

INTRODUCTION

Presentation of the General Report for 1970 and programme of the Commission for 1971¹

The decisions of 9 February 1971

On 9 February 1971 the Council took a number of major decisions concerning economic and monetary union. These are a matter for great satisfaction to the Commission, which should be the first to recognize their far-reaching political implications. A special word of thanks must go to Mr Werner, whose Report, following on the Commission's own operational plans, prepared the way for this drive to get Europe once more on the move. The debates in the Council were based on proposals submitted by the Commission. Once again at an important juncture in the process of European unification we have seen the political value of the intellectual give and take between the institutions and of the absolutely original role assumed by the Commission within the Community.

The Commission is well aware how difficult it will be to put into practice this scheme for a thorough recasting of the Community. But it would be a grave political error to underestimate the importance of the Council's decisions, which can without exaggeration be described as historic in the life of the Community. Unquestionably the new Commission has made a wise choice in placing economic and monetary union at the heart of its political programme.

The Commission explained its choice to the Parliament on 15 September 1970,² and now confirms it, strong in the political

¹ This introduction to the Fourth General Report on the Activities of the Communities is based on the address delivered to the European Parliament on 10 February 1970 by Mr Franco Maria Malfatti, President of the Commission, in presenting the Report and outlining the Commission's plans for 1971.

² *Bulletin of the European Communities* No. 9/10-1970.

consensus that has emerged in the Council. There were many sceptics, within the Community and without; doubtless there will continue to be many. The Commission is convinced nevertheless that there is a common political denominator, given which the objectives the Community has set itself need not be put down as unrealistic. They are ambitious objectives—the creation in ten years of a Community that can ensure within its boundaries vigorous development, full employment and stability, can eliminate imbalances between sectors and between regions, can contribute as a single unit to economic and monetary cooperation in the world. None the less these objectives are attainable and realistic. They cannot fail to open the door to greater political cohesion. Perhaps since the signing of the Treaty of Rome no choice has been of such importance to the future of the peoples and countries of the Community. The Commission knows that the difficulties to be overcome are no less great than when the Treaty of Rome was devised, or when the Community passed from the first to the second stage of the customs union. Yet in its view the general and political situation is such that it can look forward with reasonable optimism to the future. The Commission does not say that “Europe” is an established fact. But it does say that a long stride has been taken towards making it so.

Presentation of the 1970 General Report

A large part of 1970 was devoted to implementing the aims laid down at the Hague Conference of December 1969. The “spirit of The Hague”, the sign of a rediscovered political will of the six Member States, made it possible to take a great number of steps and achieve various objectives which the Commission had long been advocating.

Important political decisions were taken, marking the end of the transitional period. The process of reflection was carried further, and led to a plan for the construction of the Europe of the Seventies. The way by which the Community can attain greater dimensions and move towards wider horizons was opened.

For this reason it is worth having a look at the salient points in this succession of activities.

The decisions taken during the night of 21 April 1970 will enable the Community progressively to acquire its own resources, and permit the European Parliament to extend its powers over the budget. It should be emphasized that to the Commission these important decisions are not a goal, but merely a first, though a big, step forward. The Commission considered it regrettable that they did not take sufficient account of the Parliament's recommendations, or of its own proposals. On this point it renews its undertaking to prepare in the next two years a proposal for the further reinforcement of the Parliament's powers.

The undertaking given at The Hague on the enlargement of the Community has been met in full. From Commission proposals the Council worked out a common basis for negotiations; talks were duly opened between the Community and each of the applicant countries, and discussions are also proceeding with the other EFTA countries concerned which want to talk matters over with the Community. It is certainly not necessary to stress the importance of this great event of 1970.

Last year, too, Europe, which is seeking a fresh dimension, showed the world a new face. A genuine, though as yet incomplete, common commercial policy came into being in January 1970. The basic instruments, particularly those concerning exports which have been created since the end of 1969, and the opportunities offered by implementation of the EEC Treaty, especially its Article 113, allowed a start to be made in 1970 on carrying through this Community policy.

At the same time the policy of association in Africa saw the entry into force on the date scheduled of the second Yaoundé Convention and the Arusha Agreement. Consequently the links already established with those countries have been not just maintained, but reinforced.

In the outline of its future plans given to the European Parliament on 15 September 1970, the new Commission gave pride of place to economic and monetary union, as a cardinal element in the construction of Europe and a priority task of the Commission.

Having defined its general objective in the light of the political will expressed at The Hague, the Commission in March 1970 formulated the principles it deemed essential and the broad lines of the stages it proposed for the move towards economic and monetary union.

The Council asked a group of experts headed by Prime Minister Werner to undertake a study of the subject. On 29 October the Commission put before the Council a memorandum, a draft resolution and two draft decisions. There was at the time some controversy over the proposals, but it must be recognized that the Commission's approach was consistent and realistic, seeking not just any solution to the problem but a positive one, one that would provide a working basis for implementing the Hague decisions while ensuring the organic and global character of the plan.

To the progress on the plan for economic and monetary union were added in late 1970 two further successes which also concern the internal development of the Community—the start of Euratom's comeback and the Council's decision on the reform of the European Social Fund.

The year 1970 therefore enabled a beginning to be made on giving practical shape to the conclusions of the Hague Conference, and provided in particular the basis for development of the Community and the Council's historic decision of February 1971 on the establishment of economic and monetary union.

Programme for 1971

Nineteen seventy-one will be a year of fundamental importance in the life of the Community : the decisions on economic

and monetary union are sufficient reminder of that. The Community has experienced crises, even serious crises, in its time; it has gone through equally serious periods of stagnation, of political doldrums, of fading in the grand design to which it has all the time slowly but surely to relate its day-to-day work.

But it has also to realize that the situation today is objectively different. There is an external political situation driving us faster and faster towards political awareness of our responsibilities as a unit at world level. Within the Community subjects are being discussed which are of historic importance for our future and have a far from marginal impact on world equilibrium. These discussions do not represent vague hopes for an indeterminate future, but are the vehicle of political decisions, some of which have already been taken by the Community institutions while others, similarly far-reaching, will be taken in the course of 1971.

What significance can otherwise be attributed to the current negotiations with Britain and the other countries that have applied for membership in order to build up a ten-nation Community? Does the aim the Community has set itself not perhaps signify an important political contribution towards a better balance of forces in the world? Is it not an event pregnant with significance for the future of the Community? In this connection the Commission feels that in face of the difficulties still ahead in the negotiations insufficient attention is being paid to what has already been achieved and is important if the Community's nature and its development as an enlarged Community are to be ensured. The acceptance by the United Kingdom of the Treaties, of the Community's achievements and development—note the importance of the repeated assertions by the British that Britain is ready to go as far as the others are ready to go—of the system of "own resources", are so many elements contributing to a design in which enlargement is a factor reinforcing, not watering down, the Community.

Moreover, the conversion of the Community into an economic and monetary union is perhaps the most ambitious European project entertained since the Treaty of Rome.

Internal strengthening of the Communities

Such is the general political background against which the Commission's programme for the current year has been developed. A summary of that programme follows, though it is not possible here to touch on all its multiple aspects.

Special mention should be made of two developments in the field of social policy : first, the proposals the Commission is preparing to submit to the Council for the launching of the new Social Fund, and secondly, a more thorough and comprehensive appraisal providing a basis for the promised memorandum on social policy.

In addition, the Commission is about to finalize the first instruments for implementing the Council's basic decision of 26 November 1970 on the reform of the Social Fund.

The Social Fund

As already stated, the purpose of the new Social Fund is to provide the Community with a suitable instrument for ensuring the much desired correlation between social policy and the other common policies. Today, when the Community is about to embark resolutely on the road to economic and monetary union and the immense structure being created will establish an economic solidarity that it will be impossible to undo, it would be unthinkable if the Community were not provided with the machinery which would enable it to bear its responsibilities, including its financial responsibilities, in face of the social repercussions of the different decisions which will be adopted in widely varying fields.

The memorandum on social policy

The Commission intends to carry a stage further, and extend to embrace the areas most directly concerned, the appraisal which

must precede the final formulation of the memorandum on social policy. The memorandum will have to take into account the progress made towards economic and monetary union and the indications furnished by the Third Medium-term Economic Policy Programme, which was also adopted by the Council on 9 February 1971.

Its purpose will be to dovetail social policy into the general framework of Community policy, to outline the features of the present situation and to indicate the general objectives to be attained.

The Commission trusts that the memorandum will set off and stimulate a detailed discussion, so that the political will which is essential if intentions are to be put into action can be formed and can make itself felt at Community level.

The environment

As regards the protection of the environment in the Community, a study and research programme to identify causes of and possible remedies for environmental difficulties will be a prominent part of the Commission's proposals for scientific research.

Furthermore, the EEC Treaty provisions on the approximation of laws can, in certain specific cases, serve as a basis for harmonization of national measures.

But this kind of retroactive intervention lacks effectiveness, since the individual States are under increasing pressure to prepare legislative measures against pollution, and sometimes to adopt them as a matter of urgency. Such measures must be adopted in a Community setting in order to ensure that they do not distort competition or create fresh obstacles to trade. The Commission plans to submit proposals on these lines in 1971, perhaps making use of the possibilities afforded by Article 235 of the EEC Treaty.

Agricultural policy

As regards the common agricultural policy, the activities of the Commission and the whole Community will, it is to be hoped, be marked in 1971 by the new proposals which the Commission will submit to the Council for supplementing and amending the texts already submitted on agricultural structures.

The Commission wishes to stress the fact that it sees the agricultural policy as an indivisible whole, that is to say the price and market organization side is closely bound up with the social and the structural sides. The subject is not an easy one to deal with, but that is no reason for the Community to sidestep its political responsibilities. We cannot and must not balk at the decisions needed to get the markets into equilibrium and to make a real contribution towards the rationalization of Community agriculture and correction of serious economic and social imbalances.

The advance of the Community should be guided on such lines that it strengthens a style, a quality of life that will not be belied by pockets of depression and underdevelopment and which would deprive entire classes of producers of any clear-cut, reassuring prospect of progress. This is also the way to give millions of people an interest in the construction of Europe, to bring home to them what is being done and to put forward the construction of Europe as a qualitative leap beyond the existing limits on the distribution of wealth and the smooth growth of our economies.

In the Commission's view, the economic strength attained by the Community is sufficient to translate into practical action the objectives just referred to—objectives which, it must be recalled, are also obligations imposed by the Treaty of Rome.

Industrial policy

Integration of production structures and better territorial distribution of investment are essential if progress towards economic and monetary union and the harmonization of economic

policies are to take place against a background of rapid, balanced growth.

It is necessary, first and foremost, to expedite and round off the Commission's programme for the elimination of technical obstacles to trade.

Another fundamental component of a common industrial policy is the establishment of modern rules and regulations on freedom to tender for public contracts, a matter in which there are still substantial limitations and restrictions of a national character. The Commission appreciates the complexity of this field, and is accordingly seeking realistic solutions which can make a practical contribution to the implementation of a common industrial policy.

It must be emphasized that industrial policy cannot be regarded solely as an instrument for achieving the maximum quantitative growth of industry.

It needs to be dovetailed into a set of regional and social measures which reduce the cost of development, spread its benefits among all the inhabitants of the Community and safeguard the natural environment—a point which brings out the connections between industrial policy and the programme for protection of the environment.

An industrial programme with such complex political implications must however be subjected to the fullest possible political debate.

The Commission therefore plans, as announced in September last year, to convene for 1972—and prepare during 1971—a major conference on Industry and Society in the European Community, for the purpose of discussing what action the Community can best take to link industrial growth with social and regional requirements and with the need to improve the quality of life of its peoples. The conference would provide a forum for a full confrontation of ideas among the Commission, Governments, trade associations, trade unions and figures from the academic world.

Approximation of legislation—freedom of establishment

The prospect of economic and monetary union is also of the highest relevance to the setting of priorities for the Commission's work on the approximation of legislation, freedom of establishment and freedom to supply services.

Absolute priority is given to the progressive harmonization of taxation. Also of outstanding importance are the liberalization of capital movements and achievement of freedom of establishment and freedom to supply services in respect of banks and financial institutions, and laying the legal foundations for the policy on capital markets. To these must be added the Europeanization of company law and the abolition of legal obstacles to intra-Community trade.

As a result of this new slant to its work, the Commission will in a good many cases be unable to show tangible results in 1971. It is nevertheless aware of the need to create and guarantee the essential prerequisites for attainment of the final aim and, concurrently, to prepare in good time the various stages in the move towards economic union. In this connection it would emphatically stress the Council's undertakings with respect to tax harmonization, free movement of capital, and the correction of imbalances between industries and between regions; for its own part the Commission will, during the first stage of economic and monetary union, use its power of proposal and initiative in close conformity with this vital political decision of the Council's.

The Joint Research Centre—research and technology

In the field of research and technology, the Joint Research Centre, reorganized in accordance with the Council's decisions of last December, will operate with a large measure of independence (within the general guidelines laid down by the Commission and Council) as regards its own internal organization and the preparation and execution of research and teaching programmes.

The Commission is rapidly pushing ahead with the preparation of a multiannual research programme which should allow Euratom to emerge from its inactivity of recent years and conduct research in both nuclear and non-nuclear fields.

While the decisions of December 1970 constitute an initial success, the fact remains that they are only a small step in the direction of a genuine common policy on scientific and technological research. For there to be such a policy, three things are necessary. First, the Community's research activities will have to be extended to non-nuclear fields, in order to cover fundamental problems of common interest, such as those of pollution and of public transport. Secondly, they will have to be linked to industrial policy. And lastly, the Community will have to equip itself with effective instruments for devising and administering a common research policy. The Commission sent the Council an initial memorandum on these lines in November, and kept the Parliament informed. During 1971 it will be embodying these guidelines in concrete proposals.

That the Community should set out to equip itself for this purpose does not mean that it is becoming inward-looking or seeking technological autarky: its action is the essential condition for far-reaching and open international cooperation.

Energy policy

The need for a common European position on energy has been acutely felt of late. This fact is encouraging the Commission to continue with its work on ways and means and to make a start with the measures set out in the outline programme of 13 November 1969.

As regards oil and natural gas the Community will in 1971 seek, particularly in view of the medium-term supply position, to step up further its work on security of supply. It is clear that a common policy is important and urgently needed in the matter both of the maintenance of stocks and of the general pattern of the Community's supplies of oil and natural gas.

Furthermore, the Commission will do its utmost to ensure that by the end of the year the Council adopts the proposals submitted on various aspects of energy policy.

Transport policy

The Commission intends this year to propose to the Council two decisions on transport policy, one concerning the harmonization of relations between railways and Member States, the other dealing with the allocation of infrastructure costs.

Concurrently with these two proposals relating to vital sectors of transport policy, the Commission will continue its efforts for the harmonization of social arrangements, by submitting concrete proposals in respect of all three modes of transport. In addition, it plans to lay the foundations for further action on road safety, coordination of investment, and development of new transport techniques and methods, and it hopes to submit proposals to the Council for steps to be taken in connection with sea and air transport.

The Commission will do everything possible to see that during 1971 the common transport policy is given the fresh impetus called for if these proposals, and those already before the Council, are to have practical results.

Regional policy

Regional policy is another essential element in the internal consolidation of the Community. The Council's decision on economic and monetary union and the pressure of facts confirm the Commission in the views which underlie the proposals it submitted to the Council in October 1969.

Action by the Community should be concentrated on an overall view of the common policies and based on regional considerations, for as the effective results of the common policies

are conditioned by the territorial and social context in which they are applied, they obviously must dovetail with the data of specifically regional importance. This is a first essential if the Community is really to be a force for stability and equity; it is a first essential, among other things, for getting rid of a number of structural, and hence persistent, causes of inflationary pressure. In particular, the future policy on agricultural structures and the activities of the reformed Social Fund will have to be thought out and pursued in the light of this requirement.

As the Council rightly affirmed on 26 October, the Community bears a responsibility in regional matters. But to attain the objectives just listed it will have in the next few months to set up the machinery needed if this responsibility is to be made effective.

Enlargement

Where enlargement is concerned, the Commission has done much and has not failed to exercise its powers of initiative: the solutions already adopted have been based on its proposals. The Commission now faces some months of complex discussion, for the problems to be resolved are themselves complex. The results of the negotiations in progress can only be properly assessed if it is borne in mind that, firstly, the political objective is of outstanding importance, secondly, all concerned are anxious to keep the negotiations moving at a brisk pace, thirdly, many important points have already been settled, and fourthly, it seems clear that what is wanted in connection with the financial contribution during the transitional period—and this is one of the main issues still outstanding—is an arrangement for gradual adjustment to the system of “own resources”. On this point, the Commission takes the view that the machinery must not be contradictory, that it must not make it impossible, when the time comes, to apply the permanent system for independent Community revenue or be such that it hampers the phased adjustment of the applicant countries to the financing rules of the Community.

Clearly, in view of what is at stake, we are entitled to hope that the negotiations will quickly be brought to a successful conclusion. The fact that they are now concerned not with marginal but with central issues is a guarantee that effort will not be squandered on minor technical questions but be concentrated firmly on the politico-economic core of the problem.

The Commission consequently feels that its interest and its duty both require it to keep in close touch with the European Parliament and the appropriate Parliamentary committees. While the delicate nature of the matters under negotiation does necessarily mean that on some questions discretion must be the order of the day, the fact remains that the political implications of enlargement are of such importance that they call for the assistance of all responsible bodies, in particular those which are an emanation of the popular will.

The Community in the world

While the prospect of enlargement is giving a new dimension to the Community's role in the world, the Commission is also aware that the Community's internal development is adding to its international responsibilities. The past months have clearly shown the ever-increasing importance of the network of relationships between the Community—especially an enlarged and closer-knit Community—and the rest of the world.

The common commercial policy

Now that the transitional period is over, the Community is required to establish a common commercial policy. The Commission attaches great importance to this matter, which will entail adopting a genuine overall strategy in place of the somewhat haphazard, or at any rate piecemeal, decisions taken hitherto, and giving a broad interpretation to Articles 113 and 116 of the Treaty of Rome.

The weight which the Community carries in world trade is such that it demands well considered long-term political decisions. We cannot on an improvised, day-to-day basis discharge our responsibilities or translate into the necessary political action our economic position as the world's foremost trading power. Our aim must be on the one hand not so to construe the Treaty as to conflict with the desire and the duty—to say nothing of the practical advantage—of speaking with one voice in this matter, and on the other not to make the mistake of reducing a tremendous economic fact to something soulless and lifeless, bereft of political will.

Only so will it be possible both for national interests to be given their due and for the Community properly to discharge its international responsibilities. With this end in view, the Commission is now preparing, among other things, practical proposals on credit insurance which it intends to submit as soon as possible.

The Community and the international organizations

Then again, the Community must be represented at and take part in the work of international organizations, in the negotiations, held under their auspices, and when international agreements are concluded. It will be among the Commission's tasks in the future to see that the Community as such is accorded the position which under the Treaty of Rome is due to it after the expiry of the transitional period.

Development aid

Relations between the industrialized and the developing countries are a field in which the Community must persevere in its determination to perform its duties to the full.

The year 1971 is expected to see a major event, the entry into force of the system of generalized preferences for industrial products exported from any of the developing countries.

The Community's offer of generalized preferences on a world scale is a bold contribution to development aid policy. It is a far-reaching offer, which stems from the Community's conception of the future relations between developed and developing countries, yet reflects the need to safeguard in practice certain essential Community interests.

Raw materials, which are excluded from the generalized preferences, will require attention in the future; here the problems are more difficult still. But here too the Commission will pursue, wherever possible, a policy of world agreements.

It is apparent that what the Community is doing for the developing countries would be far more effective if it were not confined essentially to tariffs and trade and if the Community had at its disposal a more extensive set of instruments so that it could react more suitably to each particular situation. Accordingly, the Commission intends this year to propose that all the Community authorities deliberate together on joint or national measures and operations that will make it possible to move gradually towards a Community policy on development cooperation.

Generalized preferences and association

It is in this context that the Community's policy of association with various developing countries should be viewed.

Its association with the African countries and Madagascar, as emerged clearly from the recent stimulating debates at the Parliamentary Conference in Yaoundé, is the outcome of special responsibilities arising from history, from geographical proximity and from a complex of traditional relations not exclusively commercial in character.

Inasmuch as the association policy relates in particular to the countries of Africa, which are the most underprivileged in the Third World, it tends to offset the inequality in development

potential and is thus a factor of equity and equilibrium in the world, which must remain a permanent feature in the Community we are building. Moreover, as has been said again and again, it is a policy that benefits many and harms none.

The efforts that are being made to reconcile and adapt to each other the regional and the global aspects of development aid will be greatly facilitated by the overall deliberations on cooperation in this matter which the Commission plans to propose this year.

Mediterranean policy

Reasons of history, geography and common traditions have combined with political and economic developments to focus on the Mediterranean area a new awareness of the role the Community is called upon to play there.

The Commission feels the Community could make a substantial contribution to stability and development in the area. It does not deny, however, that it considers the commercial policy instruments at present available to it to be insufficient for its purposes even in the Mediterranean.

Relations with the United States

Still in this same perspective of an active Community presence in the world, the Commission is following with close attention the development of relations with the United States.

True, measures such as the Mills Bill are not exactly constructive, and the Commission trusts therefore that the Bill's reintroduction is more a tactical manoeuvre than a measure it is actually intended to implement.

The Commission takes this opportunity of repeating its conviction that an escalation of reciprocal restrictions between the European Community and the United States would have dangerous and unforeseeable consequences, not only for those immediately

concerned, but for the whole world. It is ready and anxious to seek constructive means of preventing the start of such a dangerous process.

The Commission is persuaded that some divergence of interest between the two largest trading powers in the world is in the nature of things, but that this must be reduced to its due proportions. Efforts should therefore be made to establish a new climate of mutual trust and open-mindedness. The Commission is certain that this new awareness could help to restore the atmosphere that has traditionally prevailed in relations between the Europe of the Community and the United States.

Negotiations with Japan

In the same spirit the Commission has been negotiating, and intends to continue negotiating in 1971, with Japan. A trade agreement between the Community and Japan could be a notable contribution to the liberalization of international trade. If both parties press forward along this path, the negotiations will end in the establishment of a cooperation which will offer additional assurance that certain fundamental principles of conduct in world trade will be observed.

Eastern European countries

As regards the Eastern European countries, 1971 promises to be a year of transition, pending the arrival of 1973 when the Six are to adopt a common commercial policy towards those countries too. The Commission considers, however, that in the intervening two years the Community must act with the fullest possible cohesion, in order that the framing of the future common commercial policy shall not be prejudiced by some fortuitous step, some unplanned action. Needless to say this is in no way intended to restrict possible commercial, economic and technical cooperation with Eastern Europe: on the contrary, the Commission is convinced that cooperation can be better developed in this way.

Conclusion

Such is the Commission's programme for 1971, which will have to be rounded off, in the light of the decisions on economic and monetary union which the Council took on 9 February 1971.

The Communities are going through a time when mere management of their heritage is not enough. The Commission feels, accordingly, that the tasks it has undertaken to perform in 1971 must be seen as part of a single organic whole; while the bonds of interdependence among all the achievements of the Communities must be cultivated, these achievements must be looked upon as the expression of a design which it will take the span of the present decade to complete.

To this end the Commission, pursuing a clear-out political aim, will make use of its right of initiative and proposal, and will seek to ensure that decision-making is not bogged down or drowned in the quagmires of technical detail or specialization. This original institution is very much alive to its own role and function in the Community: even as it rejects analogies which in effect debase its prerogatives, so it rejects interpretations which reduce its role and function, since it is convinced that the Treaty of Rome purposely set out to establish an autonomous institution independent of the Council and dependent for its maintenance in office on the trust of the European Parliament.

In the Commission's view, the construction of the Community demands more and more that all should observe the rules which make up the Community heritage. It intends therefore to see that such observance is the universal rule of conduct, so that the delicate balance upon which the Community rests may be strengthened.

It is in the logic of events that the Community will one day have to make fundamental choices as to its pattern of internal development and its position in the world. Since this time is now close upon us, the Commission is convinced that everything should be done to ensure that these choices are made in full

knowledge of the facts and under optimum conditions. The Community's future must not be prejudiced by present action taken to deal with sectoral stresses or short-term problems.

The Commission realizes that the progress of unification carries the postulates for radical and complex changes in the European scene.

The first timid steps towards political cooperation proposed in the Davignon Plan are also an expression of the dynamism produced by the present phase of European unification: they open up new vistas which are bound to become part and parcel of the Community process.

In this connection the Commission considers that it has a definite duty—one which, incidentally, is also a functional requirement—to ensure that this development can go forward smoothly, without breaks and without imbalances between its different components.

It is in this active, forward-looking loyalty to the spirit of The Hague that the Commission intends to exercise its responsibilities.

The Commission is profoundly convinced that it would not be making the most of that loyalty and that responsibility if it did not seek the help and cooperation of all the truly vital forces in the Community, and above all of the institution in which those forces find their most authoritative and representative expression. It intends, as in the past, to make of the dialogue with the Parliament a constant feature of its action, convinced that it will find in the Parliament the response which, without infringing on the responsibilities of either side, is the reflection of a commitment undertaken in common.