



European Communities

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A3-0315/90

FINAL REPORT

of the Temporary Committee to consider the impact
of the process of German unification on the European
Community

on the Community and German Unification

Rapporteur : Mr. Alan John DONNELLY

A Series Reports - B Series: Motions for Resolutions, Oral Questions - C Series: Documents received from other Institutions (e.g. Consultations)

PE 145.030/fin.

Or. EN



= Consultation procedure requiring a single reading



= Cooperation procedure (second reading) which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament for rejection or amendment



= Cooperation procedure (first reading)



= Parliamentary assent which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament

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At the sitting of 15 February 1990 the European Parliament passed a resolution setting up a temporary committee to examine the impact of the process of unification of Germany on the European Community.

At the first meeting of the Temporary Committee on 1 March 1990 Mr DONNELLY was appointed as general rapporteur.

By letter of 2 March 1990 the Temporary Committee asked for authorization to submit interim and final reports on the impacts of German unification on the Community.

On 13 March 1990 the Temporary Committee was authorised by the enlarged Bureau to draw up an interim report within the near future, to be followed later by a final report.

The Temporary Committee considered the draft interim report at its meetings of 28-29 June 1990 and 9 July 1990 and adopted it at the latter by 10 votes to 0 with 8 abstentions, and Parliament adopted it on 12 July 1990.

At its meeting of 12 September 1990 the committee decided to draw up a second interim report and confirmed Mr Alan DONNELLY rapporteur.

At its meetings of 3 and 4 October 1990, and 8 October 1990 the committee considered the draft report.

At the latter meeting it adopted the resolution by 13 votes in favour to 1 against with 1 abstention and Parliament adopted it on 24 October 1990.

The Temporary Committee considered the final report at its meetings of 12 November and 19 November 1990 and adopted it at the last meeting on a unanimous vote.

The following were present for the vote : Mr FERNANDEZ ALBOR, President, Ms VEIL, first Vice-President, Mr DONNELLY, rapporteur, Mr BROK, Mr DESAMA, Mr FLORENZ (replacing Mr ZELLER), Mr H. KOHLER (replacing Mr WOLTJER), Ms ROTH-BEHRENDT, Mr TINDEMANS, Mr von WECHMAR, Mr WELSH, Mr WETTIG.

The report was tabled on 19 November 1990.

The deadline for tabling amendments will be 20 November 1990 at 1 p.m.

**MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION
ON THE COMMUNITY AND GERMAN UNIFICATION**

- Having regard its resolutions of 12 July and 24 October 1990
- Having regard to the report of its temporary committee to consider the impact of the process of German unification on the European Community (A3-0315/90)

Initial considerations

1. Welcomes the fact that all German elections will now take place on 3 December.
2. Recognizes the enormous achievements of the last year, in integrating the former territory of the GDR within the Federal Republic of Germany, in fully establishing freedom and democracy in the five new Länder and Berlin, and in undergoing the difficult transition from a stagnant command economy into a social market economy within a very short period of time. Congratulates the citizens of Germany for their determination in overcoming the many obstacles in the way of unification, and in facing up to the many difficult problems that still remain in the process of integration.
3. Notes the important contribution that has been played by the Community institutions in helping to back up the unification process, but emphasises the need for continued strong support from the European Community in rebuilding the economy of the former territory of the GDR after the ruinous legacy of the previous regime.

The emergency measures

4. Recalls that the unexpectedly rapid speed at which unification was achieved led to the adoption of emergency measures in September of this year that were necessary to prevent a legal vacuum in the territory of the former GDR but were highly unorthodox in terms of the powers that were delegated to the German authorities and to the Commission.
5. Welcomes, however, the spirit of cooperation that has since prevailed between the Community institutions and between them and the German authorities, in adopting, implementing and supervising the emergency measures. Welcomes the concessions that were made by the Council on committeeology in the context of the emergency measures, the rapid provision of information on the implementing measures by the Commission to the Parliament and the continuing contribution made by German representatives to Parliament's work. Expresses its concern that this cooperation will constitute an isolated precedent conceded because of exceptional circumstances, rather than serving as a real model for the future.

Final consideration of the package

6. Regrets the delays within Council that have led to the package being resubmitted to the Parliament later than anticipated, and with too little time for adequate scrutiny by its specialized committees.
7. Emphasises, however, its continuing commitment to a second reading in its November plenary, thus honouring the agreement signed by the three Presidents in spite of the difficult circumstances.
8. Recalls the fact that commitology is of central importance in the context of the transitional measures for the former GDR because of the event of the delegated powers which are involved.
9. Again supports the use of 2 A Management Committees as agreed to by Council for the emergency measures rather than the 3 A Regulatory Committees on which the Council is now insisting, and which the Parliament strongly regrets.
10. Believes, however, that when a measure raises important issues there should be the possibility of recourse to normal legislature procedures rather than to commitology, and notes with satisfaction the Commission's declaration to this effect.
11. Considers that this will not undercut the desirable objective of flexibility in adopting the transitional measures since normal legislative procedures would only be invoked in a small number of cases. Undertakes, moreover, in urgent cases, to adopt accelerated procedures, similar to those used for adopting the emergency measures.
12. Again recalls the central need for the Parliament to be rapidly and fully informed of all implementing measures during the transitional period. Welcomes the Commission's declaration that it will follow up its commitment in the context of the emergency measures to submit all implementing measures to the Parliament at the same time as to the relevant committees. Calls for an indication of when the measures are to be adopted. Considers that any problems of confidentiality can be resolved by arrangements similar to those agreed between Commission and Parliament on such matters as budgetary control and the first stage of economic and monetary union.
13. Notes the declarations in the Council minutes relating to Parliament's amendments in first reading on the revision of the financial perspective and on equality of opportunity between men and women in the context of structural fund actions. Welcomes the fact that the content of these two declarations has been published by the Council, but regrets that thirty-eight other declarations by the Council, Commission and individual national delegations have not been provided to the Parliament. Understands that these cover a number of important policy areas including external trading conditions, the control of movement of goods, anti-dumping, competition policy, agriculture and the environment. Believes that the significance of such declarations, and the need for full democratic accountability to the Parliament makes it essential for such declarations to be provided to the Parliament.
14. Further regrets that the recommendation for a Council decision on a negotiating mandate on textile agreements was removed from the main package and added as an annex to the Council minutes.

The follow-up to German unification :

German unification as a step towards European Union

15. Recognizes that a Europe of nation States could lead to significant imbalances in power relationships between larger and smaller states. Recognizes that the democratic unification of Germany heightens the need to complete the European Union and constitutes one stage of that process. Considers, therefore, that German unification must be followed by decisive progress including, in particular, a decision taken by the Intergovernmental Conference to be held in December to agree in principle to establish the European Union in accordance with the guidelines laid down by Parliament.

Closer cooperation and stronger economic links between the Community and Eastern Europe.

16. Emphasises the need for the countries of Eastern Europe not be neglected in this process and for the experiences, both positive and negative, in transforming the economy of the former GDR from a command economy into a social market economy to be borne in mind when considering the situation of these countries.
17. Underlines the importance of improved trading relations and closer economic cooperation between the European Community and Eastern and Central Europe. Welcomes, therefore, the fact that the Commission and Council were able to support Parliament's amendments providing for a longer transitional period for Eastern and Central European countries as a first step in the right direction and calls for favourable association agreements with those countries to be drawn up an early opportunity.
18. Considers, however, that further measures are needed to ensure that the already severe economic problems for these countries are not aggravated and that new barriers are not created between Germany and the former trading partners of the GDR. Requests the Commission to put forward proposals aiming at strengthening the Community's trading relationships with these countries.

Continuing problems after unification in the former GDR :

Social and economic problems

19. Reiterates that the rapid introduction of Economic and Monetary Union and the integration of the former GDR into the Community will unavoidably lead to major economic restructuring, with severe economic and social consequences for the citizens of the five new German Länder and notes that the aid and opportunities stemming from German unification and integration into the Community will enable the transition to a social market economy to be brought about more rapidly and under more favourable conditions than in the other states of Central and Eastern Europe.

20. Takes the view that economic conversion must be brought about in such a way as to ensure that the sharp rise in unemployment can be rapidly corrected by means of appropriate employment promotion measures and that a locational advantage is generated by an improvement in the level of skills.
21. Again emphasises the fact that it is primarily the responsibility of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, in conjunction with the Länder and local authorities, to take measures to combat mass unemployment and social decline in the former GDR and, in particular, to pave the way for new business investment and recovery programmes.
22. Regards it, however, as very important that the European Community, by means of structural policy measures, be seen to help the new Länder in Germany.
23. Urges the Government of the FRG, in cooperation with the new Länder Governments, to propose as soon as possible a plan for social and regional development in the new Bundesländer.
24. Invites the Commission to take a rapid decision on such a plan in order to enable the amount of 1 billion ECU, that is foreseen for 1991, to be spent efficiently and rapidly on measures to help reduce economic and social hardship.
25. Emphasises the importance of information and training programmes, in order to enable people in East Germany to adapt to the new economic, social and political circumstances.
26. Expresses its concern at the fact that women are especially exposed to economic and social problems, as a result, among other things, of a higher risk of unemployment and a reduction in child care facilities and calls, therefore, for women's job opportunities to be guaranteed by means of an appropriate range of child care facilities and admission on equal terms to all training and retraining programmes.

Environment

27. Restates its overriding concern at the appalling environmental situation in the former GDR which is one reason for a substantially lower life expectancy, as compared to the western part of Germany.
28. Urges, therefore, the Government of the FRG and the Community to give a high priority to measures to improve the environmental situation, thus allowing people in the East to breathe cleaner air, drink purer water and eat uncontaminated food.
29. Regards a major financial effort by the FRG as indispensable in order to permit the massive investment needed for environmental standards to be brought up to Community level and calls, therefore, on the Commission to perform its supervisory and prime-mover role to the fullest possible extent, reporting regularly on its actions to the European Parliament.

Agriculture

30. Expresses its particular concern at the agricultural situation in the five new German Länder. Urges the governments of the FRG and the Länder to provide farm workers with the information and support required to ensure that farming may be carried on in various legal forms of enterprises such as cooperatives, collective or family farms, and limited companies in the GmbH form. Considers that agricultural structures must be geared to economic and ecological requirements.

Energy

31. Expresses its concern about the risks in the energy sector that former state monopolies are replaced by private monopolies. Calls on the Commission to provide for increased competition in the energy sector, in the interests of consumers and to meet environmental requirements, proceeding on the understanding that any activity likely to adversely affect competition among Member States must be prohibited. Emphasises, therefore, the need for a decentralised energy supply system which will be the one best able to take both consumer interests and environmental concerns into account.
32. Believes, as a result of the severe problems posed for safety by the nuclear energy plants in the former GDR that Community safety standards must be enforced immediately.
33. Considers that investment in the energy sector should bring about greater diversification of energy sources.

Final considerations : implementing the package

34. Emphasises the necessity of careful review of the way in which the package is being implemented, and of the way in which the former GDR is being integrated into the Community :
- to ensure that the derogations and special measures for the former GDR are being correctly applied
 - to ensure that the control measures are really working
 - to monitor the effectiveness of the measures as regards the economy of the territory of the former GDR
 - to monitor the impacts of the measures on other European Community countries, to ensure that there are no major distortions or adverse effects on competition
 - to monitor the impacts on other European countries, notably those in Eastern Europe
 - to ensure that any needed modifications to the measures and any new measures are discussed in advance to the fullest possible degree, so that ad hoc and last minute decisions are avoided.
35. Undertakes to carry out this review on a regular basis within its specialised committees.

36. Terminates the work of the Temporary Committee to consider the impact of the process of German unification on the European Community as of the end of this year.
37. Welcomes the commitment by the German authorities to provide regular information to the Parliament in the context of the emergency measures, and hopes that this can be continued as regards the transitional measures as well.
38. Trusts that the issue of representation of the different countries of the European Community within the European Parliament will be thoroughly debated in the forthcoming intergovernmental conference on political union, and also in the context of a uniform electoral system, reviewing the existing balance of representation.
39. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the governments of the Member States.

