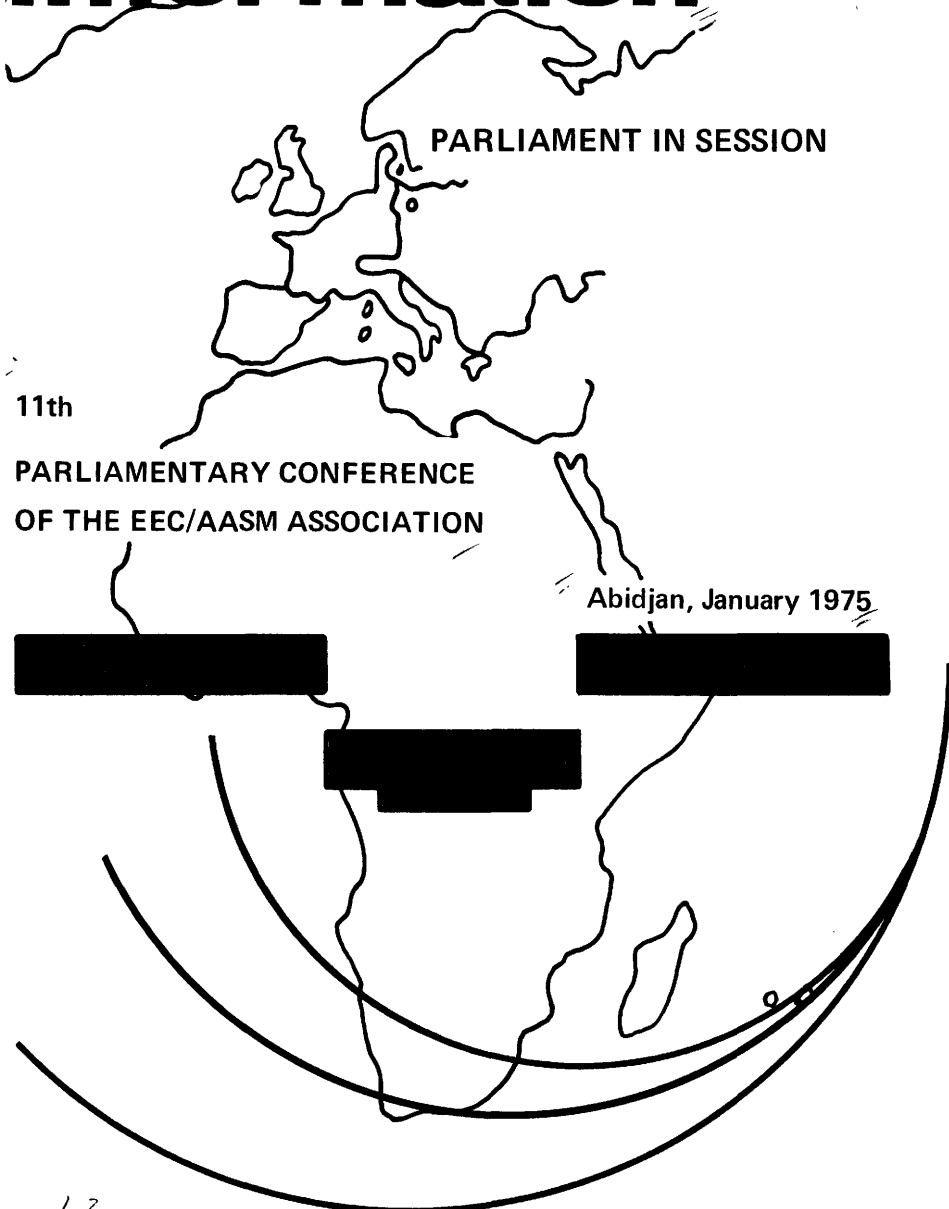


europaen parliament

information



PARLIAMENT IN SESSION

11th

PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE
OF THE EEC/AASM ASSOCIATION

Abidjan, January 1975

11th PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE
OF THE
EEC/AASM ASSOCIATION

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The opening sitting of the Parliamentary Conference. Mr Houphet-Boigny, President of the Ivory Coast Republic, between Mr Yacé and Mr Berkhouwer, President and first Vice President of the Conference

I. INTRODUCTION

The 11th Parliamentary Conference of the EEC/AASM Association – the last to be held under the Yaoundé Conventions – met from 27 to 29 January in the Palais de l'Assemblée Nationale, Abidjan (1). Pursuant to Article 52 of the Second Yaoundé Convention, the Parliamentary Conference of the Association meets once a year. It is an organ of political control comprising 57 Members of the European Parliament and 57 delegates from the Associated States.

The business of the Conference was prepared by the Joint Committee (19 European and 19 AASM Members). This permanent organ of the Conference met in Dinard in May 1974, on Mauritius in October of the same year and in Abidjan from 23 to 25 January 1975, immediately prior to the Conference.

At the end of its proceedings the Joint Committee submitted the following documents to the Conference:

- a report by Mr H. Mounthault on the accounts of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association for the financial year 1973, the supplementary estimates for the financial year 1974 and the estimates for the financial year 1975 (Docs. 53 and 53/Add.)
- a report and supplementary report by Mr Satcam Boolell on the Tenth Annual Report on the activities of the Association Council (Docs. 52–I/II and 52–III) to the Parliamentary Conference of the Association (Docs. 54 and 55)
- a draft declaration on the conclusion of the current negotiations between the EEC and the ACP countries (Doc. 56).

(1) Previous meetings:

| | | | |
|------------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Dakar | (1964) | Hamburg | (1970) |
| Rome | (1965) | Yaoundé | (1971) |
| Abidjan | (1966) | The Hague | (1972) |
| Strasbourg | (1967) | Kinshasa | (1973) |
| Tananarive | (1969) | Rome | (1974) |

II. CONSTITUENT SITTING AND FORMAL OPENING SITTING

The Parliamentary Conference of the Association was opened by the retiring President, Mr Berkhouwer, President of the European Parliament.

1. Membership of the Conference

(a) European Parliament Representatives (1)

Mr Achenbach (German, Liberal)
Mr Adams (German, Socialist)
Mr Aigner (German, Christian Democrat)
Mr Ariosto (Italian, Socialist)
Mr Artzinger (German, Christian Democrat)
Mr Baas (Dutch, Liberal)
Mr Behrendt (German, Socialist)
Mr Berkhouwer (Dutch, Liberal)
Mr Bersani (Italian, Christian Democrat)
Mr Bourdèllès (French, Liberal)
Mr Bourges (French, European Progressive Democrat)
Mr Broeksz (Dutch, Socialist)
Mr Colin (French, Christian Democrat)
Mr Corona (Italian, Socialist)
Mr Deschamps (Belgian, Christian Democrat)
Mr Dondelinger (Luxembourg, Socialist)
Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker (British, European Conservative)

(1) If unable to attend, any member of the European Parliament may arrange to be represented by another member.

Mr Durieux (French, Liberal)
Mr Faure (French, Socialist)
Mr Fellermaier (German, Socialist)
Mrs Fenner (British, European Conservative)
Miss Flesch (Luxembourg, Liberal)
Mr Galli (Italian, Christian Democrat)
Mr Gerlach (German, Socialist)
Mr Girardin (Italian, Christian Democrat)
Mr Glinne (Belgian, Socialist)
Mrs Goutmann (French, Communist)
Mr Härzschel (German, Christian Democrat)
Mr van der Hek (Dutch, Socialist)
Mr Hill (British, European Conservative)
Mrs Iotti (Italian, Communist)
Mr Jozeau-Marigné (French, Liberal)
Mr Kaspereit (French, European Progressive Democrat)
Mr Lagorce (French, Socialist)
Mr Laudrin (French, European Progressive Democrat)
Mr Lautenschlager (German, Socialist)
Mr Ligios (Italian, Christian Democrat)
Mr McDonald (Irish, Christian Democrat)
Mr Maigaard (Danish, European Conservative)
Mr Martens (Belgian, Christian Democrat)
Mr Memmel (German, Christian Democrat)
Mr Nielsen K. (Danish, Socialist)
Mr Nolan (Irish, European Progressive Democrat)
Mr Normanton (British, European Conservative)
Mr Notenboom (Dutch, Christian Democrat)
Mr Pianta (French, Liberal)
Lord Reay (British, European Conservative)
Mr Rosati (Italian, Christian Democrat)
Mr Sandri (Italian, Communist)
Mr Schuijt (Dutch, Christian Democrat)
Mr Schwörer (German, Christian Democrat)
Mr Seefeld (German, Socialist)
Mr Shaw (British, European Conservative)
Mr Spénale (French, Socialist)
Mr Thornley (Irish, Socialist)
Mr Yeats (Irish, European Progressive Democrat)
Mr Zeller (French, Christian Democrat)

(b) Representatives of the Associated African, Malagasy and Mauritian States

Countries represented by Parliamentarians:

- Federal Republic of Cameroon
- People’s Republic of the Congo
- Republic of the Ivory Coast
- Republic of Gabon
- Mauritius
- Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- Republic of Senegal
- Republic of Togo
- Republic of Zaire

Countries represented by other political figures:

- Republic of Burundi
- Central African Republic
- Republic of Dahomey
- Republic of the Upper Volta
- Republic of Madagascar
- Republic of Mali
- Republic of Niger
- Republic of Rwanda
- Somali Democratic Republic

The Republic of Chad was not represented at the Conference; its apologies for absence were sent to the bureau of the Conference.

(c) Associable States represented at the Conference by observers

- Republic of Ghana
- Republic of Malawi
- Republic of Tanzania



Mr Yacé and Mr Berkhouwer, President and first Vice-President of the Conference

2. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents

The President of the National Assembly of the Ivory Coast, Mr Philippe Yacé, was unanimously elected President of the Conference.

The Conference unanimously ratified the following appointments:

First Vice-President:

Mr Cornelis Berkhouwer (Dutch, Liberal)
President of the European Parliament

Vice-Presidents:

Mr Cisse Dia (Senegal)
Mr Bersani (Italian, Christian Democrat)
Mr Bo Boliko Lokonga Monse Mihomo (Zaire)
Mr Yeats (Irish, European Progressive Democrat)
Mr Muna Tandeng (Cameroon)
Mr Fellermaier (German, Socialist)
Mr Satcam Boolell (Mauritius)
Lord Reay (British, European Conservative)

3. Formal Opening Sitting

The formal sitting was opened in the presence of Mr Houphouet-Boigny, President of the Republic of the Ivory Coast.

The President of the Conference, Mr Philippe Yacé, reviewed the experience gained from 10 years of the Association between the Community and the Associated African, Malagasy and Mauritian States now the time had come for it to be replaced by a broader agreement. The Association born of the Yaoundé Conventions had been, he said, an unprecedented phenomenon in the history of cooperation between nations, an original creation in which the strongest were no longer content simply to impose their laws on the weakest, but in which the parties, basing their relations on mutual respect of each other's sovereignty (without regard for ideological differences) have initiated a genuine dialogue between Europe and Africa, since those who receive speak on equal terms with those who give.

Referring to the part played by the Parliamentary Conference, Mr Yacé noted the contribution it had made, in particular vis-à-vis public opinion and the

European governments, towards the recognition of the principle of stabilizing the export revenues of the Associated States. Expressing his hope that a new agreement would soon be signed between the Community and the ACP countries, the speaker confirmed that the Conference would accept its responsibility in the operation of the new institutions which would then be set up.

Mr Berkhouwer, President of the European Parliament and Vice-President of the Conference, examined the effects of the energy crisis on the Community and on the Associated States. He declared that they should not, however, be over-dramatized, since they would not prevent Europe from increasing its contribution to development aid. Referring to the negotiations for the renewal and enlargement of the Association, Mr Berkhouwer confirmed that the Community and the Member States had constantly shown their firm resolve to bring about a successful conclusion. He expressed his conviction that the solution would be most original and constitute a major element in resolving the problems which might arise between groups of countries at different stages of development.



Mr Houphet-Boigny, President of the Ivory Coast Republic opens the Conference

Mr Houphouet-Boigny, President of the Republic of the Ivory Coast, welcomed the Members of the Conference to his country. Europe and Africa, he declared would have to show the necessary imagination, youthfulness, sense of realism and courage to write the first page of this new economic order which was the aspiration of the world of those who had neither assets nor abilities, but who wished to become the equals of the others. He was very confident of the success of the current negotiations, reminding the meeting that by helping Africa, Europe would be helping itself.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE CONFERENCE

1. The Tenth Annual Report on the activities of the Association Council

Mr Boolell (Mauritius) presented his report on the Tenth Annual Report on the activities of the Association Council to the Conference.

This document was in two parts: the first dealt with the Association's activities in 1973-1974 and the second with the negotiations for the renewal of the Convention. The past year, characterized above all by inflation in the industrialized countries and the soaring prices of oil and other basic commodities, had created a new situation in relations between the Nine and the



Mr Boolell, general rapporteur

Associated States. But national reactions to the crisis had differed: in particular certain AASM States had felt the repercussions of the price increases more than others. Turning to the problem of the procedures and institutions of the Association, the general rapporteur stated that the Council of Association and the Joint Committee, and the Parliamentary Conference had shown their worth as instruments of concerted activity. They had contributed towards solving many problems, especially those concerning AASM exports. However, he added, the potential of these institutions, apart from the Parliamentary Conference, had not been fully realized. Furthermore, the Nine had negotiated certain trade agreements without complying with the consultation procedure provided for in the Convention. Nevertheless, the speaker maintained that the activities of the Association had been highly positive and understanding of AASM problems within the Community had improved.

Turning to the second part of his report, Mr Boolell analysed the situation as the Second Yaoundé Convention was about to expire. He believed that the enlargement of the Association to embrace 55 countries would be a major contribution to the realization of world equilibrium. Success was possible, he concluded, where there was a political will to achieve it.

Mr Tévi-Benissan (Togo), President of the Association Council, stated that the institution of which he was President viewed with serenity and satisfaction the path which had been taken. The Association Council would be ready to assume its responsibilities at any time in line with conditions adapted to political situations and new requirements. Like the Parliamentary Conference, it would be a model for the organs of the new Association. The ministerial organ of the Association could not operate in isolation but should maintain contacts with the representatives of the people whose independence and freedom of expression were an important contribution to the Association.

Mr Fitzgerald, Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs and President of the Council of the European Communities, also spoke about the current negotiations. The important thing, he said, was to ensure that future relations between Europe and the Associated States took the form of genuine cooperation between genuine partners. He stated that the Community had made considerable concessions and that the European offer had now been extended as far as possible. But he was confident of the success of the negotiations.

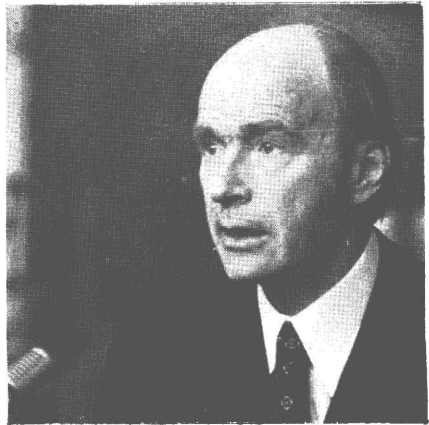
Mr Hillery, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities, considered that although the ministerial meeting in Brussels

Mr Tevi-Bénissan, President of the Association Council



Mr FitzGerald, President of the Council of the European Communities.

Mr Hillery, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities.



(13-15 January 1975) may not have produced full agreement it should not be seen as a failure. Analysing the differences still existing between the Community and the ACP States he thought that appropriate solutions could still be found since the political will was there. The Parliamentary Conference, he added, could be regarded as a model of cooperation at a time when in other bodies we were witnessing more of a confrontation.

Mr Cissé Dia (Senegal), Vice-President, asked the Conference to adopt a firm stand and request the European and African negotiators to conclude a final agreement during the month of January. He also expressed his support for the creation of an organic cooperation grouping for Europe, the ACP and the countries of the Near and Middle East. The first foundation of this new institution should be an organic union of the African parliaments. In conclusion he asked for an increased financial effort by the Community in favour of the ACP countries because it was vital to abolish the flagrant differences between the rich countries and the poor countries.

Mr Glinne (Belgian, Socialist), analysing the causes and effects of the present world economic crisis, hoped that relations between Europe and Africa would not be affected, in particular by the resurgence of egoism and a certain panic on the part of those sections of the population who could not accept that relations between the haves and the have-nots should be carried on on an equal footing. The increased prices of raw materials could, in his opinion, lead to more rational choice of utilities, greater solidarity with the developing countries and improved international division of labour.

Lord Reay (British, European Conservative), considered that the new Association provided the basis for a new political framework which should make it possible for the consequences of the colonial era to be overcome for once and for all.

Mr Bersani (Italian, Christian Democrat), Vice-President, noted the attraction which the Yaoundé Convention had exerted on the other countries of the third world since 46 of them had now expressed their desire to pool their resources and share their destinies with the Community of Nine. He also welcomed the increasingly equal, if not egalitarian, character of relations between the Associated States and the European countries. The Association, he concluded, should serve as a model and landmark for other experiments and initiatives in relations between industrialized and developing countries.



Debate on the general report

Mr Bo Boliko (Zaire), Vice-President, considered that on balance the Association had been a positive element and declared that his country was prepared to follow a new path of cooperation with Europe on condition that its independence and dignity as a free nation were respected. Without wishing to pass judgement on the Association, Zaire was convinced that it should rely in the first instance on itself: this was why the State of Zaire had taken control of major production, distribution and transport units.

Mr Kaspereit (French, European Progressive Democrat) stated that the forthcoming geographical enlargement of the Association, a long-cherished wish of the French, was a price which had to be paid for its survival. His opinion was that the Conference could be instrumental in the conclusion of the new agreement – protectionist tendencies must not be allowed to re-emerge from weariness or disappointment. The excellent solidarity shown by the ACP States should not be allowed to develop into disastrous radicalism.

Mr Muna Tandeng (Cameroon), Vice-President, recalled that the new enlarged Association would count among its members countries of extremely different levels of cultural and economic development. The task of the negotiators would therefore be to reconcile the various interests. The main aim of the new Association should be the unification of the Associated States in a spirit of progress just as the Treaty of Rome had united the countries of Europe.

Mr Nolan (Irish, European Progressive Democrat), noted that Ireland perfectly understood the concerns of other young nations; it was itself a developing country which had only been created at the beginning of this century and had had to face infrastructural, agricultural, industrial and educational development problems.

The main concern of Mr Aigner (German, Christian Democrat) was the effect of the oil crisis. In the decade to come there was the danger that this crisis would increase potential aggressiveness towards developing countries and expose them to blind ideological forces.

On behalf of the Communist and Allies Group, Mrs Goutmann (France) declared that the forthcoming agreements should go even further than the preceding Association and achieve a new international economic order which would take account of the right of nations to independence and respect each country's sovereignty over its own natural resources and economic activities. The Association had not, in her opinion, prevented a deterioration in trade terms and inflation had even been exported to the developing countries. It was time for the neo-colonial system to disappear, she added, and for Europe to recognise the realities of our time.

Mr Seefeld (German, Socialist) stated that genuine cooperation between equal partners was the only proper answer to the situation created by the oil crisis.

Miss Flesch (Luxembourg, Liberal) thought that the Community would do well to follow the example of unity set by the ACP during the recent negotiations. The system of export revenue stabilization would be a fundamental element of the new agreements. Also, Europe's difficult economic situation should not be used as a pretext for questioning development cooperation and development aid.

The new Association must reflect the new relations between the industrialized countries and the developing countries. This point was made by Mr Yeats (Ireland, EPD), Vice-President, who stated that the new relations would be based on the interdependence of the Associated States and established on a equal footing.

Mr Normanton (British, European Conservative) underlined the need for an association between the European countries and the industrialized countries: this was the only way of protecting all the countries against dangerous fluctuations.

Mr Teelock (Mauritius) noted that the European countries needed the AASM in the same way as the latter needed Europe. An agreement on sugar was vital for the future of the Mauritian economy.

Mr Girardin (Italian, Christian Democrat) thought that the rich countries should limit their economic growth, inasfar as this was compatible with maintaining the standard of living and employment attained so far and concentrate their investments on the development of the developing countries. Seen in this light the present economic recession presented a suitable opportunity for a fundamental review of the economic and development policies of the industrialized countries.

Mr Ould Sidi Haiba (Mauritania) underlined the need for the retention, expansion and strengthening of the association formula established by the Yaoundé Conventions. The new Association should take on its real dimensions in which the complementary characters of the Arab, African and European worlds would be fully revealed.

Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker (British, European Conservative) drew attention to the serious danger of excessive indebtedness on the part of the Nine who had entered into important commitments towards the EDF despite the increased external trade deficits resulting from the rise in oil prices.

Mr Karahije (Rwanda) hoped that such momentous decisions as those concerning the evolution of raw material prices would not be taken in future without due allowance being made for the economies of the least advanced countries.

Mrs Iotti (Italian, Communist) pointed out the need to establish a new economic and political order in the world. In spite of its faults and limitations, the Association constituted a valuable attempt to institute a new economic order based on equality, independence, democracy and co-existence. In order to resolve the present crisis it was essential that large zones of exchange for goods and opinions should be created. For this reason the Communist parliamentarians would vote for the reports submitted to the Conference.

Mr Spénale (French, Socialist) believed it would be increasingly difficult for Europe to recognise the need for an active development aid policy if the

countries of the Community were unable to show similar solidarity on the matter of regional policy. Drawing attention to the risk of nationalism and the utopian character of universalism he stated that the Europeans should create Europe amongst themselves and together with the ACP, the largest community of nations in the world.



Mr Sissoko, deputy general rapporteur

Mr Sissoko (Mali), deputy rapporteur, replied to the various speeches. The new Agreement, he stated, should be characterised by courage and be exemplary since it would be seen by the entire world. He concluded by saying that, apart from being an economic contract, the Association would represent a political choice by the ACP for the quality of European cooperation.

The Conference adopted the following resolution:

Resolution
on the tenth Annual Report
on the activities of the Association Council.

The Parliamentary Conference of the Association,

- meeting in Abidjan from 27 to 29 January 1975 pursuant to Article 52 of the Convention of Association between the EEC and the associated African countries, Madagascar and Mauritius, signed at Yaoundé on 29 July 1969;
- having regard to the tenth annual Report on the activities of the Association Council (Doc. 52/I-II) and the report from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council on the management of financial and technical cooperation in the financial year 1973 (Doc. 52/III);
- having regard to the statements made by the President of the Association Council, the President of the Council of the European Communities and the representative of the Commission of the European Communities;
- having regard to the report and supplementary report submitted by Mr Satcam Boolell on behalf of the Joint Committee (Docs. 54 and 55),

I. The working of the present Association

(a) activities of the Institutions

1. Notes that there has been useful and successful concerted action between the different bodies of the Association;
2. Is gratified by the improvement in consultation procedure at the level of the Association Committee, in particular as regards problems relating to preferential trade arrangements;
3. Regrets, however, that the Association Council has not met since 15 June 1973, contrary to the provisions of Article 44 of the Convention;
4. Calls on the Association Council to adopt as soon as possible such transitional measures as will be necessary from 1 February 1975;
5. Deplores the excessive delay in forwarding the tenth Annual Report to the Conference and the fact that full and detailed data on the breakdown of EEC/AASM trade in 1973 were not available to the Joint Committee and its rapporteur;

(b) trade

6. Considers that the improvement of trade terms as a result of the increase in prices of certain raw materials, particularly agricultural produce, and the consequent rise in the export revenue of a number of Associated States, will have a positive effect at world level;
7. Notes with satisfaction the development of activities to encourage trade in AASM products;
8. Welcomes the favourable response, to a certain degree, of the Community to the difficulties encountered by certain Associated States in securing supplies of cereals in that the Community has reduced the level of export taxes on such products for the benefit of those States;
9. Is gratified that the Community has finally been able to work out specific measures for Somalia – under the aid arrangements provided for in Article 21 of the Convention – in the form of aid which should make it possible to reorganize the production and marketing network for bananas;

(c) food aid and supplementary measures for the Sahel countries and Somalia

10. Appreciates the increasing efforts made by the EEC to provide food aid under the general phased programme of supplies to the Sahel countries and the decision taken on 17 December 1974 by the Council on a substantial supplementary interim programme for the Sahel states and for Somalia;
11. Also appreciates the special measures adopted in favour of these countries and recommends their prolongation;

(d) financial and technical cooperation

12. Takes note of the effort made by the Community to encourage integrated regional development projects and methods of implementation which are better adapted to the economic and social conditions prevailing in the Associated States;
13. Notes, as shown in the report on the management of aid for 1973, that efforts to provide supporting services to agriculture can only lead to real benefits to farmers – whose productivity is thereby increased – if it is accompanied by equitable earnings for producers;
14. Emphasizes the importance of a policy of self-sufficiency in foodstuffs implemented by the Associated States and is also gratified that the European Development Fund has given still greater encouragement to agricultural and agricultural – industrial development projects;

15. Notes that the diversification of the financing instruments employed by the European Development Fund and the European Investment Bank (including the contribution to the formation of risk capital) allows the Associated States means of financing which are better adapted to their development projects;

II. negotiations on the renewal and enlargement of the Association

16. Emphasizes the constructive political spirit in which the negotiations have been broached and pursued by all parties and consequently hopes that they will be brought to a successful conclusion;
17. Welcomes the fact that the ACP countries have decided in favour of concluding a single global agreement with the Community covering trade in the widest sense and financial, technical and industrial cooperation, at the same time ensuring the safeguarding of the economics and interests of the Associated States;
18. Recalls its hope that the partners' continued desire for cooperation will be expressed in the new Convention while allowing for possible periodical review of conditions;

(a) the Institutions

19. Reaffirms its attachment to the institutional provisions of the Association which provided it with a completely original structure and made a continuing dialogue between the partners possible on a footing of complete equality, and feels that the Institutions must be maintained, subject to adaptation to the new realities for the Association;
20. Feels, in particular, that alongside a decision-making and administrative institution at ministerial and ambassadorial level, there should also be an institution representing the peoples of the Association which should be of a joint character and whose work should be prepared by a smaller ad hoc committee;

(b) trade

21. Points with the greatest satisfaction to the decision taken at the Kingston Ministerial Conference on the stabilization of export earnings for the main ACP products; this decision creates an exemplary precedent which should open the way to genuine worldwide agreements on a product-by-product basis;
22. Feels that under an innovative policy for the stabilization of ACP export earnings, the Community should commit itself to laying down special arrangements for imports of sugar from the ACP countries, with provision not only for a long-term guarantee to purchase 1,400,000 tons of sugar, but also for fair prices to the producer countries, on the understanding that these prices should be revised annually, taking into account production costs, prices paid to European producers and rates prevailing on the world sugar market; it should also be understood that the ACP countries will undertake to deliver the agreed quantities;

23. Considers it vitally important for the contracting parties to grant each other most favoured nation treatment;
24. Expresses support for the request made by numerous states of the Third World that all generalized preferences systems should be amended in respect of discrimination against developing countries endeavouring to protect the value of their exports, and asserts that the principles of active cooperation based on national independence, on the right of every country to dispose freely of its own resources and on mutuality should be universally upheld;
25. Hopes that a system will also be formulated and implemented which, while respecting the relations already existing between certain ACP countries and certain EEC Member States, will guarantee the development of banana exports from the ACP countries at remunerative prices in all the Member States of the Community.

(c) financial and technical cooperation

26. Feels that the volume of aid granted by the EEC should correspond to the increased size of the enlarged Association and to the real development needs of the ACP countries while also guaranteeing retention of the benefits, in updated terms, accorded to the present Associated States and treatment on an equal footing for the new Associated States;
27. Considers it desirable to fix the total amount of aid which the ACP countries can expect throughout the period of application of the future Convention, while emphasizing the advantages of financing the EDF from the Community's own resources;
28. Notes particularly the new list, agreed by common accord between the Community and the 46 ACP countries, of the least developed countries which, faced with particular difficulties, will have the benefit of appropriate measures provided for under the new agreement.
29. Welcomes the increasing participation of a number of states in the search for a solution to the problems of developing countries as a result of the change in the world situation regarding raw materials,
expects that this support will increase and improve in line with the responsibility of such states;
would consider it deplorable if certain countries whose world position and political responsibilities indicate that they should be able to contribute, were to shrink, to a substantial degree, from providing such support;

(d) industrial cooperation

30. Regards as fundamental the decisions on industrial cooperation between the EEC and ACP countries to enable the latter to benefit from industrial know-how, adaptation of technology to ACP needs, improved international division of labour and the conclusion

of agreements which will encourage investments and reconcile the interests of investors with the policy of control of industrial structures pursued by the governments of the ACP States;

(e) transitional measures

31. Hopes that in an initial transitional phase, and in order to prevent a legal vacuum arising between the old Association Conventions and the new Convention, suitable provisions will rapidly be made to preserve the status quo after 31 January 1975;
32. Further, favours the rapid conclusion of an interim agreement between the ACP and the EEC to make it possible – in a second transitional phase – the advance introduction of the provisions relating to trade, in particular, and preparation for the implementation of the provisions laid down in the 4th EDF;
33. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Council and the Commission of the European Communities and, for information, to the Association Council, the competent authorities of the Associated and Associable States and the Members of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association.

2. Conclusion of the current negotiations between the EEC and the ACP countries

The conference adopted the following declaration:

The Parliamentary Conference of the Association

- bearing in mind the importance of the new Convention between the Community and the ACP countries for all their peoples,
 - emphasizing that this Convention – put into effect and administered in the framework of joint institutions and covering in one global agreement the fields of economy and trade and financial, technical and industrial cooperation – will constitute an example of international cooperation and an important contribution to the economic and social development of peoples in peace, independence and freedom,
1. Solemnly appeals to all the contracting parties to contribute to the successful conclusion of the negotiations at the earliest possible opportunity in response to unanimously expressed hopes and expectations;



*Mr Mounthault, financial rapporteur
of the Conference*

2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration to the Council And Commission of the European Communities and, for information, to the Association Council and the competent authorities of the Associated and Associable States.

3. Accounts of the Parliamentary Conference

Mr Mounthault (Congo) presented his report on the accounts of the Conference for the financial year 1973 and the estimates for the financial year 1975. Referring to the accounts for the financial year 1973 the rapporteur pointed out that actual expenditure had amounted to FF 279,675.16, as against the budgetary estimates of FF 216,000. The excess expenditure was due to the charging of the cost of the Kinshasa Conference to the financial year 1973. Two supplementary budgets would be necessary, he said, to cover expenditure already committed for 1974 and expenditure still to be provided for for the same year.

Referring to the estimates of expenditure for the financial year 1975, the rapporteur expressed his support for the adoption of a transitional measure which would in no way pre-judge the new Association. The rapporteur proposed that the contribution from the present Member States should remain at FF 12,000.

The Conference adopted the following resolution:

The Parliamentary Conference of the Association:

- having regard to its Financial Regulation (1) and in particular Articles 6 and 11 thereof;
 - having regard to the Joint Committee's report (Doc. 53).
1. Endorses the considerations contained in the report;
 2. Notes that the expenditure of the Conference chargeable to the Associated States as a whole, pursuant to Article 2(3) of Protocol No. 10 annexed to the Association Convention amounts to FF 279,675.16 for the financial year 1973, which is FF 63,675.16 in excess of the budgetary appropriations;
 3. Gives a discharge to the Secretary-General of the European Parliament in respect of the revenue and expenditure account for the financial year 1973 as submitted;
 4. Resolves to carry forward to the 1974 budget as 'expenditure incurred in the last financial year' excess expenditure incurred in 1973;
 5. Resolves that, in order to cover the carrying-forward of these credits, the following supplementary budget should be added to the 1974 budget:

| <i>Revenue</i> | <i>Expenditure</i> |
|---|--|
| | Heading 6 (hire of cars, etc.) · · · · · 42,886.68 |
| | Heading 8 (reception costs) · · · · · 14,463.47 |
| Non-allocated balance of previous contributions: | Heading 9 (other administrative costs) · · · · · 6,325.01 |
| | ----- |
| | FF 63,675.16 |
| | FF 63,675.16 |

(1) Official Journal of the European Communities No. 220, 24 December 1965, pp. 3232/65

6. Decides moreover to add to this supplementary budget a further supplementary budget to take account of additional expenditure still to be met for the 1974 financial year which cannot be covered by the normal budget for that financial year:

| <i>Revenue</i> | <i>Expenditure</i> |
|---|---|
| | (1) Interpreting at meetings FF 45,000 |
| | (3) Renting, cleaning, lighting and fitting out premises FF 15,000 |
| | (8) Reception costs of Presidents and Chairmen of Conference and Joint Committee FF 26,000 |
| | (9) Other operating costs (including telecommunications) FF 6,000 |
| Non-allocated balance of previous contributions: | FF 6,000 |
| FF 92,000 | FF 92,000 |

7. Notes the draft estimates for the financial year 1975 of expenditure chargeable to the European Parliament in accordance with Article 2(3) of Protocol No. 10, totalling FF 450,000;

8. Approves the transitional estimates for the financial year 1975 of expenditure chargeable to the Associated States as a whole, in pursuance of Article 2(3) of Protocol No. 10, totalling FF 228,000;

9. Resolves to maintain the contribution of each Associated State for the year 1975 at 600,000 CFA francs;

10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of the Joint Committee to the Presidents of the Parliaments of the Associated States and of the European Parliament, and also to the Council of the Association.

4. Creation of the institutional apparatus to be provided for by the new EEC/ACP Convention

Mr Deschamps (Belgian, Christian Democrat) presented the proposal for a recommendation, drawn up by the Joint Committee set up to study the details of the further conduct of the parliamentary activities of the Conference and of the Joint Committee, on the creation of the institutional apparatus to be provided for by the new EEC/ACP Convention. The idea was, he explained, to charge a number of democratically appointed personalities with establishing the contacts required to ensure that during the period of transition the task could be pursued to the greatest benefit of all concerned.

The Conference adopted the following recommendation:

The Parliamentary Conference of The Association

- anxious to facilitate, beyond the present EEC/AASM Association Convention, the creation of the new institutional apparatus to be provided for by the new EEC/ACP Convention,
- 1. Hopes that the Presidents of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association and of the European Parliament will by common accord establish all the necessary contacts for the practical application of the provisions of the new Convention relating to the organ which is to represent the peoples of the signatory States and propose the requisite measures for this purpose;
- 2. Requests, meanwhile, that its Joint Committee should continue its activities.

5. Statement by the President of the Association Council

Mr Tété Tévi-Bénissan informed the Conference that the EEC/ASM Association Council had adopted, by the written procedure, transitional measures to take effect from 1 February 1975. The Council of the European Communities was also due to meet on 30 January 1975 to adopt this decision of the Associated Council and to extend present provisions relating to access for agricultural produce originating in the Associated States to the Community market and products falling under the European Coal and Steel Community. At this same



*Mr Djamson (Ghana) spokesman for the
associable countries*

meeting the Council was to take transitional measures for the Associated Overseas Territories and Countries and would re-affirm the provisions of the Act of Accession relating to the three new Member States of the EEC and non-European countries which have special relations with them.

With regard to the institutions, the effect of these transitional measures was that the present provisions of Title IV of the Yaoundé Convention, with Protocols Nos. 8 and 10 and Annexes VIII and IX would be prolonged until the entry into force of the provisions of the new Convention relating to the same areas, but not later than 31 July 1975.

As for the nature of the provisions of the new draft Convention, it appeared that agreement was in sight on the retention of three main institutions:

- an Association Council or Ministerial Conference
- an Association Committee or Committee of Ambassadors
- a Consultative Assembly.

The Consultative Assembly would be made up, on an equal representation basis, of Members of the European Parliament (for the Community) and of representatives appointed by the ACP States. The Consultative Assembly would appoint its own Bureau and adopt its own rules of procedure.

6. Speech by the First Vice-President

Mr Berkhouwer, First Vice-President of the Conference, stated that the dialogue launched under the present Yaoundé Convention should be continued at all events, whatever the provisions of the new agreements. The new Convention should make provision for a parliamentary dialogue as the present institutional apparatus had given fair proof of its worth. For his part, he would actively encourage the taking of decisions required to achieve this objective.

7. Speech by the Ghanaian observer

Mr Djamson, Ghanaian Ambassador to the European Communities, speaking on behalf of all the observers invited to the Conference, expressed his confidence in the Institutions to be set up under the new Convention based on the current Brussels negotiations. He underlined the need for international cooperation based on the complementary characters of Europe and Africa; harmonious relations between these two continents, already linked by history, provided the best guarantee for the future.

IV. JOINT COMMITTEE

1. Nomination of Members

On a proposal of the Bureau the Conference appointed the Members of the Joint Committee and noted that the representatives of the Associated States had appointed deputy members.

Representatives of the European Parliament:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Mr Aigner | (German, Christian Democrat) |
| Mr Bersani | (Italian, Christian Democrat) |
| Mr Broeksz | (Dutch, Socialist) |
| Mr Corona | (Italian, Socialist) |
| Mr Deschamps | (Belgian, Christian Democrat) |
| Mr Durieux | (French, Liberal) |
| Miss Flesch | (Luxembourg, Liberal) |
| Mr Glinne | (Belgian, Socialist) |
| Mr Hill | (British, European Conservative) |
| Mrs Iotti | (Italian, Conservative Communist) |
| Mr Laudrin | (French, European Progressive Democrat) |
| Mr Liogios | (Italian, Christian Democrat) |
| Mr Nielsen, Knud | (Danish, Socialist) |
| Mr Nolan | (Irish, European Progressive Democrat) |
| Lord Reay | (British, European Conservative) |
| Mr Schuijt | (Dutch, Christian Democrat) |
| Mr Seefeld | (German, Socialist) |
| Mr Spénale | (French, Socialist) |
| Mr Zeller | (French, Christian Democrat) |



Mr Deschamps and Mr Kasongo, Chairman and vice-chairman of the new joint committee

Representatives of the Associated States:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| BURUNDI | Nzeymana, Laurent | |
| CAMEROON | Ekwabi-Ewane, Jean | Nsakwa Ngi, Peter |
| CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC | Kombot-Nagueman, Nestor | |
| CONGO (People's Rep.) | Mounthault, Hilaire | Adouki, Lambert |
| IVORY COAST | Ebagnitchie, Edouard | Coulibaly, Gon |
| DAHOMEY | Pognon, Lazare | |
| GABON | Sambhat, Albert Martin | Ickamba, Joseph |
| UPPER VOLTA | Zongo, Jeanne | |
| MADAGASCAR | Rakotozafy | |
| MALI | Sissoko, Alioune | |
| MAURITIUS | Boolell, Satcam | Awootar-Mewasing, Preeduth |
| MAURITANIA | Mohamed Fall Babaha | Ahmed Ould Die |
| NIGER | Poisson, Jean | |
| RWANDA | Karuhije, Ignace | |
| SENEGAL | Guillabert, André | Amadou Bouta Gueye |
| SOMALIA | Mohamed Omar Giama | |
| CHAD | | |
| TOGO | Kouma, Komlan | Monsila, Djato |
| ZAIRE | Kasongo Mukundji | Muhima Amri |

2. Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The Conference appointed Mr Deschamps (Belgian, Christian Democrat) as chairman and Mr Kasongo (Zaire) as vice-chairman of the Joint Committee.

3. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Joint Committee will be held in Dublin (Ireland) from 21 to 23 May 1975

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