

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Development and Cooperation

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(84) 113 final - Doc. 1-133/84) for a decision on the conclusion of the Convention between the European Economic Community and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) concerning aid to refugees in the countries of the Near East

Rapporteur: Mrs Raymonde DURY

PE 89.964/fin.

By letter of 30 March 1984 the Council requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision on the conclusion of the Convention between the European Economic Community and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) concerning aid to refugees in the countries of the Near East.

On 9 April 1983 the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Development and Cooperation as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets and the Political Affairs Committee for opinions.

At its meeting of 29 March 1984 the Committee on Development and Cooperation appointed Mrs Dury rapporteur.

The Committee considered the Commission's proposal and the draft report at its meeting of 26 April 1984 when it unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution.

The following took part in the vote under the chairmanship of Mr Poniatowski: Mr Bersani, vice-chairman; Mrs Dury, rapporteur; Mrs Caretoni-Romagnoli, Mr Enright, Mr C. Jackson, Mr Pearce, Mrs Rabbethge, Mr Simpson, Mr Vergeer, Mr Wawrzik.

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets will be published separately.

The Political Affairs Committee has not presented an opinion.

The report was tabled on 2 May 1984.

The deadline for the tabling of amendments to this report appears in the draft agenda for the part-session at which it will be debated.

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The Committee on Development and Cooperation hereby submits to the European Parliament the following amendment to the Commission proposal and motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

Text proposed by the
European Parliament

Commission text

Proposal for a Council Decision
on the conclusion of the Convention between the European Economic
Community and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for
Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) concerning aid to refugees in the
countries of the Near East

Preambles unchanged

Article 1 unchanged

Amendment

Article 2

1. Questions relation to the EEC
programme of assistance to UNRWA
shall be examined following the
procedures governing food aid
management.

Article 2

1. Questions relating to the EEC
programme of assistance to UNRWA
shall be examined following the
procedure defined in Article 5 and
6c of Council Regulation 3331/82 (1).

Article 2 (2) unchanged

Article 3 unchanged

(1) OJ No. L 352, 14.12.82, p.1-4

A.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

closing the procedure for consultation of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision on the conclusion of the Convention between the European Economic Community and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) concerning aid to refugees in the countries of the Near East

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(84) 113 final),
 - B. having been consulted by the Council (Doc.1-133/84),
 - C. having regard to the report of the Committee on Development and Cooperation and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (Doc.1-120/84),
 - D. having regard to the result of the vote on the Commission's proposal,
 - E. having regard to its approval⁽¹⁾ of previous conventions between the European Economic Community and UNRWA,
1. Is deeply concerned by the distress of the Palestinian population and fully appreciates the enormous difficulties facing UNRWA;
 2. Believes that the European Community has an important role to play in the Near East;
 3. Reaffirms its conviction that the Community should continue to support UNRWA;

¹ OJ No. C159 of 12.7.1976, p.60
OJ No. C 59 of 10.3.1980, p.70
OJ No. C 11 of 18.1.1982, p.191

4. Recalls that it has already approved⁽¹⁾ the use of Community funds to assist UNRWA's education programme, the food aid contribution being reduced by a corresponding amount, and welcomes the extension of this principle in the proposed new convention;
5. Recognises that UNRWA's financial situation, based on voluntary contributions, is precarious, and consequently deeply regrets that current budgetary constraints do not permit an increased Community contribution;
6. Stresses the importance of monitoring and controlling the use made of all Community aid, and notes that such control is provided for in the proposed convention;
7. Approves the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities as amended by the European Parliament;
8. Instructs its President to forward to the Council and Commission, as Parliament's opinion, the Commission's proposal as voted by Parliament and the corresponding resolution.

⁽¹⁾ Approval without report, pursuant to Rule 99 of the Rules of Procedure, granted on 17.12.1982 (OJ No C 13 of 17.1.1983, p.209)

B.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Committee on Development and Cooperation is in favour of the proposed new Convention between the Community and UNRWA, but insists on the deletion of the reference to Council Regulation No. 3331/82 in Article 2(1) of the Proposal for a Council Decision. Council Regulation No. 3331/82 provides for decision-making procedures that adversely affect the budgetary powers of the European Parliament.