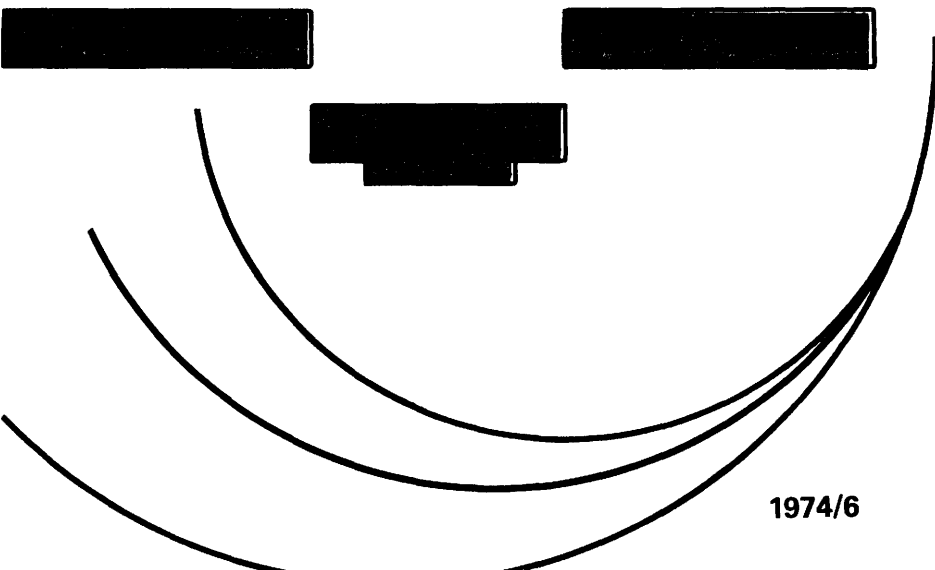


***European parliament***

# **information**

PARLIAMENT IN SESSION



1974/6

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## **PART ONE**

Parliament in session is a summary of the sittings of the European Parliament.

A complete record of the proceedings of the House is given in the 'Debates of the European Parliament' which is published as an Annex to the Official Journal of the European Communities.

The 'Debates' and other documents may be obtained either from the Secretariat of the European Parliament (P.O. Box 1601, Luxembourg) or from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, (P.O. Box 1003, Luxembourg).

### **Introduction**

The European Parliament met in Strasbourg in plenary session from Monday, 10 June to Friday, 14 June 1974. Parliament considered 18 reports, delivered 21 opinions and put down 6 oral questions, 1 to the Council and 5 to the Commission. At Question Time, Parliament put 1 question to the Council and 8 questions to the Commission. Parliament also held one emergency debate to deliver an opinion on the economic situation and agreed to an emergency resolution on the UN Law of the Sea Conferences.

The focal points of the week were the status of the migrant worker, the environment and how young people can be more actively involved in uniting Europe. The debate on setting up a youth forum produced a great show of strength from the Christian Democrat and European Conservative Groups when the representation issue went to the vote.

The House welcomed a delegation from the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and the Political Affairs Committee had talks with Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, German Foreign Minister.

The Council's statement that migrants were to be eligible for Social Fund assistance was welcomed. The Council also made a statement on budgetary powers. This was received with interest.

The attendance by Commissioners was described by one member as 'very poor'.

### Parliament's budgetary powers

When the Community becomes self-supporting Parliament's status will hinge on the control it is able to exercise over the budget. So Mr Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski's statement on the common approach to Parliament's powers which the Council agreed to on 4 June was received with interest.

The Treaties are, he said, to be revised:

1. to give Parliament the power to modify the draft budget provided
  - (a) this does not increase total expenditure and
  - (b) a qualified majority on the Council (41 votes out of 58) does not reject the modification proposed;
2. to give Parliament the right to reject the whole draft budget if it has substantial grounds for doing so.

A court of auditors is to be set up to exercise external control over the Community's financial management and a conciliation procedure is to be introduced to enable Parliament and Council to thrash out any disagreement they may have about Community policy decisions likely to involve substantial expenditure and which is not covered by any previous decision.

Mr Wischnewski's statement will be discussed between the Council and a delegation of the European Parliament later in the month. The statement also answered a question put down by Lord O'Hagan (Br, Ind) for Question Time about the Council's progress in this field.

(Tuesday)

## The economic situation

A motion on the economic situation, unanimously adopted by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs on 6 June, was presented to the House by Mr Jean-Eric Bousch (Fr, EPD). This appealed to Member States to act at once to restore free trade within the Community and called for more power to be vested on the Community to deal with economic and monetary matters. It requested the Commission to take appropriate action and asked the Council to support it. It reminded the Council of its commitment to Economic and Monetary Union and asked it to pursue a coherent policy to achieve this objective.

Mr Bousch spoke of the twin scourges of inflation and balance-of-payments difficulties and of the inadequacy, to which Parliament referred in May, of the Community's recommendations for dealing with them. In the ensuing debate, Mr Helmut Artzinger (Ger, CD) underlined the institutional point in the motion: the Community must be empowered to deal with situations like this. Mr Erwin Lange (Ger, S) agreed with him. Member States must look on the Commission as the real European executive. None of the Nine could live on their own outside the Community. They were too dependent on each other.

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (Br, EC) focused attention on the monetary aspect of the crisis. It was a tragic irony, he said, that the Group of Ten had decided to bring back gold to replace the 'paper gold' of special drawing rights in the very week the Group of Twenty was meeting to launch SDRs to solve the world's monetary problems. Mr Silvio Leonardi (It, CA) found the motion inadequate. It failed to measure up to the present crisis. He contrasted Italy's relative poverty with its new contribution to the common agricultural policy, with its outflow of workers and with its importance as a market for other Member States. This was the kind of anomaly the Community must resolve. The United Kingdom was not the only country with a case for change.

Speaking for the Commission, Mr Albert Borschette endorsed the motion. At its meeting on 6 June, the Council had, he said, been more positive but it had still taken no decision on recycling capital or a joint float. The resolution was agreed to.

(Thursday)

## Monetary affairs

### *Effects of mobilising gold on Community trade*

Mr Jean Durieux (Fr, L) asked the Commission if it did not feel Italy's import restrictions could have been avoided if the Zeist agreement on mobilising gold had been implemented.

Replying to this oral question Mr Scarascia Mugnozza, Vice-President of the Commission, said the Nine finance ministers had reached no final decision at Zeist in April. But he thought releasing gold at the market price would only have given Italy a breathing space without solving the real problem. But this was a very big issue and he was glad to learn Mr Erwin Lange (Ger, S) would be submitting a report on gold in the autumn. Meanwhile he hoped the present mood of open-mindedness would lead to a world agreement.

### *Capital issues*

Mr Karl Artzinger (Ger, CD) submitted a report (for the Committee on Budgets) approving the Commission's proposal to amend a directive on capital issue taxes. This will ensure that when shares are issued the amount taxed will not be lower than the nominal value. Under the earlier directive of 17 July, the actual value was taxed unless the nominal value was higher.

### *Manufactured tobacco*

Mr Artzinger also moved approval of the Commission's proposal to allow more time to harmonize tobacco taxes.

Resolutions approving the Commission's proposals on both these points were agreed to without debate.

(Monday)

## Social policy

### *International Charter of Migrants' Rights and a European Migrant Workers' Charter*

Mr Egbert Wieldraaijer presented a report to the House (for the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment) on two petitions presented to the European Parliament, one on 4 May 1973 and the other on 12 March 1974. These described the position of migrant workers in some detail and put forward proposals, in the first case of an International Charter for migrants' rights and in the second case for a European Migrant Workers' Charter. Mr Alain Poher, he said, had described the 10 million migrant workers as a tenth member state. The aim of the Charters is to provide these migrants with minimum legal protection.

Mr Wieldraaijer's report was welcomed on all sides of the House. The Christian Democrat spokes, Mr Ferruccio Pisoni (It) emphasized the need for legislation. Mr Ernest Glinne (Be, S) spoke of illegal immigration and the urgency of putting a stop to it. Both Mr Glinne and Mr Joseph Rivierez (Fr, EPD) underlined migrants' contribution to the Community's economic growth. Mr Bertrand and Mr Lemoine drew attention to two other aspects of the migrants' plight; Mr Bertrand to the fact that migrants were asked to do jobs that nationals refused to do and Mr Lemoine to the way migrants tended to get the worst housing.

Replying to the debate Mr Scarascia Mugnozza said the Commission had taken a considerable interest in the two petitions. The Commission realized that this was an urgent matter and its sensitivity to this issue had been reflected in the social policy pursued in recent years. He did not comment on the substance of the Charters because he was in full agreement with them. He hoped that a combination of prudence, goodwill and diligence would produce results. The Commission, he said, had no legal tool for drawing up a migrant workers' charter and it was not competent to deal with third country workers. The Commission's aim was to examine the proposals at once and to try to bring out a charter in line with the petitions and report on it as soon as possible. It would, he concluded, be wrong for the Community to disregard these dependents because the Community should be the expression of a fair society in which all had equal rights.

A resolution, calling for an end to discrimination against migrants and for a Community charter for them and requesting the Commission to put forward



proposals to this effect by 31 March 1975, was then agreed to. Mr Scarascia Mugnozza signified that the Commission accepted this deadline.

(Wednesday)

*Political rights of migrant workers*

Mrs Caretoni Romagnoli, Mr Luigi Marras, Mrs Leonilde Iotti, Mr Fazio Fabbrini and Mr Renato Sandri (It, CA) asked the Council about a proposal made by the Belgian representative at the Council meeting of February 1973 that migrants be given the right to vote in local elections. They asked if the Italian minister had opposed the idea, what Germany's position was, and whether the Council would recommend Member States to try out the successful Belgian experiment of setting up advisory committees of immigrants attached to the municipal councils and elected by universal suffrage?

Mr Hans-Jürgen Wischniewski, President of the Council, replied: 'The Council would like to point out that it cannot make public, confirm or deny the position taken by any member at meetings, which have to remain confidential. As for the problem of migrant workers, the Council, in its Resolution of 21 January 1974 on the social action programme, laid down a number of guidelines for the establishment of an action programme for these workers and members of their families. The Commission must now submit to the Council the proposals necessary for it to adopt this programme.'

(Tuesday)

*Harmonizing nationality laws*

Mr Augusto Premoli (It, L) and Mr Jean Durieux (Fr, L) put the following oral question to the Commission on behalf of the Liberal and Allies Group:

'In view of the repercussions in various fields – social, economic, civil status – of the differences between Member States' nationality laws, does the Commission not plan to propose to the Council that those laws should be harmonized?'

Replying for the Commission Mr Finn Olav Gundelach said that although he sympathised with the motives underlying the question, the Commission could

not see that the differences referred to were any obstacle to the operation of the Common Market. It therefore had no cause to invoke Article 100 of the Rome Treaty. Lord O'Hagan (Br, Ind) challenged this interpretation. Under Article 48.2 (freedom of movement) any discrimination based on nationality must eventually be abolished. Mr Gundelach thought this went wide of the mark but assured the House 'in whatever way we can deal with these matters we shall do so'.

(Thursday)

### *A European foundation for improving working and living conditions*

There was a joint debate on the reports by Mr Hans Edgar Jahn (for the Committee on Public Health and the Environment) and Mr Luigi Marras (for the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment) on the Commission's proposal to set up a European foundation for improving working and living conditions. Mr Marras asked for more details as to the actual aims and work of the foundation and for a greater emphasis on the social rather than the ecological aspects. Mr Jahn argued that the foundation should be concerned with improving the environment too. Both tabled motions approving the Commission's proposals subject to these points. Mr Egbert Wieldraaijer, the Socialist spokesman, argued that the majority of the members of the foundation should be nominated by the trade unions and the Socialists tabled an amendment to this effect but it was rejected.

Replying to the debate Mr Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza, Vice-President of the Commission, explained how the name of the foundation had been arrived at. He also referred to the point raised by Mr Scott-Hopkins that the foundation should not be yet another work group. Mr Scarascia Mugnozza said that if the Commission was surrounded by groups of experts it was because it needed expert advice. The foundation, he said, would be a think tank comprising experts who would keep the Commission in touch with both living and working conditions and developments in this field. It would enable the Commission to respond accordingly. This was a flexible and also an economic arrangement. As to the seat, it would be premature to discuss the matter at this stage, but it would have to be within the general areas of the Community's activities.

The resolutions were agreed to.

(Wednesday)

### *Social Fund help for shipbuilding workers*

Miss Astrid Lulling (Lux, S) presented a report (for the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment) on the Commission's proposal to use the Social Fund to help people employed in shipbuilding. Aid will go to schemes facilitating the employment and promoting the mobility of shipbuilding workers which will also give the Community shipyards a keener competitive edge. Miss Lulling welcomed the fact that shipbuilding had been brought within the scope of the Social Fund. She pointed out, however, that modernizing shipbuilding to make it competitive would only work if other policies came into play. At the same time she deplored the lack of details in the Commission's proposal as to the number of workers likely to be affected or the amount of money involved. She was also concerned about the future of those in related industries and asked whether the Social Fund should not be extended to them. She estimated that the figure of 29,000 employed in shipbuilding would be doubled if related industries were taken into account.

Mr René Pêtre (Be, CD) said that however gradually structural changes came about they were bound to undermine job security. The intervention of the Social Fund would safeguard workers' interests. He too criticized the lack of details as to who would benefit from Community aid.

(Thursday)

## **Industry**

### *Shipbuilding*

Miss Lulling's report was taken in the same debate as Mr Lothar Krall's report (for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs) on the Commission's proposal on aid to the shipbuilding industry and on the Commission's memorandum on shipbuilding.

In its proposal the Commission suggests two aims for shipbuilding:

1. balancing supply and demand and
2. giving the European industry a competitive edge on the world market.

The Commission believes that although order books are full for at least two more years the Community may soon be confronted with a problem of excess capacity, say by the 1980's. The remedy it proposes is to put a break on investment to ensure that the capacity left is in fact competitive.

It proposes to do this by limiting national support for shipbuilding. It proposes, as part of a scheme to harmonize national aid, that interest subsidies should not exceed 5 % of the difference between the rate paid and the market rate. At the same time projects costing more than 4m u.a. must be notified to the Commission. This will take effect as from 30 June 1974.

Mr Krall complained that the Commission was vague about means and ends and was not specific enough about the criteria to be applied for authorizing aid. He argued that the directive should remain in force only until the end of 1975 and then give way to a more precise policy. Mr Krall shared the Commission's fear of excess capacity but whereas the Commission proposed to coordinate investment and modernize the industry at Community level to make Europe's shipyards more competitive, the Committee felt that greater emphasis should be placed on phasing out national support.

Mr Krall contrasted Europe's shipbuilding industry with that of Japan. His committee favoured an agreement with Japan to control shipbuilding capacity. It would, he argued, be desirable if aid were allowed only when it was:

- (a) authorized by the Commission;
- (b) on a long-term basis and
- (c) in the Community interest.

This would ensure that there was no long-term undermining of competition. At the same time the emphasis on Community action would give the Commission a strong negotiating position with Japan.

Replying on this point Mr Altiero Spinelli, Commissioner, argued that any arrangement with Japan would have to be part of a much wider commercial agreement and market sharing had never been part of the Community's policy. The present proposals, he said, were an attempt to bring national policies more closely into line with each other. This was in line with the feeling of the House that shipbuilding was a problem that called for a worldwide agreement.

The European Conservatives, however, were extremely concerned about phasing out aid. Mr James Hill spoke of the social importance of shipbuilding and said that any phasing out of aid must be done humanely with any Community aid being phased in. Mr Normanton referred to the hidden subsidies practised elsewhere in the world and Mr Rafton Pounder quoted the two-tier price for steel operated in Japan as an example. The European Conservatives tabled an amendment to Mr Krall's motion to safeguard shipbuilding in Member States which would suffer most during this period of change.

The motion welcoming the Commission's proposals and asking it to draw up a timetable for the abolition of aids including investment aids and to press for support to be phased out at world level in the 1975 OECD negotiations was agreed to.

(Thursday)

#### *Technological cooperation in specific sectors*

Lord Bessborough (Br, EC) asked the Commission what progress had been made in increasing European technological cooperation in specific industrial sectors (apart from the Commission's computer programme). Mr Altiero Spinelli, Commissioner, replied that the European Committee on Research and Development had considered Commission proposals concerning data processing, medicine, energy and raw materials. It had set up a sub-committee on energy. The Committee on Scientific and Technical Research had also set up a number of working parties. The committee was considering a report on oceanographical research. 62 out of 250 environmental research projects to be carried out in the Member States had now been approved. The committee had still to examine a research programme for the development of silent, non-polluting engines. Mr Spinelli conceded the progress made was not substantial. But until economic and monetary union took on greater reality he saw little prospect for progress.

Lord Bessborough spoke of the difficult position of the Common Research Centre at Ispra. Mr Spinelli replied that the difficulties were rooted in the Council's failure to adopt proposals for reviewing the status of the staff the Commission had presented three years previously.

(Thursday)

## The environment

### *Threat to the Dollart nature reserve*

An oral question was put down for debate by the Committee on Public Health and the Environment. It was pointed out that since 1966 there had been plans in the Netherlands to make a canal through which waste water from the Provinces of Groningen and Drenthe would be discharged into the North Sea. This canal would pass through the Dollart and the Committee asked the Commission if it was aware of the problems that this raised, particularly with respect to the ecological balance of the area. It concluded by asking whether the Commission was willing to urge the Netherland's government to choose an alternative solution to prevent the destruction of the nature reserve.

Presenting the question Mr Della Briotta stressed the concern of experts and of the local people about the future of the Dollart and urged the study of alternative solutions in what was a frontier region. In reply Mr Scarascia Mugnozza said the Commission was aware of the elogical value of the Dollart and that it realized the adverse effects cutting the canal would have. The Commission had been consulting with the Dutch government with a view to warding off this threat. Various speakers stressed that there was a safety aspect to be considered and Mr Scarascia Mugnozza said he would bear this in mind.

(Monday)

### *Protecting the environment*

There was a joint debate on Mr Willi Müller's report (for the Committee on Public Health and the Environment) on the Commission's proposal for updating directives on protecting and improving the environment and on Mr André Jarrot's report (for this same committee) on the Commission's proposal on environmental action by the public authorities. The first of these Commission proposals is that committees be set up to update Community rules as required by the environmental action programme. Fearing encroachment on the Commission's preserve Mr Müller argued that such committees should have consultative status only and moved an amendment to the Commission's proposal to this effect. Mr Jarrot's report was concerned with how environmental polluters were to be made to pay.

The Commission proposed that in assessing the cost of pollution, expenditure incurred in achieving a good environment should not be the only factor: the cost of compensating victims of pollution should also be included if this basic aim of a healthy environment is not attained. This cost is to be borne by the polluter. But the cost of buying, constructing and operating pollution measuring and control equipment is to be borne by the public authority.

Mr Della Briotta (who deputized for Mr André Jarrot now called to office in the French Government) presented the committee's report on these proposals. He argued that quality aims should be set on a regional basis. He also felt that Member States should use the same methods in calculating pollution costs.

Mr Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza said the Commission would accept these suggestions. He assured Mr Noe' (It, CD) who raised the point, that the Commission would present a detailed policy statement in the autumn. The recommendation, he said, set out principles which he hoped the Council would discuss this month. Water was, of course, what mattered most. The two resolutions were agreed to.

(Wednesday)

### *The sulphur content of fuels*

Parliament considered two reports on the sulphur content of fuels, one by Mr Helmut Kater (Ger, S) (for the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology) on the need for Community measures for the desulphurization of fuels and the other by Mr Luigi Rosati (It, CD) (for the Committee on Public Health and the Environment) on the Commission's proposal for a directive to approximate the laws of the Member States on the sulphur content of liquid fuels.

The Commission proposes to reduce the permissible sulphur levels in gas oils to 0.3 o/o by weight in some cases and 0.5 o/o in others by 1980. This will reduce the sulphur dioxide pollution of the atmosphere. This fits in with the Community's action programme on the environment of 20 July 1973.

Both Mr Kater and Mr Rosati argued the need for similar proposals for heavy fuel oils.

(Thursday)

## Agriculture

### *Sugar*

Mr Martens presented a report (for the Committee on Agriculture) on the Commission's proposals on the common market in sugar. The Community's sugar production of around 8,850,000 tons is subject to a marketing system based on quotas. There is a free quota known as 'A' sugar and then there is a further quota 'B' sugar roughly equal to 135 0/0 of the 'A' quota and which attracts a production contribution of roughly 8 0/0. Sugar produced over and above the 'A' and 'B' quotas cannot be released to the Common Market and goes for export. The present shortage, however, has prompted the European Commission to propose extending the 'B' quota to cover some of the 'C' sugar to the extent of about 10 0/0. It also proposed to authorize Italy to increase supplementary payments to beet growers.

Mr Martens said the Committee on Agriculture approved these proposals while still feeling some concern about the losses that 'C' quota producers will incur, particularly while world prices are so high.

Mr Lucien Martens (Be, CD), Mr Jan de Koning (Du, CD), Mr James Scott-Hopkins (Br, EC) and Mr Albert Liogier (Fr, EPD) all expressed doubts about real benefits to growers. In reply Mr Pêtrus Lardinois, Commissioner, said he too doubted whether the price increases would keep pace with rising costs. He hoped the Italian measures would be temporary. He doubted too whether the sugar beet crop would be up to the average level of the last five years.

(Friday)

### *Stunning animals before slaughter*

Mr Roger Houdet (Fr, L) tabled a motion approving a Commission proposal for a directive on this subject. The resolution was agreed to.

(Friday)



### *Pure-bred cattle*

Mr James Gibbons (Ir, EPD) tabled a motion approving Commission proposals to facilitate trade in pure-bred cattle, subject to an amendment designed to give Parliament greater scope as regards the standing committee on zootechnics the Commission proposes to set up. The resolution was agreed to.

(Friday)

### *Fat content of whole milk*

Mr Lucient Martens (Be, CD) tabled a motion approving the Commission's proposal to defer until 31 December 1975 the introduction of a uniform fat content of whole milk. He asked whether a minimum fat content of 3.5 o/o for whole milk should be maintained. Mr Heinz Frehsee (Ger, S) disagreed with him, feeling that a greater fat content should have beneficial effects. The resolution was agreed to.

(Friday)

### *Common customs tariffs*

Mr Isidor Früh (Ger, CD) moved approval of a Commission proposal to temporarily suspend tariffs on saffron, fish, oysters, ground paprika and Christmas trees so as to secure Community supplies and safeguard employment. The resolution was agreed to.

(Friday)

### *Fish*

Mr Cornelis Laban (Du, S) put down a question (for the Committee on Agriculture) on the 3rd UN Conference on the Law of the Sea. He asked the Commission what progress had been made towards a common EEC position to points to be raised at the Conference, such as 200 mile economic areas and the nature of jurisdiction over them and on international measures to keep up fish stocks.

In reply, Mr Petrus Lardinois, Commissioner, said the Commission had urged the Council to ensure the Community adopted a common position. On 4 June the Council had decided this would be done. But he was pessimistic about the future. Fishing grounds should be subject to international control but measures taken so far had been inadequate. Overfishing and the depletion of stocks were making the poor man's steak into a luxury item.

Lord Mansfield (Br, EC) found this reply depressing. The only answer was to restrict catches. He suggested four principles for fishing:

- (a) economic management of fishing grounds,
- (b) realistic pricing,
- (c) enabling fishermen to make a decent living and
- (d) remembering that mankind as a whole depended on fish as a source of cheap protein.

(Friday)

### *Food prices*

At Question Time Mr John Brewis (Br, EC) asked the Commission if it was satisfied that the present lower prices for beef were being adequately passed on to the benefit of the consumer. Sir Christopher Soames replied that there had been an improvement since the beginning of the year. The Commission considered it essential for consumers to get the full benefit of price reductions when supplies were plentiful and planned an information campaign for this purpose.

(Tuesday)

## **Youth and culture**

### *Committee for youth questions and youth advisory committee*

Point 16 of The Hague summit stated 'all the creative activities and actions conducive to European growth ..... will be assured of a greater future if the younger generation is closely associated with them'. An ad hoc committee of senior officials reported this could be done by:

- (a) keeping young people better informed,
- (b) consulting them and
- (c) their taking part in specific activities.

The Commission therefore proposes the Council set up a committee for youth questions to act as an advisory body. It also proposes to set up a Youth Advisory Committee. Reporting to Parliament on these proposals, Mr Horst Seefeld (Ger, S) called for the name of this committee to be changed to 'European Youth Forum' and the House agreed.

Where there was serious disagreement was on who was to take up the 52 seats on the forum. The Socialist Group argued that the seats should go exclusively to representatives of the Council of European National Youth Committees and the European Coordination Bureau for International Youth Organizations. But a Socialist amendment to this effect was rejected. The objection to the Socialist proposal was that the Coordination Bureau is committed to building a social Europe. The Christian Democrats supported by the European Conservatives and the Liberal and Allies Group wanted all youth organizations to be represented and they were particularly keen that when the forum gave its opinion any minority view expressed should be taken into account provided it represented over 25 % of the forum.

(Tuesday)

### *Information programme*

Mr Jan Broeksz presented a report (for the Committee on Cultural Affairs and Youth) on the Commission's information programme for 1974-1975. He criticized the lack of any reference to consumers and called for the Commission's external information services to be stepped up. He said there should be a computerized documentation centre in Brussels and more staff should be assigned to receiving visitors. Subject of these points he moved approval of the Commission's programme.

(Wednesday)

## *State aid to students*

At Question Time, Mr Norbert Hougardy (Be, L) asked the Commission if it intended to submit proposals to harmonize systems of state aid to students. Mr Claude Cheysson, Commissioner, said varying systems did not conflict with the Treaty. Nonetheless, the Commission was looking into this whole matter. There would be consultations on mobility of students and their financial situation. Meanwhile the Council resolution of 6 June marked a step forward.

(Tuesday)

## **Development and overseas relations**

### *New Zealand*

At Question Time Lord Chelwood (Br, EC) asked the Commission: 'What anxieties have been expressed by the New Zealand Government about their 1973 dairy exports to the Community and future prospects in the light of Protocol 18 of the Treaty of Accession, Council Regulation 226/73, and Commission Regulation 713/74, and about sheep meat exports?'

In reply, Sir Christopher Soames said 'In 1973 the quantity of butter exported by New Zealand under Protocol 18 of the Treaty of Accession was 131,000 metric tons, that is, some 35,000 tons less than the full amount authorized in the Protocol. For cheese, the total was 46,000 tons, which is 23,000 tons less than the full amount authorized'. The New Zealand authorities have expressed concern and the Commission was now reviewing the whole matter. New Zealand's position as a sheep meat supplier would be taken into account.

On this same subject Lord St. Oswald (Br, EC) asked: 'Will the Commissioner summarize the Commission's annual review of trade relations with New Zealand?' Sir Christopher Soames replied that in 1973 New Zealand exports to the EEC were worth 949m u.a. and the EEC's exports to New Zealand were worth 549m u.a. The trend was upward.

(Tuesday)

### *Relations with the United States of America*

At Question Time, Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker (Br, EC) asked the Commission what proposals there were for an observer from the Government of the United States of America to meet regularly with the Commission. Sir Christopher Soames said twice-yearly meetings were held between the Commission and senior representatives of the United States Administration but there were frequent exchanges of visits as well as daily contacts and consultations through diplomatic channels.

(Tuesday)

### *Palestinian refugees*

At Question Time, Mr Eric Blumenfeld (Ger, CD) asked the Commission how it ensured Community funds of 6.55m u.a. were directed to training these refugees under UNRWA auspices and not diverted for other Palestinian purposes. Mr Claude Cheysson, Commissioner, replied that the Community would contribute 11.5m u.a. this year. It should be left to the UN to decide how this food aid was distributed.

(Tuesday)

### *Developing the Amazon basin*

At Question Time, Mr Luigi Noe' (It, CD) asked the Commission if it did not consider the Community should join the United States and Japan in helping Brazil to develop the Amazon basin. Sir Christopher Soames said 'this is not a question that has ever figured in the exchanges of views between the Community and Brazil'.

(Tuesday)

### *Relations with Mediterranean States*

At Question Time, Mr Christian de la Malène (deputizing for Mr Alain Terrenoire) asked 'Can the Commission say what measures it plans to take in order to come to terms with the obvious impossibility of observing the

deadlines agreed with Morocco and Tunisia and to clear up the confusion resulting from the unilateral measures applied by certain new Member States vis-à-vis certain Mediterranean countries? ’

Mr Claude Cheysson replied that unless the Commission were granted a further mandate the situation would be disastrous.

(Tuesday)

### *Development aid*

Debate on Mr Maurice Dewulf's report (for the Committee on Development and Cooperation) on the Second Development Fund and on coordinating aid from Member States and the Community to the Associated African States and Madagascar and overseas countries and territories

Mr Dewulf's report analysed the Community's financial aid to Associated States through the European Development Funds. This gave Parliament an opportunity to comment at a time when negotiations are in progress with 44 developing countries with a view to association agreements. It will be remembered that a minimum of 1,000m u.a. is earmarked for aid over the next three years (1,350m u.a. if national aid schemes are discontinued as the Commission wants) making this second only to CAP in importance in the Community budget. Needless to say, the spokesmen for the various groups differed in their assessment of where the main emphasis of the Fourth European Development Fund should lie.

Mr Bersani (It, CD) who presented the report for Mr Dewulf – to whom many Members paid tribute on hearing that he had been called to ministerial office – stressed management training. There had to be an improvement here in the EDF.

Mr Achenbach (Ge, L) was concerned about any threat to the continuity of the Association. The current negotiations must be concluded in time.

Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker (Br, EC) agreed that an early decision on the Fourth Fund had to be taken so that it could become operational by 1 January 1975. He drew attention to the plight of the 26 least favoured countries, which included 17 of the 44 with whom the Community was negotiating which had no raw materials and which were the worst hit by the oil crisis. He thought the Commission should appeal to the Opec countries, whose assets were increasing at the rate of 1,000 million dollars per week, to help this Fourth World.

He and Mr Laudrin who spoke for the European Progressive Democrats stressed the need to promote local food production and to stop the worldwide drift from country to town. This meant priority for water and well-drilling. Mr Laudrin argued that it was harder to make a farmer than a townsman. The EDF had built schools and roads but now it should help people to farm and to fish.

Lord Reay (Br, EC) referred to Mr Dewulf's question about scope for African insurance and shipping in food aid to compensate them for the loss of their privileged trading position. Lord Reay asked Mr Scarascia Mugnozza if the Commission could in due course comment on this point.

Both Mr Van der Hek and Lord Reay were disturbed by the fact that there seemed to be too many priorities. Lord Reay said that rural development and industrialization could not both be priorities. Mr Van der Hek was more critical than his colleagues. He called for more realistic aid and better planning. He asked if the EDF had intervened on a large enough scale in the Sahel disaster.

Turning to exports, he said that the Community should help too. There had to be contacts between buyers and sellers. But Community policy, he said, would only be acceptable when it became a world policy.

In reply Mr Scarascia Mugnozza said that training was one of the Community's main concerns and the Commission was trying to get more policy-making entrusted to the Associated States. He spoke of a scholarships programme and the emphasis to be given to local training. A rapid rural development was the only way to stop the drift from the land. The only way to deal with the current problem was by producing greater variety of crops. The EDF would support the modernisation of productions.

As regards industrialization the important factor was to produce substitutes for products now being imported. He agreed with Mr Laudrin on the need to boost local food production. He agreed with Lord Reay and Mr Van der Hek about the problem of having too many priorities. But the Commission's task was to draw up a list of priorities for the negotiations and these should be seen as a list of points to be dealt with.

Priorities varied from country to country and when the 18 became 44 this would be even more to the point. The Commission was aware that aid ought to be given in a world framework. He gave assurance that the points he had not dealt with would be referred to his colleague Mr Cheysson.

*Un Conference on law of the sea*

Mr Franco Concas (It, S) moved a motion urging the Council and Governments of the Member States to take advantage of the Conference to transfer jurisdiction to the Community in this field. The resolution was agreed to.

(Thursday)

**REFERENCES**

Subject	European Parliament number	Commission document number
Economic situation . . . . .	129/74	
Gold reserves . . . . .	123/74	
Taxation of capital issues . . . . .	75/74	28/74
Tobacco taxes . . . . .	76/74	50/74
Charters for migrant workers . . . . .	84/74	
Political rights of migrant workers . . . . .	14/74 rev.	
Harmonizing nationality laws . . . . .	63/74	
Improving living and working conditions . . . . . Mr Hans Edgar Jahn (Ger, CD)	93/74	306/73
European foundation for improving living and working conditions . . . . . Mr Luigi Marras (It,CA)	94/74	306/73
Shipbuilding (Social Fund) . . . . . Miss Astrid Lulling (Lux, S)	86/74	349/73
Shipbuilding . . . . . Mr Lothar Krall (Ger, LA)	68/74	252/73



Technological cooperation in specific sectors . . . . .	11/74	
Threat to the Dollart nature reserve . . . . .	62/74	
Environment . . . . .	101/74	25/74
Mr Willi Müller (Ger, S)		
Environment . . . . .	114/74	17/74
Mr Andre Jarrot (Fr, EPD)		
Sulphur content of fuels . . . . .	103/74	390/73
Desulphurization of fuels . . . . .	22/74	
Sugar . . . . .	92/74	59/74
Stunning animals before slaughter . . . . .	82/74	36/74
Pure-bred cattle . . . . .	83/74	13/74-I
Fat content of whole milk . . . . .	112/74	99/74
Common customs tariffs . . . . .	116/74	100/74
Fish . . . . .	124/74	
Youth Advisory Committee . . . . .	41/74	112/73
Information programme . . . . .	106/74	
EEC-AASM Association (Development Funds) . . . .	111/74	
3rd UN Conference on law of the sea . . . . .	130/74	

## PART TWO

The European Parliament met in plenary session in Luxembourg from Wednesday, 26 June to Friday, 28 June 1974.

The sittings were somewhat overshadowed by the sudden death, on the night of 26-27 June, of Mr Francis Vals, Chairman of the Socialist Group. He was 64. Representatives of Council, Commission, Parliament and the Socialist Group paid tribute to Mr Vals and his lifelong devotion to the European cause. The House observed silence and then adjourned as a mark of respect.

Mr Vals will be missed.

## QUESTION TIME

### Question to the Council

#### *The Luxembourg Agreement*

Lord Chelwood (Br, EC) referred to the Luxembourg Agreement of January 1966 and the difficulties caused by the term 'vital interests' and asked the Council how it proposed to resolve them. Mr Wischnewski, President of the Council, replied that further to the Paris Summit of 1972 repeated efforts had been made to speed up Council proceedings and improve its decision-taking and a whole series of measures had already been taken. At its meeting of 25 June the Council had issued a statement of intent to the effect that more authority would be given to the President's Office in the attempt to expedite current business. The Committee of Permanent Representatives was to be given more scope and he, personally, trusted that these innovations, which were the subject of a gentleman's agreement, would make the Council's operation more efficient. Lord Chelwood asked him if this was going to speed up decision-taking. Mr Wischnewski replied that the Council was taking this particular commitment

very seriously and he was sure that all Member States were ready to cooperate. Mr Peter Kirk (Br, EC) asked whether consideration had been given to the idea of partial agreements. Mr Wischniewski replied that this was the application of the abstention principle and the Permanent Representatives Committee would endeavour to apply this. The meeting in July would show whether this was going to work.

### Questions to the Commission

#### *Protection of the waters of the Rhine against pollution*

Mr Doeke Eisma (Du, S) asked why the Commission had not yet submitted proposals to 31 March 1974 to protect the Rhine against pollution and Mr Willi Müller (Ger, S) asked when the Commission would fulfill its commitment of 22 November 1973 under the environmental action programme to protect the Rhine against pollution. Replying to these two questions together, Mr Claude Cheysson, Commissioner, said that the action programme did indeed require the Commission to make suitable proposals for dealing with the pollution of the Rhine, bearing in mind studies already undertaken and the work done by the International Committee for the Protection of the Waters of the Rhine. The Commission had been attending meetings of this Committee as an observer and had followed the implementation of decisions taken at The Hague on the problems caused by salt pollution, chemical pollution and thermic pollution. The Commission had attended the Ministerial Conference in Bonn on 4 December 1973 and this had taken the work a stage further. A draft convention was to be drawn up against chloride pollution particularly sodium chloride. Three lists of polluting agents were to be drawn up, one giving those to be banned, the second, those to be limited and the third whose discharge into the Rhine would be subject to certain conditions. There would be a third Ministerial Conference at the end of the year and under these conditions Mr Cheysson said it would be premature for the Commission to submit further proposals at this stage.

#### *Opium production in Turkey*

Lord Mansfield asked if the Commission was aware that the Turkish Government envisaged resuming opium production. Mr Petrus Lardinois, Commissioner, said in reply that he was aware of the Turkish statement made in March that

production would be resumed. But he pointed out that the law of 1971 banning the commercial production of poppies was still in force. Lord Mansfield (Br, EC) asked whether the Commission would take advantage of the Association to compensate Turkish farmers for any loss of income due to not producing poppies. Mr Lardinois said that production was subject to strict controls but pointed out that the Community's pharmaceutical industry needed to import some 10 million u.a. worth of opium every year. The United States had provided financial assistance to compensate growers discontinuing production and the Commission was taking advantage of the Association to stimulate agricultural production in Turkey.

### *A European currency*

Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker (Br, EC) asked what progress had been made towards establishing the 'Europa' as a European currency. Mr Ralf Dahrendorf, Commissioner, replied that the possibilities of a parallel currency were being examined. The group of experts looking into this would report before the end of the year.

### *Rail links between the places of work of the European institutions*

Mr Fernand Delmotte (Be, S) asked about rail links between Belgium, Luxembourg and Strasbourg. Mr Dahrendorf replied that this was not a matter coming within the terms of reference of the Commission.

### *Price of milk in March 1974*

Mr Lucien Martens (Be, CD) asked about the price of milk in March 1974. He asked whether all Member States might follow the example of the French government in making an extra payment to milk producers of 3frs per 100kgs and a further payment of 2frs per kg in mountain districts? Mr Lardinois replied that the answer he would like to give would be 'no'. Mr James Scott-Hopkins (Br, EC) asked Mr Lardinois if he was worried about security of supplies. Mr Lardinois said he expected supply and demand to remain in balance on the dairy market.

### *Development of resources by Community undertakings*

Mr Luigi Noe' (It, CD) asked the Commission about encouraging Community participation in developing third country resources to safeguard raw material supplies. Mr Claude Cheysson said in reply that this was a very pertinent question and that European firms ought to be encouraged both in exploiting raw material deposits and in marketing them. This raised a whole range of problems including investment guarantees. But this was the right policy and the Commission would go on pursuing it. Sir Brandon Rhys-Williams (Br, EC) asked Mr Cheysson if the time had not come to revive the Deniau Plan for Community price support schemes to secure long-term raw material supplies. Mr Cheysson said that the Commission's attitude to this was positive although, of course, this would only cover part of the problem. It was, after all, an international matter.

### *Estimates of the 1974 harvest within the Community*

Mr John Hill (Br, EC) asked what were the latest estimates of the barley, wheat, maize and sugar harvests for this year. Mr Lardinois said he expected that the cereals harvests this year would be more or less the same as in 1973 when the total crop was 105,000 metric tons. There had been a 1.5 o/o increase in the area sown but the increased yield from the extra acreage would be offset by the damage done to summer wheat by the spring drought. Sugar production was 9.5m tons in 1973 but Mr Lardinois said he did not think this year's crop would be as good. It would depend on the weather particularly towards the end of the autumn when the main crop would be harvested in Northern Europe.

### *Beef stocks*

Mr Petrus Lardinois made a statement to the House regarding beef stocks and in doing so answered a question by Mr James Scott-Hopkins (Br, EC) as to how many tons of beef were in cold storage and how many days consumption this represented. Mr Lardinois said that the Commission had decided at its meeting on the previous day to recommend no further import licences for fresh meat or live cattle for a period of 14 days. The point of this move was to deal with speculation in import licences pending contacts with suppliers to ensure more satisfactory arrangements. At present there were 110,000 tons of beef in intervention in cold storage and this represented six days consumption.

(Thursday)

## AGRICULTURE

### *Honey*

Mr Peter Brugger (It, CD) presented a report (for the Committee on Agriculture) requesting the Commission to amend its proposal for common rules on honey, the purpose of which is to facilitate marketing and give the consumer better protection. Mr Brugger asked that where honeys were blended this fact should be stated on labels. Welcoming the report, Mr Lardinois asked the House to accept an undertaking that the Commission would present proposals regarding origin for all foodstuffs. But the resolution as moved by Mr Brugger was agreed to.

(Friday)

### *Soya beans*

Mr Jan de Koning (Du, CD) presented a report (for the Committee on Agriculture) approving the Commission's proposal for a Council regulation on soya beans. The aim for the regulation is to boost soya bean production by setting the target price high enough to give producers a fair income. The resolution was agreed to.

(Friday)

### *Advertising plants and bulbs*

Mr Lucien Martens (Be, CD) presented a report (for the Committee on Agriculture) on the Commission's proposal for a Council directive on financing advertising to help this sector. Mr Martens argued that although the steps to promote plant, flower and bulb sales could be useful the financing of sales promotion as proposed was unacceptable. Mr Petrus Lardinois, Commissioner, said the Commission would withdraw its proposal.

(Friday)

### *Support measures for greenhouse cultivation*

Mr Lucien Martens (Be, CD) referred to the sums set aside by France (22.5m FF), Germany (23m DM), the Netherlands (47m florins), the United Kingdom ( 7m) and Italy (20 lira per litre of fuel subsidy) to help vegetable and flower growers hit by higher oil costs. Mr Martens asked the Commission if these measures were undermining competition and if it intended to harmonize support measures throughout the Community. In reply Mr Lardinois said the Commission had accepted these measures as a temporary expedient only, just as it had accepted similar measures for inshore fishing.

(Friday)

### *Standing Veterinary Committee*

Mr James Gibbons (Ir, EPD) presented a report (for the Committee on Public Health and the Environment) expressing reservations about the Commission's proposal on the standing veterinary committee because it disregarded objections made on previous occasions by the House on this subject. Mr Gibbons expressed particular concern about the principle of delegating Commission authority to standing committees not subject to the control of Parliament. In reply, Mr Petrus Lardinois said that these committees had been more successful than expected and urged the House to accept the Commission's proposal. He particularly stressed that veterinary measures should not be used as a pretext to restrict trade. The House nonetheless agreed to a resolution calling on Commission and Council to note Parliament's doubts about setting up committees other than consultative ones.

(Friday)

### *Alpine and mountain cattle breeds*

Mr Jan Baas (Du, L) presented a report (for the Committee on External Economic Relations) approving the Commission's proposals on CCT import quotas for 30,000 head of cattle of mountain breeds and 5,000 head of cattle of Alpine breeds. The proposals are in line with GATT commitments and the

regulation has been renewed each year since 1 July 1970. Austria and Switzerland are the beneficiary states. The resolution was agreed to.

(Friday)

## BUDGET

### *Parliament's draft estimates for 1975*

Mr Horst Gerlach (Ger, S) presented a report (for the Committee on Budgets) on the draft estimates of the revenue and expenditure of the European Parliament for the financial year 1975. The estimates for 1975 stand at 35,867,480 u.a. as compared with 33,236,383 u.a. for 1974. Mr Gerlach pointed out that this was a draft and that a further debate would be held in October. The House approved the estimates without a debate.

(Wednesday and Thursday)

### *Public accounts committee*

Mr Manfred Schmidt's report (for the Committee on Budgets) confirmed the committee's view that the present arrangement of having a sub-committee on the Budget of the Communities (control of implementation) and a sub-committee on the Budget of Parliament within the Committee on Budgets is the best. For Mr Schmidt, Mr Rafton Pounder tabled a motion to this effect. The House agreed to this resolution.

(Thursday)

### *Non-automatic carrying forward of appropriations*

Mr Alain Terrenoire's report asked the Commission to ensure that requests for the non-automatic carrying forward of appropriations are accompanied by a general review of the budget. The House agreed to a resolution to this effect.

(Thursday)



### *Council decision not to draw up a supplementary budget*

Mr Rafton Pounder (Br, EC) presented a report (for the Committee on Budgets) on the Council decision of 13 May 1974 not to draw up a draft supplementary budget for 1974. Mr Pounder explained that a supplementary budget was needed to pay for the 45 members of flying squads the Commission proposed to create some eight months ago and whose job would be to exercise tighter control over the use of Community funds. Instead the Council had authorized the Commission to engage 20 of the 45 staff members asked for. Mr Claude Cheysson, Commissioner, agreed this was a surprising state of affairs. Mr James Scott-Hopkins (Br, EC) said 'this is a most monstrous way of doing things'. He asked how could staff be taken on without funds being released. Mr Cheysson replied they would be posted, for accounting purposes, to posts not filled. Mr Scott-Hopkins found this statement astonishing. Mr Pounder moved a motion to the effect that Parliament could not accept the Council's decision. The House agreed.

(Thursday)

## ASSOCIATION WITH TURKEY

### *EEC-Turkey Association*

Lord Lothian (Br, EC) presented a report (for the Committee on External Trade Relations) on the recommendations made by the Joint EEC-Turkey Parliamentary Committee at its meeting in Berlin on 28 March. These concerned boosting two-way trade, Community investment in Turkey (e.g. exploiting oil deposits), doing more for the 700,000 Turkish workers in the Community and stepping up political cooperation. Concern about migrants was the nub of Parliament's debate. Mr Egon Klepsch (Ger) the Christian Democrat spokesman called for an amnesty for illegal immigrants and Mrs Tullia Caretoni Romagnoli (It) the Communist spokesman expressed anxiety about the 250,000 Turkish children now living in the EEC. The Socialist spokesman, Mr Jan Broeksz (Du) on the other hand was concerned about political prisoners in Turkey. Their release was a condition for closer ties. Replying to the debate Mr Claude Cheysson, Commissioner, shared the House's concern about Turkish workers although a recent Council decision on social security would alleviate some of their problems. Trade on the other hand was expanding (exports rose 43 o/o from 1972 to 1973 and by 61 o/o in the first quarter of 1974) and the

Community was extending special loans to Turkey. Much remained to be done but relations between the EEC and Turkey went well beyond the actual terms of the Association. Relations were beginning to be close.

(Wednesday)

## ENERGY

### *Minimum stocks of fuel in power stations*

Mr Jean-Eric Bousch (Fr, EPD) submitted a report (for the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology) endorsing the Commission's proposal that minimum stocks of fuel be maintained at power stations. He asked, however, that the 50 day stipulation should be amended to read 'stocks shall be sufficient to ensure electricity supplies for a minimum period of 50 days'. Mr Bousch also moved that the small power stations as opposed to those with an installation capacity of at least 100 m.w. should be required to return quarterly statements of their stock levels. In reply, Mr Lardinois said the Commission would accept these amendments. A resolution endorsing the Commission's proposal was agreed to.

(Friday)

## ENVIRONMENT

### *Disposal of waste oils*

Mr Edgar Jahn (Ger, CD) presented a report (for the Committee on Public Health and the Environment) on the Commission's proposal for a directive on the disposal of waste oils. The main point of the Commission's proposal is to encourage the regeneration and combustion of waste oils and to ensure the least damage to the environment by subjecting the disposal of waste to considerable restrictions. This means that Member States must take on the collection and disposal of waste oils and this in turn means that specific firms have to take on these tasks because these operations are not always profitable. The Commission proposes to compensate the firms concerned for any loss incurred.

Mr Jahn welcomed the Commission proposals. He noted that the 1 million tons of oil that was dumped into the earth every year could be used as energy which

would be far better than allowing pollution at the present rate. He pointed out that 1 litre of oil could pollute 100,000 litres of drinking water and oil was responsible for 20 0/0 of all pollution. If 1 million tons of energy could be saved this would be a tremendous asset. He moved certain amendments to the Commission proposals asking the House for them to be endorsed.

In reply Mr Scarascia Mugnozza, Vice-President of the Commission, broadly accepted the comments of the European Parliament.

(Wednesday)

## TRANSPORT

### *Bracket tariffs for road haulage*

Mr James Hill presented the report drawn up for the Committee on Regional Policy and Transport by Mr Wolfgang Schwabe (Ger, S) on the Commission's proposal to keep the tariff bracket system in force until 31 December 1976. The reason why no permanent system is being introduced is that the experimental system has not yet yielded sufficient experience. Mr Hill moved endorsement of the Commission proposal. This was agreed to.

(Wednesday)

### *Road haulage*

Mr James Hill (Br,EC) presented a report drawn up by Mr Pierre Giraud (Fr, S) (for the Committee on Regional Policy and Transport) on the Commission's proposal to renew the regulation on road haulage quotas. The Commission is proposing that the six original Member States should have a 15 0/0 annual increase in their quota and the three new Member States a 20 0/0 in theirs. Mr Hill noted that the multilateral quota was only a very small percentage of the total and that other transactions were on a bilateral basis. He hoped that these would eventually give way to the Community quota.

Welcoming the report, Mr Claude Cheysson, Commissioner, said that the Community quota system was launched as an experiment in July 1968 for three years. It had been successful and he had been pleased to note the European

Parliament's approval of this proposal in July 1973. He was in complete agreement with the House in deploring the Council's failure to take a decision. He hoped that the meeting of the Council of transport ministers taking place at the same time would yield a decision on this point.

(Thursday)

### **Social security benefits**

Mr Alfred Bertrand (Be, CD) presented a report (for the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment) approving a Commission proposal to regulate the rate of exchange to be applicable to social security benefits. The relevant rates would be determined every three months instead of every six months as at present. The resolution was agreed to.

(Friday)

## **CUSTOMS UNION**

### *Facilitating customs clearance*

Mr German Schwörer submitted a report (for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs) on the Commission's proposal for a directive on expediting customs clearance. The purpose underlying the Commission's proposal is to ensure that differences in practice at customs are not such as to prompt traders to re-route the flow of goods to take advantage of more advantageous terms elsewhere. Mr Schwörer moved approval of the Commission's proposal and this resolution was agreed to.

(Thursday)

### *Duty-free imports of educational, scientific and cultural materials*

Mr Erwin Lange (Ger, S) presented a report (for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs) on the Commission's proposal that educational, scientific and cultural materials should be imported free of Common Customs Tariff duties. At present such materials may be imported duty-free if not produced in

the home Member State. The proposal will extend this principle to allow such goods in duty-free if they are not produced in the Community. Mr Lange moved approval. The House agreed.

(Wednesday)

## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

### *Relations with Mediterranean countries*

Mr Linus Memmel (Ger, CD) asked the Council why the January deadline for a Mediterranean agreement was not observed, how far negotiations have gone and whether the Council can state when it will meet its 'global approach' commitment. In reply, Mr Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski said: 'With regard to the first part of Mr Memmel's question, I should like to outline the events leading up to the present situation. In June 1973 the Council achieved its objective of giving the Commission negotiating directives for the conclusion of new agreements with Spain, Israel and the Maghreb countries as part of the overall approach. The Commission was therefore able to start negotiations with these countries in July 1973. After continuing the negotiations in September and October 1973, it submitted to the Council, in late October 1973, a report on the outcome of these initial negotiations. This was followed in late November 1973 by a recommendation for supplementary directives for concluding the negotiations.

Because of the questions still to be settled before supplementary negotiating directives can be drawn up, and difficulties of various kinds with which the Community has had to contend in recent months, the Community has been unable to compare the negotiation of the proposed new agreements with these countries.

By way of reply to the second part of the question, I would point out that the negotiations conducted by the Commission in July, September and October 1973 enabled both sides to define their positions on the various sectors covered by the agreements and showed that there existed a considerable measure of agreement as to their general structure. From the outset of negotiations, however, a number of questions were set aside, and in addition requests were submitted for improvements to the Community's offer, a circumstance which explains why supplementary negotiating directives for the Commission are currently being drawn up by the Council.

With regard to the third part of the question, I would point out that the Council has meanwhile actively continued its work on supplementary negotiating directives and at its meeting on 1 and 2 April 1974 recorded further progress. At this meeting it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to outline as quickly as possible an overall solution to the last few questions outstanding so that the supplementary negotiating directives could be drawn up for the conclusion of the new agreements with Spain, Israel and the Maghreb countries and for the adjustments to the present Association Agreement with Malta, which had become necessary following the enlargement of the Community and in view of the plan to extend the Agreement to take in Agriculture and cooperation.

Work has continued along these lines at several meetings of the Council since April. At its recent meeting on 25 June 1974, the Council made substantial progress, and in the light of its discussions instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the new directives to be given to the Commission so that negotiations with Spain, Israel, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Malta may be resumed before the summer recess.'

(Thursday)

#### *Conference on law of the sea*

Mr John Brewis (Br, EC) asked the Council whether it has a common approach to the Caracas conference and what its position is on territorial waters, fishing and navigation rights, the exploitation of minerals on the sea bed and pollution control. In reply, Mr Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski said: 'The question put by Mr Brewis concerns the preparations within the Community for the 3rd Conference on the Law of the Sea due to open in Caracas on 20 June. Firstly, I would remind you that, in order to arrive at a common position at this Conference, the Council, at its meeting on 4 June 1974, agreed to the following arrangements:

- on questions falling within the competence of the Community, its position will be adopted in accordance with the customary procedure;
- as regards economic matters or those likely to affect common policies, the Member States will confer together in the presence of Commission representatives — notably in Brussels and in Caracas.

In addition, since February 1972, the experts of the Member States on the Deep Sea Committee, which was the body which prepared the Conference, have

regularly reviewed their position with the representatives of the Community both in Geneva or New York and in Brussels. This work more especially concerned fisheries questions, particularly that examined by the Committee on fishing rights in water adjacent to territorial waters. Marine pollution questions were also examined during these meetings. In particular, general principles for combating marine pollution and the division of responsibilities among coastal and other States in combating pollution are being studied. Under examination also are the role, competence and structure of the international authority responsible for overseeing the administration of the international deep sea zone. These discussions are continuing at coordination meetings in Caracas on the basis of the Decisions adopted by the Council on 4 June last.'

(Thursday)

#### **Commission statement on action taken on Parliament's advice**

Mr Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza, Vice-President of the Commission, said that the opinion of the European Parliament had been reflected in a number of Commission decisions. Further to the report by Mr Giovanni Bersani (It, CD) the Commission had changed its preliminary programme on informing and protecting the consumer. The same was true of the Commission's proposal on codifying European law; the changes suggested in the report by Mr Linus Memmel (Ger, CD) had been taken into account. It had amended its proposal in the technical control of motor vehicles further to the report submitted by Mr Michael Herbert (Ir, EPD) in February. Similarly the Commission had endorsed the principle set out in the report by Mr Andre Jarrot (Fr, EPD) to the effect that the polluter should pay.

The recommendations made in the report by Miss Astrid Lulling (Lux, S) had been accepted as had those in the report by Mr Luigi Marras (It, COM) concerning the European foundation on the improvement of working and living conditions. The Commission had also amended its proposals on the sulphur content of fuels further to the report by Mr Luigi Rosati (It, CD); the Commission would try to make this directive more binding.

(Wednesday)

## REFERENCES

Subject	European Parliament document number	Commission document number
Honey . . . . .	139/74	
Soya beans . . . . .	131/74	88/74
Advertising plants and bulbs . . . . .	134/74	144/70
Support measures for greenhouse cultivation . . . . .	141/74	
Standing Veterinary Committee . . . . .	147/74	117/74
Alpine and mountain cattle breeds . . . . .	146/74	69/74
Parliament's draft estimates for 1975 . . . . .	156/74	
Public accounts committee . . . . .	138/74	
Non-automatic carrying forward of appropriations . . . . .	154/74	110/74
Council decision not to draw up a supplementary budget . . . . .	155/74	
EEC-Turkey Association . . . . .	158/74	71/74
Minimum stocks of fuel in power stations . . . . .	113/74	352/73
Disposal of waste oils . . . . .	132/74	40/74
Bracket tariffs for road haulage . . . . .	125/74	78/74
Road haulage . . . . .	157/74	120/74
Social security benefits . . . . .	165/74	160/74
Facilitating customs clearance . . . . .	119/74	334/73



Duty-free imports of educational, scientific and cultural materials . . . . .	72/74	331/73
Relations with Mediterranean countries . . . . .	34/74	
Conference on law of the sea . . . . .	140/74	

**Abbreviations**

CD	Christian Democrat
S	Socialist
LA	Liberal and Allies
EC	European Conservative
EPD	European Progressive Democrat
CA	Communists and Allies
Ind	Non-attached, Independent Members
Be	Belgian
Br	British
Da	Danish
Du	Dutch
Fr	French
Ge	German
Ir	Irish
It	Italian
Lu	Luxembourg

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