



PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

2100 M Street Northwest, Suite 707, Washington, D.C. 20037 Telephone: (202) 872-8350
New York Office: 277 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017 Telephone: (212) 371-3804

No. 42/1973

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 1, 1973

JOINT STATEMENT BY US AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

OCTOBER 31, 1973

WASHINGTON, DC -- A delegation of the US Congress and a delegation of the European Parliament today concluded three days of discussions. The plenary sessions included frank discussions on the relations between the United States and the European Community. Working groups covered development aid, energy policy, agricultural policies, and multinational corporations. This was the fourth meeting of representatives of the Congress and the Parliament. It followed a meeting in May 1973 in Strasbourg. The next meeting will take place in Europe next spring.

After hearing from Secretary Kissinger on the recent difficulties in American-European relations precipitated by the Middle East crisis, candid discussions took place including these and other matters in the working groups and in the plenary sessions. While no attempt was made to propose overall solutions, the participants recognized that new kinds of relationships may become necessary to restore harmony between the European Community and the United States.

The current limitations on the authority of the European Community in political and defense matters will affect how this new relationship is discussed. The discussions must continue, but it is quite possible that new institutional responsibilities for the Community will be needed to achieve this restoration of our unique relationship.

COMMUNITY STUDY PROGRAM FOR AMERICANS

Considerable interest and support was voiced for a plan approved last year in the European Parliament for establishing a program of study and travel grants to the Community, for Americans with demonstrated leadership potential. Mr. Schuijt made this proposal originally and has pursued it to its present development. The study grant program would give young American leaders a unique opportunity to acquaint themselves with the realities of the thought and life of the European Community.

AGRICULTURE

The United States and Europe should cooperate concerning production levels and capacities and related price questions. This cooperation should be achieved with consideration for the interests of the developing countries.

A majority agreed that no country or grouping should pressure other countries or groupings to change their farm structures and policies.

Both sides agreed that international commodity arrangements are necessary in order to ensure security of agricultural supplies and that the creation of internationally financed stocks should be studied.

Delegates from the United States and Europe expressed their view that agricultural trade policy must be treated at the Geneva GATT negotiations, and that the problem of agricultural exports of the developing countries should also be considered at the Geneva talks.

It was suggested that the United States and Europe should cooperate in organizing and increasing relief of hunger throughout the world. The governments of the United States and of the European countries should study ways of financing such stocks on an international basis.

MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS

Multinational corporations make a major contribution to worldwide economic development but their magnitude and relative autonomy can place consumers and governments at a disadvantage; they are also able to reduce competition in world markets.

There was a discussion on the need for proper regulation through international agreement with respect to taxation, standards of conduct, and control of mergers. Both sides agreed to outline and propose a detailed catalogue of the contents of such an agreement. The Rapporteurs have been charged with this task. They will present the results to both delegations for presentation and discussion in the European Parliament and in their respective national Parliaments.

ENERGY

As major energy consumers the United States and the European Community should work together with all energy producers and importers to develop a worldwide energy policy to ensure that all nations have dependable access to adequate supplies of energy.

The United States and the European Community should develop together an energy policy which has the aim of establishing close cooperation in the event of crisis and of avoiding competitive price out-bidding for energy imports.

The United States and the European Community should join in intensified research, development, and information exchange of energy programs, especially for the gasification and liquefaction of coal, and the mining of coal resources.

The United States and the European Community should undertake intensive energy conservation programs, through legislation where practical and necessary.

RESPECTIVE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

American and European participants recognized that their starting points and approaches to development aid are historically different and that, at present, it is not possible for them to formulate a common policy in this field.

The Americans emphasized both the virtues of international trade liberalization and the need to find multilateral solutions for development problems. In this context they demanded the abolition of reverse preferences.

The Europeans considered that the Yaounde Convention which associated 19 African countries with the European Community represented a modern form of cooperation with emerging developing states which corresponded to the realities and needs of our time and which could be extended to include other interested developing countries.

The two partners agreed that it was most important to continue the joint scrutiny of their aid policies so as to influence more strongly public opinion, and, thus, governments which must make a greater effort in this respect.

SUPPORT FOR PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACIES

The delegates of Congress and the European Parliament agreed that all appropriate efforts should be made in order to ensure maintenance or restoration of parliamentary democracies throughout the world.