

European Communities

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Report

drawn up on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee

on the results of the Conference of Heads of Government held in Paris on 9 and
10 December 1974

Rapporteur: Mr L. RADOUX

PE 39.345/fin.

On 12 December 1974 the Bureau of the European Parliament instructed the Political Affairs Committee to draw up a report on the results of the Conference of Heads of Government held in Paris on 9 and 10 December 1974.

On 19 December 1974 the Political Affairs Committee appointed Mr Radoux rapporteur. The committee considered the draft report at its meetings of 19 and 20 December 1974 and 8 and 9 January 1975. At the second of these meetings the motion for a resolution was adopted unanimously with three abstentions.

Present: Lord Gladwyn, vice-chairman and acting chairman; Mr Radoux, vice-chairman and rapporteur; Mr Achenbach, Mr Behrendt, Mr Berthoin, Mr Alfred Bertrand, Mr Blumenfeld, Mr Corterier, Sir Arthur Douglas Dodds-Parker, Mr Faure, Mr Kirk, Mr Lücker, Mr McDonald, Mr Patijn and Mr Scott-Hopkins

The rapporteur will give an oral explanatory statement.

The communiqué of the Conference of Heads of Government is attached.

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The Political Affairs Committee hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the results of the Conference of Heads of Government held in Paris on 9 and 10 December 1974

The European Parliament,

- having taken note of the communiqué published at the end of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Member States on 9 and 10 December 1974 and of the statements made at its sitting of 11 December 1974 by Mr FitzGerald, Foreign Minister of Ireland, on behalf of the President of the Council, and by Mr Ortoli, President of the Commission of the European Communities;
- 1. Believes that the Conference's decisions could constitute an initial step towards the relaunching of Community activities leading to a strengthening of the support of the peoples of Europe and imparting a decisive impetus to the process of European unification;
- 2. Confirms its undertaking to present within the time-limit laid down, that is before 30 June 1975, its report on European Union, and expects the Council to give immediate consideration to the convention for the election of members of Parliament by direct universal suffrage;
- 3. Reaffirms the pressing need for all the institutions to take appropriate measures in all fields to put into effect the various decisions aiming at progress towards European Union and the strengthening of popular backing for the Community;
- 4. Hopes therefore that the Commission, in presenting its annual programme in February, will submit practical proposals accompanied with specific time-limits;
- 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

COMMUNIQUE

of the Conference of the Heads of Government
of the Member States of the European
Community in Paris on 9 and 10 December 1974

1. The Heads of Government of the nine States of the Community, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the President of the Commission, meeting in Paris at the invitation of the French President, examined the various problems confronting Europe. They took note of the reports drawn up by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and recorded the agreement reached by these Ministers on various points raised in the reports.
2. Recognizing the need for an overall approach to the internal problems involved in achieving European unity and the external problems facing Europe, the Heads of Government consider it essential to ensure progress and overall consistency in the activities of the Communities and in the work on political co-operation.
3. The Heads of Government have therefore decided to meet, accompanied by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, three times a year and, whenever necessary, in the Council of the Communities and in the context of political co-operation.

The administrative Secrétariat will be provided for in an appropriate manner with due regard for existing practices and procedures.

In order to ensure consistency in Community activities and continuity of work, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, meeting in the Council of the Community, will act as initiators and co-ordinators. They may hold political co-operation meetings at the same time.

These arrangements do not in any way affect the rules and procedures laid down in the Treaties or the provisions on political co-operation in the Luxembourg and Copenhagen Reports. At the various meetings referred to in the preceding paragraphs the Commission will exercise the powers vested in it and play the part assigned to it by the above texts.

4. With a view to progress towards European unity, the Heads of Government re-affirm their determination gradually to adopt common positions and co-ordinate their diplomatic action in all areas of international affairs which affect the interests of the European Community. The President in office will be the spokesman for the Nine and will set out their views in international diplomacy. He will ensure that the necessary concertation always takes place in good time.

In view of the increasing role of political co-operation in the construction of Europe, the European Assembly must be more closely associated with the work of the Presidency, for example through replies to questions on political co-operation put to him by its Members.

5. The Heads of Government consider it necessary to increase the solidarity of the Nine both by improving Community procedures and by developing new common policies in areas to be decided on and granting the necessary powers to the Institutions.

6. In order to improve the functioning of the Council of the Community, they consider that it is necessary to renounce the practice which consists of making agreement on all questions conditional on the unanimous consent of the Member States, whatever their respective positions may be regarding the conclusions reached in Luxembourg on 28 January 1966.
7. Greater latitude will be given to the Permanent Representatives so that only the most important political problems need be discussed in the Council. To this end, each Member State will take the ~~necessary~~ ^{it considers necessary} measures to strengthen the role of the Permanent Representatives and involve them in preparing the national positions on European affairs.
8. Moreover, they agree on the advantage of making use of the provisions of the Treaty of Rome whereby the powers of implementation and management arising out of Community rules may be conferred on the Commission.
9. Co-operation between the Nine in areas outside the scope of the Treaty will be continued where it has already begun. It should be extended to other areas by bringing together the representatives of the Governments, meeting within the Council whenever possible.

10. A working party will be set up to study the possibility of establishing a Passport Union and, in anticipation of this, the introduction of a uniform passport.

If possible, this draft should be submitted to the Governments of the Member States before 31 December 1976. It will, in particular, provide for stage-by-stage harmonization of legislation affecting aliens and for the abolition of passport control within the Community.

11. Another working party will be instructed to study the conditions and the timing under which the citizens of the nine Member States could be given special rights as members of the Community.

12. The Heads of Government note that the election of the European Assembly by universal suffrage, one of the objectives laid down in the Treaty, should be achieved as soon as possible. In this connection, they await with interest the proposals of the European Assembly, on which they wish the Council to act in 1976. On this assumption, elections by direct universal suffrage could take place at any time in or after 1978.

Since the European Assembly is composed of representatives of the peoples of the States united within the Community, each people must be represented in an appropriate manner.

The European Assembly will be associated with the achievement of European unity. The Heads of Government will not fail to take into consideration the points of view which, in October 1972, they asked it to express on this subject.

The competence of the European Assembly will be extended, in particular by granting it certain powers in the Communities' legislative process.

Statement by the United Kingdom delegation

The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom explained that Her Majesty's Government did not wish to prevent the Governments of the other eight Member States from making progress with the election of the European Assembly by universal suffrage. Her Majesty's Government could not themselves take up a position on the proposal before the process of renegotiation had been completed and the results of renegotiation submitted to the British people.

Statement by the Danish delegation

The Danish delegation is unable at this stage to commit itself to introducing elections by universal suffrage in 1978.

