



# european parliament

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the sittings

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## **SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

**1975 – 1976**

**Sittings held in Strasbourg**

**Monday, 9 February 1976**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Commission's farm price review for 1 March 1976 to 28 February 1977 was the main focal point of the European Parliament's February sittings. The second was Commission President François-Xavier Ortoli's message on the state of the Community, and the third was a debate with Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the Council, on the North-South Conference.

Parliament found the 7.5 per cent average increase proposed by the Commission to be inadequate and had reservations about the proposed ways of dealing with the Community's one million ton surplus of skimmed milk powder. The main detail here is that Parliament wants a 9.5 per cent average increase. Other details will be found in Postscript where Parliament's motion is given in full.

On the state of the Community, opinion seems to tilt between a desire (expressed, for example, by Mr Brian Lenihan) to see the Nine endowed with a real capacity to take decisions and fears (as expressed, for example, by Mr Cornelis Berkhouwer) of seeing the Nine run by a directoire.

The debate on the North-South Conference was coupled with one on the outcome of the Seventh Special Session of the UN General Assembly. And here, Lord Reay expressed particular concern about the damaging political consequences that could result from failure to fulfil promises made to developing countries.

Lastly, on fishing, Mr John Prescott argued that catch quotas have failed to ensure fish conservation and that the only answer is for the Community to recognise the right to exclusive areas of one hundred miles.

## AGRICULTURE

### Parliament calls for 9.5 per cent average increase in farm prices

Opening Parliament's debate on the Commission's farm price review, Mr Jan de Koning, (Du, CD), rapporteur for the Committee on Agriculture, called for a greater increase than the 7.5 per cent already proposed by the Commission, but otherwise supported the broad main lines of the Commission's review. He noted that the Commission has taken a three-year reference period in calculating its costs but he called for a two-year period. He agreed with the Commission about the 'objective method' of allowing a percentage increase factor which involved assessing cost increase and allowing for income trends outside farming, but thought that various factors in the calculation should be weighted differently.



*Jan de Koning: 'The price determination for the coming year takes place under particularly difficult political and economic circumstances.'*

Mr de Koning agreed with the Commission's proposals that there should be a gap between the price of feed grains and fodder grains, but, he asked, how do you tell which is which? He also thought that the premium for uprooting trees, designed to phase out uneconomic fruit growing, should be 1,400 u.a. per hectare instead of 1,100.

Turning to milk, he called for a bigger increase in price than that envisaged by the Commission which would give 4 per cent more in two stages. He pointed out that there was a 12 per cent increase in costs in 1975. At the same time, he was opposed to price increases on a scale that would lead to higher production.

On co-responsibility, Mr de Koning shared the Commission's views.

On skimmed milk, Mr de Koning was anxious that there should be no change in the present intervention system. He believed that otherwise the whole pricing system would collapse.

Mr de Koning had no disagreement with the Commission over beef.

On olive oil, Mr de Koning urged the Commission to change the present regulation so as to ensure that olive producers earn enough money to live on.

*Mr Michel Cointat criticises dearth of details about the cost of Commission proposals*

Mr Michel Cointat (Fr, EPD), rapporteur for the Committee on Budgets, told the House that it was unfortunate that, in the three volumes of the Commission's agricultural proposals, only four pages were devoted to finance, even though agriculture, this year, represented 73 per cent of the budget. He also criticised the fact that the measures proposed here involve transfers within the budget of some 500 u.a. This expenditure would thus escape the budgetary control of the European Parliament and enhance the legislative power of the Council.

*Mr Jean Hamilius defends the CAP*

Mr Jean Hamilius, Luxembourg Minister for Agriculture and President of the Council, who said he was attending the debate to listen rather than talk,



*Jean Hamilius: 'The Council wants a better balance between supply and demand on the farm markets, and not just through a prices policy geared to the modern farm; it needs policies for stockpiling, marketing, exports, food aid and co-responsibility too.'*

reminded the House of the conclusions reached by the Council in its debate on the CAP on 11 November 1975, and he warned the House not to look for an easy solution.

#### *Spokesmen for the groups*

Mr Cornelis Laban (Du, S) argued in favour of the 7.5 per cent average increase proposed by the Commission. He was indignant that the Community should pay such hypocritical lip-service to the idea of food aid, only making milk surpluses available when it had no use for them itself. He quoted a poem, published by the United Nations, about people discussing famine over lunch.

For the Christian Democrat Group, Mr Lucien Martens drew attention to the plight of many small farmers who devote thousands of hours every year to making sure that we are fed. There are, he said, very few gentlemen farmers, and the Community food basket is cheap. The 9,000,000 people who work so hard

to feed us deserve a better deal. The Commission proposals are therefore unacceptable. A price increase of 9.5 per cent would be more realistic. Referring to the fats surplus, he drew attention to the 3,000,000 tons of vegetable fats imported every year.

For the European Conservatives, Mr James Scott-Hopkins said that the main issue was whether the 7.5 per cent increase proposed by the Commission was enough. He thought the consensus was 'no', because the cost increases were simply not going to be recouped, and here he noted how uncomfortable Mr Laban had looked in arguing the case for the 7.5 per cent increase. He agreed with Mr de Koning about the difficulty in distinguishing between grains. Similarly he suggested that the Commission ought to put forward their price proposals much earlier. After all, the spring wheat had already been sown. Mr Scott-Hopkins said he accepted the two-phase increase in milk prices, pointing out that when you calve onto grass in the springtime, your costs are much lower, but he asked whether the Commission was doing enough to promote milk consumption which could improve the health of every man, woman and child in the Community. He thought too that there should be greater emphasis on disposing of liquid milk instead of milk powder, and he pressed Mr Lardinois for details of the export rebates being envisaged on milk powder sales to Russia. He agreed with Mr Martens that the Commission's object was right in principle, but it was not providing sufficient funds to ensure that a stable industry would be producing efficiently. Mr Scott-Hopkins hoped that the Commission would reconsider its proposals to do away with beef premiums. It was illogical to say that prices would be high anyway. The point is to give farmers confidence. Lastly, he turned to Mr Laban, saying that he did not think a five-year plan for farming was realistic but he thought that three-year plans were reasonable. He agreed with Mr Cointat on the importance of proper cost analysis. He concluded by saying that his group's aim is to ensure that producers on modern farms get the support they deserve.

Speaking for the Liberal and Allies Group, Mr Jean Durieux thought it rather sad that many farmers should be earning less than skilled workers. He was quite baffled by the fact, too, that New Zealand has become the tenth Member State of the Community, the other states being left to get what share of the market they can. The price increases proposed were unacceptable. Most milk farmers have no alternative to turn to, but it was equally wrong to make the poultry and pig farmers pay for the milk powder surplus by compelling them to use it in fodder.



Speaking for the European Progressive Democrats, Mr Albert Liogier said that the farm price review was a direct reflection of the ceiling on expenditure imposed by the Council. This unfortunately was the key to the whole debate.

*Careful opening reply by Commissioner Petrus Lardinois on farm prices*

With a glass of milk to hand, to show that he had taken note of Mr Scott-Hopkins's comments, Commissioner Petrus Lardinois began a careful reply to the various points raised in the debate. He spoke first of the new cereals dispensation for wheat. He reminded the House that, when the system had been changed for oats and barley, there had been severe criticism in Germany, but once the system had begun to operate, this criticism had faded out. As to devising a system by which one could tell which wheat was which, he asked the House to give him until 1 July, and not to condemn the system out of hand already. Referring to the request that the premium for uprooting trees be increased, he said that it had already gone up from 800 to 1,200 u.a. per hectare, and this was taxpayers' money. He added that not all the Golden Delicious trees in France had to be uprooted. The Commission was not aiming at an artificial shortage.

Turning then to milk, and taking a tiny sip, Mr Lardinois said he agreed that people on the continent drink too little milk and the industry could be much more involved in selling its produce. He added that the United Kingdom, too, could perhaps learn something from the original Community Six. He told the House that the Commission wanted to devise a programme that would be appropriate to the seven months during which most of the milk is produced, and went on to explain the Commission's limited two-phase price increase for milk in detail. He also defended the Commission proposal to change the intervention arrangements. Here he warned the House against pressing for a further adjustment in the green pound. He reminded the House that the United Kingdom is the biggest market for the other eight Member States. As for surpluses, he reminded Parliament that New Zealand has eighteen months reserve production, Australia has six months and the United States four months reserves. The Commission was proposing to enable the Community to dispose of its present surplus.

As the debate resumed, the positions of the political groups began to be much clearer. Although the Christian Democrats enjoy the support of the European Conservatives, they are in almost total conflict with the Socialist Group in their

motion on the Commission farm price review. The Communists and Allies are, of course, as usual, totally opposed to the proposals because they would like a wholesale review of the Common Agricultural Policy. As for the Liberals and the European Progressive Democrats, their main speakers stress how little the agricultural community stands to gain from what the Commission proposes. There was, however, one point on which there seemed to be full disagreement with the Commission and that was the proposal to make the pig and poultry farmers pay for the milk powder surplus by having to use it in their feedstuffs.

*No mention of farm incomes in an eighty-minute speech*

Mr James Gibbons (Ir, EPD) former Minister for Agriculture, complimented Mr Petrus Lardinois on his great political skill in making an eighty-minute speech without once referring to farm incomes. In Ireland, he said, there is a constant exodus from farms because the land does not pay. He agreed that the milk surplus was a problem just as last year the problem had been beef and wine. But the origin of the beef problem lay in the permission that had been given in 1974 to import vast supplies of beef from third countries. And here Mr Gibbons came to his main theme: that the Community was too preoccupied with the dairy herd. It should pay more attention to the beef herd. He challenged Mr Lardinois's view that the farm price review would not wholly determine the level of farm incomes and he was particularly incensed by the two-stage dairy price increase. He pledged his total support for the case put by COPA and reminded the House that neither the House nor anyone else had refuted the COPA case.

Lastly, Mr Gibbons called for enquiry into the whole management of proteins and nitrates and to introduce proper cattle management with due attention to the second herd.

The speech by Mr Gibbons was in somewhat striking contrast with the speeches by Mr Heinz Frehsee (Ge, S) and Lord Bruce of Donington (Br, S). Lord Bruce praised the Commission's proposals as bold and constructive and he moved an amendment to Mr de Koning's motion to the effect that the price increase should be 7.5 per cent. Lord Bruce recalled that, in December, he had thought the price increase proposed by the Commission as something outrageous, but by comparison with what the Agricultural Committee was asking, Mr Lardinois seemed like the Archangel Gabriel. He accused Parliament of ambivalence about the CAP. In many speeches from the Conservative, Liberal and Christian Democrat benches, he had heard attacks on the sacred cow of the CAP,

particularly the fact that it had attracted 75 per cent of all spending. That sacred cow had now become a golden calf, and the reason was that, in the interval, COPA had intervened, under the distinguished chairmanship of Sir Henry Plumb. He recalled that President Ortolí had spoken of the need for flexibility. In fact, the whole atmosphere was full of flexibility, but when it came to the CAP, there was no flexibility at all and this was why Mr Tindemans had said the Community was crumbling.

Lord Bruce said that the task of Parliament was to be fair and just to all the men and women in Europe and to work for its organic union. The CAP was not the way to do this. It was a failure, as the surpluses of milk powder, wine and beef demonstrated. But this was not only the view of the Socialist Group. It was also the opinion of the Financial Times. On 9 February, John Cherrington wrote: 'Whatever the results of the EP Price Review, it is doubtful whether any worthwhile reform of the CAP will follow. Its cost and anomalies will multiply because nowhere except in sugar does it have a mechanism to bring back to the individual national producer the responsibility for his overproduction. Until this discipline can be applied over the whole spectrum, the policy will be a continuing and expensive failure.'

Among the remaining speakers, Mr Luigi Marras (It, C) stressed how vulnerable Italy is because of the weakness of its agriculture. Mr Erwin Lange (Ge, S) asked for budgetary details to be given with agricultural proposals, and lastly, Mr Adrien Zeller (Fr, CD) suggested that that phasing out of excess milk production should be linked with a change in farm ownership. This would phase out marginal farms and phase in extra acreage for fodder cereals, and pave the way for an increase in price. Mr Zeller also pointed out that every ton of soya imported cost 150u.a. and the value of milk on the world market was only 130u.a. and if one added the cost of the oil used in turning liquid milk into milk powder, the loss on every ton of soya imported was going on for 60u.a.

Mr Petrus Lardinois then replied to the various speakers. He told Mr Mario Vetrone, Mr Libero Della Briotta and Mr Luigi Marras, who had all spoken with some bitterness, that the monetary compensatory amounts had been introduced this week because of the regulations, although the Commission would have preferred to wait. He told them he hoped the wine dispute would be settled before the end of February so as to improve the atmosphere. He thought the French could be more open-minded and called on the Community as a whole to show more solidarity with the wine growers. He noted a request from the Liberals and Allies for a levy on soya: this was a longstanding plea. In reply to

Mr James Gibbons, he said that, listening to him one got the impression that Ireland was about to sink into the Atlantic. Mr Lardinois tried to put the price increase in perspective. The real value of the 2 per cent in March would be that it would represent a cumulative increase of some 25 per cent. He could not take Mr Gibbons seriously when he heard him talking about the situation being scandalous. He agreed with Mr Pierre Lagorce (Fr, S) about the need for a full rebate on VAT for farmers, but he thought that this was still a pious hope.

Mr Lardinois said he was amused by the comments of Lord Bruce of Donington. As for the Financial Times, even remarkable newspapers could make mistakes. In reply to Mr Isidor Fröh (Ge, CD), he said that an analysis of raw materials and wage costs would be included in the Commission's forthcoming report on structures. In reply to Mr Niels Kofoed (Da, L) who had argued that there would have to be a 9.5 per cent increase or else there would be national measures, he suggested that this was a fine way to exert pressure! Mr Lardinois told Mr Lange that he would be ready to attend appropriate meetings of the Budgets Committee to discuss the financial implications of the farm price review, but he wanted to avoid making four separate financial statements. He thought that the best time to do this was at the end of February when the prices were agreed. He expressed interest in Mr Zeller's suggestions and said that he would try to incorporate them in the Commission's thinking next year. Meanwhile, the main object was to reduce milk output. The average increase was 7.5 per cent and 6.5 per cent for milk, but the increase for beef producers was to be 8 per cent. This, said Mr Lardinois, was as much a symbol and a warning as an act of policy.

### *The two important quotes*

#### **The green pound**

On the subject of the green pound, Commissioner Lardinois said: 'The rapporteur called for an adjustment in the green pound. I agree that this must happen once again, but it must be done at the right moment. I do not think it should be done now. At the beginning of August, we made an adjustment in the green pound of 5 per cent and another one in October of nearly 6 per cent. The United Kingdom, therefore, had an extra price rise of nearly 11 per cent. We must add to this the price rise of next March and the price rise resulting from the annual adjustment of the common prices. If we were to change the green pound again now, I think this would give rise to great difficulties in marketing. The



*The vote on farm prices*

butter price in the United Kingdom would have to go up by more than 30 per cent and this would surely lead to a drastic reduction in consumption.'

In the de Koning report before the House, there is a request for a 7.5 per cent devaluation of the green pound. This is something both the British and Irish farming communities would welcome but is likely to be resisted by Commissioner Lardinois for the reasons stated.

### *Irish milk*

On Irish milk, Mr Lardinois said: 'Irish milk producers will have a rise this Spring and Summer as against last Spring and Summer not of 2 per cent more for milk but something like 25 per cent. How is this arrived at? At the beginning of



August 1975, there was a price rise of 5 per cent. In mid-September there was another rise of 5 per cent. In October, there was a rise of nearly 6 per cent. On 1 March this year, milk producers will have a further increase of 2 per cent and if you add the extra 6 per cent increase which fell to them on their accession and add them all together, this gives a total price increase to Irish milk producers of nearly 25 per cent.

### *The vote*

The motion put down by Mr Jan de Koning (Du, CD) calling, inter alia, for a 9.5 per cent average increase in farm prices was agreed to in the European Parliament by a large majority. Support for the motion came from nearly all the Christian Democrats, most of the Liberals and the European Conservatives and

the European Progressive Democrats. The Socialists, on the other hand, who in particular had wanted only a 7.5 per cent increase in farm prices voted against the motion, as did the Communists for whom the CAP is, in any case, totally unsatisfactory.

The most controversial points were as follows:

**Paragraph 18** reads: '(the European Parliament) welcomes the proposal for a two stage price increase for milk.' When an amendment rejecting this was put to the vote, there were 49 votes in favour and 49 against with four abstentions. Support for the amendment, which called for a single price increase over the milk marketing year as a whole, came from the European Progressive Democrats, the Christian Democrats, the Liberals and one Socialist, Mr Liam Kavanagh. But against this coalition, there was a surprising league between the European Conservatives and the combined vote of the Socialists and Communists. The vote being a draw, the President asked those in favour to stand up and be counted. At this point, Mr Giovanni Bersani and Mr Vincenzo Vernaschi came in, swelling the support for the amendment, but three other votes on the other side materialised from nowhere, and the amendment was consequently rejected by 52 votes to 51. A similar amendment by the European Progressive Democrats was rejected by 50 votes to 47.

**Paragraph 21.** An amendment on this paragraph rejecting the amended intervention system for skimmed milk powder which amounts to the elimination of guarantees to producers and insisting on the present system being retained, was accepted almost unanimously.

**Paragraph 23.** An amendment put down by Mr James Scott-Hopkins and Lord St. Oswald to this paragraph read: 'Believe that the system of beef premiums should be retained as a system for use in the case of exceptional price variations.' This amendment was carried by a vast majority.

**Paragraph 26** which reads: 'Deplores the lack of proposals dealing with structural problems in the poultry farming sector,' was supported unanimously.

**Paragraph 30** approving the raising of the EAGGF contribution under the hill farming directive was amended to include an insistence that the maximum permissible payment should be raised from 50 to 60 u.a. per livestock unit or per hectare.

**Paragraph 31(a)** a new paragraph was adopted to urge the Council to adopt a directive on promoting forestry projects.

**Paragraph 35** urging the Commission to put forward proposals to adjust the green pound by 7.5 per cent to parity with the true value of sterling was amended to read: 'Asks the Commission in due course to put forward proposals for further adaptation of the British and Irish green pounds to the true value of sterling.'

**Paragraph 36(a)** Mr Nicolà Cipolla and Mr Luigi Marras for the Communist Group put down an amendment which read: 'Considers that on economic, socio-political and moral grounds, the practice of destroying agricultural produce is no longer acceptable, and that every effort should therefore be made to ensure that milk, fruit and other surplus products are either processed or distributed in fresh condition to schools, barracks, hospitals and to all the poorest categories of workers in the Community.' Asked for his opinion, Mr de Koning, rapporteur, said that he was reluctant to advise the House to vote against it, but only did so because he thought it was technically not feasible. The amendment had the support of the Socialists and Liberals as well as the Communists. The Christian Democrats and European Conservatives voted against the amendment as did four rightwing Italian independent members. The European Progressive Democrats abstained.

### **Are catch quotas a matter for the Community?**

Mr Niels Kofoed (Da, LA) asked the Commission: 'Who is competent to make agreements on fish catch quotas and the conservation of fish on the high seas?' In the absence of Mr Lardinois, it was Sir Christopher Soames who replied. Mr Kofoed, incidentally, thinks it logical for the European Community to lay down quotas.

The point of the question was to draw the Commission on its intentions for a fisheries policy but other than stressing how much more successful the Nine could be if they negotiated as a Community, Sir Christopher neatly sidestepped the main issue: whether the Commission would come down in favour of a 200-mile limit for the Community with exclusive areas of 50 to 100 miles from the shoreline, as the British want, or whether the exclusives would be much more limited, say to 12 miles as the Danes would like. (All that Mr Lardinois said on fishing in January is given in full in the January edition of *The Sittings*).



*John Prescott: 'If we rely on quotas to conserve our fish stocks, we shall meet with failure once again and we shall have sown the seeds of a future Iceland conflict.'*



Sir Christopher indicated that there had been a measure of support for catch quotas as a logical follow-up to fishing gear and mesh-size regulations. But the flaw in his argument, Mr John Prescott (Br, S) pointed out, is that the three Member States responsible for 66 per cent of the Community's catch (Denmark, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom) oppose the idea of quotas. But, he added, 'if quotas are not to be used as a means of conserving stocks, the only alternative is the use of exclusive areas by coastal states'. Mr Prescott said the Community must redraft its fishing policy, recognise the right to exclusive areas of 100 miles and, if the Law of the Sea Conference does not agree to have a 200 mile limit, individual countries will have to declare unilaterally that they will go to 200 miles.

Mr Alexander Fletcher (Br, EC), on the other hand, who sympathised with the Commission's difficulties, debated whether the 200 mile zone would solve the fishing industries' problems. It might increase them.

Mr Willie Hamilton (Br, S) was twice called to order by Mr Michael Yeats in the chair for attacking Mrs Ewing in her absence from the debate. But there was

some laughter when he complained: 'Mr Fletcher and I are fighting for Scotland and Mrs Ewing is busy sticking SNP labels on officials in Europe.' Mr Hamilton said that there is likely to be a faster cleaning up of the oceans than restocking. 'We must plan to ensure that stocking keeps pace with take up.'

Mr Michael Shaw (Br, EC) agreed with Mr Hamilton on the need to look after the needs of inshore fishing fleets and he agreed with Mr Prescott that 'in many cases, the quota system does not work'. He asked Sir Christopher if he could tell the House when the Court of Justice was likely to rule on the competence of the Community to deal with quotas. (Sir Christopher has indicated that the Commission is submitting that it is competent). He said that the Commission would be putting a proposal to the Council very shortly.

### **Early phase-out of compensation for Deutsche Mark revaluation resisted**

#### *Debate*

Mr Libero Della Briotta (It, S), rapporteur for the Committee on Agriculture, reported to Parliament on the highly political issue of phasing out compensation for the D-Mark revaluation. It will be remembered that, when the Mark was devalued by 12 per cent in 1969, the Community agreed to pay a direct subsidy to farmers in compensation. This originally included a grant per hectare farmed, but now consists of a 3 per cent rebate on VAT. The Commission is pressing to phase this remaining compensation out over the next three years – 2.25 in 1976, 1.50 in 1977 and 0.75 in 1978.

#### *Vote*

In the confusion that followed the vote on the farm price review with most of the Members leaving the House, the Christian Democrats had no difficulty in getting an amendment carried to the motion put down by Mr Libero Della Briotta. The motion called on the House to approve the Commission proposal to phase out compensation for the D-Mark revaluation over the next three years. The amendment asked that this be changed to five years and, given that the phasing out is already starting one year late, this means a six-year compensation period. The Christian Democrats and the European Conservatives voted in favour of this amendment and a handful of Socialists voted against it.

## **POLITICAL AFFAIRS**

### **Mr Ortoli's state of the union message**

'Economically, we are moving further apart, but we are all more aware of the need to work together.' This was the substance of the address by Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission, to the European Parliament. No decisive progress had been made towards economic and monetary union but, for example, the British had voted in favour of staying in the Community; there had been great progress in institutional terms, and it had been decided that Parliament was to be directly elected. Similarly, the European Council had proved to be an asset. Perhaps the most remarkable achievement of the year just ending was the Lome Convention.

Mr Ortoli then spoke of the Community's developing relations with the Mediterranean countries and some successes in policies at home: moves towards aligning economic policies, the launching of the regional fund and moves towards a common energy policy. Looking ahead, Mr Ortoli stressed that the Community must act together. It must be independent and it had to think ahead about its own institutional future. This particularly involves, as Mr Tindemans emphasised, the transfer of competence to common bodies and the transfer of resources from prosperous to less prosperous regions. Mr Ortoli reminded the House that this is the last year of the present Commission's administration. He naturally wanted it to be the key year in the building of Europe.

With regard to Greece, Mr Ortoli was at pains to point out that the Commission had no reservations about the ultimate aim of Greece's membership. He told the House that the Council had decided on Monday that negotiations with Greece would open before the summer.

### **General agreement with President Ortoli's analysis of the state of the Community**

In the debate in reply to President Ortoli's state of the Community message, there was a broad measure of agreement with Mr Ortoli that the Member States of the Community had moved further apart economically but that they were growing more aware of the Community as such. The main comments from the group spokesmen were as follows:



*François-Xavier Ortoli: 'Our main failure has been in a lack of any real headway towards economic and monetary union.'*

For the Socialists, Mr Erwin Lange said that the Commission today was setting its sights on what it judged the Council would accept. This, he said, was the hallmark of the action programme presented by Mr Ortoli.

For the Christian Democrats, Mr Alfred Bertrand said that the referendum in the United Kingdom seemed to have surprised British leaders by showing that people were more enthusiastic about Europe than they were. He stressed what the Community countries stood to gain by acting together: the Lomé Convention had been commented on favourably throughout the world. He added that it was not an easy matter for EC to open up its markets. The Community was politically significant for the Mediterranean too especially as the whole area is so vulnerable to pressure from the USSR and the United States. But Europe had also to get its institutions right. This might mean changes in the Treaties, for example, through gentlemen's agreements. 'Our job should not just be to carry

out decisions.' Mr Bertrand thought that direct elections would help and he suggested that Council, Commission and Parliament should work together to put over the Community message in 1976.

Speaking for the Liberals, Mr Cornelis Berkhouwer's main burden was to criticise attempts to sidestep the Community and its institutions and he referred disparagingly to the EC Council and the Rambouillet Conference, and particularly to distinctions made between small fry and big fry. We are all in the same class, he said: economic class only. He was disturbed by reports of Europe revolving around the French President and the German Chancellor. He then challenged President Ortoli to say what he meant by independent Europe. He personally thought it was an impossibility, but he welcomed the fact that, despite talk of Community difficulties, new applicants were still trying to get in. He referred to Greece, where for once the Council had been more intelligent than the Commission in seeing that Greece should not be kept waiting. Lastly, Mr Berkhouwer stressed the importance of a Europe of the people. Why, he asked, can we not have a Euroflorin and a European driving license? And why was there not a European stamp and the same postage rate for mail throughout the Community?

Speaking for the European Conservatives, Lord Bessborough praised the realism and honesty of Mr Ortoli's report. He emphasised the importance of Europe's speaking with one voice, for the collective prestige of the Member States is very considerable. Here he argued that the Conference of Foreign Ministers needs its own secretariat. Lord Bessborough then spoke of the coordination of the policies of the Nine. This, he said, was a poor substitute for common policies. He agreed with Mr Ortoli that there could be no real progress without economic and monetary union. He also referred to some of the Community imperatives. He warned, for example, that the United States could not go on bearing so large a share of NATO burden indefinitely. He argued too that there should be no interference with the Commission's authority. He referred specifically to the Commission's stand on the Greek question. Lord Bessborough hoped that the Commission and the Court would now start looking into the whole question of human rights, and, in conclusion, he spoke of the importance of leadership. Whoever is to lead, he said, will have to perform miracles.

Speaking for the European Progressive Democrats, Mr Brian Lenihan spoke of the importance of getting the decision-taking procedure right. He agreed with Mr Ortoli about the value of the European Council which, in conjunction with the Commission, is the base for a real European government, for political



*Cornelis Berkhouwer: 'We cannot have people travelling in first and second class in Europe. All 250 million of us travel in the same class – economy class.'*

cooperation, in particular, was an urgent need. The Community had to speak with one voice on energy, on the North/South Conference and on food supplies. Food supplies, he told the House, would be as urgent tomorrow as energy is today. 'We saw today how divided we are in food supplies. Now this must stop.' He did not agree with Mr Berkhouwer about the Treaties. Let us change them, he said. At this point, Mr Berkhouwer interrupted to say that as long as they existed, they must be executed. Mr Lenihan agreed with him. But this was the first time since the Rome Treaty that the whole Community was being rethought. Looking ahead, he saw the North-South Conference as a continuation of the work begun at Lomé and he looked forward to the time when Norway, Spain and Portugal would join the Community as well as Greece.

Lastly, Mr Lenihan spoke of the two big problems of bringing about a proper redistribution of resources and the need for far more positive regional and social policies, and the harmonisation of legislation on human rights. He hoped that when the Justice Ministers meet early next month, they would consider making the common law principle of habeas corpus into general practice.

Speaking for the Communists, Mr Silvio Leonardi began by praising Mr Ortoli's report for its sad but objective findings. He particularly appreciated the improvements in the layout of the Ninth General Report. The main need today was to show the dangers inherent in the widening gap between the Member States. The strong were getting stronger and the weak were getting weaker.

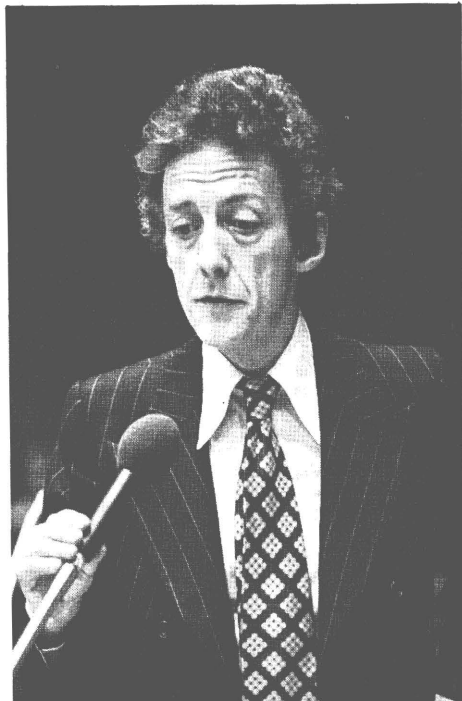
Speaking for the Socialists, Mr Francis Leenhardt asked Mr Ortoli to comment in detail on its failure to tackle some of the problems it envisaged tackling some years ago. He referred to tax evasion, control of Community loans and a European currency. He criticised Mr Ortoli for making no mention, as Mr Tindemans had done, of the lack of any technical consensus about EMU.

Speaking for the Socialists, Lord Bruce of Donington took up the same point. He thought that Mr Ortoli had tried desperately hard to be optimistic but the pessimism kept on seeping through, especially as regards EMU. Why did the Community not spell out the likely effects of economic and monetary union on the CAP or the balance of payments or capital movements. The Commission went into enormous detail when it dealt with agriculture; why could it not do the same in its analysis of EMU? Lord Bruce concluded by saying: 'We are dealing with people.'

Speaking for the European Conservatives, Sir Brandon Rhys Williams was very critical of the Commission for its failure to complete a monetary policy. The Community was falling apart for this reason, and he thought the central banks too had done a lot of harm in talking about strong and weak economies. This sheep and goats approach had resulted in intolerable pressures in more than one European currency in the last month. Again, he did not regard the snake as the only possible solution. He could understand that Mr Ortoli was proud of the Commission's new EC unit of account, but it was sloppy to think that one paper currency made up of several paper currencies was any use without that element such currencies did not have. Here, Sir Brandon suggested a central index of value. Sir Brandon concluded, as he has done on many previous occasions, by emphasising the importance of making the Community a reality for every citizen.

Lord Ardwick (Br, S) on the other hand, was more concerned about spreading the European gospel to the masses and here he was very concerned about the unnecessary confusion caused by calling several European organisations by the same name. He suggested that the European Council be referred to as the High European Council and added: 'I think the European rose would smell even

*Lord Reay: 'We must guard against the apparently chronic fault of democracies to make promises which are never discharged.'*



sweeter with a name which avoided confusion with the lesser roses of the Council of Ministers and the Council of Europe.'

### **Prospects for the North-South Conference — the us-and-them world**

Replying to the joint debate on the Paris Conference on International Economic Cooperation, better known as the North-South Conference, and Mr Lorthar Krall's report on the September 1975 Special Session of the United Nations, Sir Christopher Soames said the Community had no alternative but to succeed. There were other international organisations dealing with different problems but what was lacking was a framework for global discussion. He thought that President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing was to be congratulated for convening the Conference. The numbers convened constituted the smallest conceivable group, i.e. nine industrialised states and eighteen developing countries. The great challenge to the Community was to think together, but there really was no alternative to success.



Mr Gaston Thorn, speaking as President of the Conference of Foreign Ministers, said that the North-South dialogue was the biggest commitment the Community had ever entered into. He hoped that it would provide an opportunity to go beyond the scholastic differences between national and Community interests, but he warned the House that the challenge and the difficulties should not be underestimated.

In the ensuing debate, attention focused on the floor price for oil and Sir Christopher was glad to hear Lord Gordon-Walker (Br, S) speak in favour of a common policy for energy. Mr Alexander Fletcher (Br, EC) on the other hand, was somewhat aghast at the idea of an energy equivalent to the CAP. The involvement of governments, he said, discouraged investors, and for the Community to become involved could be a further disincentive.

### **Spain: it all depends**

Any change in the institutional relationship between the Community and Spain is still a long way off. This was the burden of Sir Christopher Soames's reply to



*Michael Yeats: 'It is highly desirable in the interests of justice that at an early date, Dr Fouéré should be released and brought to trial.'*

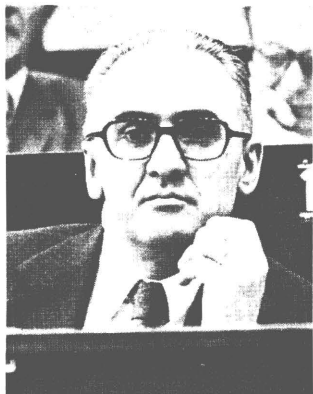
the emergency debate on Spain. Sir Christopher thought things were moving in the right direction, but, as he had said earlier, real progress depends on how things develop there. That seemed broadly to reflect the views of the House. For the Christian Democrats, Mr Alfred Bertrand insisted on this parallelism as did Mr Norbert Hougardy for the Liberals. Mr Hougardy thought that the Community should bring pressure to bear on the Spaniards to set a date for direct elections. Mr Hans-Edgar Jahn for the Christian Democrats and Mr Alain Terrenoire for the European Progressive Democrats took a more moderate line. Mr Jahn said his group was pursuing all possible contacts and Mr Terrenoire wished to stand away from any criticism of Spain. Lord St. Oswald went even further, saying that outside pressure could be counterproductive. For every violent demonstration held in Spain today, there were twenty peaceful ones. There was freedom of the press and only 9,000 people in prison as compared with something like three times as many only a few years ago. At the other extreme, Mrs Marie-Thérèse Goutmann felt that there had been too little progress towards democracy in Spain to justify any action by the Community. Lord Castle was similarly dissatisfied.

### **Lebanon: our silence may have helped**

Mr Gaston Thorn, speaking in reply to a question about Lebanon, said he was surprised to hear members criticise the Community for its silence on the Lebanon conflict and, at the same time, warning that the Community should not interfere in the affairs of others. The Community had done little, but it had done all that was possible. If there was peace there now, it was, at least to some extent, because escalation had been avoided — arms had not been sent in, for example — and this had surely helped to restore the balance. But, warned Mr Thorn, the problems of Lebanon would not be solved 'until we have all together assumed our responsibilities in the Middle East'. For the Lebanon problem is part of the fallout of a much bigger issue. Mr Thorn added that talks were in progress about food aid which would be dispatched as a matter of urgency.

### **Relations with Latin America**

Mr Giovanni Boano (It, CD), rapporteur for the Committee on External Economic Relations, reported to Parliament on the state of trade between the Community and Latin America.



*Giovanni Boano: 'In recent months, many Member States have given increasing attention to and have shown an increasing understanding of the problems of Latin America.'*

Mr Boano believes that a new world order is needed to facilitate cooperation between Latin America and the Community. Meanwhile, the EC's generalised preferences scheme is helping Latin American exports. The EC could further help Latin America by spurring integration there. He believes that 'Latin America has all the human and natural resources it needs to solve its poverty problem within a generation without having to suffer unacceptable costs or social upheaval'. Mr Boano's report gave a lot of facts and figures. His motion was agreed to.

## **LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**How long does a case have to be sub judice before it is sub judice too long? The case of Yann Fouéré**

In a mood of distinct unease, Parliament raised the question of the detention without trial of Dr Yann Fouéré at La Santé prison in Paris. The point of greatest concern to Mr Thomas Ellis, Lord Gordon Walker, Mr John Evans, Mr William Hamilton and Mr Richard Mitchell (Br, S) is not so much the heart of the matter, although here they seemed to be in a state of permanently raised eyebrows, but what might be termed 'the laws delays'. The French Members present, arguing allusively but without making any specific points, seemed to suggest that Dr Fouéré was not really a fit person for the sympathy of the House anyway, and Mr Scarascia Mugnozza, replying for the Commission, repeated that this is a matter quite outside the Community's competence. However, Mrs Winifred Ewing (Br, Ind) pointed out that her great friend, Mr Gwynfor Evans, who had accommodated Dr Fouéré for a year, was prepared to testify that Dr Fouéré was essentially a non-violent man.

Mr Hervé Laudrin (Fr, EPD) on the other hand, said that the banned movement, 'The Front for the Liberation of Brittany', had claimed responsibility for four of twelve violent incidents occurring in the last twelve months, and pointed out that they all looked upon Dr Fouéré as their leader. Mr Michael Yeats (Ir, EPD) then reminded the House that this was purely a humanitarian issue. There is unease about the length of time Dr Fouéré has been in jail. The investigative procedure should be completed as soon as possible and Dr Fouéré should then either be released or brought to trial.

The last speaker in this debate was Mr Ole Espersen (Da, S) who suggested that the matter might more properly be dealt with in the Court of Human Rights, but he reminded the House that the French had still not accepted the individual right of petition.

The debate then ended as uncomfortably as it had begun, but it did serve one useful purpose: it enabled Danish, Irish, Scottish and Welsh Members to bring home to the French how disturbed they are by certain aspects of the French legal system. They seemed baffled by the 'cour d'exception' and appear quite unable to understand why it should take so long for anyone to be brought to trial. In Scotland, as Mrs Ewing reminded the House, a person not tried within 110 days goes free. They also seem baffled by the fact that the formal charges against Dr Fouéré, a 65-year old doctor of laws, and former sous-préfet (who has Irish as well as French nationality), i.e. that he was in possession of explosives and was trying to revive a banned devolutionist movement, do not seem to be taken very seriously by anyone. In fact, they seem to see his detention as a malicious political ploy.

The French, on the other hand, feel there is no case to answer. The violence associated with separatism in France (and particularly in Corsica) has made them very wary of regionalist movements. And, again, they place their whole faith in the independence of the examining magistrates, who are answerable to no-one and certainly not to any political authority. They point out that France is not the country whose due processes of law take the longest.

### **Lawyers to be able to plead anywhere in the Community**

Mr Georges Pianta (Fr, L), rapporteur for the Legal Affairs Committee, asked Parliament to approve a Commission proposal which will allow lawyers to provide their services anywhere in the Community. (The Court of Justice

decisions in cases 2/74 (Reyners v. Belgian State) and 33/74 (Van Binsbergen v. Bestuur van de Bedrijfsvereniging voor de Metaalnijverheid) to the effect that Member States may not refer to nationality in legislation in the pursuit of the various professions has naturally made the Community's task much easier here.) Mr Pianta, did, however, ask the Commission to make one or two amendments to its proposed directive.

Speaking in the debate, Sir Derek Walker-Smith (Br, EC), Chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee, outlined the difficulties of liberalising lawyers' services. Whereas a doctor, for example, has a readily exportable skill, a lawyer is faced with the fact that the content of the law and the procedures vary from country to country.

Sir Derek spoke of the difference between the general pattern of court procedures of *plaiderie* in the original Six, with its investigatory and progressive characteristic and that in the United Kingdom and Ireland with its emphasis on oral evidence and cross-examination and its restriction of the judicial function to that of hearing and determination. While welcoming the proposed directive, therefore, and the prospect of closer cooperation between lawyers, Sir Derek's real concern was 'are the safeguards sufficient in respect of forensic activities and court proceedings?'

He moved an amendment to the Commission's proposed directive which would allow Member States to 'reserve to prescribed categories of lawyers the drafting of legal documents relating to the sale and purchase of land and matters of probate'. This was accepted and a motion approving the Commission's proposal subject to certain amendments was agreed to.

## **ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

**Mr Haferkamp: 'We are coming to the end of our worst recession but there are still doubts about how long the present economic upturn will last'**

Mr Willem Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission, gave his annual explanation of the economic situation of the Community. 1975, he said, had been a record year, but in a negative sense: over five million were unemployed in the European Community (4.5 per cent of the working population) some 1.5 million of whom were young people; inflation had been around 12.5 per cent; world and intra-Community trade had contracted.

*Willem Haferkamp: 'We are coming to the end of our worst recession but there are still doubts about how long the present economic upturn will last.'*



Recently, however, some positive trends had appeared. The rate of inflation was lower in the second half of the year than the first (around 8 per cent as opposed to 15 per cent) and particular improvements had been noted in the situation in Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. There had been no general recourse to protectionist measures by Member States, and joint action in the economic sphere had met with some success, especially since the autumn.

The main problem in 1976 would be unemployment, but in tackling it, the Community would have to be careful not to jeopardise the progress it had made in reducing inflation. The Commission attached great importance to cooperation between both sides of industry to cope with economic difficulties. The Tripartite Conference, whose next meeting was scheduled for June, could be particularly significant.

Various speakers put questions to the Vice-President. Lord Bruce of Donington (Br, S) was strongly critical of the absence of any reference to the need to curb

the rise of the multinationals' power which exacerbated structural inflation. Mr Harry Notenboom (Du, CD) stressed the need to take structural considerations into account as well as dealing with immediate economic problems. The Commission did consider such matters, replied Mr Haferkamp, and the forthcoming medium-term economic programme would be important in this regard.

Mr Haferkamp shared Mr Tom Normanton's (Br, EC) desire for a Community central bank, and confirmed to Mr Helmut Artzinger (Ge, CD) the importance he attached to an 'alliance' between both sides of industry for employment and stability — this would be psychologically significant, but acts as well as attitudes would be necessary. He had heard the rumours about revaluation, he told Mr Friedrich Burgbacher (Ge, CD), but there was certainly no truth in them.

## **SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

### **Statute for migrants hits too many difficulties**

Replying to a question from the Communists and spoken to by Mr Luigi Marras, Mr Scarascia Mugnozza said that the views presented by the emigrant workers' representative organisations at the Brussels tripartite Conference would be taken into account in the preparations for the second conference to be held in June. Referring to the draft statute for migrant workers, he told the House that only Luxembourg, Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands had voted in favour. He fully shared the concern expressed about the plight of the unemployed.

## **REGIONAL POLICY AND TRANSPORT**

### **Authorisation waivers for cross-channel coaches**

Parliament agreed without debate to a motion approving the Commission proposal on cross-channel coaches. Under the regulation, authorisation waivers are possible for journeys up to 50km either side of the border. The effect of the change is to ensure that this 50km is not reduced by, say, crossing the Irish Sea or the English Channel.



*Hans-Edgar Jahn: 'It is estimated that three to four hundred million birds are killed every year.'*

## ENVIRONMENT

### **Killing birds is, alas, big business, but Commission offers some hope**

Mr Hans-Edgar Jahn (Ge, CD) once again raised the question of the protection of birds. He reminded the Commission of Parliament's resolution of February 1975 in which it called for a ban on trapping with nets, a shorter hunting season, a ban on cruelty to captured birds and a ban on imports of dead song birds and import controls in the case of live birds, and he asked when the Commission would be coming forward with practical proposals. Speaking for the Socialists, Mr Willi Müller (Ge) shared the concern expressed by Mr Jahn. He drew attention to the damage done to wildlife by pesticides and insecticides and argued that, if two million birds were exterminated every year, there must be a big business in it somewhere. Mr Tom Normanton (Br) Conservative spokesman, looked at the question slightly more positively. He wanted Community recognition for those preserving wildlife by setting up reserves. At the same time, he distinguished between the three issues, helping wild birds, preventing the cruel traffic in cage



birds and the rather thoughtless way in which cage birds were bought and sold. He looked to education, through the schools, the media and political parties, to curtail avoidable suffering. Speaking for the Committee on Public Health and the Environment, Mr Libero Della Briotta (It, S) thought it was unrealistic to ban the hunting of birds except as part of a Community drive to protect certain species. He thought the way to progress was by bringing the message home through the mass media.

In reply, Mr Scarascia Mugnozza said that the Commission had, in recent years, been attaching increasing importance to protecting birds. It had commissioned a study from the German Zoological Society with a view to a directive it was now preparing. This would involve a general rule for live birds with a ban on the hunting of and trading in given species. There would be a list of exceptions in the case of birds representing, for example, a threat to agriculture. Where the species itself was under threat, there would be special protection both for the birds themselves and for their habitat.

Mr Jahn had pointed out that eleven species had died out in twenty years. The prospects now seemed slightly better. Mr Scarascia Mugnozza agreed with the House on the importance of publicity.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Exchange of views on the Tindemans report in the March sittings**

A motion put down by Mr Alfred Bertrand (Be, CD), Mr Lucien Radoux (Be, S), Mr James Scott-Hopkins (Br, EC), Mr Jean Durieux (Fr, L) and Mr Gabriel Kaspereit (Fr, EPD) to the effect that Parliament should hold an exchange of views on the Tindemans report at its sittings in March was agreed to without debate. The motion also welcomed the presentation of the report within the timelimit laid down at the December 1974 Paris Summit as the first step in the movement towards European Union.

### **Opposition to change in EC staff regulations**

Miss Colette Flesch (Lu, L), rapporteur for the Committee on Budgets, asked Parliament to reject a proposal to amend the EC staff regulations with respect to people working at Ispra. The idea was to put 'establishment staff' into the same

category as 'local staff' in a bid to ease tension at the Joint Research Centre. Miss Flesch felt the right answer would be simply to create more posts on the establishment plan. As to the other change proposed, i.e. allowing permanent posts to be filled temporarily, Miss Flesch advised the House against acceptance. Two tiny changes like these could undermine the whole European civil service. A motion to this effect was agreed to.

### **Recommendations of the EC-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee**

Mr Egon Klepsch (Ge, CD), rapporteur for the Associations Committee, asked Parliament to approve the recommendations adopted on 19 September 1975 by the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the EC-Turkey Association. One point he underlined is that the future accession of Greece to the Community must not be allowed to affect good relations with Turkey or its own accession in due course. Mr Klepsch expressed disappointment at the lack of progress towards a final peace in Cyprus. At the same time, Mr Klepsch called for a greater understanding by the Community of Turkey's problems. He looked for an early start on the free movement of Turkish workers in the Community and for closer cooperation between the governments of Turkey and the Member States in the schooling of the children of Turkish migrant workers. A motion to this effect was agreed to.

### **Tax waivers for motor vehicles on temporary import**

Mr Harry Notenboom (Du, CD) asked Parliament to approve a Commission proposal for tax waivers on motor vehicles imported temporarily. The taxes include VAT, excise duties, consumer taxes and vehicles licence taxes. The vehicles must not be sold, lent or used to carry people or goods. The waiver includes tools and commercial literature up to 125 u.a. in value. Time limit is six months, except for horses, where the limit is three months. A motion to this effect was agreed to.

### **Tax waivers on personal property imports**

Mr Harry Notenboom (Du, CD) asked Parliament to approve a Commission proposal to introduce tax waivers on personal property imports. This will facilitate removals between the Nine. Property acquired specifically for importation is not covered. Property must be installed in the importer's home for at least nine months. A motion to this effect was agreed to.

## **Asparagus duty suspended**

The Commission is proposing to keep asparagus duty suspended at a level of 8 per cent of the CCT duty from 1 March 1976 to 31 December 1977. This mainly affects Denmark which exports substantial quantities of ACP asparagus to Germany. Mr Jorgen Brondlund Nielsen (Da, L) asked Parliament to approve the Commission's proposals. A motion to this effect was agreed to.

## **Consolidating rice regulations**

As part of its programme of consolidating agricultural questions, the Commission is now proposing to bring together all those relating to the rice sector. Sir Derek Walker-Smith (Br, EC), rapporteur for the Legal Affairs Committee, asked Parliament to approve this proposal. A motion to this effect was agreed to.

## **Tariff nomenclature on certain cereal and sugar products**

The Commission is proposing to change the customs classification of certain cereal and sugar products. Mr Gabriel Kaspereit (Fr, EPD), rapporteur for the Committee on External Economic Relations, asked Parliament to approve this proposal. A motion to this effect was agreed to.

## **QUESTION TIME**

### *Questions to the Council*

Mr Gaston Thorn, Luxembourg Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, replied for the Council.

### **1. Piecemeal approach to transport the only possibility**

In reply to a question from Mr Heinz Mursch (Ge, CD), Mr Thorn said that there was a lack of agreement in the Council on any common transport policy, and a series of measures were now being put together as an alternative. When asked whether it was possible to progress without any reference to the common goal,

Mr Thorn said that many of the points under discussion called for unanimity in the Council. His reference was for an overall plan. As for the implications in the Tindemans report, he could only say that the Council had not studied it yet. Mr Horst Seefeld (Ge, S) made the same point as Mr Mursch.

## **2. Common approach to air transport under discussion**

In reply to a question from Mr Horst Seefeld (Ge, S), Mr Thorn said that the Council was waiting for Parliament's view on the Commission memorandum for the action programme for the aeronautical sector. Mr Thorn agreed with Mr Seefeld that it was a matter of urgency to progress here, but in reply to Mr Hans-Edgar Jahn (Ge, CD) about being able to compete with the United States, he said one had to be careful here. There are many areas in which we are cooperating with them.

## **3. No cause to increase road haulage quotas**

In reply to a question from Mr Willem Albers (Du, S), Mr Thorn said that the Community was faced with two problems: the setting of quotas and bringing the rules for competition into line with each other. At present, one Member State was blocking the final decision so that there was no progress here. Similarly, there was no cause to increase road haulage quotas.

## **4. Two authorities involved explains delays in reply to question**

Mr Thorn told Mr Peter Corterier (Ge, S) (standing in for Mr Ludwig Fellermaier who is unfortunately unwell) that the reason for the delay in answering a Parliamentary question about sending a European Community ambassador to Guinea Bissau was that it involved both the Conference of Foreign Ministers and the Council, and a way had to be found of enabling the two bodies to get together on this point. Mr Thorn assured the House that he would endeavour to see that such questions were dealt with more speedily in future.

## **5. Council unwilling to be drawn on United Nations resolution on the Middle East**

In reply to a question from Mr Gérard Bordu (Fr, CA), Mr Thorn said that the situation here was exactly the same as for the previous question. Meetings of

political groups only take place once a month and it was not possible for him to give a full answer at the moment.

## **6. Community does not wish to intervene in Angola**

In reply to a question by Lord St. Oswald (Br, EC), Mr Thorn said that, at the Conference of Foreign Ministers, the question of Angola had been considered. 'We want to avoid any suggestion of interference and can only express regret that others have interfered.' Meanwhile, the Community had extended humanitarian aid through the International Red Cross and through the World Food Aid Programme to help refugees. Lord St. Oswald then asked whether the reply could be considered defensible. 'You cannot fight Cubans with powdered milk.' In reply to this, Mr Thorn suggested that these matters could perhaps be discussed elsewhere. Mrs Marie-Thérèse Goutmann then asked whether the Community should intervene to stop British mercenaries going to Angola, and a member on the right of the House shouted: 'And from Cuba'.

## **7. Community's understanding with Spain will depend on progress towards democracy**

In reply to a question by Mr Karl-Heinz Walkhoff (Ge, S), Mr Thorn made it quite clear that, although the Community thought that conditions were such as to justify the resumption of trade negotiations which were suspended last autumn following the last brutal act of the Franco regime, any further progress depends on progress towards democracy.

### *Questions to the Commission*

#### **1. Intimate links between progress towards democracy in Spain and Community recognition**

In reply to questions put down by Mr Cornelis Laban (Du, EC), Mrs Marie-Thérèse Goutmann (Fr, CA) and Mr Hugh Dykes (Br, EC), Sir Christopher Soames made it quite clear that the Commission's view on Spain was the same as that articulated by Mr Gaston Thorn for the Council.

President Spénale then told the House that the Socialist Group had called for an emergency debate on Spain after Question Time. This was put to the vote and agreed to.

## **2. Data bank operating satisfactorily**

In reply to questions from Mr Pierre-Bertrand Cousté and Mr Pierre Krieg (Fr, EPD), Mr Willem Haferkamp said that the data bank had been in operation since last year and was now operating satisfactorily. 300,000 statistical series had been fed in and the first results would be available in March. The United States and Japan would also be covered. Mr Pierre Bernard Cousté then asked how Members of Parliament would be able to get hold of these statistics. Mr Haferkamp said the Commission was looking into this, for example, for the telex system. It was also endeavoured to make statistics available more quickly by reducing the time needed from three to ten days.

## **3. All laws must be printed in all present and future Community languages**

In reply to Lord Reay (Br, EC), Mr Borschette said that he could not envisage a situation where Members of Parliament could not speak in their own language, and certainly all laws would have to be translated into all languages in future just as they are at present. However, because of the tremendous cost of operating in different languages and the shortage of trained linguists, he suggested that, for example, interpretation could be limited to the main languages only. He emphasised that the Commission did not want to raise this as a further problem confronting new Member States. Mr Tom Normanton (Br, EC) asked him whether the Community could speak Esperanto, to which Mr Borschette replied Europe only had a value if each country kept its language. Mr Cousté asked him whether it was true that this consumed 12 per cent to 15 per cent of the Community's budget. Mr Borschette replied by giving a few figures. Interpretation, he said, costs 500m. Belgian francs per year, and each meeting 108,000 Bf. One interpreter costs 7,200 Bf per day. One in every four members of the Community's staff is involved in translation or interpretation. He suggested that some gentlemen's agreements to waive the use of one's own language might be indicated for the future. There was some laughter when Miss Colette Flesch (Lu, L) asked about all members being able to speak in their own language — an obvious reference to the language of Luxembourg. Mr Borschette replied that the manner in which the question was asked proved that the people

of Luxembourg were able to speak other languages, thus foreshadowing the European Parliament itself.

#### **4. Generating electricity in Greenland not feasible**

In reply to a question from Mr Luigi Noè (It, CD), Mr Simonet said that it was not really feasible to try to tap the energy resources of Greenland because of the difficulties of transporting it once it had been tapped.

#### **5. Only if Europe forms a single airline would it be able to negotiate with IATA**

In reply to a question from Lord Bethell (Br, EC), Mr Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza said that only if the Community countries were to form a single airline would they be able to negotiate with the International Air Transport Association. Mr John Osborn (Br, EC) made the point that fares in the United States were roughly half those in Europe. Mr Tom Normanton (Br, EC) complained about the high cost and lamentable service for members flying to Strasbourg or Luxembourg. Mr Scarascia Mugnozza could only refer to his earlier reply on this subject in January.

#### **6. Only four Member States complying with emergency stocks directive**

In reply to Mr Norbert Hougardy (Be, LA), Mr Simonet said that only France, the United Kingdom, Denmark and Luxembourg had complied with the directive requiring Member States to increase emergency stocks of petroleum products from 65 to 90 days consumption as of January 1975. The normal treaty procedure for failure to comply had been initiated against the other Member States.

#### **7. Fishing questions deferred**

Mr Lardinois said that the questions on fishing policy would be dealt with in the following day's debate on the Oral Question by Mr Niels Kofoed (Da, LA).

## **8. Member States may add EC aid to their own aid to help lagging regions**

In reply to a question by Mr Adrien Zeller (Fr, CD), Mr George Thomson said that the main aim of the Regional Fund was to increase the volume of aid so that more projects could be initiated than was possible when governments acted on their own. But one had to be flexible, and if Member States wished, they could add Community aid to the aid they were giving themselves.

## **9. European scientific and technical documentation and information**

In reply to a question by Mr Marcel Vandewiele (Be, CD), Mr Henri Simonet told the House that there was a committee for scientific and technical documentation and information which helped the Commission in this sphere. The committee had set up a special working party to study how to make the most efficient use of information on energy as a matter of urgency. The Commission would be acting on proposals from this working party in looking into the needs of users.

## **10. No help for chocolate crumbs**

In reply to a question from Mr James Gibbons (Ir, EPD), Mr Lardinois said he accepted that chocolate crumb production had fallen partly because of the recession and partly because of the high sugar price. He said he thought there had been some recovery in this sector but did not feel that there was any justification for taking measures here that differed from measures applied elsewhere.

## **11. Half the anti-dumping actions are being brought against East European countries**

Replying to a question by Mr James Spicer (Br, EC), Sir Christopher Soames said that dumping was said to occur if the prices on the home market were higher than the prices of the goods sold abroad. But dumping had first to be proved and injury as defined by the GATT had to be established. Mr Spicer complained that this did not meet the case in East European countries. Sir Christopher replied that half the anti-dumping actions now in progress concerned East European countries. (Mr Spicer had referred to suits available from East Germany for 5 pounds.)



## **12. United States agricultural market more protectionist than that of the Community**

In reply to a question by Mr Marcel Lemoine (Fr, CA) about the implications of the Rambouillet Summit for European agriculture, Mr Petrus Lardinois said that Rambouillet decisions were not binding on the Community. Mr Lemoine asked him if any of the agreements reached there would open the Community up too much to imports of agricultural products from the United States. Mr Lardinois replied that concessions had been made but that the Community could also press for a quid pro quo. The United States market was more protectionist than that of the Community.

## **13. Non-discrimination clause included in association agreements with Morocco and Tunisia**

In reply to a question by Mr Schelto Patijn (Du, S), Sir Christopher Soames said that the association agreements with Morocco and Tunisia included a non-discrimination clause, but emphasised that the true aim was to create a climate of dialogue and mutual trust.

## **ACTION TAKEN ON PARLIAMENT'S ADVICE**

Mr Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza, Vice-President of the Commission, told the House that the Commission had modified four of its proposals in the light of Parliament's advice. The first concerns a suggestion by Mr Thomas Ellis (Br, S) in his report on keeping track of crude oil prices, that a report on the procedure followed should be submitted to Parliament. The Commission agreed. Secondly, the Commission accepted amendments in a report by Lord Bethell (Br, EC) on drinking water and a report by Mr Luigi Noè (It, CD) on monitoring lead in the atmosphere. A letter would be forwarded to the House explaining how the Commission had amended its proposals in accordance with Parliament's wishes. Mr Scarascia Mugnozza pointed out, however, that it could not accept the agreement signified by Dr Hillery on the report by Mr François Duval (Fr, EPD) on the classification of paints, etc., for technical reasons. Lastly, the Commission had amended its proposal further to Mrs Elisabeth Orth's (Ge, S) report on erucic acid. The Commission wished to express its best wishes to Mrs Orth for a speedy recovery from her present illness. The President thanked the Commission.

Mr Jan Broeksz (Du, S) asked the chair to make sure that the Commission's letter was forwarded to the committee chairmen. Mr Spénale agreed that this would be done.

## **NOTES**

### **Emergency debate on equal pay refused**

Parliament refused to discuss as a matter of urgency the motion put down by Mr Michael Yeats (Ir, EPD) and Mr Jean Durieux (Fr, L) on equal pay for men and women. Mr Yeats was very concerned at the delays in implementing the equal pay in Ireland. Ireland, it will be remembered, have asked the Commission for a stay of execution on the implementation of equal pay. The Commission reaction was that it did not like exceptions but agreed to send an ad hoc delegation to Ireland to hold discussions with the Irish government. The Commission will meet next Wednesday to discuss its findings. Meanwhile, the motion put down has been referred to the Committee on Social Affairs.

### **Welcome to Belgian visitors**

Mr Lucien Martens, in the chair, welcomed 25 members of the Christian Democrat Party in the Belgian Parliament

### **Petitions received**

The President announced that he had received from Mr Kurt Struppek and 39 other signatories a petition on the protection of the basic rights of Turks living in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The President also announced that he had received from Mr Alain de Brouwer, Mr Christian Koutzine and six other signatories a petition on youth and the future of Europe.

### **Summing up**

At its sittings of 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 February 1976, Members put down 4 questions for debate with the Commission and 1 question for debate with the

Conference of Foreign Ministers. At Question Time, 7 questions were addressed to the Council and 16 questions were addressed to the Commission. 15 reports were considered, and Parliament considered 15 opinions. The House sat for 3 hours 35 minutes on Monday, 7 hours 45 minutes on Tuesday, 6 hours 40 minutes on Wednesday, 8 hours 20 minutes on Thursday, and 1 hour 15 minutes on Friday, making a total of 26 hours 35 minutes.

## REFERENCES

Subject	Eur. Parl. Doc. No.	Comm. Doc. No.	Date of debate
Bird protection .....	473/75	—	9/2
Regular coach and bus services .....	495/75	368/75	9/2
Detention without trial of Dr Yann Fouéré .	493/75	—	9/2
Commission measures concerning migrant workers .....	509/75		9/2
Ninth General Report on the activities of the Communities in 1975 .....	—	524/75	10/12/.
Fixing of prices for agricultural products ..	522/75	464/75	10/2
Measures in the agricultural sector following the revaluation of the Deutsche Mark .....	519/75	477/75	10/2
Question Time .....	520/75	—	11/2
Outcome of the seventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly .....	507/75	—	11/2
Relations between the Community and Lebanon .....	458/75	—	11/2
Motion for a resolution on the Tindemans Report .....	527/75	—	12/2
Decision on tariff preferences for CAP States and OCT Regulations on trade with ACP States and OCT .....	517/75	516/75	12/2
Freedom of lawyers to provide services ....	470/75	236/75	12/2

Agreement on quotas of fish catches on the high seas .....	510/75	—	12/2
Regulation on the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Communities ....	515/75	391/75	13/2
Directive on tax exemptions for imported means of transport .....	513/75	387/75	13/2
Directive on tax exemptions for imported personal property .....	514/75	388/75	13/2
Relations between the Community and Latin America .....	469/75/rev.	—	13/2
Regulation on the suspension of duties on foliage of asparagus plumosus .....	482/75	—	13/2
Consolidated texts relating to the rice sector	505/75	410/75	13/2
Tariff nomenclature of certain cereal and sugar products .....	518/75	412/75	13/2

### ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used in this text to denote nationality and political allegiance: CD Christian Democrat, S Socialist, LA Liberal and Allies, EC European Conservative, EPD European Progressive Democrat, CA Communist and Allies, Ind Non-attached Independent Members, Be Belgium, Br British, Da Danish, Du Dutch, Fr French, Ge German, Ir Irish, It Italian, Lu Luxembourg, EC European Community.

## *POSTSCRIPT 1*

### **Mr Jan de Koning**

Rapporteur for the Committee on Agriculture on the Commission's 1976-1977 farm price review.

Mr de Koning, who has been a member of the Dutch Parliament since 1969, has been a Member of the European Parliament since 1971. He has been an agricultural and horticultural specialist for some years and, indeed, before coming to the European Parliament, he served for three years as agricultural consultant on the Community's Economic and Social Committee. He is currently General Secretary of the Dutch Farmers' and Horticulturalists' Union.

Mr de Koning is vice-chairman of the Anti-Revolutionary Party, one of the three Christian Democrat parties in the Dutch Parliament currently supporting the Socialist-led government, but his standing is good among European Parliament Members of all groups. His appointment as rapporteur was endorsed by all of them.

It is, incidentally, the fourth time he has served as rapporteur on a farm price view. The motion in which he summed up his committee's opinion was agreed to virtually unaltered by a large majority of the House. The voting was 62 to 33 with 11 abstentions.

## RESOLUTION

**embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council on the fixing of prices for various agricultural products and accompanying measures for the 1976/77 marketing year.**

### *The European Parliament*

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(75) 600 final and 600/2 final).
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 464/75).
- having regard to the motion for a resolution concerning agricultural surpluses (Doc. 317/75) tabled by Mrs Ewing.
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 522/75).
- having regard to the fact that:
  - (a) a balanced price policy, combined with an active market policy and the Community structural policy, should help to ensure
    - that agricultural incomes are maintained at a fair level,
    - that supplies reach consumers at reasonable prices, and
    - that existing market imbalances are eliminated;
  - (b) the fixing of agricultural prices is based on the modern undertaking with comparable incomes, on the premise that the common structural policy provides the possibility for the development of a large number of agricultural undertakings in the Community, whereas direct aids are granted, where necessary, in order to ensure a supplementary safeguard for incomes;

- (c) the lack of a common economic and monetary policy has made more difficult the re-establishment of common agricultural prices and thus the unity of the market;
  - (d) the lack of a determined, coordinated attack on inflation makes it much more difficult to eliminate distortions of the cost structure and the consequent national subsidies, which in their turn lead to distortion of competition;
  - (e) substantial disturbances of the market equilibrium partially of a structural nature exist in respect of certain products;
  - (f) the relatively moderate price rises for agricultural products during the past marketing year, at a time of considerable cost pressure, had a stabilising effect on inflation;
1. Calls on the Commission, as a matter of extreme urgency, to review the economic and social basis of the Common Agricultural Policy in such a way as to:
    - (a) Prevent the creation of surpluses as a direct consequence of Community policy,
    - (b) Narrow the gap between producer and consumer prices,
    - (c) Take into account the continuing and even increasing differentials in farm incomes between regions of the Community;

**A. Inclusion in the annual budget of the financial implications of the decisions on agricultural prices**

2. Stresses that the annual proposals on agricultural prices represent the most important act with financial implications in the financial year;
3. Takes the view that it is essential, if Parliament's budgetary powers are not to be circumvented or infringed, for estimates of new expenditure to be included in the annual budget and for the procedure for fixing agricultural prices during the year to be linked with that for the establishment and adoption of an amending budget;

## **B. Price proposals and accompanying measures**

4. Considers that the way of fixing prices adopted by the Commission is basically right, but takes the view that more account must be taken of the actual price and income requirements in individual Member States and certain regions and for particular types of product if the new prices are not to lead either to substantial losses of income or to an increase in the disparities of income within agriculture itself, particularly between the livestock sector and the arable farming sector;
5. Proposes, therefore, an average price increase of 9.5 per cent, calculated on the basis of a reference period covering the last two years;
6. Considers that such a price increase offers better compensation for higher costs in the various Member States and that its practical effects, particularly on consumer prices, are compatible with efforts to contain inflation;
7. Deplores the fact that the price proposals were accompanied by fundamental changes to certain basic regulations without it being possible to assess to what extent they would affect market prices;

### *I. Vegetable products*

8. Welcomes the fact that a decisive step has been taken towards approximating the prices of feedgrain;
9. Considers that a clear distinction ought to be drawn between the prices for wheat and rye suitable for breadmaking and the price of feedgrain; makes the introduction of this distinction dependent on the proven effectiveness of the methods for distinguishing between wheat for bread and wheat for animal feed; agrees with the abolition of regional intervention for soft wheat, but asks the Commission to keep market price trends in the various parts of the Community under close review and to take action if this should be warranted by price developments; doubts, however, the wisdom of raising the target and intervention prices of maize by 9.5 per cent while at the same time lowering the intervention price of feed wheat by 5.8 per cent in most cases;
10. Considers basically justified the modified system of aid for durum wheat based on quality and yield, provided that producers of quality durum wheat



suffer no loss of income through the reform of the subsidy system, so that a higher aid figure per hectare is desirable; and also considers that the payment of premiums should be subject to the necessary controls;

11. Considers that the Community rice production should be maintained at its 1973 level and requests, therefore, a 15 per cent increase in the price of husked and paddy rice;
12. Considers it possible and desirable, in view of the present situation on the cereal market and on the potato and starch products market, to arrange for the gradual elimination of all production refunds for starch products, price trends permitting; the sums thus saved could be used for more direct methods of supporting agricultural incomes;
13. Refers to the negative opinions expressed by the European Parliament on the present support system for olive oil and stresses that the Commission should fulfil requests of the European Parliament (\*) and the Council (\*\*) to submit proposals to modify the market organization; in this connection supports measures to encourage sales; considers that the freezing of olive oil subsidies, which would under the present economic conditions mean a real drop in income for the many small olive oil producers, is socially unacceptable;
14. Agrees with the Commission that the fixing of prices for wine must necessarily remain linked with the adoption of the Commission's proposals on the revision of the market organization for wine, but insists that the agriculture alcohol market be kept under strict review;
15. Considers that the proposed prices for tobacco are based exclusively on the market situation and could only lead to considerable losses of income; suggests therefore that methods to encourage tobacco growers to produce more directly for the market should be considered;
16. Requests that aid to fibre flax be increased to 200 u.a. per cultivated hectare in the six original states of the Community and to 150 u.a. in the United Kingdom and Ireland, in view of the aid granted to linseed and the substantial increase in production costs;

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(\*) See report by Mr Scott-Hopkins (Doc. 366/73, OJ No. C 23, 8.3.1974) and by Mr de Koning (Doc. 437/74, OJ No. C 32, 11.2.1975)

(\*\*) Council Decision of March 1974 – see PE 36.538

17. Considers that the proposals for fruit and vegetables are adequate, even if the market organization still needs improving; once more (\*) urges the adoption without further delay of the proposals before the Council on the reform of glasshouse production; doubts that the grubbing-up measures proposed can achieve adequate results; insists that the Commission uses all means at its disposal to induce Member States to cooperate in implementing the grubbing-up action, and that, to this effect, it increase the payment to 1,400 u.a. per grubbed-up hectare;
18. Calls for the harmonization of national fuel subsidies for glasshouse production since these subsidies are still causing distortion of competition between producers in the various Member States;

## *II. Animal products*

19. Is aware that the formation of the substantial stock of skimmed milk powder reveals the essentially structural nature of the milk problem; a new overall policy is therefore necessary to create the right conditions for a lasting equilibrium on the milk market; considers that this policy should be based on the following principles: adaptation of production capacity in the milk sector through measures to stop milk production and/or to switch over to products in short supply, enlargement of internal and external outlets, cautious price policy for milk products without, however, jeopardizing the viability of efficient milk producers, possibility of social measures to compensate small producers with only small income; establishment of a link between the production of skimmed milk powder surpluses and the large-scale protein imports for animal feed;
20. Considers the very slight increases which have been proposed as involving a form of co-responsibility on the part of the milk producers, will have, in view of present costs, such a drastic effect that the economic survival of many milk producers could be jeopardized;
21. Supports, therefore, price increases more closely reflecting costs but offering no extra incentive to produce; asks the Commission to submit proposals for compensatory subsidies to small livestock farmers who cannot rely on an adequate rise in income;

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(\*) See report by Mr de Koning (Doc. 437/74, OJ No. C 32, 11.2.1975)

22. Welcomes the proposal for a two-stage price increase for milk;
23. Opposes the proposal to abolish aid for the private storage of butter and cream as it would result in a greater quantity of butter going into intervention;
24. (a) Considers that in addition to a considerable rise in the allocations of skimmed milk powder for food aid, a large part of the stocks should be transformed into mixed feed to provide a short-term solution to the surplus of skimmed milk powder;
- (b) Considers that supervision measures should be taken, in the form, for example, of surety payments, to ensure that the transformation is actually effected, particularly by the users of unmixed feedstuffs such as cattle cake;
- (c) Considers that the Community institutions must be on their guard to ensure that certain states which purchase milk powder from traditional trading sources do not abandon the market in order to take advantage of the Community food aid, and considers, furthermore, that aid should be channelled to the poorest countries in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Commission on development aid policy;
- (d) Does not consider, however, that such a large proportion of the financial burden arising from the sales of this surplus should be borne by pigmeat producers and poultry farmers as proposed by the Commission; requests the Commission, therefore, to fix the amount of aid for skimmed milk powder in such a way that pigmeat producers and poultry farmers are not required to bear a substantial additional rise in production costs;
- 25. Rejects the amended intervention system for skimmed milk powder which amounts to the elimination of guarantees to producers since the adjudicated purchase price of the powder can only go down, and insists on the retention of the present intervention system for skimmed milk powder;
26. Considers that the measures to encourage the non-marketing of milk are inadequate, that they should apply to at least twice the present estimated amount of livestock and that in the long term they could achieve this objective only if greater incentives were offered and were combined with a reconversion premium or measures for the cessation of farming or a slaughter premium;

27. Believes that the system of beef premiums should be retained as a system for use in the case of exceptional price variations;
28. Considers that it is necessary to alter the organization of the market in beef and veal in the medium term in order to allow a more flexible reaction to the cycle market situation;
29. Recalls that for reasons of trade policy the ban on imports of beef and veal may be retained only as long as it is absolutely necessary;
30. Deplores the lack of proposals for dealing with structural problems in the poultry-farming sector;

### **C. Structural policy**

31. Requests the Commission to submit as soon as possible the report which it has undertaken to draw up on the implementation of the structural reform directives (\*);
32. Urges that the payments and subsidies provided for in the reform directives should be adapted to the loss of value of money during the past few years;
33. Requests the final adoption of the year-old proposal for a special aid measure for young farmers;
34. Approves the raising of the EAGGF contribution under the terms of the directive on mountain and hill farming (\*\*), in accordance with Parliament's wishes (\*\*\*), and believes that the maximum payments permissible should be raised from 50 to 60 u.a. per livestock unit or per hectare to avoid farmers in some countries suffering a loss of income in 1976, since this is the only way to ensure that the measures provided for in that directive will be effective in the poorer areas of the Community;

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(\*) See Council Directives Nos. 72/159/EEC, 72/160/EEC of 17.4.72, OJ No. L 96, 23.4.1972

(\*\*) See Council Directive No. 75/268/EEC of 28.4.1975, OJ No. L 128, 19.5.1975

(\*\*\*) See report by Mr Cifarelli (Doc. 11/73, OJ No. C 37, 4.6.1973) and report by Mr Della Briotta (Doc. 439/74, OJ No. C 32, 11.2.1975)

35. Considers that the Council should finally adopt a position on the various structural policy schemes relating, in particular, to producer groups;
36. Requests the Council to adopt the directive on the promotion of forestry projects in order to increase Community wood supplies and preserve the environment by means of afforestation subsidies and aids to improve existing forest areas;

#### **D. Monetary policy**

37. Notes that as a result of currency measures and national subsidies, there is no longer a unified agricultural market or equal competition between producers in individual Member States;
38. Considers it essential for political and economic reasons to re-establish a unified market and to abolish those national support measures which do not conform to Community rules; consequently urges the Commission to draw up a list of such measures and to propose a timetable for their abolition; invites the Commission to present proposals to replace these measures with Community aids, giving the equivalent support to farmers now in receipt of such national aids;
39. Considers, therefore, that the trend towards the re-establishment of a unified market, which was observed last year, should be encouraged by an appropriate monetary policy, taking into account, however, its effect on the incomes of producers in the countries concerned;
40. Asks the Commission in due course to put forward proposals for further adaptation of the British and Irish green pounds to the true value of sterling;
41. Is aware, however, that a lasting and final solution can be found only in common economic and monetary policy;
42. States that it agrees in principle with the main lines of the Commission's proposal insofar as in this resolution no comments have been made on this subject;
43. Requests the Commission to incorporate the proposed amendments in its proposal pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 149 of the EEC Treaty.

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(\*) Please use block letters



