

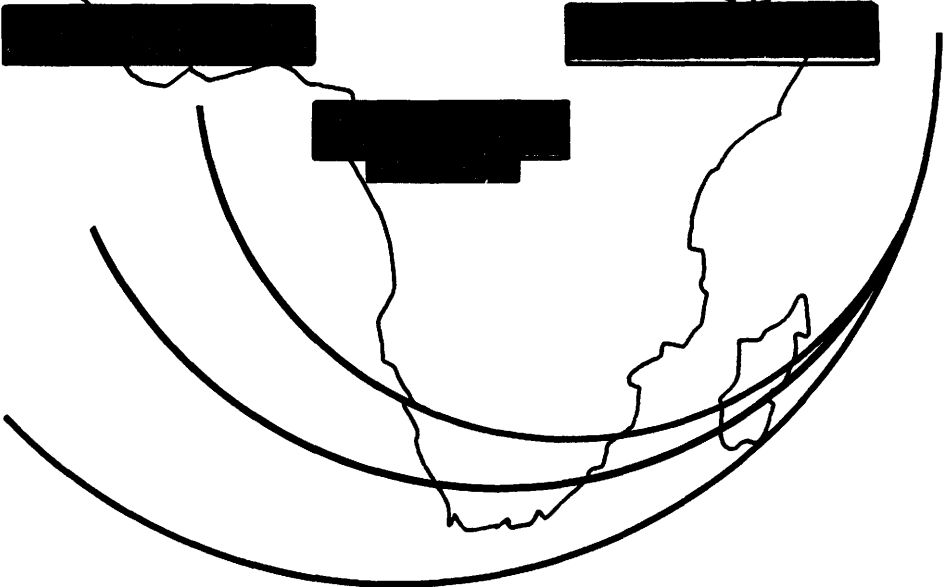
***europaen parliament***

# **information**

SIXTH

PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE  
OF THE EEC-AAMS ASSOCIATION

HAMBURG, January 1970

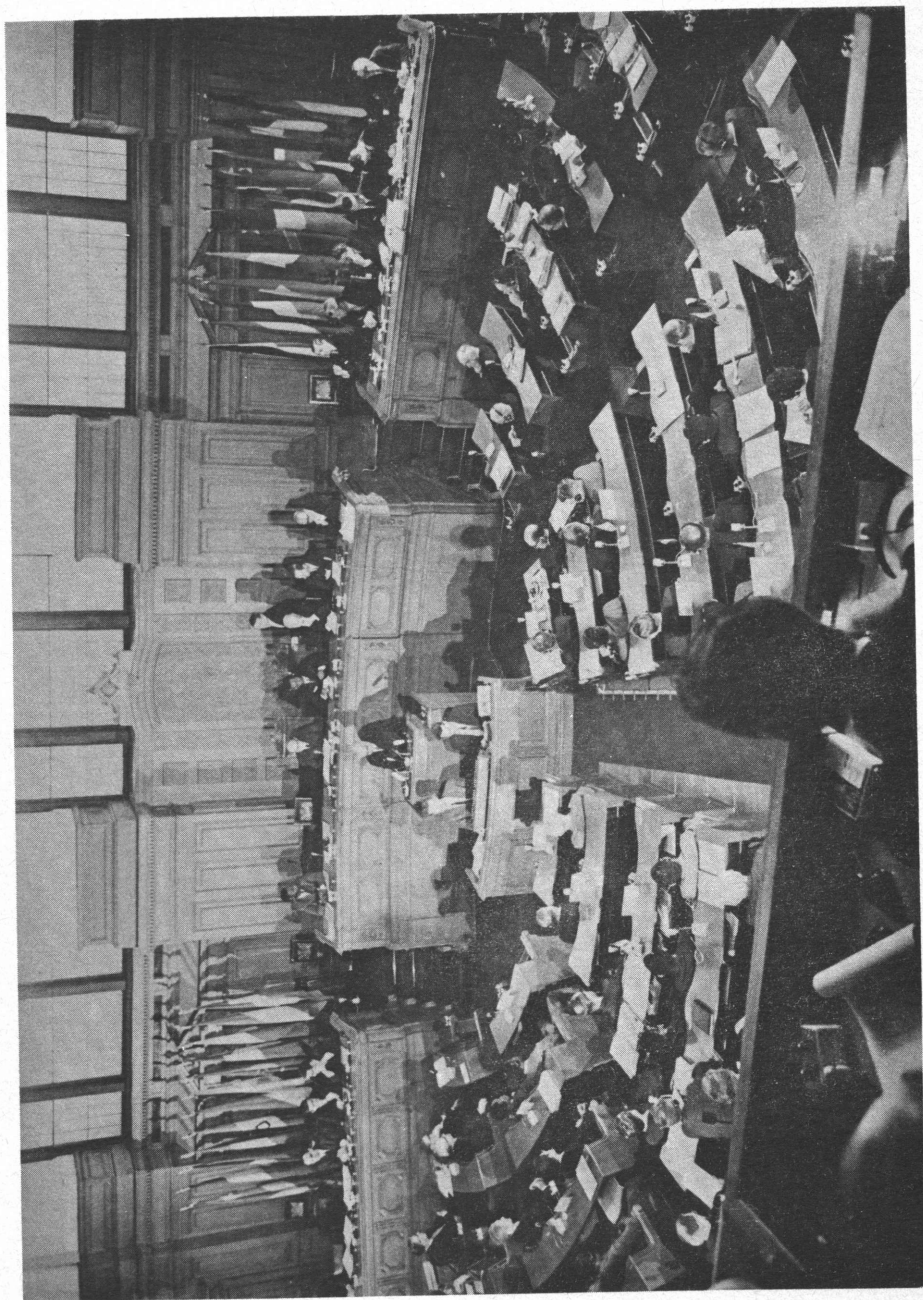


*Ms. 100*



**SIXTH MEETING  
OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE  
OF THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE  
EEC AND THE AFRICAN AND MALAGASY STATES**

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The sixth annual meeting of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association between the European Economic Community and the eighteen Associated African and Malagasy States (AAMS) was held in Hamburg from 12 to 14 January 1970. The Conference, which meets alternately in Europe and in Africa, is composed of 108 members, 54 drawn from the AAMS (three from each State) and 54 from the European Parliament. The previous meeting was held in Antananarivo in January 1969.

After electing its Bureau, the Conference reviewed the fifth annual report on the activities of the Council of Association and discussed the problems of industrialization in the AAMS and the best means of speeding this up. Finally it approved its accounts and its budget for 1970.

At the beginning of the meeting the retiring President Mr. Ph. Yacé (Ivory Coast), referring to the fact that some of the Associated States were at the moment unable to nominate parliamentary representatives, pointed out that this difficulty had been overcome. These States could now be represented at the Parliamentary Conference of the Association by three public figures nominated for the purpose by each of the governments of States without a parliament. These representatives would, like all members of the Conference, have the right to vote but could be neither members of the Bureau nor Rapporteurs. For the Joint Committee, composed of one representative from each State and of members of the European Parliament, a similar rule would apply.

#### Election of the Bureau and formal opening sitting

On 12 January the Parliamentary Conference of the Association elected its Bureau as follows :

President : Mr. M. Scelba (Christian Democrat, Italy), President of the European Parliament;

Vice-Presidents : Mr. Ph. Yacé (Ivory Coast), First Vice-President, Mr. H. Furler (Christian Democrat, Federal Republic of Germany), Mr. Marigoh Mboua (Cameroon), Mr. F. Vals (Socialist, France), Mr. G. Damas (Gabon), Mr. J. Baas (Liberal, Netherlands), Mr. Th. Bagaragaza (Rwanda), Mr. L. Terrenoire (UDE, France), Mr. J. Andrianatoro (Madagaskar).

Mr. Herbert Dau, President of the Hamburg City Parliament, and Mr. Herbert Weichmann, Burgomaster, welcomed members of the Conference, recalling the liberal and international traditions of their city. Mr. Dahrendorf, Secretary of State, expressed his Government's hope that the Conference would ensure that economic, political and human relations between member countries would continue to strengthen peace among the peoples. The Federal Government was convinced that the activities of the parliamentary bodies would materially help to solve the problems encountered within the Association.

Mr. Ph. Yacé emphasized that the renewal of the Convention of Association bore witness to the determination shared by the EEC and the AAMS to forge a permanent link that made for progress. He dwelt on the importance for Africa of industrialization, for which the AAMS were seeking a specifically African solution. But Europe too ought to become alive to this goal and co-operate fully with a view to its achievement. Mr. Yacé added that the Association - aside from any points it might be decided to alter from time to time - ought to be given a permanent character.

Mr. M. Scelba, President of the Conference, thanked the City of Hamburg authorities and the German Government for their welcome to members of the Conference. He went on to say that the Association was not geared to purely economic and commercial interests but aimed above all at progress on the human plane. The application of regional preferences played an essential role in the development of the Associated States' economic structures and had no adverse effect of any kind on world trade or on relations between the Community and third countries. The new Convention of Association would, he was certain, yield increasingly favourable results.

#### Annual report on the activities of the Council of Association

Discussion of the fifth annual report on the activities of the Council of Association centred largely on the provisions of the new Convention of Association signed in Yaoundé on 29 July 1969 and to run until 31 January 1975. With the expiry of the first Yaoundé Convention on 31 May 1969 transitional provisions had become necessary prior to the entry into force of the new Convention, that is, following its ratification by all the national Parliaments concerned.

The President of the Council of Association, Mr. Kassa-Mapsi (Gabon), presented the fifth annual report on the Council's activities over the period July 1968 - June 1969 in the course of which the new Convention had been signed. The transitional measures that had had to be taken had been adequate in that they had kept trade flowing and ensured maintenance of the Association's normal institutional activities. After reviewing the chief provisions of the new Convention, the President stated that it would have to bring about an even greater expansion of trade. The driving force would have to come from financial and technical co-operation for which the main lines would be laid down by the institutions of the Association. Under these conditions the Association would continue to serve as a model of regional co-operation between industrialized and developing countries.

Mr. Scheyven, President of the Council of the European Communities, also urged that the new Convention should enter into force before the expiry of the transitional provisions on 30 June 1970. The Association provided a nucleus about which a vast zone of regional co-operation was gradually becoming established, whether as a result of association agreements or as a result of preferential trade agreements. Such regional co-operation did not rule out other forms of larger-scale collaboration and was compatible with the system of generalized preferences envisaged by UNCTAD. As regards the industrialization of the AAMS, Mr. Scheyven spoke of closer collaboration between the European Commission and the European Investment Bank and of co-ordination between capital available in the Associated States and external aid.

Mr. Laudrin (UDE, France), presented the report (Doc. 29) prepared on behalf of the Joint Committee on the fifth annual report on the activities of the Council of Association. He reviewed in turn the activities of the institutions, the development of trade, financial co-operation, technical and cultural co-operation, transitional measures, and the provisions of the new Convention. The Joint Committee's comments on the functioning of the Association were embodied in a motion for a resolution adopted at the end of the debate.

Mr. Rochereau, member of the European Commission, concluded that the main provisions of the new Convention were the outcome of a far-reaching compromise. He laid particular stress on reciprocal preferences, the new price support mechanism and the provisions con-

cerning stepping up trade and similar or competitive agricultural products. The new Convention, he said, was undoubtedly a political success. The great merit of the Association was the spirit of trust that prevailed between the partners.

Mr. Armengaud (Liberal, France) sharply criticized the inadequacies of the provisions on price supports in trade. The reference to world prices had been maintained, although its misleading nature had been demonstrated amply enough. But remunerative prices for AAMS products were needed in order to encourage local savings, the necessary prelude to industrialization in the developing countries. Mr. Armengaud asked the European Commission whether a concerted political move was not being engineered by the large industrial countries with a view to preventing the stabilization of prices. He regretted that the suggestions made in this connexion by the Parliamentary Conference had not been followed up by the Council.

Mr. Ratsima (Madagascar) stressed the positive aspects of the new Convention : maintenance of the Association's institutions and of the system of preferences and of financial aid, and fresh industrialization measures. Pending a world agreement on the effective organization of aid to the developing countries, the AAMS would continue to attach great weight to regional measures taken within the Association framework. But, he continued, there were also reasons for concern - the question of products of third countries of interest to the AAMS; the plan to abolish common customs tariffs on certain products of prime economic importance to Madagascar; the absence of a price stabilization mechanism and the rejection of the request for revision of outlay taxes on a number of tropical products.

Mr. Triboulet (UDE, France) said that as the new Convention was the outcome of a compromise, it was essential to bear in mind its limitations. One advantage it presented was the increase in the volume of financial aid. A less satisfactory aspect was trade policy : regional preferences remained but had been substantially reduced. In the future, in the face of opposition from the large - mainly English-speaking - countries which practised liberalism in trade, these principles would have to be strictly complied with. One of the most serious shortcomings lay in the disappearance of aids to production and to diversification. But in the long run, said Mr. Triboulet, all would depend on the way the new Convention was applied.



Mr. Guillabert (Senegal) stressed the serious effects of price fluctuations and of the worsening terms of trade, and wondered whether large industrialized countries that produced oleaginous products were really willing to help the developing countries.

Mr. Kassa-Mapsi (Gabon), President of the Council of Association, furnished additional information about the role of the Arbitration Court and the operation of the European Development Fund, and expressed the hope that first the Community and then the industrialized countries would display the courage and imagination needed to find an answer to the problem of development that took account of the basic dignity of the peoples of the developing countries and of the responsibility owed them by the industrialized countries.

Mr. Scheyven, President of the Council of the European Communities, regretted that the new Convention had not been concluded for an indefinite period. This was only one aspect of the dispute between those who believed that regional and world systems of preference were compatible and those who thought otherwise.

Mr. Rochereau, member of the European Commission, drew attention to the scope for action offered by the machinery that had replaced the previous system of price support. If the credits provided for were freely utilized it should be possible to cope with any exceptional situations. Mr. Rochereau doubted the desirability of concluding world agreements on certain products and underlined the need to strengthen the external trade sector in the developing countries.

The Parliamentary Conference then passed on to a motion for a resolution. A long and lively debate started up on an amendment submitted by Mr. Armengaud (Liberal, France) who called for the insertion of a new section in which the Conference deplored the fact that the new Convention had not taken into account proposals made by the Conference in December 1967 regarding arrangements for the marketing in the EEC, at stable and remunerative prices, of products from the AAMS. This amendment, slightly altered, was then adopted, as was an amendment tabled by Mr. Aigner (Christian Democrat, Federal Republic of Germany). The resolution finally adopted reads as follows :

'The Parliamentary Conference of the Association :

I. as regards the activities of the Association

a) the Institutions

1. welcomes the continuity of institutional co-operation between the partners of the Association and the positive outcome of the measures taken by the Council of Association during the year under review, but would like to see the EEC member States taking a more active part in the work of the Council;
2. draws attention to the constructive spirit of collaboration which has characterized relations between the Council and the parliamentary organs of the Association;
3. once again expresses its regret at the delay in submission of the annual report on the activities of the Council;

b) trade

4. is pleased to note the increase in trade within the Association in 1968, a welcome contrast to trends in previous years, and particularly the sharp rise in European imports from most of the Associated States which in no way harms relations with the other developing countries;
5. emphasizes that the Association has encouraged the AAMS to integrate their economies more closely at African level without impeding their opening onto the rest of the world, trade in the last few years having shown a progressive shift in the direction of the developing countries;
6. is concerned about fluctuations in the prices of primary commodities and the worsening terms of trade in some export sectors of the Associated States;
7. again deplores that Decision No. 491/67/EEC on the provision of financial aid for oil-seeds and oils from the Associated States has still not come into force pending ratification by two EEC member States;

c) financial and technical co-operation

8. notes with satisfaction the steady rise during the year under review in the second European Development Fund's commitments in respect of non-repayable aid, as a result of which the available funds were almost entirely used up on the expiry of the first Yaoundé Convention;
9. regrets the continuing substantial delay in carrying out certain European Development Fund projects and hopes to see this situation set right by greater efforts on the part of the Associated States, with whom the responsibility for executing the work lies, and of the Commission of the European Communities;
10. welcomes the steps taken by the Commission to harmonize EDF measures with the bilateral and multilateral aid received by the Associated States, and hopes that the activities of non-governmental European organizations can also be harmonized and expanded in this way with the Community's help;
11. stresses the importance of training programmes and welcomes the greater efforts made in this field, but regrets that these form only a small part of total aid;

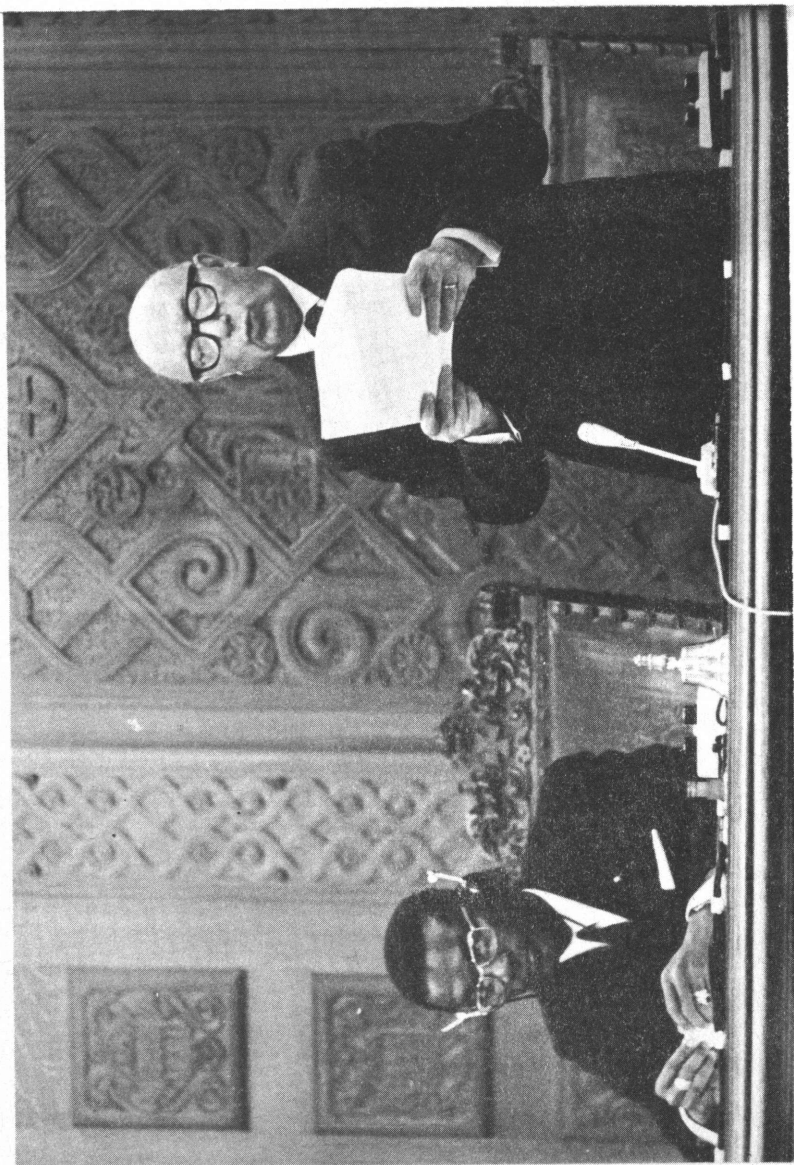
d) transitional measures

12. notes with satisfaction that the measures taken for the transitional period which started on 1 June 1969 have ensured continuity and normal operation of the Association;
13. hopes that all steps needed to facilitate preliminary work will be taken to enable the Commission of the Communities to take decisions on the financing of the resources of the third EDF immediately the new Convention comes into force, the better to ensure the continuity of financial and technical aid;

II. as regards the renewal of the Convention of Association

a) legal aspects

14. welcomes the conclusion of a new Convention of Association having the same form and based on the same principles as the first

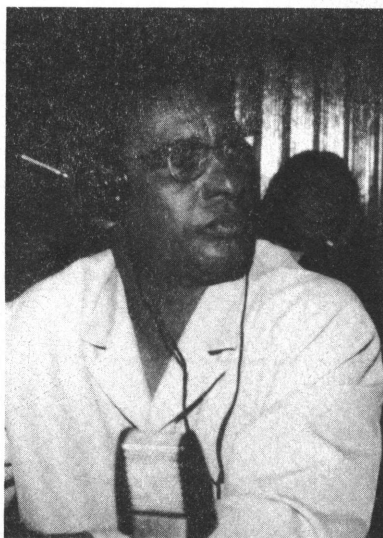


*Presidents Scelba and Yace*

*Mr. H. Laudrin*



*Mr. M. Dewulf*



*Mr. F. Perret*

Yaoundé Convention, since an increase in trade under a preferential system remains one of the major instruments available to the Association for ensuring smooth overall development of the AAMS;

15. regrets the delay in concluding the negotiations which prevented the new Convention from coming into force on 1 June 1969, and therefore invites the EEC member States and the Associated States to complete the procedure for ratifying the Convention as rapidly as possible;

b) financial co-operation

16. notes that the volume of financial aid made available to the Associated States has risen by 25 per cent in absolute figures, but points out that the activities of the third European Development Fund will in practice be staggered over a period of more than five years;
17. recommends that a timetable should be fixed for the paying in of EEC member States' contributions to the third EDF so as to enable the Fund to earn interest on the sums deposited;
18. welcomes the fact that the new procedure for grants of aid will enable more to be done for the development of directly productive economic sectors and particularly for the industrialization of the Associated States, while taking account of the specific problems of the most adversely situated countries;
19. recommends that ample use should be made of all new facilities available for loans (EDF loans on special terms and ordinary EIB loans, accompanied if need be by grants in aid of interest) as well as for participation;
20. requests that a separate chapter should be devoted in the annual report on the activities of the Council to the measures of the European Investment Bank, account being taken of the importance of its work for the development of the AAMS and of the need for all forms of EEC aid to be closely co-ordinated;

c) trade

21. hopes that, in accordance with Protocol No. 5, the EEC member States will as soon as possible, and in agreement with the Associated States, take the necessary steps for concluding international agreements on primary commodities and tropical products;

22. urges that, pending the conclusion of such agreements, steps should be taken, within the framework of the new Convention, to help the AAMS to solve the problems raised by the steep drop in world prices of their chief export products;
23. deplores the fact that the new Convention does not take sufficient account of the clear-cut proposals made by the Parliamentary Conference of the Association in its resolution of 5 December 1967 on measures to raise sales of AAMS products in the EEC at stable and remunerative prices;
24. regrets the reduction of preferences brought about by the lowering of EEC customs tariff duties on certain tropical products of interest to the Associated States, and hopes that this will at least be offset by specific trade-promotion measures designed to increase the outlets for these products;
25. recalls that the introduction of general preferences at international level for manufactured and semi-manufactured products of the developing countries should be coupled with special measures in support of the worst situated countries, and in particular with suitable measures for compensating the advantages that would be lost to the AAMS if preferences were extended to all the developing countries;

d) general policy

26. trusts that, within the context of the negotiations referred to in Article 62 of the new Convention, consideration will be given to the possibility of converting the EEC-AAMS Convention of Association, in the spirit of the Treaty of Rome, into an agreement for which no duration was stipulated and whose means of action would be reviewed at regular intervals; notes, in the meantime, that the Convention of Association is becoming a permanent instrument for joint action for the development of the African and Malagasy partners;
27. invites its President to transmit this resolution and the report (Docs 29 and 30) to which it relates to the Council of Association, the European Parliament and the Parliaments of the Associated States, as well as to the Council and to the Commission of the European Communities and, for information, to the European Investment Bank. <sup>1</sup>

## Industrialization of the Associated States

The Parliamentary Conference discussed the problems of the industrialization of the Associated States, and ways of speeding it up, in the light of a report (Doc. 31) by Mr. Dewulf (Christian Democrat, Belgium). The Joint Committee confined itself to taking note of the explanatory statement to the report and endorsing the motion for a resolution.

The Rapporteur first recalls the objectives, lines of action and specific programmes of the new development policy geared to the diversification of the African economies and more particularly to their industrialization. He then refers to the broad outlines of an action programme within the context of the Association in connexion with which he suggests the creation of new permanent instruments such as a special industrial service and a special industrial fund. Stress is laid on the need for the European partners to allow themselves to be guided more and more by a common development policy and gradually to convert their bilateral aid programmes into multilateral ones. Mr. Dewulf goes on to say that the entire system for the marketing and promotion of new industrial products ought to be reviewed, and the European partners should make known the general lines and content of their industrial and commercial policy towards the AAMS. Finally he expresses the view that industrialization of the AAMS can only be speeded up if it takes root in the minds of the African peoples and is accepted by European public opinion.

In the course of the debate Mr. Glinne (Socialist, Belgium) dealt with multilateral guarantees for private investment. These called for a system of priorities, as shown by the contemplated Franco-German investment in the Cabora Bassa Dam which was intended not to serve the interests of the African peoples but to enable more Portuguese to settle in Mozambique. Mr. Ngo'O Mebe (Cameroon) raised the problem of predominantly agricultural countries which were worried by the reduction in preferences. The AAMS should concentrate on making the widest industrial use of their rural production and creating industries that would help in supplying domestic markets.

Mr. Briot (UDE, France) said that the worsening of the terms of trade was likely to put a damper on local savings. Investment should



be fitted into actual regional contexts and the various forms of aid must be co-ordinated. Mr. Rakoto Zafimahéry (Madagascar) dwelt on the human and social aspects of industrialization and was surprised that the EEC had not felt bound to adhere to the international sugar agreement. He also pointed out that Madagascar wished to give priority to home-based industries. Referring to the diversion of effort at international level, he asked whether it would not be more rational to transfer to Africa or Madagascar certain similar European industries in view of the competitiveness of some AAMS industries.

Mr. Cousté (UDE, France) said that if industrialization of the AAMS was to succeed, domestic savings would first have to be created and put to use. This implied fostering agricultural production particularly through a greater emphasis on the marketing of agricultural products. Mr. Cousté also referred to the need to set up a system of investment guarantees and to provide adequate training facilities, an essential feature of any industrialization programme. As industrialization was the prime objective, Mr. Queddo (Chad) feared that countries that retained their agricultural character would be put at a disadvantage.

Mr. Bersani (Christian Democrat, Italy) recalled his suggestion that 0.50 per cent of military budgets should be earmarked and a tax levied on all taxpayers as an automatic contribution to the EDF. He wanted a report on regionalization and development to be submitted to the Conference, and argued that the Association should be extended to include other African countries. He felt that a start should be made in applying practical tools of industrialization such as training and the co-ordination of public and private programmes. Finally, he felt that the conditions under which workers were to participate in the industrialization process ought to be studied.

Mr. Armengaud (Liberal, France) also underlined the importance of domestic savings for industrialization. The AAMS ought to avoid overlapping investments and the spread of industries that competed with each other. Industrialization should not be regarded as a remedy for all the ills of underdevelopment. Investment should be highly selective and geared to the market, the capital available, and infrastructures.

Mr. Zola (Congo-Kinshasa) was convinced that, despite a few setbacks, industrialization was possible. But the AAMS needed help from outside. He referred to the current large-scale economic campaign being launched in the Congo to encourage investment and the flow of domestic resources into productive investment, as well as to the agreements concluded with Rwanda and Burundi with an eye to regional economic integration. Mr. Santero (Christian Democrat, Italy) approved the resolution and urged the developing countries to carry out structural reforms and avoid excessive expenditure for purely military ends.

Mr. Damas (Gabon) thought that a start should be made with home-based industries for the manufacture of goods now imported before thinking of large-scale industrialization and the manufacture of export goods. Industrialization should therefore be kept within reasonable bounds and great caution displayed in the selection of projects. Mr. Monbé (Central African Republic) pointed to the problem of rural industrialization and stated that industrialization would not solve all the difficulties facing the AAMS. It could only be a partial remedy. Mr. Ndahayo (Rwanda) thought that it would be perfectly feasible to confine regionalization to certain basic industries. In this connexion he mentioned the immense scope offered by the resources and economic potential of the 'market of great lakes' and made a number of suggestions for integrating communications and liberalizing of trade in that region. Mr. Perret (Niger) endorsed the wording of the resolution and underlined the effectiveness of industrialization in the fight against underdevelopment. Mr. Hassan (Somalia) said that the Convention was the best framework for co-operation between Africa and Europe, and confirmed there would be no turning back from his country's decision to participate in the Association.

For Mr. Rochereau, member of the European Commission, industrialization of the AAMS - for which the Association provided both the framework and the instruments - was an absolute necessity. He recommended a pragmatic approach culminating in clearly-defined measures. The action taken should consist in (i) determining which industrial projects were deserving of Community aid, and (ii) creating in the Associated States the conditions necessary for progress. Mr. Rochereau emphasized the need for concertation of efforts at regional level within an institutional framework. He spoke of the problem that would arise in squaring up prospective European investment with African requirements. Africa should not accept industrialization regardless of its nature and should watch out against certain 'hawkers of factories'. Moreover, private investment should be part and parcel of

a coherent policy. Replying to various speakers, Mr. Rochereau stated that the Community could certainly become an integral part of the international sugar agreement following the talks then in progress. In a reference to the transfer of factories from Europe to Africa, he said that it was more important to encourage the establishment in Africa of certain competitive industries. He informed speakers from Congo and Rwanda that the new Convention made it possible to provide active support for the setting up of regional unions.

Mr. Dewulf referred to the administrative and institutional structures to be set up to facilitate industrialization, and stressed that developing the agricultural sector would not solve all the problems of the developing countries.

At the end of the debate the Parliamentary Conference adopted the following resolution :

'The Parliamentary Conference of the Association,

- recalling the vital importance of trade in primary commodities, and particularly of tropical products, for the economies of the AAMS, which remain largely dependent on the agricultural sector, and the urgent need to improve the terms of trade by measures for stabilizing their prices;
- stressing the essential contribution of agricultural development to the formation of the investment capital necessary for economic progress in the AAMS;
- realizing that trade in primary commodities is at present limited and inadequate to ensure the smooth economic development of the Associated States;
- conscious therefore of the urgent need to do still more to foster within the Association diversification and balanced growth of the economies of the Associated States;
- solemnly reaffirming, therefore, its view that industrialization of the AAMS is one of the principal aims of development;
- having noted the report submitted by Mr. Dewulf to the Joint Committee on the problems of industrialization of the Associated States and on the ways of speeding it up;

- recalling the resolutions adopted in Antananarivo on 15 January 1969 on the eve of the renewal of the Convention of Association;
- 1. welcomes the fact that the new Convention recognizes the industrialization of the AAMS to be a basic aim of the policy of co-operation in the field of development it intends to pursue;
- 2. is glad to see that the new Convention provides new and specific means of facilitating the achievement of this objective;
- 3. considers, however, that the utilization of these new facilities presupposes, on the one hand, a clearer definition of the industrialization policy to be pursued in the years ahead both at regional level and within each of the Associated States, and on the other hand, the use of other means of promoting such industrialization;
- 4. therefore invites the Commission of the European Communities
  - to determine, in close collaboration with the Council of Association, the policy to be pursued in this sector;
  - to carry out without delay the necessary studies, particularly as regards basic and export industries and the conditions calculated to promote regional economic integration, account being taken of the natural resources of the AAMS and of the interpenetration of markets at regional and world level;
- 5. invites the Commission of the European Communities to adapt its departments responsible for financial and technical aid to the new requirements of a sustained policy of industrialization of the AAMS, and underlines the importance of the active collaboration of the European Development Fund and the European Investment Bank in this sphere, in accordance with the provisions of the new Convention;
- 6. is convinced of the urgent need for closer co-ordination of public bilateral and multilateral aid in the industrial sector, and calls upon the African and European bodies concerned to ensure, in the exercise of their respective powers, that private industrial investment is fitted into the framework of this co-ordinated action;
- 7. urges that studies be carried out with a view to arriving as rapidly as possible at a system of multilateral guarantees of private investment within the framework of the Association;

8. strongly recommends the AAMS to step up consultation, harmonization and co-operation at regional level, this being a prerequisite for successful industrialization and for the smooth and balanced development of all the partners;
9. urges the EEC and its member States to review certain aspects of their commercial and industrial policy and to investigate all possibilities of participation by the AAMS in fresh industrial initiatives;
10. stresses the need to bring home to the public the problems of the industrial development of the Associated States;
11. therefore asks that a special chapter of the report on the activities of the Council should be devoted each year to the specific problems of the industrialization of the AAMS;
12. instructs its Joint Committee to keep track of the problems of industrialization of the AAMS - as a whole, by sectors and by regions - and to report to it on the subject;
13. invites its President to transmit this resolution, which it has adopted, and the report relating thereto, to the Council of Association, the European Parliament and the Parliaments of the Associated States, as well as to the Council and to the Commission of the Communities and, for information, to the European Investment Bank.'

#### Accounts and budget of the Conference

On the basis of a report (Doc. 28) prepared by Mr. F. Perret (Niger) for the Joint Committee, the Conference passed a resolution giving a discharge to the Secretary-General of the European Parliament in respect of the 1968 accounts and approving the draft estimates for 1970. These amount to FF 502,000 and break down expenditure between the European Parliament and the Associated States. The Rapporteur stressed the need for strict economy in managing the funds.

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The Parliamentary Conference appointed Mr. A. Guillebert (Senegal) Rapporteur on the report on the activities of the Council of Association, and Mr. R. Bouanga (Gabon) Rapporteur on the Conference's accounts and budget.

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Meeting on the occasion of the Parliamentary Conference of the EEC-AAMS Association, representatives at that Conference of the four political groups of the European Parliament announced their intention of consulting the Parliament, during its next session in Strasbourg, on the human problems likely to arise in Nigeria at a time when an armed conflict that had dragged on for thirty months was coming to an end.

Fearing that the prospects of the EEC-Nigeria Association would suffer if the end of hostilities in Biafra were followed by acts of violence against the local population and non-nationals, they welcomed the assurances given on this point by the Federal Government of Nigeria, and asked the Parliament to add Europe's voice to all those raised throughout the world in favour of moderation, appeasement and aid for this sorely tried people.

### Joint Committee

The Joint Committee met in Hamburg from 8 to 10 January 1970. It adopted the resolutions following up the Laudrin report on the fifth report on the activities of the Council of Association and the Dewulf report on the problems of the industrialization of the Associated States.

On 14 January the Parliamentary Conference of the Association appointed the chairman, vice-chairman and members of the Joint Committee.

Mr. Rakoto Zafimahéry (Madagascar) was elected chairman and Mr. Achenbach (Liberal, Federal Republic of Germany) vice-chairman.

The next meeting of the Joint Committee will be held in Florence at the end of May.

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