opinion on Commission proposal COM(87) 9 final, which should be seen as the result of earlier efforts on the part of the EP and the ECA to improve the monitoring of the payment of refunds on agricultural exports.

In line with the demands made by the EP and the ECA, the Commission lays down the monitoring duties to be fulfilled by the Member States when granting export refunds (checks on goods, scrutiny of the documents in the refund application file, ex post facto auditing in undertakings), by means of spot checks, conducted without prior warning, on not less than 5% of all export declarations (Art. 2). Where necessary, visual checks must be backed up by laboratory analyses.

The auditing shall include at least all undertakings which have received refunds totalling more than 50 000 ECU in a calendar year (Art. 4). No explanation is given regarding supervision by the Commission or the authority to carry out particular checks. The validity of Directive 77/435 is not affected.

The resolution calls for increased sanctions (para. 8), and expects the Member States to be involved to a greater extent than before in the liability for the prejudice to the Community (para. 9). Finally, a general examination of agricultural market regulations is called for in order to prevent fraud and circumventions and facilitate the execution of controls (para. 10).

17. MARCK (EPP/B)
Doc. A 2-49/87
Vote: 19 June 1987

Report on the proposal for a Council regulation
(EEC) on the monitoring of the payment of the
amounts granted on export of agricultural products

Contents:

In conjunction with this report, four amendments to Commission proposal COM(87) 9 final were tabled and adopted with the aim of further strengthening the monitoring procedures to be carried out by the Member States. The Commission stated its readiness to accept three of the amendments. The resolution states that Parliament reserves the right to initiate the conciliation procedure (para. 4), calls for the codification of control provisions relating to the granting of export refunds and increased sanctions in cases of fraud (paras. 1 and 2).

Group speakers on items 16 and 17: MARCK, AIGNER, McCARTIN

18. DANKERT (S/F) Report on management problems which marked the
Doc. A 2-45/8 1983/84 wine season; production of synthetic wine,
Vote: 19 June 1987 particularly of wine adulterated with methanol,
and impact on the EAGGF Guarantee of the
withdrawal of synthetic wine from the market

Contents:

The resolution notes that the current wine market management policy has not succeeded in balancing production with sales (para. 2). As a result, additional restrictive measures are called for (para. 4). However, the appearance of 'synthetic wine' for distillation purposes has been primarily responsible for the increased amount of wine on the market (paras. 6 to 8, 13 to 15). It is regretted that investigations were launched only after people in Italy had died through drinking wine adulterated with methanol (paras. 14 and 15). Paras 15 to 18 deal with the lessons to be drawn as regards monitoring. The most important of these is the provision covering the establishment of monitoring agencies in the Member States and within the Commission.

Particularly relevant to Italy are paras. 7 and 8, in which the Commission is called upon to supply information ranging from the amount of wine distilled to the consequences with regard to the clearance of accounts.

Group speakers: AIGNER, Ferruccio PISONI, BARDONG

Friedrich FUGMANN

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

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Vice-Chairman :

Lambert CROUX (B)

Coordinator :

Giovanni GIAVAZZI (I)

Deputy Coordinator :

F.L. Graf von STAUFFENBERG (D)

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A. MONFORTE (ESP)
F.L. Graf von STAUFFENBERG (D)
L. VEGA (ESP)
A. ZARGES (D)

Substitutes

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L.F. BEIROCO (P)
L. CALVO-SOTELO (ESP)
M. CLINTON (IRL)
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I. FRIEDRICH (D)
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I. EPP MEMBERS (from January 1987)

Vice-Chairman :

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F. HERMAN (B)

II. INTRODUCTION

From July 1986 to July 1987, the Committee on Institutional Affairs was primarily engaged in an exhaustive study of the action still to be taken by Parliament with a view to the attainment of European Union - a vital stage in the process of European integration.

This study centred on the issues raised in the HERMAN report and on the progress of the Single Act (ratification by the Member States, entry into force). Part III of this report covers all the resolutions, opinions and working documents adopted by the committee and submitted to the House in the course of the year. It should be noted that the intensive discussions resulted in the appointment of other rapporteurs who have still to complete their work but have nevertheless submitted working documents and motions for resolutions for consideration by the committee.

In connection with the HERMAN report, it was decided to draw up three subsidiary reports on :

- the cost of 'non-Europe' : rapporteur Sir Fred CATHERWOOD (ED, UK),
- the lack of democracy in the European Community : rapporteur Michel TOUSSAINT (LIB, B), and
- methods of consulting the citizens of Europe on European Political Union : rapporteur Carlos Maria BRU PURON (SOC, ESP).

Working documents were produced as a basis for these subsidiary reports and a draft resolution was also submitted by Mr TOUSSAINT. These texts are currently being discussed and are to be adopted before the end of the year.

- Hans-Joachim SEELER (SOC, D) continues to act as rapporteur on the deliberations of the national parliaments on European Union and keeps the committee regularly informed of the documents adopted by the national authorities.

- Karel DE GUCHT (LIB, B) is to submit an updated paper on the fundamental rights of the European Union, a subject on which he is rapporteur, within the next few months.

- Georges SUTRA DE GERMA (SOC, F) was appointed rapporteur on the Presidency of the European Community consequent upon the tabling of Rule 47 motions for resolutions by Nicole FONTAINE (EPP, F), Jacques MALLETT (EPP, F) and others.

At Parliament's constituent part-session, the terms of reference of the Committee on Institutional Affairs were broadened, with effect from 1 January 1987, to include matters relating to the Community's institutional structures and progress towards European integration within the framework of the existing Treaties, and the task of evaluating the institutional implications of the Single Act and its implementation, a task previously entrusted to the Political Affairs Committee. In the context of these new responsibilities, Dario ANTONIOZZI (EPP, I) briefed the committee at its meeting of 25 and 26 May 1987 on the action to be taken on the draft joint declaration of Parliament and the Commission on relations between them. This declaration, on which Mr Antoniozzi was rapporteur, had been endorsed by Parliament on 8 October 1986.

At its next meeting in September, the committee will have to appoint a member to draw up a report on relations between the European Parliament and the national parliaments in the light of various Rule 47 resolutions that were referred to it in the course of the year.

As for the events of the past few months, it is interesting to note that on 18-19 May 1987, the Belgian Chamber of Representatives invited the presidents/speakers of the national parliaments and the members of the Committee on Institutional Affairs to a conference on European Union.

This conference, which was of considerable political importance, was a great success and, as a result of the wide-ranging discussions that took place, the Committee on Institutional Affairs will be asking the parliaments of the Member States holding the Presidency over the next few years to organize further meetings on the same lines.

Much work needs to be accomplished over the next few months, especially in connection with the Herman report. Moreover, visits will be made to those parliaments which are best able to provide the necessary impetus for the attainment of European Union, bearing in mind that the next elections are fast approaching and that much has still to be done if a Parliament capable of establishing the Union's constitution is to be elected.

III. RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS ADOPTED

1. At its plenary sitting of 23 October 1986, Parliament adopted a resolution tabled by Klaus HÄNSCH (SOC, D) on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee, which closed the procedure for consultation of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission for a Council regulation laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission. In an opinion drafted by Caroline JACKSON (ED, UK), the Committee on Institutional Affairs advised against the creation of a regulatory committee, one of the three types of committee proposed for exercising the implementing powers conferred on the Commission, whereas Mr HÄNSCH's text argued in favour of retaining the system envisaged by the Commission's proposal. The text adopted by the Assembly takes account of the opinion of the Committee on Institutional Affairs in that it notes that 'the Commission's implementing powers are limited by the existence and the operation of some of these (regulatory) committees and (that), similarly, the European Parliament's supervisory powers over the Commission are rendered ineffective' and that 'to overcome these problems among others, the Intergovernmental Conference decided to draw up the Single European Act, one of the objectives of which is to supplement Article 155 of the EEC Treaty by provisions governing the transfer of implementing powers from the Council to the Commission and providing for the establishment of conditions which might be attached to such a transfer'. Furthermore, Parliament 'considers that it is necessary not only to ensure that the transfer of implementing powers to the Commission in future acts accords with the new provisions laid down in this Regulation but also insists that existing acts should be revised accordingly within a suitable time limit'.

2. At the same plenary sitting, Parliament adopted a resolution tabled by the Committee on Institutional Affairs with request for urgent debate, on the ratification procedures for the Single European Act in national parliaments and on the attainment of European Union. After noting the declarations in favour of progress towards European Union made by the Italian and Belgian parliaments in the course of the debate on the ratification of the Single Act, this resolution called once again on the member governments to amend the Council's rules of procedure, modify the Commission's executive powers and adopt the measures required for the completion of the internal market before the Single Act entered into force.

3. At its meeting of 29 October, the Committee on Institutional Affairs adopted a working document by Fernand HERMAN (EPP, B) on the main points in the European Parliament's new strategy for achieving European Union. This document was yet another milestone in the committee's work in that it was to provide the basic material for a motion for a resolution submitted at a later date.

1 Doc. A 2-138/86, adopted on 23.10.1986

2 OJ C 70 of 25.3.1986, page 6

3 Resolution of 23.10.1986, recital H

4 Resolution of 23.10.1986, recital I

5 Resolution of 23.10.1986, para. 5

6 Doc. B 2-1098/86

It made the point that the transition from the Single Act to European Union required the commitment of the institutions standing for democratic legitimacy at national and European level, support from the general public and the backing of the more representative elements in European society. The best way of laying the constitutional foundation for the Union would be for the European Council, or the governments of the Member States, to entrust Parliament with the task of preparing a draft for European Union, if possible in consultation with the Council of Ministers, with a view to its being submitted for ratification to the competent national authorities. The procedure should be similar to that adopted by the Foreign Ministers of the six ECSC countries with regard to the Ad Hoc Assembly in 1952.

The draft produced by Parliament would obviously have to be based on the draft Treaty establishing the European Union adopted in 1984 and on the existing Treaties and the amendments thereto.

4. At its sitting of 11 December, Parliament adopted a resolution tabled by Luis PLANAS PUCHADES (SOC, ⁷ESP) on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee on the Single European Act. The accompanying opinion of the Committee on Institutional Affairs, drawn up by Carlo Alberto GRAZIANI (COM, I), reaffirmed Parliament's determination to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the Single Act, bearing in mind that the latter, while representing a development in the Community's existing organization, did not constitute the 'qualitative leap' required for the attainment of European Union.

On the basis of a thorough study of the Single Act, the Committee on Institutional Affairs was able to point out :

- that the cooperation procedure did not confer on Parliament any real joint decision-making power,
- that the problem of the efficiency of the decision-making process remained unsolved,
- that the independence of the Commission's executive role did not appear to be adequately safeguarded,
- that the influence of the Community institutions on political cooperation was still too limited,
- that, although the Single Act provided the legal basis for the main policies hitherto based on Article 235, it did not actually broaden the Community's scope for action,
- that, in the monetary field, there was a need to ensure that the decision to provide for the inclusion of the 'economic and monetary union' in the text of EEC Treaty resulted in concrete action,
- that cooperation between the Commission and Parliament had to be strengthened,
- that all legislative work required clear and sound planning,
- that the Council's rules of procedure had to be amended to permit majority voting, and
- that a system of interinstitutional agreements had to be introduced to ensure that the Single Act was properly applied.

5. At the June 1987 part-session, Parliament adopted the resolution contained in the interim report by Fernand HERMAN⁸ on the strategy of the European Parliament for achieving European Union. The text drew attention to the need to prepare immediately for the transition to European Union, stressed its legitimacy and proposed that the European Council or the governments of the Member States should entrust the European Parliament elected in June 1989 with the task of producing,

⁷ Doc. A 2-169/86, adopted on 11.12.1986

⁸ Doc. A 2-28/87, adopted on 17.6.1987

with the assistance of the other institutions, a draft for European Union, which could then be submitted for ratification to the national parliaments. The principles to be observed in this draft should be identical to those embodied in the draft Treaty of 1984 : subsidiarity, conferred powers, unlimited duration of the Union, primacy of Union law, separation, balance and democratic supervision of powers, and the open-ended and representative nature of the Union.

The resolution called on European political groupings and citizens to take all necessary steps to secure governmental agreement, pointing out that if some Member States were unable to ratify the draft at the same time as the majority, transitional agreements could be concluded which laid down the terms of their accession and specified the kind of relations that should be established between them and the Union in order to safeguard the Community patrimony.

Given that the report was an interim report, paragraph 13 called on the Committee on Institutional Affairs to establish suitable contacts with the national governmental and parliamentary authorities, the confederation of political parties at European level, the national parties and the economic, social and cultural agencies. It also called on the committee to stimulate public awareness of the urgent need to establish European Union and to submit to the House a final report containing, inter alia, its findings as regards the problem of the lack of democracy, the cost of 'non-Europe' and the opinions of European citizens.

6. At the same part-session, Parliament adopted a resolution which had been tabled by the Committee on Institutional Affairs to wind up the debate on an oral question to the Council on the single European Act . This resolution called on the Council to comply with the request made by the Intergovernmental Conference and adopt the proposal for a regulation on the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission. Since the Single Act has been ratified by the Twelve and will have entered into force on 1 July, the Council cannot postpone its decision on this matter much longer.

Beatrice SCARASCIA MUGNOZZA

⁹ Doc. B 2-500/87, adopted on 17.6.1987

COMMITTEE ON THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, THE VERIFICATION OF
CREDENTIALS AND IMMUNITIES

Functions of Members of the EPP Group

First vice-chairman : Nicolas ESTGEN (L)
Coordinator : Kostantinos STAVROU (GR)
Deputy coordinator : Kurt MALANGRE (D)

Members

Elise BOOT (NL)
Ciriaco DE MITA (I)
Fernand HERMAN (B)
Günter RINSCHÉ (D)

Substitutes

Georgios ANASTASSOPOULOS (GR)
James JANSSEN VAN RAAY (NL)
Egon A. KLEPSCH (D)
Panayotis LAMBRIAS (GR)
Salvatore LIMA (I)
Rudolf LUSTER (D)
Ernest MÜHLEN (L)

COMMITTEE ON THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, THE VERIFICATION OF
CREDENTIALS AND IMMUNITIES

Introduction

At the constituent part-session of January 1987, half way through the term of the European Parliament elected in 1984, new elections were held for all its bodies from the presidency to committees and parliamentary delegations, and an important decision was taken, based on a broad agreement reached among the different political groups, to redistribute the responsibilities of the three committees directly concerned with internal parliamentary matters: the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Petitions, the Committee on the Verification of Credentials and, on the question of parliamentary immunities, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights.

Experience had shown that this distribution of responsibilities was neither the most efficient nor the most effective. For example, the combination of parliamentary Rules of Procedure with petitions to Parliament by Community citizens had proved harmful to both, since problems arose regarding the order of priorities: at every meeting the committee had to give detailed consideration to the steady flow of procedural questions referred to it by the President of Parliament but at the same time could not leave petitions in abeyance for too long. Discussion of most petitions also required the presence of a representative of the Commission department responsible for the problems raised in accordance with existing Community legislation.

Often, therefore, when a discussion on procedural questions took longer than originally planned, much of it took place in the presence of Commission officials who had come to the meeting because of a petition on the agenda but might have to leave before it could be discussed. But other reasons, to do with attitudes, also made a separation of the two areas of work seem advisable: whereas work on the Rules of Procedure requires as dispassionate and exact a legalistic approach as possible, petitions can be made almost meaningless if, as was often the case when committee meetings were crowded, the same methods are used for them as for the Rules of Procedure; if they are to be dealt with satisfactorily they require the opposite, namely an open-minded, imaginative attitude that gives substance priority over procedure.

Another problem was that the Legal Affairs Committee was responsible for questions of parliamentary immunity, with the result that its other work - it had to deal with a large number of reports and requests for opinions from other committees - was subject to considerable delays. Because of the length and, it must be admitted, the difficulty of cases of immunity, each case requires thorough analysis and discussion before a decision can be taken.

Lastly, the Committee on the Verification of Credentials, with only nine members, constantly had problems due to lack of a quorum, and tended - mainly because of the still somewhat confusing European election procedures - to exceed its brief, by touching on sometimes extremely complicated and tricky questions of principle from which it had difficulty extricating itself without asking for the opinion of the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and even the Legal Affairs Committee. Thus the decision taken in January 1987 to make one committee responsible for the Rules of Procedure, parliamentary immunities and the verification of credentials because they are related was a wise step. This should considerably relieve the burden on the Legal Affairs Committee - taking into account the extra work it will have to cope with following the entry into force of the Luxembourg Single Act - and breathe new life into the work on petitions, for which an ad hoc committee, a sort of parliamentary 'ombudsman' for Community citizens submitting petitions, has recently been established.

2. A summary of work carried out by the Committee on the Rules of Procedure during the parliamentary year September 1986-July 1987 is attached. In the light of the above remarks, it should be remembered that during the first four months the committee was working under its old structure, while from January 1987 the new committee continued its work of adapting the Rules of Procedure (a problem which does not arise to the same degree in national parliaments) to the continually evolving requirements of the European Parliament, an international assembly which brings together the intellectual, methodological and, it should not be forgotten, linguistic traditions of twelve different European states.

Nevertheless, a brief introduction is needed on the most important and complex piece of work carried out by the Committee on the Rules of Procedure during the period under review, namely the amendments and additions to the Rules of Procedure made necessary in the light of the entry into force of the Luxembourg Single Act, since the latter introduces a number of new elements

which are important for Parliament's participation in the Community decision-making process taken as a whole. These new elements can be summarized under three headings: ratification of international agreements, including accession or association agreements with the Community, the 'cooperation' procedure, which for some areas institutes a second reading by the European Parliament, and political cooperation by the Twelve in foreign policy.

A thorough analysis of all the amendments made to Parliament's Rules of Procedure and the new elements referred to above would require more space than this summary allows. However, it is important to describe the background to the work of the Committee on the Rules of Procedure, which was intended to enable Parliament to take advantage of the potential offered by the Single Act, despite its politically ungenerous tenor.

The main aim of the Committee on the Rules of Procedure was to strengthen, wherever possible, the conditions which would lead to greater transparency in the decision-making process. It aimed, among other things, to ensure that the Commission - which is in a position to follow proceedings in the Council very closely, both while the work is in progress and after Parliament has given its opinion on a particular topic - was obliged to a greater degree than in the past to keep Parliament informed of developments in the different areas, so as to prevent them, where possible, from being distorted or held up. This would require the Commission to adopt a clear position on any amendments which Parliament might make to proposals on which it is consulted; it would also mean that the Commission would have to resolve not to change its position in a cavalier fashion, if it had previously been favourable to Parliament's opinion, simply because the Council indicated its disapproval.

In addition, of course, more pressure had to be put on the Commission to make it more receptive to Parliament's amendments. This was what the Committee on the Rules of Procedure intended when it made the postponement mechanism (former Rule 36, now Rule 40) more restrictive, thus enabling Parliament to postpone its decision if the Commission put up 'excessive' resistance. Lastly, it was important to emphasize what was perhaps the most important and binding aspect of the Luxembourg Single Act, namely the fact that the Council, when its 'common position' has not been amended by Parliament within three months, is obliged to adopt the Act in question definitively within the next three months. Under new Rule 54, the Committee on the Rules of Procedure has, with commendable foresight, laid down that if the Act is not adopted within

the period stipulated the President of Parliament shall call Parliament's attention to this failure with a view to bringing an action against the Council in the Court of Justice under Article 175 of the EEC Treaty.

Before concluding, one might ask whether all the amendments to the Rules of Procedure are really meant to affect procedure in the strictest sense, or whether some rules are meant to serve merely as declarations of intent or of principle, in the absence of parallel commitments by the other institutions which, together with Parliament, play a part in the Community's legislative process. It should not be forgotten that a dialogue has already started between Parliament and the Commission, and that the procedures established by the Single Act must be allowed a 'running-in period' before they can be judged and, if necessary, modified. Nevertheless, the approach adopted by the Committee on the Rules of Procedure should be seen on the whole in a positive light, if only because Parliament aimed thereby to make it clear that it would not tolerate any application of the Single Act which ultimately fell short of even the modest advance in institutional affairs which the Act represents - and the progress achieved must be considered modest when compared with the draft treaty on European Union previously drawn up by the European Parliament. This is why the EPP Group, always in the forefront of the campaign to strengthen Community institutions, chose to give full support to the proposals made by the rapporteur appointed by the Committee on the Rules of Procedure, thus contributing in a decisive manner to ensuring that they were adopted first by the committee and then by Parliament as a whole.

3. Summary of reports drawn up by the Committee on the Rules of Procedure, the Verification of Credentials and Immunities, and adopted by the European Parliament in plenary sitting during the period September 1986 - July 1987

- AMADEI (S, I)	Report on initiatives to strengthen cooperation
Doc. A 2-74/86	between the institutions in the examination of
Vote 9.10.86	petitions submitted to the EP

Summary

Referring to its resolution of 14.6.85 (OJ No. C 175, 15.7.85), the EP emphasizes the importance of the right to address petitions, in general terms and in the context of Europe in particular.

It calls on the Commission to draw up a proposal by 1 June 1987 strengthening the right to address petitions to the EP and establishing an information system which will allow the MEPs to examine the facts of each case.

The Council is called upon to guarantee cooperation with the Member States, subject to reservations of confidentiality.

The EP adopted the resolution.

- AMADEI (S, I) Report on an amendment to Rule 40 of the Rules of
Doc. A 2.82/86 Procedure
Vote 13.11.86

Summary

The report proposes that the rules on the opening, conduct and winding-up of debates laid down in Rule 42(5) be applied to debates following statements made by the Commission, the Council or the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation. Thus the EP will be able to give its views immediately on such matters to the institutions concerned.

Parliament approved the proposal for a decision and adopted amendment No. 1 by the Committee on the Rules of Procedure.

- PROUT (ED, GB) Report incorporating proposed amendments to the Rules
Doc. A 2-100/86 of Procedure concerning committees of inquiry
Vote 13.11.86 (existing Rule 95) with consequential amendments to
the rules concerning committees in general

Summary

The aim of the report is to improve the existing rules by limiting the role of committees of inquiry to investigation of contraventions of Community law or maladministration of Community affairs. The existing definitions in different rules governing standing committees, temporary committees and committees of inquiry are brought together under a single rule (Rule 91, new paragraphs 1 to 3). The President of the EP can now decide, without reference to the House, whether the conditions for establishing such a committee are met.

Parliament adopted the proposal for a decision.

- DURY (S, D) Report incorporating proposed amendments to the Rules
Doc. A 2-135/86 of Procedure on parliamentary questions
Vote 13.11.86

Summary

The report proposes setting a time limit of three months for the enlarged Bureau to take a decision as to how a Rule 42 question is to be dealt with. If on the expiry of that period no decision has been taken, the question will automatically be placed on the agenda of the next part-session. Parliamentary committees are authorized to hold Question Time. Parliament adopted the proposal for a decision.

- STAVROU (EPP, GR) Report incorporating proposals amending Rules 53 and
Doc. A 2-166/86 54 of the Rules of Procedure
Vote 11.12.86

Summary

Parliament has made the wording of Rule 53 'tabling and moving amendments' and Rule 54 'admissibility of amendments' more specific: an amendment can now refer to any part of a text, while the term 'text' means the whole of a motion for a resolution or proposal for a decision, etc. The purpose of this is to prevent the recurrence of the situation whereby, as a result of a certain interpretation of Rule 53, amendments may entail the rejection or replacement of the entire text of a motion for a resolution and thus the adoption of a new text. Parliament adopted the proposal for a decision.

- PROUT (ED, GB) Report incorporating proposed amendments to the Rules
Doc. A 2-131/86 of Procedure intended to enter into force following
Vote 11.12.86 the ratification of the Single European Act

Summary

The aim of the report is to adapt the EP's Rules of Procedure to take account of amendments to the Treaties establishing the European Communities introduced by the Single European Act, in particular the new version of Article 149 with its cooperation procedure. It provides for closer cooperation between the EP and the Commission at all stages of the legislative process. The Council and the Commission are obliged to forward any necessary information to the EP. Any time limits will be set by the

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

I - Positions held by members of the EPP Group

Vice-chairman: Marietta GIANNAKOU-KOUTSIKOU (GR)

Coordinator: Marlene LENZ (D)

Assistant coordinator: Ursula BRAUN-MOSER (D)

Members

Maria Lusia CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI (I)

Rika DE BÄCKER-VAN OCKEN (B)

Nicole FONTAINE (F)

Johanna MAIJ-WEGGEN (NL)

Substitutes

Mary BANOTTI (IRL)

Elise BOOT (NL)

Nicolas ESTGEN (L)

Egon KLEPSCH (D)

Alberto MICHELINI (I)

Bernhard SÄLZER (D)

Kurt WAWRZIK (D)

II - SURVEY OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

In accordance with the basic principles adopted by the committee in July 1984, activities during this third year were concentrated more on implementing the reports and resolutions adopted by the EP in the first two years and on adopting the reports on equal opportunities and working life for women.

This aspect was given special prominence by our rapporteur during the budget debates in November and December 1986 when Marlene LENZ (EPP/D) declared in defence of the three essential amendments tabled by the Committee on Women's Rights: 'The second item is 641, measures to achieve equality between men and women. I would be very grateful if we could keep this large majority, for this really does form the financial basis of the entire action programme and the equal opportunities programme, which does at least give our governments serious food for thought and which is so important to this sector of Community policy.'¹

Members were also unanimous on 20 November 1986 in upholding the principle of maintaining the Committee on Women's Rights as a 'neutral' committee in view of its unique and specialized role in the EP for the rest of the parliamentary term.

During the debate on the European labour market in November 1986, Ursula BRAUN-MOSER (EPP/D) described the problems encountered by women in connection with the restructuring of the labour market (reports by BRAUN-MOSER (EPP/D), SALISCH (SOC/D) and TRUPIA (COM/I)) as follows:

'In addition to the basic options for improving mobility in order to create a more flexible labour market, namely mobility as to working hours and place of work, which can be improved by removing obstacles, there is also a third option of improving occupational mobility by providing better occupational training facilities for women, thereby opening up a wider range of job opportunities to them. This applies especially to women seeking to return to a career, about 37% of whom have had to be prepared, according to a British survey, to accept a job offering a lower occupational status than they enjoyed previously.'²

¹ Debates No. 2-345 of 12 November 1986, p. 84

² Debates No. 2-345 of 10 November 1986, p. 13

Maria Lusia CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI (EPP/I), on the other hand, pointed out that the European social area and the completion of the internal market were indissolubly linked. The new technologies made it possible to restructure working time, which should lead to a fairer distribution of the work available. She was in favour of flexible working conditions but thought discipline was necessary to prevent job security from being undermined.

Marlene LENZ (EPP/D) stressed that: 'If the society of the future really wants to be a flexible society, then it must not 'marginalize' - to use that horrible word - either those who have to be in regular employment, or those who, by reason of another vocation in life or through lack of opportunity, find the way to regular employment barred to them. The same should apply to men who are prepared to take on family responsibilities.'³

However, the resolution adopted by the EP failed to win the EPP members' agreement and support because of the assistance and allowances advocated by the Socialists. It was this that moved Nicole FONTAINE (EPP/F) to exclaim during the explanations of vote: 'I deeply regret that, once more, the rapporteurs have followed the current tendency to depict women who stay at home in a stereotyped and extremely pejorative manner. Paragraphs 3 and 78, for example, are unacceptable in their present form, and the House's rejection of the amendments we had tabled to them is, sadly, significant.'⁴

Rika DE BACKER-VAN OCKEN (EPP/B) commented in the same vein: 'But what we find surprising and disturbing is that this right is so often contrasted with the welfare of the family by some people. A few go so far as to say that the word 'family' should be removed from all texts and be given a pejorative meaning. We do not understand this. It must be possible for paid employment to go hand in hand with the performance of family tasks by women and men. We therefore place great emphasis on the need for the harmonious combination of paid employment and family values.'⁵

A striking example of the failure to apply the positive actions to promote equal opportunities for women proposed and adopted by the EP was raised in the VAN DEN HEUVEL (SOC/D) report on the situation of women in the European institutions.

³ Debates No. 2-345 of 10 November 1986, p. 29

⁴ Debates No. 2-345 of 11 November 1986, p. 70

⁵ Debates No. 2-345 of 11 November 1986, p. 68

The author of the first report drawn up on behalf of the committee of inquiry (October 1983), Marlene LENZ (EPP/D), stressed during the debate in plenary that she could only hope that the European Community, whose institutions and competence were so often criticized, would not now be judged again in terms of its application of its own principles of equality and access to all positions in its own institutions. For it had to be said that the application of Article 119 and its implications in the Community's vast administrative machine left a great deal to be desired. This always applied to the same categories in the same institutions, as the report made clear. It applied equally to the European Parliament and its political groups and the Court of Justice, of all institutions, which usually helped us, had failed to give any response to the report. Why was this?⁶

Marietta GIANNAKOU-KOUTSIKOU (EPP/GR) exclaimed that women were losing out on promotion. She stressed that the EPP Group wanted equal opportunities and the abolition of all discrimination. She believed that compulsory quotas could have an adverse effect, or at least, the opposite effect from the one desired.

Of the reports adopted by the committee during the year, the following should be mentioned: Women in Sport by Beate BROOKES (ED/GB), the Role and Situation of Women in the Media by Marlene LENZ (EPP/D), Discrimination against Women in Immigration Law by Brigitte HEINRICH (ARC/D), the Re-integration of Women into Working Life by Jessica LARIVE-GROENENDAAL (LDR/NL) and Women's Employment by Margaret DALY.

Members of the committee have held regular meetings and exchanges of views with the Presidents-in-Office of the Council of Ministers, Kenneth Clarke (GB) and Miet Smet (B), on the meetings of the Council of Ministers for Social Affairs and the informal Council on women's rights. They have also had regular talks with Commissioners Ripa di Meana and Marin on the Community's information policy for women and the new guidelines for the European Social Fund. An important opinion drawn up and adopted by the committee is the draft opinion by Ursula BRAUN-MOSER (EPP/D) on the misuse of human embryos and fetuses. This opinion was adopted and substantially amended by deleting paragraphs 6 and 9c.

⁶ Verbatim report of proceedings of Thursday, 18 June, 1987, p. 245

The draft opinion by Jessica LARIVE-GROENENDAAL (LDR/NL) on surrogacy was adopted with one abstention (Liberal Group) following the deletion of three essential passages, i.e. paragraphs 5, 6 and 8 of the conclusions, and the adoption of a fundamental amendment by our group (amendment No. 40: 'surrogacy should as far as possible be avoided; it should be considered a final resort and shall remain an exceptional measure;')

In conclusion, the committee has reached agreement, after several meetings, on its work programme for the coming years. Essentially, it has decided to draw up reports on two major topics:

- (1) The situation of women in decision-making centres;
- (2) An assessment of Parliament's activities, particularly the activities of its Committee on Women's Rights, during the electoral period (1984-1989).

III - OUTLINE OF WORK IN PROGRESS

The committee will be adopting the following reports and opinions in the coming months:

- the report on the application of the 3rd directive on the removal of discrimination in the field of social security in the Member States (rapporteur: Johanna MAIJ-WEGGEN (NL));
- report on aid for cooperatives set up by women to create new jobs;
- report on equality of men and women in vocational training and industrial apprenticeship (rapporteur: Nicolas ESTGEN (L));
- report on a contractual compliance equal opportunities policy (rapporteur: Rika DE BACKER-VAN OCKEN (B));
- report on the situation of women in Spain and Portugal;
- opinion on adoption (rapporteur: Nicole FONTAINE (F)).

IV - SUMMARY OF REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EP

Ursula BRAUN-MOSER (EPP/D)

Heinke SALSICH (SOC/D)

Lalla TRUPIA (COM/I)

Reports on the problems encountered by women in connection with the restructuring of the labour market

Doc. A 2-146/86 A+B

Vote: 11 November 1986

Chapter I:

Greater flexibility in women's employment (BRAUN-MOSER)

The rapporteur is in favour of making employment more flexible provided this is not to the disadvantage of women.

Given the increasingly critical situation on the European labour market, every step should be taken to ensure that women are not forced out of their jobs or prevented from re-entering the labour market after bringing up children to make way for unemployed men.

The rapporteur is also concerned at the repercussions for women of all sorts of so-called 'flexible' labour contracts with poor or even non-existent legal protection.

In addition she regrets that despite the extension of national laws to accommodate the EEC directive on equal pay for men and women, women in equivalent professions unfortunately still earn on average a third less than men. Too often, women are relegated to the under-paid, low-skilled and consequently low-status sectors of the labour market.

The committee again stresses that the ESF should play a bigger role in vocational training for women and calls for women to be able to go into business with more support from local and national authorities, financial institutions and advisory services.

Chapter II

The effects of new technology on the employment market (SALISCH)

The development of new technology is often assumed to entail job losses for women as automation in offices and trade makes them redundant. Nonetheless, this theory is called into question by the increasing amount of practical data available.

However, we still lack reliable information on these problems. In any event, women must be involved at all levels in the establishment of new technologies so that they can influence their development.

The rapporteur, who underlines the importance of this sector, also calls for the fixing of quotas and positive discrimination in the fields of education and research to ensure that women are given an opportunity to participate in the new technological developments.

Chapter III

The position of women under social security systems in the Community (TRUPIA)

The dominant theme of this report is that social security spending in the Community should be reformed but not abolished.

At a time when several Member States are beginning to cut social security spending, the committee believes that these achievements must be safeguarded.

It calls for reform, i.e. rationalization of social security spending. The reforms must guarantee equality between men and women, i.e. they must move towards recognizing an individual's right to social security and away from a system in which one person is dependent on another.

The committee calls for all the measures to protect women at work to be implemented (maternity protection, etc.) and for all discrimination against women to be removed.

The European Parliament adopted the resolution, following a vote by role call at the request of the EPP Group, by 160 votes (SOC and COM) to 123 (EPP, LIB and ED) with 14 abstentions.

Group speakers: Marie-Lusia CASSANMAGNAGO-CERRETTI, Marlene LENZ, Ursula BRAUN-MOSER, Nicole FONTAINE and Rika DE BACKER-VON OCKEN.

Ien van den HEUVEL (SOC/NL)

Report on the situation of women in the

Doc. A 2-257/86)

Community institutions

Vote: 18 June 1987

Women represent 50% of the staff of the Community institutions but account for only 9% in the high categories, with a gradual fall in this rate the higher one goes in the hierarchy, while they represent 70% of category C.

Unfortunately, the European Parliament and the Community institutions have not implemented - after three and a half years - the recommendations formulated by the European Parliament on 17 January 1984.

The committee's demands include the immediate establishment of an Equal Opportunities Committee in all the Community institutions, a thorough investigation of the failure to promote women to the grades where they are under-represented and a programme of positive action with explicit target figures.

The report was adopted as it stood and our three amendments were rejected.

Group speakers: Marlene LENZ and Marietta GIANNAKOU-KOUTSIKOU

Aloyse SCHOLTES

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Functions of members of the EPP Group

Chairman : Raphaël CHANTERIE (B)

Coordinator : Gabriele PEUS (FRG)

Members :

Panayotis LAMBRIAS	(G)
Kurt MALANGRE	(FRG)
Francisco LUCAS PIRES	(P)
Gabriele PEUS	(FRG)
Mario POMILIO	(I)
Elise BOOT	(NL)

Substitutes :

Michel DEBATISSE	(F)
Nicolas ESTGEN	(L)
Ingo FRIEDRICH	(FRG)
Renate-Charlotte RABBETHGE	(FRG)
Ludwig STAUFFENBERG	(FRG)
Gustavo SELVA	(I)
Hans-Jürgen ZAHORKA	(FRG)

PETITIONS

The activities of the Committee on Petitions during the last session can be divided into two parts. The first period corresponds to the second half of 1986 (details are contained in the communication to Parliament of 10 March 1987), while the start of the second period can be taken as Parliament's decision of 21 January 1987 under which complaints submitted by members of the public are to be considered by the Committee on Petitions (previously this area was the responsibility of the Committees on the Rules of Procedure and Petitions).

The evolution from the first period to the second is in a sense reflected in the reports by Mr Chanterie and Mr Amadei dealing, respectively, with quicker and more efficient consideration of petitions, and institutional cooperation to achieve this end.

For its part, Parliament decided, as a result of the growing number of petitions, to set up a separate committee. The following figures give an idea of the amount of work involved : in the 1985-86 session 234 petitions were received, an increase of 40% over the previous year; however, the same number were received in the second half of 1986 alone.

In the second part of the period under review (in the course of which Mr Chanterie took over as Chairman of the Committee) there has been far more contact with the public via the media, and this has naturally contributed to the increased number of petitions by Community citizens. Consequently, the committee has drawn up a new internal procedure for considering the admissibility of new petitions, which requires a more active role by Parliamentary group coordinators. Steps have also been taken to increase the staff employed by the Secretariat-General and attached to the committee.

Two draft reports by the Committee on Petitions are awaiting adoption. The first, by Mr Estgen, on students following courses in countries other than their own (PE 112.337), has already passed the committee stage and will be considered by Parliament at the Septemer part-session. The second, by Mr McMillan-Scott, on fraud in connection with buying and selling property in Spain and Portugal, has yet to be submitted to the committee.

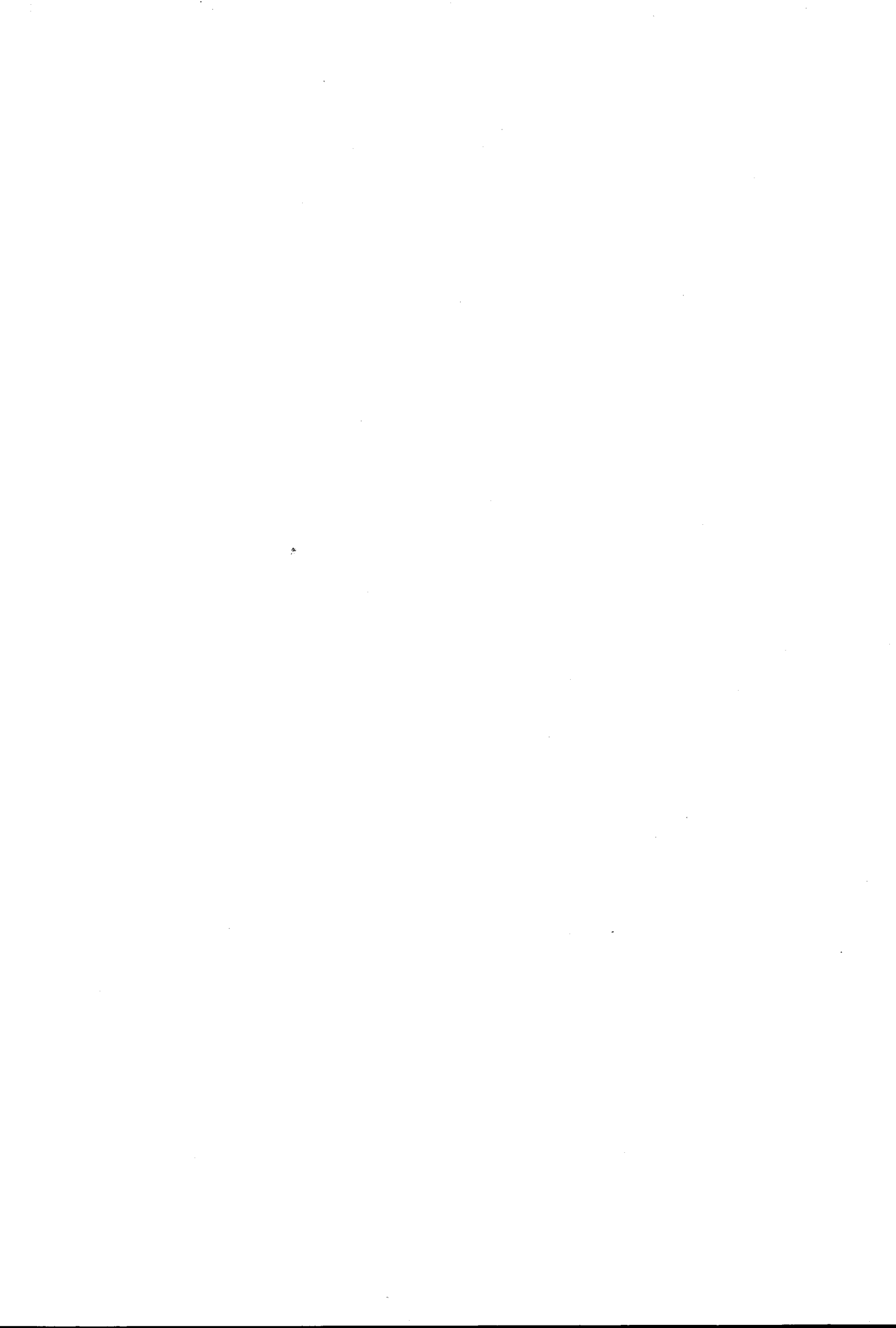
The main feature of Mr Estgen's report, which was adopted unanimously by the committee, is the proposal to introduce a European student passport (called, in the original wording of the text, 'Carte européenne d'étudiant') containing a list of students' rights, the aim of which is to provide equal opportunities for Community students and at least abolish discriminatory rules (administrative and residence requirements, tax regulations, etc.). The report asks the Council to issue a directive laying down students' existing rights and supplementing them in the following areas :

Residence permits, taxation, enrolment, grants and other financial support, accommodation, libraries and other cultural centres, public transport, vehicle registration and recognition of studies and qualifications.

In addition, the Council is asked to adopt the Erasmus and 'Yes for Europe' programmes as soon as possible.

Lastly, the Committee on Petitions has approved the first draft of a publicity brochure on its powers and aims, which will be published by the European Parliament.

Adviser : Gerardo GALEOTE



The EPP Group's study days

The EPP Group's study days which were held in Porto Carras from 25 to 29 August 1986 and chaired by the group chairman, Dr. Egon Klepsch, focused on the institutional and cultural aspects of European unification.

The meeting opened with an address by Mr Konstantin MITSOTAKIS, President of the Nea Demokratia, on the political situation in Greece; he was followed by Mr Peter Sutherland, the Commissioner responsible, inter alia, for relations with the European Parliament: he discussed the situation in the European Community and, notably, deplored the excessively wide gulf between the grandiose declarations on European unity made by national governments and their petty-mindedness when it came to making resources available for appropriate policies.

Mr Giovanni Giavazzi then introduced the next topic 'The European Parliament as legislator': the discussion began with a critical appraisal of the Single Act by Mr Pierre Pescatore, a former judge at the European Court of Justice. He considered that the modest and, in part, questionable innovations had been made possible only by jeopardizing to a large extent what had been achieved so far as regards the free movement of goods and services. He considered that the negotiations conducted in Luxembourg - unlike the negotiations on the Treaty of Rome - were not based on any coherent plan. Each of the partners concerned, i.e. the governments of the Member States, the European Parliament and the Commission pursued its own objective. Parliament's approach was based on the 'Spinelli plan' aimed primarily at extending its own powers within the framework of political union; Mr Pescatore considered that this was a political utopia which no sober-minded observer would consider realistic in the present situation. At the same time the Commission submitted its remarkable White Paper on the completion of the internal market aimed at eliminating remaining barriers to the movement of goods, services and financial transactions within the framework of the EEC Treaty. The governments of the Member States pursued very different objectives. Some supported Parliament's plans, others concentrated on research and technology while others emphasized environmental protection, but all were greatly concerned about the economic crisis and unemployment. The governments of three Member States, namely Denmark, Greece and the United Kingdom were totally opposed to a revision of the Treaties but were outvoted in Milan for

although the final provisions of the Community Treaties require unanimity before any revision of the Treaties can be undertaken, the process of revision can be opened without it. This decision which is contrary to all diplomatic logic created a hopeless negotiating position from the very outset since it was clear that those Member States desiring progress would have to pay whatever price those Member States totally opposed to any revision demanded as a condition to giving their assent. The outcome of these negotiations enshrined in the Single Act accurately reflects this initial position: according to Mr Pierre Pescatore it contains something for everyone but it is hardly comprehensible. The Act makes many pledges, opens up new prospects and creates new procedures, but unlike the Treaty of Rome it contains no single, new, legally tangible commitment. On the other hand, it gives Member States considerable opportunities to protect themselves against the effects of the free movement of goods and services in the common market. Parliament is given a cooperation procedure by way of compensation. The Court of Justice whose main concern at present seems to be its increasing workload is authorized to set up a court of the first instance. The former Luxembourg judge considered that the real scope of the Single Act could only be appreciated if one considered certain urgent problems at present facing the Community that were totally ignored in the new Treaty. Thus the Single Act did not contain the legal basis for developing a long-term economic, structural and industrial policy beyond the conjunctural policy provided for in Article 103 of the EEC Treaty; this was neglected in favour of advanced technology. There are even more serious omissions in the field of trade policy, notably as regards the movement of services and development policy. The same applies to the rules of competition. The extension of these rules to the legislative activities of the Member States should be accelerated, particularly in view of the present crisis, so as to prevent distortions of competition by national interventions in the common market. Finally, the Single Act says nothing about a possible abnigation of the Luxembourg compromise. But this means that all improvements to the decision-making system remain highly questionable and shows once more the 'credibility gap' inherited in the Single Act: it claims to cover new ground although the commitments assumed in the original Community treaties have not yet been adequately honoured and the possibilities provided for in these treaties are far from exhausted.

Following these remarks by Mr Pierre Pescatore, Mrs Marie Luisa Cassanmagnago-Cerretti and Mr von Wogau discussed the new procedures provided for in the Single Act for achieving the internal market and the technology and social community. Mr Gunther Burghardt (vice-Chef de Cabinet of the President of the EC Commission), Mr Rudolf Luster and Mr Efthimios Christodoulou made some additional remarks on the cooperation procedure between the Commission, the Council and Parliament. Mrs Nicole Fontaine and Mr Lambert Croux then discussed Parliament's right of initiative and possible fields of application.

Mr Fernand Herman outlined the European Parliament's strategy as regards European union; this brought the institutional part of the study days to a close. The Group then adopted a resolution on institutional problems and the application of the Single Act. This resolution states that although it makes a number of substantial changes in a few areas the act does not contribute to the realization of European union and above all fails to make the Community more democratic.

This should be one of the main objectives not only of the European Parliament but also of national parliaments. The dual strategy drawn up in this connection seeks on the one hand to explore all the possibilities provided for in the Act for promoting European integration and giving Parliament greater influence on the decision-making procedure and on the other hand to continue the struggle to create European union so that Europe finally achieves political and economic unity.

The meeting ended with a discussion introduced by Mr Panayotis Lambrias in particular, (on the cultural aspects of European unification); the speakers included Professor Wilhelm Hahn and Mr Gustavo Selva. In his remarks on 'European culture - tasks and opportunities in the European process of unification' Professor Hahn made it quite clear that there could be no European consciousness if culture was excluded and that European unification was unimaginable without such a consciousness. He acknowledged that it was not possible to provide a comprehensive and generally acceptable definition of European culture but thought it was possible to determine its basic components, namely Greek philosophy, Roman Law and Christianity.

Professor Hahn considered that European culture was essentially dialectic, the poles of this dialectic being on the one hand a set of common values and on the other their development in multiple directions as an inalienable principle. In incorporating culture in the process of European unification due account should be taken of the principle of unity in multiplicity. Mr Gustavo Selva also adopted a historical perspective in his reflexions at the end of the meeting on the Christian roots of European policy-making. He argued that St Benedict, St Cyril and St Methodius were chiefly responsible for setting the gospel at the centre of European culture and spirituality. This development culminated this century in the work of Mounier and Maritain who sought to achieve a freer and more just society. It was particularly appropriate for a Christian Democratic party to help this kind of personalized democracy finally succeed because this was the only way of integrating man in society without being absorbed by the state or withdrawing into the private sphere. The following Group study days held in Berlin from 1 to 5 June 1987 and chaired by the group chairman dealt with a completely different set of topics. The two main subjects under discussion were the reform of the Community's financial system and East/West relations - in which Berlin and the status of Berlin once again figured prominently (although on this occasion in the context of the struggle between the two European economic blocs). The fact that our Group met in the Berlin Reichstag building, not more than a stone's throw from the Berlin Wall, was, not least, a sign of political solidarity. Nowhere else is one so aware of the division of Europe and nowhere else are Western and Eastern Europeans so close to one another; here more than anywhere else one feels that the European Community comprises not the whole of Europe but only part of it. Mr Eberhard Diepgen, Mr Otto Brautigam, the Head of the permanent representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to East Berlin, Mr John C. Kornblum, the deputy US military commander of Berlin and several senators and representatives from economic and scientific circles reported on the situation in Berlin: they had no doubt that the real task facing the city of Berlin was the ceaseless endeavour to build a bridge between West and East. The Mayor of Berlin considered that Berlin has always been - and remains - both a centre and a border area. Berlin was the centre of Prussia and German unification in 1871, the intellectual and cultural centre of the 1920's, the centre of national socialism and of resistance to the Nazi regime. Berlin is a centre which prevents the Bonn Republic succumbing to a narrow 'Rheinbund mentality'. Berlin is a centre which prevents the GDR turning exclusively eastwards.

Berlin lies at the centre of Europe where the peaceful struggle for the hearts of people is a struggle for dominance in Europe, where borders are lifted and where efforts are made to prevent Eastern Europe detaching itself from a pan-European identity. But Berlin also represents the frontline - most clearly in the Berlin Wall - and the clash of opposites, not least between the two parts of the city. Mr Diepgen freely acknowledged that he was increasingly worried by the development of East Berlin. The West should not in future react to the undeniable increase in the functions of East Berlin by merely insisting on formal legal positions which are no longer generally understood. Rather, the Western part of the city should itself acquire new functions. Berlin should acquire new supraregional institutions including political ones. For instance, why should the process which began in June 1982 with President Reagan's Berlin peace initiative and is now taking shape in Geneva and elsewhere not be concentrated to a greater extent in Berlin? Was there any reason why the necessary permanent suprabloc institutions of the future - in the field of reactor safety, environmental protection or trade - should not be based in Berlin and even function in both West and East Berlin?

The subjects dealt with during the other days were in complete contrast to what had gone before. The first subject was the creation of a uniform electoral law for elections to the European Parliament in 1989. As Mr Reinhold Bocklet (EPP/D), rapporteur, explained, there were enormous differences in the electoral practice of the individual Member States at present: some had a system of majority suffrage, others had proportional representation, some had a 5% barrier for entry into Parliament etc. There were additional distortions due to the fact that a Luxemburg member of parliament requires only 56 000 votes whereas a member of the German Bundestag requires 750 000. Agreement must be reached on all these contentious points as soon as possible in discussion with the other groups, since, as the group chairman stated in the ensuing discussion, a proposal to this end was already pending before the Council and Parliament would be debating it during the September part-session.

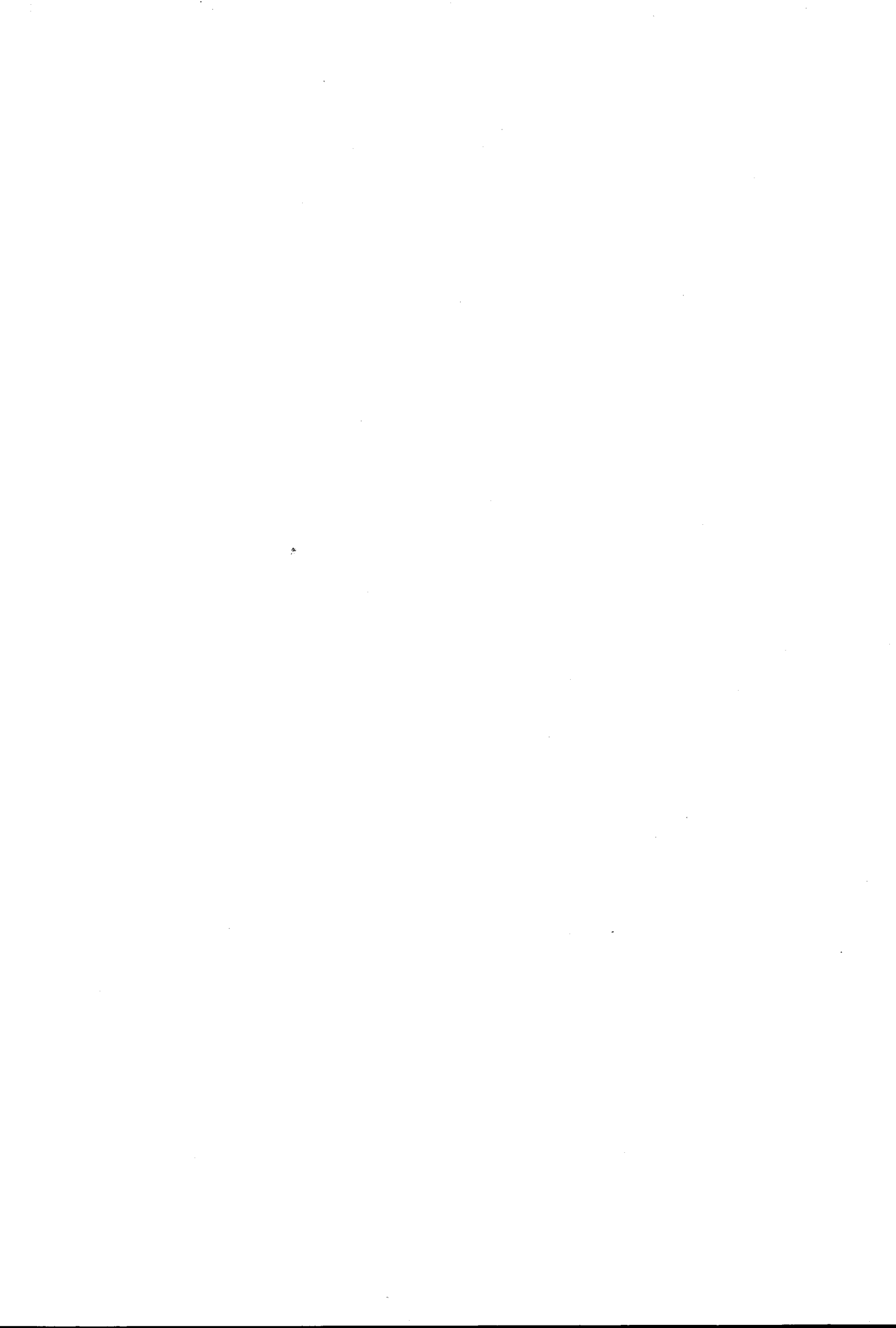
The next point on the agenda was the EC's financial basis and the possibility of financial reforms. Professor Franz Klein, president of the Federal Fiscal Court gave a historical survey of the creation of revenue in federations, Dr Gero Pfennig, Member of the German Bundestag, discussed EC revenue-raising

law, Harry Notenboom, the EPP's former budget spokesman considered the theory of substitute expenditure while Dr Marcel Lenz Cornette (EPP/L) discussed the administration and controls on own resources; Mr Reinhold Bocklet (EPP/D) outlined the funding aspects of the agricultural policy and Mr Efthimios Christodoulou (EPP/G) discussed the transfer of resources via the Structural Fund and Mr Friedrich Fugmann, Deputy-Secretary General of the EPP outlined the Commission's latest proposals on own resources. The experts' remarks gave rise to lively discussions. And if there were sharp clashes of opinion on details, there was absolute agreement on the all-important conclusion: The Council can no longer allow the Community's financial problems to drag on. The EPP Group expects a draft budget fully covered by revenue, otherwise - according to the Berlin paper - Parliament would reject the 1988 budget at the first reading. Only if the Community rapidly receives a new financial basis adequately covered by a secure supply of own resources will it be possible to complete the internal market by 1992 as scheduled. Anything else amounts to pulling wool over citizens' eyes: they can no longer be put off by promises of new deadlines. It is the Community's credibility which is at stake. This opinion was shared by two prominent guests of the Group, Mr Christopher Prout, the chairman of the EP's Conservative Group (ED) and Mr Mark Eyskens, the Belgian Finance Minister and President of the Council of the European Community.

The Group showed itself equally united and combative in discussing the second main topic at the end of the meeting: East-West relations. One of the main theses in the report of the Working Party of Security and Defence discussed on this occasion is that after Reykjavik the consensus on defence questions among Western Europeans - and even among Christian Democrats - has become extremely fragile. Nevertheless there is general agreement that a Treaty on a reduction of longer-range medium-range weapons can - and, indeed, must - be concluded in the near future. However, caution is advisable. All defence questions must be viewed globally and the consequences of each measure at a given stage must be viewed in the overall context. This applies in particular to the negotiations recently begun on shorter-range medium-range weapons. It is of course quite right to point out that an agreement on longer-range medium-range weapons should not be circumvented by shorter-range weapons and that they should also be discussed. However, what we need are agreements which take

into account the security interests of all Europeans, i.e. the disarmament negotiations should cover weapons of all ranges including short-range and theatre nuclear weapons. And we should not remain satisfied even with this. We should not lose sight of conventional and chemical weapons: for it is precisely in this area that the Warsaw Pact enjoys a crushing superiority.

Andreas-Renatus Hartmann



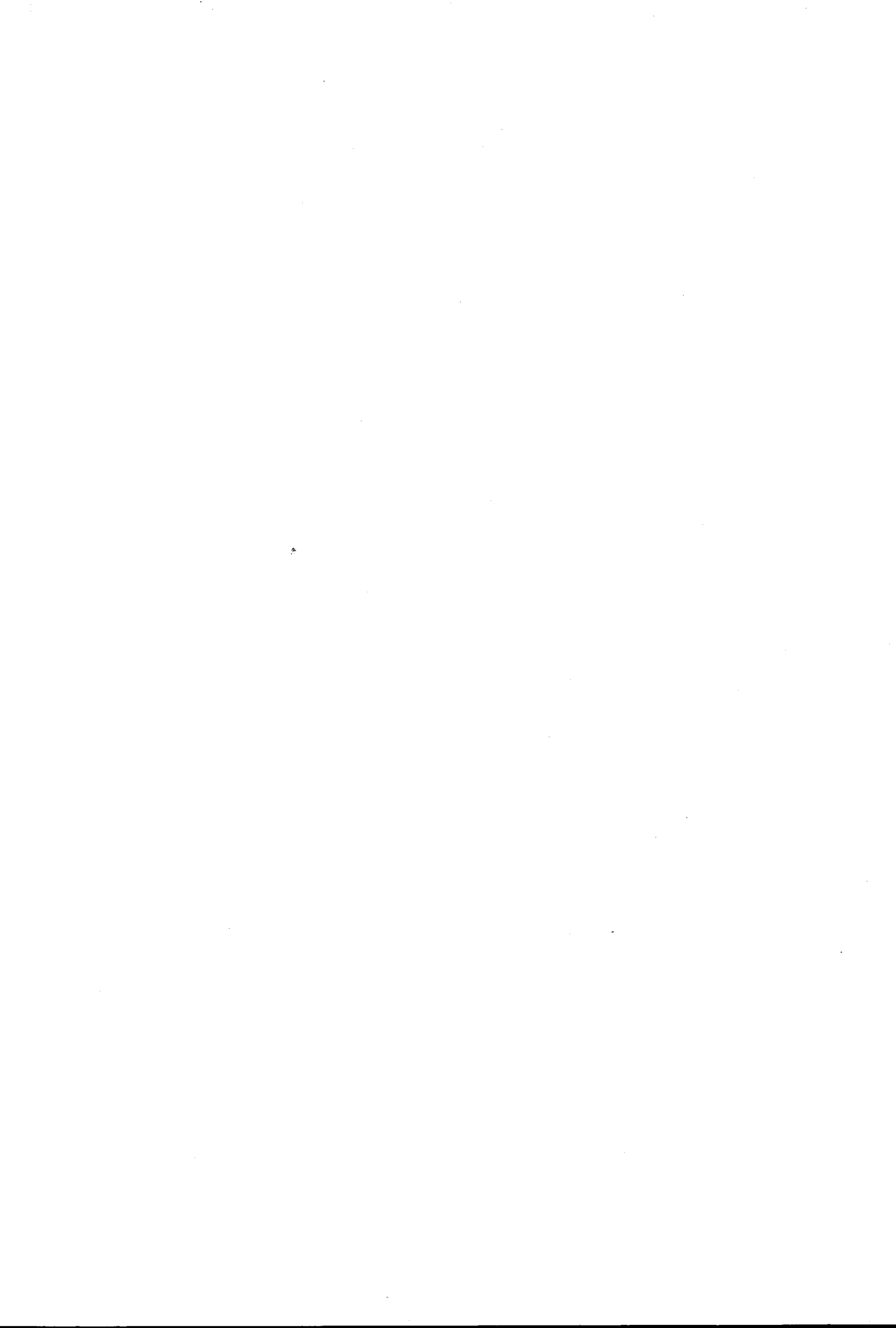
RELATIONS WITH THE EPP'S PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS
AND NATIONAL MEMBER PARTIES

During the past European Parliamentary year the Standing Conference of the chairmen of the Christian-Democratic parliamentary groups met on two occasions on 2 and 3 March 1987 in Rome and on 1 June in Berlin.

The meetings were delayed because of elections in several Member States, and there were no visits to Spain and Portugal beforehand, owing to the political situation in those two countries. Both the March meeting in Rome and the meeting in Berlin focused on the draft uniform electoral procedure for the election of members of the European Parliament of which the report was drawn up by Mr Reinhold BOCKLET (EPP/D). Amendments tabled by representatives of the European Parliament's parliamentary groups have been added to the initial text (drawn up by the Political Affairs Committee in 1985) with the aim of reaching a consensus which takes account of the different requirements of individual Member States. In the course of the discussions, it emerged that differences of opinion appear likely to persist, and if elections of members of the European Parliament according to common rules are to come about, it will be up to the Council of Ministers to make them possible perhaps by modifying principles that are held to be 'sacred' in the case of national elections.

Some representatives of the chairmen, speaking at the meeting, expressed reservations and made many comments about the text in question and it seems unlikely that the 1989 elections can be held according to a common procedure law. The Rome meeting also considered the problems of the Community's own resources and funding in the light of the Commission proposals and in view of the debate which was to be held during the plenary session in May 1987 in Strasbourg. Following the summer recess and the arrival of the Spanish and Portuguese members of the European Parliament, recently elected by universal suffrage, relations with the national parliaments will be intensified, since it will be necessary to prepare for the 1989 elections in the second half of the EP's term of office.

Maria Beatrice SCARASCIA MUGNOZZA



6. STATISTICS

Work of the European Parliament and its bodies during the period under consideration:

6. 1 The House

In the period under consideration, the European Parliament held

12 part-sessions with 60 sittings

and adopted

259 resolutions on the basis of consultations or own-initiative reports,

143 urgent resolutions pursuant to Rule 64 (formerly Rule 48) of the Rules of Procedure, of which 30 were compromise resolutions,

24 resolutions pursuant to Rule 58(5) (formerly Rule 42(5)).

47 oral questions led to a debate or were dealt with in debates which originated in some other way.

6. 2 Committees

18 committees

4 subcommittees

5 working parties

2 committees of inquiry

held 381 meetings over 699 days; 13 hearings or hearings of experts were held.

The committees drew up

300 reports and 120 opinions,

and adopted

43 proposals under the simplified procedure and

13 oral questions on behalf of a committee.

6. 3 Delegations

22 delegations held 101 meetings over 173 days.

6. 4 Meetings of the EPP Group

The EPP Group held 64 plenary meetings of which

2 meetings were held on 6 and 7 November 1986 in Bonn

2 meetings were held on 5 and 6 March 1987 in Rome

3 meetings were held from 4 to 8 May 1987 in Madrid

2 meetings were held from 30 June to 2 July 1987 in Luxembourg

and

12 meetings of Working Party A

12 meetings of Working Party B

11 meetings of Working Party C and

11 meetings of Working Party D.

There were also a large number of meetings of ad hoc working parties to prepare specific topics and working parties consisting of members of the individual committees.

The study days were held in Porto Carras (Greece) from 25 to 29 August 1986 and in Berlin from 1 to 6 June 1987.

Members of the EPP Group tabled

60 reports

10 oral questions, which formed the subject of a debate or were included in other debates,

66 motions, of which 29 were motions for resolutions initiated almost exclusively by members of the EPP pursuant to Rule 64 (formerly Rule 48) of the Rules of Procedure, 26 compromise resolutions, 8 motions for resolution to wind up a debate pursuant to Rule 58(5) (formerly Rule 42(5)) and 3 motions for resolutions pursuant to Rule 109 or the new Rule 126.

Inge KOTZAK

