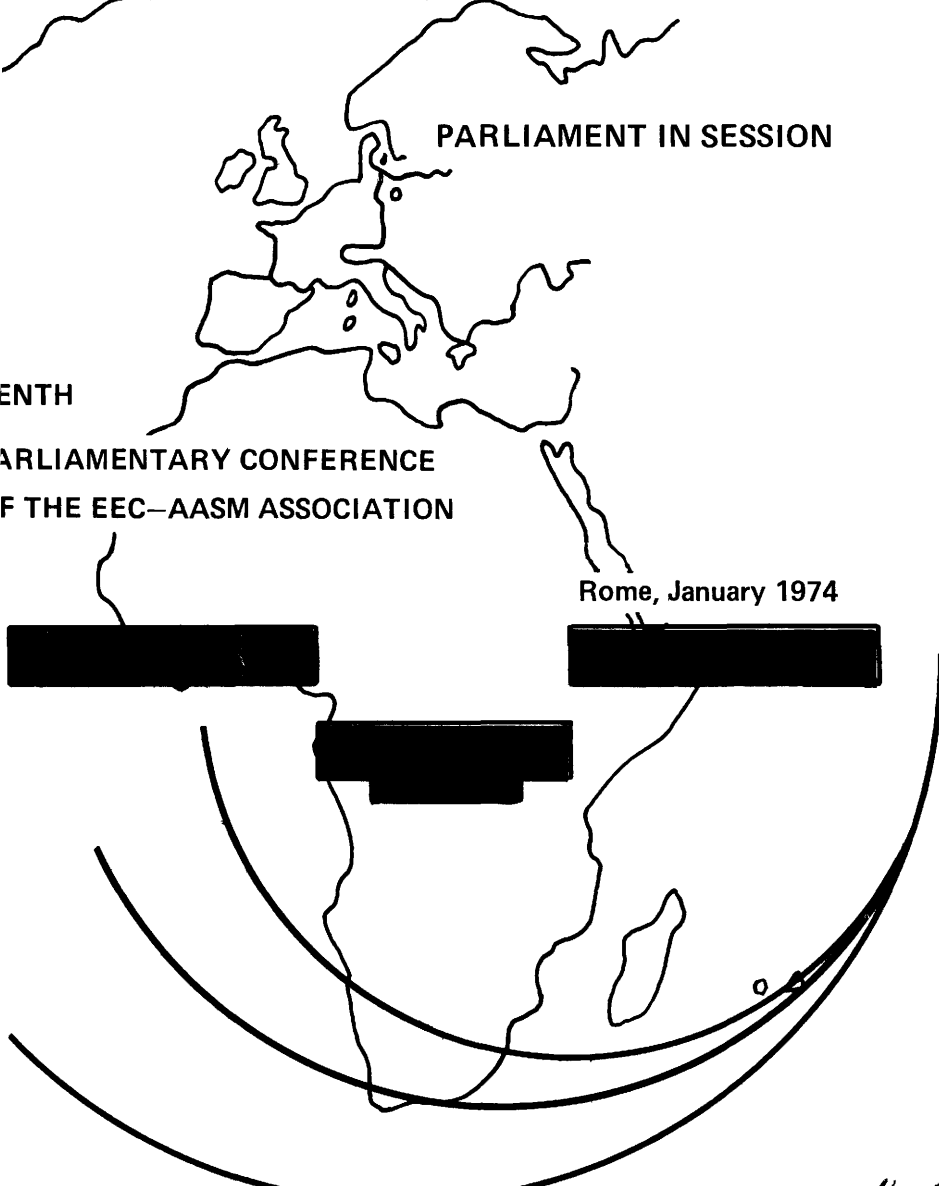


European Parliament

Information



PARLIAMENT IN SESSION

ENTH

PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE
OF THE EEC-AASM ASSOCIATION

Rome, January 1974

**TENTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE
OF THE EEC—AASM ASSOCIATION**



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Opening for Sitting

Mr Sandro Pertini, President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies

Mr Cornelis Berkhouwer, President of the Conference and President of the European Parliament

Mr Philippe Yace, First Vice-President of the Conference and President of the National Assembly of the Ivory Coast

I. INTRODUCTION

The Tenth Parliamentary Conference of the EEC–AASM Association met in Rome from 30 January to 1 February 1974*. The Parliamentary Conference of the Association meets annually pursuant to Article 52 of the Yaoundé II Convention. It is a political supervisory organ, composed of 57 delegates of the European Parliament and 57 delegates of the Associated States.

The Joint Committee, composed of 38 members (19 Europeans and 19 AASM representatives) prepared the Conference programme. This standing committee of the Conference met in Bruges from 26 to 29 June 1973 and in Lomé (Togo) from 26 to 31 October 1973 and on 28 and 29 January 1974, prior to the Rome Conference.

At the conclusion of its work the Joint Committee submitted the following documents to the Conference:

- Report by Mr Fall Babaha on the management accounts for the 1972 financial year and the estimates for the 1974 financial year (Doc. 49/1974);
- Report and supplementary report by Mr Giovanni Bersani (Italy, CD) on the Ninth Annual Report on the Activities of the Council of Association (Doc. 48–I/II) to the Parliamentary Conference of the Association (Doc. 50 and 51/1974).

* Previous meetings:

| | | | |
|------------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Dakar | (1964) | Hamburg | (1970) |
| Rome | (1965) | Yaoundé | (1971) |
| Abidjan | (1966) | The Hague | (1972) |
| Strasbourg | (1967) | Kinshasa | (1973) |
| Tananarive | (1969) | | |

II. CONSTITUENT SITTING AND FORMAL OPENING

The Parliamentary Conference of the Association was opened by the outgoing President, Mr Philippe Yacé, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of the Ivory Coast.

1. Composition of the Conference

*(a) Representatives of the European Parliament**

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Mr Ernst Achenbach | (Germany, L) |
| Mr Rudolf Adams | (Germany, S) |
| Mr Heinrich Aigner | (Germany, CD) |
| Mr Dario Antoniozzi | (Italy, CD) |
| Mr Egidio Ariosto | (Italy, S) |
| Mr André Armengaud | (France, L) |
| Mr Helmut Artzinger | (Germany, CD) |
| Mr Jan Baas | (Netherlands, L) |
| Mr Walter Behrendt | (Germany, S) |
| Mr Cornelis Berkhouwer | (Netherlands, L) |
| Mr Giovanni Bersani | (Italy, CD) |
| Mr Gérard Bordu | (France, COM) |
| Mr Pierre Bourdellès | (France, L) |
| Mr Yvon Bourges | (France EPD) |
| Mr Jan B. Broeks | (Netherlands, S) |
| Mr André Colin | (France, CD) |
| Mr Achille Corona | (Italy, S) |

* If a representative of the European Parliament is unable to attend, he may be replaced by another Member of Parliament.

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Mr Poul Dalsager | (Denmark, S) |
| Mr Maurice Dewulf | (Belgium, CD) |
| Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker | (Gt. Britain, C) |
| Mr Jean Durieux | (France, L) |
| Mr Ludwig Fellermaier | (Germany, S) |
| Miss Colette Flesch | (Luxembourg, L) |
| Mr Luigi Galli | (Italy, CD) |
| Mr Horst Gerlach | (Germany, S) |
| Mr Luigo Girardin | (Italy, CD) |
| Mr Lucien Harmegnies | (Belgium, S) |
| Mr Kurt Härzschel | (Germany, CD) |
| Mr Arie van der Hek | (Netherlands, S) |
| Mr James Hill | (Gt. Britain, C) |
| Mrs Leonilde Iotti | (Italy, COM) |
| Mr Hans Edgar Jahn | (Germany, CD) |
| Mr Léon Jozeau Marigné | (France, L) |
| Mr Gabriel Kaspereit | (France, EPD) |
| Mr Nicolas Kollwelter | (Luxembourg, CD) |
| Mr Pierre Lagorce | (France, S) |
| Mr Hervé Laudrin | (France, EPD) |
| Mr Hans Lautenschlager | (Germany, S) |
| Mr Giosué Ligios | (Italy, CD) |
| Mr Charles B. McDonald | (Ireland, CD) |
| Mr Jens Maigaard | (Denmark, COM) |
| Mr Lucien Martens | (Belgium, CD) |
| Mr Linus Memmel | (Germany, CD) |
| Mr Thomas Nolan | (Ireland, EPD) |
| Mr Tom Normanton | (Gt. Britain, C) |
| Mr Rafton John Pounder | (Gt. Britain, C) |
| Hugh William, Lord Reay | (Gt. Britain, C) |
| Rowland, Lord St. Oswald | (Gt. Britain, C) |
| Mr Renato Sandri | (Italy, COM) |
| Mr Willem J. Schuijt | (Netherlands, CD) |
| Mr Hermann Schwörer | (Germany, CD) |
| Mr Horst Seefeld | (Germany, S) |
| Mr Georges Spénale | (France, S) |
| Mr David Thornley | (Ireland, S) |
| Mr Francis Vals | (France, S) |
| Mr Joseph Wohlfart | (Luxembourg, S) |
| Mr Michael B. Yeats | (Ireland, EPD) |

(b) Representatives of the Associated African States and the Malagasy Republic

Members of Parliament from the following countries:

- Federal Republic of Cameroon
- People's Republic of Congo
- Republic of the Ivory Coast
- Republic of Gabon
- Mauritius
- Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- Republic of Niger
- Republic of Senegal
- Republic of Zaire (Congo Kinshasa)

The following countries sent political representatives:

- Republic of Burundi
- Central African Republic
- Republic of Dahomey
- Malagasy Republic
- Republic of Mali
- Republic of Rwanda
- People's Republic of Somalia
- Republic of Togo

Upper Volta and Chad were not represented at the Conference either by Members of Parliament or by political representatives. Both countries sent formal apologies.

2. Election of President and Vice-Presidents

The Conference unanimously elected the President of the European Parliament, Mr Cornelis Berkhouwer (Netherlands, L), President of the Conference.

The Conference unanimously confirmed the following appointments:

First Vice-President:

Mr Philippe Yacé, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of the Ivory Coast

Vice-Presidents:

Mr Giovanni Bersani (Italy, CD)

Mr George Damas-Aleka (Gabon)

Mr Ludwig Fellermaier (Germany, S)

Mr Dieudonné Miakassissa (People's Republic of Congo)

Hugh William, Lord Reay (United Kingdom, C)

Mr Satcam Boolell (Mauritius)

Mr Yvon Bourges (France, EPD)

Mr Ahmed Ould Die (Mauritania)



*Mr Cornelis Berkhouwer, President of the European Parliament
Mr Philippe Yace, President of the National Assembly of the Ivory Coast*

3. Admission of observers to the Conference

Pursuant to Article 2 of the Rules of Procedure and on a proposal from the outgoing Bureau the Conference decided to admit as observers the representatives of the member states of the East African Community* and representatives of the 'associable' states** Representatives of the following countries were present: Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, Jamaica, the Fiji Islands, Ghana, Gambia and Swaziland.

4. Formal opening

The following Members spoke at the opening sitting: Mr Cornelis Berkhouwer, President of the European Parliament and President of the Conference; Mr Sandro Pertini, President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies; Mr Mohamed Warsama Ali, Acting President of the Council of Association; Mr Mario Pedini, Secretary-of-State in the Foreign Ministry; and Mr Philippe Yacé, First Vice-President of the Conference and President of the National Assembly of the Republic of the Ivory Coast.

The President of the European Parliament called upon the parties responsible to speed up the negotiations with the African partner States and to avoid taking transitional measures after 1 January 1975 because the current Yaoundé II Convention would expire on 31 January 1975. He pointed out that the Community had agreed that the Associated African States, the Malagasy Republic and Mauritius would continue to enjoy the same advantages. He added that the Community was also prepared to grant the 'associable' states the same treatment in order to avoid as far as possible any discrimination between the old and new partner states. The President of the Italian Chamber of Delegates described as a factor of major political importance the renewal of the Yaoundé II Convention and the Arusha Agreement, in the light of the proposals for a global approach to aid for developing countries which the Commission intended to submit by January 1975. The Acting President of the EEC-AASM Association Council stressed the importance of the joint institutions set up

* Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania

** Bahamas, Barbados, Botswana, Ethiopia, Fiji Islands, Gambia Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Jamaica, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Western Samoa, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Tongo, Trinidad and Tobago, Zambia.

under the Association arrangements and welcomed the presence of representatives of several African states not as yet associated with the Community and of the representatives of Caribbean and Pacific countries. The Secretary of State in the Italian Foreign Ministry, Mr Pedini, stated his conviction that association helped African peoples to strengthen their sovereignty through the joint institutions which were set up at executive and parliamentary level, it helped to ensure a partnership between politicians working together towards common objectives while retaining their independence. Mr Pedini called upon the representatives of the peoples to set up more positive and socially equitable systems.

The First Vice-President of the Conference, Mr Yacé, spoke of the current world economic difficulties. He reminded the Community that the Associated States were having to pay high prices not only for oil but also for industrial products from the industrialized countries. While the Community was protected by the European common agricultural market, the African people – like those of all other developing countries – had to pay almost double the price for grain. How were the developing countries to protect themselves against the inflation imported from outside and the concomitant monetary risks? At present, he added, it was very difficult for the new states to draw up development plans, because expenditure specifically set aside for development was having to be used to pay the enormous price rises for oil and industrial goods which he said posed a particularly grave problem for the developing countries having critical monetary and social repercussions.

III. CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

1. Budget of the Parliamentary Conference

Mr Mohamed Fall Babaha submitted to the Conference the report on the revenue and expenditure account of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association for the financial year 1972 and on the estimates for 1974 (Doc. 49/74). The rapporteur pointed out that expenditure during 1972 (on meetings in Luxembourg and Ouagadougou) amounted to 112,295.41 FF, out of a total budget of 216,000 FF earmarked in the budget. He was therefore pleased to note that there remained a sum of 103,704.59 FF. If, however, the Kinshasa meeting had been held at the usual time within the financial year (in December or January instead of March), the budget would probably have proved sufficient overall but the savings effected would have been smaller than in the previous year, when they amounted to 55,687.44 FF.

The Conference adopted the following resolution:

The Parliamentary Conference of the Association,

- noted that the expenditure of the Conference chargeable to the Associated States as a whole, in pursuance of Article 2(3) of Protocol No. 10 annexed to the Association Convention amounts to 112,295.41 FF for the financial year 1972;
- gives a discharge to the Secretary-General of the European Parliament in respect of the revenue and expenditure account for the financial year 1972 as submitted;
- notes the draft estimates for the financial year 1974 of expenditure chargeable to the Associated States as a whole in pursuance of Article 2(3) of Protocol No. 10, totalling 450,000 FF;

- approves the estimates for the financial year 1974 of expenditure chargeable to the Associated States as a whole in pursuance of Article 2(3) of Protocol No. 10, totalling 335,000 FF;
- resolves to maintain the contribution of each Associated State for the year 1974 at 600,000 FF.



Mr Mohamed Fall Babaha, rapporteur



Mr Giovanni Bersani, Italian (CD), rapporteur



Mr Claude Cheysson, Commissioner

2. Ninth Annual Report on the activities of the Association Council

Mr Giovanni Bersani (Italy, CD) submitted to the Conference a report and a supplementary report on the Ninth Annual Report on the Activities of the Association Council (Docs. 50 and 51/74).

He considered 1973 a crucial year in which, with the opening of negotiations on the renewal of the Yaoundé Convention, the old associates and the new eligible states discussed their experiences and ambitions for the first time, sought new approaches to a wider dialogue and outlined the principles for a new era of cooperation between the European Community and the developing countries. The rapporteur also referred to changes on the international commodity markets leading to a crisis which, given its foreseeable economic, monetary and social implications, would have inevitable repercussions on the general problems of development aid. He hoped that, in taking to heart the lessons of recent experience, the Europe of the Nine would be able to lay the foundations of a new and fruitful policy of economic cooperation with the other continents aimed at a fairer distribution of wealth for all. The rapporteur described cooperation between the EEC and the African states as one of the few genuinely positive achievements so far in relations between industrialized and developing countries. Nothing comparable had so far been achieved anywhere else on the international scene.

The Commissioner responsible for development aid, Mr Cheysson, thought that in future Europe would have to increase its financial aid to developing countries, especially to the poorest of them. He also pointed out that free trade had not proved entirely effective in increasing the export and production capacities of the Associated States. The existing world economic order had not given developing countries equal opportunities in world trade in the search for export markets, which was why a solution must be found at world level to ensure that the developing countries maintained a stable purchasing power. The rise in oil prices was merely an indication of the inability of the world economic system to cope with the problems of development. Pointing out that ways and means must be found to reduce or neutralise the catastrophic consequences of this crisis for the developing countries, Mr Cheysson proposed that the additional liquid assets

produced by the rise in oil prices should be allocated to a massive, worldwide development aid programme for developing countries.

The French delegate, Mr Yvon Bourges (EPD), described association as a unique form of cooperation between industrialized and developing countries. Mr Salomon Tandeng Muna (Cameroon) called upon the developed and developing countries to shed national selfishness and work together towards fruitful cooperation. Mr Georges Spénale (France, S) stressed the important effect of parliamentary activities on Europe's decisions vis-à-vis Africa. He talked in detail of the drought in the Sahel. Much had been done and much remained to be done, but Europe must now make every effort to avert the occurrence of a second catastrophe on a similar scale. He described the enormous price rise for raw materials as an urgent problem, since the developing countries must now pay two and a half times as much for raw materials as they receive in public aid. The Associated States must not simply be granted the current value of technical and financial aid; this aid must be calculated in proportion to the increasing prosperity of the Community countries. Mr Satcam Boolell (Mauritius) expressed pleasure that his country was for the first time taking part in the Conference as a full member. He called on the industrialized countries to do all they could to keep the current world economic difficulties within bounds. The Associated States would continue to require technical and financial aid from the Nine. The inflationary price developments in the industrialized countries were having a very strong impact on the developing countries; the Community should, therefore, take all necessary measures to ensure that the developing countries obtained adequate prices for their agricultural products. Mr James Hill (UK, C) considered it a positive factor that the Conference was taking place at a time of enormous economic tension and that Associated States were able to take part in it as observers. Mr Gérard Bordu (France, COM), however, accused the capitalist countries of seeking exaggerated profits and reproached them with increasing the tensions between African countries; colonialism and neo-colonialism had still not been entirely eradicated.

In his speech, the Acting President of the Association Council Mr Mohamed Warsama Ali, dealt less with the Ninth General Report, concentrating instead on the Association Committee's sitting of 23 November 1973. He



Mr Mohamed Warsame Ali, President-in-Office of the Association Council



Mr Walter Scheel, President-in-Office of the Council of Ministers of the European Community

considered that the sitting was significant in that it had discussed in detail the problem of consultation on trade policy between the Community and the Associated States. The Community had reported in particular on the system of generalized preferences for 1974, on the negotiations with Brazil for an EEC-Brazil trade agreement, the talks in GATT and the negotiations with certain neighbouring Mediterranean countries. On this occasion the Associated States had pointed out that the advantages granted to them had been reduced and that by the time the consultation procedure established under the Yaoundé Convention had been initiated, the Community had practically taken the necessary decisions already. The Community for its part had pointed out that enlargement of the Community had necessitated an extension of the generalized preference scheme, with special reference to the adjustment of quotas, because the United Kingdom in particular was an important consumer of products from the developing countries. The President spoke at length of the financial operations of the Third European Development Fund. The Acting President of the EEC Council of Ministers, the German Foreign Minister Mr Scheel, made it clear that the Community would remain true to the basic objectives of the Association, namely to promote trade with the Associated States and to make further efforts to promote their economic and social development. The unstable nature of the international commodity and capital markets and the disturbing increase in inflation did not, however, make this task any easier. At the Paris Summit the Community had announced its resolve to increase its efforts to formulate an overall policy vis-à-vis the developing countries, while taking into account the needs of those countries with which it had special relations. In this context, the Council had taken action of two kinds. Firstly it had attempted to formulate a European development aid policy for all developing countries, as a result of which the system of generalized preferences for the export of finished and semi-finished goods from all developing countries had been substantially improved. Secondly, it had decided to strengthen relations between the Community and the Mediterranean countries by seeking a global solution. The Community had also reached agreement on the implementation of the main points of Protocol No. 22 to the Treaty of Accession, namely those dealing with relations between the Community and the Associated States as well as with the independent developing Commonwealth countries of Africa, the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean and the Pacific. At the Paris Summit the Community had directed its attention to development problems throughout the world but had not in so doing neglected its special responsibility towards those states – some of which

were among the poorest countries in the world – with which it had particularly close connections, whether for historical or geographic reasons or by virtue of agreements.

After Mr Georges Damas-Aleka (Gabon) had paid respect to the Community's campaign of aid to the drought-ridden Sahel region, Mr Bweta Sombo Isealina (Rep. of Zaire) spoke of the great danger resulting from the continuing price instability of raw materials and constant rise in the prices of finished goods. Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker (UK, C) stressed the difficulties of development aid, due largely to the lack of economic growth and the balance of payments problems. Mr Amadou Bouta Gueye (Senegal) also expressed concern at the monetary difficulties and the increase in the price of oil and grain. Lord Reay (UK, C) pointed out that industrial and developing countries were to a certain extent interdependent; the oil crisis had made Europe's vulnerability quite plain, but at the same time the oil-producing countries had realized that the industrialized world – above all Europe – must survive if their wealth were to mean anything. Mr Horst Gerlach (Germany) discussed youth education and training and stressed the importance of a balanced social policy. Mr Alioune Sissoko (Mali) called for close and practical cooperation between the developing and oil-producing countries on the one hand and the industrialized countries on the other, for in a sense each needed the other's help. Mr Tom Normanton (UK, C) described the price rises in oil and the related balance of payments problems as posing a grave danger for developing countries. Mr Libero Della Briotta (Italy, S) feared that the current economic crisis and the internal difficulties of the Community could complicate the growth of cooperation between Europe and the Third World. Mr Mohamed Samantar (Somalia) severely criticized certain political and economic aspects of the Association. He described the economic crisis as one aspect of a political crisis attributable to the Europeans. Although the Association had existed for more than ten years, Europe had always refused any genuine political dialogue. After their liberation, the African peoples had had no complexes and had been prepared to open a dialogue with the Europeans but in a sense Europe had aimed at economic domination. The economic development of Europe could not be a matter of indifference for the Associated States because it directly affected them. The industrialized countries must find a solution to the economic difficulties, he said, and advocated a balanced equilibrium between developed and developing

countries. In this context he proposed that industry should be located in areas where raw materials were available. Moreover, the remaining African colonies must be liberated if Africa was to trust Europe.

Mr Renato Sandri (Italy) made a statement regarding voting intentions, explaining that the Communist and Allies Group would abstain on the motion for a resolution contained in Mr Bersani's report.

Subject to several proposed amendments, the Conference adopted the following resolution:

The Parliamentary Conference of the Association,

I. Problems of the present association

(a) activities of the institutions

1. Notes with satisfaction the activity engaged in by the joint institutions of the Association, which is called upon to give rapid proof of its effectiveness and capacity for change in the face of new international realities and the needs of its present and future partners;
2. Is gratified by the participation in the work of the Parliamentary Conference and the Joint Committee of representatives of the associable countries;
3. Notes that the institutions of the European Community are seeking to lay down an initial series of guidelines for the progressive implementation of a policy of development cooperation on a world-wide basis;

(b) Trade

4. Notes that in 1972, largely as the result of increases in raw material prices, the trading position of some Associated States vis-à-vis the EEC improved, parallel with a further substantial increase in European trade with other developing countries;
5. Notes that the traditional rules of free trade prevailing in the relations between industrialized and developing countries, which ensured that the former obtained primary products at optimum prices, have received a severe setback in recent months.
6. Deplores the fact that the extension of the EEC's system of generalized preferences has so far meant that the AASM have not received in rightful return for the loss of their exclusive access, the guarantee of free access to the markets of other industrialized countries and notably that of the United States;
7. Underlines the urgent need for an improvement of the present procedures for consultation and information on trade policy;
8. Deplores the fact that certain suggestions made by the AASM to promote their exports to Europe have not been adopted by the Community;
9. Insists on the need for measures to facilitate the sale within the EEC, through harmonization of legislation on health and plant health protection and the safeguarding of natural products, of certain agricultural products of particular importance to the Associated States;
10. Once again draws attention to the negative repercussions of the prolonged closure of the Suez canal on the economies of certain Associated States and again expresses the hope that a peaceful solution to the problem will lead as soon as possible to the reopening of this internationally important waterway.
11. Notes with keen concern, in this connection, the serious effects which this situation has long had on exports of bananas from Somalia to the European

market, stresses the urgent need for special measures to resolve the problem and regrets that none have yet been taken.

(c) Worldwide cooperation between the partners

12. Notes with satisfaction the entry into force of the international cocoa agreement and urges the EEC to make a positive contribution to current international initiatives for the conclusion of other world agreements on primary commodities (sugar, coffee, etc.);
13. Expresses its deep concern at the present international economic difficulties and hopes that close cooperation between the Association partners aimed at a more equitable and balanced organization of world trade;
14. Notes the commitment of the industrialized countries to take into account the interests of the developing countries during the next round of multilateral talks in GATT and recommends that special consideration be given to the situation of the least advanced countries;

(d) financial and technical cooperation

15. Notes that effective measures have been taken by the European Development Fund in accordance with the guidelines provided by the developing countries, to provide greater backing for immediately productive activities and inter-African regional projects and hopes that its activities will be developed in even closer accord with its nature and objectives;
16. Hopes that more intense measures will be undertaken to foster the development of industry and crafts in the Associated States by making use of all forms of private investment and of existing or future guarantees designed to promote such investment;

17. Notes with satisfaction the new training and instruction policies now being followed, to allow the implementation of multi-annual programmes;

(e) aid to the drought-stricken countries of the Sahel

18. Is deeply concerned at the extremely serious situation which continues to affect the drought-stricken countries of the Sahel region, where the period before the new harvest in 1974 seems likely in many cases to be still more difficult than last year;

19. Expresses its keen appreciation for the help given by the EEC and its Members, by the associated and associable states and by non-governmental organizations to these countries, both in the form of urgent financial assistance and the supply and transportation of food aid;

20. Is gratified by the recent EEC decision to allocate to the 1974 Community budget a supplementary appropriation of 35 million u.a. for structural measures and of 5 million u.a. for supplementary food aid in the countries affected by drought, including Ethiopia;

21. Strongly hopes that consideration will also be given to preventive measures to help the areas bordering on the Sahel region which are especially threatened;

22. Addresses an urgent appeal to the international community and public opinion to fully understand the gravity of the problem and to give all possible support to efforts aimed at alleviating the consequences of the present tragedy and preventing the repetition of similar catastrophes;

II. The future of the Association

23. Notes that, after strenuous and fruitful preparations, the negotiations for the renewal and enlargement of the Association have opened in accordance with the deadlines laid down in the Yaoundé Convention and the Act of Accession;

24. Recommends that the talks be rapidly concluded so that the ratification procedure may be completed in time for the new Association arrangement to enter into force on 1 February 1975, as envisaged in the Yaoundé Convention and Arusha Agreement, and, in the case of the Commonwealth countries, in Article 115 of the Act of Accession;
25. Warmly welcomes the fact that almost all the African countries whose economic structure and production resemble those of the associated States are taking part in the negotiations and have adopted a common stand, pursuant to the recommendations of the Organization of African Unity;
26. Draws attention to the exceptional importance of these major negotiations for an overall agreement of cooperation between a large group of developing countries and the Europe of Nine, given that the latter is the Third World's principal trading partner, the main international importer of primary commodities and, both on a Community and bilateral level, the main source of aid to development, particularly since they follow the recent changes in the international economic situation and come on the eve of the new international negotiations in GATT;
27. Considers that the process of change now taking place in the world's economy calls for a fairer organization of international trade and monetary relations and the establishment of economic cooperation between the importers and exporters of primary commodities that takes greater account of the problems of the developing areas and especially of the difficult position of the less advanced countries;
28. In regard to the revision and improvement of the Association policy, recalls the position adopted in its resolutions of 13 January 1972 and 31 March 1973, pointing out in particular that
 - the Association's trade arrangements must rest on a stable contractual basis which cannot be attacked by third parties particularly in relation to GATT;

- the options for trading preferences between the future partners must be carefully considered so that all the legal, economic and commercial implications for the countries concerned may be evaluated;
- substantial quantities of products which are particularly important to the economy of some associated and associable countries must enjoy permanent access to the Community market at profitable prices; special means of safeguarding the interests of countries whose economies are crucially dependent on sugar exports must be found;
- EEC financial and technical aid should guarantee at least the present value of that received by the Associated States, so that the new Associated states will be assured of equivalent advantages;
- as from 1975, EEC aid should be financed out of the Community's own resources.

29. Urges the Community to take a prompt decision on the terms of reference for negotiation on the still outstanding problems of the Associated States' export revenue.

30. On the basis of past experience, expresses its conviction that the Association's joint institutions provide a forum for a highly useful dialogue and should be maintained;

31. Stresses the decisive importance in the present international context of a balanced, stable and lasting overall cooperation agreement between the Europe of the Nine, the present associated States and the 'associable' States that wish to participate.

3. Declaration on behalf of the 'associable' countries

After adoption of the motion for a resolution, Mr Francis (Jamaica) spoke on behalf of the 'associable' countries. He thanked the Conference for admitting the 'associable' countries as observers and wished the Association negotiations great success.

IV. JOINT COMMITTEE

1. Appointment of members

On a proposal from the Bureau the Conference appointed the members of the Joint Committee and noted that the representatives of the Associated States had appointed their deputies.

Representatives of the European Parliament:*

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Mr Ernst Achenbach | (Germany, L) |
| Mr Heinrich Aigner | (Germany, CD) |
| Mr Giovanni Bersani | (Italy, CD) |
| Mr André Colin | (France, CD) |
| Mr Achille Corona | (Italy, S) |
| Mr Maurice Dewulf | (Belgium, CD) |
| Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker | (UK, C) |
| Mr Ludwig Fellermaier | (Germany, S) |
| Miss Colette Flesch | (Luxembourg, L) |
| Mr Lucien Harmegnies | (Belgium, S) |
| Mr Arie van der Hek | (Netherlands, S) |
| Mrs Leonilde Iotti | (Italy, COM) |
| Mr Nicolas Kollwelter | (Luxembourg, CD) |
| Mr Hervé Laudrin | (France, EPD) |
| Mr Thomas Nolan | (Ireland, EPD) |
| Lord Reay | (UK, C) |
| Mr Willem J. Schuijt | (Netherlands, CD) |
| Mr Horst Seefeld | (Germany, S) |
| Mr Georges Spénale | (France, S) |

* The representatives of the European Parliament in the Joint Committee are full members of the Committee on Development and Cooperation.

Representatives of the Associated States:

| | Full members | Deputy members |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| BURUNDI | NZEYMANA Laurent | MAPANGO Balthazar |
| CAMEROON | EKWABI-EWANE Jean | NSAKWA NGI Peter |
| CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC | SEVOT Clément | MEKELA Jean-Pierre |
| PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CONGO | MOUNTHAULT Hilaire | ADOUKI Lambert |
| IVORY COAST | EBAGNITCHIE Edouard | COULIBALY Gon |
| DAHOMEY | POGNON Grantien | SRANON Gérard |
| GABON | SAMBHAT Albert Martin | ICKAMBA Joseph |
| UPPER VOLTA | | |
| MALAGASY REPUBLIC | | |
| MALI | SISSOKO Alioune | |
| MAURITIUS | BOLELL SATCAM | MARCHAND Guy |
| MAURITANIA | FALL BABAHA Mohamed | MOULAYE Mohamed |
| NIGER | GAOH Amadou | PERRET François |
| RWANDA | BONYUMUTWA Jean-Marie | VIANNEY-KARUJIJE Ignace |
| SENEGAL | GUILLABERT André | GUEYE Amadous Bouta |
| SOMALIA | ALI MATAN HACHI | |
| CHAD | | |
| TOGO | DAGADOU Victor Emanuel | |
| ZAIRE | KASONGO MUKUNDJI | MUHIMA AMRI N'TSIPIRO |

2. Appointment of chairman and deputy-chairman

The Conference appointed Mr Mukundji Kasongo (Zaire) chairman and Mr Maurice Dewulf (Belgium, CD) deputy chairman of the Joint Committee.

The Chairman paid respect to the outgoing chairman of the Joint Committee, Mr Ernst Achenbach, for his many years' work in the service of the Association.