

# European Parliament Information

The Sittings

January 1979



## **THE SITTINGS**

**STRASBOURG, 15th – 19th JANUARY 1979**

### **THE WEEK**

Mr Jean François-Poncet, French Foreign Minister and new President of the Council, told Parliament this week that the Council found the budget for 1979 – as passed by Parliament in December – to be unacceptable. Which prompted President Emilio Colombo to remind the Council President that, as far as the European Parliament was concerned, the budget was final. For, as Georges Spénale pointed out, Parliament had respected the treaties. It had always done so. But the Council, he said, had disregarded the treaties: the Luxembourg Agreement, for example, which was intended to alter the effect of the treaties had never been ratified by the national parliaments in the manner laid down for treaty changes. With a relatively short time still left to go before the first polling stations open for the European elections on 7th June, Parliament's view of its present role may be summed up by budgets committee chairman Erwin Lange: 'The Council – intentionally or unintentionally – seems bent on pushing Parliament back to the position it occupied prior to the Luxembourg Agreement. This is quite unacceptable ... We have a duty to safeguard the rights we have acquired and to hand them over, intact, to our directly-elected successors.'

### **Monday evening (5.05 p.m. to 8 p.m.)**

The President announced this evening that Parliament's Monday and Tuesday sittings would, in future, end not later than 8 p.m. Parliament's Wednesday sittings would end by 8 p.m. in principle with business continuing till 9 p.m. should the need arise. Business on Thursday would end by 8 p.m. too but night sessions could be held on Thursday beginning at 9 p.m. There would in future be a two-hour break for lunch although this could be reduced to not less than one and a half hours should the need arise.

### **Tuesday morning (10.05 a.m. to 1.10 p.m.)**

Commissioner Richard Burke held out little prospect of financial aid for the Bantry Bay area when he answered a question put down by six Irish Fianna Fail members on the Betelgeuse disaster. The Commission had a 5m EUA (3.4m pounds) budget for granting aid to victims of natural disasters, Mr Burke went on, but these funds were not intended for use in cases of industrial accidents. However, the Commission would be considering what action it could appropriately take in this case.

### **Tuesday evening (3.05 p.m. to 8 p.m.)**

In five hours of debates this afternoon Parliament discussed protecting employees when employers go bankrupt; the state of the shipbuilding industry – Mr Davignon was not altogether pessimistic; 'special rights' for Community citizens – here Mr Davignon admitted that progress had been scant; changing Community treaties to make it simpler to prosecute infringements of EC laws; and Mr Dalyell's report on solar energy.

### **Wednesday morning (10.05 a.m. to 1 p.m.)**

In a declaration to the European Parliament this morning, French Foreign Minister and new Council President, Mr Jean François-Poncet, reiterated the Council's view that the 1979 budget had not been legally adopted: the maximum rate, he said could not be exceeded without an explicit vote by Council. Other points from Mr François-Poncet's speech: optimism that a solution would be found to the French demand for phasing out MCAs before introduction of EMS; an increased effort to reach common policies on fisheries, the environment and transport; and an effort to maintain the current progress on enlargement.

### **Wednesday evening (3.05 p.m. to 9 p.m.)**

The first results of the European elections this June could be announced during the course of the evening of Sunday, June 10, Mr Jean François-Poncet told the House this afternoon in reply to a question put down by Mr Schelto Patijn. This should enable European TV stations to broadcast a Community-wide election results programme that evening. In other business, Parliament discussed the first part of a comprehensive political committee report on Community enlargement.

### **Thursday morning (10.05 a.m. to 1.10 p.m.)**

Iran and what Mr McDonald called 'the intolerable sufferings of the boat people' were Parliament's main talking points this morning. Another was culture. There was a general welcome for a Commission note on all the Community is doing in the cultural sector. Commissioner Brunner appealed to Parliament for its support in pressing for more staff so that it could widen the scope of its cultural work, at present confined to what Mr Ellis called 'marginalia'.

### **Thursday evening (3 p.m. to 8.35 p.m.)**

The main topic this evening was fisheries policy with Mr Klinker outlining the kind of inspection procedures that could help ensure the success of such a policy. As for the fisheries policy itself, Mr Hughes put down a motion summing up the agriculture committee's views. But Mr Corrie, in particular, was doubtful as to whether the EC would agree a fisheries policy in the near future. The other Member States, he felt, did not understand the situation facing the UK fishing industry.

### **Friday morning (9 a.m. to 12 p.m.)**

Parliament was faced with an unusually heavy agenda for its Friday morning sitting with many of the items having considerable significance. Indeed Mrs Squarcialupi was somewhat bitter that such an important matter as the protection of mother and child should have been taken on Friday anyway. The other matters were family policy, the levels of social security benefits in the Member States, an appeal to the Council to take up the challenge of the cutback in oil supplies from Iran and an appeal to Member States to apply maritime conventions.

**MONDAY, 15th January 1979**

**Time taken to answer parliamentary questions**

Mr Yeats's question to the Commission.

Mr Burke told the House the Commission had increased the staff concerned and hoped to improve its question-answering service. But the volume of questions had gone up by 73 per cent in the last five years and it was likely the flow would increase still further with direct elections. Mr Yeats had complained that 117 written questions had not been answered within the one month time limit laid down in Parliament's rules. Replies given were, moreover, often inadequate and even evasive. He quoted examples of delays of several months in answering questions calling for no special effort on the Commission's part.

**VAT**

Mr Notenboom's report (Doc. 543/78).

The proposal for an 'Eighth Directive' on VAT is concerned with redressing possible 'deflections of trade' resulting from differing VAT rates in Member States, by applying equal treatment to all taxable persons in the Community regardless of the Member State in which they incur expenditure liable to VAT.

Introducing his report, Mr Harry Notenboom (Du, CD) welcomed the proposal, but drew attention to three aspects which still needed dealing with: extension of the VAT refund system to non-EC countries; simplification of administrative formalities, particularly for small and medium-sized firms; and more effective action against fraud.

In reply, Mr Burke said the Commission was aware of the problems and would put forward appropriate proposals. Nevertheless the Eighth Directive would make a real contribution to the promotion of intra-EC trade.

**Common transport policy**

Mr Seefeld's report (Doc. 512/78).

Parliament's transport committee has submitted several reports over the years calling for the establishment of a common transport policy. Introducing the

latest such report, Mr Holst Seefeld (Ge, S) lamented the continued failure of the Council to achieve this objective. He singled out the railways, transit traffic through Switzerland and Austria, sea transport, air safety and inland waterways as areas where immediate action was needed.

Speakers in the debate were virtually unanimous in their criticism of the Council's inaction for which, Lord Bruce said, there was no excuse. The only reservations came from Mr John Osborn, for the European Conservatives: Mr Seefeld, he said, was asking for the impossible. Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (UK, EC) called for construction of the Channel tunnel as a matter of priority.

Mr Burke, replying, outlined the Commission's plans in the transport sector. He hoped the Council would be more forthcoming in future.

**TUESDAY, 16th January 1979**

### **Bantry Bay disaster**

Introducing a question to the Commission on behalf of the EPD Group, Mr Patrick Power (Ir, EPD) pointed out that the 'Betelgeuse', which exploded in the night of 7/8 January and caused the loss of 51 lives, was a Community built vessel in a Community port and crewed by Community nationals. What action did the Commission intend to take to prevent the recurrence of such accidents, which would be a great deal more serious if they were to take place in larger ports such as Rotterdam, Le Havre or Milford Haven? He also wanted to know what financial assistance the Commission could provide to help those affected by the disaster.

In reply, Commissioner Burke pointed out that this was the second major tanker disaster in Community waters in past year. The Commission's scope for providing financial aid was limited because the Bantry Bay disaster was an industrial accident and not a natural catastrophe. The main avenue open to the Community to prevent the recurrence of such disasters was through ratification of the various IMCO \* conventions on maritime safety. The Council had already decided to recommend to Member States ratification of several such instruments. The Bantry Bay disaster underlined the need for rapid progress.

\* Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, an agency of the United Nations.

## **Steel and ore supplies**

Mr Ansquer's report (Doc. 567/78).

There was a wide measure of support from EMPs this morning for Commissioner Davignon's plan for dealing with the steel crisis. The plan is now a year old and is being carried forward for another year.

In terms of statistics, production rose in 1977 by four and a half per cent over 1976, from 126.1 million tonnes to 131.8m tonnes. This was however still lower than the 1976 figure of 134.2m tonnes (although one month's production was lost in Germany because of a steel strike). Order books in 1978 were also fuller (six and a half per cent up, in the first eleven months compared with the same period in 1977) and, in the first ten months, exports were up by some 21 per cent while imports fell by 9 per cent.

Support for Viscount Davignon came from Mr Vincent Ansquer, for the European Progressive Democrats, Mr Hermann Schwörer, Mr Harry Notenboom, Mr Camillo Ripamonti and Mr Hans-Werner Müller for the Christian Democrats and Mr Michele Cifarelli for the Liberals.

The Socialists had reservations, however. Mr Hans-Joachim Hoffmann criticised the Council for refusing to give the 30m EUA (20.1 million pounds) called for by the Commission to help implement its policy. And Viscount Davignon later appealed to the House to explain how the Commission could achieve objectives if funds were refused: Parliament and Commission should go to Council together to thrash this out, he suggested. The same applied to the whole principle of refusing to appropriate coal and steel customs duties for Coal and Steel Community purposes.

Mr Jean Laurain (Fr, S) was more critical. He condemned the Davignon Plan out of hand as did the Communist spokesmen Mr Antoine Porcu and Mr Silvio Leonardi. The plight of the people of Lorraine particularly disturbed them. For the European Conservatives Mr John Osborn said the Davignon Plan was far from perfect but it was better than no plan at all. And Sir Brandon Rhys Williams wondered why the Community did not take advantage of its capacity to hardness funds (under the Ortoli facility or from the European Investment Bank) to invest in steel-using projects like the Channel Tunnel or the Severn Barrage.

## **QUESTION TIME**

### **Questions to the Commission**

#### *Government contracts (Sir Geoffrey de Freitas)*

Viscount Davignon told Sir Geoffrey that Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg and the UK had thus far opened up Government contracts to companies from all Community companies. The remaining countries had assured the Commission that they would be implementing the relevant directive in the near future and in any case during the first half of 1979. In answer to a supplementary, Mr Davignon said the Commission could easily provide semi-annual progress reports to Parliament on the implementation of directives.

#### *Vehicle traffic (John Osborn)*

The Commission had commissioned two studies on the growth of vehicle traffic, Mr Davignon said. One such study indicated that there would be one vehicle per 2.6 inhabitants by the year 2000.

#### *Vehicle pollution (Richie Ryan)*

While recognizing the dangers to health from noxious exhaust fumes, Mr Davignon pointed out that the Commission had no scientific evidence to show that raising the height of exhausts to 3 metres would reduce the danger. This was a matter best left to individual member countries.

#### *Trade in agricultural products (James Scott-Hopkins)*

The Community imported farm products – mostly animal feedstuffs – from the United States worth \$7bn annually, Mr Tugendhat said. This was six times the value of EC farm exports to the US. The Commission was seeking to redress this imbalance if possible through increased exports rather than reduced imports.

#### *Tobacco taxes (Tom Normanton)*

France had now introduced legislation in implementation of Directive 77/805 on fixing tobacco excise tax rates but Italy was still laggard and the Commission



was considering action. The Commission could not, however, assure retroactivity in implementation.

## **Vote**

See summary.

### **Protecting employees when employers go bankrupt**

Mr Dinesen's report (Doc. 552/78).

Member States differ in the cover afforded to employees when employers go bankrupt. Because this could affect the common market, the Commission is proposing the Nine's laws be brought into line with each other.

Mr Erling Dinesen (Da, S) (rapporteur for Parliament's social committee) welcomed the proposed directive. But he suggested it could be tightened up to give greater protection to the employee. His main concern was that the guarantee institutions (to be set up under the directive) should have a higher liability for compensation. The Commission is proposing a ceiling equal to three months' salary. Mr Dinesen thought six months would be more appropriate. He was also astonished to find that employees were to be required to finance the guarantee institutions. He called for this article (5) to be amended too.

For the Liberals, Mr Aart Geurtsen (Du, L) felt it wrong to criticize the Commission for its cautious approach. He did not wish to put down amendments to Mr Dinesen's amendment but thought them more relevant in the longer term.

For the European Conservatives, Mrs Elaine Kellett-Bowman (UK, EC) welcomed the proposed directive, without being altogether sure about the amendments Mr Dinesen was calling for. Her group were putting down an amendment to one of them.

For the EPDs, Mr Patrick Power (Ir, EPD) supported Mr Geurtsen's motion. He asked the Commission how the legislation envisaged could be tied in with enlargement.

Mr Ronald Brown (UK, S) asked how well the legislation would work. He quoted a case in the UK furniture trade where one firm had sold its assets to another without transferring its debts. There were consequently no assets from which to pay debts when the bankruptcy of the first firm was finally declared.

For the Commission, Mr Vredeling said the proposal contained a series of minimal requirements. In reply to Mr Power, he thought there were gaps in the legislation of the applicant states. An effort would have to be made to get the proposed directive applied there. He told Mr Brown that the Commission's concern was with the consequences of bankruptcy rather than insolvency itself. As for the amendments tabled, Mr Vredeling advised against some of them. In particular, three months' salary was the normal liability accepted in the Member States. As for contributions to the guarantee institutions, he was ready to accept a differing wording .... 'the public authorities and employers may contribute .....

### **Special rights for Community citizens**

Questions to the Commission by Mr Scelba and Mr Bayerl (Docs 537/78 and 539/78).

The December 1974 Paris summit set up a working party to look into the question of 'special rights' for EC citizens. These rights are of two kinds: those guaranteed by the treaties, e.g. freedom of movement, freedom to set up businesses anywhere in the Community, freedom of residence, and other rights such as being able to take part in local elections in other EC countries. What progress, the questioners wanted to know, had been made in implementing these rights?

In reply, Commissioner Davignon admitted that progress had been scant. As regards the treaty-based rights, especially freedom of residence, the Commission would be submitting proposals to the Council within a month with a view to ensuring that all EC citizens became eligible to enjoy them. As far as other rights were concerned, however, the Commission was powerless to act: the initiative lay with the Member States.

## **State of the shipbuilding industry**

**Mr Müller-Hermann's question to the Commission (Doc. 536/78)**

Viscount Davignon began by reminding the House of the scale of the crisis facing the EC shipbuilding industry. In 1955 it had had 70 per cent of the market. In 1977, it was down to 20 per cent. Orders were falling: from 2.7 million tonnes in 1976 to 1.9m t. in 1977. And output was down from 5m t. in 1977 to an estimated 3.5m t. in 1978. He thought the crisis would reach its climax in 1980 – 1982.

The Commission had a role to play in tackling the crisis. The Commission's fourth directive was intended to make state aid (a) subject to a ceiling and (b) dependent on a plan for reorganizing the industry.

The Commission would be holding talks next week with shipbuilders and ship-owners to see how demand could be stimulated.

Viscount Davignon reminded Parliament that it had not supported the Commission's request for industrial diversification funds. And this limited the EC's scope for action.

Yet there were many factors in the EC's favour. Mr Erik Blumenfeld (Ge, CD) had spoken of the market for high value added ships. And he took Mr Antoine Porcu's (Fr, CA) point about many EC ships being over 15 years old. Much could be done within a 'scrap-and-build' policy. Let us, he said, look into all aspects of this problem together, to develop a policy showing what the Member States together can do.

In July of last year Mr Prescott reported to Parliament on a Commission analysis of the shipbuilding industry. The Commission estimated that it would cost 4,650m EUA (3,137 million pounds) to reorganize the industry over the next five years, including 900m EUA (607 million pounds) to reorganize the shipyards, 3,000m EUA (2,024 million pounds) to create alternative jobs for 60,000 redundant workers (the work force being reduced to 90,000 over five years) and 750m EUA (506 million pounds) to create alternative jobs for workers made redundant in allied industries. See The Week July 1978.

\* other signatories: Mr Blumenfeld, Mr Klepsch, Mr Früh and Mr Aigner.

## **Crimes against the Community**

**Mr Krieg's report (Doc. 498/78)**

The Commission is proposing a number of amendments to the Community treaties to make it simpler to bring proceedings against anyone – including Community officials – who infringes Community laws. Rather than attempting to create a distinct system of criminal law to deal with such cases, the Commission's amendments would institute a procedural system to use existing national laws.

Mr Roland Riz (It, CD) introduced Mr Krieg's report, which called for a number of changes to the two treaties in which the Commission incorporates its amendments.

Replying for the Commission, Mr Davignon welcomed Parliament's support. The Commission, he said, could accept most of Parliament's suggestions.

## **Solar energy**

**Mr Dalyell's report (Doc. 557/78)**

The Commission is proposing that financial support be given to solar energy exploitation projects at a rate of between 25 per cent and 49 per cent of the total estimated cost.

While calling for approval of the proposal, energy and research committee rapporteur Tam Dalyell (UK, S) had serious reservations about the Council's decision-making procedures in respect of alternative energy sources as laid

down in the basic regulation (No 1302/78). These, Mr Dalyell felt – and he is supported by the budgets committee – undermine Parliament's budgetary rights.

In reply, Mr Vredeling said the Commission sympathized with the misgivings expressed in the report. He took note of the fact that Parliament intended to open the conciliation procedure with Council.

**WEDNESDAY, 17th January 1979**

**Statement by Jean François-Poncet**

Mr Jean François-Poncet, French foreign minister and new President of the Council of Ministers, this morning introduced the programme for the six-month French presidency.

Before moving on to more general aspects of Community activity until June 1979, Mr François-Poncet turned first to three issues of immediate importance: the Community's budget, EMS and direct elections.

He reiterated the Council's view that adoption of the budget had to conform to the provisions of Article 203 of the Treaty, which laid down that the maximum rate could not be exceeded without an explicit vote by the Council. On direct elections, the President said that the elected Parliament would exercise its powers with new vigour but with due respect for the rights of the other Community institutions and of the national parliament. As regards EMS he was optimistic that a solution would be found to the question of the French demand for phasing out MCAs.

The President said he looked forward to progress in negotiations with the Lomé countries, on enlargement and in the field of political cooperation. He also hoped that headway would be made in certain specific policy areas such as fisheries, the environment and transport. The Community would also have to take a decision on the conclusion of the GATT negotiations within the next few weeks and adopt a common position for the Manila UNCTAD meeting in May this year.

Finally, Mr François-Poncet referred to the two European Council meetings scheduled for March and June. The European Council meetings, he said were increasingly assuming the characteristic of the supreme Community decision-making body.

In the debate that followed the President's declaration, Mr Ludwig Fellermaier, for the Socialist Group, emphasized the need to respect all treaty provisions when referring to adoption of the budget: one such provision was the reduction of regional imbalances in the Community, and it was this that Parliament was attempting to do in increasing the Regional Fund. Mr Fellermaier suggested the establishment of a 'permanent conciliation committee' in which Parliament and Council could discuss their differences.

For the Christian-Democrats, Mr Egon Klepsch stressed the need for rapid implementation of EMS. He regretted that the President had paid little attention in his speech to the institutional problems of the Community, particularly the decision-making process.

Liberal spokesman, Mr Jean François Pintat, welcomed Mr François-Poncet's comments on enlargement which was, he said, in the interests of the Nine as well as the applicant countries. The economies of Greece, Portugal and Spain were complementary to, and not in competition with, those of the present Member States.

Mr Geoffrey Rippon, on behalf of the European Conservatives, said his Group warmly supported the French stand on MCAs. He also insisted that the 1979 Community budget had been adopted legally. Recalling Churchill's words, Mr Rippon said he hoped that the directly elected Parliament would fan the dying embers and set the European fire alight again.

Communist spokesman, Mr Renato Sandri, reiterated the point that Parliament had a strong legal case in adopting the budget. He saw enlargement as vital if the young democracies of the applicant countries were to be strengthened. Mr Christian de la Malène, for the EPD Group, referred to the Regional Fund, EMS, enlargement and the CAP. The latter, he said, was in real danger of being undermined by MCAs and he supported the French Government's insistence that they be phased out.

One of the main points to come up was the question of Parliament's powers. Earlier in the debate Mr Spénale had argued that the Council had repeatedly ignored the treaties whereas Parliament had always respected them. As regards conciliation, the trouble was that this had now become a monologue. Mr Gérard Bordu (Fr, CA), on the other hand, took exception even to Mr François-Poncet's allusion to the 'development of the institutions'. He was firmly opposed to any increase to the powers of Parliament at the expense of the national parliaments.

Another point raised was fishing and Mr Kai Nyborg (Da, EPD) reminded the House that 20 per cent of Denmark's exports were fishery products. He shared the French President's hope that an agreement on fisheries policy could be reached because the present lack of a policy was keenly felt in his country.

On energy policy, Mrs Hanna Walz (Ge, CD) and Mr Luigi Noè (It, CD) hoped the French presidency would be productive and Mr Noè reminded the House how the Council's vacillations had undermined the EC's nuclear lead.

Mr Gert Petersen (Da, CA) said he supported French concern for preserving national sovereignty. The veto right in Council must be maintained.

Mr Ludwig Fellermaier (Ge, S), referring to an article in a Strasbourg newspaper about the seat of the European Parliament, wondered whether this was not a matter for the directly elected Parliament to consider.

Replying to the debate, Mr François-Poncet agreed that there were many matters – Southern Africa, for example – that he had not had time to deal with. He welcomed the support speakers had given to the French desire to end the system of MCAs. It would be paradoxical, he said, to introduce EMS, a system for monetary stability, while at the same time maintaining MCAs, whose existence in the first place was the result of monetary instability.

On the question of Lomé, it was the Community's intention to include a reference to human rights in the preamble to the new Convention.

Replying to criticisms that the European Council was usurping the Council of Ministers as a decision-making body, Mr François-Poncet pointed to the significance of some of the agreements that had been reached at head-of-government level – including the final go-head for direct elections.

Referring to the budget, he stressed the Council's view that the matter was not yet settled. He hoped, however, that the problem would be resolved soon.

On the question of the seat of the EP, the President reminded the House that this was for the Member governments to decide.

After thanking Mr François-Poncet for his contribution, President Colombo pointed out that he, as President of Parliament, had declared the 1979 budget to be finally adopted last December.

## **Vote**

See summary.

## **QUESTION TIME**

### **Questions to the Council**

#### *Transit of goods (Sir Geoffrey de Freitas)*

Mr François-Poncet said that in 1978 the Council had concentrated on promoting cooperation between customs authorities as a way of expediting frontier-crossing in the Community. Sir Geoffrey complained of 'ridiculous queues of lorries at EC frontiers' and urged further efforts.

#### *Falkland Isles (John Osborn)*

Mr François-Poncet said that the EC had helped the Falklands, aid projects being discussed between the UK authorities and the Commission.

#### *Responsibility for energy projects (Ronald Brown)*

After Mr François-Poncet had outlined the aims of the EC's energy policy – less dependence on imports, energy saving and developing EC energy sources – Mr Brown asked whether expenditure by the EC of 3m EUA ( 2 million pounds) on wind energy was not duplicating work being done by the IEA and the OECD. Mr François-Poncet said he would look into it.

#### *Non-use of EC funds (Tam Dalyell)*

Mr François-Poncet said the chief cause of delay in spending money in the EC budget came in the forwarding of projects to the EC authorities. The Court of Auditors had been asked to enquire into the operation and management of the Social Fund.

#### *European Monetary System (Richie Ryan)*

Mr François-Poncet said that the EMS provided for loans, over five years, of up to 1,000m EUA (675 million pounds) at an annual interest rate of 3 per cent. The funds available would be 200m EUA (135 million pounds) each year.



### *Monetary compensatory amounts (Charles McDonald)*

Mr François-Poncet said that the Council would do what it could to see MCAs were phased out. While wanting them to be phased out quickly he felt it would be unrealistic not to accept that dismantling the system would have to be done gradually. He stressed that MCAs had been brought in ten years ago because of the effects of monetary instability. Phasing them out was a monetary rather than an agricultural exercise.

### *Emergency aid to East and South-East England (Ralph Howell)*

Mr François-Poncet said he was unable to give any more details on emergency aid to East and South-East England. Mr Howell (UK, EC), in a supplementary, said the money – 1m EUA (700,000 pounds) – had not yet been allocated by the British Government, nor was it planned to spend it only in the regions affected. Mr François-Poncet agreed that this might be a matter for the Court of Auditors.

### *International Children's Year (Liam Kavanagh)*

While recognizing the need to consider the question of legislation as pertaining to children, Mr François-Poncet pointed out that the Council could act only on the basis of Commission proposals.

### *Common agricultural policy (André Soury)*

The Council had not yet considered the Commission's review of the common agricultural policy, but would be doing so soon. Mr L'Estrange suggested that a freeze on farm prices should be accompanied by a general freeze on increases in other sectors too.

## **Question to the Foreign Ministers of the Nine**

### *Prevention of terrorism (Tam Dalyell)*

On 8 April 1978 the European Council decided to consider the question of terrorism and had now set in motion studies of various aspects of the problem, including the abuse of diplomatic bags.

## Counting the votes in the first European elections

Mr Patijn's question \* to the Council.

The European Elections Act of 20 September 1976 lays down that 'The counting of votes may not begin until after the close of polling in the Member State whose electors are the last to vote .....'. Mr Patijn asked Mr Jean François-Poncet if arrangements could be made to ensure that the results of these first European elections could all be announced on the same day in all Member States: because this will obviously have a direct bearing on television coverage.

Provided that is possible and the results can be announced on that same evening, the radio and television networks of the Member States are contemplating broadcasting a multi-national programme, covering the election results, which would convey to viewers and listeners the significance of these direct elections.

However, if it turns out that too few countries will be announcing the results that evening, the networks would not be prepared to broadcast a programme of this nature.

In reply Mr François-Poncet said that it was his understanding that the results could begin to be announced as of 7 p.m. on Sunday, 10 June (or 8 p.m. summer time).

\* For the political committee

### **Enlargement: political and institutional aspects**

Mr Pintat's report (Doc. 479/78).

This first detailed look at the question of enlargement deals with the political and institutional aspects: a further report will consider the economic aspects.

In his introduction Mr Jean-François Pintat (Fr, L), for the political committee described enlargement as 'an act of faith in democracy in Europe'. His motion, which documents Parliament's political will to see Greece, Portugal and Spain join the Community, insists that respect for pluralist democracy should be a condition of membership; that new Member States fully accept the existing

achievements of the Community; and that the EP be consulted on studies on improving the Community's decision-making procedures in the light of enlargement.

While some speakers in the debate expressed reservations as to the content of the motion itself, only French Communist spokesman Mr André Soury had doubts as to the desirability of enlargement as such.

Replying for the Commission, Vice-President Natali said negotiations with Greece had now concluded, talks with Portugal had started and would begin with Spain in February. Enlargement, he went on, need not result in economic disaster, but should bring advantages for both the applicants and the Nine. But this would require careful preparation in an effort to achieve a high degree of economic convergence.

Council President Mr Bernard-Remond thanked Parliament for its interest. The Pintat report, he felt, provided a sound basis for further analysis of the problems involved.

## **THURSDAY, 18th January 1979**

### **Community action in the cultural sector**

Mr Amadei's report (Doc. 325/78).

Earlier this year the Commission sent the Council a note on all the EC is doing in the cultural sector (COM (77) 560 final (2.12.77) EP Doc. 497/77). The Community's activities range from promoting free trade in works of art, pressing for law harmonization to curb thefts, ironing out VAT and other tax anomalies and looking into such matters as copyright, lending rights, resale rights and the lot of literary translators.

The Community has also financed an information campaign about nuclear conservation (a treatment developed by the nuclear reasearch centre in Grenoble). It has given its patronage to the Community Youth Orchestra (consisting of 100 musicians aged 14 to 20 from the nine Member States) and it has contributed towards the development of cultural exchanges in an effort to dispel prejudice and preconceived ideas.

There was a general welcome, from the ten speakers in the debate, for the Commission's statement and there were several suggestions about practical ways in which the EC could go further: Lord St Oswald (UK, EC) urged that VAT on theatre and entertainment be cut and both Mr Ruairi Brugha (Ir, EPD) and Mr Liam Kavanagh (Ir, S) drew attention to tax anomalies affecting interpretative artists and artistic productions, even though, in Ireland, creative artists did receive favourable tax treatment.

Lord St Oswald also suggested the EC should promote the automatic retransmission of television programmes so that viewers in Scotland, for example, could see French programmes if they wished and Danish viewers Italian programmes and so forth. He thought too that the European foundation should sponsor lectures to be broadcast in all Member States, a point similar to that made by Mr Brugha that there should be a European Cultural Centre showing the best examples of all our cultures and which could tour the Member States.

The other main point in the debate was the question of minority languages. Mr Tom Ellis (UK, S) began by saying 'Dyma'r tro cyntaf i mi siarad yn fy mamiaith yn y senedd hon a dewisaf y ddadl bresennol ar ddiwylliant i wnevd hynny.' (This is the first time for me to speak in my mother tongue in this parliament and I choose the present debate on culture to do it.) but he was ruled out of order, Welsh not being an official language of the Parliament. Mr Ellis accepted the ruling of the Chair but requested that the rules committee be asked to give an opinion on the use of languages in the House. For someone not to be able to speak their mother tongue, he felt, made a mockery of fine words spoken about culture.

Mr Ellis felt it was desirable to promote minority languages for two reasons: to replace the hegemony prevailing at present (and this was why he was in favour of the Community) and to enhance the lives of those who spoke them. He referred here to the improvement in the quality of debate on a council whose members had been given the right to speak their native Welsh.

Mr Russell Johnston sympathised. There ought, he said, to be a favourable environment for minority languages. He referred to his primary school on the Isle of Skye where five of the fifty children spoke no English at all. There were some 80,000 people in North and West Scotland speaking Scottish Gaelic today. And he was pleased, he said, that the Commission was thinking of making a survey of minority languages.

Replying to the debate Mr Brunner thanked the House for its support. Culture, he had been reminded, both united and divided. He hoped the EC would do more, culturally, and he trusted there would be more such debates. He shared Mr Jan Broeksz's regret at the demise of Parliament's cultural committee and hoped the directly-elected parliament would reinstate it.

## **Human Rights in Iran**

Mr Cot's report (Doc. 547/78).

Mr Cot's motion, drawn up for the political committee, called on the foreign ministers of the Nine to intervene with the Iranian authorities with a view to putting a stop to repressive action and releasing political prisoners. In his introduction to the report, Mr Cot spoke in detail of the range of human rights' violations reported by numerous organizations, including Amnesty International. These violations included torture, inhuman prison conditions and unfair or arbitrary sentences.

Mr Hans-Edgar Jahn, for the Christian-Democrats, said that his group condemned all violations of human rights wherever in the world they occurred, and referred in this connection to Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Cambodia and Vietnam. The Christian-Democrats would support the motion.

European Conservative spokesman, Mr Erhard Jakobsen, was critical of choosing this particular moment for a debate on this issue: violations of human rights in Iran were known to have taken place for many years. In the light of the present crisis in Iran he thought Parliament might be wiser to delay condemnation.

For the Communists, Mr Michele Pistillo and Mr Jacques Eberhard both expressed support for the motion. Mr Pistillo said he hoped that the departure of the Shah heralded an end to the years of repression in that country.

Replying for the Commission, Vice-President Haferkamp said the Commission would do everything in its power to encourage a normalization of the situation in Iran. He too hoped that recent developments would lead to establishment of freedom and democracy in that country.

## **Refugees from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam**

Mr Cifarelli's motion (Doc. 570/78/rev.).

Speaking to a motion tabled for the Liberals, Mr Russell Johnston (UK, L) called on the House to press for a joint effort by Community and Asean countries to help refugees from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. His group was looking for a plan for integrating the refugees in the EC and Asean countries 'taking account of the problems of racial relations and over-population in South-East Asia and of the need for a fair distribution of the costs of such integration'.

Communist spokesman Mr Pistillo was surprised no reference had been made to the sufferings of the people of this area over the last 80 years, as a result of the colonialism of France, Japan and United States.

Closing the debate, Mr Haferkamp said the Commission was ready to do what it could to help but its means were limited.

## **EC-Malta Association Agreement**

Mr Klepsch's \* question to the Commission (Doc. 535/78).

Speaking to the question, Mr Giovanni Bersani (It, CD) drew attention to the difficulties being experienced by the people of Malta and asked whether the Community was doing everything in its power to help, particularly under the 1971 association agreement.

In reply Mr Haferkamp reminded the House of what the EC had done for Malta, a new examination of EC-Malta relations being envisaged for April. The main item of aid was the 26m EUA (17.6 million pounds) financial protocol.

On this last point Mr George Cunningham (UK, S) asked if the Commission could be flexible in its approach: a Maltese law prohibits interest rates of over 3 per cent where infrastructure projects are involved and it is towards such projects that EC money would normally go.

\* other signatories: Mr Granelli, Mr Ryan, Mr Ripamonti, Mr Bertrand Mr Martinelli, Mr Bersani, Mr Blumenfeld, Mr Vandewiele.

## QUESTION TIME

### Questions to the Commission

#### *Coresponsibility levy (John Corrie and Ralph Howell)*

Mr Gundelach told Mr Corrie (UK, EC) that dairy farmers in all Member States were paying the levy. The Commission was now finalizing a report on the operation of the levy and this would be submitted to Parliament. Mr Howell (UK, EC) found this inadequate and said the Commission had no policy for dealing with the milk crisis. Mr Gundelach said it had. It was simply different from the production quota policy Mr Howell favoured.

#### *Safety of nuclear power stations (Thomas Nolan)*

Mr Brunner told the House of the EC's expenditure on safety research and of its efforts to align national security measures. Mr Ellis (UK, S) asked Mr Brunner if he agreed that it would be irresponsible to eschew the nuclear option in favour of greater dependence on imports. Mr Brunner said the EC's dependence on imports had to be reduced and the safety record was good.

#### *Monetary compensatory amounts (Mark Hughes)*

People in France and the United Kingdom found it hard to see how they benefitted when German exporters received MCAs in Deutschmarks on what they sent to France and the UK, said Mr Mark Hughes (UK, S). In reply Mr Gundelach suggested the simplest explanation was lower prices in the countries concerned.

#### *International Sugar Agreement (Alan Fitch)*

Mr Gundelach was in favour of the agreement because it stabilized a volatile market. But the agreement itself was in limbo. The USSR government were reluctant to accept it. And the US Senate had its doubts. Mr Hughes asked if figures for sugar export rebates could be included in the price review texts. Mr Gundelach said they could.

### *Social Fund help for women (Liam Kavanagh)*

Mr Ortoli said that all eligible requests for help for women further to the Council decision of 20 December 1977 had been met. Twelve thousand women had been affected and the full budget appropriation of 8m EUA (5.4 million pounds) had been spent. Mr Liam Kavanagh (Ir, S) found the numbers disappointing. Mr Ortoli said it was only a start.

### *EC office in Santiago in Chile (Piet Dankert)*

Mr Jenkins said the responsibilities of the EC information office in Santiago were gradually being transferred to an office at Caracas in Venezuela.

### *Euradio (Michael Yeats)*

Mr Jenkins said that 300,000 EUA (202,405 pounds) was still available for the plan. The Commission regretted there had been a disagreement as to how the service should be run and that, for this reason, it had run into difficulty. Mr Tom Ellis (UK, S) asked whether he would reconsider discontinuing the publication of 'Euradio'. Mr Jenkins said he would look into it.

## **Vote**

See summary.

## **EC-Malta Agreement**

Conclusion of debate on Mr Klepsch's question.

Lord St Oswald said there was a danger that the privileges enjoyed by EC associates could be eroded after enlargement: this must not happen. However, privileges implied a degree of reciprocity, and Malta's expulsion of Mr Kai Uwe von Hassel last year was not designed to improve relations.

Mr Prescott (UK, S) accused Lord St Oswald of applying double standards in his approach to the situation in Malta.



## **EC relations with COMECON**

Mr Martinelli's question (Doc. 538/78).

Mr Mario Martinelli (It, CD) asked the Commission about the progress being made in talks between the Community and COMECON on the conclusion of a trade agreement.

In reply, Vice-President Haferkamp said that the most recent talks with COMECON had been held in Brussels in November 1978 and the COMECON delegation had included representatives of all Member States except Mongolia and Vietnam.

The EC had expressed its willingness to recognize both COMECON as such and its member states individually as party to any agreement. However, this and other EC compromise proposals had as yet received no response.

The Commission had decided to recommend the opening of talks between the EC and Rumania on a trade agreement, Mr Haferkamp added.

Speakers in the debate agreed that closer trade links with COMECON were desirable in principle, but that the Community should not seek agreement at all costs: the Commission had compromised as far as it could, and it was now the turn of COMECON to show its willingness to do likewise.

## **Energy research and development programme**

Mr De Clercq's report (Doc. 499/78).

The Commission's second energy research and development programme is to stretch over five years (1979 - 1983); it will cost some 125m EUA (84.34 million pounds) and will be concentrated on energy conservation and research into solar and geothermal energy.

Mr Paul De Clercq (Be, L), for the energy and research committee, asked Parliament to approve the Commission's proposal.

Mr De Clercq's motion was supported by spokesmen for all Parliament's groups, though EC spokesman John Osborn (UK, EC) thought it as well to bear in mind that the USA spends ten times as much on research as the EC does.

## **Producers, profits and prices**

Mr Willi Müller's report (Doc. 404/78)

Mr Müller (Ge, S) introduced his report (for Parliament's committee on consumer protection) on producer prices, middlemen's profit margins and the prices consumers finally pay for EC farm products.

His analysis shows a relative decline in the farmer's share in the final product price and a relative increase in the proportion of the final selling price going on processing, packaging and advertising. His report also analysed the problem of product surpluses and the role of larger organizations and supermarkets in the food trade.

In reply, Mr Gundelach stressed the importance the Commission attached to the question of consumer prices in the food sector. It was in the consumer's interest, however, that the producer made enough money to go on producing; it was equally in the producer's interest not to price himself out of the market. There lay the inevitable relationship between producer and consumer prices.

Although the CAP did often have the effect of increasing consumer prices, other factors involving world food market forces played a role, Mr Gundelach said.

## **Fisheries policy: inspection procedures**

Mr Klinker's (Docs. 441/78 and 442/78) and Mr Hughes's motion (Doc. 554/78)

In his first report, Mr Hans-Jürgen Klinker (Ge, CD) called on the Commission to endorse an agriculture committee proposal for a new fisheries policy regulation. This would establish a Community coastguard service and make it clear that inspections carried out would be a Community operation. This is the first time a parliamentary committee has actually drafted an EC regulation.

In his second report, Mr Klinker urged that the Member States jointly procure the aircraft, helicopters and ships needed to patrol EC waters.

Mr Mark Hughes (UK, S) put down a motion, for the agriculture committee, summing up the committee's views on fisheries policy: the importance of conservation; the need to look further than quotas in managing fisheries

resources; the relative irrelevance of national zones; the desirability of a twelve-mile belt in which preferences should be given to small and local fishing vessels; and the kind of conservation measures that would be appropriate.

Speaking for the European Conservatives, Mr John Corrie said he did not anticipate any agreement on fisheries policy before the Autumn. Given the high unemployment in the peripheral fishing districts, it was unlikely that any British government could give way in defending a vital interest. He thought that the other Member States failed to understand the situation facing the UK fishing industry.

Mr Charles McDonald (Ir, CD) put down 19 amendments to Mr Klinker's motion, these being signed by Mr Gerald L'Estrange (Ir, CD) and Mr Richie Ryan (Ir, CD) too.

Replying to the debate, Mr Gundelach doubted whether the introduction of a new zone concept would make ultimate agreement easier. He remained convinced that an equitable sharing arrangement was the only possible basis for a common policy. At present the lack of such a policy was leading to over-fishing. The herring was coming back but mackerel were now being over-fished. And the country most guilty of over-fishing was the one which talked the most about conservation.

Turning to Mr Klinker's suggestions, Mr Gundelach said he found them very interesting but felt they belonged to the future.

### **Labelling and packaging of animal feeds**

Mr Halvgaard's report (Doc. 545/78).

The Commission is proposing a technical amendment to Directive No 77/101 EC on the marketing of straight feedingstuffs and a two-year postponement in the date of its entry into force.

Mr Borge Halvgaard (Da, EPD), for the agriculture committee, asked the House to approve the proposal.

## **Cattle disease**

Mr Durand's report (Doc. 544/78).

Article 104 of the Accession Treaty authorized Denmark, Ireland and the UK to retain their national rules for declaring a herd of cattle free of tuberculosis or brucellosis, and their rules on production against swine fever, until the end of 1978. In respect of brucellosis, the Commission is seeking to extend the authorisation for Ireland and the UK for a further year, and for tuberculosis and swine fever for all three countries.

Mr Charles Durand (Fr, L), for the agriculture committee, asked Parliament to approve the proposals.

## **Regulation on the hops market**

Mr Isidor Früh (Ge, CD) asked Parliament to approve a regulation on the hops market (Doc. 572/78).

## **The Ardèche**

Mr Liogier put down a motion (Doc. 571/78/rev.) calling on the Commission to give emergency aid to the people of the Ardèche where there have been a succession of natural disasters (fires devastating woodlands and snowfalls causing considerable damage).

In reply, Mr Gundelach trusted that aid could be made available from the EC emergency fund set up to provide help in the event of natural disasters.

## **FRIDAY, 19th January 1979**

### **Noise from compressors**

Mrs Squarcialupi's report (Doc. 469/78).

The Commission's proposal calls on Member States to harmonize maximum permissible noise levels for compressors (pneumatic drills and other tools powered by compressors are covered under separate legislation).

The most common type of compressor (with an air flow of between 1 and 10 m<sup>3</sup>/min.) will be subject to a maximum noise level of 100 decibels initially and 95 decibels after 1.1.1983.

The proposal forms part of the EC's action programme on the environment.

Mrs Vera Squarcialupi (It, CA), for Parliament's environment, public health and consumer protection committee, welcomed the proposal, but regretted that the Commission had not considered workers' health and taken action to limit the danger to hearing of those operating such machinery.

### **Tractor lights**

Mr McDonald's report (Doc. 559/78).

The Commission has already submitted a proposal on the fitting of lighting and light-signalling devices for wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors. It is now submitting a proposal on the design of these devices. The proposal is that lamps bearing an EC type-approval mark delivered pursuant to Directives on motor-vehicle lamps can also be fitted to an agricultural tractor.

Mr Charles McDonald (Ir, CD), rapporteur for the regional and transport committee, called for approval of the proposal.

### **Ship inspection**

Lord Bruce's report (Doc. 556/78).

The Commission is asking for a Council Decision to make certain inspection procedures for ships mandatory in Community ports. These procedures are principally those set out in Resolution A 321 (IX) adopted on 12 November 1975 by IMCO (Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization). Their aim is to help in the fight against sea pollution, particularly by oil.

Lord Bruce of Donington (UK, S), chairman of the regional and transport committee, asked Parliament to approve this proposal. Several recent tanker accidents could have been avoided had such inspection procedures been implemented earlier, he said.

## **Mother and child**

Mrs Squarcialupi's question to the Commission (Doc. 527/78).

Expressing some bitterness that a question of such importance as the protection of mother and child was being taken on a Friday morning, Mrs Squarcialupi (It, CA) asked the Commission for a comparative analysis of relevant national laws and for proposals to ensure the same level of protection throughout the Community.

In reply Mr Vredeling said that the Commission published a review of social security benefits in the EC every two years; various other details were already available. The Commission had found wide divergence of view between the Nine: maternity leave varied from 12 to 20 weeks, and benefits differed too. Some states, for example, made it illegal to dismiss women during pregnancy.

## **Social security systems**

Mr Deschamp's question to the Commission (Doc. 528/78).

Worried about the slow-down in funding social security measures, Mr Pierre Deschamps (BE, CD) asked the Commission what had been done towards harmonizing the different national systems.

In reply Mr Vredeling said that the Commission's policy was to try and ensure minimum benefit levels.

## **Family policy**

Mr Deschamp's question to the Commission (Doc. 530/78).

Surprised to discover he was the first EMP to raise the question of family policy, Mr Pierre Deschamps (Be, CD) asked the Commission what practical conclusions it had drawn from the meeting of the Committee of Family Organisations in the EC held in Brussels on 2nd October 1978.

In reply Mr Vredeling said the EC had done a great deal to promote the family interest: directives on free movement, where the accent was on the education of

the children affected. Devising a family policy for the whole Community did not seem to be indicated but he agreed the Commission should create the basis for such a policy.

## **Energy**

Speaking to a motion tabled for the Socialist, Christian Democrat, Liberal, European Conservative and Communist Groups, Mr De Clercq drew attention to the effects on the EC's oil supplies of the crisis in Iran. He called for a 'comprehensive plan of action' to enable the Community to cope.

## **Red Mud**

Mr Fioret (It, CD) asked the Commission if it knew that two Member States had asked for exemption for the EC directive on the disposal of titanium dioxide for five industrial establishments.

In reply Mr Vredeling said two of the firms work in the UK and export in Germany. The Commission was looking into these requests for exemptions.

## **Competition in the poultry sector**

Mr Deschamps asked the Commission for its opinion of Dutch measures having a bearing on competition in the poultry sector.

In reply Mr Vredeling said he would look into it.

## SUMMARY

**Monday, 15th January – Friday, 19th January 1979**

(Document numbers in brackets)

**Monday, 15th January 1979**

5.05 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Mr Brown expressed concern about Council decisions on energy taken without proper regard for Parliament's opinions.

*Time taken to answer parliamentary questions*

Mr Yeats's question to the Commission (Doc. 529/78).

*VAT*

Mr Notenboom's report (Doc. 543/78).

*Common transport policy*

Mr Seefeld's report (Doc. 512/78).

*Statement by President on organization of session work*

**Tuesday, 16th January 1979**

10 a.m. to 1.10 p.m. and 3.05 p.m. to 8 p.m.

*Bantry Bay disaster*

EPD Group question to the Commission (Doc. 568/78).

*Steel and ore supplies*

Mr Ansquer's report (Doc. 567/78).



### *Question Time*

Questions to the Commission (Doc. 560/78).

### *Vote*

The House agreed to the motions in the reports by Mr Notenboom (Doc. 543/78) on VAT, Mr Seefeld (Doc. 512/78) on a common transport policy and Mr Ansquer (Doc. 567/78) on steel and ore supplies.

### *Protecting employees when employers go bankrupt*

Mr Dinesen's report (Doc. 552/78).

### *Special rights for Community citizens*

Questions to the Commission by Mr Scelba and Mr Bayerl (Docs. 537/78 and 539/78).

### *State of the shipbuilding industry*

Mr Müller-Hermann's question to the Commission (Doc. 536/78).

### *Crimes against the Community*

Mr Krieg's report (Doc. 498/78).

### *Solar energy*

Mr Dalyell's report (Doc. 557/78).

### **Wednesday, 17th January 1979**

10.05 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3.05 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### *Statement by Jean François-Poncet*

Followed by a debate.

## *Vote*

The House agreed to the motions in the reports by Mr Dinesen (Doc. 552/78) on protecting employees, Mr Krieg (Doc. 498/78) on crimes against the Community and Mr Dalyell (Doc. 557/78) on solar energy.

## *Question Time*

Questions to the Council and the Foreign Ministers of the Nine.

## *Counting the votes in the first European elections*

Mr Patijn's question to the Council (Doc. 526/78).

## *Enlargement: political and institutional aspects*

Mr Pintats's report (Doc. 479/78).

## *Community action in the cultural sector*

Mr Amadei's report (Doc. 325/78).

## **Thursday, 18th January 1979**

10.05 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 8.35 p.m.

## *Community action in the cultural sector*

Continuation of Mr Amadei's report (Doc. 325/78).

## *Human rights in Iran*

Mr Cot's report (Doc. 547/78).

*Refugees from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam*

Mr Cifarelli's motion (Doc. 570/78/rev.).

*EC-Malta association agreement*

Mr Klepsch's question (Doc. 535/78).

*Question Time*

Questions to the Commission.

*Vote*

The House agreed to the motions in the reports by Mr Pintat (Doc. 479/78) on enlargement: the political and institutional aspects (after amendment), Mr Amadei (Doc. 325/78) on the cultural sector (after amendment) and Mr Cot (Doc. 547/78) on human rights in Iran. The House also agreed to Mr Cifarelli's motion (Doc. 570/78/rev.) on refugees from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam (after amendment).

*EC relations with COMECON*

Mr Martinelli's question (Doc. 538/78).

*Energy research and development programme*

Mr De Clercq's report (Doc. 499/78).

*Producers, profits and prices*

Mr Willi Müller's report (Doc. 404/78).

*Fisheries policy: inspection procedures*

Mr Klinker's reports (Docs. 441/78 and 442/78) and Mr Hughes's motion (Doc. 554/78).

*Labelling and packaging of animal feeds*

Mr Halvgaard's report (Doc. 545/78).

*Cattle disease*

Mr Durand's report (Doc. 544/78).

*Regulation on the hops market*

Mr Früh's report (Doc. 572/78).

*The Ardèche*

Mr Liogier's motion (Doc. 571/78/rev.).

**Friday, 19th January 1979**

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

*Noise from compressors*

Mrs Squarcialupi's report (Doc. 469/78).

*Tractor lights*

Mr McDonald's report (Doc. 559/78).

*Ship inspection*

Lord Bruce's report (Doc. 556/78).

*Mother and child*

Mrs Squarcialupi's question to the Commission (Doc. 527/78).

### *Social security systems*

Mr Deschamps's question to the Commission (Doc. 528/78).

### *Family policy*

Mr Deschamps's question to the Commission (Doc. 530/78).

### *Energy*

Political groups's question to the Commission (Doc. 569/78/rev.).

### *Red mud*

Mr Fioret's question (Doc. 531/78).

### *Competition in the poultry sector*

Mr Deschamps's question to the Commission (Doc. 533/78)

### *Vote*

The House agreed, at the beginning of the morning's sitting, to the motion in the reports by Mr De Clercq (Doc. 499/78) on energy research and development programme, Mr Willi Müller (Doc. 404/78) on consumer prices (after amendment), Mr Klinker (Docs. 441/78 and 442/78) on fisheries policy, Mr Halvgaard (Doc. 545/78) on labelling of animal feeds, Mr Durand (Doc. 544/78) on cattle disease and Mr Früh (Doc. 572/78) on hops market. The House also agreed to Mr Liogier's motion (Doc. 571/78/rev.) on the Ardèche.

Mr Hughes's motion (Doc. 554/78) on fisheries policy was referred back to committee.

The House agreed, at the end of the sitting, to the motions in the reports by Mrs Squarcialupi (Doc. 469/78) on noise from compressors, Mr McDonald (Doc. 559/78) on tractor lights and Lord Bruce (Doc. 556/78) on ship inspection. The House also agreed to Mr Pintat's motion (Doc. 569/78/rev.) on the energy situation (after amendment).

## **POSTSCRIPT**

### **Resolutions adopted in November**

Parliament gave its unqualified approval to six Commission proposals regarding:

Imports of bovine animals and beef from Yugoslavia (Doc. 540/78)

Straight feedingstuffs (Doc. 545/78)

Brucellosis and tuberculosis Doc. 544/78)

Hops (Doc. 572/78)

Lighting of agricultural or forestry tractors (Doc. 556/78)

Ship inspection (Doc. 556/78).

Parliament gave its qualified approval to one Commission proposal:

Community action in the cultural sector by Mr Amadei (Doc. 325/78)

The EP approved the guidelines for Community action in the cultural sector and asked that funds be provided to carry through this action; it called for proposals enabling the various measures to be put into effect in accordance with priorities specified by it, and stressed the need to preserve important monuments and sites.

Parliament called for amendments to six Commission proposals:

VAT 8th Directive by Mr Notenboom (Doc. 543/78)

The EP called for

- proposals extending the VAT refund system to persons resident in third countries and defining the expenditure not eligible for deduction
- greater simplification of administrative formalities.

Protection of employees in the event of their employer's insolvency by Mr Dinesen (Doc. 552/78)

The EP regretted that the Commission had adopted minimum rules and proposed a number of amendments, particular that

- minimum liability of the Member States be extended from 3 to 6 months' pay (Art. 4)

- Member States must comply with the rules within 12 months instead of 18 months (Art. 9)
- the guarantee fund be financed by the employers without any contributions from the employees (Art. 5)
- the guarantee institutions pay unfulfilled claims of employees even if they have arisen after the onset of the employer's insolvency (Art. 3).

#### Draft treaties – criminal law by Mr Krieg (Doc. 498/78)

The Ep approved the use of national criminal law in relation to the offences covered by the proposals, but put forward a number of amendments aiming at avoiding discrimination between Community officials on the basis of nationality, and deleting the specific reference to the Communities' financial interests.

#### Solar energy by Mr Dalyell (Doc. 557/78)

The EP approved the proposal, but expressed serious reservations with regard to the decision-making procedures introduced by the Council in the basic regulation; it will call for the initiation of the conciliation procedure should the Council attempt to adopt a regulation in accordance with those procedures.

#### Energy research and development programme by Mr De Clercq (Doc. 499/78)

The EP welcomed the proposal but put forward an amendment to Art. 2 aiming at preserving its budgetary powers. It requested that the proposal for the next multiannual programme be presented at least a year before the expiration of this programme.

#### Noise emitted by compressors by Mrs Squarcialupi (Doc. 469/78)

The EP welcomed the proposal and urged the Commission to follow technological progress and reduce, when possible, the noise levels which are still too high. It proposed an amendment to Art. 7, making the use of noisy machines in densely built-up areas subject to special rules.

Parliament also adopted then other resolutions:

#### Common transport policy by Mr Seefeld (Doc. 512/78)

The EP called on the Commission to submit a coherent network plan for the introduction of a common transport policy and a Council work programme

for the years after 1980, and it urged that priority be given to railways, transit traffic through Switzerland and Austria, sea transport, air safety and inland waterways; it reserved the right to institute proceedings against the Council under Art. 175 of the EEC Treaty for failure to take action in the transport sector. Iron and steel by Mr Ansquer (Doc. 567/78)

The EP approved the renewal of the anti-crisis plan for 1979, but emphasized that the restructuring had to be followed up by regional and social measures; it requested the Commission actively to promote higher steel consumption and to keep under close review the actual implementation of the restructuring plans and the utilization of the aids granted.

#### Prospect of enlargement of the Community by Mr Pintat (Doc. 479/78)

The EP expressed its political will to see Greece, Portugal and Spain join the Community; it stressed that respect for pluralist democracy should be a condition of membership and insisted that new Member States fully accept the existing achievements of the Community; finally, it asked to be consulted on studies on improving the Community's decision-making processes with a view to enlargement.

#### Human rights in Iran by Mr Cot (Doc. 547/78)

The EP condemned the violation of human rights in Iran and called on the Foreign Ministers to make urgent representations to the political forces in Iran with the aim of restoring a normal situation.

#### Refugees from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam by Mr Cifarelli (Doc. 570/78)

The EP called on the Foreign Ministers to approach the UN High Commissioner for Refugees with a view to establishing a plan for integrating the refugees into both the Community and the ASEAN countries, but also to urge the Government of Vietnam to ensure that its citizens can live peacefully and freely in their own country.

#### Prices of agricultural products by Mr W. Müller (Doc. 404/78)

The EP urged the Commission to pursue its anti-inflationary prices policy, to propose effective forms of co-responsibility for farmers in the case of surplus products, and to make greater use of intervention goods as food aid.



**Fisheries – inspection and surveillance procedures by Mr Klinker (Doc.441/78)**

The EP had drafted a proposal for a regulation on the establishment of a Community coastguard service and invited the Commission to submit this proposal to the Council.

**Fisheries – inspection and surveillance equipment by Mr Klinker (Doc. 442/78)**

The EP recommended the establishment of a committee of experts

The EP recommended the establishment of a committee of experts responsible for determining Community missions and requirements, and advised that a competition be held with the aim of selecting the most appropriate equipment.

**Natural disasters in the Ardèche region by Mr Liogier (Doc. 571/78/rev.)**

The EP asked the Commission to take emergency measures and provide the victims with adequate aid from the disaster fund.

**Energy situation in the Community by Mr Pintat (Doc. 569/78/rev.)**

The EP called for the implementation of a comprehensive plan of action which takes into account all forms of energy and the need to diversify sources of supply and eliminate waste.

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