



europaean parliament

information series

the sittings

1
january 1975

THE SITTINGS
(Parliament in Session)

'The Sittings' is intended to give the gist of proceedings in the European Parliament.

A complete record of the proceedings of the House is given in the 'Debates of the European Parliament' which is published as an Annex to the Official Journal of the European Communities.

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Introduction

The European Parliament met in plenary session in Luxembourg from Monday, 13 January to Friday, 17 January 1975. The draft convention of the election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage, drawn up by Mr Schelto Patijn (Du, S) was the main item on the order paper and its adoption, by 106 votes to 2 with 17 absentions, was acclaimed on all sides of the House.

Under the Convention, Europe's electorate will return 355 Members to the first directly elected European Parliament on 7 May 1978. Belgium will elect 23, Denmark 17, France 65, Germany 71, Ireland 13, Italy 66, Luxembourg 6, Netherlands 27 and the United Kingdom 67. Members may continue to hold seats in national parliaments. The next step is up to the Council. The Heads of Government meeting in Paris on 9 and 10 December 1974 stated that 'they await with interest the proposals of the European Assembly (on direct elections) on which they wish Council to act in 1976.'

Among those attending the debate from the Distinguished Visitors' Gallery was Mr Fernand Dehousse, to whom the House gave a warm welcome. It was Mr Dehousse who drew up the original draft convention on direct elections in May 1960. Greeting him, Mr Patijn said he hoped his own draft convention would not suffer the same fate as Mr Dehousse's and remain fifteen years before the Council waiting for a decision.

DIRECT ELECTIONS

Article 138 of the Treaty of Rome states that the European Parliament “shall draw up proposals for elections by direct universal suffrage in accordance with a uniform procedure in all Member States”. Further to this Treaty injunction, the European Parliament drew up a Draft Convention on direct elections, which was presented to the House on 17 May 1960. The proposals contained in this Convention were extremely detailed and covered every aspect of the electoral process with painstaking care. This Draft Convention was then forwarded to the Council of Ministers.



Mr Patijn presents his report

Under Article 138, the Council is required to lay down appropriate provisions for direct elections which it “shall recommend to Member States for adoption in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.” The Council took no decision on the 1960 Convention and for a long time direct elections were regarded as a dead issue.

From time to time individual Member States discussed the possibility of organising their own direct elections to the European Parliament independently of other Member States, but no such plan ever got further than the idea stage.

Late in 1974 the Political Affairs Committee decided to re-examine this issue, and Mr Schelto Patijn (Dutch Socialist) was appointed rapporteur. Mr Patijn made one very important decision at the very beginning of his review of direct elections. He decided to avoid any issue likely to lead to controversy or which could be left on one side for the time being. In other words, the whole aim of the Convention that he drew up is to ensure that direct elections take place as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, the Heads of Government meeting in Paris on 9 and 10 December decided, or to use the terms of the Summit Communiqué, “noted that the election of the European Assembly by universal suffrage, one of the objectives laid down in the Treaty, should be achieved as soon as possible. In this connection, they await with interest the proposals of the European Assembly, on which they wish the Council to act in 1976. On this assumption, elections by direct universal suffrage could take place at any time in or after 1978”.

In other words, Mr Patijn’s proposals could not have been better timed. Even so, and even with the basic strategy referred to of presenting the most simple and straightforward proposals possible, there were still two issues on which it was impossible to avoid controversy: the actual membership and the number of members to be elected by each Member State on the one hand, and whether or not members of the European Parliament should retain their seats in their national parliaments on the other.

It was on these two points that Parliament’s debate focussed. The consensus was finally reached on a proposal put forward by Mr Hans Lautenschlager, rapporteur for the Legal Affairs Committee, who moved that the number of representatives elected in each Member State would be as follows:

Member State	No of seats Proposed	No of seats at present
Belgium	23	14
Denmark	17	10
France	65	36
Germany	71	36
Ireland	13	10
Italy	66	36
Luxembourg	6	6
Netherlands	27	14
United Kingdom	67	36
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	355	198

On the question of whether members should hold seats in two parliaments, there was even more controversy but the final consensus was that the European mandate should be regarded as compatible with a national mandate. One of the underlying assumptions here was that the dual mandate would eventually be phased out. Mr Peter Kirk, European Conservative spokesman, probably summed up a fairly widely held view when he said: "this Parliament cannot continue to function for very much longer on the basis of a dual mandate. That is quite clear to all of us who take part in it. It is quite clear, or should be quite clear, to all of those who observe it." But Mr Kirk also put his finger on Parliament's reason for retaining the dual mandate: the desire to maintain the links between national parliaments and the European Parliament. Mr Egon Klepsch, Christian-Democratic spokesman, expressed it this way: "Members of the directly elected European Parliament must be able to have the same contacts with their constituents as they have at present".

As regards the number of members, Mr Lautenschlager made a point that was accepted by the House as a whole: to have a larger number of members than 355 would be unfair to the smaller Member States, and to have a smaller number than this would be unfair to the larger Member States.

The Convention set out in 17 articles was adopted by 106 votes in favour to 2 against, and with 17 absentions. The votes in favour included 35 Christian Democrats, 33 Socialists, 13 Liberals, 17 European Conservatives, 6 Progressive European Democrats, and 2 Independents. The abstentions included 6 Progressive European Democrats, 11 Liberal and 10 Communists. The votes against the Convention came from 2 Danish Socialists.

One of the most important points made during the course of the debate was that direct elections would give the people of Europe a greater say in Community affairs. Mr Francois Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission, put it this way: "I do not thinkwe shall convince our peoples that Europe is necessaryunless they themselves feel more involved in the great work we are engaged on".

Mr Peter Kirk also spoke of giving the peoples of Europe a say in the way they want the Community to go, and Mr Manfred Schmidt, the Socialist spokesman, was even more emphatic: "There is nothing holding back integration quite so much as the fact that the people of Europe are not involved".

The next step was summed up by Mr Patijn as follows:— to bring pressure to bear on the Council to take a decision, to come back and solve the complex problem of devising a uniform procedure for direct elections, and to do the groundwork in Europe's first General Election, hopefully on 7 May 1978. "We must get the peoples of Europe ready for this election. This is only the beginning." It was Mr Lautenschlager who indicated the alternative Parliament might have to resort to, should the Council fail to take a decision. It could take the matter to the Court of Justice of the European Community.



Voting on amendments

As to what the European Parliament of the future will look like, Mr Russell Johnston had this to say: "Direct elections will change this Parliament fundamentally. It will probably become a much more devided, a much more argumentative, and perhaps a much less pleasant place, but without them, the necessity of a democratic Europe can never be achieved."

Farm prices

The European Commission is proposing an average increase in farm prices of 9 0/0 for the 1975/76 marketing year. For milk and milk products the increase will be staggered: 6 0/0 on 1 February and 4 0/0 on 1 September. These price proposals, which will eventually be embodied in 40 regulations, vary according to product. These proposals will be coupled with a second set of measures designed to make the Common Agricultural Policy more securely based. They will include a better organisation of the beef and veal market, help for hothouse productions, a reorganisation of the olive market and aid for farmers engaged in agriculture for less than five years and engaged in executing development plans.

The Commission notes that the monetary situation could make the price increase inadequate in some Member States and excessive in others. Hence it proposes phasing out the monetary compensatory amounts (which have kept the system of common farm prices in being.). The representative rate for the guilder will be adjusted and a representative rate set for Germany and the Benelux countries. The monetary compensatory amounts will then be abolished in the Benelux countries as from the start of the farm year and the mcas in Germany will be reduced from 12.03 0/0 to 7.03 0/0. Where price increases are staggered the MCAS will be phased out in stages too. The Commission proposes a 3.5 0/0 reduction in the mcas in France at the most opportune moment. Mcas in Ireland and the United Kingdom are already being phased out. The Commission's aim is to get back to a single farm market while applying price increases more in line with the real needs of the different Member States.

As rapporteur for the Committee on Agriculture, Mr Jan de Koning (Du, CD) reviewed the Commission's proposals without enthusiasm. They were patently inadequate both as an overall average and in respect of individual products. Would they cover escalating farm costs? Between 1973 and 1974 these had gone up by 42 0/0 in France, 41 0/0 in Denmark, 47 0/0 in Italy, 61 0/0 in the United Kingdom and 66 0/0 in Ireland. Mr de Koning welcomed the special attention being given to the beef market and looked to the Commission for back-up measures in the near future. He thought the milk price increase should come in one stage not two. He appreciated the help proposed for young farmers and the directive put forward to help hill farmers. Mr de Koning felt that the only cure for the instability of the farm market was progress to Economic and Monetary Union. He therefore felt the mcas ought to be phased out as the Commission suggests. Where he disagreed was on the speed of the operation. The farm market, he concluded, must be managed in such a way that Community prices really do have a positive effect on farm incomes.

The Committee on Agriculture's assessment, as put forward by Mr de Koning, was fairly widely shared. Indeed his statement received a very sympathetic hearing from Mr Mark Clinton, Irish Minister for Agriculture and President of the Council. He spoke of the difficulties of reaching agreement but said the Council was aware of the main aims to be attained: protecting farmers' incomes, which are threatened by rising costs, and giving them confidence in the future of farming. 'We in the Council have a duty and a responsibility to enable our farmers to return to reasonable profitability and even to ensure an element of compensation for losses suffered during the past yearthe Council's most important task is to restore confidence.'

In reply, Commissioner Petrus Lardinois dealt with various points raised. He turned first to the cost increases quoted. The figures calculated by COPA were not objective, he argued. As for milk, a single stage increase would cost 125 m u.a. in a sector with a budget of around 1500 m u.a. already. Turning to beef he thought the worst was over, although the market was still far from normal. He indicated that some 150,000 young farmers would probably benefit from the Commission's proposal but this was only an estimate. He agreed that the real problem was monetary compensatory amounts but could not see how there could be common prices without them in countries with revalued currencies. He agreed with Mr de Koning that they could not be phased out completely until there is real progress to Economic and Monetary Union.

In the debate there was considerable support for the Committee on Agriculture. But there was criticism from the Left. Mrs Elisabeth Orth (Ge, S) took great exception to the increase in milk prices which she said would hit the lower income groups particularly hard and Mr Nicola Cipolla said nobody in the debate had suggested the price proposals would do anything to help the farmers. At the same time they would do little to cut the cost of CAP to the taxpayer, he said. But these views were more or less against the general run of the debate. The spokesman for the Socialist Group, Mr Cornelis Laban (Du) for example was concerned most about the relationship between the various prices and Mr James Scott-Hopkins European Conservative spokesman, took issue mainly with the system of monetary compensatory amounts. Mr Albert Liogier (Fr.), spokesman for the European Progressive Democrats, argued that the Commission's price proposals were geared to the modern farm. But such farms were still relatively rare. Mr Adrian Zeller (Fr,CD) too spoke of the 'infantry' of small producers who were farming in ordinary regions with farms of 15 hectares and 8 cows. Mr Zeller said the gap between the upper and lower levels of farm incomes was widening. Mr Nicola Cipolla, Communist spokesman, called for

direct income supplements to help the small farmer. Mr Lucien Martens (Be), Christian Democrat spokesman, also attacked the Commission's price proposals. It had based its calculations, he said, on statistics. Farmers, he pointed out, based their figures in the bills they had to pay. Mr Ralph Howell (Br), European Conservative spokesman, observed that the Community needed a better way of dealing with its farming problems. He suggested the Commission look into the system of marketing boards which had been so successful in Britain.

Speaking in reply Mr Petrus Lardinois made the following points. The criteria worked out by COPA in calculating cost increases was not something he could allow to go unchallenged. He outlined his reasons for disagreeing with their calculations. Where the Commission had worked out a high percentage then the COPA had taken that figure but where the Commission had arrived at a lower percentage, this had simply been ignored and this, he said, explained the high figures arrived at by the professional farmers' organisation. Turning to the question of the monetary compensatory amounts, he agreed that these should be phased out. Their effect was to throw an unfair burden on certain Member States of the Community, notably the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. It will not, however, be possible to phase these out immediately. Commenting on the effect of the farm price proposals on the cost of living, Mr Lardinois said they would add 0.66 % to the index although this would vary from one Member State to another. Turning to the procedure for what was now becoming an annual price review, he said that he would shortly be having discussions with the COPA to devise a common approach to this matter. He reminded the House that at present there were some Member States where the price level was 12 % above the CAP price and in others it was 12-14 % below. He agreed that the monetary compensatory amounts were undermining competition and had caused trouble in the Italian market. But they could not be phased out yet so that they had to be taken into account when the prices were fixed.

Mr Lardinois pointed out that the 1974 cost increase had not been the basis for price proposals. The base for them had been the overall cost increase for 1973-1974 less the increases already awarded. He said that he had been struck by the fact that Mr Martens had ignored the October price increase. He agreed that the effect the 5 % increase then had only been 2 % but it did have an effect on prices. The whole debate, he said, had to be seen against the background of the poor harvests of 1974 particularly after two very good years on the farms. 1973 had given farmers the best returns since the war so that it was understandable that in 1974 farmers should view things rather differently.

Referring to what Mr Scott-Hopkins had said regarding the base for the annual price review, he said that he had talked to COPA's Bureau and agreed to work on a technical basis for this as of February. Referring to compensations for losses incurred, he said that it was unfair to expect the EAGGF to pay for losses resulting from the non-application of the Common Agricultural Policy. He agreed with Mr Liogier that the Community should produce more food in a world where many people were starving. The question he asked was who was to pay for this increase in production. Mr Lardinois said that the Community had come to the end of the green dollar age and that it was time to go back to the real value of money. Artificial currencies could now do more harm than good. Farming was progressing from the Middle Ages to the Twentieth Century. He thought the income supplements asked for carried with them a great number of risks. In reply to a question from Mr Herbert he said that he did not think that the ban on beef imports could be lifted at the present. In reply to Mr Howell, he pointed out that some marketing boards had been successful but that others such as those for tomatoes and cucumbers had not. This did not mean, however, that he was opposed to the whole idea of marketing boards. In conclusion, he said that the Commission had not found the philosopher's stone. Improvements in the CAP were still needed.

At the close of the debate Mr Jan de Koning moved a motion to which some 29 amendments had been tabled. It was interesting to note, however, that all but six of these were rejected showing that Mr de Koning had obtained a solid consensus before putting his motion down. The main points made were that the proposed average price increase is patently inadequate and that the effect of the price proposals on the cost of living can be regarded as acceptable. Support regulations for beef were indicated and the total milk price increase should be effective from 1 February. The maize and barley increases should be higher than those for other grains but durum wheat prices should not drag behind those for common wheat. The olive oil target price should be raised and more help given to horticulture, especially hothouse production. Proposals to improve the marketing of some types of wine were called for and the pig-meat system should be reviewed. The sugar price increase to apply from 1 February should be passed in its entirety to the producers who supplied sugar beet in the 1974/75 marketing year. The motion agreed with the structural measures proposed and called for a further adjustment of 'green currencies'. After detailed consideration, the resolution as amended was agreed to.

Oral questions

Of late Members have been making increasing use of their right to address oral questions to Council and Commission under Rule 47 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure. 4 oral questions were addressed to Council this week and 5 to Commission.

Status of women

Mrs Tullia Caretoni-Romagnoli (It), Mrs Marie-Thérèse Goutmann (Fr) and Mrs Leonilde Iotti (It) put down a question on behalf of the Communist and Allies Group regarding the status of women.

1. Could the Council state when the proposal for a directive on equal pay for men and women approved by the European Parliament in April 1974 will be put on the agenda of the Council for adoption?
2. What stage has been reached in preparatory work on the directive on the removal of discrimination against women with regard to job openings and professional qualifications?
3. What proposals does the Council wish the Commission to make in the near future to prevent the slow-down in economic growth now affecting the Community from adversely affecting working women?
4. In more general terms, what is the Council's view of the status of women in the Community?'

Mr Mark Clinton, President of the Council replied: 'In reply to the first question, may I remind you that the Council recorded its agreement on the proposal for a Directive on equal pay for men and women at its meeting on 17 December 1973. With regard to the second point, the Honourable Members should note that a proposal for a Directive on the elimination of discrimination against women as regards access to employment and vocational training has not yet been placed before the Council. From the information received it would appear that the Commission is likely to submit a proposal very shortly. The Council does not intend to interfere with the right of initiative granted to the Commission under the Treaty. The Council points out, however, that it adopted general guidelines on the status of women in the Resolution of 21 January 1974 concerning a social action programme. The Resolution sets out the need to undertake action for the purpose of achieving equality between men and women as regards access to employment and vocational training and advancement and as regards working

conditions, including pay, taking into account the important role of management and labour in this field. It is for the Commission to submit the necessary proposals to the Council for implementation of these guidelines.'

The speakers who followed expressed varying degrees of dissatisfaction about the status of women. The Socialist spokesman Mr Ernest Glinne (Be) said it was quite wrong for some Member States to regard the Treaty of Rome as non-binding on equal pay. Article 119 states 'Each Member State shallensure and maintain the application of the principle that men and women should receive equal pay for equal work.' He was glad the proposed directive went even further than this Article but thought it regrettable there should be no penalty for those failing to comply.

Lady Elles, the European Conservative spokesman, asked about the status of the 649 women (out of a total staff of 1240) working for the European Parliament. She asked too about women in other EC institutions: 'there has not been a woman member of the Council since 1957; there are no women commissioners and there no women vice-presidents of the European Parliament.' Lady Elles then turned to taxation, where there was gross discrimination. 'Married women are taxed with their husband in practically every Member State, causing great unfairness and social injustice'. Similarly, 'the UN Convention on the Nationality of Married Women has not been implemented by some of the Member States in some of the provisions to which they have put their signature'. Lady Elles reminded the House that 1975 is International Women's Year and she hoped women would take part in shaping the Community. 'All its decisions affect women as much as men.'

Mr Joseph Rivierez, spokesman of the European Progressive Democrats, said listening to Lady Elles had left him feeling French women were spoilt. French women were completely free regarding contraception and abortion and shared authority in the family with their husbands. On marrying, French women could take either their husband's nationality or keep their own and, as regards natural children, they had parental authority. There was also a woman in France, Mrs Françoise Giraud, responsible for the status of women. But habits of thought were not changed overnight. This year decisions must be taken and binding in law established, particularly regarding professional qualifications. Women were too often directed towards women's occupations which were usually badly paid and held out poor prospects for the future. An attempt had to be made to train women in the craft trades, as electricians, mechanics and careers calling for training in science.

Mrs Marie-Thérèse Goutmann, the Communist spokesman, said it was by no mere chance that 1975 had been proclaimed International Women's Year. They had had to fight for it. What worried her most was that the present crisis, with its monetary problems and steady rise in the cost of living, hit women first and especially mothers. As building standards deteriorate and transport becomes more difficult life is getting less and less bearable for women as a whole.

Replying to the debate, Mr Patrick Hillery, Vice-President of the Commission, agreed that the application of Article 119 left a lot to be desired. Hence the Commission's proposals for directives, the first of which was on equal pay. This was adopted in December. The second, on equal opportunity, promotion, vocational training and conditions of work would go to the Council soon as would a programme for women now in its final stages of preparation.

The last speaker in the debate was Mrs Caretoni-Romagnoli who said that when the Heads of State spoke of the glory and successes of their countries they addressed the whole population but that when they called for sacrifices it was women they had in mind first. This was perhaps true of the whole world. 'It is this that we want to change'.

Oil companies

Mr Alain Terrenoire, spokesman for the European Progressive Democrats, asked the Commission about the progress of its enquiry into the practices of oil companies operating in the EC. But Commissioner Albert Borschette was unwilling to be drawn. He appealed to the House to wait until the Commission concluded its investigations and not to ask for incompletely substantiated statements or half answers. The investigations were the largest the Commission had so far undertaken (under the Treaty of Rome rules on competition) and it was no easy task to conduct 27 investigations in 13 months with a team of only twelve. The Commission would report before the end of June.

Mr Luigi Noè (It,CD) one of Parliament's leading spokesmen on energy matters, concurred. He found Mr Borchette's request completely acceptable. Mr Erwin Lange (Ge), the Socialist spokesman and Mr Marcel Lemoine (Fr, CA) disagreed.

Relations with South Africa

On behalf of the Socialist Group, Mr Ernest Glinne (Be), Mr Georges Spénale (Fr), Mr Jan Broeksz (Du), Mr Willi Dondelinger (Lux), Mr Gerhard Flämig (Ge) and Mr Horst Seefeld (Ge) addressed a question to Council and Commission on the Community's relations with South Africa.

'During the UN General Assembly's recent debate on a draft resolution granting the EEC observer status at the Assembly, Mr de Guiringaud, the French Ambassador to the United Nations, replying to a speech by Ambassador Edwin Ogbu, chairman of the UN Special Committee on Apartheid, made a statement on behalf of the Community on its relations with the Republic of South Africa. The Community spokesman Nations Charter and assured the Assembly that no negotiations had been opened between the EEC and the Republic of South Africa. The Community spokesman stressed the Community's full support for the principles of the United Nations Charter and assured the Assembly that no negotiations had been opened between the EEC and the Republic of South Africa with a view to granting the Pretoria government any trade concessions. He added that the Community authorities had no intention of opening any such negotiations with South Africa. He concluded by affirming that all the Community Member States have ratified the European Convention on Human Rights, which 'goes far beyond the maximum demands made by the opponents of apartheid'.

Can the Council now answer the following questions:

1. Is it true that after and because of Mr de Guiringaud's statement no objection was made in the General Assembly to the draft resolution granting the EEC observer status and that the EEC was accordingly admitted?
2. Is it true that, on the initiative of the Foreign Ministry of a Member State or some other party, the President of the Council of Ministers and the Commission of the Communities are at present considering whether Mr de Guiringaud overstepped his mandate in making this statement to the UN General Assembly?
3. Can the Council confirm that the Community refuses to grant the Republic of South Africa any trade concessions which are and have been open to dispute, in the form of a special agreement, and that it is against the policy of apartheid?'

Mr Mark Clinton, President of the Council, replied: 'At the 29th meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations the European Economic Community requested and obtained observer status at the General Assembly. This status was granted in view of the widening of this sphere of common interests of the General Assembly and the Community. The statement by Mr de Guiringaud, French Ambassador, speaking on behalf of the Community, in reply to the speech by Ambassador Ogbu, Chairman of the UN Special Committee on Apartheid, was the subject of prior on-the-spot co-ordination between the

delegations of the Nine in New York, in accordance with the usual procedures. In view of the above Question No. 2 becomes irrelevant. The Community has no plans for concluding an agreement with the Republic of South Africa.'

Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission, replied: 'On the first question, I would just confirm from the Commission's point of view that no objection was raised to the granting of observer status to the EEC and that the related draft resolution was adopted by the United Nations' General Assembly unanimously without any formal pre-conditions. On the second question, as the President of the Council has just said, statements were delivered after consultations in New York with representatives of the Member States and of the Commission. So there is nothing to be added here by the Commission, as what he said was said after consultation. My answer to the third question is that the Community has no special agreement with South Africa, and where the Commission is concerned we have no such agreement under consideration.'

Freedom of establishment for liberal professions

As spokesman for the Committee on Cultural Affairs and Youth, Mr Jan Broeksz (Du, S) put down a series of questions for debate with the Commission on its intentions regarding freedom of establishment. Was the Commission going to coordinate laws on education? Would it not be appropriate to spell out a detailed time-table for a Community education programme and how could the Community's cooperation with the Council of Europe be further developed? Mr Broeksz said that progress towards the mutual recognition of diplomas had seemed close at hand when Professor Dahrendorf had organised a hearing of doctors last June. But little had happened since then.

In his maiden speech in reply, the new Commissioner Guido Brunner referred to the Rome Treaty articles (52,59,60) laying freedom of establishment and to the judgments of the Court of Justice confirming these principles. As a consequence, anyone wishing to pursue a liberal profession in another Member State may challenge any restraint on his freedom in this respect. The Commission was now looking into the case of lawyers, architects, engineers, nurses and midwives. Mr Brunner referred to the 16th Century figure Dr Paracelsus who was born in Switzerland, studied in Ferrara and who practised medicine in many different European cities and said there was no reason for being less progressive now. He did not think that freedom of establishment would lead to an invasion of medical practitioners from another country but Community directives were

indicated. The Commission had redrafted the relevant directives and he hoped for a Council decision in February. Dealing with some of the wider points raised, Mr Brunner did not accept that extending freedom of establishment to those in group practices was the right approach.

As regards education itself, Mr Brunner said that coordinating teaching regulations was no easy matter. He pointed out that the raising of the school-leaving age from between 14-16 to 18-20 had changed the education situation in Europe and the whole concept of education too was being re-examined. The question now was how to dovetail educational systems and how to do so furthermore and still retain the necessary cultural differentiation. Mr Brunner felt priority should be given to the children of migrant workers and he spoke of organising extra classes for children in their mother tongues, of training social assistants to give them the back-up help they needed. He referred to the decision taken by the Council in June to use the Social Fund for this purpose. He gave details too about progress regarding the European schools and the University of Florence.

Mr Carlo Meintz (Lux, L) said that the Commission's reply inspired him with some confidence but he failed to see how progress could be made in an area where the directives were all in the hands of the nationalists. A political decision on freedom of establishment was needed. In conclusion Mr Broeksz looked to the Commission to outline a detailed time-table for progress in this sphere.

Powers of the Commission

The Committee on Public Health and the Environment raised the vexed and complex question of the delegation of powers to management committees known as 'Committees on Implementing Provisions'. Parliament was concerned, said Mr Karl-Heinz Walkhoff (Ge), the committee spokesman, that this procedure could be used as a way of undermining the powers of the Commission. This could in turn vitiate the powers of the European Parliament. As he saw it, there were either vital interests involved in which case the European Parliament must be consulted or they were technical and not a matter for the Council. Mr Walkhoff was concerned about this practice because he thought that it was referring authority back to the Member States who were responsible for appointments to these committees. He concluded by asking the Council if it were ready to compromise.

Mr Mark Clinton, President of the Council, said in reply that he was glad of this opportunity of discussing procedure. He explained that the Treaties gave the Council the power to delegate its authority and it was this power that was given to the committees. But he pointed out that in fact this procedure led overwhelmingly to decisions by the Commission. He pointed out that the system had worked very satisfactorily and that its success in the transitional period had prompted the then President of the Council, Mr Reay, to recommend that it be continued. He also made the point that if there were to be a general consultation of the European Parliament in these, more or less, technical fields the result would be an unworkable time-table. He thought the present practice was no threat to the institutional balance.

Mr Patijn pressed the Council President rather closely on this point. He said that consulting Parliament on technical questions was far from being the main issue. What was at stage was the manner in which powers were delegated. If no agreement were reached in committee the matter was referred back to the Council and it was perfectly possible for there to be no decision at all. Mr Clinton replied that this was equally true of matters referred to Council by the Commission.

Sea transport conferences

Mr Horst Seefeld (Ge, S) asked the Council whether the Commission had proposed a Community approach to the United Nations agreement to introduce a code of conduct for maritime transport conferences. If so would Council consult Parliament on this matter.

Mr Mark Clinton, President of the Council, replied: 'The Council confirms that, in a letter dated 17 July 1974, the Commission submitted to it a 'proposal for a Council Decision on joint action by the Member States on the United Nations Convention laying down a code of conduct for shipping conferences'. This proposal for a Decision was simply a procedural one calling upon Member States not to take up a stand on the draft Convention until the Council had been able to take a position on joint action. In view of the nature of the proposal, the Council did not feel obliged to consult the European Parliament'.

Mr Seefeld asked whether Council agreed Commission should be authorised to draw up proposals for a common maritime transport policy and ensure the Nine have a common approach at sea conferences.

Mr Mark Clinton replied that the Member States had agreed to a standstill on this matter until 30 April 1975. The Commission was cooperating with national experts in assessing whether the UN code was compatible with EC law. The Council awaited a Commission proposal on the substance of the matter.

Mr Kai Nyborg (Da, EPD) commenting on framing a common sea transport policy, said it would be the quickest way to make Britain leave the EC. Mr James Hill (Br, EC) agreed. The UNCTAD code gives 40 0/o of freight tonnage to the importing country, 40 0/o to the exporting country and only 20 0/o to third countries. The Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom had reservations about the code and it had to be remembered that Denmark, Britain, Norway, Sweden, Finland, the United States of America and Switzerland voted against it. Holland and Italy abstained and the countries voting for it included Germany, France and Belgium so the split was fairly deep. The Council had said Member States had agreed to a standstill and he thought this did sum up the uncertainty on this matter. Mr Hill fully appreciated the case made by Mr Seefeld for a common policy on shipping but feared the disadvantages might outweigh the benefits if the timing were wrong.

Mr Willem Scholten (Du), the Christian Democrat spokesman, disagreed. He felt the Commission should submit proposals for a common policy. Mr Tom Normanton (Br, EC) on the other hand, expressed doubts about UNCTAD's decisions and recommendations.

Supply of grain to Italy

On behalf of the Communists, Mr Nicola Cipolla (It) addressed the following question to the Commission:

'Can the Commission reveal:

- what quantities of grain, and at what price and under what conditions, were sold to the Italian Government by the EEC in July 1973;
- whether conditions were on that occasion attached to the use of the grain and whether the Italian Government raised objections as to the quality of the grain itself;
- whether the Commission has in the intervening period assured itself that the Italian Government in respecting the conditions under which the grain was supplied;
- whether the Italian Government has asked to sell this grain at a price below that paid by the Community, and if so for what reasons and with what end in view;
- whether in the past, in accordance with Community rules, the Commission has authorised other countries to sell grain at reduced prices on behalf of the EAGGF?'

Commissioner Petrus Lardinois replied that 200,000 tons of grain were sold to Italy, 150,000 tons of which came from the intervention centre in Germany, 47,000 from the one in France and 3,000 from the one in Belgium. The Community had paid for the carriage and the whole accounting operation came within the scope of the EAGGF. The price and other conditions of sale were covered by Regulation 367. As to the use of the grain, the Italian Government had to ensure it was used solely in foodstuffs. The Italian Government had made no complaint about the quality of the grain. The Commission had endeavoured to ensure the conditions of supply were complied with and 110,000 tons had already been disposed of. There had been talk of the Italian Government selling grain at exceptional rates but this had not occurred. The actual selling price was the intervention price plus one and a half units of account. Mr Lardinois denied the Commission had authorised any cut price grain sales.

Migrants voting in local elections

On behalf of the Socialists, Mr Libero Della Briotta (It), Mr Karl-Heinz Walkhoff (Ge), Mr Franco Concas (It), Mr Alessandro Bermani (It), Mr Achille Corona (It) and Mr Ernest Glinne (Be) addressed the following question to the Commission about participation by Community migrant workers in regional and local elections in their host countries:

'Can the Commission confirm the truth of recent rumours to the effect that when considering measures to be taken in favour of Community migrant workers, it rejected by a majority vote the very principle of their taking part in regional and local elections in their host countries? If this is the case, how can the Commission justify this very serious decision, which will block one of the few possible practical steps towards European unity and nullify the initiatives now being taken, for instance, in the Belgian and Italian parliaments where draft laws for granting limited political rights to citizens of other Member States are shortly to be debated?'

Commissioner Albert Borschette replied that the rumours were wrong. The Commission had a plan and a programme and its target date for migrants' participation in local elections was 1980. He suggested this was a realistic date even if it was perhaps not over-ambitious.

Energy, Research and Technology

Excise duty on oils

As rapporteur for the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology, Mr René Pêtre, (Be, CD) asked the House to approve the Commission's proposal for a two-stage harmonisation of excise duties on mineral oils. The first stage will

focus on tax structures and the second on actual rates. These vary considerably from one Member State to another as does the range of products taxed. There are differences too as to when the excise duties are levied. But in all Nine EC countries the tax yield is considerable. The figures in million units of account are as follows, with the percentage of total tax income shown in brackets: Belgium 498.0 (7.0 %); Germany 3,856.5 (6.9 %); Denmark 204.8 (4.3 %); France 2,643.9 (7.8 %); United Kingdom 3,463.2 (8.3 %); Ireland 120.2 (9.03 %); Italy 3,112.3 (17.0 %); Luxembourg 22.2 (9.4 %) and the Netherlands 505.8 (5.2 %). Mr Pêtre saw the Commission proposals as a step towards Economic and Monetary Union although he could not help regretting there had been so little progress in this direction. He asked the Commission to look into the effect of oil taxation on prices and into oil taxation as part of energy policy. He moved a number of amendments. Member States may, under the directive extend tax exemption or reduced tax rates to air navigation, internal navigation and coastal navigation and agriculture. Mr Pêtre moved this be reviewed within five years. He also moved that Member States must inform the Commission of rate variations in favour of 'groups of users' as opposed to 'certain users' as the Commission proposed. A resolution approving the proposal was agreed to.

Research in textiles and an information network

The Commission is proposing the Council take a decision establishing a programme of technological research in the textile sector. This will concern the heat treatment of man-made fibres (which accounted for 52 percent of the Community's textile exports in 1973 and which in 1972 gave the Community an export surplus of \$1200 million), the treatment of textiles in organic solvent media (where the aim is to reduce the volume of effluent water and the consumption of energy) and the fire-proofing of textile fibres (e.g. furnishing fabrics and night attire). As rapporteur for the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology, Mr Jean-Pierre Glesener (Lu, CD) asked the House to approve this proposal. At the same time the House considered another Commission proposal concerning information on science and technology. To keep Community scientists up to date the Commission is proposing the Council take a decision adopting a first three-year plan of action for information and documentation in science and technology. The Commission proposes to integrate information about individual sectors within a really large scale European network. 550,000 u.a. is to be set aside for this purpose. There will then be feasibility and pilot studies after which specifications for equipment and software can be drawn up. 660,000 u.a. will be allocated for this. Effective

multilingual systems and standard formats will have to be established, specialists trained and users educated. Data banks and analysis centres will have to be better. Mr Petersen welcomed the Commission proposal suggesting a standard computer language for the network. He asked the Commission for suitable proposals. But both Mr Petersen and Mr Glesener complained about the time given to consider the proposals and both expressed some concern about the lack of information on the financial implications of the proposals. Subject to which, resolutions approving both proposals were agreed to.

External trade

Fishery products from Tunisia and Morocco

As rapporteur for the Committee on External Economic Relations, Mr Christian de la Malène (Fr, EPD) asked the House to approve Commission proposals on fishery products imported from Tunisia and Morocco. Trout and carp are now to be imported duty-free from Tunisia and Morocco. Trout and prepared or preserved fish, including caviar, sardines and tunny are to remain in force. Member States opening quotas may increase them by up to 30 percent. A resolution approving the Commission proposals was agreed to without debate.

Agriculture

Hill farming

As rapporteur for the Committee on Agriculture, Mr Libero Della Briotta (It, S) asked the House to approve Commission proposals for nine directives to help hill farmers and those farming in what are agreed to be less-favoured areas. A resolution to this effect was agreed to subject to a reservation as to the time given to Parliament to consider the matter.

Aid to hops producers for 1973 crop

As rapporteur for the Committee on Agriculture, Mr Isidor Früh (Ge, CD) asked the House to approve the Commission's proposal for aid to hops producers. The common organisation of the hops market came into operation on 7 August 1971 and the amount of aid is fixed by Council each year after the hops have been

marketed. This is the relevant proposal for the 1973 crop. These aids apply for the first time to English and Irish hop varieties. There are 26,625 hectares under hops in the EC and the aid will amount to 6,740,200 u.a. A resolution approving the proposal was agreed to.

Register of olive plantations

As rapporteur for the Committee on Agriculture, Mr Paul de Keersmaeker (Be, CD) asked the House to approve the Commission's proposal to establish a register of olive cultivation. In doing so, however, he expressed reservations about the way the register is to be financed. He tabled a motion to the effect that Parliament could only approve the proposal if reliable figures can be produced to show that this increased contribution to the costs will not be to the detriment of the olive oil producers. The register is to provide details of the total olive-growing area and the total number of trees on each holding by 1 September 1976 and details of varieties, cultivation, age and maturity of trees and the number under irrigated cultivation by 1 September 1980. Subject to the reservation indicated a resolution approving the Commission's proposal was agreed to.

Environment

Waste disposal

The Commission is proposing that the Council issue a directive on waste disposal. The proposal is part of the Community's action programme for improving the environment agreed on in November 1973. Waste is a source of pollution and a threat to health. The treatment of it has so far been a local activity. Today rational disposal calls for a larger scale operation. Hence the Commission's proposal. Mr Willi Müller (Ge, S) reporting to the House for the Committee on Public Health and the Environment, said he welcomed the proposal. Further measures such as developing new waste disposal technologies, building European waste treatment facilities and setting up an information centre on waste materials were also indicated. He agreed air, water and soil pollution simply must be prevented and wastage avoided by upgrading residues and reusing materials recovered in this way. Recycling waste would save energy and improve the environment. Mr Müller saw the Council's recent directive on waste oil disposal should have been incorporated in the present proposal. He

asked the House to approve the Commission's proposal, subject to certain amendments. A resolution to this effect was agreed to.

Development and cooperation

Association with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

As rapporteur for the Committee on Development and Cooperation, Mr Pierre Deschamps (Be, CD) asked the House to approve interim measures proposed by the Commission to bridge the gap between the old and new association arrangements. These measures will come into operation as of 1 February 1975 and will involve extending the validity of the Second Yaoundé Convention, the Arusha Agreement between the EC and the East African countries, the Council decision of 29 September 1970 on Overseas Countries and Territories and the relevant provisions of the Accession Treaty. It will be some time before the 54 signatory States ratify the new arrangements and here Mr Albert Borschette, Commission spokesman, hoped the ratification could go through in a year rather than eighteen months. The main effect of the delay will be to hold back much-needed financial aid. Former Associates would, however, probably get the benefit of sums still available under the old Yaoundé Fund. A resolution approving the Commission proposal was agreed to.

QUESTION TIME

The President welcomed Mr Mark Clinton, Irish Minister for Agriculture, who assumed the mantle of President of the Council in the absence of Dr Garret FitzGerald, Irish Foreign Minister. He apologised for the absence of Dr FitzGerald, engaged in conducting important negotiations with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries in Brussels, and added "I think it might do no harm to explain that I know as much about foreign affairs as he knows about agriculture". Asking thus the indulgence of the House, Mr Clinton then took questions.

Questions to the Council

1. Relations with Canada by Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker (Br, EC)

'What instructions have now been given to the Commission to pursue urgent negotiations with Canada?'

Mr Mark Clinton, President of the Council, replied: 'At its meeting on 14 and 15 October in Luxembourg, the Council established in broad outline the attitude to be adopted by the Member States and the Commission concerning relations between the Community and Canada on the occasion of the visit of Prime Minister Trudeau. The Council stressed the importance which the Community on the one hand and Canada on the other attach to the strengthening of their traditional ties and to the development of their economic and trade relations in view of their common cultural and historical links, the major part they play in international economic relations and their ensuing obligations. In view of these common values, interests and objectives, the Council considered that the strengthening of links in a manner which remains to be negotiated between the parties would enable the relations between the Community and Canada, based on their joint membership of the GATT and their participation in the OECD, to be cemented and the already established practice of consultation to be continued and intensified, thus offering new opportunities for developing mutual co-operation in the interests of all. The Canadian Prime Minister met the President and Members of the Commission on 24 October 1974. Following these meetings it was agreed that exploratory discussions would be continued between the two parties with a view to finding the most suitable framework in which relations between the Community and Canada could be developed in future. The Council is to discuss this question again on the basis of the report the Commission is to submit to it on the outcome of the exploratory talks.'

2. *Company law* by Mr John Brewis (Br, EC)

'In view of the need to encourage investment and economic activity in the Community, when does the Council expect to approve the Second Directive on Company Law and the Statute of the European Company?'

Mr Mark Clinton, President of the Council, replied: 'With regard to the proposal for a second Directive on the formation and capital of limited companies, the complexity of the subject and above all the differences between the company law of the Member States has prevented the Council from acting on this proposal by 1 January 1975 in accordance with its Resolution of 17 December 1973 on industrial policy. The Council of Ministers of Justice emphasised, however, on 26 November 1974, that the discussions within the Council on the Directive should be completed as soon as possible.'

With regard to the Statute of the European Company, the Council agreed in the above Resolution to begin examining the proposed Regulation as soon as the

Commission, taking account of the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, had submitted its revised proposal, and to make every effort to complete this examination as soon as possible. At its meeting on 26 November 1974, the Council took note of the Commission's intention to put an amended proposal before it early in 1975.'

On this subject, Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the European Commission, added that the fact that the Commission had not yet presented any new proposals was in fact a tribute to the work of the European Parliament. The Commission was now very carefully studying the 70 amendments Parliament had tabled. It was, however, the Commission's intention to submit fresh proposals as soon as possible.

3. Treatment of the Jewish minority in certain Arab states by Mr Kristian Albertsen (Da, S)

'Does the Council intend to raise the question of safeguarding the human rights of the Jewish minority in certain Arab states during the forthcoming negotiations with the Arab states?'

Mr Mark Clinton, President of the Council, replied: 'As the Council has repeatedly stated, all the Member States attach the greatest importance to human rights. It does not appear, however, that the question put by the Honourable Member could come within the scope of the dialogue with the Arab States, as this dialogue concerns only economic problems.'

Questions to the Commission

4. Grants for study programs for the U.K. regions by Mr Russell Johnston (Br, L)

'Has the Commission received official notification from the British Government of the postponement or cancellation of the studies into industrial and regional problems in South Wales and elsewhere in the United Kingdom and if so, what stage had negotiations reached when such notification was received and what reasons, if any were given for this action?'

Mr Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza, Vice-President of the Commission, replied that in 1974 the Commission had held discussions with the British Government about financing studies into the regional problems in South Wales. The discussions had been broken off by the British Government half-way through 1974. But the

Commission was always ready to conclude agreements for such studies whenever the British Government thought appropriate. Mr Johnston then asked whether anything of this sort had ever happened in any other Community country before. Mr Scarascia Mugnozza replied that there had been other examples but for purely technical reasons. Mr Ernest Glinne (Be, S) asked him whether the funds set aside for South Wales had now been re-allocated. Mr Scarascia Mugnozza replied that the funds were still available.

5. *Balance of payments of Member States* by Lord O'Hagan (spoken to in absentia by Mr James Scott-Hopkins (Br, EC)

'To what extent does membership of the E.E.C. improve or worsen the balance of payments of Member States?'

Mr Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza, Vice-President of the Commission, replied that when Lord O'Hagan had addressed a written question to the Commission in 1974, a detailed reply had been given. One of the points made then was that it was difficult to give a detailed reply. One had to bear in mind the variety of transactions covered by the term 'balance of payments': goods, services, incomes, private and public transfers and capital flows. It was also very hard to devise a method for computing what the effects on the balances of payments would have been had Member States not joined the Community. The lapse of time since enlargement, furthermore, was too short for a valid assessment to be possible so that no deterioration could be attributed to membership of the EEC. It would be due either to excessive pressure of internal demand or to worsening of terms of trade because of dearer raw materials on the world market. It was, however, not unlikely that the net capital inflows had been due in some cases to the economic prospects held out by enlargement. Mr Scott-Hopkins asked him whether trade within the Community increased in 1974. Mr Scarascia Mugnozza replied that it had.

Twenty-first joint meeting with Council of Europe

The twenty-first joint meeting of the Members of the European Parliament and the Members of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe was held in Strasbourg on Tuesday, 21 January 1975. Two working papers were discussed, one by Mr de Clercq on the 'political implications of inflation' and the other by Mr Aubert on 'inflation, its political consequences and the means to combat it.'

At the close of the joint meeting a communiqué was issued summing up the conclusions reached. Bearing in mind the ideas expressed in the debate, the rapporteurs point out that slowing down inflation is not enough. An economic and social contract is needed setting out norms for growth, incomes and prices and designed to maintain a high level of economic activity and employment. There must be no discrimination between national and migrant workers in layoffs due to recession. A balance must be struck between sectors and there must be a regional policy operating through selective investment. The money supply must be curtailed and consumer credit restricted. Savings must be safeguarded and taxation systems adjusted. Economic policies, particularly demand management, need to be dovetailed and there should be a European ministerial conference to hammer out a policy on employment. The rapporteurs consider a code should be laid down for multinational companies and that the Eurocurrency market should be regulated. There should be further efforts to bring the European currencies back into the 'snake' and there should be stringent budgetary policy. A tripartite conference of the industrialised countries, the oil-exporting countries and the developing countries possessed of no raw materials should be organised and research and investment expenditure reorganised. There should be a fairer international division of work as a result of multilateral negotiations on GATT and an overhaul of the IMF. There should be fair agreements concluded on income-sharing, bearing in mind the specific interests of the least-favoured nations.

On the occasion of the Joint Meeting, Mr Cornelis Berkhouwer, President of the European Parliament, referred to the question of the Channel Tunnel. He suggested that if difficulties were to arise, it could be built by a European consortium. After all, it concerned the whole of Europe.

References

Subject	Date of debate	European Parliament document number	Commission document number
Freedom of establishment for liberal professions	13/1	251/74	—
A European information network for science and technology. Research in the textile trade	13/1	387/74 424/74	294/74 287/74
Harmonisation of excise duties on mineral oils	13/1	401/74	172/73
Direct elections	14/1	368/74	—
Undermining Commission's powers	15/1	417/74	—
Community's attitude to South Africa	15/1	421/74 422/74	— —
Code of conduct for maritime transport conferences	15/1	418/74	—
Status of women	15/1	420/74	—
Farm prices for 1975/76	16/1	437/74	413/74
Directive on mountain and hill farming and farming in certain less-favoured areas	16/1	439/74	438/74
Oil companies	16/1	408/74	—
Supply of grain to Italy	16/1	423/74	—
Aid to hops producers for 1973 harvest	16/1	427/74	362/74
Olive cultivation	16/1	426/74	276/74
Fishery products from N. Africa	16/1	403/74	402/74
Waste disposal	17/1	383/74	289/74
Migrants' voting in local elections	17/1	419/74	—
Association with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries	17/1	441/74	433/74

Abbreviations

CD	Christian Democrat Group
S	Socialist Group
LA	Liberal and Allies Group
EC	European Conservative Group
EPD	European Progressive Democrat Group
CA	Communist and Allies Group
Ind	Non-attached, Independent Members

Be	Belgian
Br	British
Da	Danish
Du	Dutch
Fr	French
Ge	German
Ir	Irish
It	Italian
Lu	Luxembourg
EC	European Community

Notes

Appointment of new Members

The Parliament informed the House that the Senate of the French Republic had appointed Mr Francois Duval and Mr Emile Didier to replace Mr Bousch and Mr Berthoin and that the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies had appointed Mr Camille Ney and Mr Jacques Santer to replace Mr Glesener and Mr Lucius.

Welcome to the Turkish Delegation

The President welcomed Members of the Turkish Delegation to the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the EC-Turkey Association.

Apology

to Lord Gladwyn for incorrectly stating his political Group in our December issue. When apology was made Lord Gladwyn smiled and replied with his customary affability 'I may look like a Conservative but I am not one'. Lord Gladwyn is, of course, a member of the Liberal and Allies Group.

Summing up

At its sittings of 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 January Members put down 4 questions for debate with the Council and 5 questions for debate with the Commission. At Question Time 3 were addressed to the Council and 2 to the Commission. 11 reports were considered and the European Parliament delivered 11 Opinions.

Luns procedure

Under a long-standing agreement known as the Luns Procedure Dr Garret Fitzgerald, President of the Council, informed the committees of the European Parliament concerned with association questions of the state of progress on negotiations with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. He was, he said, optimistic about their successful conclusion.

Draft Convention introducing elections to the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage

Chapter I

General provisions

Article 1

The representatives of the peoples in the European Parliament shall be elected by direct universal suffrage.

Article 2

1. The number of representatives elected in each Member State shall be as follows:

Belgium	23
Denmark	17
France	65
Germany (FR)	71
Ireland	13
Italy	66
Luxembourg	6
Netherlands	27
United Kingdom	67

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2. The Parliament, the Commission or the Government of any Member State may propose to the Council changes in the number of members provided for in paragraph 1.

Amendments to this convention shall be made pursuant to the procedure provided for in Article 14 of this Convention.

Article 3

1. Representatives shall be elected for a term of five years.
2. The five-year legislative period shall begin at the opening of the first session following each election.

Article 4

1. Representatives shall vote on an individual and personal basis. They shall accept neither instructions nor any binding mandate.
2. National legislation shall ensure that the representatives receive the same guarantees as to independence, indemnity and immunity as their counterparts in the national Parliaments.

Article 5

Membership of the European Parliament shall be compatible with membership of a Parliament of a Member State.

Article 6

1. The office of representative in the European Parliament shall be incompatible with that of:
 - member of the Government of a Member State;
 - member of the Commission of the European Communities;
 - judge, advocate-general or registrar at the Court of Justice of the European Communities;
 - member of the Court of Auditors of the European Communities;
 - member of the Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community or member of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Economic Community and of the European Atomic Energy Community;

- member of committees or other bodies set up in pursuance of the Treaties establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community for the purpose of managing the Communities' funds or carrying out a permanent and direct administrative task;
 - member of the Board of Directors, Management Committee or staff of the European Investment Bank;
 - active official or servant of the institutions of the European Communities or of the specialized bodies attached to them.
2. Subject to the entry into force of special rules pursuant to Article 7 (1) of this Convention, the provisions of each Member State relating to incompatibility with a national parliamentary mandate shall be applied.
3. Representatives of the European Parliament appointed, in the course of a legislative period, to any of the offices mentioned above shall be replaced under the terms of Article 12.

Chapter II

Electoral system

Article 7

1. The European Parliament shall draw up a proposal for a uniform electoral system by 1980 at the latest. The Council shall unanimously lay down appropriate provisions, which it shall recommend to the Member States for adoption in accordance with their constitutional requirements.
2. Pending the entry into force of this uniform electoral system and subject to the other provisions of this Convention, the electoral system shall fall within the competence of each Member State.

Article 8

The provisions governing the admission of political parties to elections in each Member State shall apply to elections to the European Parliament.

Article 9

1. Elections to the European Parliament shall be held on the same day in all Member States.
2. Any Member State may, however, decide to hold the elections one day earlier or later than the fixed date or to spread them over two consecutive days including that day.
3. The Council shall make arrangements in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 14, to ensure that the election results are declared at one and the same time.

Article 10

1. Elections to the European Parliament shall be held not later than one month before the end of each legislative period.
2. The European Parliament shall sit automatically on the first Tuesday following an interval of one month from the last day of the elections
3. The outgoing European Parliament shall remain in office until the first sitting of the new Parliament.

Article 11

Pending the entry into force of the uniform electoral system to be adopted in accordance with Article 7 (1), the European Parliament shall verify the credentials of representatives and rule on any disputes that may arise in this connection.

Article 12

Pending the entry into force of the uniform electoral system to be adopted in accordance with Article 7 (1) and subject to the other provisions of this Convention, the Member States shall lay down appropriate procedures for filling any seat which falls vacant during a legislative period.

Chapter III

Transitional and final provisions

Article 13

1. Subject to the provisions of Article 9, the first elections to the European Parliament shall be held not later than the first Sunday of May, 1978.
2. The date of subsequent elections shall be fixed, taking account of Articles 3, 9 and 10, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 14.

Article 14

Should reference be made to the procedure laid down in this Article or should it appear that further measures are required to implement direct elections to the European Parliament in accordance with this Convention and if the necessary powers are not provided, the Council shall, acting unanimously on a proposal from the European Parliament and with its approval, make the appropriate provisions. The Council shall consult the Commission before making its decision.

Article 15

1. The following provisions stand repealed by the present Convention: Article 21(3) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, Article 138(3) of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and Article 108(3) of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community.
2. Article 21 (1 and 2) of the ECSC Treaty, Article 138 (1 and 2) of the EEC Treaty, and Article 108 (1 and 2) of the EAEC Treaty shall be repealed on the date fixed in Article 10(2).

Article 16

This Convention is drawn up in the Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Irish and Italian languages, all seven texts being equally authentic.

Article 17

- 1. This Convention shall be ratified by the Member States in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.**
- 2. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Government of the Italian Republic, which shall inform the signatory States and the institutions of the European Communities when this has been done.**
- 3. This Convention shall enter into force on the day the instrument of ratification is deposited by the last signatory State to carry out this formality.**

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