

EURCOM WSH

PRESEURO A STRBG

COPIE AU CHEF DE LA DELEGATION

RETRANSMETTRE A NEWYORK

COMMISSION

DES

COMMUNAUTES EUROPEENNES

GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE

STRASBOURG , LE 12 DECEMBRE 1973

432

NOTE BIO COM(73) 176 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX

C. CM AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE ET MM. LES DIR. GEN. DGI ET X

REUNION DE LA COMMISSION A STRASBOURG LE 12/12/1973

LA COMMISSION A TENU UNE COURTE SESSION A STRASBOURG CE MATIN.
EN SEANCE RESTREINTE ELLE A DE NOUVEAU DELIBERE AU SUJET DES
QUESTIONS ENERGETIQUES.

AU SUJET DE LA PREPARATION DU CONSEIL DE LUNDI ET MARDI PROCHAIN

LA COMMISSION A CONSTATE QUE LES DISCUSSIONS AU COREPER SUR LA
POLITIQUE REGIONALE SE DEROULENT D ' UNE FACON SATISFAISANTE ET
LES DEBATS POLITIQUES AU NIVEAU MINISTERIEL DEVRAIENT DONC SE FAIRE
SUIVANT LES LIGNES DIRECTRICES DES PROPOSITIONS DE LA COMMISSION.
LA COMMISSION A ENSUITE APPROUVE UNE COMMUNICATION DE M. HILLARY
AU SUJET DES PROCEDURES A SUIVRE POUR L ' AGREMENT DES DEMANDES
DE CONCOURS DU FONDS SOCIAL EUROPEEN, QUI SERONT APPLIQUEES A
L ' INTERIEUR DE LA COMMISSION A PARTIR DE MAINTENANT. LA COMMISSION
A AUSSI APPROUVE LES ORIENTATIONS GENERALES POUR LES PROGRAMMES
D ' EXERCICE 1974 - 1975 AINSI QUE LES BUDGETS-PROGRAMMES D '
INFORMATION POUR L ' EXERCICE 1974, AVEC PEU DE CHANGEMENT PAR
RAPPORT AUX PROPOSITIONS DE M. SCARASCIA.

ENFIN, LA COMMISSION A APPROUVE UN PROJET DE PREMIERE DIRECTIVE DU CONSEIL PORTANT COORDINATION DES DISPOSITIONS LEGISLATIVES, REGLEMENTAIRES ET ADMINISTRATIVES CONCERNANT L ' ACCES A L ' ACTIVITE DE L ' ASSURANCE DIRECTE SUR LA VIE ET SON EXERCICE. UNE INFORMATION A LA PRESSE VOUS SERA ENVOYEE DANS LES MEILLEURS DELAIS.

QUANT AUX TRAVAUX DU PARLEMENT EUROPEEN ET, PARTICULIEREMENT AU SUJET DE ' ' L ' HEURE DES QUESTIONS' ', JE VOUS TRANSMETS INCESSAMMENT LE TEXTE COMPLET DE LA REponse DE SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES A LA QUESTION SUR LA SITUATION EN GRECE, QUI FAIT ETAT DE LA POSITION OFFICIELLE DE LA COMMISSION A CE SUJET

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REPLY BY SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES TO ORAL QUESTIONS NOS 164, 166 AND 167 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT STRASBOURG WEDNESDAY 12 DECEMBER 1973

I PROPOSE

MR PRESIDENT,

WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE HOUSE, TO ANSWER MRS CARETTONI ROMAGNOLI'S QUESTION NO 164 IN CONJUNCTION WITH MR VALS' QUESTION NO 166 AND THAT FROM MR FELLERMAIER NO 167 THEY ALL RELATE TO THE COMMUNITY'S ATTITUDE TO RECENT EVENTS AND THE PRESENT SITUATION IN GREECE .

THE HOUSE WILL RECALL MY STATEMENTS HERE IN MARCH AND IN JUNE. ON BOTH OCCASIONS I EMPHASIDED THAT ALL VIOLATIONS FO HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC FREEDOM. WHEREVER THEY OCCUR, ARE ABHORRENT TO MY COLLEAGUES AND ME. I MADE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR IN JUNE ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION THAT THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE ASSOCIATION PROGRESSING ANY FURTHER ALONG THE ROAD THAT HAD BEEN MAPPED OUT IN 1961.

I SAID THEN AND I REPEAT NOW THAT THE COMMISSION DOES NOT INTEND TO STEER EITHER WAY FROM THE COURSE WHICH IT LAID OUT FOR ITSELF IN 1967 AFTER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF THE POLITICAL AND LEGAL REALITIES. THAT SEEMS TO ME TO ANSWER SQUARELY BOTH MRS CARETTONI

ROMAGNOLI'S AND MR VALS' QUESTIONS. THE COMMISSION'S ATTITUDE HAS NOT CHANGED ONE IOTA. WHERE MR FELLERMAIER'S QUESTION IS CONCERNED, THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY'S POLICY FOR MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF ASSOCIATION ARE SIMPLE.

AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL SAID IN THIS HOUSE ON 6 JUNE :
'' THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT EXIST. IT CONTAINS NO SUSPENSION CLAUSE ... THAT IS WHY THE COUNCIL HAS DECIDED TO FREEZE THE EXTENTION OF THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT.''

THEREFOR, IN SO FAR AS THE ADMINISTRATION OF CURRENT BUSINESS REQUIRES IT, MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL CONTINUE TO BE HELD. BUT THESE MEETINGS ARE HELD AT OFFICIAL AND NOT MINISTERIAL LEVEL: AND THEY DEAL WITH NOTHING OTHER THAN THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE ASSOCIATION. AS TO THE EVENTS OF THE LAST FEW WEEKS, THE HOUSE WILL KNOW THAT I SAW THE GREEK AMBASSADOR ON 26 NOVEMBER.

I THEN EXPRESSED TO HIM THE COMMISSION'S PREOCCUPATION AT THE SITUATION AS IT HAD EVOLVED IN THE PRECEDING WEEKS. I MADE IT CLEAR TO HIM THAT THE COMMISSION'S VIEW REMAINED WHAT IT HAD BEEN EVER SINCE 1967/ THAT THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF DEVELOPING THE EEGREEK ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT ANY FURTHER UNTIL SUCH TIME AS GENUINELY DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN RE-ESTABLISHED IN GREECE - A TIME FOR WHICH ALL OF US IN THIS ASSEMBLY I KNOW, CONTINUE SINCERELY TO HOPE. ONE FINAL WORD. IT IS SOMETIMES SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMUNITY IS SHELTERING BEHIND THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN GREECE IN ORDER FOR SOME REASON TO AVOID DEVELOPING THE ASSOCIATION TOWARDS ITS PROCLAIMED OBJECTIVE OF EVENTUAL GREEK MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY. ANY SUCH SUGGESTION IS TOTALLY UNTRUE. MY COLLEAGUS AND I REMAIN FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE OBJECTIVE OF DEVELOPING THIS ASSOCIATION TO THE FULL AS SOON AS GREECE RETURNS TO THAT FRAMWORK OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS WHICHE ARE THE ESSENTIAL PRE-REQUISITE OF SUCH PROGRESS.

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