

European Parliament Information

The Sittings
May 1979



THE SITTINGS

LUXEMBOURG, 7th - 11th MAY 1979

THE WEEK

The 198 member European Parliament, made up of indirectly-elected national parliamentarians, held its last session in Luxembourg from 7th to 11th May 1979. Its main talking point was a report on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy.

Echternach is a small town in Luxembourg famous for having been evangelised in the year 700 by an English Saint named Willibrod. And it was here, in the autumn of 1978, that the European Parliament's agriculture committee met up with various farming experts and ministers to take a calm, quiet look at the European Community's controversial CAP, its Common Agricultural Policy. Clearly, they concluded, all was not well. Production in some sectors is still going up without there being any corresponding increase in consumption and the result has been embarrassing and expensive surpluses. And they were uncertain whether the means so far chosen to contain surpluses - such as the so-called corresponsibility levy - were ever likely to do the job they were supposed to do. To the contrary, they came to the conclusion that Europe's farming industry could be supported in a number of different ways, varying according to the product involved: prices, direct support for incomes, quotas. And they argued that they could be applied selectively.

These conclusions were presented to the European Parliament on Thursday, 10th May (at its final session before the direct elections) by agriculture chairman Henri Caillavet.

There was no question, he said, of challenging the basic principles of the CAP as set out in Rome Treaty article 39 (EC preference, fair prices for the consumer and fair incomes for farmers). But what had worried his colleagues was that the gap between rich and poor farmers was widening, with surpluses of some products growing to the point where both the CAP and the EC itself were threatened. And here he pointed out that cheap

imports of fodder cereals such as manioc and soya beans did not help the EC's own fodder producers (the rye growers, for example).

Mr Caillavet called for EC backing for productions where demand could be expanded, such as long rice or soya, or where the market's need were not being met from EC productions. And this should be coupled with a new land policy, possibly through the rural fund concept launched by James Scott-Hopkins and John Currie. Such means could be used to stem the flow of farmers away from the land. In sum, he was calling for a much more subtle and flexible approach to the Common Market's most intractable problems.

Mr Caillavet's remarks met with a fair measure of support in the debate. Mr Pisani, for example, agreed that the shortcomings of the CAP could hurt the whole EC concept. He suggested three different approaches to three different types of product. One for products which would always find buyers on the world market, such as cereals, sugar and so on; one for processed products and one for products which had no world market such as wine, fruit, vegetables, butter.

Another Socialist, Mr Hoffman agreed. But he doubted whether suggestions about giving southern farmers the same kind of guarantees as the dairy producers in the north could really work. However there was no doubt that the present intervention arrangements were not working either.

Both Mr Tolman and Mr Corrie shared the view of their colleagues that the Echternach seminar had been 'a breath of fresh air'. For what was lacking at present was any way that new ideas could take root and thrive. One special point Mr Corrie drew attention to was the way those purchasing new equipment could get both grants and tax rebates whereas those buying second-hand tractors, for example, got neither.

In reply, Mr Gundelach defended the Commission's record. He agreed the conditions under which soya beans were imported were anomalous but — on another point — continued to defend the coresponsibility levy. Substantially he said: 'My instinct is that we must put our faith in an imaginative combination of measures. Together with a prudent price policy they are intervention support; direct payments to producers, quotas for sugar, an active commercial policy including consumer subsidies and an active export policy.'

Mr Corrie said he was glad to note that the Commissioner had 'shifted his ground slightly'.

Either way Mr Caillavet's report may be of more than passing interest to the 410 elected Members of the European Parliament who will be meeting at the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg on Tuesday, 17th July. His ideas

about giving the European Parliament a greater say in the shaping of the EC's farm policy – and which Mr Gundelach seemed to resist – may set them thinking.

For the record it may be worth noting two of the key paragraphs in Mr Caillavet's motion :

'(The European Parliament) calls for the deletion of the clause stipulating that the conciliation procedure with the Council can only be applied to general Community acts whose adoption is not necessitated by pre-existing acts, since this rules out conciliation, for example, on the annual farm price review;

In view of the fact that, when proposals are considered by Parliament , they are concurrently under review and often substantially amended, without any parliamentary control, by the Council's Special Committee on Agriculture in collaboration with groups of national experts and the Commission itself, requests that the rapporteurs and the Members of Parliament should be permitted to take part, at least as observers, in meetings of the CSA and, possibly, those of the expert groups as well.'

The motion was agreed to.

Monday evening (5 pm to 8 pm)

Company taxation, air traffic control and an EC approach to dealing with unfair or misleading advertising were the three points the European Parliament dealt with in its three hour session here in Luxembourg this evening. And the debates had one point in common : regret that the Community was doing so little and an emphasis on the need for the Community to do more. Common company taxation arrangements would help not hinder the settling of industry in areas in need of investment; harmonised air traffic control would save time, money and lives - as the recent hearing Parliament's transport committee had held in Paris had shown; and common ad rules would give the consumer greater protection at a time when ads were going well beyond national adspace.

Tuesday morning (10 am to 1.20 pm)

There was general support in the House this morning for Mr Bayerl's report on data banks and individual rights - a report drawn up on Parliament's own initiative and several years in the making. Legislation was vital, speakers agreed, if a 1984 situation was to be avoided. Other points on this morning's agenda : building materials, customs formalities and raw materials.

Tuesday evening (3pm to 7.20 pm)

Parliament's main talking point this afternoon was the Commission's new proposals to spend 142m EUA to save 80,000 jobs in the steel industry. The operative principle would be work sharing. Early retirement would be possible for some facing redundancy, a shorter working week could be introduced, a fourth or fifth shift worked and overtime reduced. The proposals got a mixed reception, some Members welcoming the idea - especially Albert Bertrand for the Christian Democrats, but others, like Mr Christensen for the EPDs, felt the Commission was encroaching on a national preserve.

Wednesday morning (10.15 am to 1.10 am to 1.10 pm)

Jobs were Parliament's main concern this morning. There are at present six million people out of work in the Community and the demand for further jobs is likely to reach the 15 million mark by 1985, Commissioner Vredeling told the House. At the same time, achieving full employment by then implies a growth rate of at least 4.5% which the Community does not look like attaining. In any case, Mr Vredeling added growth of itself was not enough to create employment. He urged the House to support a coordinated Community approach to finding the most appropriate package of measures for solving the problem.

Wednesday evening (3pm to 9.30 pm)

In statements after Question Time this afternoon, Council President Bernard-Reymond and Commission President Roy Jenkins took their leave of what Mr Jenkins called the 'Long Parliament'. After that, the House got down to debating some of the 40 odd reports still to be dealt with before Friday lunchtime. Much of the afternoon's business concerned energy: a statement by the Commission on Harrisburg, three reports by Mr Flämig on energy help for the third world, the JRC and oil prices, and a report by Mr Brown on wind, wave and tidal powers. The House also discussed the legal committee's report on company structures, seven years in the making.

Thursday morning (10.15 am to 1 pm)

In this morning's resumed debate on the Commission's proposal for a Fifth Directive (worker participation in company management), MEPs made liberal use of Rule 31 of the Rule of Procedure (allowing Members to speak twice on the same subject) so that when the House adjourned for lunch the debate was technically still in progress. This means that the vote on the resolution cannot take place this afternoon. In other business this morning Parliament discussed its 1980 budget estimates and possible changes to its Rules of Procedure. 22 reports remain on today's agenda for discussion this afternoon and evening.

Thursday evening (3 pm to 8 pm and 9 pm to 10.45 pm)

The main talking point this evening was Mr Caillavet's report on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy. The report summarised the findings of a seminar held in Echternach last October at which a number of distinguished experts suggested ways in which CAP flaws could be dealt with. These included direct payments to farmers in preference to intervention arrangements in some cases and a more selective range of market measures to meet the needs of individual products.

The following reports were also taken: Mr Caro's report on the European Youth Forum, Mr Notenboom's report on budgetary controls, and Mr Martinelli's report on imports from Yugoslavia.

Friday morning (9 am to 2.10 pm)

The 198-Member European Parliament assembled here in Luxembourg this morning for its last ever meeting. On the order paper were 18 reports, a resolution calling for clemency on the part of the Czech authorities for dissident J. Sabata, and an oral question on the teaching of foreign languages. Having completed this week's record agenda, Parliament has now left the table clear for its elected successor which meets for the first time on 17th July.

MONDAY 7th May 1979

Company taxes

Mr Nyborg's report (Doc.104/79)

Economic and monetary committee rapporteur Kai Nyborg (Da, EPD) introduced his report on harmonising company taxation and withholding taxes on dividends. The different systems of company taxation in the Community led to distortions of competition and this constituted an obstacle to integration, Mr Nyborg said. Although the Commission had made proposals on harmonising company taxation, this alone was not enough: proposals were also needed for coordinating Member States' systems of assessing and controlling companies' taxable profits.

Replying for the Commission, Mr Burke stressed the importance of finding an acceptable solution to the problem. The harmonisation of company taxation had important implications for the Community's regional, economic and social policies. What was the point of encouraging firms to move to the disadvantaged areas of the Community, for example, if the local tax system would result in lower profits?

The motion was agreed to.

Air safety

Mr Noè's report (Doc. 106/79)

The regional and transport committee held a public hearing on air traffic control (ATC) in Paris on 19th and 20th March 1979. Mr Noè's report sums up the committee's conclusions.

These include :

- the need for close cooperation between civil and military ATC systems so as to make more efficient use of available airspace;
- to avoid misunderstandings between controllers and pilots, only English should be used in communications;
- 'incident-reporting' should be made compulsory and human error should not automatically result in criminal prosecution;
- avionics equipment : need for more coordination between systems;
- air traffic controllers : stress and responsibility should be reflected in better working conditions, eg. shorter working hours, earlier retirement, better pay, improved professional status;
- a single air traffic management agency responsible for the whole of Western Europe should be set up; such a 'European Air Traffic Agency' could be the responsibility of Eurocontrol.

Lord Bruce, regional and transport committee chairman, said that the Paris hearing had been attended by all the relevant organizations – IATA, ICAA, the International Federation of Airline Pilots, Eurocontrol, NATO, etc. A clear warning had been given at the hearing that, unless action were taken to improve the situation, Europe could look forward to another summer of air traffic disruptions. Lord Bruce pressed for the creation of a single European air space – ‘if the Community cannot agree on this, what can it agree on?’ he said.

This view was endorsed by all speakers in tonight’s debate though Gwyneth Dunwoody (UK, S) felt that cooperation must extend beyond Europe to embrace both the United States and the Far East as well. John Osborn (UK, EC) stressed how everyone stood to gain by developing cooperation through a single traffic management agency, a view shared by Mr Albers (Du, S) and Mr Jung (Ge, L).

Mrs Dunwoody also drew attention to the suffering that could be caused by inadequate investment in air traffic control machinery, in staff training or in creating the optimal working conditions for air traffic controllers. At Heathrow, for example, controllers were at one point handling an aircraft every three seconds. Mrs Dunwoody spoke too of the time being taken over compensation following an air disaster in France during an air traffic controllers strike five years ago.

In reply, Mr Burke said that the Commission was looking into what it could do to help, though its scope was limited. The ILO, he pointed out, would be considering working conditions for air traffic controllers later in the year.

The motion was agreed to.

Misleading ads

Lord Kennet’s report (Doc. 36/79)

The Commission, believing that advertising can only be of real value to the public if it is honest and truthful, would like to bring together the various national laws in a single European law and it is proposing a Council directive on misleading and unfair advertising for this purpose. (The legal base is Rome Treaty Article 100 :harmonisation of laws affecting the establishment or functioning of the common market).

Advertising today tends to reach beyond national frontiers but the degree of protection enjoyed by the consumer varies from state to state.

The present proposal, incidentally, follows on from the ‘preliminary programme of the EC for a consumer protection and information policy’

adopted by Council on 14.4.75. This laid down that advertising should not mislead the consumer.

Consumer protection committee rapporteur Lord Kennet (UK, S) tabled a report welcoming the Commission's proposal to harmonise Member States' laws on misleading and unfair advertising. If applied consistently, he said, it should 'strengthen the position of the consumer in the Community'. But he called on the Commission to accept amendments to its text.

There were two main points raised in the ensuing debate : that the scope of the directive should be widened to take in the advertising of what Lord Kennet called 'the poison of tobacco' and of alcohol; and a bid to reconcile the different approaches to legislating in advertising of the United Kingdom (with its emphasis on the admen's keeping their own house in order) and West Germany (where there is actual legislation).

Mr Burke, in reply, said that it too would like to go further. A study into advertising in connection with children was being made. As for the question of approach, he pointed out the Commission was not attacking the self-regulating practices obtaining in some countries. It was simply that a check was being looked for.

Mr Burke was also at pains to stress the international impact of national advertising campaigns. He instanced the Radio Luxembourg ads reaching United Kingdom listeners without their being in any way controlled by the UK broadcasting authority. This, of itself, justified the bid for international standards.

The motion was agreed to after amendment.

TUESDAY 8th May 1979

Building materials

Mr Nyborg's report (Doc. 30/79)

The technical characteristics and performance criteria of building materials produced in the Community vary from state to state. The Commission is now proposing that the relevant provisions – which concern chiefly the health and safety aspects of these materials – be harmonized to create a common market in building materials. The proposal for a directive lays down provisions for the issue of EEC Type Approval certificates for such products as prefabricated building elements, door components and stair-cases, tiles and pipes, paint, drains, etc.

Economic and monetary committee rapporteur Kai Nyborg (Da, EPD) stressed the importance of the building industry (15% of EC gnp) and the fact that it included a high proportion of small and medium-sized firms. The committee therefore welcomed the Commission's proposal to simplify intra-Community trade building materials.

However, since the necessary implementing directives would be issued on the Commission's own responsibility, the committee had given very careful attention to the provisions in the present proposal, since they would be difficult to amend subsequently. The resolution therefore called for a number of amendments.

Ruldolf Luster (Ge, CD), for the Christian-Democrats, said his group thought that the proposal was far from ideal and had put down several amendments. Particularly important was the need to ensure wider consultation of interested parties before the Commission laid down implementing provisions. It was also vital to ensure that small contractors were not made subject to unnecessary bureaucratic regulations.

Replying to the debate, Viscount Davignon urged the House to accept that the implementing procedure being proposed under Article 155 would not affect Parliament's right to intervene if it felt an outline directive was not being properly implemented.

The motion was agreed to.

Customs formalities

Mr Nyborg's report (Doc. 103/79)

The Commission has put forward proposals on Community transit and defining the conditions under which a person may make a customs declaration.

Mr Nyborg, for the economic and monetary committee, underlined the need for simplifying formalities with a view to achieving the customs union called for in the treaties. He welcomed the Commission's proposals.

The motion was agreed to.

Individual rights

Mr Bayerl' report (Doc. 100/79)

Mr Alfons Bayerl (Ge, S), rapporteur for the legal committee, introduced his report on data banks and the individual's right to privacy. His resolution made recommendations to Commission and Council about restricting access by authorities and others to electronically stored information about the individual (eg. computer records held by police, banks, airlines, etc.)

Mr Bayerl's report, which runs to 88 pages and was drafted on Parliament's own initiative, contains an annex showing the state of legislation in EC's Member States.

Parliament's recommends, inter alia :

- a data control body should be set up;
- individuals should be informed when personal data are first stored;
- medical, police or intelligence data can only be amalgamated with other data with the approval of the individual concerned;
- the individual should have the right to erase information under certain conditions;
- data banks should be registered.

For the Socialist group, Mr Erik Holst (Da) agreed that legislation of the kind being asked for was essential if we were to avoid a 1984 situation arising. He pointed out that the same provisions should apply to manually stored information as to electronic data banks. His group would support the resolution.

The Christian Democrats would support the resolution too, Mr Rudolf Luster (Ge) said. Data processing was a boon for society, no doubt, but it had its darker sides too. However, restrictions should not be such as to prejudice the use of data processing in research, say, or in combatting terrorism.

Mr Charles Fletcher-Cooke, for the Conservatives, said EC legislation was needed as soon as possible so as to prevent too wide a divergence of national laws on the question.

Replying for the Commission, Mr Davignon said he fully agreed with the aims of Mr Bayerl's report. This was an example of considering a question before it caused serious public concern – something that had not been done in the case of nuclear energy, say, an issue which had now given rise to major public debate. The Commission would discuss with Parliament later in the year the practical aspects of giving effect to the ideas raised in the Bayerl report.

The motion was agreed to.

Raw materials

Economic committee question (Doc.112/79/rev)

Mr Edgard Pisani (Fr, S) for the economic and monetary committee, introduced a question to the Commission asking what overall strategy the latter intended to pursue 'in order to make the best possible use of the Community's natural resources'. An example, Mr Pisani said, was the possible exploi-

tation of vegetable alcohols now that the price of oil had reached such astronomical levels :such a suggestion might have been laughed at in the past, but now had real significance.

Mr Antoine Porcu (Fr, CA) wondered why iron ore, available in Lorraine, was still imported from Sweden or South Africa. Why did Commission and Council turn a blind eye to these practices? Was it part of a deal to sell German capital equipment to Sweden?. He accused the French Government of engineering France's decline by placing its affairs in the hands of the Commission.

Mr Davignon, for the Commission, suggested that Commission and Parliament might undertake a joint study to compile an inventory of what raw materials the EC actually did have available. Conclusions could then be drawn.

To Mr Porcu, Mr Davignon said that there was no policy on supply because no EC agreement had been reached. But Mr Porcu himself had condemned cooperation at EC level, so why was he complaining now?

A resolution put down by Mr Ansquer was agreed to.

QUESTION TIME

Questions to the Commission

Community coal stocks (Alan Fitch)

Total coal stocks in the Community were some 100m tonnes at end-1978 Mr Burke said. Producers' stocks of coal and coke totalled about 57m tonnes – 5 m tonnes down on end-1977. Subsequently there was a slight improvement in sales from the coal-mining industry. Power station stocks at end-1978 totalled around 38m tonnes and those held by coking-plants some 4m.

The Community and India (Sir Geoffrey de Freitas)

The Commission regarded setting up a New Delhi office as 'a priority action in the medium term', Mr Vredeling said. A Bangkok office was important for strengthening EC-ASEAN links.

Women in the Commission (Mrs Karen Dahlerup)

Mr Vredeling denied that discrimination was the cause of under-representation of women at high levels in the EC Commission, pointing out that women accounted for only 20% of A grade posts. Women were already being allowed to do part-time work in the Commission.

EC research bodies (Lord Kennet)

Of the EC research projects listed by Lord Kennet (UK, S) Mr Vouel pointed out that only two were in existence as institutions : the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Dublin) and the European University Institute (Florence). The European Foundation had been the subject of a Commission proposal, which was currently under discussion. The European Economic and Social Policy Research Institute, proposed in 1978, replaced the European Institute of Economic Research and Analysis project in 1975.

Air fares (Lord Bethell)

The Commission would be sending a detailed 'green paper' to Parliament and the Council in June on air fares, said Mr Burke. The Commission was also examining bilateral arrangements between Member States, especially the tariff clauses, to see if they conflict with Community rules on competition, as part of a general Commission review of the market structure in civil aviation.

Equal Pay

Mrs Dunwoody's report (Doc. 98/79)

Mrs Dunwoody's report embodying a motion calling on the Council to look into legal advice to help women discriminated against and calling on the Commission to submit proposals to approximate laws on maternity, and which drew attention to the 'miserable working conditions of women in the third world', was taken without debate.

The motion was agreed to.

Tripartite Conference

Mr Albers' report (Docs. 31/79 and 147/79)

This afternoon's debate on the lessons to be learned from the Fifth Tripartite Conference, bringing together representatives of trade unions, management, governments and EC institutions also took in a discussion of the Commission's recent note to the Council about work-sharing. Commissioner Vredeling stressed that for any work-sharing programme to be effective, it had to be coordinated between the Nine. He pointed out that all the Member States were looking at work-sharing because the long-term prospects for employment were still unhelpful even though the March figures had shown some improvement in some countries.

In the ensuing debate Albert Bertrand (for the Christian Democrats) said he welcomed the proposals but felt the House should have more time to study them. He asked whether Parliament could look at them again in the light of the Council of social ministers meeting being held on 25th May.

The Chair replied that holding a further session of the present Parliament was to be considered on Thursday.

With the prospect of having to create 15 million new jobs by 1985, nine million of them for young people, Mr Pistillo said he shared Mr Bertrand's concern but added that he could not support Mr Albers' motion. It simply bore no relation to the Community's failure to do anything in an area of vital concern to all. Mr Christensen also rejected the motion. But his objection was the Commission was encroaching on national preserves.

Mrs Dunwoody, who was extremely concerned that her own report on equal pay had prompted so little response, took issue with the Commission's proposals for the same reason as Mr Christensen. What was so lacking in the ideas being floated for providing more jobs was any idea of the cost of such schemes as work-sharing. Workers had been prepared to look at them in all seriousness but no one had said anything as to how the shorter working week was to be funded. This was why the Fifth Tripartite Conference had been 'a minor disaster area'.

The motions were agreed to.

Vocational training

Mr Bertrand's report (Doc. 90/79)

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training was set up in Berlin following a Council decision of 10 February 1975.

Introducing his report, Mr Alfred Bertrand (Be, CD) pointed out that the Centre had been somewhat late in starting up. The Centre was run by a Management Board with 27 members chosen from both sides of industry and government and representing all nine member states, plus three Commission representatives. Appointment of this somewhat unwieldy body had been one reason for the delay, Mr Bertrand said.

Despite the late start, however, Mr Bertrand said, he was generally satisfied with the Centre's work so far. His resolution reflected this view.

Mr Vredeling, replying for the Commission, said he agreed that the Management Board was somewhat unwieldy, but this was the inevitable result of its quadripartite character. He also defended the choice of Berlin as seat for the Centre.

Mr Hellmut Sieglerschmidt, a socialist MEP from Berlin, rejected the criticism of Berlin as the site implicit in Mr Bertrand's resolution. Mr Bertrand took his point.

The motion was agreed too.

Migrant women

Mrs Squarcialupi's question (Doc. 124/79)

French women who are pregnant or accompanied by small children receive a special card entitling them to priority in queues. The same privilege was not granted to migrant women who lived in France, Mrs Squarcialupi said. She wanted to know why.

Mr Vredeling said the Commission had put the matter to the French authorities and were awaiting a reply.

WEDNESDAY 9th May 1979

Tribute to Aldo Moro

President Emilio Colombo paid tribute to Mr Aldo Moro. He reminded the House of Mr Moro's dedication to the European idea and of his conviction that unity in Europe was synonymous with hope for the future.

Employment

Socialist questions (Docs. 125/79 and 126/79)

Replying to a question put down by the Socialist Group this morning Commissioner Vredeling told the House that the Community would need a growth rate of something like 4.5% as a minimum if there were to be full employment by 1985.

And he agreed with Edgar Pisani, who introduced the question, that the signs were that the rate of growth that one could hope for would simply not be enough. Growth, indeed, had been faltering since 1973. It had been only 1.8% in 1974 and had fallen back to minus 1.5% in 1975. The forecast for 1979 was 3.4%. Meanwhile unemployment had gone from 2.5% of the active working population in 1978 to 5.5% in 1979. The chances were it would stabilise around this figure, say 5.4% for the year as a whole. There had been improvement in some Member States but the prospects were less encouraging in the United Kingdom, France and Italy, he said.

Speaking for the Council, Mr Bernard-Reymond said that tension on the oil market could undermine the prospects for growth which had been looking more promising. The Commission was being asked to analyse the likely effects of recent price increase.

Two main themes dominated the subsequent discussion : creating jobs by means of increased growth or by work-sharing schemes. Mr Bertrand poin-

ted out that 15m jobs would need to be created by 1985. If growth targets could not be met, achieving this goal looked unlikely.

Mr Vincent Ansquer (Fr, EPD) was wary about reducing the working hours to create jobs : this would merely cut profitability and end up exacerbating the problem still further. Mr Pisoni disagreed : a 10% cut in overall working time with no corresponding cut in wages might make an appreciable impact on the unemployment situation. Mr Hermann Schwörer (Ge, CD) thought part of the answer lay in providing industry with tax concessions to encourage investment.

Summing up for the Council, Mr Bernard-Reymond said a proper balance had to be found between distributing available work amongst a greater number of people and improving economic growth.

Mr Vredeling, for the Commission, said that economic growth alone was no answer : there had been growth in the past year but it had not been accompanied by a drop in unemployment. The answer lay in finding the most appropriate package of measures, he thought.

Rhine pollution

Liberal group question to the Council (Doc. 648/78)

400 tonnes of arsenic, 12,000 t of zinc, 12 million t of chloride – this was the scale on which industrial pollutants were being swept into the Netherlands by the waters of the Rhine, Mr Jan Baas (Du, L) told the House this morning in his introduction to the liberal group's question.

This situation was intolerable and he asked the Council when the 1976 agreement on protection of the Rhine would enter into force as a first step towards dealing with the problem

In reply, Council President Bernard-Reymond said the sticking point was the ratification of the convention on chlorides. The French Government, he said, wished first to convince the French National Assembly of the wisdom of doing so. The problem was that the salts would go underground in Alsace and there were strong ecological voices being raised in complaint. But he trusted the ratification would go through.

Enlargement

Mr Pintat's report (Doc. 42/79)

The European Parliament has already discussed the political aspects of enlargement, the House coming out strongly in favour of the accession of applicant states Greece, Spain and Portugal. Today Mr Jean-François

Pintat (Fr, L) put down a motion summing up the views of Parliament's various specialist committees, the whole tone of which was an awareness of problems that would arise and a desire to see them solved.

For the Socialist Group Hans-Joachim Hoffmann (Ge, S) expressed concern at the income gap between the Nine and the Three. It was disturbing enough that the gap between richer and poorer in the Nine had widened from a ratio of four to one to a ratio of six to one. It was even more so when one calculated the gap in the enlarged EC was more like a ratio of one to twelve, especially as the Community had yet to devise any way of narrowing the gap between rich and poor. He called for a transfer of resources as a matter of urgency to ensure the new Member States became better off rather than poorer from joining.

Mr Hoffmann also drew attention to the need to rethink the CAP. As it stood now, the Northern countries stood to gain from enlargement because the new Member States would offer new markets for their products. But the reverse would be true for Greece, Spain and Portugal. Unless something were done there would be a massive exodus from the land in these countries without there being any prospect of jobs for them to go to.

Jobs was the chief preoccupation of Christian Democrat spokesman Albert Bertrand. There were six million people out of work in the Nine and 1.4m in the Three. But the Rome Treaty simply did not provide the wherewithal for tackling this problem. He urged it be amended so that a social policy could be devised to cope with the jobs problem. At the same time he called for the immigrant workers from the Three to be given the same status as those from the Nine during transitional periods. There are six million immigrant workers in the EC at the moment, of whom 1.5m are from Greece, Spain or Portugal.

QUESTION TIME

Questions to the Council

EC passport (Lucien Radoux)

No progress had yet been made towards achieving agreement among the Nine on a single European Community passport, Mr Bertrand-Reymond said. Linguistic problems relating to the wording of the passport, lack of agreement on the design of the cover and legal questions were all stated as obstacles, although he acknowledged the symbolic value of an EC passport, especially in the year of direct elections.

Turkey imports (Ralph Howell)

The EC-US turkeymeat agreement fully safeguarded Community producers, Mr Bernard-Reymond said. The EC's only concession had been on cuts of turkeymeat (fresh, chilled and frozen), which would benefit from a 3 - 17% cut in the levy, bringing them into line with whole turkeys. Seasoned turkeys were not subject to the levy. If total turkey imports exceeded the 1977-1978 average level, urgent talks would be held with the US, but no fixed quota had been set.

Falkland Islands (John Osborn)

The Commission is on the point of allocating 26,000 EUA (£16,900) to the operations block of the King Edward Memorial Hospital in the Falkland Islands. Mr Bernard-Reymond said the Council was also prepared to look at aid to the fisheries sector.

Greek sheep (Liam Kavanagh)

The Commission had already reported that the accession of the three candidate states would cause no major disturbance to the Community's sheepmeat market. Consideration had been given to whether enlargement would raise special problems for setting up a common organisation of the sheepmeat market, but as of now there was not common organisation of the market and Mr Bernard-Reymond thought that in present circumstances one would be difficult to set up.

China meeting (Lord Bessborough)

The first meeting of the EC-China committee had been delayed by mutual agreement because the European side wished further time for preparation especially in regard to China's desire to be included in the general system of preference on textile matters. Mr Bernard-Reymond did not expect the delay to be a long one.

The President of the Council, Mr Bernard-Reymond, and the President of the Commission, Mr Roy Jenkins, then made declarations on the occasion of the last plenary session of the European Parliament before it is replaced by an elected House on 17 July 1979.

Before thanking Mr Bernard-Reymond and Mr Jenkins for their statements, President Emilio Colombo read a statement by Luxembourg Prime Minister Gaston Thorn thanking Parliament for its work and expressing the hope that the new Parliament would maintain close links with Luxembourg.

Enlargement

In the resumed debate on enlargement EPD spokesman Vincent Ansquer (Fr) spelled out guidelines for the accession of the new Member States, the essence of which was that the end result should be a stronger Community.

Socialist spokesman Piet Dankert (Du) asked whether the cost of enlargement could be held at one million EUA or whether it would in fact be much greater. On this point, in reply, Commissioner Natali said it was not possible to make a very accurate estimate because of all the variables in the calculation.

Two other points : Mr Tom Normanton (UK, EC) urged that Israel should lose none of the benefits of its present relationships with Greece and Spain and Mr Bob Mitchell (UK, S) in a declaration of faith, said that the enlargement of the Community was, in a way, the fulfilment of a dream, a dream that Europe would one day be united. It was something he welcomed wholeheartedly, hoping that many more states would join in due course.

The motion was agreed after amendment.

Ethiopia

Mr Zagari's report (Doc. 132/79)

Speaking for the political committee, Alfred Bertrand (Be, CD) said the atrocities being committed in Ethiopia and Eritrea could not go on. He put down a motion urging EC authorities to do all they could to help. Mr Giovanni Bersani (It, CD) agreed but Mr Renato Sandri (It, CA) felt the facts were presented in a biased way. His group would abstain when the motion was put to the vote.

Mr Erhard Jakobsen (Da, EC) said he was a bit sceptical about the value of the motion before the House who was supposed to respond to it. Since Parliament's resolution on Uganda about 200 people had been killed. No one had taken any notice. Parliament should be more realistic about the impact of its words.

In reply, Commissioner Natali said a 20m EUA aid programme had been organized under the Lomé Convention. He trusted things would return to normal in the near future.

The motion was agreed to.

Harrisburg

Further to Parliament's request of 24th April Commissioner Natali reported to the House on the Harrisburg accident. There had been a dramatic combination of human and mechanical errors coupled with a design fault.

Happily the contamination of the atmosphere had been limited. The accident had led to a swift reappraisal of control systems to ensure no further nuclear power stations were built that did not reach the required standards. For the EC, a group of experts could be set up to look into nuclear safety and report to the Commission before the end of the year.

Mr Normanton said the importance of safety measures could not be underestimated but nor should the dangers be exaggerated. 'We as politicians must give a lead to the electorate in preventing panic reactions', he said. He hoped the studies would help to dispel the fears that existed.

Mrs Hanna Walz (Ge, CD) felt there was a need for wider international agreement on nuclear reactor safety.

JRC

Mr Flämig's report (Doc. 54/79)

The Commission has now submitted a formal proposal for a new multi-annual programme for the Joint Research Centre (JRC) covering the four years 1980-83. It will prolong and replace the current programme due to expire on 31 December 1980.

Six research areas are covered :

- nuclear safety and the fuel cycle
- future forms of energy
- study and protection of the environment
- nuclear measurements
- specific support for the Commission's sectoral activities
- operation of the High Flux Reactor (HFR) in Petten.

Total cost to the EC budget of the JRC programme over the 4-year period : 542.6m EUA.

Mr Gerhard Flämig (Ge, S), energy and research committee rapporteur, recalled the problems and difficulties that had beset the JRC. However, direct research had undeniable merits, and the new programme was well designed to relieve the frustrations of the JRC staff and produce positive results. The research areas proposed were all topical and relevant.

Lord Bessborough (UK, EC), for the budgets committee, felt the situation of the JRC was improving, but a number of shortcomings remained in the new programme - eg. as regards the creation of transitional staff posts pending retirement of existing staff.

Jan Baas (Du, L), for the Liberal group, said he had reservations about the report and its resolution : the matter might perhaps have been better left for

consideration by the new elected Parliament. He wondered, indeed, whether civil servants were even capable of creative thinking and research.

Conservative spokesman Tom Normanton (UK, EC) felt more support should be given to what he called 'centres of excellence' than to the JRC.

Widening the JRC's scope, indeed, represented a duplication of effort in the scientific establishment. An example of this was research into solar energy, which was being done on major scale in the USA and at the Weizmann Institute. He also felt it was wrong to draw an artificial distinction between industry and technology.

Protogene Veronesi (It, CA) said it was impossible to straightjacket research as so many unexpected things might happen. But he agreed that closer control was needed on the research centre.

Mr Brunner, for the Commission, defended the achievements of the JRC. There had been problems in the past, but these were largely resolved and real progress was now being made. He cited the JET project as an example of the value of joint EC research. And he disagreed with Mr Baas's point that civil servants were incapable of creating thinking: they may be civil servants, but they were also scientists.

The motion was agreed to after amendment.

Third world energy

Mr Flämig's report (Doc. 74/79)

If recent oil price increases had had a serious impact on the Community, they were a far more serious one on the developing countries, Mr Flämig said. Reporting for the development and cooperation committee, he stressed the need to help the third world solve its energy problems. The Community could do much, particularly in providing small-scale energy production technology such as windmills, solar cells, etc.

Replying, Mr Brunner said the Commission shared the rapporteur's concern.

The motion was agreed to.

Alternative energy

Mr Brown's report (Doc. 19/79)

In his report for the energy and research committee, Mr Ron Brown (UK, S) looks at the prospects for using wind, wave and tidal energy to produce electricity. While recognizing the need for research into these alternative

energy sources, Mr Brown feels that enough is being done at national and international level already and that the Community would be ill-advised to become financially involved in projects of this kind. Commissioner Brunner, in reply, felt there were grounds for a small-scale EC programme to help coordinate the experience gained in the IEA and elsewhere.

The motion was agreed to.

EC energy situation

Mr Flämig's report (Doc. 96/79)

Mr Gerhard Flämig, for the energy committee, asked the House to endorse a resolution expressing concern at the latest OPEC price rises and underlining the need for a comprehensive Community energy policy.

In reply, Commissioner Brunner noted that the laws of supply and demand on the oil market no longer applied: prices were increasing as production fell. EC oil reserves stood at 117 days in January 1979.

It was time the EC began a continuous dialogue with the oil producing states, he added.

The motion was agreed to.

THURSDAY 10th May 1979

Parliament's estimates for 1980

Mr Ripamonti's report (Doc. 176/79)

The European Parliament today discussed the staff its directly-elected successor will need from 17th July onwards. The consensus was that the present staff should be increased by 188, bringing the strength up to 2,105. The problem was whether to include the relevant posts in a supplementary budget for 1979 or in the new Parliament's budget for 1980. On balance, the House decided not to call for a supplementary budget – a view consistent with the traditional EP argument that supplementary budgets should be avoided wherever possible.

Although Mr Camillo Ripamonti (It, CD) argued this case for the budgets committee, Socialist spokesman Piet Dankert (Du) had his doubts: had there been interference from the Council? He trusted not, bearing in mind that Parliament is, by law, free to set its own budget as the resolution of

22nd April 1970 states: 'The Council undertakes to make no amendments to the estimate of expenditure of the European Parliament. This undertaking shall only be binding in so far as this estimate of expenditure does not conflict with Community provisions, in particular with regard to the Staff Regulations of Officials and Conditions of Employment of Other Servants, and to the seat of the institutions.'

Mr Harry Notenboom (Du) for the Christian Democrats and Mr Brøndlund Nielsen (Du) for the Liberals felt that the 1980 option was a better compromise. The best argument in favour of it was that it left it open to the new parliament to cut back on the 1980 estimates or to increase them as it thought fit.

The estimates for 1980 come to 15,112,300 EUA (£10,202,314). This represents an increase of 1,948,800 EUA (£1,315,635) on 1979.

Rule changes

Mr Luster's report (Doc. 178/79)

Mr Rudolf Luster (Ge, CD), for Parliament's rules committee, is making two proposals for changes in the rules of procedure. These concern a new rule on the election of quaestors (Rule 7A) and a change in the number of members needed to form a political group (up from 14 to 29, and from 10 to 21 in cases where the members come from two or more Member States (three or more under the old rules)).

Mr Schelto Patijn, thought that the new rule 7A being proposed was a matter for the elected Parliament to consider, not its predecessor.

On a request from Mr George Cunningham (UK, S), the President told the House that the vote on the rules changes would be carried out on the basis of Rule 54 – ie. 100 or more votes would be needed to carry any proposed changes.

Mr Cunningham moved an amendment on membership of political groups: in his view, single-nationality groups, while undesirable, should not be prohibited under the Rules. His amendment called for a minimum group size of 21 members regardless of nationality.

Mr Willy Hamilton (UK, S) agreed, but Lord Reay (UK, EC) felt that the rule on group membership should be passed: the new Parliament could still make its own changes if it wished.

Vote: no quorum.

Company law

Mr Schmidt's report (Doc. 136/79)

The Commission submitted a proposal in 1972 for a 'Fifth Directive' on the structure of limited companies, and Parliament's legal committee has been considering it ever since. A main feature of the proposal concerns the management organs which such companies should have. In his report for the legal committee, Mr Manfred Schmidt (Ge, S) called for the establishment of two such organs (the dualist system), consisting of a management organ and a supervisory organ, with the former being appointed by the latter.

He also wants an 'employee director' on the management organ and parity between employer and employee representation on the supervisory board, which would include a third group co-opted in equal proportion by employer and employee representatives.

In the debate, which began on Wednesday evening, differences emerged between the political groups on the question of employee participation and the effects of such participation on management's decision-making capabilities. Ib Stetter (Da, EC), for the Conservatives, announced that his group would attempt to prevent a vote being taken on the resolution contained in the report. It had, in any case, put down several amendments.

In his reply to the debate, Commissioner Davignon appealed to the House to recognize the political implications of the directive, which demonstrated the Community's concern for workers' rights.

In the continuation of the debate this morning, Phillip von Bismarck (Ge, CD) said the efficiency of management would be prejudiced by the appointment of 'worker directors' and inefficient industry would mean greater unemployment.

Ib Christensen (Da, Ind) thought decisions on co-determination should be left to Member States. Summing up, rapporteur Manfred Schmidt (Ge, S) pointed to the years of industrial peace in the West German steel industry, which had long operated a system of co-determination and worker participation. It was time now to take a political decision on the issue. He opposed attempts to refer the report back to committee.

Mr Gundelach, for the Commission, agreed. Cooperation between management and labour was essential, and it was high time that the Commission's proposal went to Council for decision that required Parliament's opinion, and he hoped it would now be forthcoming.

However, several members – notably Mr Bertrand and Mr Geurtsen, Vice-Chairman of the legal committee – appealed for referral to committee so

that the elected Parliament could give further consideration to the question.

In the event, the debate had not concluded when Parliament adjourned for lunch, which meant that no vote on the resolution could be taken on Thursday. When it came up at Voting Time on Friday morning, the vote had to be postponed after it had been established that no quorum (66 members present and voting) existed.

QUESTION TIME

Questions to the Commission

Disaster aid (Ralph Howell)

Cleethorpes, Lancaster, North Norfolk, Thanet, Devon and Somerset will receive the balance of the £630,000 Commission aid to flood-hit areas in England following payment of £190,000 to farmers who lost most than 10% of their livestock, Mr Tugendhat said. Mr Howell described this reply as 'most deplorable'. Part of money earmarked for the January 1978 floods in south and south-east England was now being diverted for relief of a completely different disaster, affecting Devon and Somerset.

Special steel (John Osborn)

A study by Commission services on the structure of production capacity and consumption of special and tool steel in the medium and long term should be ready by mid 1979, Mr Giolitti said. On cutlery, he added that the Commission would be looking into accusations of dumping against Japan and South Korea. Mr Osborn said that cheap cutlery blanks, largely from Taiwan and South Korea, were specially re-assembled in Community countries and sold in the UK as 'made in Britain'.

Developing bogs (Liam Kavanagh)

Before taking action on bog development, Mr Gundelach said, the Commission would have to receive a special request from the Irish Government in the form of a project. So far none had been submitted.

MONSANTO redundancies (Willy Dondelinger)

Credits existed in the EC budget to help out in sectors like synthetic fibres where there was a problem of excessive capacity, Mr Tugendhat said. The Social and Regional Funds were also available in this context. The speed with which aid could be directed to its targets depended on the speed with which the Member States affected forwarded their claims to the Commission.

Zimbabwe-Rhodesia (Lord Bessborough)

The Commission has no relations with the Government of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, Mr Giolitti said. Faced with a barrage of supplementary questions about the telegram of support sent by his colleague, Mr Cheysson, he said this had been a personal view.

EC-NZ relations

Lord Castle's report (Doc. 107/79)

Replying to the debate on trade with New Zealand, Commissioner Finn Gundelach said he appreciated the sense of commitment evinced by Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody (UK, S) who had stressed the value to the Community of its links with that country. The Community had to endeavour to come to some acceptable arrangement with New Zealand but, at the same time, it could not continue to offer the same terms for dairy produce as it had offered in the past. Sheepmeat was less of a problem, he said.

The motion was agreed to.

Agriculture

Mr Caillavet's report (Doc. 128/79)

Mr Pisani's motion (Doc. 155/79)

Mr Henri Caillavet (Fr, L), while urging respect for the basic principles of the Community's farming policy – EC preference, fair prices and fair incomes for farmers – suggested that the short-comings it had developed warranted a fresh look at some of its aspects. Mr Edgard Pisani (Fr, S) took a similar view but Commissioner Gundelach felt the CAP was adjusting to changing circumstances and rejected criticisms of such CAP machinery as the co-responsibility levy. He did agree, however, that the old arrangements

allowing soya beans to be imported duty-free from the United States was anomalous.

The motions were agreed to.

Milk sector

Mr Howell's report (Doc. 115/79)

Mr Nielsen's report (Doc. 127/79)

Mr Ralph Howell (UK, EC) urged that production quotas be introduced as a means of containing output in the dairy sector. Mr John Corrie (UK, EC), moving this report said he did not share the rapporteur's views personally and Commissioner Gundelach seemed to feel they would not be helpful.

The motions were agreed to.

Isoglucose

Mr Tolman's report (Doc. 182/79)

Mr Gundelach noted Mr Teun Tolman (Du, CD) had reservations about the Commission proposals to make isoglucose subject to the same rules as sugar. But it had little choice, being bound by a Court ruling. New proposals on sugar would be being made in the Autumn, he said.

The motion was rejected.

Fisheries

Mr Corrie's report (Doc. 116/79)

Mr John Corrie (UK, EC) tabled a motion calling for EC backing for the development of fish farming which could provide jobs and profit for those in maritime peripheral areas. Mr Gundelach said the Commission was prepared to do what it could to help. 15m EUA had been included in the 1978 budget and 15m EUA for 1979 for fish farm projects which would provide a basis for framing future measures.

The motion were agreed to.

Protecting animals

Mr Hughes's reports (Docs 105/79, 76/79)

Mr Mark Hughes (UK, S) asked the House to support Commission proposals aimed at reducing or eradicating certain animal diseases.

The motions were agreed to.

The House then took the reports by Mr Brégégère, Mr Brugger, Mr Ligios, Mr Früh and Mr Albertini without debate. On the report by Mr Hansen, Mr Nielsen spoke briefly to ask the Commission for more statistical information. Mr Gundelach said he was not sure he could accept the amendment Mr Nielsen tabled.

These motions were agreed to.

Fisheries

Mr Kavanagh's report (Doc. 101/79)

Mr Liam Kavanagh (Ir, S) drew attention to the number of people involved in the fishing industry and the need to provide adequate back up services. Mr Gundelach said the Commission sympathised; proposals were ready and appropriations would be looked for in the 1980 budget.

The motion was agreed to.

EAC

Mr Sandri's report (Doc. 44/79)

Commissioner Giolitti said he would accept Mr Renato Sandri's (It, CA) amendment to the Commission proposals (to set up a European Development Agency) and would give equal status to the staff employed.

The motion was agreed to.

Working conditions

Mr Nyborg's report (Doc. 111/79)

The Commission is proposing to make aid for developing countries conditional on compliance with ILO standards. Motion approved.

FRIDAY 11th May 1979

Supplementary budget

A supplementary budget amounting to 144,190,700 EUA (£90,829,471) and relating to Parliament's own expenditure was agreed to after it had been through all its stages.

Dissident Czech

Ernest Glinne (Be, S) put down a motion condemning the trial and sentencing of Czechoslovak dissident J Sabata.

The motion was agreed to.

Ombudsman

Sir Derek Walker-Smith's report (Doc. 29/79)

Sir Derek Walker-Smith, chairman of the legal committee, introduced a motion calling for the institution of a parliamentary commissioner to examine complaints from EC citizens and advise them how they can seek redress.

The motion was agreed to.

Uruguay

Mr Sandri's report (Doc. 75/79)

The Community has a trade agreement with Uruguay which came into force in August 1974 and, after an initial 3-year period, is renewable on a year to year basis. Renato Sandri (It, CA), external economic relations committee rapporteur, draws attention in his motion to alleged human rights violations in Uruguay and, while recommending a further year's extension of the agreement, urged that no further preferences be granted to that country until the situation there improved.

The motion was agreed to.

EC-ASEAN relations

Mr Baas's report (Doc. 77/79)

Following the second EEC-ASEAN conference on industrial cooperation in Djakarta, Jan Baas (Du, L), for the external economic relations committee, introduced a motion welcoming the development of relations between the two sides and calling for the rapid conclusion of an overall EEC-ASEAN cooperation agreement. (ASEAN countries: Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia).

The motion was agreed to.

Coastal regions

Mr Corrie's report (Doc. 113/79)

In July 1975 the European Progressive Democrat Group put down a motion calling for realistic Community action to help the Community's outlying regions. Mr John Corrie, (UK, EC), rapporteur for the regional committee, introduced a resolution suggesting a Community rural fund be set up to stem migration from these areas and the creation of coastal regional development agencies in which local interests could be represented.

The motion as agreed to.

Border delays

Mr Schyns's report (Doc. 678/78)

In this report for the regional committee, Mr Guillaume Schyns (Be, CD) notes that the Community's internal frontiers are still an obstacle to the free movement of persons, services and goods twenty years after signature of the Treaty of Rome.

While admitting the need for some form of border control, Mr Schyns' motion suggests ways of streamlining formalities.

The motion was agreed to.

Comecon shipping

Mr Jung's report (Doc. 51/79)

Mr Kurt Jung (Ge, L), for the regional and transport committee, drew attention to the 'damaging practices' of Comecon shipping fleets. His

motion called for the establishment of 'a framework of measures which can be taken immediately when information received confirms the impression that discrimination is indeed occurring on a massive scale'.

The motion was agreed to.

Plastic wrappings

Mr Brown's report (Doc. 23/79)

Plastic materials used to pack foodstuffs may transfer substances, by a process of migration, to the foodstuffs themselves. Such substances, if toxic, may be a danger to public health. The Commission is therefore proposing that the Council issue a specific directive on the overall migration limit for the constituents of plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs.

The point of the directive is to introduce a common migration limit with rules for checking it in all Member States, for regenerated cellulose film; elastomer materials and natural and synthetic rubbers; preparations for surface coatings; adhesives; and paper and paperboard impregnated with plastics materials.

Ron Brown (UK, S), for the consumer protection committee, put down a motion arguing that the migration limit should be set as low as possible; that the migration of substances known to be carcinogenic should be prohibited and that specific limits should be set as soon as possible for certain other constituents. The lack of any list of monomers, the motion points out, is going to make it hard to implement the proposed directive.

The motion was agreed to.

Edible caseins and caseinates

Mr Lamberts's report (Doc. 83/79)

Casein is the major protein constituent of cows' milk. There are 27 grams of casein in every litre of milk and this is equivalent to 80 per cent of its protein content.

In addition to which caseins have properties which make them useful in the manufacture of foodstuffs. World production of casein has doubled to 200,000 tonnes in the last twenty years. But there are differences between the laws of the Nine on caseins and the Commission is now proposing to iron these out.

The House agreed to Mr Lamberts' motion approving the proposal.

Processing food

Mr Noè's report (Doc. 89/79)

What effects does processing, eg. chilling, freezing, heat treatment, have on the nutritive value of food? The Commission is proposing a 'concerted action programme' to look into this question, which is of immediate interest to the consumer, and is asking the Council to adopt a decision to this effect. Total cost of the programme would be 12.3m EUA, but this would be largely financed by national authorities.

The House agreed to Mr Noè's motion approving the proposal.

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The House also discussed Mr Shaw's reports on company audits and budget carry-overs, Mr Kaspereit's report on Cyprus grapes, Mr Fuchs' report on inland waterways, Lord Bethell's report on ionizing radiation, Mr Jahn's report on environmental carcinogens, Mr van der Gun's report on educational actions, Mr Lamberts' report on health problems affecting trade in poultry meat and Mr Pisoni's report on social security schemes. The motions in all these reports were agreed to.

The next full meeting of the European Parliament will not take place until mid-September.

POSTSCRIPT

Resolutions adopted in May

Parliament gave its unqualified approval to nineteen Commission proposals regarding:

Regulation amending the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 (Doc. 161/79)

JRC multiannual programme 1980-1983 (Doc. 54/79)

Market in rice and market in cereals (Doc. 48/79)

Brucellosis, tuberculosis and swine fever (Doc. 68/79)

Fresh lemons from certain Mediterranean countries (Doc. 94/79)

Suspending Common Customs Tariff duties for certain types of fish (Doc. 145/79)

Calculation of monetary compensatory amounts in the wine sector (Doc. 79/79)

Bovine leucosis (Doc. 105/79)

Community citrus fruit (Doc. 183/79)

Financing the register of olive cultivation (Doc. 180/79)

Aid to hop producers for 1978 (Doc. 181/79)

Irregularities affecting own resources (Doc. 167/79)

Adult bovine animals from Yugoslavia (Doc. 174/79)

Carry-over of appropriations from 1978 to 1979 (Doc. 165/79)

Table grapes from Cyprus (Doc. 131/79)

Edible caseins and caseinates (Doc. 83/79)

Health protection against ionizing radiation (Doc. 78/79)

Health problems affecting trade in fresh poultrymeat (Doc. 86/79)

Social security for employed persons (Doc. 148/79)

Parliament gave it qualified approval to four Commission proposals:

Investment aid for milk products by Mr Nielsen (Doc. 127/79)

The EP supported the proposal on condition that it be kept fully informed on all the Commission's proposals concerning Community policy on national aids.

Fisheries by Mr Lemp (Doc. 130/79)

The EP believed that licenses should be required by third country vessels in all Community zones, and that the location of catches should be defined more precisely; it asked the Commission to draw up a standard logbook and to finance a study to investigate the present and future training requirements in each Member State.

Tobacco by Mr Brégégère (Doc. 85/79)

The EP requested the Commission to take immediate measures to grant direct aid if necessary, to provide for the granting of aid for reconversion, and to implement without delay the agricultural research programme aimed at improving the quality of production.

Quality and nutritive value of food by Mr Noè (Doc. 89/79)

The EP approved the proposal, subject to an alternative form of finance being found for 1979, possibly within Chapter 33 of the budget.

Parliament called for amendments to six Commission proposals:

Misleading advertising by Lord Kennet (Doc. 36/79)

The EP welcomed the proposal but suggested a number of amendments, aimed in particular at admitting recourse not only to duly constituted courts of law, but also to administrative and self-regulatory organs, and limiting the reversal of the burden of proof to civil and administrative proceedings before the courts.

Construction products by Mr Nyborg (Doc. 30/79)

The EP doubted the advisability of setting up a committee of government representatives; it proposed amendments conferring more powers on the Commission and asking it to report annually on progress made in applying the directive (Art. 27 - 28); furthermore, it asked the Commission to propose possible amendments to the directive once it has been in force for four years (Art. 38).

Community transit by Mr Nyborg (Doc. 103/79)

The EP approved the substitution of the EUA for u.a., but saw no point in increasing the amount of the guarantee; it proposed an amendment to Art. 5 excluding persons who have committed a serious offence from the right to make customs declarations on behalf of others, even if the offence is an isolated one.

Forestry policy by Mr Albertini (Doc. 184/79)

The EP requested the Commission to draw up more detailed proposals, also providing aid for specific forestry measures, and to resubmit its 1974 proposals, possibly amended and updated. It suggested a number of amendments aiming at expanding the objectives and the scope of the common forestry policy.

Creation of a European Agency for Cooperation by Mr Sandri (Doc. 44/79)

The EP considered that there was no need to create a specific body to perform the duties involved; however, should the Commission insist on this, the Staff Regulations should be amended accordingly, and Parliament proposed various amendments to that effect.

Eighth Directive by Mr Shaw (Doc. 173/79)

In its amendments, the EP proposed in particular

- introducing more flexible arrangements for acquiring practical knowledge as an auditor (Art. 5(4))
- ensuring the independence not only of the auditor, but also of his firm (Art. 11)
- extending the time limits for compliance with the directive from 18 to 24 months (Art. 13)
- setting up a Consultative Committee (Art. 13A).

Parliament requested withdrawal or reconsideration of three Commission proposals:

Market in wine by Mr Pisoni (Doc. 87/79)

The EP considered that the Commission had not given sufficient justification for authorizing the addition of sucrose for a further two years, and requested it to withdraw its proposal.

Animal protection during international transport by Mr Brugger (Doc. 129/79)

The EP considered that the requirement of a second certificate constituted an unnecessary obstacle to intra-Community trade and therefore requested the Commission to reconsider its proposal.

Plastic materials by Mr Brown (Doc. 23/79)

The EP asked the Commission to examine the criteria governing standards for packaging of foodstuffs and to draw up a list of safe materials ; it called on the Commission to withdraw its proposal and to submit a revised one.

Parliament also adopted thirty-seven other resolutions, including two under the budgetary procedure:

Company taxation by Mr Nyborg (Doc. 104/79)

The EP invited the Commission to draw up proposals on the future harmonization of company taxation and on common criteria for the assessment of taxable profits. Only then would it deliver an opinion on the Commission's present proposals on company taxation (Docs 228/75 and 261/78).

Air traffic control by Mr Noè (Doc. 106/79)

The EP stated its views on the general organization of air traffic in Europe, technological development, social aspects, and air traffic management and cooperation.

Rights of the individual in the face of data processing by Mr Bayerl (Doc. 100/79)

The EP called once again for a proposal on harmonization of legislation on data protection and urged the Commission to take full account of its recommendations in this connection; it requested the Commission to report to it on the progress made by the Working Party on Data Protection.

Community supplies of raw materials by Mr Ansquer and others (European Progressive Democrats) (Doc. 162/79)

The EP stressed the need to maintain Community ore extraction; it requested the Commission to draw up a list of the Community's natural resources, to encourage research into suitable technological methods of exploiting all mineral resources, and to submit appropriate proposals.

Equal pay for men and women by Mrs Dunwoody (Doc. 98/79)

The EP called on the Commission to extend its investigation into the anomalies of the laws passed by the Member States on equal pay; it

recommended the setting up of a system of legal advice to women who have been discriminated against, rejected the use of the concept of 'head of household' in legislation to discriminate against women workers, and called for proposals for the approximation of legislation on maternity; finally, it asked the Commission to examine the situation relating to equality of women in the applicant countries and to submit regular reports on the progress of equal pay legislation.

Tripartite Conference of 9.11.78 by Mr Albers (Doc. 31/79)

The EP urged that priority be given to projects that ensure freedom of movement in the Community and called for vocational training and retraining to be planned for young people as well as specific programmes for handicapped persons; it advocated the abolition of structural overtime and the establishment of equal financial and social rights for part-time working. Finally, it proposed a reorganization of the Tripartite Conference.

Improvement of relations with the social partners by Mr Albers (Doc. 147/79)

The EP welcomed the submission of the new proposals which seemed to be based on its earlier recommendations; it asked the Council to adopt these new ideas as a matter of urgency.

Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Social Affairs on 15.5.79 by Mr van der Gun (Doc. 163/79)

The EP strongly urged the Commission and Council to ensure that, at its meeting on 15.5.79, the Council decides on practical measures, going further than the financial assistance granted under Art. 56 of the ECSC Treaty, to assist workers in undertakings whose existence is threatened.

European Centre in Berlin by Mr Bertrand (Doc. 90/79)

The EP approved the Centre's activities despite the long starting-up period needed; it urged the Centre to channel its activities towards work that is of practical value in the present social and economic situation.

Employment policy by Mr Bertrand and others (Christian-Democratic Group) (Doc. 166/79)

The EP insisted that a significant effort be made to create new jobs and called on the Commission to provide adequate and regular information as a means of coordinating the national efforts.

Enlargement of the Community by Mr Pintat (Doc. 42/79)

The EP commented in detail on the sectoral aspects of enlargement; it asked the Commission to submit revised budgetary estimates, calculate the costs for the institutions of working in extra languages, submit proposals for implementing the special enlargement reserve, take adequate measures in favour of the Mediterranean regions whilst protecting the applicant countries, draw up analysis of the consequences for the regional policy, and propose aid to Portugal in particular; the EP should be more directly associated with the negotiations.

Human rights in Ethiopia by Mr Zagari (Doc. 132/79)

The EP urged the Community authorities to ensure that the atrocities being committed in Ethiopia and Eritrea cease, and that an end is put to outside interventions which exacerbate the situation.

Cooperation with developing countries in the field of energy by Mr Flämig (Doc. 74/79)

The EP asked that specific provisions be included in the future ACP-EEC Convention for cooperation with LDC's in the energy field; it considered the Commission's communication no more than an initial guideline and called for new, more detailed proposals, particularly as regards the financial aspects.

Electricity production – wind, wave and tidal energy by Mr Brown (Doc. 19/79)

The EP was in favour of research into these additional sources of energy; however, many research projects were already being implemented at national and international level, and Parliament could not therefore support the allocation of Community appropriations to the wind energy project in the Commission's 1978 proposal.

Energy situation in the Community by Mr Flämig (Doc. 96/79)

The EP called for the implementation of a comprehensive plan of action taking into consideration all forms of energy, particularly nuclear energy, as well as the need to diversify sources of supply and eliminate waste; it insisted that contacts be established between energy-producing and energy-consuming countries.

Economic and trade relations between the EEC and New Zealand by Lord Castle (Doc. 107/79)

The EP considered that the Community must pursue policies that do not run counter either to New Zealand's efforts towards diversification or to the Community's efforts to promote its agriculture.

Seminar held by the Committee on Agriculture in Echternach by Mr Caillavet (Doc. 128/79)

The EP rejected any attempt to modify the fundamental principles of the CAP, but considered that it must form part of an overall policy; it requested a review of national aid systems in the agricultural sector and the establishment of a plan to dismantle these aids, and finally called for improved relations with the other institutions on the CAP.

Common agricultural policy by Mr Fellermaier and Mr Pisani (Doc. 155/79)

The EP confirmed its belief in the fundamental principles of the CAP, but considered that a complete re-examination of that policy would be necessary; it called for a conference also including the participation of representatives of third-party interests such as consumers and environmental experts; the elected Parliament should be able to express its opinion on the outcome of this conference before the Council takes its decision.

Milk sector by Mr Howell (Doc. 115/79)

The EP called upon the Commission to provide a longer-term basis for its measures to dispose of dairy produce; it outlined the objectives of future measures and urged the Commission to amend the present regulation on producer co-responsibility to take account of supply requirements, the time-limit for the elimination of surpluses and the financing arrangements.

Fish farming by Mr Corrie (Doc. 116/79)

The EP called for common measures to encourage fish farming and common programmes so as to foster and coordinate research; it proposed a regulation on the subject which it invited the Commission to submit to the Council.

Nervous diseases in pigs by Mr Hughes (Doc. 76/79)

The EP asked the Commission to introduce effective eradication measures, to study the cost-effectiveness of the eradication scheme and to include nervous diseases in pigs within the Community's agricultural research programme.

Fisheries auxiliary vessels by Mr Kavanagh (Doc. 101/79)

The EP requested the Commission to submit proposals by mid-1979 at the latest for the progressive improvement, intensification and expansion of the system of auxiliary vessels, and to enter a corresponding item in the budget; furthermore, it called for proposals for an optimum programme of vocational training for deep-sea fishermen.

Farming and rural life by Mr Caillavet (Doc. 177/79)

The EP called on the Commission to encourage the action of CEPFAR, to make available to it the overall aid necessary, and to enter sufficient appropriations for it in the 1980 budget.

Working conditions by Mr Nyborg (Doc. 111/79)

The EP considered the Commission's four labour standards represented an absolute minimum; it warned against letting the obligations to observe such standards develop into economic reprisals and stressed that possible sanctions should not directly affect the satisfaction of the local population's most fundamental needs.

European Youth Forum by Mr Caro (Doc. 151/79)

The EP declared that active support should be given to the Youth Forum, including adequate financial resources, but at the same time called for the submission of full accounts on the spending and an annual report on the activities of the Youth Forum.

Trial of Mr Sabata by Mr Glinne and others (Socialist Group) (Doc. 168/79)

In the interest of respect for human rights and freedom of expression, the EP requested the Czechoslovakian authorities to refrain from all further proceedings and to release Mr Sabata immediately.

Appointment of a Community Ombudsman by Sir Derek Walker-Smith (Doc. 29/79)

The EP decided that it was desirable to institute a Parliamentary Commissioner with the task of examining complaints on behalf of the Community citizen and advising him on the means of redress available.

Trade agreement with Uruguay by Mr Sandri (Doc. 75/79)

The EP expressed its concern at the violations of human rights in Uruguay; because of the vital importance to the people of that country of the trade agreement with the Community, Parliament agreed that it should be renewed for one year, but in no event should further preferences be granted.

Relations between the EEC and ASEAN by Mr Baas (Doc. 77/79)

The EP asked the Commission to exploit every opportunity to improve economic and trade relations between the EEC and ASEAN, and to initiate a campaign of information and assistance to facilitate action by private enterprise.

Peripheral coastal regions of the Community by Mr Corrie (Doc. 113/79)

The EP asked the Commission to carry out a systematic survey on the real cost of geographical disadvantages to the peripheral regions, and stressed the need to maintain or develop the social infrastructure in these regions.

Transfrontier transport of passengers and goods by road by Mr Schyns (Doc. 678/78)

The EP proposed various ways of avoiding long and costly delays at the Community's internal frontiers, and advocated the early introduction of a European driving licence.

Inland waterways by Mr Fuchs (Doc. 146/79)

The EP suggested action to bring about an efficient system of capacity management, modernization of the Western European inland waterway fleet, precautions to prevent ruinous competition from the Eastern European fleets after the opening of the Rhine-Main-Danube canal, a satisfactory solution to social problems, and a coherent policy on infrastructure.

EEC-COMECON relations in the field of maritime shipping by Mr Jung (Doc. 51/79)

The EP welcomed the introduction of an information system concerning the activities of the merchant fleets of third countries, but called on the Commission to submit further proposals regarding a common maritime shipping policy before the two-year observation period expires.

Environmental carcinogens by Mr Jahn (Doc. 99/79)

The EP asked the Commission to set up a working party of experts in the field of cancer research, to propose that all newly-produced chemicals be subject to compulsory registration and authorization, and to submit a proposal on recognized occupational diseases; it also made a number of specific recommendations in the field of cancer prevention.

Contact between the citizens of the Community by Mr van der Gun (Doc. 149/79)

The EP requested the inclusion in the 1980 budget of items covering residential adult education, language teaching and pupil and teacher exchanges, and called on the Commission to submit to the Council concrete programmes in these areas which could be put into operation as from 1 January 1980.

Budgetary procedure

Draft supplementary estimates of the European Parliament for 1979 by Mr Ripamonti (Doc. 185/79)

As the Council had not yet drawn up draft supplementary budget No 2 on the basis of parliament's estimates as adopted on 15.3.79, the EP drew up new estimates for 1979 covering the non-frozen posts only, amounting to 29,986,995 EUA; it requested the Commission to propose them immediately to the Council, and on 11.5.79 declared supplementary budget No 2 for 1979 to be adopted in that form.

Draft estimates of the European Parliament for 1980 by Mr Ripamonti (Doc. 176/79)

The EP adopted its estimates for 1980 at a figure of 167,880,232 EUA, covering the 107 non-frozen posts included in the supplementary estimates for 1979 and the 188 frozen posts to be released by the directly elected Parliament.

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