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A3-0004/91

I N T E R I M R E P O R T

of the Political Affairs Committee

on relations between the European Community and Albania

Rapporteur: Mr Alexander LANGER

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

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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 |
| **I | = 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 12 February 1990 the President of the European Parliament announced that, pursuant to Rule 63 of the Rules of Procedure, he had referred the motion for a resolution by Mr Tsimas on relations between the EEC and Albania to the Political Affairs Committee as the committee responsible and to the Committee on External Economic Relations for its opinion.

At the sitting of 12 March 1990 the President of the European Parliament announced that, pursuant to Rule 63 of the Rules of Procedure, he had referred the motion for a resolution by Mrs Muscardini and others on the situation in Albania to the Political Affairs Committee.

At its meeting of 21 March 1990 the Political Affairs Committee decided to draw up a report.

At its meeting of 26 April 1990 it appointed Mr Langer rapporteur.

At its meeting of 21 March 1990 it had decided to refer to its report when considering Petition No. 182/89 by His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos. (Receipt of the petition, concerning religious oppression of Orthodox Greeks living in northern Epirus (Albania), had been announced in the House on 11 December 1989; the petition had been referred to the Committee on Petitions as the committee responsible and to the Political Affairs Committee for its opinion).

At its meetings of 21 September and 18 December 1990 and 9 January 1991 the committee considered the draft interim report.

At the last meeting it adopted the motion for a resolution by 14 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions.

The following were present for the vote: van den Brink, third vice-chairman and acting chairman; Crampton, first vice-chairman; Langer, rapporteur; Capucho, Coates, Ephremidis, Habsburg, Lagakos (for Klepsch), Newens (for Balfe), Newton Dunn, Pasmazoglou, Pirkl, Prag, Romeos, Sakellariou, Stavrou (for Ferrer), and White.

The explanatory statement will be presented orally in plenary sitting.

The report was tabled on 10 January 1991.

The deadline for tabling amendments will appear on the draft agenda for the part-session at which the interim report is to be considered.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on relations between the European Community
and Albania

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the motions for resolutions by:

- (a) Mr Tsimas on relations between the EEC and Albania (B3-0002/90),
- (b) Mrs Muscardini and others on the situation in Albania (B3-0238/90),

- having regard to its resolution of 25 October 1985 on economic and trade relations between the EEC and Albania (A2-0114/85)¹,
 - having regard to the EPC statement of 5 July 1990 on Albania,
 - having regard to its resolution of 12 July 1990 on Albania²,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the European Council of 14/15 December 1990 in which the hope was expressed that the most recent developments in Albania heralded a new democratic trend,
 - having regard to the interim report of the Political Affairs Committee (A3-0004/91),
- A. welcoming in a spirit of solidarity and joy the manifestations of freedom and political pluralism recently seen in Albania, brought about largely on the initiative of students as well as of many other citizens, and noting with satisfaction that these events have opened the way for a process of democratization of society and government in Albania,
 - B. welcoming with particular satisfaction the fact that the 'Democratic Party' has been officially legalized and expressing the hope that similar treatment will be afforded to other political parties that may subsequently be formed,
 - C. expressing the hope that Albania will embark unhesitatingly on and safeguard the path of democratic reforms, political pluralism, and government under the rule of law and that human and civil rights, Albanian sovereignty, and sound European cooperation will be fully respected,
 - D. having regard in particular to the need for the whole of Europe (Community and non-Community countries) to extend its solidarity to a people who - not least on account of their regime's self-imposed isolation - have been neglected and forgotten for too long,
 - E. expressing the hope that freedom and political, social, cultural, religious, and linguistic pluralism may be fostered and consolidated in Albania in a peaceful and democratic way and that the democratic awakening of the country does not unleash internal or international tensions that could exacerbate the already considerable difficulties affecting the Balkans,
 - F. expressing the hope that the persons arrested during the latest demonstrations in numerous Albanian towns and cities will be treated fairly while in custody and not become targets for arbitrary trials or be sentenced to punishments out of all real proportion to such charges as may be provable against them; trusting also that the truth regarding alleged deaths and injuries in the course of the demonstrations will be brought fully to light,

¹ OJ No. C 343, 31.12.1985

² OJ No. C 231, 17.9.1990

- G. convinced that cooperation between the Community and Albania could play a valuable part in attaining all the above goals,
1. Reiterates its full support for a process of genuine democratization of political life in Albania, aimed at ensuring that that country too falls fully within the jurisdiction of the principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and in the declaration issued at the CSCE Paris meeting (November 1990), establishes the rule of law, and fosters pluralist democracy, as is essential if Albania is to take its proper place in the European fold;
 2. Calls on the governments of the CSCE states (and in particular the governments of the EC Member States) to support the Albanian application to become a full party to the CSCE process;
 3. Calls on the Council and Commission to respond favourably to the Albanian request for bilateral relations to be established between Albania and the Community and hopes that both sides will make a serious effort to foster fruitful political, cultural, economic, trading, scientific, and technological relations; recommends that immediate consideration should be given to the possibilities for concluding an economic and trade agreement, once the necessary political guarantees are in place;
 4. Calls on the Twelve, in view of the extremely difficult economic situation facing the population, to consider providing humanitarian aid to Albania, should this be in accordance with Albanian wishes;
 5. Hopes that normal diplomatic relations will be established between Albania and all the Member States of the Community;
 6. Believes that cooperation on security in the Mediterranean area (not least within the framework of the projected 'Mediterranean' CSCE), the Mediterranean Action Plan (PAM), and cooperation among Mediterranean coastal states in the field of the environment will provide a particularly useful basis on which to pursue good mutual relations;
 7. Welcomes the constitutional reform announced in Albania; hopes above all that human rights (including the freedom to enter or leave the country), freedom of worship, political pluralism, diversity of information, and respect for minority rights will be duly recognized in the reform and, on that basis, given practical effect; hopes also in this connection that Albania will seriously consider whether it should not make substantial reparation for earlier human rights violations and release all those held prisoner on account of their opposition to the policy of the regime;
 8. Calls on Albania to grant equal rights - on the same basis as to all its citizens - to the members of the country's ethnic and religious minorities and to encourage them to remain in the country or return to their home regions, affording them opportunities for a decent life and livelihood free from all discrimination;
 9. Calls on the Community to provide generous aid to help Greece tackle the problems created by the sudden mass exodus of refugees from Albania;
 10. Hopes that the forthcoming parliamentary elections will take place in a climate of genuine pluralism, backed by the conditions and guarantees

required to enable all interested political forces genuinely to organize themselves, make themselves known, and compete on fair terms; declares its willingness to assist in the process by sending observers - should the Albanian people so wish considers that the Albanian opposition is justified in its demand for the elections - due to take place on 10 February 1991 - to be postponed in order to allow the preparations to proceed on a genuinely pluralist basis;

11. Decides to rename its 'Delegation for relations with Bulgaria and Romania' (D9, the former 'Delegation for relations with the countries of South-Eastern Europe') 'Delegation for relations with Bulgaria, Romania, and Albania' and entrusts it with the task of preparing the ground for the expansion of relations;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, European Political Cooperation, the governments of the Member States, the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, and the Government and Parliament of Albania.

ANNEX I

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (B3-0002/90), pursuant to Rule 63 of the Rules of Procedure, by Mr TSIMAS on relations between the EEC and Albania

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas Albania, like all the Balkan countries, is geographically and economically part of Europe and undoubtedly forms an integral part of the less prosperous southern region of Europe,
 - B. whereas Albania is now beginning slowly but surely to establish the internal and external conditions for a move towards a political and economic system embracing elements of perestroika,
 - C. whereas its neighbour, Greece, a Member State of the Community, is already developing closer relations with Albania, a lead which has been followed by Member States individually, while relations between the EEC and Albania as such remain non-existent,
1. Instructs its appropriate committee to draw up a report on the establishment of closer relations between the EEC and Albania at political, economic and commercial level in the context of the policy which the Community institutions are already following in connection with the developments in the European member states of COMECON;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

ANNEX II

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (B3-0238/90), pursuant to Rule 63 of the Rules of Procedure, by Mrs MUSCARDINI and others on the situation in Albania

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas the demand for democratic reforms and the end of the Stalinist dictatorship have prompted hundreds of demonstrators to take to the streets in Tirana and Scutari,
- B. whereas the authorities in Tirana have brutally put down the demonstrations and used them as a pretext for extending the state of emergency to the whole country,
- C. whereas the government has also decided to close the frontiers, prohibit changes of residence and make all movement within the country subject to prior police authorization,
- D. having regard to the total absence of information from Albania,
 - 1. Calls on the Community to support the Albanian people's demands for democratic reform;
 - 2. Calls on the Community to stand as guarantor for the protection of human rights in Albania so as to end the brutal repression used by the Stalinist regime to delay the now inevitable outcome of these events.

