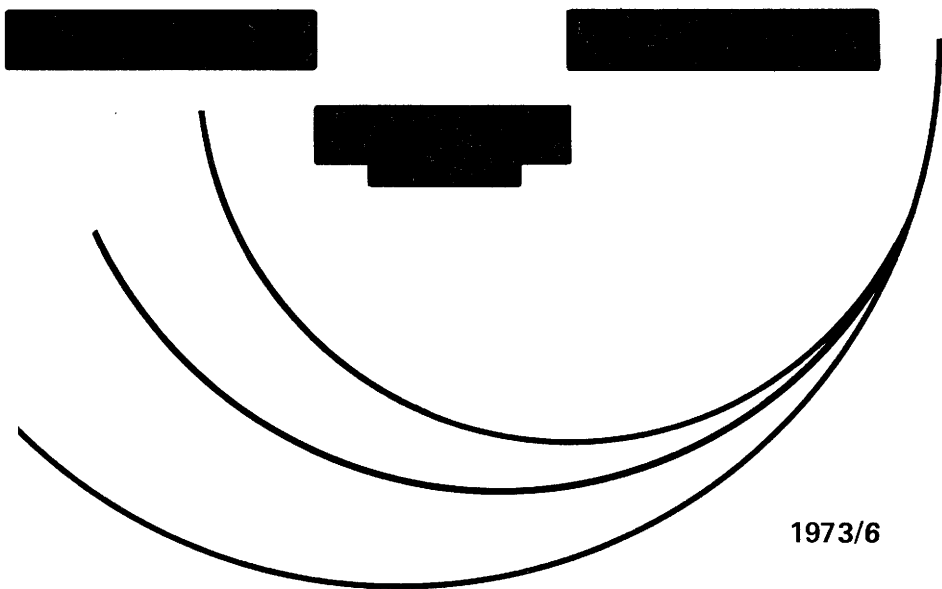


europaean parliament

information

PARLIAMENT IN SESSION



1973/6

PARLIAMENT IN SESSION

is intended to give the essence of the sittings in as few words as possible. Any comments, criticisms and suggestions will be appreciated.

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PARLIAMENT IN SESSION

July 1973

The European Parliament met in plenary session from 3 to 6 July 1973. The focal points were debates on Parliament's budgetary powers on regional policy and on progress in Economic and Monetary Union.

Parliament came close to an open clash with the Commission when Mr Pierre Lardinois was not present to reply to Members at Question Time and Parliament again focussed its attention on agricultural surpluses.

A resolution was passed on nuclear tests and the whole problem of the environment was debated in detail.

It was, of course, a new House in that there were changes in the membership of the Belgian, Dutch, French and Irish delegations and in that the European Democratic Union joined Irish Fianna Fail Members in forming the Group of European Progressive Democrats. The Chairman of the new Group is Mr Bourges and the Vice-Chairman Mr Michael Yeats.

The membership of the European Parliament is now divided up as follows:

Christian Democrats	52
Socialists	50
Liberals	24
European Conservatives	20
European Progressive Democrats	17
Communists	13
Other non-attached Members	8
Seats not filled	14

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POLITICAL MATTERS

Nuclear tests

The Chairmen of the Political Groups tabled a motion on nuclear tests expressing their desire to strengthen the rule of law, their concern at the risk of contamination from nuclear testing and their desire to enhance the Community's reputation.

They disapproved of nuclear testing anywhere in the world regardless of the States responsible, called for general, controlled disarmament and requested the Council to advise Member States to secure international acceptance of such a policy.

The motion followed from one tabled the previous day by Mr Dick Taverne (British Independent) and associates; this was referred to the Political Affairs Committee and the Committee on Public Health and the Environment after a motion that it be treated as urgent was rejected.

The new motion was agreed to.

Sitting of Thursday 5 July 1973

Oral Question No. 47/73 with debate on progress towards European Union

Speaking for his group Sir John Peel (British Conservative) asked what steps the Member Governments intended to take, further to their Summit commitment, to transform the whole complex of their relations into a European Union by 1980.

For Parliament Mr Horst Seefeld (German Socialist) had already submitted a report proposing joint consultations between institutions for a further Summit.

But the target dates were already slipping. He hoped the doubts of Member Governments would not hold up progress. The Davignon Committee was doing valuable work but it was not a Community body. Real progress presupposed an effort in defence and foreign affairs. He hoped there would soon be a second Davignon Report on political union.

Mr Norgaard said that provision had been made for a report on European Union by the end of 1975.

Speaking for the Christian Democratic Group, Mr Hermann Schwörer (German) referred to the Security Conference which had just opened in Helsinki. He was concerned about possible Soviet interference in European affairs. Would all governments agree to the free movement of persons in Europe? Some eastern countries had given no such guarantee. Millions of people had great hopes of the conference and if Europe created a political union soon it would help considerably. It was to be hoped the national Governments would measure up to their responsibilities.

Speaking for the Socialist Group, Mr Broeksz said the main issue was to cooperate on European Union because the Helsinki Conference would not affect Europe between now and 1980.

Speaking for the Liberal and Allies Group, Lord Gladwyn (British) said that qualified majority voting was the key to progress. A body had to be set up on which political union could be discussed and, if possible, organised. He suggested a report from the Permanent Representatives on the broad nature of the union to be set up in six years time. It was, moreover, time for the ministers to make up their minds what they wanted.

Mr Per Dich said the Danish Government had no mandate to pursue a European Policy embracing defence, political union or greater powers for Parliament.

Lord O'Hagan thought direct elections to the European Parliament might be a first step. In the meantime, the Council needed to be better known. He referred to Council meetings at which 150 people were present with Members from each country 'scurrying out to meet their national press'.

Were we satisfied with the present system of decision-taking at the top? Mr Heinrich Aigner (German Christian Democrat) was disappointed with the Council's reply. It was avoiding its responsibilities.

Mr Helveg Petersen (Danish Liberal) thought political union must lead to a more integrated Europe. But he said there was little desire for European union among the public at large.

Speaking for the Socialist Group, Mr Peter Corterier (German) looked to the free movement between East and West to resolve tension. The Helsinki Conference could also be economically beneficial.

Mr Ove Guldberg (Danish Liberal) said he shared Sir John Peel's views.

Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker (British Conservative) said peace could only be safeguarded by a union in politics, economics and defence.

Mr Aigner said there was a need to bridge the political gap.

Mr Knud Bro (Danish Conservative) stressed the need for European cooperation. Young people, he said, should be taught what unites Europeans and enables them to achieve mutual understanding.

Mr Manfred Schmidt (German Socialist) wondered whether European union would ever be more than an idea.

In reply, Mr Norgaard agreed a report should be presented by 1975. In the meantime the Council should answer all the problems arising with a view to a political decision at the Summit.

Oral Question with debate No. 48/73 on improving the Council's decision-taking procedure.

It was agreed at the Summit that the Council would, by 30 June 1973, take tactical steps to improve its decision-taking procedure. National cabinets, for example, should meet on the same day to make it easier for the Council to organise its timetable.

Speaking for the Political Affairs Committee, Mr Giovanni Giraudo (Italian Christian Democrat) found it regrettable that the Council had so far done nothing, particularly as regards the timing of meetings. He urged the President of the Council to make proposals.

Mr Norgaard agreed. He hoped the Council would discuss this on 24 July.

Speaking for the Liberal and Allies Group, Lord Gladwyn (British) felt that marathon sessions were clearly wrong. Was qualified majority voting not possible in some spheres?

Speaking for the Socialist Group, Mr Patijn was dissatisfied at the failure of the Council to observe time limits laid down. He wanted to know what the Council was discussing. Had the Luxembourg Agreement of January 1966 been mentioned? Had any new views been expressed? Would the Council delegate powers to the Commission or to the Permanent Representatives? He also asked about majority voting and the possibility of Treaty amendments.

Sir Derek Walker-Smith (British Conservative) said he had been asked to chair a working party on relations between Parliament and Council. Without wishing to anticipate its findings, he said the British cabinet used to meet twice weekly and this might create difficulties in organising Council meetings. Council decisions, he felt, should be prompt, practical, positive, sensitive to national interests, cognizant of the interests of the Community and above all democratic. Decision-making should have a dual democratic basis: a responsibility to national parliaments and a responsibility to the European Parliament in a form yet to be perfected by procedures yet to be devised. What had to be avoided was any gap, any area where the Council escaped control by both national parliaments and the European Parliament. He concluded by asking that the deliberations of the Council be public.

Mr Per Dich (Danish Non-attached) asked Mr Norgaard for further details on the Community timetable.

In reply Mr Norgaard also deplored the Council's failure to abide by time limits laid down but this delay did not mean less would be achieved.

Greater budgetary powers

Mr Georges Spénale (French Socialist) presented a report on behalf of the Committee on Budgets on the Commission's proposals on strengthening the budgetary powers of the European Parliament.

The committee felt it essential for the new proposals to be examined closely with very great attention to detail. The Commission's attention, it felt, should be

drawn to points of agreement and disagreement and, more important, to the minimum proposals which would be acceptable to Parliament.

The committee was unhappy about the idea of changing the basis of assessment of the Community's resources and about a regular review, as proposed by the Commission (Doc. COM(73)1000), of new resources to be introduced. It might be impossible to act when necessary and measures might be taken when they were not indispensable. These risks would be aggravated by the fact that it takes up to two financial years for Member States to take account of any changes resulting from Community decisions.

The Commission proposal that a discharge on the budget be given by Parliament on recommendation from the Council would be acceptable, the committee felt, if it were specified whether or not the Council's recommendation would be binding. The creation of a European Audit Office to exercise external control was acceptable, subject to detailed analysis.

The committee found the Commission's proposals far less satisfactory in regard to Parliament's real influence on decisions governing the bulk sums of money in the budget and on drawing up the budget each year. It was disappointed that these proposals went no further in this respect than those of April 1970. There was no suggestion of Parliament's being empowered to reject the whole budget outright.

The Commission's suggestion of a second reading for important decisions of general application was found to lack definition. To lay down terms under which Parliament's decisions would be binding would entail a modification of the Treaty and the Commission's main concern appeared to have been to do nothing which might entail such a modification. The suggestion would, furthermore, add little to the present arrangements.

The committee suggested a list of areas might be defined in which the Council would retain the final say and those in which Parliament (subject to quorum rules) would have the last word. Parliament should also have the final say as regards the financial implications of any new measures. On these two points Parliament had to remain firm if it were not to fail as representative of the peoples of Europe.

In the motion tabled, Parliament repeated that when the Community's expenditure is wholly met from its own resources, it must be given real powers

of decision and control over the formulation, adoption and implementation of the Community budget. It called on the Commission and the Council to give the utmost priority to increasing the budgetary powers of the European Parliament. It welcomed the proposals for creating new resources but urged that Parliament itself should, in the final instance, adopt the budget.

Parliament considered the second reading procedure proposed was inadequate in the case of major rule-making decisions with significant budgetary implications. It called on the Commission to put forward new proposals.

In conclusion Parliament repeated it could not endorse any proposal which did not give real budgetary power to the representatives of the peoples.

Speaking for the Political Affairs Committee, Mr Peter Kirk (British Conservative) said the second reading had a bearing on all Community decisions and was not limited to budgetary decisions. But it was obvious Parliament should have the last word.

Speaking for the Christian Democratic Group, Mr Heinrich Aigner also felt a second reading of almost no value without transfer of powers.

Mr Francis Vals (speaking for the Socialist Group) had the impression the Commission's proposals were a step back from the Summit meeting last October.

Mr Jean Durieux (speaking for the Liberal and Allies Group) also found it regrettable that the Council would still have the last word. But he felt the Council could not ignore Parliament's fair and sensible demands.

Mr Rafton Pounder (speaking for the European Conservative Group) said the Commission's proposals were a useful starting point.

Mr Fazio Fabbrini (Italian Independent) said the elephant had given birth to a mouse. National Parliaments had surrendered powers to the Council but the new proposals left things very much as they were.

Mr Finn Christensen thought that giving effect to the present proposals would be an important step forward.

In reply, Mr Claude Cheysson, Member of the Commission, said it was hard to define 'the last word'. But granting budgetary powers to the European Parliament went hand in hand with granting legislative powers.

Mr Ortolí, President of the Commission, said it was difficult and probably not desirable for the Commission to put forward new proposals before Parliament had returned its opinion. It would then express its own view to enable the Council's work to go ahead as quickly as possible.

After debating a number of amendments Parliament agreed to the motion.

Sitting of Thursday, 5 July 1973

Parliament's accounts for 1972

Mr Heinrich Aigner (German Christian Democrat) submitted an interim report on behalf of the Committee on Budgets on Parliament's draft accounts for 1972. Under the new financial regulation covering the Communities' budget, the Commission has to draw up accounts by 1 June each year. Similarly the various institutions have to forward all relevant information to the Commission by 1 May. For technical reasons it was impossible to comply with this time limit so the committee submitted an interim report to enable Parliament to take official note of the closure of its accounts. The report submitted was a basis for Parliament to decide to cancel some appropriations.

In the motion submitted Parliament deferred its final decision on the discharge for the financial year 1972 until the accounts had been checked by the audit bodies of the Community.

The motion was agreed to.

Sitting of Tuesday, 3 July 1973

Research and investment

Mr Georges Spénale (French Socialist) presented a report drawn up for the Committee on Budgets on a proposal to transfer appropriations to research and investment for 1973. The transfer was from Chapter 98 to Chapter 33 of Section III of the Budget of the European Communities. The amounts involved were 3,787m u.a. for July and 7,574m u.a. for August and September.

A motion approving the transfer was agreed to.

Sitting of Tuesday, 3 July 1973

Statement by Mr Scarascia Mugnozza on motions agreed to by Parliament in June

A detailed report had been drawn up by Mr Alessandro Bermani (Italian Socialist) and a directive would be submitted before the autumn. Moped noise should be dealt with, he said, and a directive would be submitted on the environment. A proposal would be made on fertilisers and the Commission had asked the Member States to approve the Council of Europe's convention on cruelty to animals.

The Commission would be holding consultations on transalpine traffic. Mr Scarascia Mugnozza concluded with the hope that Parliament's relations with the Commission would become more clearly defined.

Mr Jan Broeks (Dutch Socialist) trusted a similar statement would be made in future, possibly in writing two days before the sittings began.

Question Time

Mr Roger Houdet (French Liberal) informed the House that Mr Pierre Lardinois was unable to be present at Question Time. He asked whether the five questions put down on agriculture could be held over until Thursday.

Mr Maurice Dewulf (Belgian Christian Democrat) protested. The Commission was a corporate body. As long as one member was present everything was in order. The President agreed. The questions would be asked. Mr Dewulf said the Commission must reply. The President said the House would see.

Questions to the Council

No. 54/73 by Sir Tufton Beamish (British Conservative)

Subject: Trade Agreement with Rumania

What consideration is being given to the negotiation of a trade agreement with Rumania involving generalised preferences; what is the attitude of the Rumanian Government: and what advice has been received from the Commission?

In reply, Mr Ivar Norgaard (acting President) said the Rumanian Government had asked for Rumania's inclusion in the generalised preferences system. The Commission was in favour of this and the Council had decided to extend these preferences to Rumania as from 1 January 1974.

Sir Tufton asked why the Council had taken so long. Could Mr Norgaard give a firm assurance that other countries in eastern and central Europe could expect quicker and more sympathetic treatment if they wished to enter into bilateral trading agreements involving generalised preferences?

Mr Norgaard said each case would have to be treated on its merits but he expected the Council would look sympathetically at any case it considered appropriate.

Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker (British Conservative) asked if the time available would allow for discussions between the Commission and Parliament's Committee on External Economic Relations.

Lord St. Oswald (British Conservative) asked whether those countries in Europe at present denied self-determination would be made welcome as full members when the day came that they were free and willing to join.

Mr Van der Hek asked if Rumania's admission to generalised preferences was a precedent for other eastern States.

Mr Norgaard said it was.

Mr Lucien Radoux (Belgian Socialist) was surprised that matters of such moment should be raised in Question Time.

Mr Ludwig Fellermaier (German Socialist) asked if the Council had been guided by UNCTAD's conclusions on generalised preferences.

Mr Norgaard said the Council's decisions were reached objectively.

Question No. 59/73 by Mr John Hill (British Conservative)

Subject: International Conference on the law of the sea at Santiago

Will the Council adopt a common negotiating position on behalf of the Member States at the International Conference on the law of the sea to be held at Santiago?

Mr Norgaard said an attempt had been made to arrive at a common approach for the Santiago Conference, particularly as regards fisheries and territorial waters. Until the conference opened, however, some countries represented on the Committee on the Ocean Bed would not take a stand.

Mr John Hill felt it was vitally important for the countries taking part to agree upon an effective procedure for management to avoid over-exploitation of the new resources of energy discovered in the sea as well as the old ones such as fish stocks. They should also agree on a common jurisdiction to settle such disputes as might arise.

Mr Norgaard said the Council would be discussing the matter.

Mr James Scott-Hopkins (British Conservative) asked when the Council expected to come and discuss the negotiating position or the results with Parliament.

Mr Norgaard said no arrangements had been made yet.

Question No. 61/73 by Mr Francis Vals (French Socialist)

Subject: Mandate for the negotiation of agreements with the Mediterranean countries

What are the terms and the extent of the mandate being given by the Council to the Commission to negotiate general agreements with the Mediterranean countries, with particular reference to the wine industry?

Mr Norgaard said the Council had approved a mandate but was unable to divulge any details.

Mr Vals wanted an assurance that Community preference would be respected, particularly on wines.

Mr Pierre-Bernard Cousté (French Gaullist) asked how long negotiations would take.

Mr Norgaard hoped to set a time limit by the end of 1974.

Question No. 67/73 by Mr Knud Thomsen (Danish Conservative People's Party)

Subject: Right of Establishment in Denmark

Does the Council consider the Act (Bill No. 146) passed by the Folketing on 29 May 1973 to amend the law on agricultural property and the law covering, inter alia, the division and consolidation of land to be in keeping with the concepts on which the Communities are founded and with the policy the Council wishes to promote both in the agricultural sphere and as regards the right of establishment?

Mr Norgaard said that this was a matter for the Commission. The right of establishment issue had been shelved until 1978 and the Council was studying a proposal on the agricultural sector.

Mr Thomsen asked if the Council was aware of the implications of this law.

Mr Norgaard said the Council had not discussed the matter. He felt the Danish Government would be equal to the situation.

Questions to the Commission

Question No. 55/73 by Lord Charles O'Hagan (British Independent)

Subject: Participation of the European Parliament in the development of the Commission's social action programme

Will the Commission respond favourably should the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment request that the Commission participate in sub-Committees of the parent Committee, set up to study and prepare practical proposals on particular aspects of the Commission's 'Guidelines for a Social Action Programme'?

Mr Thomson, speaking for Dr. Hillery, said 'yes'.

Lord O'Hagan suggested a list of subjects for discussion.

Mr Thomson was sure Dr. Hillery would welcome such an initiative. The social conference scheduled for June had not been postponed indefinitely. The Commission was also determined to press ahead with the Social Action Programme commissioned by the Summit meeting in October 1972.

Lady Elles (British Conservative) asked for and was given an assurance that recommendations from the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment would be the basis for discussions on the sub-committees.

Miss Astrid Lulling (Luxembourg Socialist) trusted that both sides of industry would be present when the conference took place.

Mr Thomson said the conference had simply been postponed.

A difficulty then arose because it had not proved possible for Mr Lardinois to be present to reply to a series of questions put down on agriculture.

Disapproval was expressed on all sides of the House and eventually a motion for adjournment was agreed to to enable the Bureau to discuss the matter.

On resumption, the President said he had been asked by the Bureau to get in touch with the President of the Commission to ensure there was no recurrence of such a situation, which the Bureau found very unsatisfactory. Question Time was then adjourned.

COMMON POLICIES

Economic and Monetary Union

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (British Conservative) presented a report on behalf of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs on the Commission's statement on the first stage of economic and monetary union, on the necessary balance of power between institutions for the union to operate successfully and measures to be taken in the second stage. (Doc. 107/73)

The committee shared the Commission's disappointment about the first stage but found the action programme outlined lacking in precision. The lack of progress was due mainly to the Council's failure to act, under the Treaty, to give effect to the Summit Conference decisions. The committee felt the Commission should be empowered to carry out the programme agreed on by the Heads of State and Government and that Parliament should be given an effective legislative and supervisory role.

The Commission was asked for a programme to be set out in detail on economic and monetary union and that guidance should be given on the future powers of the European Parliament, particularly as regards the changes in the relative status of the Community institutions and the national authorities.

The committee was concerned that no indication had been given of the proposals the Commission is to put to the Council on promoting stability, growth and full employment. It called on the Council and the Commission to make the European Fund for Monetary Cooperation into an independent agency operating as the Community's central bank with enough funds to promote economic and monetary union and the authority to do so. The capital market too, the committee felt, needed to be unified to promote the free flow of investment capital. The facilities for giving protection against parity changes affecting current account transactions needed improving and the Commission was asked to report on the best way of enabling traders to get forward foreign exchange cover on reasonable terms.

The Committee welcomed the Commission's proposals for a fund for the relief of unemployment and for providing guaranteed incomes for those undergoing retraining. Proposals to harmonise the Community's social security systems and personal taxation were called for and the suggestion that Parliament should review the Council's response to its recommendations was noted. Parliament had, however, to remain free to decide its own approach.

A motion embodying these points was tabled.

Mr Friedrich Burgbacher (German) speaking for the Christian Democratic Group, said he did not see what had been done to protect purchasing power. None of the aims of Stage One in Economic and Monetary Union had been achieved.

Mr Erwin Lange (German) speaking for the Socialist Group, agreed. He thought specialised committees should be set up to bring the Council back to legislative work and to introduce a two-Chamber system if Europe were to be social and democratic.

Speaking for the Liberal and Allies Group, Mr Per Federspiel (Danish) felt the growth cult led to inflation. It was advisable to concentrate on stability and to control growth. He thought 1,300,000 u.a. insufficient resources for the Monetary Fund.

Mr Gérard Bordu (French Independent) attributed the whole crisis to the capitalist system because the accumulation of capital in big international industry led to inflation. The accounts of capitalism should not, he felt, be settled at the expense of the working man.

Mr Hermann Schwörer (German Christian Democrat) felt the Commission should not be discouraged even though the results achieved were modest.

In reply Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission, said the proposals would not entail any amendment of the Treaties and could constitute a source of progress. Efforts to combat inflation by increasing savings had to be continued. Progress had been made and further proposals on regional and social policy would be made by the end of the year.

The motion was agreed to.

Sitting of Thursday, 5 July 1973.

Regional policy

Mr Fernand Delmotte (Belgian Socialist) presented a report on behalf of the Committee on Regional Policy and Transport on Community regional policy.

The Summit Conference asked the Commission to report on regional problems and suggest how they might be dealt with, to coordinate national regional policies and to set up a regional development fund by 31 December 1973.

The Commission submitted this report but set out guidelines as opposed to proposals. The emphasis would be on setting up the regional development fund by 31 December 1973 and on coordinating national regional policies. Formal policy proposals would be submitted following Parliament's debate, in mid-July.

Mr Mario Vetrone (Italian Christian Democrat) presented the opinion of the Committee on Agriculture. The committee felt that the latest directives issued on enlarging and modernising farm structures would improve the situation in agriculture, although disparities might persist for some years. The main imbalances lay in predominantly agricultural areas with no industry or service sectors to fall back on. Such conditions occurred mainly in the peripheral areas where the Community had to face competition from privileged imports from non-member countries.

The Committee on Agriculture felt the measures proposed must be coupled with action in the fields of social policy and employment. Regional disparities must be dealt with to prevent migration from aggravating congestion in industrial areas.

The Regional Fund must have sufficient resources to achieve the aims laid down at the Paris Summit Meeting. The committee asked whether the sum of 50m u.a. per annum now allocated for creating new jobs for ex-farmers should not be transferred to the Regional Fund to allow greater freedom of action. The committee agreed with the Commission that priorities must be laid down. These must be based on gross per capita income compared with the Community average, the rate of structural unemployment, unemployment and migration.

Mr Rafton Pounder (British Conservative) presented the opinion of the Committee on Budgets. The committee wanted to know what steps member governments had taken to coordinate their regional policies (pursuant to their summit commitment). The answer was 'none'. The Commission should state

how policies are to be coordinated. The committee would wait for final proposals from the Commission before commenting further and called on the Council to comply with deadlines laid down.

Mr James Hill (British Conservative) Chairman of the Committee on Regional Policy and Transport, stressed the need for balance in the Community, from the Shetlands to Sicily, between regions that had gone their different ways for centuries. There had to be greater emphasis on the human factor. When a coalfield was being run down perhaps in South Wales, Belgium or the Ruhr, new industries must be brought to the area to provide work for miners soon to be unemployed. He said it was easy to concentrate on action by public authorities and to forget what private initiative could achieve.

Mr Karl Mitterdorfer (Italian Christian Democrat) presented the opinion for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs. He said that a genuine policy on structures was essential.

Mr Alfred Bertrand (Belgian Christian Democrat) presenting the opinion of the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment, said every one was convinced of the urgency of the situation; on the other hand they had been convinced 15 years ago. The work of the new fund had to be dovetailed with that of the new Social Fund.

Mr Giovanni Bersani (Italian), speaking for the Christian Democratic Group saw the future as one in which the regions would flourish and develop their creative dynamism.

Mr Russell Johnston (British), speaking for the Liberal and Allies Group, said the Member States together allocated 7,000m u.a. per annum to regional development. He noted that 37% of the European Fund had been distributed to Italy and 38% to Germany and he asked for control to be exercised over the way the Fund operated. He questioned the realism of the present Community scheme. He suggested evolving some kind of industrial development certificate, a system operated successfully near Paris and in South-East England. He said the people in the regions had to participate in developing them: the failure of regional policy was frequently the failure to decentralise decision-taking and to involve people in the whole pride and morale of their region.

Mr Albert Liogier (speaking for the European Progressive Democrats) said that freer trade led to a shift of the population to the industrial centres - Brittany

and the Massif Central were examples. Some thought had to be given to conservation and the environment. He suggested fiscal measures to help the work of the Regional Development Fund.

Mr Fazio Fabbrini (Italian Independent) said the revenue ratio between rich and poor regions was 1 : 5. He attributed this to a lack of Community spirit. Investment could be re-directed away from congested industrial areas.

Mr John Brewis (British Conservative) suggested a congestion tax. He asked whether the regional employment premium in England and similar arrangements in Southern Italy could serve as an example here. He mentioned the County of Fife as an example of where the building of a bridge had brought a region to life.

In the motion tabled, Parliament noted that the average per capita income gap between the rich and poor regions of the Community had become even wider. Economic growth had been steady but not balanced. Parliament feared that Economic and Monetary Union might accentuate rather than narrow these differences. A new sense of responsibility was needed. Parliament supported the Commissions's proposal to endow the Development Fund with substantial resources. It recommended that financial measures be backed by technical aid and looked for a broader concept of regional policy embracing the human factor; education and occupational training were needed too. Efforts to attract new development in poorer regions must be matched by efforts to discourage industrial congestion in regions that were already saturated. Cooperation might, where appropriate, be extended to non-member countries bordering the Community and a detailed study should be made of the mechanics of regional development in the Community itself: how Community measures affected the regional balance and what were the principles underlying regional development. Lastly Parliament called for an analysis of Community law with a view to amending provisions adversely affecting regional development.

The motion was agreed to.

Sitting of Thursday 5th July 1973

The environment

Mr Hans Edgar Jahn (German Christian Democrat) presented a report on behalf of the Committee on Public Health and the Environment on the Commissions's proposals for the environment.

Parliament's concern about the environment is not new. In recent years two reports have been drawn up, one on waterway pollution, particularly the Rhine, and one on atmospheric pollution. These reports prompted a Commission memorandum in 1971 and, in response to Parliament's request for action, a second memorandum in 1972. Then came the Summit which took up the point again and this led to the present proposals. In substance these follow the March 1972 environmental programme.

Parliament considered it insufficient to adopt a common programme. More important was carrying it into effect by prompt legislation. Here the Council was taken to task for the delays involved in giving shape to this policy.

The Community institutions should work out an action programme and a schedule for 31 July 1973. The time limit was thus up in three weeks.

Mr Jahn drew attention to the importance of preventive action and conservation. He pointed out that 200 million birds had been massacred in Italy and appealed for an institute on the protection of the environment to be set up.

For the Committee on Agriculture, Mr Jan Baas (Dutch Liberal) said an attempt was being made to strike a balance between public health, agriculture and the needs of the consumer. The cost of paying for pollution in agriculture would be enormous. If technological progress had to be stopped then the same principle should apply to the motor industry.

For the Christian Democratic Group, Mr Noé said the important thing would not be to take decisions but to find the means of applying them.

For the Socialist Group, Mr Libero Della Briotta (Italian) said it was time to mobilise public opinion.

For the Liberal and Allies Group, Mr Augusto Premoli (Italian) said pollution was a Community problem. He condemned those who sidestepped the law to disfigure the landscape. He pointed out that the Japanese had had to reduce their fish consumption because of the risk of mercury poison.

Speaking for the European Progressive Democrats, Mr Micheal Yeats (Irish) said it was not true that polluters paid. In the long run it was the consumer. He looked for a simple statement for the information of the general public. He quoted examples from Ireland where decisions to build oil refineries in beauty spots had provoked union action. It was easier to prevent pollution than contain it.

Mr Francescopaolo D'Angelosante (Italian Independent) stressed that the major problems were the pollution of the seas, destruction of the ecological balance and the balance of the environment. He also expressed concern about the abandonment of mountain areas and congestion in the towns.

Mr Finn Christensen (Danish Socialist) said an awareness of the problem had made it possible to examine it at Community level. The principle of the polluter paying should not mean that by paying one could continue to pollute. The consumer would always pay because he wanted to consume.

Mr Doeke Eisma (Dutch Socialist) felt we were heading for disaster by the year 2000 if the problems of growth economics were not tackled.

Mr Michele Cifarelli (Italian Socialist) said all that had been done was to list the problems. Community regulations should be passed. He pointed out that using gas and petrol meant that forests could be spared. Population growth led to human pollution. In reply Mr Scarascia Mugnozza, Vice-President of the Commission, said he understood the feelings expressed. Public opinion was aware we were heading for the end of the world. The Community intended to concentrate on rules. The Council was to meet on 19 and 20 July to spell out an action programme. Agreement had already been reached on most of the points under discussion. It was possible Parliament would be consulted in the autumn. But work must begin in schools where good education must be based on respect for others. People must feel involved.

He concluded by saying efforts must be concentrated on the young, the citizens of tomorrow's Europe.

Sitting of Tuesday 3rd July 1973

Energy problems

Mr Gerd Springorum (German Christian Democrat) presented a report on behalf of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology on the outcome of the Council's meeting to discuss energy problems on 22 May 1973. The committee welcomed the fact that the Commission had succeeded in reactivating the debate on a common energy policy and that the Council had had a meeting devoted solely to energy policy matters. It was concerned, however, that the Council had been unable to lay down guidelines for a common policy even though the Commission had submitted proposals and suggested priorities.

Mr Springorum noted the Community's policy was multilateral rather than common. The Commission was unable to take decisions. It was the Council that was responsible for the present policy of inaction.

Speaking for the Christian-Democratic Group, Mr Luigi Noè (Italian) said the crucial problem was that electricity consumption doubled every twelve years. He asked Commissioner Simonet to make a critical study of oil, mathematically and statistically and by setting up a world data bank. President Nixon had called for the use of coal by liquefaction. Hydrogen was also being considered and he wondered if this was being studied closely enough.

For the Socialist Group, Mr Gerhard Flämig (German) asked whether Europe intended to wait until the lifts stopped, the petrol stations ran dry and refrigerators broke down before taking action. Solar energy and nuclear energy were fields to be prospected he said.

For the Liberal and Allies Group, Mr Charles Durand (French) said that if the Council had failed when it met again to discuss energy in October or November, the race for oil supplies would be on and neither the United States nor Japan would take Europe seriously if it spoke of a common desire to work out arrangements with producing and consuming countries.

For the European Conservative Group, Mr Tom Normanton (British) said the Community could act urgently and positively with regard to the production of electrical energy by nuclear power, the provision of fuel to keep the nuclear electricity generating plants supplied, the continuing and growing need for economy in consumption and a determination to resist increasing dependence on sources of supply from areas over which we have no political influence. He trusted the Council would not be blind to realities.

Speaking for the Group of European Progressive Democrats, Mr Jean-Eric Bousch (French) said the Council's meeting on energy of 22 May had failed to state the guidelines for a common policy. The United States was buying up oil and gas on a massive scale and he wondered why the States of Europe could not act together. He called on the Commission to secure the Community's energy supplies. He called for cooperation with importing countries, a more rational use of nuclear energy, a greater and better production of natural gas, a more efficient pattern of energy consumption, action to deal with waste and pollution, research to discover new sources of energy and efforts to keep coal production going.

He hoped for more positive results from the Council later in the year.

Mr Silvio Leonardi (Italian Non-attached) found fault with Mr Kissinger's proposals for cooperation between consumer countries. He felt that further thought should be given to the Socialist States as possible suppliers.

For the Socialist Group Mr Pierre Giraud (French) said he considered the governments had the key to the problem. He criticised them for making the solution of this vital problem subject to political considerations in no way related to energy.

The Earl of Bessborough (British Conservative) said there was no doubt energy supplies were getting tighter. There was widespread concern about the future availability of oil as well as its price. Contingency plans had to be prepared in each country and these had to be co-ordinated. These might result in rationing of supplies. The fact that the United States and the Soviet Union were now concluding agreements about supplies of natural gas proved that cooperation was the only way to deal with impending shortages. He praised ISPRA'S work on hydrogen research.

In reply Mr Simonet, Vice-President of the Commission, welcomed Parliament's support. The Commission would be making fresh proposals. He hoped there would be a Council meeting before October.

A motion summing up Parliament's views was moved and agreed to.

Sitting of Tuesday 3rd July 1973

Agricultural surpluses

In an Oral Question (No. 60/73) with debate put down by Mr Heinz Frehsee (German) on behalf of the Socialist Group, the Commission was asked:

- (i) to estimate how much butter would attract intervention in Autumn 1973;
- (ii) to estimate how much New Zealand butter would not attract intervention then;
- (iii) to state the total cost and the cost per kilo of storing and disposing of surplus butter;
- (iv) to estimate the cost of storing and disposing of all agricultural surpluses;

- (v) what it thought of disposing of cold storage butter as creamery butter at reduced prices;
- (vi) how much butter had been sold cheaply this year and what measures it intended to take to increase cheap butter supplies to hospitals, social institutions and those receiving welfare assistance;
- (vii) if it agreed it was cheaper to give farmers who no longer kept milk cows a fixed sum over a longer period than to keep giving them milk price subsidies;
- (viii) if it was ready to phase out milk production promotion measures;
- (ix) what ideas it had on limiting market guarantees and
- (x) if it had given any thought to quantity controls in agricultural production.

Mr Frehsee said he had received a reply in general terms from the Commission. Mr Lardinois replied further as follows:

- (i) the Commission expected the figure to be 360,000 tons;
- (ii) in October, 45,000 tons and in February 1974, 30,000 tons;
- (iii) butter production exceeded consumption by around 300,000 tons in 1973. Experience showed that such quantities could only be disposed of at prices competitive with margarine. The loss was 80 % or 246 u.a. per 100 kilos. Storage cost 22 u.a. per annum per 100 kilos. The cost in 1973 would be some 500m u.a. for 300,000 tons;
- (iv) the total for 1973 was 3,900m u.a. or 1 1/2 % of what the consumer paid for food;
- (v) up to April 1973 110,000 tons of butter had been sold at 23 u.a. per 100 kilos; the total cost was 27m u.a.;
- (vi) as on 1 July 280,000 tons were involved; action had been taken to provide those on social security with cheaper butter and there were arrangements whereby hospitals could obtain cheaper butter;
- (vii) a regulation had been accepted in May and farmers switching over to meat production received subsidies;
- (viii) the Commission had asked for no further subsidies on the purchase of dairy cows; the Council had yet to take decision; there were surpluses of milk and butter; the Commission would be making proposals;
- (ix) limiting market guarantees would be looked into when new proposals were being drawn up;
- (x) quantity control was appropriate for some agricultural markets but not milk.

Mr Lardinois said milk production structures were bad. In Germany 50 % of dairy farmers had only 10 cows; the figure for the United Kingdom was 2 %. Measures would have to be taken.

Mr Frehsee thanked Mr Lardinois for his answers but thought only a limited volume of production should be accepted at intervention prices. He thought quotas for farm products advisable as was the case for sugar.

Mr Jan Baas (Dutch), speaking for the Liberal and Allies Group, pointed out that the United Kingdom and Ireland had sold off stockpiled butter cheaply. He asked what this had cost and whether it was one way of reducing structural surpluses.

Mr James Scott-Hopkins (British Conservative) noted that the figures given by Mr Lardinois only went up to the Autumn. He pointed out that this was a drought period when milk production was falling, as it usually did at this time of year. What, he wondered, would be the position at the end of the Winter. Would a much greater surplus build up? Mr Frehsee had said the present surplus was 900,000 tons. Allowing for 100,000 tons going as food aid, 300,000 as special exports and 50,000 tons as commercial exports, there would still be 400,000 tons of butter for which no home would be available. There were 26 million milking cows in the Community and only four million beef cows. This was an appalling imbalance. He did not think Mr Lardinois, he himself or anyone else, either inside or outside the House knew how to deal with the situation. One had to effect the maximum switching from dairy to beef with the greatest incentives. Sales of liquid milk and butter must be promoted throughout the Community. He suggested the maximum publicity for this purpose. There also had to be some way of restricting production for consumption, on the basis of a Community quota or standard quality linked with the guaranteed price. Unpopular measures were needed to resolve an unacceptable situation.

Mr John Hill (British Conservative) said milk production was too attractive. A quota system would freeze the situation. He said he would prefer lower prices. Mr Lucien Martens (Belgian Christian Democrat) agreed that 4 million beef cattle was too few.

Mr Roger Houdet (French Liberal), Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture pointed out that 280,000 tons of butter only represented one kilo per year per inhabitant of the Community. Both Ireland and the United Kingdom had obtained increases in consumption.

In reply, Mr Lardinois said that milk prices had been frozen in the United States and they now had to import milk. He said there were complex difficulties in switching from milk to meat. The end-of-year stock-piles, he added, would be no better. He said the world could not live on the New Zealand price structure. No one could compete with it.

He said new proposals on sugar would be presented in a fortnight's time.

Sitting of Thursday, 5 July 1973

Aid for agriculture

Mr James Scott-Hopkins (British Conservative) presented a report on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture on aid under the EAGGF.

The committee pointed out that the proposal from the Commission followed the approach adopted in previous years, although the accession of new Member States meant a larger sum was involved; the increase was from 285 to 325 million u.a.

Mr Scott-Hopkins said there had been a change of emphasis in aid grants from individual projects to collective or cooperative ones. He said the money spent under the Guidance Section of the EAGGF could have an enormous effect on production levels and hoped more money would be channelled through it. He said there was an appreciable time lag between submission of a project for national approval and then Community approval and the disbursement of funds. Perhaps more staff could be assigned to this work.

Mr Petrus Lardinois, Member of the Commission, estimated expenditure under the Guidance Section over the next 4 to 5 years at 325m u.a. Between now and 1978 furthermore, 500m u.a. would be needed, bearing in mind the new policy on structures for example.

Mr Nicola Cipolla (Italian Independent) felt the choice lay between protectionism and modernisation on the farms. He was critical of the time taken in dealing with applications for aid which created special problems for citrus fruit growers and cattle breeders.

Mr John Hill (British Conservative) agreed the EAGGF ought to run more quickly. In reply Mr Lardinois hoped that the national administrations could be integrated with the staff in Brussels for this purpose.

In the motion tabled, Parliament approved the Commission's proposal but called on the Community and national authorities to speed up dealing with applications for aid.

The motion was agreed to.

Sitting of Thursday, 5 July 1973

The sugar market

Mr Isidor Fröh (German Christian Democrat) presented a report on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture on the Commission's proposal concerning the common organisation of the market in sugar.

Under the regulation on the common organisation of the market in sugar each Member State is free to apply the provision requiring sugar manufacturers to inform the Member States in which they operate of contracts signed for the delivery of beet. Two Member States decided not to apply this provision. They have accordingly to fix a maximum quota for each sugar-producing undertaking. This quota has to be set by 30 June in the current marketing year. With the marketing year beginning 1 July, the Member States concerned did not need to fix the maximum quotas until the end of the marketing year.

The resulting difficulty now is that it is now until the end of the marketing year that Commission departments are able to ascertain what surpluses are to be expected on the sugar market. At the beginning of 1972 when sugar prices were very firm the Commission was not able to offer the Community's entire surplus at the prevailing high world price. It was, of course, also unable to make substantial savings on refunds. As the sugar beet season is usually over by the end of January, it can be assumed that fixing maximum quotas would not adversely affect sugar undertakings in the Member States concerned. Fixing an earlier date, moreover, would enable the Commission to ascertain total Community sugar production and regulate accordingly. This overall picture of

the market would facilitate its organisation and enable the EAGGF to make savings.

The Commission's proposal would improve the organisation of the market, the committee felt.

A motion approving the Commission's proposals was agreed to without debate.

Sitting of Thursday, 5 July 1973

Reference centres for cereal prices

Mr Charles Heger (Belgian Christian Democrat) presented a report on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture on the Commission's proposal laying down the main marketing centres for cereals and the derived intervention prices applicable at these centres and the single intervention price for maize, durum wheat and rye (Doc. 116/73).

A motion approving the Commission's proposals was agreed to without debate.

Sitting of Thursday, 5 July 1973

The marketing of seeds

Miss Astrid Lulling (Luxembourg Socialist) submitted a report on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture on the marketing of beet seed, fodder plant seed, cereal seed and seed potatoes under the Commission's present proposals (Doc. 115/73).

The committee noted the proposal from the Commission was intended to facilitate marketing the seeds in question and asked the House to vote on the motion without a debate.

The motion was agreed to.

Sitting of Thursday, 5 July 1973

Community cattle quotas

Mr Jan de Koning (Dutch Christian Democrat) presented a report on behalf of the Committee on External Economic Relations on the Commission's cattle quota proposals. This concerned the Community's tariff quota for 30,000 live heifers and cows of certain mountain breeds and another quota for 5,000 live bulls, cows and heifers of certain mountain breeds.

A motion was tabled in which Parliament approved the Commission's proposals. They would encourage the continuation and expansion of stock-farming and the improvement of stock, particularly in mountain areas.

The motion was agreed to without debate.

Sitting of Friday, 6 July 1973

Cosmetics

Mr Karl-Heinz Walkhoff (German Socialist) presented a report on behalf of Mrs Elisabeth Orth (German Socialist), rapporteur for the Committee on Public Health and the Environment, on legislation on cosmetics.

The committee noted the aim of the Commission proposal was primarily to protect public health. It was therefore surprised that representatives of consumer associations had not been consulted. This had led to an additional list of products being completely disregarded.

The committee strongly supported the system of compulsory positive lists of acceptable products and called on the Commission to continue to operate it at Community level for five years. It had some misgivings about various products listed because their innocuousness had not been established. It insisted that information given on labels and containers should be in the language of the country of destination.

In the motion tabled, Parliament welcomed the directive proposed by the Commission. This would replace current law on cosmetics by a harmonised Community system.

It agreed that protecting the consumer and safeguarding public health should be the main aims.

The motion was agreed to.

Sitting of Friday, 6 July 1973

EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Visit of the President of the United States of America to Europe

Mr Ludwig Fellermaier (German Socialist) presented a report on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee (Doc. 119/73) on the visit of the President of the United States of America to Europe.

The committee considered a common standpoint a matter of urgency although the debate on this point, which would need detailed preparation, could be held after the summer recess. The committee was asked by the House to draw up a report on the joint statement issued by the delegations from the European Parliament and the United States Congress on 10 May 1973, in Strasbourg and on the motion tabled by the five groups in Parliament on relations between the Community and the United States.

The point at issue now was whether the Community could speak with one voice at the consultations with the United States. This would involve great political effort but the danger of failure through misunderstood national interests should not be underestimated. Parliament's debate had to serve to remind the Council and the member governments of their responsibilities. Whatever happened the failure of the Council to reach agreement behind locked doors could do nothing to conceal, let alone overcome, the Community's obvious weaknesses.

The committee concluded its motion by saying the people of Europe had a right to be informed of the intentions of the President of the United States. It wondered how far a statement by President Nixon at an opening sitting of the House would be a suitable means of accomplishing this.

The motion was agreed to.

Sitting of Wednesday 4 July 1973

The Community and the UN

Mr Renato Ballardini (Italian Socialist) presented a report on behalf of the Legal Affairs Committee on the legal aspects of the European Communities' participation in the work of the various UN organisations.

The committee made the point that the European Community must be recognised as a single entity in all international bodies and stressed that the Community alone could enter into commitments with non-member countries in matters within its exclusive province which were its sole responsibility.

It was in the interests of non-member countries to negotiate with the European Community on matters no longer within the sovereignty of the Member States. It found the Community's relations with the UN organisations were in this respect unsatisfactory. The Community could participate in UN activities and the fact this had not occurred was due to a lack of political will in the Member States. It urged the Commission and Council to adopt a clear stance on this matter and refer it, if necessary, to the UN Assembly.

A motion summing up these points was agreed to.

Sitting of Friday, 6 July 1973

The GATT negotiations

Mr Christian de la Malène (French Gaullist) submitted a report on behalf of the Committee on External Economic Relations on the Community's approach to the forthcoming GATT negotiations. The report included the opinions of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Development and Cooperation.

The Committee on External Economic Relations trusted there would be no discussion of the Customs Union or common policies already operative. It stressed the need for common policies on external economic relations and considered that commercial and monetary problems should be regarded as interdependent. It felt there was a need for better international regulations to establish fairer trade.

The committee agreed with the Commission that higher duties should attract greater cuts. It looked for balanced concessions to cut down the non-tariff barriers and hoped for consultation arrangements to be made to deal effectively with any dispute that might arise. It favoured commodity agreements and new preferential measures for the developing countries to boost their incomes from agricultural exports.

It concluded that with without adequate consultation machinery to deal with disputes, liberalisation on its own would not suffice.

Speaking for the Committee on Agriculture, Mr Charles Héger (Belgian Christian-Democrat) stressed the need to resolve monetary problems. The farming community was glad to note that the Council had upheld the basic principles of the common agricultural policy: Community preference, the single market and financial responsibility.

Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission, said there had been valuable bilateral contacts with Member States. Here he felt the Community's methods of reaching agreement were workable. He said the common agricultural policy was not negotiable. But he hoped for multilateral commodity agreements (e.g. for wheat, flour and feed grains, rice, sugar and some milk products) with maximum and minimum prices. The Commission did not think GATT was the place to solve monetary problems although there was a link between commercial and monetary affairs. The Nixon round would be tough but the Community could be hopeful of success.

Freer trade had brought so much prosperity over the last 25 years. But it could only be achieved on a basis of reciprocity.

Speaking for the Christian Democratic Group, Mr Giovanni Boano (Italian) said monetary problems were the most controversial aspect.

Mr Ludwig Fellermaier (German), speaking for the Socialist Group, said he hoped Parliament would be kept informed of progress at the negotiations.

Mr Martin Bangemann (German), speaking for the Liberal and Allies Group, said policy on development aid had to amount to more than resolutions. Action was needed. Ultimately the developing countries would have to produce enough to meet their own food needs but this would take a long time.

Lord Mansfield (British), speaking for the European Conservative Group, noted Parliament had been by-passed by the Council. He was glad to note the price system for cereals, sugar and dairy products and also that the issue had not been confused by any reference to defence.

Mr Christian de la Malène (speaking for the Group of European Progressive Democrats) hoped that they would not be deviated from the aim of trade expansion. Understanding and reciprocity were, he felt, the important principles.

Mr Maurice Dewulf (Belgian Christian Democrat) considered the debate was already out of date.

Mr Mario Vetrone (Italian Christian Democrat) asked for details of the Council's commitment to the common agricultural policy.

Sir Christopher Soames disagreed with Mr Dewulf. The debate would bring the European position to the knowledge of the whole world.

In the motion tabled, Parliament approved the Community's approach. The aim of the negotiations was a better balanced and fairer system of international trade. Better regulations were needed and they must be observed more strictly.

Parliament agreed that the higher the duty the greater the reduction that could and should be made. It favoured international agreements on agricultural products and drew attention to its support for preferential measures for the developing countries to enable them to increase their export earnings.

The motion was agreed to.

Sitting of Wednesday 4th July 1973

No duty on gifts for disaster victims

Mr Maurice Dewulf (Belgian Christian Democrat) presented a report on behalf of the Committee on External Economic Relations on import clearance for gifts from non-member countries for free distribution to disaster victims.

In 1970 the Customs Cooperation Council recommended that member countries should place no restriction on emergency consignments of this kind. The

Commission had submitted a proposal setting out the technical details of duty-free admission and defining the term 'disaster'. The committee gave unqualified support to this proposal.

A motion to this effect was agreed to without debate.

Sitting of Friday, 6 July 1973

The Association with Turkey

Sir Tufton Beamish presented a report on behalf of the Committee on External Economic Relations on the recommendations of the Joint Committee of the Association with Turkey on the Eighth Annual Report of the EEC-Turkey Association Council adopted in Luxembourg on 14 May 1973.

In the motion tabled, Parliament noted with satisfaction the addition of a Protocol to adjust the Association to the enlargement of the Community. It recommended its trade provisions be implemented at once. Parliament noted the considerable increase in trade between the Community and Turkey but stressed greater efforts were needed to promote sales of Turkish products on Community markets. It was also highly desirable for the Association Council to deal with the problems of Turkish workers.

Finally Parliament asked that generalised preferences be extended to Turkey by 1 January 1974 at the latest.

The motion was carried.

Sitting of Wednesday 4 July 1973.

Parliament and the House of Representatives of Cyprus

Mr Peter Kirk (British Conservative) presented a report on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee on cooperation and contacts between the European Parliament and the Parliament of Cyprus.

In returning its opinion on the Association Agreement between Cyprus and the EEC on 15 March 1973, the European Parliament called on its Political Affairs

Committee to 'explore the most appropriate way' of establishing contacts between the European Parliament and the Republic of Cyprus. A delegation of three was set up comprising Mr Peter Kirk, Mr Hans Edgar Jahn and Mr Christian de la Malène (French, European Progressive Democrat). The delegation visited Cyprus on 29, 30 and 31 May and held discussions with Archbishop Makarios, President, Mr Clerides, President of the House of Representatives, Mr Christofides, Foreign Minister, Mr Patsalides, Minister of Finance, Mr Colocassides, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Mr Denktash, Vice-President of the Republic.

It was agreed that the Parliament of Cyprus should appoint a permanent delegation of seven members: five Greek Cypriots and two Turkish Cypriots, and have the option of appointing seven substitute members in the same proportion. Parliament would appoint a permanent delegation of fourteen members from its Committee on External Economic Relations. The delegations would meet twice a year.

Speaking to the motion Mr Kirk said the problem was that since 1963 the constitution of Cyprus had not been functioning in the way in which it was intended. The Parliament of Cyprus had not met as such during that period of ten years.

For the Committee on External Economic Relations, Mr Pierre-Bernard Cousté (French European Progressive Democrat) agreed on the appointment of substitute members.

Speaking for the Socialist Group, Mr Patijn stressed the importance of regular meetings.

Speaking for the European Conservative Group, Sir Derek Walker-Smith (British) welcomed the arrangements made.

Mr Bersani said the arrangements with Cyprus were a worthwhile example of Parliament's desire to cooperate.

Replying to the debate, Sir Christopher Soames congratulated Mr Jahn and Mr Kirk on their skilful handling of a most delicate subject. The Commission attached the greatest importance to parliamentary contacts.

Sitting of Wednesday, 4 July 1973

Wine from North Africa and Turkey

Mr Francis Vals (French Socialist) presented a report on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture on the Commission's proposal on wine originating in and coming from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. The committee repeated the view advanced in previous reports that the multiplicity of import arrangements should be replaced by a single Community system. This would consist of a reduction of tariff duties to 60 % of the common customs tariff, provided the common reference price were respected. The system came into operation on 1 November 1971 and the committee felt a further extension, until 31 August 1974 was warranted. There was no threat in the system to the common agricultural policy and the committee recommended the House to approve the proposal.

A motion to this effect was agreed to without debate.

Sitting of Friday, 6 July 1973.

Announcements

The President announced that the National Assembly of the French Republic had appointed the following Members of the European Parliament: Mr Gustave Ansart, Mr Gérard Bordu, Mr Pierre Bourdelles, Mr Yvon Bourges, Mr Jean de Broglie, Mr Pierre-Bernard Cousté, Mr Jean Durieux, Mr Maurice Faure, Mr Xavier Hunault, Mr André Jarrot, Mr Gabriel Kaspereit, Mr Pierre Lagorge, Mr Hervé Laudrin, Mr Roger Leenhardt, Mr Marcel Lemoine, Mr Albert Liogier, Mr Christian de la Malène, Mr Emile Müller, Mr Georges Pianta, Mr René Ribière, Mr André Rossi, Mr Georges Spénale, Mr Louis Terrenoire, Mr Francis Vals.

The President congratulated Mr Bourges on his appointment as Chairman of the Group of European Progressive Democrats and Mr Durieux on his appointment as Chairman of the Liberal and Allies Group.

The President announced that the States-General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands had appointed Mr Arie van der Hek, Mr Cornelis Laban, Mr Harry Notenboom, Mr Schelto Patijn, Mr Pieter van der Sanden, Mr W. Scholten and Mr Egbert Wieldraaijer members of the European Parliament.

The President further announced that the Houses of Parliament of the Republic of Ireland had appointed Mr Donal Creed, Mr Liam Kavanagh and Dr David Thornley members of the European Parliament.

The Belgian Senate appointed Mr Goris Verhaegen member of the European Parliament.

OTHER MATTERS

The Joint Committee of the Parliamentary Conference of the EEC–AASM Association

The Joint Committee of the Parliamentary Conference met in Bruges from 26 to 29 June under the joint chairmanship of Mr Maurice Dewulf (Belgian Christian Democrat), President and Mr Kassongo Mukundji (Commissioner of the People), Vice-President.

After a ceremonial opening meeting attended by the Mayor of Bruges and Mr Cornelis Berkhouwer, President of the European Parliament and Vice-President of the Parliamentary Conference, the Joint Committee discussed the state of the Association, its renewal, its expansion and how it could be strengthened.

Mr Giovanni Bersani (Italian Christian Democrat) was appointed general rapporteur and Mr Mohamed Fall Babaha (Mauritania) financial rapporteur.

The Joint Committee unanimously adopted a joint declaration on short-, medium- and long-term measures to deal with the disastrous effects of the drought prevailing in the Sahel for some years now.

The Joint Committee confirmed that its next meeting would be held at Lomé (Togo) from 25 to 30 October 1973.

