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O P I N I O N

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Security

for the Committee on Institutional Affairs

on the structure and strategy for the European Union with regard to its enlargement and the creation of a Europe-wide order

Draftsman: Mr Efstathios LAGAKOS

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PE 152.242/fin./Ann.

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***** = Consultation procedure requiring a single reading

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

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O P I N I O N

(Rule 120 of the Rules of Procedure)

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Security

for the Committee on Institutional Affairs

Draftsman: Mr Efsthathios LAGAKOS

At its meeting of 9 January 1991 the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Security appointed Mr Lagakos draftsman.

At its meetings of 30 January 1992, 18 February 1992, 27 February 1992 and 26 May 1992 it considered the draft opinion.

At the last meeting it adopted the conclusions as a whole by 23 votes to 3 with 3 abstentions.

The following took part in the vote: Baron Crespo, chairman; Sir Fred Catherwood and Crampton, vice-chairmen; Lagakos (for Formigoni) draftsman; Baget Bozo, Belo (for Avgerinos), Canavarro, Capucho, Cheysson, Coates, Cravinho, Fernandez Albor, Habsburg, Hänsch, Hoff (for Balfe), Jepsen, H. F. Köhler (for Dury), Lenz, de Montesquiou Fezensac (for Bertens), Moran Lopez, McGowan (for Magnani Noya), Newens, Newton Dunn (for Bernard-Reymond), Onesta, Penders, Pasmazoglou, PirkI, Planas, Poettering, Sakellariou, Schmid and Titley.

INTRODUCTION

1. The new, revised text of the report by Mr Klaus Hänsch contains proposals and comments which are, on the whole, constructive and relate to the following areas:
 - (a) the establishment of a pan-European order;
 - (b) the institutional reforms necessary for Community enlargement;
 - (c) the Council of Europe;
 - (d) the CSCE;
 - (e) the WEU and NATO.
2. The chapter on institutional reform contains proposals on a system of rotating presidency in the Council and the membership of the Commission; although these are improvements on the original proposals they are still unsatisfactory and should be reformulated.
3. The rapporteur makes two very basic and valid points:
 - (a) it is neither possible nor desirable that all European states should become members of a Union, and
 - (b) it is necessary and, indeed advisable, that a system of pan-European federal cooperation should be set up which should be linked with the USA, Canada, Russia (and the other states of the ex-Soviet Union), Turkey and other non-European mediterranean states.
4. The rapporteur puts forward a number of particularly interesting proposals on drawing-up a charter on the rights of Minorities in Europe and squaring the principle of non-intervention and respect for territorial integrity with the principle of self-determination and the protection of minorities.
5. The rapporteur also makes an interesting proposal concerning the absorption of the WEU by the European Community in 1996.
6. He also makes constructive remarks about NATO.
7. The rapporteur's choice of three states with which the Community should begin accession negotiations, regardless of when they applied for accession is not based on objective criteria and should therefore be withdrawn. Moreover, this is not an institutional matter and probably falls within the terms of reference of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.
8. It should be stressed that, except for a number of points referred to above, the revised draft report by Mr Klaus Hänsch is a positive contribution and is, in principle, acceptable.
9. The institutional reforms necessary for Community enlargement (see PE 154.466/Add.) should seek to make the institutions more effective while making them more democratic. It is clear that if the Community expands beyond a certain number of new members it will be difficult, if not impossible, to attain this objective.