



EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE

EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION DOCUMENTATION BULLETIN

1993 □ Vol. 9

Edited by
the European University Institute (Florence)
and
the Institut für Europäische Politik (Bonn)

European Political Cooperation Documentation Bulletin

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The European Political Cooperation Documentation Bulletin is published once a year. From the next issue the title of this publication will change to 'European Foreign Policy Bulletin'.

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Via dei Roccettini, 9
I-50016 San Domenico di Fiesole (FI)
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Publication of the *European Political Cooperation Documentation Bulletin* is undertaken on a non-profit basis.

**EUROPEAN
POLITICAL COOPERATION
DOCUMENTATION
BULLETIN**

1993 □ Vol. 9

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 1996

ISBN 92-827-6440-0

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Printed in Luxembourg

Foreword

This fourteenth issue of the EPC Documentation Bulletin covers the term of office of the Danish Presidency (1 January to 30 June 1993) and the Belgian Presidency (1 July to 31 December 1993). It includes:

- the official declarations of the European Council, of the Foreign Ministers and of the Twelve, including statements in international conferences and organizations;
- all documents related to the European Parliament, i.e. replies to oral and written questions, statements and reports presented by the Presidency (or abstracts thereof) on matters of EPC.

We would like to thank all those who helped us in collecting material for this issue. Our gratitude specially goes to Emir Lawless from the European Documentation Centre at the EUI, and to Julia Valerio, Caterina Tomei and Barbara Ciomei, who helped in the preparation of this issue.

The Editors

How to use the EPC Bulletin

The documents issued in the framework of European political cooperation are normally published in English or in French if no official English version is available.

They have been given a unique document number for quick reference in the index of the Bulletin and for purposes of citation.

The document number indicates the year in which the document is issued, as well as the place of that document in the EPC Bulletin. Documents are ordered chronologically, and numbered consecutively throughout the volume covering one year.

The cumulative index of the EPC Bulletin refers to document numbers, and therefore to the place of a document in a given volume. If for technical reasons a document can not be included in the volume concerning the year in which it was issued, it will be published in a later volume. In the cumulative index a reference to such a document will be accompanied by a reference to the volume in which the document can be found.

At the beginning of each document basic information concerning the date of issue, the city of issue, the country holding the Presidency and its status can be found.

At the end of each issue the cumulative index can be found, which contains different classes of information for which the documents have been specifically analysed. This index has been developed by members of the European Policy Unit and the Institut für Europäische Politik, aided by a group of experts which includes senior diplomats and scholars of several European Community Member States. It is designed to cover all aspects of European political cooperation, its structure and activity. Thus one will find the following classes of information:

- The category *EPC structure and procedure* contains all references to statements of EPC which comment on or illustrate the working of EPC or its relation with the European Communities.
- The category *Contacts* reports all official relations with third countries, international organizations and political groupings.
- *Geographical reference categories* indicate countries, regions and subregions, whenever these are intrinsically dealt with.
- The category *International organizations and political groupings* does the same for all international organizations, political groupings and conferences of relevance to EPC.
- Finally, issues are classified by subject matter in the general *Issues* category.

The index is open-ended to enable the inclusion of new issues as they arise on the agenda of European political cooperation. It is cumulative from one issue of the EPC Bulletin to the next. By consulting the index in the most recent issue, the user should thus be able to trace all EPC documents relating to a specific country or subject matter and issued during the entire period covered by the Bulletin.

List of Abbreviations

A-ALC	Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee
ABM	Anti-ballistic missile
ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific States
A.C.P.	Pays d'Afrique, des Caraïbes et du Pacifique
ADD	Association for Development and Democracy
A.D.D.	Association pour la Démocratie et le Développement
A.E.L.E	Association européenne de libre-échange
AEMM	ASEAN/EC Ministerial Meeting
A.G., A.G.N.U.	Assemblée générale des Nations Unies
A.I.D.	Association internationale de développement
A.I.E.A.	Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique
AJV	ASEAN industrial joint ventures
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
A.N.A.S.E.	Association des nations de l'Asie du Sud-Est
ANC	African National Congress (South Africa)
A.N.C.	Congrès national africain (Afrique du Sud)
A.P.D.	Assistance publique au développement
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum
APLA	Azarian People's Liberation Army (South Africa)
ARC	Groupe arc-en-ciel (PE); Rainbow Group (EP)
A.S.E.	Agence spatiale européenne
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
Azapo	Azanian People's Organization (South Africa)
B	Belgium; Belgique
BLEU	Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union
Bull. EC	Bulletin of the Commission of the European Communities; Bulletin des Communautés européennes
C.A.C.	Comité administratif de coordination
C.A.E.M.	Conseil d'assistance économique mutuelle (Comecon)
CAP	Common agricultural policy
CARICOM	Caribbean Community and Common Market
C.C.G.	Coopération du Golfe
C.C.I.	Corps commun d'inspection (O.N.U.)
C.C.Q.A.B.	Comité consultatif pour les questions administratives et budgétaires
CD	Conference on Disarmament
CDE	Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe

List of Abbreviations

C.D.H.	Commission des droits de l'homme
CDM	Citoyens du monde (US)
CDU	Christlich-Demokratische Union (Deutschland)
C.E.	Communautés européennes
C.E.E.	Communauté économique européenne
CELAD	High-Level Intergovernmental Group of Coordinators
CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CFE	Conventional armed forces in Europe
C.F.P.I.	Commission de la fonction publique internationale
CFSP	Common foreign and security policy
CHD	Conference on the Human Dimension
CHR	Commission on Human Rights
C.I.C.R.	Comité international de la Croix-Rouge
C.I.J.	Cour internationale de justice
CIREFCA	International Conference on Central American Refugees
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CMEA	Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon)
CMO	Comprehensive multidisciplinary outline
CND	Commission for Narcotic Drugs
CNR	Committee on Natural Resources
CNRSE	Committee on New and Renewable Source of Energy
C.N.U.C.E.D.	Conférence des Nations unies sur le commerce et le développement
C.N.U.D.	Commission des Nations unies du désarmement
COCOM	Coordinating Committee for Export Controls
CODESA	Convention for a Democratic South Africa
COM	Communist and Allies Group (EP); Groupe communiste et apparentés (PE)
Comecon	See CMEA
COPAZ	Commission for the Consolidation of Peace
COREPER	Committee of Permanent Representatives to the European Communities (Comité des représentants permanents auprès des Communautés Européennes)
COSATU	Council for South African Trade Unions
COST	Coopération européenne dans le domaine de la recherche scientifique et technique
CPA	Comprehensive plan of action
CPC	Committee for Programme and Coordination
C.P.C.	Commission pour le programme et la coordination
C.P.E.	Coopération politique européenne
CPSU	Communist Party of the Soviet Union; Parti communiste de l'Union soviétique
CSBM	Confidence and security building measures
CSCE	Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

C.S.C.E.	Conférence sur la sécurité et la coopération en Europe
CSCM	Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean
C.S.C.M.	Conférence sur la sécurité et la coopération en Méditerranée
CSDHA	Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs
CSFR	Czech and Slovak Federal Republic
CSO	Council of Senior Officials
CSU	Christlich-Soziale Union (Bayern)
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
D	Federal Republic of Germany; République fédérale d'Allemagne
DDA	Department for Disarmament Affairs (UN)
DK	Denmark; Danemark
Doc.	Document
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
DR	Group of the European Right (EP); Groupe des droites européennes (PE)
DR	Drachma
DTCD	Department for Technical Cooperation for Development
E	Spain; Espagne
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Communities
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECHO	Emergency Coordination and Relief Office
ECIP	EC investment partner
ECLAT	High Level Group of Coordinators
ECMM	European Community Monitor Mission (Former Yugoslavia)
ECOFIN	Council of Finance Ministers of the European Community
ECOMOG	ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group
ECOMSA	European Community Observer Mission in South Africa
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
E.C.O.S.O.C.	Conseil économique et social
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECSC	European Coal and Steel Community
Ecu, E.C.U.	Unité monétaire européenne
ECU	European currency unit
ED	European Democratic Group (EP); Groupe des démocrates européens (PE)
EDF	European Development Fund
EDU	Europol drugs unit
EEA	European Economic Area
EEC	European Economic Community
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EIB	European Investment Bank
EMI	European Monetary Institute
EMS	European Monetary System

List of Abbreviations

EMU	Economic and Monetary Union; European Monetary Union
ENMOD	Convention on the Prohibition of Military or any other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques
EOHR	Egyptian Organization for Human Rights
EP	European Parliament
EPC	European political cooperation
EPLF	Eritrean People's Liberation Front
EPP	European People's Party; Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democratic Group) (EP)
ESA	European Space Agency
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EURAD	Europe against drugs
EUROPOL	European Police Office
F	France
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FEOGA	Fonds européen d'orientation et de garantie agricole
FICSA	Federation of International Civil Servants Associations
F.I.C.S.A.	Fédération des associations de fonctionnaires internationaux
F.I.D.A.	Fonds international de développement agricole
F.I.N.U.L.	Force intérimaire des Nations unies pour le Liban
F.I.S.E.	Fonds des Nations unies pour l'enfance
F.I.O.M.	Fédération internationale des organisations de travailleurs de la métallurgie
FLS	Forward-looking strategies
F.M.I.	Fonds monétaire international
FMLN	Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (El Salvador)
FRG	Federal Republic of Germany
FRY	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)
FUM	Friends United Meeting (CSCE)
FYROM	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
G.A.T.T.	Accord général sur les tarifs douaniers et le commerce
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GDR	German Democratic Republic
GEF	Global environment facility
GNP	Gross national product
GR	Greece; Grèce
GSP	Generalized System of Preferences
H.C.R., H.C.N.U.R.	Haut commissariat des Nations Unies aux réfugiés
HE	His Excellency
HONLEA	Heads of National Law Enforcement Agencies
HRD	Human Resource Development
HRTF	Human rights task force
I	Italy; Italie

IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IATA	International Air Transport Association
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICARA	International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa
I.C.A.R.A.	Conférence internationale sur l'assistance aux réfugiés en Afrique
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICDAIT	International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Traffic
ICFY	International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
IDA	International Development Association
IEPG	Independent European Programme Group
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGC	Inter-governmental Conference
IIP	International investment partners
ILC	International Law Commission
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INC/FCCC	Inter-governmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change
INF	Intermediate-range nuclear forces
INSTRAW	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRA	Irish Republican Army
IRL	Ireland; Irlande
ITTA	International Tropical Timber Agreement
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
JCC	Joint Cooperation Committee
JIU	Joint inspection unit
JNA	Jugoslovenska Narodna Armija (Yugoslav National Army)
JO	Journal officiel (des Communautés européennes)
KGB	Komitet Gosudarstvdnnoi Bezopasnosti; Committee of State Security (USSR); Comité de la sécurité d'Etat (U.R.S.S.)
L	Luxembourg
L	Liberal and Democratic Group (EP); Groupe libéral et démocratique (PE)
LAIA	Latin American Integration Association
LDC	Less developed countries, developing countries
LLDC	Least developed countries
LTTE	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelan

List of Abbreviations

MBFR	Mutual and balanced force reductions
MECU	Million ECU (European currency unit)
MEP	Member of European Parliament
MERCOSUR	Treaty on the Establishment of a Common Market in the Southern Cone of the South American Continent
MFN	Most favoured nation
MINURSO	UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
MLL	Minimum living level
MNR	Mozambique National Resistance
MPE	Membre du Parlement européen
MTCR	Missile Technology Control Regime
MTN	Multilateral trade negotiations
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration (United States)
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NACTU	National Council of Trade Unions (South Africa)
NDP	New Democratic Party
NERS	National emergencies relief services
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NI	Non-inscrits (PE); Non-attached (EP)
NL	The Netherlands; Pays-Bas
NLD	National League for Democracy
NMC	National Manpower Commission (South Africa)
N.P.F.	Nation la plus favorisée
N.P.S.A.	Nouveau programme substantiel d'action
NPT	Non-Proliferation Treaty, Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NRSE	New and Renewable Source of Energy
O.A.C.I.	Organisation de l'aviation civile internationale
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OCT	Overseas countries and territories
ODA	Official development assistance
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
O.E.A.	Organisation des Etats américains
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OIC	Organization of the Islamic Conference
O.I.T.	Organisation internationale du travail
OJ	Official Journal (of the European Communities)
O.L.P.	Organisation pour la libération de la Palestine
O.M.I.	Organisation maritime internationale
O.M.S.	Organisation mondiale de la santé
ONCE	UN Observer Group on Central America
O.N.G.	Organisation non gouvernementale

ONUCA	United Nations Observer Group on Central America
O.N.U.	Organisation des Nations unies
O.N.U.D.I.	Organisation des Nations unies pour le développement industriel
ONUSAL	Observadores de las Naciones Unidas en El Salvador
OPANAL	Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
ÖSFK	Austrian Study centre for Peace and the Settlement of Conflicts
O.T.A.N.	Organisation du traité de l'Atlantique Nord
O.U.A.	Organisation de l'unité africaine
P	Portugal
PAC	Pan-Africanist Congress
PDD	Partnership for Democracy and Development
PE	Parlement européen
PECC (P.E.C.O.)	Pacific Economic Cooperation Council
PFP	Progressive Federal Party of South Africa; Parti progressiste fédéral (Afrique du Sud)
PHARE	Poland and Hungary: aid for economic restructuring
PKK	Kurdish Workers Party
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
P.M.A.	Pays les moins avancés
P.M.D.	Pays les moins développés
PNET	Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty
P.N.U.D.	Programme des Nations unies pour le développement
POW	Prisoner of war
PPE	Parti populaire européen; Groupe du parti populaire européen (Groupe démocrate-chrétien) (PE); Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democratic Group) (EP)
PTBT	Partial Test Ban Treaty
P.V.D.	Pays en voie de développement (developing countries)
QC	Queen's Council
RDE	Groupe des rénovateurs et du rassemblement des démocrates européens (PE); Group of the European Renewal and Democratic Alliance (EP)
REDWG	Regional Economic Development Working Group
Res.	Resolution(s); Résolution(s)
R.F.A.	République fédérale d'Allemagne
RPF	Rwandan Patriotic Front
RSA	Republic of South Africa
R.S.A.	République sud-africaine
RSFSR	Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic
R.S.F.Y.	République fédérale socialiste de Yougoslavie
S	Socialist Group (EP); Groupe socialiste (PE)
SA	South Africa

List of Abbreviations

SACCOLA	South African Consultative Committee on Labour Affairs
SADCC	Southern African Development Coordination Conference
SADF	South African Defence Forces
SALT	Strategic Arms Limitation Talks; Négociations sur la limitation des armements stratégiques
SAM	Sanctions Assistance Missions
SAP	Structural Adjustment Programmes
SARC	South Asia Regional Cooperation
SCR	Security Council Resolution
SDI	Strategic Defence Initiative
SEA	Single European Act
SELA	Latin American Economic System
SFRY	Social Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
S.I.D.A.	Syndrome d'immuno-déficience acquise
SLL	Supplemented living level
SLORC	State Law and Order Restoration Council (Burma)
S.M.E.	Système monétaire européen
SNAP	Substantial new programme of action
SNC	Supreme National Council
SSOD	Special Session on Disarmament
START	Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty
STD	Science and Technology for Development
SWAPO	South West African People's Organization
TACIS	Technical Aid for the Commonwealth of Independent States
TEC	Transitional Executive Council
TEM	ASEAN/EC Trade Experts Meeting
TEMPUS	Trans-European Cooperatin Scheme for University Studies
T.N.P.	Traité de non-prolifération, traité sur la non-prolifération des armes nucléaires
TPA	Turkish Peace Association
TREVI	Terrorisme, radicalisme et violence international
TTBT	Threshold Test Ban Treaty
TWA	Trans-World Airlines
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UDF	Union Defence Force (South Africa)
UDI	Unilateral Declaration of Independence; Déclaration unilatérale d'indépendance
U.E.B.L.	Union économique belgo-luxembourgeoise
U.E.O.	Union de l'Europe occidentale
UK	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
U.M.A.	Union du Maghreb Arabe

UN	United Nations
UNAFRI	United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
UNAMIR	United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda
UNAVEM	United Nations Angola Verification Mission
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDC	United Nations Disarmament Commission
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNDOF	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
U.N.E.S.C.O.	Organisation des Nations unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture
UNFDAC	United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNGOMAP	United Nations Good Offices Mission for Afghanistan and Pakistan
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
UNIIMOG	United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group
Unisa	University of South Africa; Université de l'Afrique du Sud
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
U.N.I.T.A.R.	Institut des Nations Unies pour la Formation et la Recherche
UNOMSA	United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa
UNOMUR	United Nations Observer Mission at the Uganda/Rwanda Border
UNOSOM	United Nations Operation in Somalia
UNPAAERD	United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development
UPILD	Political Union for Independence, Freedom and Democracy in Laos
UNPROFOR	United Nations protection force (Former Yugoslavia)
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
U.N.R.W.A.	Office de secours et de travaux des Nations unies pour les réfugiés de Palestine dans le Proche-Orient
UNSCOM	United Nations Special Commission

List of Abbreviations

UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UNTAC	United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia
UNTAG	United Nations Transition Assistance Group
UNTSO	United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine
UPILD	Political Union for Independence, Freedom and Democracy in Laos
URNG	Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union (Union Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca)
U.R.S.S.	Union des républiques socialistes soviétiques
US; USA	United States of America
U.S.A.	Etats-Unis d'Amérique
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
WEU	Western European Union
WFC	World Food Council
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
YNA	Yugoslav National Army
ZANU	Zimbabwe African National Union
ZAPU	Zimbabwe African People's Union
ZOPFAN	Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality in South-East Asia

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93/001. Statement on Kenya

Date of issue: 8 January 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States welcome the holding of multi-party elections in Kenya on 29th December 1992 as an important step in the ongoing democratization process in the country.

The Community and its Member States have also noted with satisfaction that the Kenyan people exercised their democratic right to vote in great numbers and in a peaceful manner throughout the country, thus providing an impressive degree of political maturity. They have, however, noted with concern reports by international observers as well as national monitors of irregularities in the election process.

The Community and its Member States hope that all parties will not turn to violence but use legal means to seek redress of all grievances related to the conduct of the election process.

The election results seem to represent a broad reflection of the choice of the Kenyan people, and the Community and its Member States therefore urge all political parties to take up their seats in Parliament and find ways and means to work together within the constitutional framework, for the future peace, prosperity and unity of Kenya.

93/002. Statement on Iraq

Date of issue: 8 January 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States remain deeply concerned about Iraq's repeated violations of relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Iraq has continued its deliberate policy of hindering UN inspection teams in performing their responsibilities in accordance with SCR 687 and subsequent resolutions. Harassment and intimidation of humanitarian relief convoys and personnel are part of the overall pattern.

The Community and its Member States strongly condemn this Iraqi pattern of non-compliance with its obligations under international law.

The repeated Iraqi incursions into the no-fly zone south of the 32nd parallel and the deployment of surface-to-air missiles into the zone pose an imminent threat to the international community's efforts to see that all relevant UN Security Council resolutions are implemented by Iraq, and cannot be accepted.

The Government of Iraq bears the full responsibility for the present unacceptable situation. The Community and its Member States demand that Iraqi evasion of the no-fly zone is brought to an end immediately.

93/003. Statement on Cameroon

Date of issue: 11 January 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States welcome the ending of the state of emergency in the North West Province and note the offer by the government on 19 December 1992 to let an EC enquiry commission visit Cameroon.

They urge both the government and the opposition to seize the opportunity to normalize the situation throughout the country and not take actions which might create new tensions.

The Community and its Member States are all the same concerned at allegations of recent human rights violations and call on the government to institute inquiries into these cases.

93/004. Statement on the former Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 13 January 1993

Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States met in Paris on 13 January 1993 to discuss the present state of the negotiations in Geneva under the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. They heard a report on this matter from Lord Owen.

The Ministers expressed their firm support to the efforts of the Conference and the two co-chairmen. The proposals for a political solution to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina tabled in Geneva represents the only possibility for a peaceful outcome.

The Ministers expressed their unequivocal demand that the Bosnian Serbs accept the proposed constitutional framework for Bosnia-Herzegovina and the document on military arrangements without any conditions whatsoever within the next 6 days.

If this will not be the case, the European Community and its Member States will ask the Security Council of the United Nations to consider measures needed to be taken accordingly. Time is running out and no more delaying tactics will be tolerated.

While the negotiating process gives some hope for positive progress, the military actions and aggressions by the Bosnian Serbs continue to inflict immense human suffering on the population of Bosnia-Herzegovina, most notably its Muslim inhabitants.

The Ministers stressed the need for an International Criminal Court and expressed their readiness to support this issue at the United Nations.

The European Community and its Member States will ask the Security Council of the United Nations to complete its consideration on enforcement of the UNSCR 781 ('no-fly zone').

The European Community and its Member States consider it of the utmost importance to strictly implement the agreed sanctions towards Serbia and Montenegro. The leaders of those republics must use all their undoubted influence on the leaders of the Bosnian Serbs to make them understand that by their present acts of violence and unspeakable brutality towards the population of Bosnia-Herzegovina they are dooming themselves and the 'Federal Republic of Yugoslavia' to total international isolation with the gravest consequences for a very long time to come.

The European Community and its Member States will remain actively seized of the matter. Preparatory work on further measures leading to total isolation will start immediately, and Ministers will reconvene if the present hope for a negotiated settlement in Geneva is not fulfilled.

93/005. Statement on the programme of the Danish Presidency

Date of issue: 20 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Programme speech in the European Parliament

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Council: Mr President, honourable Members, the EC is undergoing a period of transition. From the Treaty of Rome via the Single European Act to the Treaty of Maastricht.

Approval of further development of European cooperation comes at a time when large sections of the European people are calling for popular debate of Community Europe, its development, direction and democratic shape.

I therefore find it appropriate to put forward some thoughts, a vision of the new Europe and its demands and challenges.

You have doubtless seen the logo of the Danish Presidency. The ship is a powerful symbol. Its twelve-man crew expresses Denmark's affirmation of its EC membership, its Nordic affiliation, its individual character and our close links with the outside world.

Many people have the perception that society and the world are in constant flux and that an increasingly unpredictable reality creates a feeling of impotence.

In some this impotence manifests itself in aloofness from or direct rejection of new initiatives. Historically viewed, this is a well known reaction.

In others this rejection is given a specifically political foundation and is thus the expression of a conscious political choice based on a perception of the irreconcilability of different values.

In the course of 1992 this situation gave rise to debate in Europe, in particular on the democratic deficit, openness, subsidiarity and transparency.

The debate is continuing. It is now taking place not just in government departments, national parliaments and the EC administration, but at the workplace, in companies, at educational establishments and among employers and employees as well as intellectuals. And would we here not do well to remember that our form of democracy derives from the grass roots and is nourished by debate, deliberation and discussion?

The December meeting in Edinburgh produced a solution on Denmark and the Maastricht Treaty which was good for the Community and good for Denmark. Great goodwill was shown by the other Member States. The same was true of the Commission and its President.

A further Danish referendum will presumably be held in April or May. Seven of the total of eight parties in the Danish Parliament – the Folketing – have approved the outcome of the negotiations in Edinburgh.

Denmark has now assumed the Presidency to lead the Community for six months with enthusiasm and vigour. It is happening at a time when Europe is changing.

The goals are:

- to put an end to the division of the continent of Europe and establish a solid foundation for the construction of the Europe of the future;
- to strengthen solidarity among the peoples of the Member States accompanied by respect for their histories, cultures and traditions;

- to promote peace, security and progress in Europe and world-wide;
- to create the conditions for self-sustaining economic growth which will bring down excessively high unemployment.

The Community today occupies a key position in the shaping of Europe's future political and economic structures and the transformation of European culture from an industry-based culture to an information-based culture. This is evidenced by the palpable attraction the Community exerts on the European countries which are not part of it.

The Maastricht Treaty and the Edinburgh agreements, including the provisions on openness and subsidiarity, will strengthen current cooperation and the dynamic role of the EC, providing the power to make a massive input into Central and Eastern Europe. The western part of Europe will be hard put to maintain its present economic level or the stability it has achieved if chaos spreads in the eastern part of Europe and the flows of refugees from civil wars grow into migrations.

Impressive results were achieved in the Community in 1992. The Treaty on European Union was signed. Central political guide-lines for further development were defined at three meetings of the European Council. The Danish Presidency will develop and strengthen the Community on that basis to lay the strongest possible foundations for the Treaty on European Union.

The internal market is a corner-stone of European cooperation. The date of 1 January 1993 is a milestone in the history of the Community. For a good seven years there has been a legislative process of which the Member States and the institutions can be justly proud. Although the internal market has not yet been fully realized, we are very close to that goal. The effect on economic growth has been positive. The Community has strengthened its competitive position *vis-à-vis* the USA and Japan. The Danish Presidency will strive for the resolution of still outstanding problems and the adoption of the remaining legal instruments of importance to the internal market by the Community institutions. The Presidency hopes that the Member States will do their utmost to translate EC legal acts into national legislation. The strongest possible breakthrough will thus be achieved in Europe's economy, which badly needs such a stimulus.

The Presidency is also attentive to the need for the internal market to be backed by other joint actions. One area to which we must all pay attention is persistently high state aid, which distorts conditions of competition unduly. By the same token the internal market must be accompanied by steps to guarantee the working environment and conditions of employees at the workplace. Allow me in this connection also to emphasize the importance of strengthened dialogue between industry and labour. The Presidency notes that steps in this direction have already been taken in the Single European Act and welcomes the fact that these steps have been strengthened in the Treaty on European Union. There is no doubt that the Community and the forthcoming Union must attach increasing importance to these matters, and this viewpoint is incorporated in the Danish Presidency's work programme.

European businesses are in the longer term dependent on research and technology. The Community already makes an important contribution on the present basis. The Danish Presidency feels that this contribution must be increased. That is why the fourth Framework Programme for research and technological development has high priority.

The governments and the Community institutions became aware in 1992 that large sections of the peoples of Europe were uneasy that the decision-making procedures were too secret and were conducted in a way which made it hard for citizens to keep abreast of a legislative process in which they justifiably had a great interest. As integration, and with it the Community, become more immediate to the individual citizen, the need is growing for a transparent and easily understood decision-making procedure. In this connection we might also observe how questions were raised with mounting intensity for greater clarity as to which tasks the Community should take on and which are better dealt with by national or regional authorities. We all know of examples of EC

law which perhaps seemed right at the time of adoption but subsequently proved to be at variance with a sensible and purposeful division of labour between the Member States and the Community. Examples of this kind have been brought up in the public debate. They have had a negative effect on public support for European integration.

It is therefore with great satisfaction that the Danish Presidency notes the significant steps on which agreement was reached at the meetings of the European Council on 16 October and 11 and 12 December 1992.¹ It shows that the Member States and the Community institutions are not floating somewhere up in the clouds but are picking up signals, nay almost demands, for reforms and changes in the Community's structures and working methods.

From the start of the Danish Presidency the new Council procedures for applying the subsidiarity principle will be used. This means that, each time it deals with a proposal, the Council must take a position on whether a particular measure is to be taken by the EC or can be better adopted by the Member States themselves. The subsidiarity principle should not, however, be used for the pointless 'renationalizing' of important areas of Community work. The Danish Presidency is working diligently to make the subsidiarity principle a practical and tangible reality and in that way help to bring the EC closer to its citizens. I am pleased that the President of the Parliament and the President of the Commission can agree to my proposal that the trialogue on the subsidiarity principle be started today.

Openness in the EC will be a watchword for the Danish EC Presidency. We are the first one to have responsibility for implementing the Edinburgh decision on openness in practice. Our ambitions in this area will be high. The first open Council debate will take place at the meeting (Foreign Ministers) on 1 February 1993 when the Danish Presidency's work programme is discussed. In the meantime the Council Secretariat will install the facilities required for the televising of open Council debates. We also intend to propose that each time the Council discusses an action programme or a framework programme, the discussion should take place in an open Council session. In this way the public can be informed of developments in EC policy in different areas of cooperation. The Presidency further intends to propose that each time the Council discusses the question of subsidiarity in connection with concrete proposals from the Commission, the discussion should be held in open Council session. In this way cooperation will be brought closer to the citizen. The Presidency sets great store by cooperation with the Parliament and the Commission on this important issue.

The Presidency also attaches great importance to cooperation between the European Parliament and national parliaments. Increased cooperation between parliaments will contribute among other things to facilitating cooperation between Community institutions and thereby help us to advance EC cooperation further.

Other important points on which the Presidency will place emphasis are:

- making information on work in the Council and on EC legislation more accessible and more intelligible to the public;
- securing the publication of voting records when formal votes are held in the Council;
- holding press conferences in advance of all Council meetings.

Regular reforms of Community financing arrangements have over the years become something of a tradition. I remember how much time we spent on this when 10 1/2 years ago I stood here for the first time as Council President. It took place against a background of strife between Council and Parliament – in the meantime we have developed wholly civilized modes of cooperation. The agreement reached at the Edinburgh meeting on the future financing of the Community is the third reform in something over eight years. The Danish Presidency welcomes the fact that peace now reigns in this important area. We are fully aware of the keen political interest being felt in a number of Member States in connection with the establishment of a new Cohesion Fund and the reform of the Structural Funds. A political commitment was given at the European Council meeting

in Maastricht. Now there is agreement among the Member States on the financing arrangements. Still to be accomplished are the implementation of the requisite legal instruments and an agreement with the Parliament on the long-term financing framework for various types of expenditure included within the Community budget. That task requires the collaboration of the institutions. The Presidency gives high priority to cooperation with the Parliament and the Commission on this point. We will be having a dialogue meeting this very day with the Parliament and the Commission, at my suggestion.

Before moving on to enlargement and relations with the outside world I should like to draw attention to economic policy and employment. No one will deny that economic growth is too low, with the consequence that the development of employment is totally inadequate. Before the Edinburgh meeting the Commission put forward ideas concerning a contribution from the Community to supplement Member States' efforts to solve the problem. These endeavours are supported by the Presidency, and the first meeting designed to produce concrete results was the Council meeting (Economics and Finance Ministers) hurriedly convened two days ago by the Presidency precisely in recognition of the importance of a common contribution in this area.

It became clear at that meeting that the Member States regard this issue as one of the absolutely top priorities in work over the coming six months. Furthermore, agreement was reached on the aim of quickly setting up a European Investment Fund in order to bring infrastructure investment in the Community under way.

The Member States also decided that they would coordinate their national growth proposals together with the Commission in order to derive greater effect from individual Member States' initiatives. It is accordingly planned that as early as February the Council will put the issue of economic recovery on the agenda again in order to achieve rapid, concrete results from the growth initiative.

In that connection I would also point to the initiative taken by the Norwegian Prime Minister, Ms Brundtland, for a joint EC/EFTA ministerial meeting. The Presidency actively supports the idea. A meeting of EC/EFTA Economics and Finance Ministers is therefore to be convened in conjunction with the ECOFIN Council meeting on 19 April 1993, when together with our EFTA partner countries we can give further impetus to this matter.

The Danish Presidency is more than satisfied that the long-standing debate on extension or enlargement of the EC has now given way to political agreement on pursuing both objectives at the same time.

On 1 February the accession negotiations with Austria, Sweden and Finland begin. The Presidency hopes that the Commission will deliver an opinion on Norway very shortly so that the negotiations with that country can be embarked on without delay. It is the Presidency's view that accession negotiations with these countries can be concluded swiftly. A large part of the work has in fact been done with the EEA Agreement. In that sense the EEA fulfilled an important function for the EFTA countries and for the Community in a number of respects.

It bears witness to the Community's strength that there is political agreement to embark on enlargement to include those EFTA countries which have applied for membership. It is a clear signal to the outside world that the EC and subsequently the European Union is not an exclusive club but a living association which has the ability and the understanding to make its contribution to international developments both in Europe and on the broader geographical front.

The Presidency is convinced that enlargement to include these countries will mean a strengthening of the Community and the Union. This will be confirmed by a glance at the history of Europe and the economic and social structure of the countries concerned. It will be a stronger European integration that emerges from the planned enlargement. And it is this consideration which underlies the conclusions of European Council meetings at which enlargement is discussed and

which moreover provide the outline of the conditions for accession to the Community which the present twelve Member States have established and are planning for.

The Presidency will work to secure a further development of the ties with the countries of Southern and Eastern Europe in accordance with the Lisbon and Edinburgh conclusions. The Community must discuss these countries' role in the future European architecture, and negotiations on this must be conducted with the countries concerned.

The Community has a special obligation towards the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The events of the last four years have given us responsibility for the development of that part of Europe and thereby the development of Europe as a whole for the coming decades. The Danish Presidency acknowledges that responsibility and assigns very high priority to achieving concrete results in the form of improvements in and an extension of the existing cooperation.

Before the Edinburgh meeting the Commission produced a report entitled 'Towards a Closer Association with the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe', which in the Presidency's view both states a correct political objective and puts forward concrete proposals for realizing those objectives. In cooperation with the Commission the Presidency will organize preparatory work in such a way that decisions can be taken at the European Council meeting in Copenhagen on 21 and 22 June 1993 in line with the proposals in that report.

The Presidency will further the dialogue with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and work to secure an extension of the existing Cooperation Agreements.

Great importance is also attached to developing the economic and political ties with the CIS countries. The Presidency hopes that it will be possible to sign a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with Russia during the first half of 1993.

During the period of our Presidency Denmark intends to convene a conference in Copenhagen at Foreign Minister level to discuss broader and longer-term cooperation between the countries of what used to be called Western Europe and those of what used to be called Eastern Europe. Denmark hopes that a conference of this kind will make a valuable contribution to both the Community's own plans and the prospects for cooperation which are emerging on the broader geographical front.

There is no doubt that the situation in the former Yugoslavia is the problem which will demand the greatest effort from the Danish Presidency. For the conflict, as anyone can see for himself daily, is not resolved – on the contrary, the need for genuine progress becomes more and more pressing, not least to prevent the war from spreading to other parts of the Balkans.

We must therefore mobilize those fundamental human qualities which will enable us to stop the perpetration of genocide.

I feel bound to ask: how long can we go on looking at ourselves in the mirror? Playing the role of firemen discussing how to put out the fire when all is being devoured by an inhuman holocaust? Do we hear the screams – which also come from the wretched and homeless knocking at our doors? And we frequently encounter one of the most malignant, mindless and primitive of all feelings: racism.

[...]

Must the winning side always be immune? Frontiers cannot be altered through use of force. On that we must stand fast. It is one of the principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe dating back to 1975.

The world today faces a whole series of new global challenges which are so great that they can be solved only by joint international action. The EC and the USA have particular responsibility in this respect as the upholders of democracy and the free market economy.

Today Bill Clinton takes up office as President of the USA. It is natural that on such a day we should pay particular attention to transatlantic relations.

The new global challenges make demands on the old democracies. The Danish Presidency will have as one of its chief tasks to work towards the strengthening and intensification of transatlantic relations with a view to ensuring a joint response to these challenges. The Presidency therefore hopes to pursue an initiative with the following five central features:

Firstly, we will try to strengthen cooperation between the EC and the USA in order to promote political and economic stability in Eastern Europe and the CIS. The attitude of the West to the crisis in the former Yugoslavia has made abundantly clear the need to improve coordination between the actions of Europe and the USA. We must pull in the same direction.

Secondly, in a situation where unemployment is unacceptably high, we will try to see that the EC and the USA cooperate in re-creating and promoting economic growth and employment in the industrialized world. The Presidency's views on this point were already explained in greater detail at the Council of Ministers for Economic and Financial Affairs on 18 January. As stated above, this issue is an absolutely top priority for the Danish Presidency. On the basis of a common EC approach we shall actively endeavour both in relation to the USA and in the broader G7 [G-7] context to gain the support of the whole industrialized world for strong joint efforts to promote growth and employment.

Thirdly, the dialogue between the EC and the USA concerning the GATT negotiations must be stepped up in order to achieve a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round. This will be of considerable importance for further developments. A solution is needed urgently – much is at stake.

Fourthly, we must endeavour to satisfy expectations and demands regarding an active United Nations. The need for this is greater than ever before. The EC and the USA should therefore work together in strengthening the UN's resources and organization, including peace-keeping efforts. An essential part of this process is, moreover, a more vigorous dialogue on human rights prior to and during the UN Conference on Human Rights to be held this year. The EC and the USA should cooperate actively in setting up an International Court of Criminal Justice.

In the run-up to the UN Conference on Population Problems in 1994, the EC and the USA should step up the dialogue on an international refugee policy in the light of the new global challenges posed by migration and population pressure.

Fifthly, the EC and the USA must be in the van in the struggle against organized international crime, drugs and terrorism.

There is a need for continual development of transatlantic relations – and not only by stepping up political dialogue. We must go further. Developments in the Community – with the inclusion of new areas of cooperation – make it only natural for dialogue and cooperation to cover new topics and thus build on the undertakings into which both parties entered in the Transatlantic Declaration of 20 November 1990.

The Danish Presidency will keep in close touch with the Commission on this matter. During the Presidency's forthcoming visit to the USA in February these questions will be discussed with the US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, and the Council will have an initial discussion of the problems at its meeting on 1 February 1993 in connection with the presentation of the Presidency's work programme.

The Community is a party to two major rounds of negotiations which were to be terminated but have not yet been completed. They concern the EEA Agreement and, as indicated earlier, the Uruguay Round. It goes without saying that the Presidency is attentive to the need to resolve the problems outstanding quickly. The need for swift completion and implementation of these rounds of negotiations can hardly be overestimated, not only for psychological reasons, but also with regard to the effect on the economic situation.

The CSCE must be expected to become more and more involved in resolving current conflicts. The Presidency will work in particular towards strengthening the CSCE institutions and carrying forward the discussions on the CSO's working methods.

Outside Europe, one of the most important tasks is the Middle East peace process. On the bilateral track, the Presidency's efforts will concentrate on keeping the parties on the path of negotiation. Hand in hand with the development of bilateral negotiations, the Community will have a particular obligation on the multilateral level to take concrete steps to help ensure the social, economic, security and environmental conditions for lasting and comprehensive peace arrangements.

The Presidency will place Africa high on the agenda. Collective efforts should support democratic and sustainable development and in particular benefit the poorest sectors of the population. It is our task in South Africa to back up the peace process that is already under way. Force shall and must be brought to a halt. In Somalia, it is hoped that the massive UN intervention will pave the way for the start of a genuine peace process. There will be a need here for initiatives which can help to get the peace process under way.

Finally, in the sphere of human rights the Presidency will try to clarify the relationship between human rights and democracy on the one hand and dynamic development on the other.

May I conclude by reminding you that any assessment of the future involves understanding of the past. Working on that premise, one of the foremost political analysts of the post-war period, the Frenchman Raymond Aron asked a fundamental question at the start of the 1960s. It was whether historians of the future would regard the European wars of the 20th century as the final convulsions of a doomed civilization.

The unspoken answer behind Raymond Aron's words was yes.

Today everyone can see that developments have taken a different turn. European civilization is being re-organized and strengthened. Europe is alive and well. The EC provides palpable evidence of this, and the European Parliament has made its contribution.

As President of the Council, I felt it important to give Parliament this report on the Danish Presidency's work programme. I do not know if I will be the one to carry it through. It seems rather unlikely. This having been said, may I add that I would like to keep the possibility open of additions and amplification during Parliament's February part-session. That will then be a matter for whoever is then President of the Council.

Mr President, the Presidency looks forward to open and constructive cooperation with the European Parliament, the new Commission, the other EC institutions and the Member States.

Thank you, Mr President.

[...]

[After the following debate Mr Ellemann-Jensen stated:] Mr President, I should like to reply immediately to the speeches made by the spokesmen of the political groups.

I will start by thanking my good old friend and colleague, Leo Tindemans, for his kind remarks. But he also expressed some worries about the Danish Presidency. What will happen now? What about Denmark and Denmark's attitude towards Europe in general? I would like first of all to reassure both Leo Tindemans and the Parliament as a whole, that all of the Danish political parties, which are at all likely to participate in a new government, back what I have said today on the Danish Presidency. All of them. I confirmed this with them beforehand, so I could be certain of being able to stand here and tell the European Parliament something which would still be supported when the time came to implement it. In other words, a new Danish Government will naturally feel bound by it. Let there be no doubt about this. I should like to echo what people usually say in Denmark, when a shopkeeper makes a farewell speech before handing over the business to a successor: I ask you please to extend the same goodwill you have shown me to my successor.

Mr Tindemans is disappointed in Denmark and says: do not damage our Community! There is no need for alarm. Now, it goes against the grain for Danes to boast. We are the most unassuming of peoples, but let me anyway, since this question come up, point out that lists are drawn up year by year to show who is complying to the greatest extent with all that has been agreed. Denmark has stood at the top of these lists year after year. We are sometimes awkward when it comes to striking agreements, but we stick to those agreements we make. The same applies to the Court. We are probably those who are taken to court the least often. When once in a while we are unlucky enough to have a ruling go against us, we set to back home, tearing each other apart over things which other people envy us for having thought up, and we are annoyed that it did not go our way after all.

I mention these things in passing, so that people understand that up in our slightly chilly part of Europe, where the blood often flows a little more sluggishly in the veins, we perhaps sound slow-moving and awkward, but we are European-minded, and we want to make a go of things. We conscientiously live up to the commitments we make. Cast a glance at former Yugoslavia. We are the country which is currently offering the greatest humanitarian aid, per head of population, of all the Community States. We are the country which provides 60 out of the total of 350 EC monitors. We are the country which, per head of population, provides the greatest number of UN troops. So do not come to me and say that this is not a country which gets actively involved in international co-operation, or which is prepared to live up to its commitments.

This is how things will continue, and the democratic process that has been taking place in Denmark surrounding the Maastricht Treaty has, in my view, led to something which benefits everyone. This remark is also directed at those spokesmen who have specifically mentioned this issue and that of closeness to the people and openness in the Community, for this has helped to create a new awareness of these points and thereby hastened a development which was already underway. But in Edinburgh we found a joint solution to this, which I believe will be of benefit to us all.

I fully agree with Mr Tindemans, when he says that subsidiarity is a fine concept. But it can prove dangerous in practice, and as has been said by numerous other people, including Kirsten Jensen in her speech, the principle of subsidiarity must not be misused, for example, in the environmental sector, to create a renationalization of policies which need a joint solution to be effective. So I agree with both Mr Tindemans and Ms Jensen when they warn us to be careful that this principle is not misused.

As regards the question of institutional reform in connection with the enlargement, may I say to Mr Tindemans that this has been thoroughly analysed, and I agree fully with the Commission's conclusion, namely that as far as the immediate enlargement is concerned, there is no need for institutional reforms. This I think is important, stressing too, as it does...

[...]

Thank you for the polite remark!

It is important to stress this, in order to highlight how close the four applicant countries, which we are dealing with now, are to our present Community.

Ms Jensen was saying we are rather the victims of our own right of veto when it comes to the recognition of new states. No name was mentioned, but we are probably thinking of the same one. On that I can only say: I quite agree. This illustrates the point that our efforts at creating a common approach in matters of foreign policy cannot always achieve results. So now we must hope that this problem finds a rapid and reasonable solution within the UN, so that we each can ensure that new flashpoints are not created in a corner of Europe already in turmoil.

I should also like to thank Mr Galland for his kind words, and I echo him fervently in saying that progress in the environmental sector is urgently needed. So we will also work at finding a

quick solution to the question which Ms Jensen also spoke on that of the site of the Environment Agency. This issue has dogged us for years.

Mr Iversen from The Greens I should like to thank for his kind remarks, and I thank him for his quotation from Machiavelli. Perhaps I can come back on that by suggesting to Mr Iversen that he take his Bible and look up Luke, chapter 1 v.14. There is an apt message for Mr Iversen which answers the Machiavelli quote. Mr Iversen raises the question of whether the new countries, which are applying to join the Community, are not to have the same rules as Denmark has negotiated for itself. Both the new countries and the Community have made it quite clear that the new countries are applying for membership of the Community as it now stands, and as it has been agreed it will become. But at the same time it has been established – as it was back in the Lisbon conclusions² – that any country, be it an existing or a future Member State, naturally must be treated according to its own special circumstances, be those geographic, cultural or political. Everyone is dealt with individually, and that is indeed one of the strengths of our Community that we do this. So it is important to underline that the receptiveness which was shown by our partners towards Denmark cannot automatically be taken over by others. They must each discuss the problems on the basis of their own circumstances.

Mr Lalor stressed the very great importance of securing the implementation of the agreements we have made on the funds, of getting a strong social dialogue going and of consolidating the European Monetary System. I must say I quite agree.

Mr Bonde is trying to conduct an internal Danish discussion here in the Parliament. I shall not waste Parliament's time with it. I will just say quite generally that I do not agree with any of what Mr Bonde is saying! I say that because otherwise he will go home and say that I did not disagree with anything he said. If I might make a personal comment: if there is something I am looking forward to, it is that in a couple of days' time, I shall no longer have to waste time in constantly repudiating and refuting all Mr Bonde's false claims.

Mr Miranda da Silva spoke about openness and closeness; these are things which need to be taken seriously. I quite agree.

Lastly I should also like to thank Mr Christiansen for his kind personal remarks. But I must, in the interests of accuracy, add a brush-stroke or two to the picture he painted of the Danish economy. For the Danish economy has never in its post-war history, in all its history, stood in such a strong position on the international stage as it does now. That is a well-balanced picture, and one we can be proud of handing on to our successors. That in itself will be a source of strength for any Danish Presidency.

[...]

[After the continuing debate Mr Ellemann-Jensen stated:] Mr President, one of the speakers in this debate, I think it was Mr Forte, said that representatives of small countries can often speak more plainly than representatives of large countries. And the last two interventions by Mr Paisley and Mr Kostopoulos very much tempt me to speak plainly. I am not at all sure they will appreciate what I have to say, but I shall say it nonetheless, since I feel that it is precisely those two speeches that bring out how important it is that we avoid breaking the clear rules on which we are trying to build our Community to prevent hatred flaring up between the various ethnic groups – that hatred which is to be found in so many places on our unhappy continent, which today has the chance to become a happy continent, that hatred which in so many places has caused so much war and misery.

I would say very clearly to Mr Kostopoulos that it is not the Community that has been at fault in this affair. It is his own country, Greece. In the course of the past year we have sought to find a solution that conforms to international rules. We have used our good offices, we have dispatched

several mediators, we have considered to what extent Macedonia complies with international law. I say to you very clearly: Macedonia is respecting its obligations! There remains the problem of the country's name, and I fully understand how the Greek people feel about this. None of us can doubt that those feelings are deep and sincere. It is unfortunate that we have not been able to find a solution. But to be perfectly frank again: Greece has not made things any easier by its conduct, I would even say by its unreasonable conduct, in that it has disregarded all the efforts that have been made, all the deals that have been tried to amend the constitution, etc.

But where do we stand today? Today we are in an uncomfortable position: I fear the judgement of history because we have held back the recognition of a small independent country which, when all is said and done, has satisfied the requirements of the international community. We have listened to a partner who says it feels threatened by a country smaller than itself. I shall be very frank: as a member of the European Community and as a member of NATO, I feel very offended by the Greek attitude, since it implies doubt about the solidarity of other states.

But we have allowed ourselves to be influenced – as was said in an earlier intervention – we have been tied down by our desire to be always at one, tied down by what is in fact a right of veto and this is why we gave in to a partner, even when that partner acted unreasonably. We withheld recognition from a small country whose government, led by President Gligorov – a country I visited recently – represents one of the remaining hopes that still subsist in former Yugoslavia. A country which, in spite of considerable internal tensions, has managed to maintain a coalition government among the various ethnic groups but which, today, sees that fragile balance threatened, not least through the failure of the international community to recognize it.

I should like to repeat what I said at the beginning: I very much hope that the UN Security Council will swiftly recognize Macedonia and that many Community Member States will do likewise so that we salve our common conscience of this taint of non-recognition of Macedonia and the unreasonable attitude of a single Member State that holds us all hostage. I hope my language is clear enough to be understood.

Apart from this, I should like to thank the many speakers who have spoken kindly of me. They have given me great pleasure. In the 10 1/2 years I have been in my job, I have enjoyed the contacts there have been with the European Parliament. For when we all sit in the Council of Ministers and in other places, we are often so polite to one another. The good thing about the European Parliament has been that here we are all parliamentarians, who on occasion speak frankly to one another, but who are still good friends afterwards, even though we sometimes have felt the air crackle with our differences of opinion. Many things have been said here which I shall make sure are passed on to those into whose hands the Presidency passes. I am sure that many of those things will be answered at the next meeting the Presidency is to have with the Parliament.

Just for the record, I must tell Mr Forte that Malta has not been forgotten. The European Council has voted to speed up the cooperation with Malta. Personally I have no doubt of Malta's joining the Community as a matter of course.

To those who have expressed concern over our changing horses in midstream, as Mr Kofoed put it, may I say that we have done everything in our power to prepare this Presidency so that our partners will [be] inconvenienced as little as possible by the fact that now and again we have problems agreeing on who is going to do what. As I mentioned when I replied earlier, there is a broad consensus in Denmark on these things. We are in the fortunate situation whereby the opinion polls ahead of the referendum we are going to have are looking extremely favourable. Even though I know I lost my credibility as a sooth-sayer when I foresaw a Yes at the last referendum, I hope that this time I can be taken more seriously, on account of these opinion polls. And it is my hope that this same cross-party consensus among those Danish parties which are engaged in various government-forming exercises will be seen by our partners, and not least, by the Parliament here,

as being a sign that the Danes are not turning the Presidency and the assumption of these responsibilities into pawns in our internal political disputes. As far as that goes, we help one another, irrespective of who is sitting in the chair and holds responsibility. We help each other because we know that, particularly for a little country – and most of all for a country like Denmark, which last year drew a certain amount of attention to itself, firstly by beating a number of the large countries at football, and thereafter by holding a referendum which has been referred to here – it is going to be especially important to conduct the Presidency in a manner which inspires respect, and we all want to pull together on that. I am sure too that this will appear from the speech which the next President-in-Office of the Council will make at the next meeting with Parliament.

[After the continuing debate Mr Ellemann-Jensen stated:] Mr President, twelve days ago I was in Sarajevo. I walked around the streets of Sarajevo, saw the inhuman conditions in which people were living, people carrying cans of water; we heard gunfire in the distance, saw the shattered windows, smelt the smoke – people were burning everything that could be burned to provide some warmth.

From Sarajevo I flew on to Skopje. A few hours after leaving Sarajevo I learned that at a place I had passed just half an hour before the Bosnian Deputy Prime Minister had been assassinated. On my arrival at Skopje, I met President Gligorov, a respected figure in the search for peaceful solutions. He told me of the problems he faced, of his fear that what had happened at Sarajevo might spread to his own country, and he asked for international help to make sure that that did not happen.

So I would say to my Greek friends here, without wishing to give any offence, that nothing is to be gained by refusing discussion, by paying attention only to what twelve states can agree upon when one realises... please do not interrupt me, what I am saying is serious, and it is a lot more serious for those people who are living in Macedonia than for the much larger country to the south which is internationally recognized, which is with us in the Community, which is a member of NATO, and which has everything which this little country is without; but this little country is afraid, and I have seen with my own eyes what it is afraid of. I have experienced the smell of Sarajevo, and I have seen the people who have to live there. So forgive me if I am a little impatient, if I have the feeling that there are some people who are spoiled and misuse the opportunities they have.

Naturally I am not speaking on behalf of the Governments of the Twelve. That goes without saying. I have already made that clear. But if you really are interested, I can tell you of the feeling within the Council and what I personally think: the eleven other Member States are getting fed up with Greece's obstructive attitude. We therefore have to find a solution, for the sake of Greece as well.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/449.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/253.

93/006. Statement on the situation in the former Yugoslav republics

Date of issue: 20 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Statement in the European Parliament

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President of European political cooperation: Mr President, the crisis and the war in the former Yugoslavia has now been occupying us all for almost two years. The break-up of Eastern Europe and the efforts of the many states to find a new, fruitful way forward are increasingly in danger of being overshadowed by the horrors of the war in the former Yugoslavia. We have invested enormous resources in this crisis, both economically and politically speaking.

I do not think we could have done otherwise. Yugoslavia's bloody collapse is of such critical importance for this region and for the whole of Europe that it is right that we should direct such a large proportion of our attention to it. The outside world – including not least the EC – is being blamed in many quarters for having increased, yes, even caused the crises in the area. This is fundamentally wrong. This type of accusation can only weaken the chances of remedying these very negative developments.

From the outbreak of the war, the EC has sought [to] mediate between the warring parties, for only they will be able to create the basis for a long-term peaceful solution to the problems. We have offered support in every area. We have done this by encouraging dialogue between the parties. We have done it by sending out monitors, whose task it is to offer support in solving specific problems there where they arise, to observe what actually goes on in the individual areas, and to offer support in the shape of humanitarian aid to what is a very considerable extent.

We have assumed this responsibility, because it was only natural for the EC, as the most important Western European cooperative organization, to play a major role in resolving the crisis. Under Lord Carrington's chairmanship, we sought to get the parties to see that only by accepting the principles of the co-existence of states, which were considered unavoidable in the new Europe, could there be favourable opportunities for the development of their peoples and states.

The London Conference in August 1992 carried these principles further. They now form the basis for the International Conference in Geneva. It may be that this seems irrelevant to some, perhaps even bizarre, that people talk about principles, whilst the civilian population in the area is constantly subjected to one monstrous attack after another. But it is no coincidence, for the EC's policy from the beginning has been two-stringed: on the one hand to try to reduce human suffering, on the other, to try to establish the basis for a long-term solution to the problems. The one is a precondition of the other.

The peace negotiations in Geneva are a clear reflection of this dual approach. The same applies to the proposal tabled for a new constitution for Bosnia-Herzegovina, and to the proposals which have been made for military arrangements, which are directed towards a cessation of hostilities. The peace negotiations are based on those principles which have guided the EC throughout the break-up of Eastern Europe. Peoples' right to self-determination, including the right to decide on what state they wish to set up. This is something which everyone must respect. At the same time, borders cannot be moved without reciprocal agreement. Since the majority of the borders in this part of Europe are not clear-cut ethnic borders, it is clear that this creates minorities on either side of the borders. This neither can, nor should alter the basic principles I have named here. The objectives for people's right to self-determination must not be the creation of ethnically 'pure' states, as the Serbian leadership is unfortunately trying to seduce its people into believing and acting upon. But the target must be states where all citizens have equal rights and where the special rights of the minorities are respected, and where there are non-divisive borders. The present situation in the former Yugoslavia gives scant grounds for optimism.

If the Serbian leadership and the Serbs within and outside Serbia can see that they are irreparably damaging their own interests if they continue the present policy of aggression, then one of the preconditions necessary for a peaceful solution will have been achieved. It was established most recently at the extraordinary meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers, which we held in Paris last week, that Serbia and the Bosnian Serbs face total international isolation, if they do not consent to abide by the international norms for the conduct of civilized states. We very much hope that they will grasp this message now in the eleventh hour. For we can have no interest either in

seeing a poor, authoritarian, aggressive Serbia, without future economic prosperity and political stability. But if the agreements reached are reneged on, and if the fighting does not stop, then we are left with no option other than to put into effect this total isolation of Serbia. If only the situation in the former Yugoslavia in the foreseeable future were as clear-cut as our policy aim for the area. We will do everything in our power to integrate the new states, which have appeared in the wake of Yugoslavia's collapse, into the European Community. Developments in Slovenia show already that this is the right objective. We are facing an enormous task in the former Yugoslavia. Firstly, we have to help prevent the fighting from spreading. We must ensure that the present fighting stops. Then we have to secure the parties on a basis for long-term peace. That will require at least as many resources as our present commitment.

Finally, we have to contribute towards the formation and re-creation of a functioning society, which is able to cope with all the unavoidable tasks which have to be carried out in a modern society. We neither can nor ought to shrink from this. There is much at stake in the former Yugoslavia, both for the population there and for us.

93/007. Question No H-1081/92 by Mr Kostopoulos on human rights in Syria

Date of issue: 20 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

In a recent report Amnesty International expressed its concern that the Syrian authorities are continuing to violate human rights, despite the fact that hundreds of political prisoners were amnestied in December 1991 and March 1992. What representations has European political cooperation made to Syria to put an end to the arbitrary arrest and imprisonment of 'politically suspect persons' and human rights activists by the Syrian security forces?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are keeping a close watch on the human rights situation in Syria and have on many occasions expressed their concern about reports of continuing infringements. As the honourable Member himself observed, the Syrian Government has recently taken encouraging steps to improve the situation. It has announced the release of about 4,000 political prisoners in the course of last year, including 550 at the beginning of December, and also took steps to facilitate emigration by Syrian Jews. Around half of the 4,000 Jews have now left the country.

The Community and the Member States will continue to support this positive development and underline the great importance they attach to respect for human rights, which are a significant factor in their relations with third countries.

93/008. Questions No H-1260/92 by Mr Oostlander on the reception of concentration camp victims and H-1268/92 by Mr Woltjer on refugees from the former Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 20 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-1260/92:

Has EPC already made progress with regard to the reception of concentration camp victims from Bosnia-Herzegovina in accordance with the principle of solidarity and equitable burden sharing?

Can EPC give Parliament an assurance that access to the Member States will not in future be denied to displaced persons who can no longer be received in the immediate vicinity, under the cynical pretext that Croatia should be regarded as the first host country?

Question No H-1268/92:

What specific measures can be taken in the short term to alleviate the refugee problem of the former Yugoslavia?

Answer:

Mr Ørstrøm Møller, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: May I refer the honourable Member to the answer to Question No H-1241/91, which covers the same subject? The European Council at its meeting in Edinburgh confirmed that it would implement the measures agreed on at the Council meeting in Birmingham.¹ The Council expressed its admiration for the courage and determination shown by UNPROFOR, the ECMM airbridge, the UNHCR, the ICRC and the other organizations involved in the dangerous task of providing emergency relief. The Council also called on the parties to allow the humanitarian convoys to pass unhindered. Further measures are necessary in order to protect the civilian population, both through the creation of safe areas and through the reception in Member States of especially exposed groups of refugees. The Community and its Member States will continue to react sympathetically to the need for humanitarian aid. The meeting of the European Council in Edinburgh expressed its support for UN Security Council Resolution 787,² which authorizes the steps, including military action, which are necessary to ensure that emergency aid can be provided.

Mr Pack (PPE): Mr President-in-Office, that was not an answer to Mr Oostlander's question, that was an answer to a question that was not even put. Mr Oostlander and I would very much like to know how it is that refugees from war zones are received in other countries other than those in which they would normally seek refuge. Is it acceptable that Croatia should continue to bear the main burden? Over 850,000 refugees are already in Croatia. That is just like 12 million refugees coming to Germany. Can you imagine that, Mr President-in-Office?

I should like to know what EPC is doing to see that other countries that are not too far away, such as the United Kingdom, take in more refugees than Croatia and, notably, the Federal Republic of Germany.

Mr Ørstrøm Møller: I think that, on this point, I can refer to what was said in the conclusions of the European Council meeting in Edinburgh, in which the question raised is examined and in which there is clear reference to the importance of the matter and to the need for something to be done. The conclusions state that the Community and its Member States will continue to respond sympathetically to efforts to solve the humanitarian problems and provide humanitarian aid. The matter is thus being discussed in the Community, and the Community is attentive to the problems which exist.

Mr Habsburg (PPE): Mr President-in-Office, your answer is quite unsatisfactory. Sadly nothing but twaddle has come out of all these conferences – there has not been one single practical initiative. How are we going to arrive at a fair distribution of the refugees across Europe? What has the Council done about this? Has it put any pressure on governments? Has he demanded that more

countries take in refugees? Some states are congratulating themselves on having accepted two or three hundred people, but what is that compared with the many thousands of people in Croatia? What is being done about this, Mr President-in-Office?

Mr Ørstrøm Møller: I think that, as I have said, all of us in the Community, the Member States and the Community's institutions are attentive to the problem and agree that we are confronted with a serious problem to which we must seek a solution. But I do not think that I can give a more detailed answer in concrete terms, because there is nothing more than I have already indicated. I refer to what was said at the European Council meeting, where concern was voiced that attention should be directed to those groups of refugees who are particularly exposed.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/354.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/450.

93/009. Questions No H-1261/92 by Ms Banotti on UN military personnel in Somalia and H-1296/92 by Mr Andrews on protecting aid workers in Somalia

Date of issue: 20 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-1261/92:

Could EPC inform me whether it is in favour of the proposed UN military operation in Somalia, will it encourage European participation in this operation, and has it any plans to send further emergency aid to Somalia immediately?

Question No H-1296/92:

What contingency plans does EPC consider should be put in place to protect foreign aid organizations' workers in Somalia amid concerns that, once large-scale US military intervention begins, foreign aid workers could be taken as hostages?

Answer:

Mr Ørstrøm Møller, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: As indicated in the statement of the Foreign Ministers on 7 December,¹ the Community and its Member States fully support Operation Restore Hope in Somalia. As the honourable Member will be aware, a number of Member States have offered to make troops available for the operation or have already contributed in this way. In addition a number of Member States are contributing financially to the deployment of troops through the United Nations Somalia Trust Fund, which has been set up for this purpose. In the same statement of the Foreign Ministers, the Community and its Member States drew attention to the special importance they attached to the safety of personnel involved in the emergency relief work in Somalia. A large number of EC citizens are involved in relief operations in the country. I can assure the honourable Member that the Community and its Member States, in close cooperation with the Unified Command, will seek to secure the safety of humanitarian aid workers as far as possible. The Community and its Member States deeply deplore the recent killing of a UNICEF worker. The Community's combined contribution to the humanitarian aid in Somalia last year amounted to a full MECU 100. About half of this amount was used for food aid,

over 230,000 tonnes, and the remainder for other relief work, including the protection of humanitarian aid convoys under UN auspices.

The individual Member States have also all made substantial bilateral contributions, of which some had a rehabilitation element. The Community and its Member States are ready to continue these efforts in the current year.

Ms Banotti (PPE): That is what we call in English a list of pious aspirations. We know all this. What I was really interested to hear was something new. The question was tabled before the current United Nations US forces went into Somalia and we are reading in the papers stories that they are due to be withdrawn fairly quickly. What I really wanted to know was what is going to happen if and when the new US President withdraws the US forces, because it is obvious that the aid workers and the food convoys will unfortunately still need some form of armed protection? I would like to take this opportunity to say that I was very appreciative of what has been done in Somalia by the US forces. It was obvious when we debated this in November that without this kind of help the famine would have just become more and more tragic.

Mr Ørstrøm Møller: As I indicated in my answer, the Community's Member States are already doing quite a lot in Somalia. But it is not the case that the Community does not intend to do even more. The situation is that the Community is waiting for the UN Secretary-General to present his report to the Security Council on UNOSOM II. It is on that basis that the Community will consider what further measures may be appropriate

Sir James Scott-Hopkins: I understand the Secretary of State's reluctance to commit the Community further, but would he not agree that the massive intervention of 30,000 American troops had a dramatic effect in Somalia? If they are going to be withdrawn and this is now beginning – there would be an enormous vacuum created. Is it not obvious that that vacuum is going to have to be filled? Does he not agree that it should be Europe that should help to fill that vacuum and make quite certain that the slaughter does not start again once the Americans have withdrawn?

Mr Ørstrøm Møller: We are well aware of the problems, but I think everyone will agree that the Community cannot undertake to do something before we really know what the need is.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/443.

93/010. Questions No H-1265/92 by Mr Verbeek on Macedonia and H-1270/92 by Mr Alavanos on the implementation of the decisions taken at the Lisbon Summit

Date of issue: 20 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-1265/92:

Are the Ministers meeting in EPC aware that the peace and stability of the Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are coming under growing pressure due to the continuing absence of international recognition and the increasingly effective economic blockade of the republic?

What steps are the EPC Ministers taking to stem the 'destruction of [Macedonia] and the collapse of the economy' (NRC Handelsblad, 28 November 1992) as soon as possible?

Is everything possible being done in EPC to bring Greece's boycott of Macedonia to an immediate end?

Question No H-1270/92:

What steps does the Presidency of European political cooperation intend to take to ensure that the decisions adopted at the Lisbon Summit in respect of the Republic of Skopje are implemented?

Answer:

At the Edinburgh summit,¹ the European Council discussed its policy with regard to the recognition of Macedonia in the light of its Lisbon declaration² and of the report from the Presidency's special envoy. The Council requested the Foreign Ministers to continue working on this problem. The European Council welcomed Security Council Resolution 795, which authorized the UN Secretary-General to establish a UNPROFOR presence in Macedonia.

The European Council restated its Birmingham declaration³ on the need to avoid the republic bearing an unintended burden as a result of UN sanctions. In that connection the European Council stressed the importance of giving access to support from the international financial institutions and of ensuring a regular supply of oil under adequate supervision.

The European Council was agreed that the Community should make available a substantial economic aid package to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Council welcomed the Commission's intention to earmark MECU 50 for humanitarian and technical aid for the republic. The Member States also agreed to provide a similar sum from their own resources.

After the European Council meeting in Edinburgh, a Commission delegation visited Skopje in order to assess the needs and the best means of providing the above aid.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/450.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/254.

³ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/354.

93/011. Question No H-1290/92 by Mr McMahon on arms sales to Iraq

Date of issue: 20 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

When did European political cooperation last discuss the supply of armaments to Iraq, and what was the outcome of the discussions?

Answer:

Mr Ørstrøm Møller, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: The Community and its Member States, in EPC, are constantly monitoring the question of Iraq's level of armament seen in the context of its failure to honour its international obligations. The discussion of specific questions concerning arms supplies however does not fall within the scope of EPC. The EC countries have bans on the supply of arms to Iraq pursuant to the EC and UN arms embargoes which were put in place in August 1990. On 4 August 1990 the Community and its Member States de-

clared an embargo on the sale of arms and other military equipment to Iraq. On 6 August 1990, under Resolution 66 E, the UN Security Council mounted comprehensive, mandatory sanctions against Iraq, including an embargo on the sale and supply to Iraq of all commodities and products, including arms and other military equipment. These embargoes are still in effect.

Mr McMahon (S): I found the Danish Secretary of State's answer a little bit confusing. He said first of all that they are monitoring the situation. Does he mean that the Council is monitoring the situation? He said it was not a matter for Political Cooperation. Are they doing it at the Foreign Affairs Council or are they doing it at the General Affairs Council? If they are monitoring the situation, what conclusions have they come to? Did the former President-in-Office of the Council, Mr Garel Jones, during the deliberations declare an interest in the negotiations in the debate? Did he participate at that time?

Mr Ørstrøm Møller: The point at issue here is that general supervision of the system was exercised within the circle of Member States, following which general measures were applied. But there is no question of specific or concrete measures; that does not fall within the scope of the system within which we operate.

Mr Smith, Alex (S): On 4 November 1991 my colleague, Mr Glinne tabled a similar question to the Council asking for a list of the names of European Community companies who were involved in arms sales to Iraq. It took the Council 13 months to reply! He got the reply on 1 December 1992. That is absolutely terrible and an insult to this Parliament. But when he got the reply there was no list of names. So the question has to be: why has the Council and why has European political cooperation failed to take this opportunity to name the guilty parties? Who are they trying to protect? Are they trying to protect, perhaps, the reputation of people like the son of a former United Kingdom Prime Minister, who some allege has been dealing in arms since 1983? Is that what is behind this?

Mr Ørstrøm Møller: Monitoring the measures which have been taken and ensuring that they are also carried out in practice fall within the powers of the individual Member States. That is the situation, you may agree with it or not, but that is the nature of the agreements within which we operate.

Mr Bonde (ARC): Governments come and go, but Ørstrøm Møller and his colleagues remain! Some Members of this Parliament have in fact raised an important, question of principle and your answer is not satisfactory. Ørstrøm Møller is not Secretary of State; we do not have that office in Denmark. He is a civil servant; he is an employed official who, under Danish law, is subject to the orders of a minister. The problem we have with Ørstrøm Møller as voters and democratically elected representatives, is that we are not able to vote for Ørstrøm Møller at the next election if he gives such magisterial answers to supplementary questions that we feel inclined to vote for him. Nor are we able to punish him or call him to order at the next election, and it would be a little strange to have to punish a minister who is not present in the Chamber. It is therefore indeed a question of principle...

[...]

93/012. Question No H-1293/92 by Mr Fitzsimons on EC/Japan political cooperation

Date of issue: 20 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Will the President-in-Office of European political cooperation state how it considers political co-operation can be further strengthened between the European Community and Japan following their recent meeting, and will it also indicate what follow-up is taking place at Community level in the light of the exchange of views on the main international problems?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States attach great importance to maintaining and extending relations with Japan in the context of a broad political dialogue.

At the first EC/Japan Summit held in July 1991,¹ a joint declaration was adopted confirming both parties' commitment to freedom, democracy, the rule of law, human rights, the promotion of free trade and the development of a favourable and sound world economy. Moreover, both parties undertook to strengthen the framework for consultation and cooperation.

The second EC/Japan Summit was held in July 1992. On that occasion both parties confirmed their support for the 1991 declaration and stressed the importance of further development of the political dialogue.

During the Danish Presidency, the troika will hold meetings with Japan at Foreign Minister and political director level. The Commission met the Japanese Government at ministerial level on 14 and 15 January 1993 with a view to a further strengthening of cooperation in the context of the joint declaration.

¹

EPC Bulletin, Doc. 91/228.

93/013. Question No H-1299/93 by Mr Fitzgerald on EC/US relations

Date of issue: 20 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

In the light of a new presidential era in the United States and of the urgent need for sustained international economic recovery and cooperation, what consideration is being given to convening an early meeting between President-elect Clinton and his administration and the President-in-Office of the Council and the EC Commission?

Answer:

The honourable Member can rest assured that every effort will be made to obtain a meeting at the earliest possible date with President Clinton and his administration for the Presidents of the Council and Commission.

93/014. Question No H-1302/92 by Mr Lane on maintaining support for reforms in Russia

Date of issue: 20 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

In the 28 November to 4 December edition of the *Economist*, attention is rightly drawn to the continuing problems of hyperinflation in Russia of 1,350%, falling output of more than 20% in 1992, a potential political crisis and the need to ensure that the West does not forget Russia's problems and does not starve Russia of vital new foreign capital.

What achievements can EPC point to in the last six months aimed at promoting and encouraging continuing reforms in Russia, and what needs to be done in the next six months to safeguard these reforms?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are playing their full part in international efforts to support the economic development of Russia and the other states of the former Soviet Union. An active political dialogue has also been conducted at ministerial and official level with meetings in Moscow, Brussels, New York and the capital of the current Presidency. The aim of the TACIS programmes is to provide technical aid to the former USSR as a means of supporting the economic and social reforms.

The TACIS programme provides large sums (MECU 850 in 1991 and 1992) for technical assistance in support of the economic reforms in the former Soviet Union. In addition, the Community is providing substantial amounts of credit so that Russia and the other newly independent states can purchase food and medicine to mitigate the social cost during the transition period.

The Community and its Member States have been in the forefront of international efforts to assist Russia and the other states of the former Soviet Union by providing humanitarian aid of ECU 2.2 bn, through the Washington Conference process and now through advisory groups for specific countries and long-term technical assistance tailored to the needs of individual states. The Community and its Member States have provided more than 70% of total aid to these countries. This includes the Community's TACIS programme which provides technical aid in support of necessary structural reforms. MECU 110 has been earmarked under the programme for aid to improve safety at nuclear power plants.

The lifting last year of quantitative restrictions and the EC's granting of GSP status to the Russian federation this year are easing access for Russian products to the Community market which alleviates the country's balance of payment problems.

At the European Council meeting in Edinburgh on 11 and 12 December 1992,¹ the Community and its Member States welcomed the negotiations opened with Russia for a Friendship and Cooperation Agreement. This agreement will facilitate the development of democracy and promote respect for human rights in Russia.

The European Council also expressed the hope that it would soon be possible, within the Paris Club, to reach an agreement on a realistic and comprehensive rescheduling of the former Soviet Union's foreign debt. The European Council also looked forward to a prompt agreement between Russia and the IMF which would also afford Russia access to the substantial resources of the IFI and other organizations.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/452.

93/015. Question No H-1305/92 by Mr Killilea on EC/China relations

Date of issue: 20 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

According to a survey in the *Economist* for 28 November to 4 December 1992, 'Each year, on average, for the past 14 years, China's real GNP has grown 6.5 percentage points faster than America's. If that difference persists, a little after 2010 China will have the world's biggest economy'. If the Chinese economy continues to expand along these lines, and if the communist party does not seek to 'strangle' the ongoing reforms, how does European political cooperation see the development of the Community's political, social, cultural, economic and trading relations developing with China?

Answer:

The European Community and its Member States attach great importance to relations with China.

The European Community and its Member States are in favour of a gradual normalization of relations with China, but hope that China will implement political reforms, including those relating to respect for human rights, to accompany the economic reforms which have helped to stimulate the Chinese economy.

This would enable the European Community and its Member States to look more favourably on the possibility of full normalization of relations.

93/016. Question No H-1319/92 by Mr Lomas on the situation in Georgia

Date of issue: 20 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Bearing in mind the threat by the Commander of the Georgian forces to eliminate the entire Abkhazian people from existence and the 'single candidate' elections in Georgia, has EPC made representations about respect for human rights in Georgia and the treatment of minority nationalities, e.g. Abkhazians, South Ossetians, Adzharians, Mingrelians, Greeks, Armenians, Jews, Ukrainians, Russians, etc.?

Would EPC agree that Shevardnadze's policies in Georgia are similar to Milosevic's policies in Serbia? Unless there is a marked improvement in the internal situation in Georgia, would the EPC be prepared to apply the same kind of sanctions that have been applied to Serbia?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are concerned at the continued unrest in Georgia, particularly in Abkhazia where the violence has taken a severe toll of human life. The Community hopes that a peaceful and negotiated settlement can be reached which respects both the territorial integrity of Georgia and the fundamental rights of the population of Abkhazia.

In a statement on 14 October 1992¹ the Community and its Member States welcomed the decision by the UN Secretary-General and the CSCE to send further fact-finding missions to the country. They also welcomed the elections held on 11 October 1992 in over 90% of Georgian territory and confirmed their support for efforts to stabilize the situation and promote the development of democracy and a market economy.

The Community and its Member States congratulated Mr Edvard Shevardnadze on his election as President of the Georgian Parliament and look forward to close cooperation with him.

The Community and its Member States are convinced that President Shevardnadze is firmly resolved to turn Georgia into a democracy governed by the rule of law. The Community and its Member States will continue to monitor the implementation of this policy as well as future developments in Georgia.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/348.

93/017. Question No H-1327/92 by Mr Langer on the signature of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

Date of issue: 20 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages recently adopted by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers represents an important step forward with regard to the recognition and protection of lesser used languages and their attendant cultures and the enhancement of democracy. It has so far been signed by 12 countries, including five of the Community's Member States (Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Spain). What steps does European political cooperation intend to take to ensure that all Member States sign, then ratify, this charter as soon as possible?

Answer:

As stated earlier in answer to Oral Question H-1053/92,¹ the issue raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/419.

93/018. Question No H-10/93 by Mr Pagoropoulos on the 415 Palestinians expelled from Israel

Date of issue: 20 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

On 17 December 1992 Israel ordered the mass expulsion of 415 Palestinians in clear breach of international law and basic human rights. Since then the 415 Palestinians deportees have been living in the open in the no-man's land between Israel and the Lebanon and are finding it difficult to survive under these conditions since even humanitarian aid is being denied them.

Will the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC state what representations they have made to the Israeli and Lebanese authorities to tackle this problem, i.e. to allow emergency humanitarian aid to be sent forthwith and the deportees to return as soon as possible to their home country?

Answer:

Mr Ørstrøm Møller, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: The Community and its Member States, in their statement on 18 December 1992,¹ vigorously condemned the Israeli decision to deport over 400 Palestinians. They regret that the Israeli authorities failed to react to the Presidency's appeal to refrain from carrying out the deportations, which are a breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and, in this case, a violation of Lebanon's sovereignty. They urgently requested the Israeli authorities to allow the deportees to return immediately. The latest development emphasizes that acts of violence and terrorism, irrespective of their origin, threaten to undermine the Middle East peace process. The Community and its Member States urgently call on all parties directly involved to uphold their commitment to the peace process, which is the only way to a solution of the problems in the region, and urge them to strengthen their efforts to negotiate forward to a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement.

Mr Pagoropoulos (S): In my question I do not refer to all that the President-in-Office told us. I am asking something specific and very simple: this is the second time that Israel has contravened the 4th Geneva Convention. The first was in December 1991. In 1992 we passed a resolution about 12 deportees. Now the number of deportees is 415.

And I ask: what is the Council going to do? Will it press the Commission to suspend the 4th Finance Protocol? Does it intend to send humanitarian aid to those people? Mr President, we can utter all the fine words we wish, but there comes a tie when we must act on behalf of human rights. We cannot speak of human rights in one case and not in the other. Here there is oppression, persecution, for reasons that cannot be condoned in any way.

I ask the Council to tell me what it intends to do together with the Commission: will it provide humanitarian aid, will it suspend the Protocol, yes or no?

Mr Ørstrøm Møller: As you know, UN Security Council Resolution 799 of 18 December 1992 instructed the UN Secretary-General to try to work out a solution and report to the Security Council on the result of his efforts. No such report is as yet available. When it is, the Community will of course examine it and on that basis consider the matter further.

Mr Andrews (RDE): Mr President, on a point of order. I understand that this is a Parliament of the European Community and, with due respect as I do not want to embarrass my friend from the civil service, is it not a very poor start to have a civil servant answering questions as a non-elected representative to elected representatives? I want to ask you, Mr President, whether there is a precedent for this and if it is acceptable within the Rules of the Parliament. I feel, as an elected representative, that if I want civil servants to answer my questions I am entitled to ring them up and get a reply from them. I am very surprised that the Danish Presidency should begin in this way. I am very surprised that despite the difficulties the political situation in Denmark has created, a civil servant should come here. I want to suggest to you, Mr President, that we abandon this until such time as a minister, whether he be a senior minister, a cabinet minister, a junior minister, comes here to reply to questions.

President: Mr Andrews, you are also out of order. But I will say this. That you have the Secretary of State, Mr Ørstrøm Møller, who has come here in difficult circumstances and who is doing his best to answer questions. It is incumbent on the civility of this House to show Mr Ørstrøm Møller the courtesy which we normally do.

Mr Andrews (RDE): I have never in my 20 years in politics heard of anything like this!

Mr Killilea (RDE): I do not mean any disrespect to the team of people who have been placed in this awkward situation by the Danish Government. The point I want to make to you, Mr President, since you said that we are out of order to put such questions, is that it is the normal process of democracy in a parliament that the discussion takes place at parliamentary level. I would ask you a simple question, Mr President: could you identify for me a previous occasion in this House when that has not happened?

Mr McMahon (S): Far be it from me to pursue this, but I would like to ask where Mr Ellemann-Jensen is tonight. Is he attending a football match, or is he signing on at the Copenhagen labour exchange, knowing that he will obviously be looking for a job at the weekend?

But there is a precedent for the troika coming along. For example, I would have been greatly interested if the previous President-in-Office had taken on my next question, about Iraq; because we know that Tristan Garel Jones had a vested interest, being one of the ministers who signed a document which virtually condemned innocent men to prison. So the Danes could have asked the British Presidency, but because it did such a bad job – the Major administration had made such a hash of the Presidency – they obviously decided to play safe and go for civil servants.

Mr Pagoropoulos (S): On a point of order, Mr President, leaving aside the capacity of the gentleman appearing as President-in-Office, I ask the following very simple question and request him to answer me: those people are existing under harsh climatic conditions; are you going to send them humanitarian aid, yes or no? Or are they to wait three years or six months before the UNO decides what to do? Please answer us and adopt a position. Accept responsibility, and tell us: are they to be left to die, or not?

Mr Alavanos (CG): And yet, Mr President, it is indeed a point of order and I would like to tell you something that perhaps you do not know. For the first time this evening, the Head of Government of a Member State, specifically the Greek Government, has raised and is to bring before the Council of Ministers the question of confidence in the President-in-Office. Unfortunately, we are seeing here today, on top of all that has happened with Mr Ellemann-Jones, a question-time procedure which literally debases Parliament and is quite unrelated to all that we have been saying about transparency, political openness of the Council and the airing of problems. From that standpoint, Mr President, I think that you too, as President of Parliament, have a duty – as our Irish colleagues have said – to defend the Council's authority.

Mr White (S): I do understand your difficulty, but we have to recognize that your authority stems from the fact that this Parliament elected you, and your authority in practice tonight arises from the Rules. I understood the point you made to Mr Smith. I too was not present when Members of the Council were introduced. Having made that introduction and having given the explanation to Mr Smith, you ruled him out of order. Those were the words that you used. I would be most interested to know what specific rules applied when he was ruled 'out of order'. I make this point, not to be awkward, but because I think there is genuine concern in the House, expressed all round the Chamber, about the position in terms of the Danish Presidency tonight. So it is in a constructive attitude that I put that point. Please let us know the rule.

President: Mr White, the situation is as follows: we have questions to the Council. The Secretary of State has done his best this evening to answer those questions. It is my responsibility, from the Chair, to carry on with Question Time as efficiently as I can. That is what I am endeavouring to do.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/476.

93/019. Question No H-20/93 by Mr Pierros on torture in Turkey

Date of issue: 20 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Some days ago the Council of Europe officially unveiled the report of the European Committee on the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment on torture in Turkey. This report provides irrefutable recent evidence (November and December 1992) that the police are still torturing and ill-treating prisoners and indeed, that this is the rule in Turkish prisons. Given that at least every month an official or unofficial report is published either by the Council of Europe or by Amnesty International or other organizations on the systematic violation of human rights in Turkey, will EPC say whether it intends to exert pressure on the Turkish authorities finally to put an end to this unacceptable state of affairs?

Answer:

The Community and the Member States base their relations with Turkey on regular dialogue having regard to our common commitment to democracy, respect for human rights and international law. The Turkish authorities are thus fully aware of the importance attached by the Community and its Member States to democracy, full respect for human rights and the undertakings Turkey accepted in the CSCE, the Council of Europe and UN Conventions. On the occasion of the meeting of the EC/Turkey Association Council held in Brussels on 9 November 1992, the Community raised the question of human rights and was told that much had already been achieved, including restraining of police brutality, and that new legislation would shortly be laid before parliament. The legislation has now been adopted and entered into force on 1 December 1992. It was accepted that further progress depended not only on changes in the law but also on changes in mentality. The Community will continue to monitor the situation closely in the light of the Turkish Government's undertaking that it will improve the human rights situation in the country and it hopes that it will take all possible steps to that end.

93/020. Statement on Haiti

Date of issue: 21 January 1993

Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States have consistently reaffirmed their commitment to the restoration of the democratic and constitutional government in Haiti as well as their will to support all efforts conducive to a settlement of the Haitian crisis.

They, therefore, welcome the efforts by the Organization of American States and the United Nations to bring about the restoration of democracy in Haiti, and they urge all parties concerned to work towards this end.

The elections held on 18 January as well as those planned for 25 January do not constitute free and fair elections since the necessary preconditions, notably freedom of expression and assembly and the right to an open political dialogue, do not exist in Haiti.

For these reasons, the Community and its Member States do not consider these elections to be a valid expression of the democratic will.

93/021. Statement on Rwanda

Date of issue: 21 January 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States express satisfaction that, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Arusha cease-fire agreement of 12 July 1992, the Rwandese Government and the Rwandese Patriotic Front have concluded a protocol agreeing on power-sharing during the transitional period.

They feel that this important stage in the political negotiations should quickly lead, in the interests both of the Rwandese people and the entire subregion and of fruitful international cooperation, to the restoration of peace and security and to the return of persons displaced by the war to the land from which they have been driven. The progress achieved should also pave the way to the reconciliation of the Rwandese people with itself, the organization of free elections in the near future and the strengthening of democracy in Rwanda.

The Community and its Member States pay tribute to the work carried out by the negotiating parties in their dynamic quest for a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict. They urge all Rwandese political forces to continue to support the Arusha process and the agreements resulting from it and to work for pacification in unity and tolerance. They particularly appreciate the constructive role and positive contribution of Tanzania and of the other countries and international organizations which are observers in the Arusha negotiations.

93/022. Statement on Angola

Date of issue: 22 January 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States deplore the outbreak of widespread and fierce fighting in Angola and the heavy losses of human lives incurred. They appeal strongly to the government and to UNITA to bring an end to the fighting, which constitutes a serious set-back for the peace process that culminated in the free and fair elections of September 1992. They also appeal to the countries in the region to refrain from any act that could contribute to an internationalization of the present conflict in Angola.

A solution to Angola's problem cannot be found on the battleground. A general cease-fire is the first and immediate requirement. On this basis they regret the refusal by UNITA to attend a meeting of military leaders due to have taken place in Addis Ababa last week thus jeopardizing the efforts of the Special Representative of the UN, the Secretary-General and the observers to the peace process and they urge UNITA to reconsider that decision.

The Community and its Member States reiterate their earlier appeals to the parties, in particular UNITA, to abide by the results of the elections, observe the Bicesse Peace Accords and resume the demobilization process. In this context, they urge the President of Angola and the UNITA leader to respond positively to the UN Secretary-General's call for an early meeting between them.

The Community and its Member States consider that the United Nations should continue to play a key role in restoring and maintaining peace in Angola. They look forward to the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the future role of UNAVEM. In the light of this report, the United Nations Security Council should consider the role and mandate of UNAVEM and the possibilities of strengthening the United Nations' involvement in the peace process. However, it must be underlined that cessation of hostilities and genuine willingness to reopen the political dialogue are prerequisites for a meaningful UN contribution.

The Community and its Member States reiterate their readiness to provide humanitarian assistance to Angola and, once the peace has been restored, to contribute to programmes of reconstruction.

93/023. Statement on the situation in the former Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 25 January 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States view with grave concern the recent resumption of hostilities around Zadar in Croatia, which have been initiated by the Croatian side. The armed clashes have already resulted in numerous casualties, including one member of the French UNPROFOR contingent.

In addition to destabilizing the uneasy situation in Croatia, these actions risk harming the highly important and serious negotiations in Geneva on Bosnia-Herzegovina, which recently have shown promise of making some headway. The consequences of such a train of events could be extremely grave.

In the present situation, the European Community and its Member States, while aware of Serbian non-compliance with the Vance plan, urgently call on all sides, and in particular the Government of Croatia, to bring hostilities around Zadar to an immediate end. All parties involved must participate in good faith with the implementation of all aspects of the Vance plan, including the return of the refugees, and must be prepared to accept a prolongation of the UNPROFOR mandate, when it expires next month.

At the same time, the European Community and its Member States, recalling their declaration of 13 January 1993,¹ urge all parties involved to carry on without delay the negotiations in Geneva with a view to reaching agreement on full implementation of the Ahtisaari proposal on Bosnia-Herzegovina. No action must be undertaken by anyone, inside or outside Bosnia-Herzegovina, which could put these negotiations into jeopardy.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/004.

93/024. Question No 1481/92 by Mr Newens (S) on aid to Somalia

Date of issue: 25 January 1993
Place of issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 16 June 1992)

Could the EPC please make a statement on the Community's attitude to recent developments in Somalia and say what development aid and emergency aid is being supplied to deal with the appalling problems faced by much of the population?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are following the present appalling situation in Somalia with deep concern. A number of Community Ministers, including the troika of Foreign Ministers, recently visited Mogadishu to see the situation for themselves. The troika of Development Ministers visited Somalia and Kenya from 12 to 13 September to assess at first hand how the Community and its Member States can best respond to the crisis. The total food allocation for Somalia this year is over 206,000 tonnes, of which two-thirds has been shipped and nearly half has arrived. In addition, the Community has committed additional funds to the protection of humanitarian convoys, under UN auspices. All individual Member States have also made substantial bilateral donations, some of which have contained elements of rehabilitation.

The Community and its Member States recently stressed the need for a targeted international effort aimed at relieving the starvation in the Horn of Africa, especially in Somalia, and welcomed Ambassador Eliasson's proposal for a donor relief coordination conference.

The Community and its Member States also urged all parties to comply with UNSCRs 733, 746, 751, 767 and 775 in the interests of humanitarian relief and national reconciliation and to co-operate with UN armed security personnel in the protection of emergency aid distribution.

The Community and its Member States affirm their full support for [the] role of the UN in Somalia and, in particular for the admirable work of Ambassador Sahnoun. They have urged all parties in Somalia to cooperate with Ambassador Sahnoun in his efforts to secure peace and political reconciliation. This will involve the development of medium and long-term strategies for the re-establishment of law and order, disarmament of all armed elements and the reconstruction of the country.

93/025. Question No 1770/92 by Ms Cassanmagnago Cerretti (PPE) on violence in Lebanon

Date of issue: 25 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 2 July 1992)

What does EPC think of the recent escalation of violence between Israel and the Hizbollah fundamentalists in southern Lebanon?

What effect could this wave of violence have on the peace talks initiated at the Madrid Conference?

What does EPC intend to do?

Answer:

I would refer the honourable Member to the reply given to Oral Question No [H-]629/92¹ on this same subject.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/322.

93/026. Question No 1977/92 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S) on needs of hospitals in Albania

Date of issue: 25 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 1 September 1992)

Has EPC considered the situation with regard to hospitals in Albania as set out in Resolution No 1171 (1991) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and has it taken steps to meet some of their needs, within the limits of what is possible?

Answer:

The specific matter raised by the honourable Member does not fall within the competence of the European political cooperation.

93/027. Question No 2170/92 by Mr Cheysson (S) on a report to the Republican members of the US Congress House of Representatives alleging that Iran has nuclear weapons

Date of issue: 25 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 1 September 1992)

According to this report there is no doubt that Iran has all, or virtually all, the components required to manufacture two or three operational nuclear weapons (bombs or missile heads); the various components were bought in the Moslem republics of the former Soviet Union. These weapons were expected to become operational between February and April 1992.

The report also claims that in mid-October 1991 the Iranians stepped up their work at the nuclear installations at Ma'alem Kelayah, Qazvin (where a Soviet-designed nuclear reactor, a gift from India, is also to be installed), and that they recruited about 50 experts and 200 engineers from the Kazakh nuclear installation at Kurchatov (Semipalatinsk-21) to construct and assemble nuclear weapons. In mid-November 1991, applying the principle that deterrence is effective only if the potential enemy is aware of the risks he runs, Vice-President Mohajerani stated publicly that his country was developing nuclear weapons.

Could the President of European political cooperation comment on this report and inform Parliament whether the Foreign Ministers have discussed this problem?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States attach the greatest importance to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and keep under constant review developments in this field. The Community and its Member States are aware of the claims made in the report to which the honourable Member refers, and of similar allegations elsewhere, that Iran has acquired nuclear weapons from the CIS, but they have no direct evidence to support them. However, the Community and its Member States always treat such allegations with great seriousness, and Iran is aware of the significance which we attach to Iran, and indeed all other states' parties to the NPT, abiding fully by all their obligations under the Treaty.

93/028. Question No 2185/92 by Mr Antony (DR) on the arms industry

Date of issue: 25 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 1 September 1992)

The Soviet bloc, which threatened the security of the EEC Member States since 1945, has dissolved. The threat, however, has not disappeared.

Tensions and disorder are being generated by the disastrous state in which socialism has left the eastern part of Europe. The bloody events in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina show that war on our continent is still a possibility.

Moreover, the rich nations of Western Europe are bordered to the south and to the east of the Mediterranean by poor and overpopulated countries and some of these, such as Syria and Algeria, are well-armed military dictatorships with imperialist tendencies.

The Community Member States should therefore not disarm, but ensure their security by maintaining an efficient arms industry which would be capable of supplying arms to credible national armies on a totally independent basis.

With this in mind:

1. Does EPC not consider that the reductions in military spending which have been noted in many Member States present a danger to security in Europe and jeopardize the socio-economic balance of many European regions?
2. Does it not consider that these budgetary restrictions are a threat to European nations' 'self-sufficiency' in arms?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are determined to maintain the technological and industrial conditions necessary for their security. They work to that end both at national level, and where appropriate, within the framework of other competent institutions and bodies.

The question of national military spending is not dealt with in the context of European political cooperation.

93/029. Question No 2236/92 by Ms Dury (S) on the opening of a delegation in Vietnam

Date of issue: 25 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 1 September 1992)

In its resolution of 12 June 1992, the European Parliament requested the Commission to take steps to open a delegation in Hanoi following the conclusion of a Cooperation Agreement. When and how will this be done?

Answer:

The question raised by the honourable Member does not fall within the competence of European political cooperation.

93/030. Question No 2481/92 by Mr Pierros (PPE) on human rights violations by the Turkish State against Kurds

Date of issue: 25 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 12 October 1992)

Turkish newspapers frequently carry reports revealing unimaginable brutality with which the Turkish authorities treat the Kurdish people. For instance it is reported that a pupil has been barred from school for one year for championing the rights of the Kurds (*Cumhuriyet*, 25 May 1992), a 15-year old was beaten up by the police for stating that he was a Kurd (*Gündem*, 15 June 1992), farmers have been tortured and young girls raped by militiamen in the village of Fistikli on the pretext that the village was hiding Kurdish guerrillas (*Gündem*, 17 June 1992), a Kurdish guerrilla was hung by his feet from a low-flying helicopter and he is now paralyzed as a result of this experience (*Gündem*, 5 July 1992), Kurdish workers have been transferred *en masse* away from Turkish cities to make them return to their villages (*Aktüel* magazine, 24 June 1992), Turkish refugees from Georgia have been settled in the southern Anatolian cities of Iğdir and Ardahan, the majority of whose inhabitants are Kurds (*Gündem*, 18 July 1992).

What measures do the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC intend to take to put an end to this unconscionable and systematic violation of the human rights of Kurds by the Turkish State and acts of barbarity in a country which enjoys privileged economic and political ties with the European Community?

Answer:

The Turkish authorities are well aware of the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to the rule of law and the commitments to which Turkey has subscribed in CSCE documents including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, as set out in the Charter of Paris, the documents of the Moscow and Copenhagen meetings of the Conference on the human dimension of the CSCE, and the report of the Geneva meeting of experts.

The declaration on human rights adopted by the Luxembourg European Council¹ stated categorically that 'respecting, promoting and safeguarding human rights is an essential part of international relations as well as of relations between the Community and its Member States and other countries'.

The Community and its Member States will continue to monitor the situation closely in the light of the Turkish Government's commitment to improve the human rights situation in the country and express their hope that the latter will take all necessary steps to this end.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 91/194.

93/031. Question No 2516/92 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on assassinations of journalists in Turkey by parastatal agents

Date of issue: 25 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 10 October 1992)

Between 18 March and 9 August this year – i.e. over the last six months – eight journalists from opposition newspapers and periodicals have been murdered in Turkish Kurdistan by unknown persons. During the same period at least 50 more persons, mainly members of the Human Rights Association and local leaders, were also murdered. Given that the population of the region concerned is convinced that the Hizbollah and Turkish parastatal agents are responsible for these assassinations, what measures do the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC intend to take to protect journalists and members of the Human Rights Association working in South-East Turkey from injury or even death?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are concerned by the recent killings of journalists, Human Rights Association members and other people in South-East Turkey which have been attributed to the Hizbollah.

There is no evidence to support allegations of links between the Hizbollah and the Turkish security forces.

The declaration on human rights¹ adopted by the Luxembourg European Council stated categorically that 'respecting, promoting and safeguarding human rights is an essential part of international relations as well as of relations between the Community and its Member States and other countries'.

The Turkish authorities are well aware of the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to the rule of law and the commitments to which Turkey has subscribed in CSCE documents including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, as set out in the Charter of Paris, the documents of the Moscow and Copenhagen meetings of the Conference on the human dimension of the CSCE, and the report of the Geneva meeting of experts.

The Community and its Member States will continue to monitor the situation closely in the light of the Turkish Government's commitment to improve the human rights situation in the country and express their hope that the latter will take all necessary steps to this end.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 91/194.

93/032. Question No 2517/92 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on the tactics of Skopje

Date of issue: 25 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 12 October 1992)

The Skopje authorities have opted for a policy of provocation in order to aggravate the situation, in clear contempt of the decision taken at Lisbon.¹ They are persisting in using the illegal term of 'Macedonia', are seeking to usurp as their national emblem the sun of the Macedonian dynasty, with all the unmistakable historical associations attached to it and have incorporated it into their flag, thereby clearly spelling out their territorial claims *vis-à-vis* neighbouring Community country. Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC intend to warn the Gligorov Government that these tactics will never bring them international recognition?

Answer:

The honourable Member is referred to the reply given at Question Time in October in response to Oral Question H-970/92² by Mr Pierros and to the reply given to his Written Question No 2392/92,³ both on the same subject.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/254.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/391.

³ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/440.

**93/033. Question No 2520/92 by Mr Langer, Ms Roth and Mr Onesta (V)
on human rights violations in Croatia**

Date of issue: 25 January 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 12 October 1992)

Is EPC aware that – as a delegation of Greens including Claudia Roth, MEP, discovered – there is a considerable amount of intimidation and, to some extent, terrorism in Croatia, for example in Split, Rijeka and Zagreb, chiefly directed at the Serbian section of the population, obviously tolerated if not actually supported or directly conducted by the Croatian authorities? What do the EC observers have to report on this matter?

What steps have been taken by EPC, or are planned, to urge the Croatian authorities to show every respect for human rights and the rights of minorities and, if appropriate, to draw the necessary conclusion from their disregard for these rights?

What view does EPC take of the programme of 'national homogenization' being conducted by the Croatian Government, which is apparently leading: to 'non-homogeneous' inhabitants losing their jobs and homes? Is the EPC aware that it is extremely difficult if not impossible for 'awkward' inhabitants in Croatia to obtain Croatian nationality and that, as a result, they are denied fundamental civil and social rights? What does EPC have to say about the state of press freedom and freedom of opinion in Croatia, and how does it assess the programme for 'Croatia's demographic renewal'?

Does EPC not agree that no terrorism, whether by the Serbs or any other side, can serve as an excuse or justification for grave violations of human rights in Croatia and that Croatia's democratic credibility is crucially dependent on the approach it takes to human rights and the rights of minorities? Does it not also agree that only respect for human rights and the rights of minorities in all the republics and territories of the former Yugoslavia can pave the way for peace and that – as long as these rights are disregarded by Serbia, above all, but also by Croatia and others – the conflicts there can only become worse?

Answer:

At Question Time in October the House was again informed of the very clear, firm and unequivocal position of the Community and its Member States with regard to the rights and treatment of national and ethnic groups in the former Yugoslavia and elsewhere. The 'Statement of Principles' endorsed by all participants at the London Conference on Yugoslavia, in particular paragraphs IV, V and VI, reaffirms the importance the Community and its Member States attach to a universally supported commitment to respect for individual rights and fundamental freedoms and against practices such as ethnic cleansing.

Croatia is also a member of the United Nations and has ratified both UN human rights conventions. These, and the UN Charter impose binding obligations. We expect Croatia to respect them. The Badinter report initially raised concerns about human rights in Croatia, and the Croatian Government made changes to its legislation to address these concerns. However, visits such as that mentioned in the question have continued to create doubt about Croatia's respect for such commitments, and we are monitoring their implementation very carefully.

The EC monitors (ECMM) report daily on their findings and experiences in their area of deployment. The humanitarian office in ECMM HQ collates information on humanitarian matters gathered by ECMM teams during their normal monitoring duties (from detention camps and refugees to violations of human and minority rights) and disseminates it to ICRC, UNHCR, CSCE and other organizations responsible for humanitarian issues. The ECMM participates in the regular quadri-partite meetings of the Joint Commission, established under UNSCR 762 to oversee the return of Croatian civil authority to the 'Pink Zones', where human rights and minority rights violations are discussed. ECMM teams have come across cases of harassment of members of national minorities in the areas under the control of the Croatian Government. The ECMM has urged the Croatian Government to take the action necessary to ensure that the human rights of minorities in Croatia are fully protected.

93/034. Statement on Bosnia-Herzegovina

Date of issue: 1 February 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States express their full and unequivocal support for the comprehensive plan for a peaceful settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina, put forward by the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, in accordance with the commitments reached at the London Conference.

The peace plan and the draft interim arrangements for governing the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina until free and fair elections will take place, represent a coherent and comprehensive settlement, taking into account the legitimate interests of the three constituent communities of that republic.

The European Community and its Member States strongly urge all three parties of Bosnia-Herzegovina to accept the peace plan and the draft interim arrangements. The parties must also fully cooperate in implementing them.

The European Community and its Member States call upon the Security Council of the United Nations to give its full support to this plan and its implementation. The European Community and its Member States are prepared to contribute actively to this end.

The European Community and its Member States reiterate their full support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and multi-ethnic character of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. They will continue their efforts to help the republic recover from the present tragedy.

93/035. Statement on the follow-up to the Warburton Mission

Date of issue: 1 February 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States welcome the report submitted by the Warburton Mission on its findings during visits conducted on 20 to 24 December 1992 and 19 to 26 January 1993.

The decision by the European Council to establish this investigation is vindicated by the findings. Rape has been perpetrated on a wide scale in former Yugoslavia, in such a way as to be part of a clear pattern. The great majority of the many thousands of victims have been Muslims.

The European Community and its Member States are appalled by these crimes and the inhumanity which marks the present conflict. They intend to implement the recommendations in the report on assistance to the Bosnian Muslim women victims of rape and other atrocities.

At a political level, the Community and its Member States will approach the parties to the conflict, and in particular the political leadership, to impress on them the incontrovertible nature of the evidence and the imperative need to bring these abhorrent practices to an end. In this context, the Community and its Member States will pursue full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 798 and will endeavour to inspect the locations associated with the practice of rape.

93/036. Statement on Zaire

Date of issue: 1 February 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States deeply deplore the outbreak of violence which has just occurred in Zaire and which has caused numerous deaths, including that of the Ambassador of France in Kinshasa.

While expressing their grave anxiety at this new trial facing the Zairian people, the European Community and its Member States are also very concerned for their nationals and hope that the ongoing evacuation can be continued in good order.

The European Community urgently appeals to the forces involved to put a stop to the fighting.

Political forces in Zaire must do everything in their power to enable the democratic process to make a fresh start, and the transitional government must exercise its prerogatives in all areas, including the maintenance of order in compliance with human rights, and the economic and monetary control which are necessary for the social situation to be restored.

In this respect, the European Community calls upon the President of Zaire to ensure that an end is put to the actions to obstruct the process of democratic transition. It supports the efforts of the President of the High Council of the Republic, Monseigneur Mossengwo, to promote a political settlement enabling this transition to free and democratic elections to be properly carried out.

93/037. Statement on a Council meeting (extracts only)

Date of issue: 1/2 February 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

Presidency's Work Programme

The Council first held an open debate, which was televised to the public [...], on the Danish Presidency's work programme for the first half of 1993.

This first public debate of the Council took place further to the conclusions of the Edinburgh European Council aimed at achieving greater transparency of the Council's proceedings. It enabled delegations to take stock of the problems facing the Community and to state their priorities regarding the identification of solutions.

Enlargement

The Council prepared for the ministerial meeting opening the Conferences on the accession of Austria, Sweden and Finland to the European Union by approving the Union's general negotiation framework.

The ministerial meeting was held in the afternoon of 1 February and televised to the public [...].

During the opening meeting the President of the Council outlined the Union's general negotiation framework. Commissioner van den Broek also spoke on behalf of the Commission. The position of the three applicant countries was set out respectively by Mr Alois Mock, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria, Mr Ulf Dinkelspiel, Minister for European Affairs and Foreign Trade of Sweden and Mr Pertti Saloainen, Minister for Foreign Trade of Finland.

[...]

Former Yugoslavia

The Ministers had an in-depth discussion on the various aspects of the crisis in former Yugoslavia, in particular, from the standpoint of developments at the Geneva Conference and in the light of developments on the ground. In this connection they also heard a presentation by Dame Anne Warburton of the report on the results of the inquiry she had conducted regarding the treatment of Muslim women in former Yugoslavia.

The Ministers adopted two statements which are set out in the Annex, on Bosnia-Herzegovina¹ and the follow-up to the Warburton mission.²

Zaire

A statement by the Ministers on Zaire will also be found in the Annex.³

GATT – Presidency Conclusions

The Council took note of a progress report by Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan on negotiations under the Uruguay Round. It took note of delegations' comments and positions.

The Council reconfirmed the Community's commitment to a rapid conclusion of the negotiations with a global, substantive and balanced agreement, as advocated by the Edinburgh European Council. It expressed its confidence that the chief negotiator for the Community, Sir Leon Brittan would act accordingly.

The Council agreed to take up this matter again at its next meeting.

[...]

Relations with the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe

The Danish delegation informed the Council that the Danish Government intended to convene a ministerial conference on 13 and 14 April in Copenhagen bringing together the Community

countries, the EFTA countries and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, viz. the four Visegrad countries, Bulgaria and Romania, the Baltic states and Albania. The Commission, the EIB and the EBRD would also be invited.

The aim of the Conference would be to hold a wide-ranging debate on the prospects for economic development in Central and Eastern Europe.

Relations with Israel

The Council approved the position to be adopted by the Community at the 11th meeting of the Cooperation Council with Israel which was held in the evening of 1 February.

[...]

Humanitarian Aid for Armenia and Georgia

Following a statement by the French delegation, the Council agreed on the need for emergency humanitarian aid for Armenia and Georgia given the current circumstances in these republics, and took note of the measures the Commission intended to take for this purpose.

[...]

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- 1 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/034.
 - 2 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/035.
 - 3 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/036.

93/038. Statement at the 49th Session of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories including Palestine (agenda item 4)

Date of issue: 2 February 1993

Place of issue: Geneva

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Statement in international forum

Mr Larsen: Mr Chairman, I have the honour to make an intervention on behalf of the European Community and its Member States on item 4 of the agenda.

Like so many others we firmly condemn the recent decision of the Israeli Government to deport 415 Palestinians and urge the Israeli authorities to comply with Security Council Resolution 799 which demands of Israel to ensure the safe and immediate return of all those deported. The deportations have been decided in spite of the repeated call through the years by the international community on Israel to abstain from such measures. They constitute a serious violation of international law - not only by being a clear breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention - but also an infringement of the sovereignty of Lebanon.

The European Community and its Member States wish to use this occasion to reiterate their call on Israel to recognise the *de jure* application of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the Occupied Territories, including East Jerusalem.

Mr Chairman, in accordance with our long-standing principles we are convinced that a just and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question will have to be based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the full application of those resolutions being an inte-

gral part of the terms of reference of the peace process initiated in Madrid on 30 October 1991. The European Community and its Member States are firmly committed to the continuation of this process which can contribute significantly to peace and stability in the region and be conducive to the implementation of universal human rights.

The current cycle of violence, repression and retaliation can only lead to more problems in the future.

We have right from the beginning welcomed the intention of the Israeli Government to take steps to improve the human rights situation and to promote confidence building measures, which could have positive effect on the peace process. In this context I would like to mention the decisions of the Israeli Government to reopen the universities, to release some prisoners and to relax the legislation on contacts between Israelis and the PLO.

It is clear, however, that the various positive steps on the whole have had a very limited effect on the actual situation for Palestinians in the Occupied Territories and are currently overshadowed by the illegal deportation of more than 400 Palestinians.

Mr Chairman, despite the partial freeze on settlements that have been declared illegal several times, construction of new units is still going on and there are no restrictions on construction in East Jerusalem. The European Community and its Member States call on Israel to stop immediately all settlement activity in the Occupied Territories, including East Jerusalem.

The significance of the situation in Jerusalem, holy city of three religions, must be underlined in this connection. It is extremely important that the freedom of everyone to live there and to have access to the places of worship is secured in any future agreement.

Furthermore, the European Community and its Member States are very concerned about the treatment in Israeli prisons of Palestinians who are held without trial. We hope that the improvements recently announced by the Israeli authorities will bring the treatment of prisoners into accordance with international law.

We deplore the frequent use of excessive force by Israeli security troops in connection with Palestinian demonstrations. This does not contribute to a more secure and peaceful environment.

We are deeply worried about the repeated Israeli practice of imposing curfews, as a means of collective punishment of the civilian population and other restriction of movement in the Occupied Territories. While constituting serious human rights violations in themselves such measures also have negative effects on the economic and social situation of the population. One particularly disturbing problem is that they impede the operation of UN relief agencies. These measures can not in any way be justified and we urge the Israeli government to revoke them.

Finally, we urge the Israeli Government to repeal the policy of deportations which constitutes a human right violation and could harm the peace process.

The European Community and its Member States strongly condemn violence and terror from whatever source and urge all parties concerned to refrain from such acts. The only way forward is to continue the talks initiated in Madrid between the parties concerned with the aim of arriving at peaceful solutions.

The European Community and its Member States remain fully committed to these negotiations and intend to continue to play an active and constructive role. We also hope that they will produce substantial results. If so, we might see the interim arrangements for self-government in place by this time next year and as a consequence a fundamental improvement in the human rights situation in the Occupied Territories.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

93/039. Statement at the 49th Session of the Commission on Human Rights

Date of issue: 3 February 1993

Place of issue: Geneva

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Statement in international forum

Mr Helveg Petersen: Mr Chairman, it is an honour for me to address the Commission on Human Rights on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

I would like, first of all, to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, as well as the other members of the bureau on your election and to wish you all the success during this session. It is with a spirit of co-operation that we look forward to working under your guidance.

The approach adopted by the Community and its Member States in the field of human rights has throughout the years been amplified in a great number of oral and written interventions. Our viewpoints have been put forward with such consistency that today no government in any country can be in doubt as to our stand and policy in questions of human rights.

In my statement today, I shall therefore refrain from repeating our overall human rights policy and only highlight a few fundamental principles.

Respect for and promotion and protection of human rights is a corner-stone of European cooperation and is an important aspect of relations between the Community and other countries. The fundamental legal basis for our position rests on the many international instruments which have been elaborated in the last decades, first among which rank the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the two Covenants on Civil and Political Rights, and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The effective and universal implementation of these and other existing instruments is a matter of priority to the Community and its Member States.

Many of the international legal instruments which have been adopted in this area have emerged from this Commission's work. Most recently, the General Assembly further extended the scope of human rights protection by the adoption of two important new declarations forwarded by the Commission at its last session – the Declaration on Disappearances and the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities.

Human rights are universal in character – they represent a common standard of achievement for all. They are also indivisible because all categories of human rights are equally important to the realization of human dignity, be they civil, political, economic, social or cultural rights. The Community and its Member States refuse to accept that state sovereignty can be used as a shield for any country to carry out violations of human rights. On the contrary, we insist that the safeguarding of human rights and fundamental freedoms is a legitimate and urgent duty of the world community and individual states.

It is within this framework that the Community and its Member States recognize the important role of human rights and democracy in achieving balanced and sustainable development. Respect for human rights, the rule of law and effective democratic institutions are basic premises for improving the well being of the individual through active, free and meaningful participation in the process of development. Against this background the Community and its Member States actively support the consolidation of human rights and democracy as an integrated part of wider development cooperation programmes aimed at alleviating poverty and securing basic social and economic needs.

Mr Chairman, since the end of the Cold War, many countries have moved towards democracy.

The Community and its Member States fully support the transformation to democratic institutions, market economies and respect for human rights in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and we welcome the results already achieved.

Also in a number of developing countries, particularly in Africa, recent developments have clearly demonstrated the strength of the wish of the ordinary people for democratic reform. The changes in parts of Africa are no less far reaching than those experienced during the last decade in Central and Eastern Europe and most of Latin America. Experience has demonstrated that a transition to democracy is not always straightforward and that electoral assistance is of help in overcoming difficulties encountered.

The Community and its Member States support and encourage these trends. Direct support is given to human rights and democratization initiatives around the world, for example in relation to the conduct of free and fair elections, the strengthening of the rule of law, the strengthening of the judiciary and administration of justice, and the promotion of a civil society. Human rights are now also routinely addressed in Cooperation Agreements between the EC and third countries and specific human rights situations are discussed at consultative meetings.

The resolution adopted by the EC Council in November 1991 on human rights, democracy and development, laying down the basic policy of the Community and its Member States in this regard, is an expression of our commitment to establish a solid ground for the participation of the people in the development of their own nations and destiny. Along these lines, the Community and its Member States will continue to support all efforts to advance human rights and democracy and will consider appropriate responses whenever these fundamental principles are seriously or persistently violated.

Mr Chairman, irrespective of the positive changes that have taken place over the last years in furthering respect for human rights, in particular with regard to democratic freedoms, the overall situation still gives rise to concern.

The effective protection of human rights still lags far behind the impressive catalogue of existing human rights norms and standards. Progress in setting human rights standards has not carried over into the daily lives of millions of people on this earth as regards civil and political rights and on millions in terms of economic, social and cultural rights.

New-found freedom and extreme nationalism have combined to release waves of racism and xenophobia. This has led to political violence in many countries – in Europe as well as in other parts of the world. The Community and its Member States firmly condemn these manifestations.

Recognizing our duty constantly to adjust and improve our own existing policies, we deal with these phenomena through the appropriate political and legal, national and international institutions, in order to preserve and promote the rule of law throughout the world.

Mr Chairman, the Community and its Member States will address the human rights situation in various countries around the world under the relevant items of the Commission's agenda.

Nevertheless, I wish to record at this point the deep dismay of and firm rejection by the international community of the flagrant and continuing violation of basic human rights and humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia. We condemn such abuses unreservedly. The international community must not acquiesce in the results of the policy and practice of 'ethnic cleansing', for which the Serbian authorities bear primary responsibility. In this connection we recall that last United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 47/80 strongly rejected policies and ideologies aimed at promoting racial hatred and 'ethnic cleansing' in any form.

The Community and its Member States have given their full support to the appointment of the Special Rapporteur, former Prime Minister Mazowiecki. We are deeply appreciative of his dedi-

cated personal endeavours in carrying out his responsibilities and we fully endorse his recommendations. We welcome the call at the recent special session of the Commission for his work to continue.

The Special Rapporteur's report to the Secretary-General about massive and grave violations, such as 'ethnic cleansing', killings, beatings, rapes, illegal detentions, destruction of houses and the use of threats throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina, unfortunately does not stop the human rights violations. But it establishes clear facts in a situation of war propaganda and lies. And it calls for further action. This time no one can pretend not to have known what is going on.

We attach great importance to the work of the EC mission led by Dame Anne Warburton into the treatment of Muslim women in the former Yugoslavia. The mission has undertaken two missions to the former Yugoslavia in December 1992 and in January 1993. The report from the mission has just been endorsed and made public by the EC Council of Ministers. Ahead of us is the important work to follow up on its recommendations.

The Community and its Member States also strongly endorse Security Council Resolution 780 on war crimes and welcome the appointment of a Commission of Experts to assist the Secretary-General in the collation, analysis and investigation of evidence. We will continue to give all of our support to its work. The perpetrators of mass killings and other grave breaches of international humanitarian law should be and will be held individually responsible for their actions. The Community and its Member States will continue to cooperate with the United Nations and the relevant bodies in ensuring that justice is done.

We also welcome and support the CSCE Rapporteur Missions investigating detention centres throughout the former Yugoslavia and attacks on civilians in Bosnia and Croatia.

In this connection we would like to commend the Commission on Human Rights for having responded clearly and promptly to the grave and massive violations of human rights, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The two special sessions of the Commission last year have strengthened the credibility of the Commission as an operational forum in the field of human rights and thereby enhanced the image of the United Nations as a whole.

Mr Chairman, the sessions of this Commission provide an opportunity to review the adequacy of existing standards to monitor compliance with norms already established and to elaborate, if possible, further mechanisms which will contribute to an improvement in the observance of these rights.

We would like to emphasize the importance we attach to two fundamental elements of the work of the Commission. On one hand, the increasing wish of many political leaders from around the world to participate in the work of the Commission, as well as the growing interest of the media and the public opinion at large in its activities are both encouraging evidence of the higher priority which the international community now attaches to the cause of human rights. On the other hand, the in-depth involvement and participation of human rights defenders and non-governmental organizations whose contributions reflect a wide practical experience are an important reminder of tragic situations of human rights violations as well as a deep commitment – sometimes at the risk of one's own life – to the cause of human rights.

The Commission on Human Rights relied greatly on the system of mechanisms created throughout the years. The fact-finding activities and the formulation of recommendations by Special Rapporteurs, Special Representatives and working groups are an integral and invaluable element in the Commission's role of monitoring compliance with internationally accepted human rights standards. An indispensable condition for the normal functioning of these mechanisms is the necessary, and obligatory, cooperation of governments. We welcome signs of progress in this regard, while regretting that a number of governments continue to withhold their full cooperation.

We urge all governments to extend to these mechanisms their full cooperation and assistance, including by providing all information requested, by facilitating visits to their countries, and by giving adequate follow-up to urgent appeals.

The Community and its Member States will promote the extension of Special Rapporteur's mandates to the extent that this is merited by the human rights situation in the relevant country. We welcome the rapid confirmation of the mandate of Mr Mawoziecki at the recent special session of the Commission and we express the hope that the future 'regular' mandates can be confirmed as swiftly.

Among the mechanisms, an invaluable contribution is provided by the Thematic Rapporteurs and working groups. By virtue of the global nature of their mandates and the reputation for diligence and integrity which they have acquired, they have become an indispensable part of the work of the Commission in the quest for universal promotion and protection of human rights. The Community and its Member States welcome the decision of the Commission to extend these mandates for a further three year period. We believe that this period will allow the Special Rapporteurs and working groups to plan and discharge their functions even more effectively.

The Community and its Member States will continue to support the mechanisms for holding special sessions of the Commission when events so require in accordance with ECOSOC Resolution 1990/48 of 25 May 1990.

The Community and its Member States have always greatly valued the Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Programme. We consider it important as a potential preventive mechanism and as a way of assisting countries in the transition to democracy and the rule of law. However, we do not view consideration of country situations under this programme as adequate in cases of gross and systematic violations of human rights. We note that there has been a significant increase in requests for assistance. We welcome this development and hope that the Centre for Human Rights will respond positively to these demands, as well as through the Voluntary Fund for Advisory Services. Practical counselling and problem-oriented assistance should be the main focus of the programme. More supervision of the policy and management as regards the Voluntary Fund is needed.

In view of such goals, we recognize the key importance of the Centre for Human Rights which can only play its role if provided with sufficient staff and resources. The Centre is facing a critical situation in its ability to fulfil its functions. Its resources in terms of finance, staff and accommodation have not kept pace with the increase in its workload. We will continue to follow this issue actively in the light of the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.

Mr Chairman, this Commission session takes place at the threshold of a year which will be crucial in the fight for human rights. 1993 is the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, one group vulnerable to human rights abuse; and in June this year the World Conference on Human Rights will take place in Vienna.

The Community and its Member States welcome that the UN General Assembly has proclaimed 1993 to be the 'International Year of the World's Indigenous People' with the theme of 'Indigenous People – a new partnership'.

It is a regrettable fact that many indigenous people are unable to enjoy their fundamental human rights and freedoms. The International Year will help to focus on the special situation of indigenous people and on their needs.

It is our strong hope that the international awareness of indigenous people's conditions both in the coming year and in the time after will be raised and that the UN Year will promote a change towards justice, democracy and equality, that a true partnership stands for. In this connection I

would like on behalf of the Community and its Member States to convey our congratulation and full support to the 1992 Nobel prize winner, Ms Rigoberta Menchu.

Mr Chairman, the Community and its Member States are very pleased that the UN General Assembly approved the agenda for the World Conference on Human Rights by consensus. We welcome that the agenda clearly is based on the objectives defined earlier by the General Assembly. Thus, the agenda provides the organizational framework of a global discussion on the full realization of human rights at the universal level, the progress made, the obstacles encountered and the new challenges ahead.

The Community and its Member States continue to believe that the World Conference – as well as the preparatory regional conferences – is an important opportunity for the international community to confirm the universality of human rights, to pursue a constructive dialogue on ways and means of improving their implementation and thereby helping to promote progress in development. We remain committed to a successful outcome of the Conference. We will work for consensus on a balanced final document containing declarations of political intent and recommendations on more effective implementation. In this regard particular emphasis will be given to the inter linkages between human rights, development and democracy and to the need for a concentrated assistance effort in this area.

Mr Chairman, we urge that the World Conference on Human Rights focus on achieving certain major goals. The goal which we regard as most important is the full implementation of existing human rights standards. We hope that a spirit of cooperation will prevail and that together we may be able to ensure that the World Conference become a spring board in our efforts to establish an effective international protection of human rights. It can mark the movement beyond the standard-setting phase inaugurated with the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, towards an era of acceptance – an era of making respect for human rights a reality in daily life – not just a goal. Much constructive work has been done in the years since the Universal Declaration was adopted. Our task now is to turn the words into deeds.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

93/040. Statement at the 49th Session of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia (agenda item 27)

Date of issue: 9 February 1993

Place of issue: Geneva

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Statement in international forum

Mr Larsen: Mr Chairman, I have the honour to address this session of the Commission on Human Rights on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

Exactly two months ago, the Commission met in its second special session in three months devoted to the situation in the former Yugoslavia. Then, the Community and its Member States had to make the observation that the appalling human rights situation in the area continued unabated.

Today we remain wholly dismayed by these continuing actions and the inhumanity which marks the present conflict.

Constantly, we receive reports about killings, systematic terrorization of civilians and destruction of civilian areas, rapes, mistreatment and torture in detention camps, forced expulsions, to

name but a few of the appalling violations of human rights and international humanitarian law which, during the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, are being committed on a scale unknown in Europe after the second world war.

In themselves, these specific violations deserve our unreserved condemnation, grave as they are in character as well as in the massive scale in which they are being committed. What makes the practice of them in this context particularly abhorrent, however, is that the vast majority of these acts are being pursued in a deliberate policy of 'ethnic cleansing', aimed at the destruction of communities and the forcible expulsion of other ethnic groups to conquer territory and either leave this territory for or re-populate it with people of one's own ethnic group.

All reports from missions to the former Yugoslavia undertaken on behalf of the United Nations and other international organizations have concluded that the Serbian side [is] responsible for the overwhelming majority of instances in which ethnic cleansing has taken place, be it in Croatia or in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In the words of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission, Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, to the Serbs ethnic cleansing is not one of the means of the war, but its very goal.

In both of the reports presented by the Special Rapporteur, he concluded that the principal victims of ethnic cleansing have been the Muslim population in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In its resolution of 1 December 1992, the Commission on Human Rights categorically condemned ethnic cleansing carried out, especially in Bosnia-Herzegovina, recognizing that the Serbian leadership in territories under their control in this country, the Yugoslav army and the political leadership in the Republic of Serbia bore primary responsibility for this abominable practice. Three days later, the third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly unanimously passed a resolution to the same effect.

The Community and its Member states condemn unreservedly policies by all sides of ethnic cleansing. Neither we nor the international community at large will ever acquiesce in the result of these abhorrent policies. Refugees and displaced persons must be allowed to return to their own homes, acts made under duress being invalid, and to live and to work in peace, exercising the same civil and political, social cultural and economic rights as the groups already living there.

Mr Chairman, in this context, the Community and its Member States place great faith in the efforts of the co-chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia to achieve peace in the area and a settlement of its many political problems. We welcome the acceptance by all parties to the conflict of their proposal for a constitutional settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We also urge that the Vance and Owen plan be accepted by the three parties and the cease-fire be implemented without delay and strongly hope that current discussions in the Security Council can lead to acceptance of the peace plan and of cessation of hostilities. We call on the Commission to express its strong desire that the current negotiations at the International Conference are concluded successfully in the near future. Because, Mr Chairman, precisely in the negotiations in the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia and its implementation lie our best chances for bringing an end to the immense human suffering in the former Yugoslavia which we have witnessed and worked to alleviate ever since the fighting began in the summer of 1991. As regards the exercise of human rights so crucial for persons belonging to minority groups and returning refugees to the new autonomous regions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Owen and Vance proposal for a new constitutional settlement contains strong safeguards. It establishes a high level of protection for all minority groups and sets up international supervision with the active involvement of organizations like the UN and the Council of Europe.

The hostilities which have taken place in the former Yugoslavia over the last 10 days constitute a threat to a continuation of the positive developments, in regard to the Owen and Vance proposal. The Community and its Member States therefore welcome Security Council Resolution 802 urging an end to the renewed hostilities in Croatia and urge all parties involved to carry on, without

delay, the implementation of all aspects of the Vance plan as well as the negotiations in Geneva with a view to reaching agreement on full implementation of the proposal for Bosnia-Herzegovina.

As pointed out by the Special Rapporteur in his reports to the Commission, the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed in the former Yugoslavia transgress some of the most fundamental international legal rules and norms as set out in e.g. the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The acts we are dealing with here further represent a violation of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, additional protocols to the Geneva Conventions and the programme of action on humanitarian issues adopted during the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia which was signed by all parties on 27 August 1992.

The Community and its Member States reaffirm that all persons who perpetrate or authorize crimes against humanity or other grave breaches of international humanitarian law are individually responsible for those breaches. We call upon all parties in the former Yugoslavia to cease violation of human rights and international humanitarian law immediately and to take appropriate steps to apprehend and punish those guilty of perpetrating or authorizing them. The international community must exert every effort to bring such persons to justice.

As highlighted by the EC Ministers in their declaration of 13 January 1993, we would like to stress the urgent need for an International Criminal Court. Such a court could address war crimes or violations of international humanitarian law as well as gross and systematic violations of human rights and crimes against humanity committed in connection with the conflict in the former Yugoslavia in order to bring the perpetrators of those acts to justice. We are determined to support this issue at the United Nations. We welcome the work being done by the commission of experts which has been established by Security Council Resolution 780 in order to examine and analyze information submitted to it, as well as information obtained through its own investigations or efforts, relating to violations of international humanitarian law.

Mr Chairman, our Special Rapporteur has rightly pointed out that the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina is not a religious conflict but one which is fomented by certain extreme nationalistic groups and parties in order to further their own political and material interests. The Community and its Member States agree with him that the extreme nationalistic ideologies underlying the conflict must be counter-acted by the active promotion of human rights. We would like to stress the need for a concerted action to further the process of democratization in the former Yugoslavia, not least in Serbia where the conditions under which the electoral campaign up to the elections on 20 December had to be carried out did not meet the requirements commonly accepted for free and fair elections. The international community should also assist other republics in the former Yugoslavia in their efforts to develop democratic systems which ensure full respect for human rights.

Our Foreign Minister, speaking on the opening days of this Conference on behalf of the Community and its Member States,¹ acknowledged the important contributions that a number of missions to the former Yugoslavia, not least the ones by our Special Rapporteur, have made to making the atrocities committed known to the outside world. Let me in this instance just mention that the EC Council of Foreign Ministers met on 1 February to discuss possible measures which could be taken to improve the plight of Muslim women in the former Yugoslavia.² To this end they received a briefing from Dame Anne Warburton who has just returned with an EC delegation from her second visit to the former Yugoslavia. They have decided to implement the recommendations in the report on assistance to the Bosnian Muslim women victims of rape and other atrocities by approaching the parties to the conflict to impress on them the imperative need to bring these abhorrent practices to an end. The Community and its Member States hope that any future mission will endeavour to inspect the locations associated with the practice of rape. The final report from the Warburton mission has been presented to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to

the President of the commission of experts established pursuant to resolution No 780 from the UNSC.

Finally, Mr Chairman, the Community and its Member States would like to point out that we are following developments in the Serbian provinces of Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina closely and are supporting efforts to increase international presence there as necessary. It is our view that no satisfactory solution can be found to the permanent crisis in Kosovo unless the Albanian majority there is granted extensive autonomy within the Republic of Serbia.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/039.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/035.

93/041. Statement at the 49th Session of the Commission on Human Rights on violations of human rights in Southern Africa (agenda item 5)

Date of issue: 9 February 1993

Place of issue: Geneva

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Statement in international forum

Mr Larsen: Mr Chairman, allow me, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, to make an intervention under item 5 of the agenda.

South Africa has come far on the difficult road away from apartheid and towards a non-racial democratic society. Although, the breakdown of the CODESA talks in May 1992 was a serious setback, we welcome the moves which are now taking place to resume the talks. In this regard, we are encouraged that contacts with various parties are underway as well as bilateral negotiations between the ANC and the National Party.

The persistence of violence is worrying and human rights abuses remain a serious problem. The situation in South Africa still deserves the attention of the international community. We reiterate the obligation of the South African Government to respect, protect and promote the human rights of all its citizens as a precondition for a united, non-racial, democratic South Africa. We also urge all political forces to respect human rights and to refrain from engaging in any act of violence. In this context, we note President De Klerk's announcement at the opening of parliament of his hope that the first stage of a transitional administration would be in place before the end of this year. We urge the South African Government to implement the necessary measures to ensure that this long-awaited development takes place.

Since the last session of the Commission on Human Rights, one of the most serious violent incident has been the Boipatong massacre on 17 June 1992 in which a black township was attacked and about 40 people lost their lives.

As stated previously on several occasions, the European Community and its Member States strongly deplore this incident and other violent incidents as for example in Ciskei.

The South African Government is responsible for the enforcement of law and order and the prevention of violence from whatever quarter. But indeed all parties must refrain from violence and act in accordance with the National Peace Accord.

In order to reinforce this process the European Community and its Member States have taken various measures during the last year.

An EC observer team of 15 including police officers, diplomats and an economist has been dispatched to South Africa to join observers from the UN and other organizations in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 772. The goal of these international observers is to help prevent violence, defuse tension and promote peace by their presence in situations of potential conflict.

Furthermore, six police experts from EC countries have joined judge Goldstone's investigative task forces which are also trying to curb the violence. We have continued to support the positive measures programme intended to help the victims of apartheid. This is now the largest EC national aid programme.

Finally, a very large majority of EC companies with subsidiaries in South Africa are applying a code of conduct adopted by the European Community and aimed at racial integration.

Mr Chairman, the Community and its Member States welcomed the outcome of the referendum held in South Africa on 17 March 1992 as a clear commitment to the transformation process. We urge all parties concerned to proceed soon to a transitional government and fully democratic elections.

The European Community and its Member States are concerned about the adverse effects on South African society of decades of apartheid.

We note that no government is yet established on the basis of nation-wide, multi-racial, free and fair elections. We urge that the forthcoming constitutional negotiations and the elections will also settle the question of the so-called 'independent' homelands. Meanwhile we call on all parties to give practical effects in the homelands to provisions of the National Peace Accord.

We welcome the release of about 400 political prisoners in the autumn, following agreement between the South African Government and the ANC. This removed one of the major obstacles to peaceful progress. We are, however, deeply concerned about the allegations of ill-treatment of people in police custody, resulting in many deaths.

In this connection, we wish to reaffirm our strong support for the important work of the Goldstone Commission which we have, as already mentioned, also supported in practical terms.

The return of a large number of political exiles is also to be welcomed. There have however been worrying allegations of serious mistreatment of returnees and their families.

To investigate these and other allegations the European Community and its Member States call on the South African Government to extend its cooperation with the UN to allow a visit by the *ad hoc* working group of experts established by the Commission on Human Rights. Such a step would serve to clarify the actual situation to the benefit of all. In this context, we also note the suggestion made by the Sub-Commission towards appointing a rapporteur on democratic transition in South Africa.

Mr Chairman, in spite of continuing outbursts of violence, encouraging moves have recently been taken in the direction of the resumption of negotiation.

We reiterate our support for the bilateral negotiations underway between the ANC and the National Party and for other contacts underway. We urge all parties to participate in broader negotiations without delay. We call on all the parties to proceed soon to a transitional government and fully democratic elections.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

93/042. Statement on the situation in the former Yugoslavia republics

Date of issue: 10 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Statement in the European Parliament

Mr Helveg Petersen, President-in-Office for European political cooperation: Mr President, the crisis and war in the former Yugoslavia have now occupied our governments, politicians and general public for roughly two years. We are witnessing revolutionary changes in Eastern Europe, where old identities are resurfacing, and this process has taken on its own horrific form, building on the ruins of the former Yugoslavia. Probably, historical hindsight will help us understand this tragic development. But history does not provide us with any solutions to the current situation. There is talk of a crisis in Europe with direct, serious consequences for the region and, indeed, the whole continent.

From the very outset, the European Community has sought, in its active involvement, to mediate between the warring factions. The volition of these factions is the driving force required to bring about a stable, durable and peaceful solution to the problems; solutions that are imposed will not last.

The attempts to serve as a mediator represent one of two paths followed by the EC policy, the other being humanitarian efforts to bring aid to the victims of the conflict. The EC has certainly made an extremely large humanitarian contribution. Being the most important European cooperative organization, it is both natural and necessary that the EC take an active role in solving this conflict, whose mode of development and very nature ought to be a thing of the past. From the outset, the EC has endeavoured to make the warring factions understand and accept the principles of the states' coexistence, which we regard as essential within the new Europe. The London Conference of August 1992 adopted these principles, which are the basis of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia being held in Geneva under the auspices of the UN and the EC. The tough, unremitting efforts of the joint chairmen of this conference, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, have now kept the talks going for something like six months, based on a peace plan they have drawn up.

The plan consists of three elements plus a transitional understanding, or 'interim agreement'. The three elements of the peace plan are: firstly, a set of constitutional principles for an independent Bosnia-Herzegovina; secondly, a peace settlement with a comprehensive system for monitoring the cessation of hostilities, the disbanding of military units, troop redeployment, border surveillance, the rebuilding of infrastructures, the securing of lines of communications, etc.; and thirdly, a proposal for dividing up Bosnia-Herzegovina into ten provinces, each with extensive internal autonomy.

Vance and Owen presented the peace plan in its entirety in Geneva on 30 January 1993. The delegates representing the Bosnian Croats signed all three documents. The representatives of the Bosnian Serbs signed the constitutional principles and the peace settlement. The Bosnian Government representing Muslim interests signed just the constitutional principles.

Carrying out the peace plan cannot prevent the continued existence of ethnic minorities on either side of the stipulated borders, but it takes ethnic considerations into account as far as possible. The implementation of the peace plan does not undermine any fundamental principles. The principle of peoples' right to self-determination does not legitimize the policy of ethnic cleansing carried out by the Serbian Government. The objective is to establish states in which all citizens enjoy equal rights, where there is respect for minority rights, and where the borders do not result in segregation.

As we all know, having ascertained the warring factions' attitude in Geneva on 30 January, Vance and Owen submitted the plan to the UN Security Council. If the Security Council endorses the plan, then it will stamp its authority on the plan's application. It is our hope that this will make the warring factions wake up to the fact that honest compliance with this plan constitutes the last chance of reaching a durable, stable solution to the conflict via peaceful means.

The Council hopes that the Security Council will give the Vance/Owen plan its serious consideration. Adoption of the plan could serve as a sound basis for establishing peace in the former Yugoslavia. The former Yugoslavia could certainly do with some, as could Europe.

[After the following debate Mr Helveg Petersen stated:] Many speakers have dwelt upon the outrages perpetrated against Muslim women. Last Monday, 1 February, the Council heard Dame Anne Warburton's report on her two missions. The Council did not merely listen, but also voted to publish the report and to take concrete measures to follow it up by providing various forms of aid, especially for mistreated women and girls. Several speakers have also touched on the question of an agreement with Slovenia. The Council has not yet received the Commission proposal on this, which it needs to be able to take up the matter.

On the question of Macedonia, also raised by many speakers, I would like to point out that the Special Committee on Arbitration as established by the International Conference for the Former Yugoslavia in January 1992, decided that Macedonia fulfilled all the requirements necessary to qualify for recognition as an independent state. Macedonia has applied to the UN Secretary-General for admission to the United Nations, and the Security Council is faced with the task of considering this application. As is widely known, no solution has yet been found, though there would appear to be no way of putting a decision off for much longer. The deployment of a UN force in Macedonia must be welcomed. Hopefully this force will serve to defuse the situation in the country.

I would now like to turn to the main issue and start off by expressing my thanks for the many good contributions and the extremely positive support for the Vance/Owen initiative. It is my belief, and the Council was unanimous on this, that the Vance/Owen plan represents the best chance for bringing a peaceful solution to Bosnia-Herzegovina. The pressure we can impose on the warring factions is political and diplomatic. There are also sanctions, which we must ensure are respected. There are few military means that we would dare to use in the present situation, and there is no indication that we would gain anything by taking military action. On the contrary, it is essential that we face up to the fact that military action would endanger the emergency aid programme currently underway, which is essential for avoiding widespread starvation in the area. There are political and diplomatic means to be applied and it is these on which the world community should focus. As I am speaking, we are awaiting the US reaction on this. At the moment we do not know what it is, but a message is on its way and should reach us within the next few hours. I would like to underline the fact that, whatever happens, it is important that the USA and Europe manage to act in concert. Europe has taken a stand, which has proven to be correct. The Americans are working out their response, but if we wish to do what we set out to do, namely to join forces in putting pressure on the warring factions and force a peaceful solution, then Europe and the USA must work together.

93/043. Question No 150/92 by Ms Oddy (S) on dismissed judges in Croatia

Date of issue: 10 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 7 February 1992)

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation aware that *inter alia* the following judges have been dismissed from office in Croatia?

- Slobodan Tatarac, formerly Deputy Public Prosecutor,
- Milan Pavkovic, formerly Deputy Public Prosecutor,
- Petar Kucera, formerly Judge of the Supreme Court,
- Urus Funduk, formerly Judge of the Supreme Court,
- Ignjatije Bulajic, formerly Deputy Public Prosecutor.

Given that independence of the judiciary is an essential prerequisite of a genuinely effective democracy, what steps do the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation intend to take to express disapproval of this attack on the independence of the judiciary?

Answer:

The specific issue referred to by the honourable Member has not been discussed in the framework of EPC. However, Croatia as participating State in the CSCE has committed itself to all CSCE commitments and principles, as well as the rule of law. The Community and its Member States expect Croatia to honour its commitments.

In recognizing Croatia, the Community and its Member States affirmed the importance they attach to the implementation of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. They continue to monitor compliance with internationally accepted standards in these areas and to press Croatia to ensure they are met.

93/044. Questions No 498/92 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S) on firing squad executions in Chad and 1526/92 by Ms Goedmakers (S) on violence against civilians by members of the armed forces in Chad

Date of issue: 10 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written questions in the European Parliament (from 9 March and 16 June 1992)

Question No 498/92:

What was the reaction of EPC to the recent public execution by firing squad in N'Djamena, the capital of Chad, of four people, three of whom were servicemen, who were sentenced to death without the right of appeal, these being the first executions for many years ordered by a court in Chad?

Question No 1526/92:

On 16 February 1992 the Vice-President of the Chad Human Rights Association was shot dead by two soldiers. Whatever the motives (whether political or criminal), this case is one of a series; according to a report by Amnesty International of 18 February 1992, at least 20 other people were killed by soldiers or armed men in military uniform between 31 January 1992 and 18 February 1992.

Although the Government of Idris Débry has condemned the wholesale violation of human rights under the former Government of Hissene Habré, it has so far failed, according to Amnesty, to take measures to prevent the misuse or illegal use by the security forces of firearms or force.

1. Are the Ministers aware of this report?
2. Have the Ministers formed a judgement as to the accuracy of Amnesty International's report of 18 February 1992?
3. If this report is correct, what steps do the Ministers plan to take to support the Chad Government in halting violence against its citizens?
4. On 26 February 1991 I submitted a question on the fate of Ahmed Alkali [Alkhali] Mohammed Maca (No 523/91). I have not yet received an answer. When can I expect a reply?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have been following developments in Chad closely and are very concerned at reports of serious violations of human rights. They are fully aware of the difficult situation in the country and do not hesitate to make clear to the authorities in N'Djamena the importance they attach to respect for human rights.

After some considerable research, I regret to inform the honourable Member that the Community and its Member States have no information on the fate of Mr Ahmed Alkhali Mohammed Maca.

93/045. Question No 1217/92 by Mr Ford (S) on Mordechai Vanunu

Date of issue: 10 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 21 May 1992)

What representations have been made to the Israeli Government concerning this prisoner and his inhuman treatment and, in particular, the refusal of the Israeli authorities to allow MEPs to visit him?

Answer:

I refer the honourable Member to the reply given to Written Question No 2178/92¹ on the same subject.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/375.

93/046. Question No 1497/92 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S) on arrests in Equatorial Guinea

Date of issue: 10 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 16 June 1992)

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation concerned at the arrests which have taken place in Equatorial Guinea and the possible torturing of certain detainees such as Plácido Mircó Abogo and the situation of former prisoners such as Celestino Bacale Obiang, Arsenio Molonga, José Luis Nvumba and José Antonio Dorronsoro?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have been following developments in Equatorial Guinea with concern.

On 16 September 1992, the Community and its Member States through their Heads of Mission in Malabo delivered a *démarche* to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Equatorial Guinea expressing concern about the violence used by the police when detaining opposition politicians on 1 September. They urged the authorities to release those detained. The *démarche* recalled Article 5 of the Fourth Lomé Convention (which reaffirms the contracting parties' deep attachment to human rights) and the resolution on human rights, democracy and development passed by the Development Council on 28 November 1991.

Since then, several members of the Party of Progress have been arrested and apparently tortured. The Community and its Member States are very worried about these developments, which can only serve to exacerbate tension.

The Community and its Member States will continue to follow the situation in Equatorial Guinea closely, in particular in the light of the response to their concern by the authorities in Malabo.

93/047. Question No 2569/92 by Mr Robles Piquer (PPE) on the Community response to the UN Secretary-General's claim that the United Nations should have its own battalions

Date of issue: 10 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 27 October 1992)

The idea that the UN should play a central role in maintaining peace, which stems from the Gulf War, has led the UN Secretary-General to assert that the United Nations should have its own battalions to ensure peace.

His idea is that each country should form a unit within its own army which could, by definition, be trained by the UN and placed at the Secretary-General's disposal within 24 hours. If this goal is achieved, he could thus have a total of 24,000 troops available within 24 hours, able to take immediate action in response to any situation anywhere in the world. Otherwise he would not be able to send troops to an international location in less than three months.

Can the Ministers state their opinion of the above proposal by the UN Secretary-General, and say to what extent they would accept a joint European undertaking to satisfy Mr Gali's request to have 24,000 troops available within 24 hours?

Answer:

In their statement of 30 June 1992,¹ the Community and its Member States welcomed the release of the UN Secretary-General's report 'An Agenda for Peace'.

The Secretary-General's report is wide-ranging. The proposals, including those suggesting that UN Member States earmark forces for enforcement action and for peace-keeping, require careful consideration in the relevant UN bodies. All 12 Member States of the Community responded individually to the Secretary-General's questionnaire on forces which could be made available for

peace-keeping. One Member State has already offered to make more than 1,000 troops available at 48 hours' notice and another 1,000 within one week. As far as EC peace-keeping operations are concerned, EC countries already provide some 16,500 UN peace-keepers.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/259.

93/048. Question No 2746/92 by Mr Geraghty (GUE) on citizenship and voting rights in the Baltic states

Date of issue: 10 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 16 November 1992)

Does EPC consider there is any cause for concern with regard to the civil rights of ethnic minorities in the Baltic states and, if so, what steps has it taken to communicate this concern and bring about an improvement in the situation?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have paid close attention to the situation of ethnic minorities living in the Baltic states. They are concerned about community relations there although they do not believe that there are mass violations of human rights in those countries. They have been working actively to try to alleviate tensions within those states as well as to promote stable and harmonious relationships between Russia and the Baltic states. They have therefore supported the application of the principles and mechanisms of the United Nations, the CSCE and the Council of Europe in the Baltic states. They welcomed the report of the mission to Latvia by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Estonia's decision to invite a fact finding mission under the CSCE Human Dimension Mechanism and to invite a mission from the UN Centre for Human Rights.

At the recent meeting of the G-24 on the Baltic states in Riga, the group urged the Baltic states to adopt and implement policies respecting the rights and reasonable expectations of all individuals resident in their territories and conducive to internal stability and to a harmonious relationship with their neighbours. G-24 assistance would support policies favouring citizen's rights and promoting good intra-community relations.

93/049. Question No 2818/92 by Mr Robles Piquer (PPE) on the elections in Lebanon

Date of issue: 10 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 16 November 1992)

The two rounds of elections which took place in Lebanon at the end of August were characterized by reluctance on the part of the Christian community to participate. A number of Muslims have also refused to recognize the validity of the elections, which will produce a second parliament, together with the one which has been internationally recognized for about 20 years.

Can the Ministers meeting in EPC give an assessment of the elections and their outcome, together with their likely influence on establishing peace and political stability in this complex nation, which has been torn apart by years of civil war?

Answer:

In their statement of 18 August 1992¹ the Community and its Member States welcomed the prospect of a renewal of the democratic process in Lebanon and called for the elections to be conducted according to democratic principles and in the spirit of national reconciliation which characterized the Ta'if Accord.

They subsequently regretted that the low turn-out, alleged irregularities and interference and denial of access to voting booths in the south had impeded the democratic process and produced a parliament which did not fully reflect the political will of the Lebanese people. But the appointment of a new government under Mr Rafiq Hariri is to be welcomed as having given the country fresh hope of national recovery.

The Community and its Member States continue to support the full implementation of the Ta'if Accord as the best basis for achieving Lebanese independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, free of all foreign troops.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/303.

93/050. Question No 2973/92 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on the situation of Palestinian refugees

Date of issue: 10 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 30 November 1992)

900,000 Palestinian refugees are living in deplorable conditions on Israeli occupied territory. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency reports that this situation is among those giving the greatest cause for concern at international level. Will EPC therefore demonstrate its own concern to improve the situation of the Palestinian refugees?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have repeatedly called upon Israel to meet fully its obligations towards Palestinians in the Occupied Territories and to abide by the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Acts of violence, whatever their origin, are a threat to a climate of confidence which is essential to the success of the Middle East peace process.

The European Community has been providing assistance to Palestinian refugees since 1972. EC assistance is of great importance in terms of the total share of the overall budget of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) (43% in 1991).

A working group has been established within the framework of the multilateral track of the peace process to consider the question of refugees in the region. The contribution that the economy of the Occupied Territories could make to the economy of the region in the light of a peace

settlement and the obstacles to that contribution in the absence of such a settlement is being examined by a separate multilateral working group on regional economic development.

93/051. Question No 2989/92 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S) on the improvement of conditions for prisoners in Syria

Date of issue: 10 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 30 November 1992)

Can European political cooperation state whether there has been any improvement in the situation of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Syria who have been under arrest for years and have still not been brought to trial, especially following the debate on the Community's Financial Protocol with Syria?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States follow the human rights situation in Syria closely and have repeatedly expressed their concern about reports of continuing violations. The Syrian Government has recently taken some encouraging positive steps to improve the situation. The government has announced the release of some 4,000 political prisoners over the last year, including 550 in early December. It also took steps to facilitate the emigration of Syrian Jews. About half of the 4,000 Jews have now left the country.

The Community and its Member States will continue to encourage these positive trends and to stress the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to respect for human rights which is an important element in their relations with third countries.

93/052. Statement at the 49th Session of the Commission on Human Rights on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (agenda item 16)

Date of issue: 11 February 1993

Place of issue: Geneva

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Statement in international forum

Mr Larsen: Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Community and its Member States on agenda item 16, entitled 'Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination'.

The Community and its Member States have always been and continue to be vehemently opposed to all forms of racism and racial discrimination. This was stated in very clear terms by the Heads of State and Government of the European Community in the declaration on racism and xenophobia adopted at Maastricht in December 1991.¹ We lose no opportunity to condemn these odious practices, and we are appalled by the crimes now being committed in the name of so called racial or ethnic purity. Human rights and fundamental freedoms for all individuals, without distinction of any kind on grounds of race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin are vital for mankind's dignity, well-being and future.

The legal order of the international community, as enshrined in the United Nations Charter; is based not only on the sovereign equality of every nation large or small but also on the equality and

dignity of every human being. Combating racism and racial discrimination was, from the start, a priority for the United Nations and continues to be one of the major themes. This consensus has been the key element in the drawing up of international legal instruments, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, adopted in 1965.

The task of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is to monitor the implementation of this Convention. The Community and its Member States welcome the new impetus which the Committee has brought to the execution of this task. However, owing to financial constraints and deficient reporting by States Parties it has not been as effective as it might have been. The Community and its Member States supported the amendments to the Convention adopted by the States Parties and endorsed by the General Assembly last autumn in order to fund the Committee from the regular UN budget. With these amendments financing of the Committee will be ensured and we look forward to an early improvement in the Committee's functioning. Meanwhile, we call upon all States Parties to meet their financial obligations and those Parties in arrears to meet their overdue payments in full.

With the improvement in the functioning of the Committee there is a good chance that the current backlog of reports will be reduced. We therefore take also this opportunity to call upon all those countries that have not submitted their initial reports or the required follow-up reports to the Committee to do so soon.

Mr Chairman, racism is not limited to one particular region of the world – it is a global phenomenon.

In statements under other items of the agenda the Community and its Member States already have dealt with – or will be dealing with – obvious manifestations of racism such as apartheid in South Africa and 'ethnic cleansing' in the former republics of Yugoslavia. These are, however, not the only cases of racial and other discrimination which merit examination. In many regions of the world, Europe, Africa, Asia – as we are speaking – various countries are being torn apart by ethnically inspired armed conflicts. In Iraq, for example, the regime of Saddam Hussein has inflicted massive suffering on the Kurds and Shi'ites. In Burma, large numbers of Rohingyas have fled to neighbouring Bangladesh after persecution by the Burmese authorities.

Racial discrimination may occur in some countries not as a result of government policy but because of social tensions. In parts of Europe, for example, there have been manifestations of racism and xenophobia. It is clearly the duty of governments to do all they can to prevent such conflicts, and Member States of the Community are committed to doing all they can, including through legislation, education and training to ensure that such racial prejudice is eliminated. We consider that any propaganda in favour of or any appeal to national, racial or religious hatred which constitutes an incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence should be suppressed. We can assure the international community that we are not complacent on this subject and those found guilty will be punished. We have been heartened by the many demonstrations of the public expressing outrage of acts motivated by racist or xenophobic attitudes. We strongly reject these attitudes and we will continue to do our utmost to prevent racial prejudice from taking root in our societies.

Mr Chairman, a major feature of the United Nations' work in combating racism has been the Second Decade. Much useful work has been done under this umbrella by the Centre for Human Rights and we thank the Secretary-General for his report on the activities under the Second Decade. Clearly racism has not been eliminated and there is an urgent need for further and efficient action by the United Nations in this field. For this reason the Community and its Member States support the launching of the Third Decade. We believe that the Third Decade should be action-oriented and pragmatic, focusing on the problem of racism and xenophobia world-wide. Along these lines, it is our hope that this Commission session will provide a constructive input to the formulation of the Plan of Action for the Third Decade.

The establishment of a thematic special rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance could be a constructive step forward in enhancing the United Nations' work in combatting these phenomena. The mandate of such a rapporteur should in our view not be limited geographically, but be broad and general – reflecting the fact that racism and xenophobia are global scourges. The special rapporteur should exchange views with the various mechanisms and bodies entrusted with the task of combatting racism, social discrimination, xenophobia or intolerance, and in particular with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, with a view to enhancing further their effectiveness and mutual cooperation. The Community and its Member States intend to participate actively in the deliberations on this important subject, and are considering the possibility of presenting a draft resolution at the present session of the Commission.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 91/434.

93/053. Statement on American steps to promote peace and a political settlement in former Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 12 February 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States welcome the initiative by the United States towards a more active involvement in the international efforts to promote peace and a political settlement of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia supporting and building upon the negotiating efforts of the co-chairmen, as announced on 10 February by Secretary of State Warren Christopher. With its emphasis on a negotiated settlement to the conflict, it is in line with the policy pursued by the European Community and its Member States since the conflict began.

The European Community and its Member States further welcome the appointment of Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew as US envoy to the peace negotiations, conducted under the aegis of the United Nations and the European Community and its Member States. His close cooperation with the co-chairmen will contribute to the achievement of the common goal.

It is essential that continued full support for the efforts of the co-chairmen be maintained and that momentum in the negotiations be upheld. Discussions within the United Nations Security Council must be pursued and intensified. Pressure must continue to be brought on all parties to agree on the still unresolved questions concerning the future settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina and other unresolved issues in the former Yugoslavia. The American initiative is an important contribution to these efforts.

The European Community and its Member States look forward to close cooperation with the US in the pursuit of a negotiated settlement and in its implementation, in which regional organizations will have an important role.

93/054. Statement on Belarus

Date of issue: 12 February 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States welcome the vote of the Belarussian Supreme Soviet on 4 February to ratify the START I Treaty and the Lisbon Protocol which committed signatories to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapons state. They look forward to the rapid formal accession of Belarus to the NPT, and to its full implementation of the START and NPT Treaties.

The Community and its Member States hope that this important step in the direction of enhanced international security will rapidly be matched by other states which made commitments under the Lisbon Protocol.

93/055. Statement on Rwanda

Date of issue: 15 February 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States recall their statement of 21 January 1993,¹ in which they welcomed the progress achieved in the peace process initiated in Arusha.

They condemn the flagrant violation of the cease-fire by the Rwandese Patriotic Front, which is prejudicial to the search for a negotiated solution – the only means of ensuring lasting peace.

The Community and its Member States appeal urgently to all political forces to assume their responsibilities in order to avoid an even more catastrophic situation for displaced persons, now numbering hundreds of thousands.

They also condemn all types of violence, including the acts of violence committed by political militants, which have caused hundreds of deaths and heightened political tension.

The Community and its Member States call upon the parties concerned to resume the process of conciliation without delay.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/021.

93/056. Statement at the 49th Session of the Commission on Human Rights (agenda items 7 and 8)

Date of issue: 15 February 1993
Place of issue: Geneva
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Statement in international forum

Mr Larsen: Mr Chairman, I have the pleasure to address the Commission under agenda items 7 and 8 on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

v From a historical perspective, discussions of human rights in international relations are a relatively new development. There is no mention of human rights in the League of Nations Covenant. The success story of human rights and democracy as essential items of international relations is intimately linked to the United Nations. Mentioning the relationship between human rights, democracy and development is an even more recent development. It has been a feature of the international scene for little more than a decade.

We are witnessing once more a collective process of learning in the United Nations, this unique classroom of international relations. There has been elaborate discussion on human rights

in the UN fora, especially in this Commission. And there has been equally elaborate cooperation on development. But until recently these two important strands of dialogue did not merge although both have the same starting point. The human being is at the centre of both endeavours. It took time for this simple statement to have practical effects.

The European Community and its Member States are taking an active part in bringing together human rights, democracy and development. Thus on 28 November 1991, the EC Council of Ministers adopted a resolution on the relationship between these three elements thereby establishing a clear and forward looking policy, with regard both to actively supporting the process towards democracy and the promotion of reforms where needed. The resolution also emphasizes the commitment of the Community and its Member States to back this policy by practical measures in support of human rights and democracy in areas such as strengthening of the judiciary, electoral assistance, support for free press, reduction of military expenditure, good governance, etc.

The Fourth Lomé Convention, the Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and a multitude of countries from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific region, incorporated for the first time articles relating specifically to the role of human rights in such cooperation. In the Convention it is stipulated that cooperation shall be directed towards the development centred on man, the main protagonist and beneficiary of development, which thus entails respect for and promotion of all human rights. It further recognizes that respect for human rights is a basic factor of real development and that cooperation is conceived as a contribution to the promotion of these rights. This new approach has become an essential element of our cooperation with other countries.

There is growing consensus on these issues as is also clearly expressed in the Paris Declaration and programme of action of the Second UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries, as in the International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade as well as at the Rio Conference. We note with appreciation that the relationship between human rights, democracy and development will be a key issue at the forthcoming World Conference on Human Rights and we hope that this high-level meeting will lead to practical and operational results as part of a reinforced global effort in support of human rights and democracy as an integral part of the development process.

What now is the relationship between human rights, democracy and development? With respect to the two elements democracy and development, UN Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali has coined what we consider to be a '*formule heureuse*', i.e. that if there is no development without democracy there can also be no democracy without development. This dictum also encompasses the third element, because true, representative democracy – i.e. free elections, political pluralism and rule of law – and respect for human rights are inextricably linked.

Mr Chairman, I would like to elaborate on this two-way relationship. By promoting human rights and democracy as an integral part of the development process, we are creating the basis for development which is broad-based and sustainable in the long-term. At the same time this development will in itself help to meet the basic social and economic needs of the citizens as well as to strengthen the democratic institutions.

The European Community and its Member States affirm that, combined with the recipient countries' own efforts, public development assistance will continue to be crucial in the development process, especially for the least-developed countries. To be effective such assistance must be well used and targeted where it can make a real impact, and all possible steps to increase aid effectiveness must be taken.

The campaign against poverty will continue to be the focus of development cooperation activity. Success in this campaign requires, on the part of developing countries, appropriate policies aimed at reforming and achieving a more equitable distribution of national wealth and the attain-

ment of broad-based sustainable development. Such a goal cannot be attained without the establishment of democracy and representative institutions which function well. Our development policy is and will be an integral part of Community external relations policy, thereby ensuring that the latter takes due account of development and human rights objectives. We are nevertheless conscious that there are areas where new or renewed efforts are required. This is the background on which the European Community and its Member States, within its development assistance cooperation, has initiated programmes in support of the democratic structures within individual societies.

Mr Chairman, the President of Zambia, Mr Chiluba, recently said when addressing the summit meeting of the Organization of African Unity in Dakar: 'No country can achieve meaningful development unless the creative potential of individuals in that country is allowed to germinate and flower freely'. He went on to say: 'Democracy is not a preserve of the western countries only, it is a basic necessity to mankind'. This thought reflects the wave of political reform throughout the world and most particularly in Africa and is a clear demonstration of the strength of public and international request for democratic reform. The changes we have experienced are driven by the conviction of individuals that a development is only achievable through the full participation of the people in the development process and with full respect of human rights.

Far too often political ideas or ideologies have been misused for instance as a pretext for a so called development process through totalitarian or authoritarian means. Most of them have failed, often causing immense suffering and distress for the vast majority of the concerned countries' population. Development, to succeed in the long term, must be based on the will and the interest of the people concerned.

Every society needs freedom of opinion and expression for its development. We now know that respect for human rights is not only a value *per se* and an international obligation, it is also a precondition for successful development in any society. The economic and developmental process is an enormous system of communication dependent on the free and fearless exchange of information and continuous feed-back.

Mr Chairman, the question of the right to development has to be examined in the light of the relationship between human rights, democracy and development. The declaration on the right to development brings together, in a manner that is sometimes difficult to grasp, individual rights which are recognized in the Covenants and collective aspirations to greater well-being. The single most important message in the declaration is that of solidarity – solidarity between rich countries and their developing partners, solidarity in every country with the most disadvantaged. The fact that three quarters of the planet's population continue to suffer from malnutrition, disease and poverty has to be of concern to every state and every individual. How can we respond to this message?

Firstly, by continuing to protect and promote all economic, social, cultural, civil and political human rights with the same energy.

Secondly, by combining national action and international cooperation. It is imperative that international development cooperation be continued. As I have already mentioned, such progress requires that concerns over human rights become a more integral part of cooperation programmes; the European Community and its Member States are ensuring that technical and economic assistance focus on the needs and aspirations of the people concerned.

Development and increased democracy nevertheless remain, in the first instance, national responsibilities, as also set out in the declaration on the right to development. The European Community has no model to impose. It is for the states concerned to set up structures, in particular structures that promote dialogue, in order to respond to the needs and wishes expressed by the people.

Finally, and this is the critical point, by giving a leading role to the individual. The individual is the subject, the agent, but never the passive object of development. Without the active, voluntary participation of the individuals and groups concerned, development policy is doomed to failure. The declaration on the right to development would have no meaning if its main aim were not to protect individuals, to ensure that projects with which they did not fully agree were not imposed upon them for economic reasons.

I would conclude, Mr Chairman, by stressing the value of in-depth discussion, not only at national level, but also within the United Nations, between those who deal with development and those who defend human rights.

Discussions on different elements of development will, of course, continue as will dialogues on the different interests of the countries concerned. But the general realization that the individual is at the centre of both human rights and development policies, as is so ably expressed in the Secretary-General's dictum, represents an enormous step forward, both for the fulfilment of the personal aspirations of the individual and for the development objectives.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

93/057. Question No 1549/92 by Mr Bettini, Mr Breyer and Mr Lannoye (V) on the risk of proliferation as a result of the existence of nuclear mercenaries and illegal trade in irradiated material between the CIS, Europe, the Mashreq and Maghreb countries, India and Pakistan

Date of issue: 15 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 16 June 1992)

Is EPC aware that, since the autumn of 1991 a flourishing illegal trade has grown up in the markets of Milan, Zurich, Amsterdam and Hamburg in irradiated material, plutonium and uranium and rare minerals and metals such as red mercury which come from nuclear plant[s] in the former USSR (now the CIS) and are offered to buyers from Libya, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan and India, which will use them to expand their nuclear capability?

Is EPC also aware that a placement network for nuclear mercenaries from the CIS exists in these countries and has agents in Europe?

What measures does EPC intend to take to counteract this dangerous traffic and keep a check on the movements of nuclear mercenaries from the CIS?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are concerned over reports about the illegal trade in nuclear materials. Member States on whose territory this trade is alleged to have occurred, or whose nationals have been involved, investigate all such incidents. The Community and its Member States discuss this issue both bilaterally and in European political cooperation. Fortunately thus far, materials recovered in incidents which have come to light have been of no proliferation concern. But the Community and its Member States are not complacent and will continue to treat this matter with the seriousness it deserves.

In the declaration on non-proliferation and arms exports adopted by the European Council in Luxembourg in June 1991,¹ the Community and its Member States expressed their support for a

strengthening of the regime of nuclear non-proliferation. The Community and its Member States continue to call on all states who have not yet done so to become parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and have proposed reforms aimed at strengthening and improving the safeguards administered by the IAEA under the NPT. The Community and its Member States believe that the Non-Proliferation Treaty is the corner-stone of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and that the indefinite extension of the Treaty in its present form at the 1995 Extension Conference will be a key step in the development of that regime.

As the honourable Member will be aware from the common statements of 16, 23 and 31 December 1991 and of 15 January 1992,² the Community and its Member States have made the question of nuclear non-proliferation a particular issue in their dealings with the countries of the former Soviet Union.

The authorities of the countries of the former Soviet Union are therefore well aware of the importance the Community and its Member States attach to non-proliferation of nuclear materials, weapons and capabilities.

At the EPC ministerial meeting in Lisbon, on 17 February 1992, the Community and its Member States agreed to convey to the authorities of the countries of the former Soviet Union their readiness to render any appropriate technical support they may need to eliminate nuclear weapons and to establish an effective non-proliferation system.

The Community and its Member States signed on 27 November with Russia and the United States an agreement creating an International Science and Technology Centre in Russia and possibly in other countries of the former Soviet Union. The centre would support projects aimed at giving weapons scientists and engineers of the former Soviet Union opportunities to redirect their talents to benign uses and in particular to minimize any incentives to engage in activities that would result in proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, and missile delivery systems. The Community and its Member States will support this initiative financially in the framework of the 1992 programmes for technical assistance.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 91/196.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Docs 91/464, 91/469, 91/472 and 92/008.

93/058. Question No 2740/92 by Mr McMillan-Scott (ED) on violations of human rights by the Republic of Serbia

Date of issue: 15 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 16 November 1992)

1. Will EPC set up a documentation centre to maintain as complete a record as possible of violations of human rights by the Republic of Serbia on its own territory and by forces and individuals with dependency on the Republic of Serbia acting on adjoining territories?
2. If EPC agrees to establish a centre to document Serbian violations of human rights, will it establish political cooperation with frontier states in order to obtain a reliable and consistent flow of information?
3. With the advance of colder weather, will EPC specify the measures that they intend to take in order to ensure adequate humanitarian aid for the large numbers of people affected by Serbian pogroms, particularly in Kosovo, Voivodina [Vojvodina], Bosnia and the enclaves in Croatia?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States do not intend to establish a special documentation centre on violations of human rights by Serbia. The Community and its Member States support action underway in the framework of the International Conference on Yugoslavia, the UN and the CSCE to ensure proper documentation of human rights violations on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. In this context, the honourable Member is reminded of the decision by the extraordinary session of the Commission on Human Rights to send a Special Rapporteur, former Polish Prime Minister Mazowiecki, to investigate allegations of human rights abuses throughout the former Yugoslavia, in particular in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the CSCE rapporteur missions investigating detention centres throughout the former Yugoslavia and attacks on civilians in Bosnia and Croatia, and the establishment of long term CSCE missions in Kosovo, Vojvodina and Sandjak. The honourable Member is also reminded that the CSCE mission led by Sir John Thomson has been tasked specifically to investigate reports of detention camps in Serbia itself.

The Community and its Member States welcomed UNSCR 780 which calls upon states and, as appropriate, international humanitarian organizations to collate substantiated information in their possession or submitted to them relating to the violations of humanitarian law, including breaches of the Geneva Conventions, being committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. The commission of experts to assist the Secretary-General in the analysis of evidence, referred to in this resolution has in the meantime been established.

The Birmingham European Council on 16 October 1992¹ agreed that immediate and decisive action was needed in the face of the impending major tragedy in former Yugoslavia as winter approached. It underlined the importance of providing winter shelter and of ensuring the delivery of relief supplies through UNHCR, as highlighted in the Commission's action plan. The European Council called on other international donors to make a commensurate effort to support the UNHCR appeal and to speed up the delivery of assistance under existing pledges. As a result of the Birmingham Council, an EC task force has been set up to reinforce the efforts under UNHCR and a constant review of the Community's humanitarian response set in hand to ensure that its efforts are timely and well directed. The European Council also underlined the importance of the rapid deployment of forces now underway under UNPROFOR II, to which a number of Member States were contributing, for humanitarian convoy protection and the escort of detainees from camps. Humanitarian aid to the former Yugoslavia is carefully targeted on those most in need. UNHCR lead the aid effort and, on the basis of their advice, priority is being given to Bosnia and to the needs of the displaced throughout the former Yugoslavia. UNHCR includes the needs of Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina as part of the total humanitarian need for Serbia.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/354.

93/059. Questions No 2890/92 by Lord O'Hagan (PPE) on the Baha'i community in Yazd and 2929/92 by Mr Crampton (S) on the confiscation of Baha'i properties in Iran

Date of issue: 15 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written questions in the European Parliament (from 23 and 24 November 1992)

Question No 2890/92:

It is reported that members of the Baha'i based in Yazd have had their homes seized and are being harassed by the authorities.

1. What steps have the Ministers meeting in EPC taken to find out the truth of these allegations?
2. What protests have they made to the Iranian authorities?

Question No 2929/92:

Following the EPC *démarche* to the Iranian authorities on 12 June 1992 in connection with the execution of Mr Bahman Samandari, will the EPC make another formal protest to the Iranian authorities about the recent unauthorized confiscation of Baha'i homes, properties and monies in Iran?

Answer:

The Presidency made further representations to the Iranian authorities in October, both in Tehran and Geneva, about the situation of the Baha'is charged with spying; Mr Bihnam Mithaqi and Mr Kayran Khalajabadi, and about reports that they did not receive fair trials. The Iranian authorities said that their judicial authorities were examining the conduct of the cases. At the same time, the Presidency's representative in Tehran raised the reports of the confiscation of houses and properties belonging to Baha'is in Jazd, Isfahan and Tehran. The Iranian authorities asserted that Baha'is were free to exercise the rights available to all Iranian citizens if they obeyed the law.

The Community and its Member States will continue to follow the human rights situation in Iran closely and will not fail to draw the attention of the Iranian authorities violations of these rights.

The latest report by the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on human rights in Iran, Mr Galindo-Pohl, was presented to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in late November. The report highlights the continuing persecution of members of the Baha'i faith including summary executions, the confiscation of property, and the denial of pensions and passports. A resolution on human rights in Iran, drafted and co-sponsored by the European Community and its Member States, was adopted on 4 December in the Third Committee of the General Assembly. It was adopted on 18 December.

93/060. Question No 2988/92 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S) on the release of the trade union leader Mr Chakufwa Chihana

Date of issue: 15 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 30 November 1992)

Can European political cooperation state whether it has any information concerning the above trade union leader, who is under arrest in Malawi but has not yet been brought to trial, and has been declared a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are aware that Mr Chihana was convicted in Blantyre on 14 December 1992 on two counts of sedition and jailed for two years.

Apparently, Mr Chihana's lawyer has submitted an appeal against conviction and sentence which has yet to be heard by the Supreme Court.

The Community and its Member States have on several occasions called upon the Malawian Government either to release Mr Chihana or to ensure he was brought to trial quickly.

The Community and its Member States will continue to follow closely the case of Mr Chihana and will decide what further action to take in the light of the decision on his appeal.

93/061. Statement on Togo

Date of issue: 16 February 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States strongly condemn the recent violence committed against the civilian population of Lomé which has led thousands to abandon the city.

They deplore that it was not possible to reach any agreement at the round table meeting of Colmar which was convened through the good offices of two EC Member States. The Community and its Member States at the same time regret the fact that some opposed all compromise propositions which could have allowed the holding of free and fair elections, the re-establishment of a climate of confidence and security, and put an end to the general strike.

Under these circumstances the Community and its Member States cannot but conclude that both bilateral and Community development cooperation has become more and more difficult. They have already been obliged to take certain steps and will continue to draw the consequences of the obstruction of the democratic process and of the development of the situation in Togo.

93/062. Statement on Angola

Date of issue: 17 February 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States support fully the declaration by the observers to the Bicesse peace accords concerning a deadline of 17 February 1993 for UNITA to decide on the setting of a date for a meeting in Addis Ababa between the subscribers to the peace accords for Angola. They align themselves with the appeal for a truce in Huambo issued by the Special Representative of the United Nations' Secretary-General.

They appeal strongly to the Government of Angola and UNITA to bring an immediate end to the fighting so that humanitarian aid can be provided to the wounded and suffering civilians, particularly in Huambo, where fighting has taken place for more than a month.

The Community and its Member States reiterate their appeal, in particular to UNITA, to abide by the results of the elections, observe the peace accords and resume the demobilization process. Likewise, they repeat their appeal to the countries in the region to refrain from any act that could contribute to an internationalization of the present conflict.

93/063. Question No 272/92 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S) on rights violations in Rwanda

Date of issue: 17 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 24 February 1992)

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation looked into the serious incidents which took place at Neurambi (south-west of Byumba) on the night of 7 November 1991, and at Kanzenze (south of Kigali), the main victims of which were members of the Tutsi people, as is shown in the report by Africa Watch following its visit to Rwanda?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have repeatedly expressed their concern at the present situation in Rwanda and have appealed to all parties concerned to be flexible so that a peaceful solution can be found to their differences. The Community and its Member States are encouraged by recent developments aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the conflict.

93/064. Question No 391/92 by Mr McMillan-Scott (ED) on the Community's relations with Romania

Date of issue: 17 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 27 February 1992)

At the G-24 meeting in November 1991, the USA and Japan refused to renew aid on account of Romania's human rights record, whereas the Community went ahead. Will the Foreign Ministers mandate the ambassadors of the G-24 in Bucharest to prepare a joint report on the human rights situation in Romania?

Answer:

During 1992, both the United States and Japan supported international aid programmes for Romania.

As the honourable Member will be aware from his contacts with the previous Presidency on the subject, the Community and its Member States follow the reform process in Romania closely. EC ambassadors in Bucharest, who report regularly on developments occurring in Romania, have often stated that the country is seriously committed to a process of democratization including *inter alia* the respect for human rights. Although Romania cannot be said to have reached a standard of democracy comparable with that of Western European countries, the country has taken a big step towards a new society based on freedom and law. A significant element in this respect was the holding of fair parliamentary and presidential elections in September 1992.

In order to support the developments towards a fully democratic society the Community and its Member States intend to continue closely monitoring the developments of the democratization process including the respect for human rights. In this connection it should be noted that the European Agreement with Romania signed on 1 February includes suspension clauses to be effectuated if Romania terminates the process towards a society based on market economic principles and democracy, including respect for human rights.

93/065. Question No 2819/92 by Mr Cabezón Alonso (S) on the death of the Spanish photographer Juan Antonion Rodríguez in Panama

Date of issue: 17 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 16 November 1992)

The United States administration has rejected a claim for compensation from the Spanish Government on behalf of the family of the Spanish photographer Juan Antonio Rodríguez.

Juan Antonio Rodríguez was killed in Panama on 21 December 1989 by gunfire from American troops while he was covering the invasion of Panama for a Spanish newspaper.

Despite claims to the United States administration through various channels, including representations by the government of one of the Member States, no compensation has been forthcoming for the photographer's family.

The same Member has, on numerous occasions, raised this matter following the position adopted by the European Parliament in plenary sitting.

In view of this, will EPC lend its support to this claim for compensation and call on the United States administration to make a statement on the events which caused the death of this Community citizen?

Answer:

I would refer the honourable Member to the reply given to his Oral Question No H-42/92¹ on the same subject.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/050.

93/066. Question No 2906/92 by Mr Robles Piquer (PPE) on Community involvement in Asia and relations with Japan

Date of issue: 17 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 23 November 1992)

In a review of Japan's relations with the European Community at a seminar organized by the Brookings Institution in Paris towards the end of June 1992, the Japanese Ambassador, Mr Kobayashi, pointed to the need to consider security problems from a global perspective. He also said that Japan sought greater Community involvement in Asia and, accordingly, highlighted Community involvement in the efforts to organize international aid for Mongolia and Cambodia.

Can EPC give an account of Community involvement in the international aid effort referred to?

In the view of EPC, what prospects are there, and in what framework, for dialogue with Japan on global security problems?

Answer:

The joint declaration between Japan and the Community and its Member States provides the framework for practical cooperation and a wide-ranging political dialogue, including global security problems. At the last EC/Japan Summit meeting, which was held in London on 4 July 1992,

there was substantive and constructive discussion of a number of major international issues, including Asia. During the UK Presidency similarly useful talks were also held with the Japanese by a ministerial troika and a political directors troika. The Community and its Member States have every wish that such a dialogue with Japan should continue to develop.

The Community and its Member States are committed to the successful implementation of the comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodia conflict and have provided considerable support both to the UN operation and to the rehabilitation of that country.

The question of economic aid programmes to Cambodia and Mongolia does not fall within the competence of European political cooperation.

93/067. Question No 2974/92 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on illegal immigration 'facilitated' by Turkey

Date of issue: 17 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 30 November 1992)

In view of the fact that the Turkish authorities are tolerating, if not actually helping, illegal immigrants, mainly from Iraq and Pakistan, to enter Greek territory, will EPC call on the Turkish Government to end this practice immediately?

Answer:

There is no evidence of collusion by the Turkish authorities in the passage of illegal immigrants into Greek territory.

The Turkish authorities are aware of the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to the rule of law and the commitments to which Turkey has subscribed in CSCE documents as set out in the Charter of Paris, the documents of the Moscow and Copenhagen meetings of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, and the report of the Geneva meeting of experts.

More in general, the Community and its Member States are concerned about the problem of illegal immigration into the Community and request all neighbouring states to take the necessary steps to combat this problem.

The specific issue brought up by the honourable Member has been raised by a partner in the framework of European political cooperation.

93/068. Question No 2990/92 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S) on the death of aborigines in Australia

Date of issue: 17 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 30 November 1992)

Does European political cooperation possess reliable information concerning the responsibility of the Australian authorities in the high rates of imprisonment and prison deaths involving aborigines and the failure to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the subject?

Answer:

The question raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation.

93/069. Question No 3051/92 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on the political situation in Equatorial Guinea

Date of issue: 17 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 14 December 1992)

In view of the arbitrary arrests of political dissidents by the presidential guard in Equatorial Guinea and the alarming reports by international organizations concerning the use of torture and in view also of the European Community declaration on the political situation in Equatorial Guinea, does European political cooperation intend to call on the government of this country to ensure that human rights are protected and political detainees released?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States fully share the concern expressed by the honourable Member as stated in their public declaration on the situation in Equatorial Guinea. They have on various occasions expressed to the authorities of Malabo their concern at the continuous violations of human rights and stressed the need to allow all citizens the full exercise of their civil rights and to proceed to the liberation of political prisoners. On these occasions special reference was made to the resolution on human rights, democracy and development passed by the Development Council on 28 November 1991. I can assure the honourable Member that they will continue to make this concern clear to the authorities of Equatorial Guinea and will duly take into account their response in assessing the relations between the Community and its Member States and Equatorial Guinea.

93/070. Statement on Peru

Date of issue: 18 February 1993

Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States have noted with interest the holding of parliamentary and local elections in Peru. They consider that these are a step towards the re-establishment of democracy in that country.

In view of these circumstances, they hope that the process of preparing a new constitution currently under way will establish and guarantee the democratic principle of the separation of powers as well as strict respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

93/071. Statement at the 49th Session of the Commission on Human Rights on the World Conference on Human Rights (agenda item 25)

Date of issue: 18 February 1993

Place of issue: Geneva

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Statement in international forum

Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Community and its Member States under agenda item 25.

The European Community and its Member States have been active participants in the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights. We are determined to contribute to the preparatory process in a spirit of openness and compromise. The difficulties on procedural and agenda questions which hindered progress at the first three meetings of the Preparatory Committee will be familiar to all delegations here today. Together with many other delegations from all the regional groups, the European Community and its Member States have been impatient to move on to the substantive issues of the promotion and implementation of human rights which should concern us at the World Conference.

The European Community and its Member States were, therefore, pleased and encouraged when on 4 December 1992 the General Assembly adopted a provisional agenda for the World Conference by consensus. The very large number of United Nations member States co-sponsoring this resolution is testimony to the will of the international community to promote a successful outcome for the World Conference on Human Rights. We pay tribute to Halima Warznzi of Morocco, Chairperson of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee, for her tireless efforts in Geneva and New York to overcome the earlier difficulties in the preparatory process.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark in his address to this Commission on 4 February 1993 emphasized the belief of the European Community and its Member States that the World Conference is an important opportunity for the international community to confirm the universality of human rights, to pursue a constructive dialogue on ways and means of improving their implementation and thereby helping to promote progress in development. It will provide important opportunities for reaching agreement on practical measures in support of human rights and democracy as an integral part of development. We also believe that the World Conference should reaffirm solidarity with all victims of human rights violations, chart a course for the implementation of human rights into the twenty-first century which will be directly relevant to the needs and aspirations of people throughout the world and based on the objectives contained in General Assembly Resolution 45/155. In this context, we look forward to a World Conference that will be truly universal in its character. We welcome especially all efforts to ensure the largest possible participation of delegations from LDCs. We also note with appreciation that NGOs and national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights will be able to participate actively. We reaffirm our conviction that non-governmental organizations have an invaluable contribution to make to a successful outcome and that they should be given the opportunity to do so in the preparatory process and at Vienna. The Community will continue to grant financial support for the participation of non-governmental organizations especially from developing countries in the regional conferences and in the World Conference.

Mr Chairman, the way is now clear to take up the substance of the final outcome of the World Conference at the fourth meeting of the Preparatory Committee just two months from now. Two months after that we will be in Vienna at the Conference itself. Time is, therefore, of the essence and we face a tremendous challenge in ensuring that the World Conference reaches positive and substantive conclusions as well as engaging the interest of the mass media and international public opinion. We are encouraged, however, by the significant work which has already been done at the

African and Latin American/Caribbean regional meetings. Member States of the European Community were represented at both meetings by observers. In the Tunis and San José Declarations there is much on which to build a constructive and productive dialogue at the World Conference. We look forward with interest to the deliberations of the Asian countries at their regional conference in Bangkok next month.

In our own continent, experts and governmental representatives from all parts of the world participated last month in an inter-regional meeting in Strasbourg organized by the Council of Europe in advance of the World Conference. The President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, who addressed the concluding session of that meeting as General Rapporteur, identified many areas of consensus and spoke of what she felt to be the 'palpable feeling of good will' evident throughout the previous three days.

Mr Chairman, the European Community and its Member States will do everything possible to contribute to such a positive atmosphere as we embark on substantive discussion at the fourth Preparatory Committee meeting and at the World Conference itself. We are confident that a practical and action-oriented outcome to the Conference is now within our reach.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

93/072. Joint political declaration of the ninth Ministerial Conference on Political Dialogue and Economic Cooperation between the European Community and its Member States and the Central American States and Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela as cooperating countries in San Salvador, held on 22 and 23 February 1993

Date of issue: 23 February 1993

Place of issue: San Salvador

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Joint declaration with other actors

1. The ninth Ministerial Conference between the European Community and its Member States, on the one hand, and Central America represented by the states signatory to the Tegucigalpa Protocol instituting the system of Central American integration on the other hand, on political dialogue and economic cooperation between the European Community and Central America, inaugurated in Costa Rica in 1984 and thereafter pursued at annual meetings, was held in San Salvador on 22 and 23 February 1993, with Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela as cooperating countries.

2. The Conference was attended by the following representatives:

For Central America

Costa Rica

H.E. Mr Bernd H. Niehaus Quesada

Minister for External Relations and Cultural Affairs

El Salvador

H.E. Mr José Manuel Pacas Castro

Minister for External Relations

Guatemala

H.E. Mr Gonzalo Menéndez Park

Minister for External Relations

Honduras

H.E. Mr Mario Carias Zapata
Minister for External Relations

Nicaragua

H.E. Mr Ernesto Leal Sánchez
Minister for External Relations

Panama

H.E. Mr Julio E. Linares
Minister for External Relations

For the European Community

Belgium

H.E. Mr Willy Claes
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark

H.E. Mr Niels Helveg Petersen
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Germany

H.E. Ms Ursula Seiler-Albring
Minister of State, Foreign Affairs

Greece

H.E. Mr Georgios Papastamkos
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

Spain

H.E. Mr Javier Solana Madariaga
Minister for Foreign Affairs

France

H.E. Mr Georges Kiejman
Minister attached to the Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ireland

H.E. Mr Tom Kitt
Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs

Italy

H.E. Mr Guiseppe Giacobazzo
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg

H.E. Mr Jacques Poos
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

The Netherlands

H.E. Mr Pieter Dankert
State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal

H.E. Mr José Manuel Durão Barroso
Minister for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom
H.E. the Baroness Trumpington
Vice-Minister for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Commission
H.E. Mr Manuel Marín
Member of the Commission

For the Group of Three, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela, as cooperating countries:

Colombia
H.E. Ms Nohemí Sanin de Rubio
Minister for External Relations

Mexico
H.E. Mr Fernando Solana Morales
Secretary for External Relations

Venezuela
H.E. Gen. Fernando Ochoa Antich
Minister for External Relations

For the General Secretariat of the System of Central American Integration (SICA)

Mr Roberto Herrera Cáceres
Secretary-General

For the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA)

Mr Rafael Rodríguez Loucel
Secretary-General

3. In the context of the dialogue and cooperation established in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Declaration of San José of 29 September 1984 and placed on a formal footing by the Final Act of the Luxembourg Conference of 12 November 1985, the Ministers examined issues of mutual interest.

The Ministers affirmed that this ninth meeting constituted significant progress towards the strengthening of dialogue and cooperation in a rapidly developing regional and international environment.

The Ministers expressed their belief that the Cooperation Agreement known as the San Salvador Agreement, signed during this meeting, would mark a new phase in relations between the two regions. The agreement stems from the strengthening of relations over the last decade and opens up new prospects for continuing and intensifying cooperation in future.

The Ministers highlighted the importance of early ratification of this agreement by the interested parties.

The Ministers of the European Community noted with satisfaction the further progress made by the Central American states since the Conference of Lisbon of 24 and 25 February 1992 towards peace, dialogue and reconciliation as well as the consolidation of democracy.

Given the obstacles and risks which might hinder this evolution, the Ministers stressed the urgent need for the advances made to be sustained and accompanied by the continued efforts of the region and appropriate support by the international community in order to achieve economic development, social justice and the strengthening of the process of integration in Central America, as well as its fuller integration into the world economy. The Ministers of the European Community

accordingly reiterated their undertaking to continue to contribute to the achievement of such important objectives.

Ministers emphasized that political and economic dialogue between the European Community and its Member States, on the one hand, and on the other the countries of Central America, and Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela as cooperating countries, was an effective instrument for promoting and strengthening the Central American process of negotiation in the framework of the Esquipulas Agreements with a view to securing firm and lasting peace, genuine pluralism and democratic participation in political processes, respect for human rights and international law as well as stability and sustained social and economic development in Central America. The Ministers affirmed their resolve to deepen this direct dialogue.

The Ministers stressed the importance of launching the Central American Integration System (SICA), established by the Tegucigalpa Protocol, from 1 February 1993 and the Ministers of the European Community repeated their willingness to consider appropriate support for Central American efforts to foster the development of the SICA.

The Central American Ministers emphasized the scope of the SICA, which constitutes the sub-regional organization for institutionalized integration. They pointed out that the fundamental objective of that system was coordination to ensure that decisions taken at meetings of the presidents were followed up, and compliance with the principles and objectives of the Tegucigalpa Protocol.

Ministers highlighted the importance of the Central American parliament as a forum to promote regional integration and noted that the European Community had provided assistance for its establishment. The Central American Ministers stated their satisfaction at the continued support given by the European Community. The Ministers of the European Community expressed their willingness to continue to support the Central American parliament.

They also singled out the signing of the statute of the Central American Court of Justice as a vital step in Central American judicial relations, and expressed their willingness to consider appropriate support for the efforts of the Central Americans to establish this court.

Ministers commended the United Nations Organization for its major contributions to the peace process and welcomed the active role played by the Organization of American States, in areas of vital importance for peace and democracy in Central America.

4. The Ministers welcomed the Central American summits held in Managua and Panama in June and December 1992 respectively, which represented further steps towards regional integration and the consolidation of democratic institutions. They also noted with satisfaction the presence of the Prime Minister of Belize as observer at the latest summits.

5. Ministers repeated the importance of the principle of full participation by the people in the democratic and pluralist processes, as well as full observance of human rights, political and civil liberties, the rule of law, the subordination of military and security forces to civil authority, separation of powers and the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, which constitute the bases of democracy.

Ministers reaffirmed that political dialogue was the best way to promote peace and reconciliation in the region, and welcomed recent progress. They stressed the urgent need to put an end to all forms of violence where it persists in order to guarantee the security and promote the well-being of the population. They also urged irregular forces still active in the region to take their place, under due guarantees and security conditions, in the political process and in the peaceful life of their respective countries.

Ministers reaffirmed the need to continue to make progress towards the consolidation of democracy and to ensure that peace be accompanied by economic development and social justice, as well as by the observance of civil, political and social rights.

In this context, they recalled the Tegucigalpa commitment, whereby the Central American Presidents undertook to spare no effort to promote a genuine process of human development, focusing on the development of children, women and the young.

The Ministers of the European Community expressed their willingness to support Central American initiatives in these areas, particularly those designed to overcome extreme poverty.

6. The Ministers welcomed the developments in the European Community action to promote human rights and consolidate democracy in the region. In this context, they referred to the implementation of the initial projects under the multiannual programme to promote human rights in Central America, which had helped to step up training for the armed forces in the context of human rights and the work of human rights procurators and the courts. They welcomed in particular the work of the programme's committee of experts thus far and encouraged the experts to intensify their work.

Ministers reiterated their determination to continue to contribute to the success of those projects.

7. The Ministers expressed satisfaction at the progress made in implementing the El Salvador Peace Agreements which represented a historic step in the country's development and the consolidation of peace in the region. They congratulated the Salvadorian people on this achievement and expressed their confidence that the parties' determined efforts, dialogue and goodwill would ensure the full implementation and success of the agreements. Ministers welcomed in particular the contribution to this process of the United Nations, through the good offices of its Secretary-General and its observer mission ONUSAL, together with the efforts put in by the Friends of the Secretary-General (Colombia, Spain, Mexico and Venezuela).

The Ministers acknowledged the efforts of the Government of El Salvador to improve the efficiency of the administration of justice and to strengthen the judicial system and democratic institutions.

They recognized the importance of maintaining support for the new institutions established by the El Salvador Peace Agreements, particularly with regard to the human rights procurator, the national civil police force which is shortly to take up its duties, the electoral Supreme Court and for strengthening the judicial system.

Ministers welcomed the results obtained by the El Salvador national reconstruction plan and stressed the importance of continuing support for this plan in order to contribute to national reconciliation in El Salvador. The Ministers of the European Community moreover expressed their willingness to examine the possibility of cooperating in the implementation of the national mine clearing plan in El Salvador.

In the context of the peace agreements, the Ministers welcomed the integration of the FMLN into the country's political life.

Aware of the importance of the next elections in 1994, the first to be held since the conflict ended, Ministers welcomed the decision of the Government of El Salvador to request observation by the United Nations and the Organization of American States and expressed their support for a free and just electoral process.

8. The Ministers supported the strenuous and sustained efforts by the Government of Nicaragua to consolidate peace, national reconciliation, democracy and stability. Ministers supported the continuing efforts of the Government of Nicaragua to achieve national reconciliation and to eliminate the tensions which still exist and which may impede these efforts.

They appealed to all parties concerned to solve their problems solely through peaceful, lawful means and to cooperate constructively for the development of Nicaragua.

They stressed the importance of the specific plans drawn up by the Government of Nicaragua in the social field and in the areas of disarming civilians and clearing mines, which demanded international cooperation. They reaffirmed their willingness to continue their efforts to ensure the rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of Nicaragua. They reiterated the importance of continued support for the bodies collaborating in this process.

9. Ministers stressed that direct talks between the Government of Guatemala and the URNG were essential to achieve lasting peace.

They welcomed as an important step towards the resumption of peace negotiations the initiative of President Serrano on 19 January 1993 in presenting his peace proposals to the Secretary-General and General Assembly of the United Nations and noted the response of the URNG.

They further welcomed the decision of the parties to resume direct talks and encouraged them to spare no efforts in seeking an early negotiated comprehensive and lasting peace settlement.

They paid tribute to the contribution of the National Reconciliation Commission and to the Conciliator, Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, and welcomed the presence at the talks of a representative of the UN Secretary-General as an observer.

The Ministers acknowledged that respect for human rights was a major element in the negotiations. They welcomed the positive steps taken by the government and commended the work of the Guatemalan human rights procurator.

They expressed concern that reports on human rights still brought to light the existence, albeit in fewer numbers, of human rights violations. At the same time, they encouraged the Government of Guatemala to continue to adopt measures to strengthen democratic institutions and achieve full observance of human rights. Taking into consideration all factors responsible for human rights violations, the armed confrontation being one important factor, they urged both sides to reach an early and comprehensive peace settlement, which should result in a significant reduction in these violations. In this connection, the Community and its Member States confirmed their willingness to continue to support the programmes being implemented in this field in Guatemala.

Ministers congratulated Rigoberta Menchú Tum on receiving the Nobel peace prize and expressed the hope that this award would be an incentive to contributing to reconciliation among the people of Guatemala.

10. The Ministers of the European Community warmly welcomed the growing links between Guatemala and Belize following Guatemala's recognition of Belize as a sovereign independent state in September 1991. They looked forward to a settlement of the existing territorial dispute, with the support of the international community.

11. Ministers reaffirmed that cooperation between the European Community and Central America is based on respect for international law, democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms. They recognized the value of the efforts already made to improve the human rights situation in certain countries of the region and emphasized that they would continue to make every effort to establish full and universal respect for human dignity. They expressed their satisfaction at the commencement of the activities of the institutions established in certain Central American states for the protection of human rights.

They stressed the significance of the initiative of the European Community and its Member States which had resulted in the adoption by consensus of Resolution 47/126 of the 47th UN General Assembly on the problem of street children.

12. Ministers reaffirmed their support for the Security Commission of Central America, and for its aims. They welcomed the positive steps taken by the parties concerned towards arms control, reduction of armed forces and halting illegal arms trafficking.

They also reaffirmed their support for development projects designed to resettle and reintegrate demobilized persons returning to civilian life.

13. Ministers recognized the need to intensify links between the Central American region and other regions. They also acknowledged with satisfaction the development of links between Central America and the Caribbean, and with the countries of the Rio Group.

14. Ministers expressed the hope that other countries would increase their involvement in and co-operation with Central America, and welcomed the opportunity afforded by the Partnership for Democracy and Development in Central America to coordinate activities with the countries of the region and with non-regional countries. They recalled that in the third plenary session of the PDD, some extra-regional partners expressed their interest in participating in the implementation of some of the projects presented. The special session of the PDD at plenary level (15 to 16 March 1993, Tokyo) provides a further opportunity to coordinate European Community cooperation activities with the countries of the region as well as with non-regional countries.

15. Ministers welcomed the participation in the dialogue between Central America and the European Community of Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela as cooperating countries. They also noted the multilateral agreement on a free trade programme signed by Central America and Mexico and the recent signing of the agreement on trade and investment between Colombia and Venezuela and Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

The Central American Ministers also welcomed the favourable results of the summit between the Central American countries and the Group of Three, held in Caracas, Venezuela, on 11 and 12 February 1993, and in particular the agreements reached in the Caracas commitment to joint cooperation between the Group of Three and Central America and the adoption of the Caracas declaration which formulated the decision to establish an extended area of trade and investment between the Group of Three and the Central American countries.

16. Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the second Ibero/American Summit in Madrid, Spain, on 23 and 24 July 1992 and they underlined the importance of maintaining such a dialogue at the highest level. They stressed the importance of the third Ibero/American Summit to be organized in Salvador de Bahia in July 1993.

17. The Ministers welcomed progress made in the implementation of the plan of action of the International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA) in favour of displaced people.

In this connection, the Ministers welcomed the significant Community support for projects and programmes for the resettlement and self-sufficiency of refugees, returnees and displaced peoples which was increased considerably in 1992, amounting to almost MECU 20, in line with the increased needs of the region.

Both sides appealed to the international community to devote more resources to the continuation of the aid programmes for refugees and for sustained development projects on behalf of returnees and displaced persons as a response to the needs assessed and demonstrated by the Central American countries in the framework of CIREFCA.

The Ministers noted with satisfaction the agreement signed on 8 October 1992 between the Government of Guatemala and the Permanent Commissions of Guatemalan Refugees in Mexico, which provides for the voluntary return of the refugees. They welcomed the return of the first groups of refugees and appealed to all parties concerned to continue to implement the agreement in a spirit of national reconciliation.

The Ministers of the European Community agreed to examine projects to assist populations in extreme poverty in border areas.

18. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that in 1992 the European Community had approved over 40 new actions aimed at promoting human rights and consolidating the democratic process in Central America.

They also stressed the need to continue and enhance cooperation in these areas through the use of both present and future resources earmarked for such purpose by the European Community.

19. The European Community indicated its willingness to consider cooperating in the implementation of the 'Migration Instruments for the Integration of Central America' (PROCAM) regional project, in a spirit of close cooperation with the countries of Central America on migration issues, as agreed at San José VIII.

20. The Ministers reaffirmed their willingness to cooperate in the protection and maintenance of the ecological balance in the countries in the area.

The Ministers welcomed the agreements reached at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), and reaffirmed their willingness to implement them.

Conscious of the close link between poverty and environmental degradation, both sides stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation in the field of the protection of the environment for the sustainable development of the region.

In this context they expressed their satisfaction with the cooperation projects already approved by the Community in 1992, above all with regard to sustainable development in agricultural border areas.

The Ministers of the European Community expressed their willingness to examine projects intended to promote education and technical training in the field of the conservation of the environment and sustainable development of the humid tropical region.

Both sides agreed to pay special attention to the priority projects in the Central American Environment and Development action plan, through the Central American Environment and Development Committee (CCAD) and other regional bodies.

Ministers noted with interest the signing in Panama of the regional agreement on transfrontier movements of dangerous waste, which without doubt demonstrates the commitment of the Central American countries to protect the region's environment, as well as the commitment of the Central American countries to contribute to the full and immediate implementation of the Central American forest action plan.

21. The Ministers once again emphasized that the illicit production, processing and trafficking of drugs and psychotropic substances, and their consumption, represented one of the most serious threats facing developing and developed countries alike, requiring close international cooperation. In this context the Ministers drew attention to the importance of the 1988 United Nations Convention on Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

The Ministers reaffirmed the importance they attached to the fight against drug abuse and the related illicit production and trafficking and were confident that all the states would give due consideration in the context of their respective legislation and internal arrangements to the measures needed to implement the global plan of action approved during the special session of the United Nations General Assembly held in New York from 20 to 23 February 1990.

The Ministers of the European Community reaffirmed their determination to promote cooperation in this field with the Central American countries, in particular in the framework of the proposals and proceedings of the Central American Committee for the Eradication of Illicit Traffick-

ing in Drugs. They also reiterated their readiness to finance technical assistance programmes in this field, in particular the areas of training and prevention.

22. The Ministers acknowledged the substantial efforts made by the Central American countries in the areas of economic stability and growth in a difficult political and social context and the contribution of the Community and other countries and bodies cooperating in the development of Central America.

However, they noted that, despite some improvements, the economic and social situation in the region remained worrying.

The Ministers stressed that it was important for the international community to persevere with its resolve to improve the functioning of commodity markets, to attain and maintain more favourable terms of trade for developing countries and to improve access to international markets, *inter alia* by cutting restrictions, at the same time applying multilateral trade standards.

23. The Ministers acknowledged that the Central American region was continuing to make a substantial effort to carry out policies to modernize and adapt its production system in order to increase competitiveness. They also reaffirmed the particular importance of technical and financial assistance from the international community in backing up such efforts. They went on to note with satisfaction the important achievements made by the policy of diversification, in terms of the promotion and expansion of exports of non-traditional products, followed in the region, with the substantial backing of the Community, which was making a contribution towards economic growth and the social well-being of the inhabitants.

In that context, the Ministers reaffirmed the importance of stepping up international cooperation in order to support the structural adjustment and economic reform programmes being carried out in the region. They also declared that implementing such cooperation would be made easier by, amongst other things, liberalizing international trade which would make for greater access to markets.

Here, the European Community and its Member States confirmed their willingness to continue to lend their support within the appropriate bodies to the Central American countries' programmes in this respect. They emphasized the need for particular support for programmes designed to counteract the social impact of adjustment.

The Ministers duly noted with satisfaction the backing provided by the Community for social projects aimed at assisting the most vulnerable sections of the population, in line with the undertakings given at the San José VIII Conference, and stressed the importance of stepping up these efforts even further.

24. The Community side notes the adoption, at the XIII Summit of Central American Presidents, of the 'Panama Agricultural Agreement'.

Both parties urge the international community to back the efforts of Central America directed towards developing a modern agricultural sector which will enable the region increasingly to play its part in world trade, in the framework of its policy to open up its markets.

25. The Ministers welcomed the major Community contribution towards the national reconstruction of El Salvador, which had topped the MECU 60 mark in 1992 and had been very quickly forthcoming in the form of projects for the demobilization of the former soldiers, the reintegration of refugees and displaced persons and the creation of jobs. In this regard, they emphasized the importance of continuing to lend support to El Salvador, by implementing economic and social development programmes and projects, particularly those contained in the national reconstruction plan, aimed at alleviating the problems brought about by the conflict.

In view of the exceptional circumstances prevailing in Nicaragua, the Ministers reiterated the special importance of continuing to support, with specific programmes and projects, the government's efforts to overcome the difficult economic and social situation which the country still faces.

26. The Ministers examined overall cooperation between the two regions and its prospects.

The Ministers noted with satisfaction that in 1992 the amount in the Community aid budget earmarked for the region had shown an increase over 1991, to reach MECU 143 in terms of new commitments. They also expressed their desire that the new framework Cooperation Agreement should help to extend cooperation, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

In accordance with the guide-lines laid down at the San José VIII Ministerial Conference, the emphasis in 1992 had been placed on the one hand on aid for the reconstruction of El Salvador and on the other on projects to reintegrate women and other vulnerable groups into the economic circuit. Projects to support agrarian reform and integrated rural development had also continued to receive Community funding in 1992. Over the same period, a number of trade promotion, training and energy cooperation projects had also been approved.

Regarding future cooperation, the parties found that improvements were needed in the case of project selection, evaluation and follow-up procedures, which should be included in a coherent multi-annual programming operation. To that end, the European Community restated its determination to support such efforts, in conjunction with the System of Central American Integration (SICA), for which purpose it would adopt the necessary procedures with the participation of the Group of Central American Ambassadors accredited to the European Communities and the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Economic Integration (SIECA), in respect of economic affairs.

27. The Ministers expressed satisfaction that current development suggested that all the countries in the region would be acceding to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The Ministers acknowledged the importance of a rapid and successful conclusion to the current Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations.

All the GATT contracting parties have been asked to make every possible effort to arrive at a fair, global, balanced and fruitful agreement with substantial results. In this regard they reaffirmed their determination to see that in the Uruguay Round results the primordial interests of the developing countries are taken into account in all sectors, agriculture and others.

[...]

37. The Ministers, aware of the priority of health for the development of the peoples of Central America, appealed to the international community to increase its cooperation with the region in this area.

In this connection, the Central American Ministers called upon the European Community to support the initiative entitled 'Central America: Health and Peace for Development and Democracy', the programmes for prevention and control of cholera and AIDS and those for preventive medicine, sanitation and supply of drinking water and related services.

38. The Ministers agreed that the San Salvador Agreement would improve and enrich cooperation in all fields of mutual interest, particularly as regards the consolidation of democracy, support for the reintegration of refugees, returnees and displaced persons, and in the economic, social, financial, commercial, scientific, technological and environmental fields, and in the fostering of regional integration and in the protection of intellectual property.

The European Community will take into account the special situation of Central America as a developing region and will put into practice its cooperation in the most favourable manner for that region.

39. The Ministers decided to meet in Greece next year, in accordance with the alternation rule.

40. The participants in the San Salvador Conference expressed their deep gratitude to the Government of El Salvador, both for its exemplary hospitality and its efficiency in hosting this successful ninth conference in the context of the San José dialogue. They also thanked the people of El Salvador for the warm welcome given to the visiting delegations.

93/073. Question No 2962/91 by Mr Robles Piquer (PPE) on nuclear guarantees to be provided by the Soviet Union in respect of energy agreements

Date of issue: 23 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 13 January 1992)

When major energy agreements with economic, technological or environmental implications are being negotiated with the Soviet Union, does not European political cooperation consider that, for strategic reasons, the following guarantees must be obtained:

1. that there will be no dispersion of responsibilities among the republics in both the military and civil nuclear sectors,
2. that nuclear scientists who may be left unemployed following nuclear disarmament in the Soviet Union will not offer the benefit of their experience to countries which are in the process of building a nuclear arsenal?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States attach the greatest importance to the non-proliferation of weapons as well as to a single control over the civil and military nuclear sectors in the republics of the former Soviet Union.

In the light of past and present developments in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the concern of the Community and its Member States has been made clear *vis-à-vis* all the former Soviet republics by linking the issues of recognition and non-proliferation.

In their declaration of 16 December 1991 on the 'Guide-lines on the recognition of new states in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union',¹ Ministers listed as a precondition for recognition of a new state 'acceptance of all relevant commitments with regard to disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation as well as to security and regional stability'.

In the statement on the 'Future status of Russia and other former Soviet republics' dated 23 December 1991,² the Community and its Member States again clearly stated their expectation of assurances from the part of the CIS states to 'ensure single control over nuclear weapons and their non-proliferation'. The same expectations are naturally valid with regard to the civil use of nuclear power and possible diversion from civil to military use of nuclear material, notably in the context of transfers of technology and know-how to countries which are attempting to build up nuclear arsenals.

Finally, in the statement on the 'recognition of former Soviet republics' of 31 December 1991,³ the Community and its Member States expressed their readiness to proceed with recognition on

the basis of the assurances received and on the understanding that all republics 'on whose territory nuclear weapons are stationed, will adhere shortly to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as non-nuclear states'.

Considering that the CIS republics most directly concerned are in the process of implementing the assurances given despite serious difficulties which had arisen between two republics, namely Russia and Ukraine, the Community and its Member States, while welcoming positive developments in the direction called for, will continue to monitor the situation carefully. Conscious of the considerable security aspects of the question world-wide, they are committed to pursuing issues of control of nuclear technology and know-how, including the possibility of a 'brain-drain' in the nuclear field in their contacts with the Commonwealth of Independent States.

In the Council framework, the Community and its Member States have furthermore considered positively a participation in the establishment of an international science and technology centre in Russia. The primary objective of such a centre would be to contribute to the prevention of proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and missile delivery systems by identifying projects designed to offer scientists and engineers employed in the former Soviet military industries and scientific institutions new and promising professional perspectives.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 91/464.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 91/468.

³ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 91/472.

93/074. Question No 347/92 by Mr Robles Piquer (PPE) on joint German/British diplomatic representation in some countries of the former USSR

Date of issue: 23 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 27 February 1992)

Do the Ministers have any information confirming or refuting press reports that Germany and the United Kingdom are examining the possibility of setting up joint embassies in certain republics of the former Soviet Union?

Could constitutional obstacles arise in these two countries similar to that invoked by the French Council of State when the FRG and France attempted to set up a joint embassy in Ulan Bator?

Answer:

The joint statement issued by the UK and Germany at Leipzig on 30 October 1991 made explicitly clear that both countries, in their approach to the Soviet Union, were working with other partners within the framework of EPC, including on questions of practical cooperation and the sharing of facilities between diplomatic posts.

The Community and its Member States, following their decision on 31 December and 15 January 1992¹ to recognize the republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States, have begun discussions on the feasibility of sharing facilities in those republics where several or more of them intend to open embassies. The question of sharing facilities, which is also considered in the case of the new capital of Nigeria, Abuja, should be seen in the context of greater cooperation and unity

between the Community and its Member States, and as such is perfectly in line with the provisions and the spirit of the Maastricht Treaty, including Part II, Article 8 c.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Docs 91/472 and 92/008.

93/075. Question No 412/92 by Ms Dury (S) on the manipulation of the economic embargo by Saddam Hussein

Date of issue: 23 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 2 March 1992)

In its edition of 3 February 1992 *Time* magazine states that Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712, which are intended to allow Iraq to earn oil revenue to pay for its humanitarian needs are being used by Saddam Hussein for his own ends.

The magazine claims that Saddam is reserving the products purchased in this way for those who support him – primarily the troops of his presidential guard – to the detriment of the rest of the population and is blaming the allies for the hardship suffered by the people.

Is this true? Does not the plight of the Iraqi civilian population mean that a revision of the embargo is needed, with measures to put an end to Saddam's duplicity?

Answer:

The Iraqi regime carries responsibility for the deterioration in the humanitarian situation in the region. Iraq has not yet agreed to implement Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 which would contribute to improving the living conditions of the civilian populations in all of the country. The Community and its Member States continue to stress the need for an early and effective implementation of Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 and hope the resumption of talks in Vienna between the UN and Iraq reflects a greater willingness on the part of Iraq to cooperate in the implementation of these resolutions.

The Community and its Member States remain very deeply concerned about the plight of the civilian population in Iraq. The situation of the Kurds in particular has been aggravated by continued military action and economic blockades conducted by the Iraqi authorities, combined with harsh winter conditions. The Community and its Member States have repeatedly called upon Iraq to cease such operations and other repressive measures.

The Community and its Member States fully support the United Nations Inter-Agency Programme for the region, and significant cash and in-kind contributions have been made, both at Community and national levels. The UN agencies involved have a clear understanding of the humanitarian situation in the field, and the UN guard force of 500 men has played an important role in ensuring the safety of the population and of UN personnel. The Community and its Member States consider that the most effective way to help the civilian population is by acting in close co-operation with the UN effort.

The Community and its Member States have also repeatedly called on the Iraqi authorities to comply fully with the provisions of Security Council Resolution 688, which demands an end to the repression of Iraqi civilians and to cooperate with the humanitarian relief programme of the

United Nations. The Community and its Member States have also underlined the importance they attach to the full respect of human rights of all Iraqi citizens.

The Community and its Member States, through the EPC framework, have kept these issues under constant review and remain open to further actions in this area.

93/076. Question No 1003/92 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S) on detentions in Egypt

Date of issue: 23 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 27 April 1992)

Will the Ministers meeting in European political cooperation ask the Government of Egypt to take minimum steps to safeguard and guarantee the protection of prisoners, given the powers enjoyed by the security police and the abuses committed in recent years, such as the continued detention of prisoners after they have been freed by the courts and imprisonment without charge or trial?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have taken note of reports of human rights violations in Egypt. The Egyptian authorities are well aware of the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to the rule of law and to strict respect for the undertakings to which Egypt has subscribed by her adherence to international conventions on human rights.

The declaration on human rights adopted by the Luxembourg European Council¹ stated categorically that 'respecting, promoting and safeguarding human rights is an essential part of international relations as well as of relations between the Community and its Member States and other countries'. The Community and its Member States take account of the actions of third countries in respecting human rights and democracy when they formulate their policies towards the country concerned.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 91/194.

93/077. Question No 1104/92 by Mr Pierros (PPE) on the treatment of the Greek minority in Imbros by the Turkish authorities

Date of issue: 23 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 11 May 1992)

On 20, 21 and 23 January 1992, the newspaper *Günes* published a series of articles by the journalist Mehmet Sakiv Örs entitled 'Inhabitants of Imvros and Tenedos'.

In addition to the long persecution of the Greek minority by the Turkish authorities, as testified by reliable personal accounts in the above-mentioned articles, it should be pointed out that, according to reports by Turkish settlers, the small Greek community remaining in Imvros is still being systematically harassed, apparently by the convicts of the rural prisons who come and go freely on the island. What specific steps do the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC intend to take to put an end to this unacceptable situation which constitutes a clear violation of human rights as far as the Greek inhabitants of Imvros are concerned?

Answer:

I would refer the honourable parliamentarian to the reply given to Oral Question No H-79/92¹ by Mr Nianias on this same subject.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/055.

93/078. Question No 1120/92 by Mr Robles Piquer (PPE) on development aid for Burma

Date of issue: 23 February 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 11 May 1992)

The dictatorial regime in Burma (now called Myanmar by the dictatorship) has been condemned many times by the European Community and, in particular, the European Parliament.

Given this situation, are the governments represented in EPC using their influence to ensure that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) halts the aid it is still providing to the Burmese Government, as this aid is not purely humanitarian and is largely funded by the Twelve?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have on several occasions, and most recently in their statement dated 15 April 1992,¹ expressed their concern over developments in Burma, in particular with regard to the failure of the Burmese military authorities to respect basic human rights and the will of the Burmese people to initiate a democratic process.

The situation in Burma has led the Community and its Member States to suspend non-humanitarian development aid programmes, to reduce economic and trade relations to a minimum and to cease all arms sales with regard to Burma. The Community and its Member States have further encouraged other states in the region to adopt similar measures aiming at improving the situation in Burma.

The Burmese authorities are well aware of the importance that the Community and its Member States attach to the scrupulous respect for human rights as set out in the declaration on human rights adopted by the Luxembourg European Council in June 1991,² and the resolution and the regulation adopted by the Development Council on human rights, democracy and development on 28 November 1991.

At the 39th Session of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Government Council in May, the Community and its Member States holding seats at the Government Council, along with other leading donor countries, discussed the future shape of the UNDP aid to Burma, with a view to minimizing the support that the programme provided for the present Burmese Government while maximizing the humanitarian benefits to ordinary Burmese citizens.

As a result, the UNDP Governing Council decided to defer the new programme for Burma until a review of the impact of the last country programme was complete. Remaining resources will be used for higher projects with greater humanitarian benefit.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/158.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 91/194.

93/079. Statement at the 49th Session of the Commission on Human Rights on country situations (agenda item 12)

Date of issue: 1 March 1993

Place of issue: Geneva

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Statement in international forum

Mr Larsen: Mr Chairman, it is an honour for me to address the Commission on Human Rights on behalf of the European Community and its Member States on item 12 of the agenda.

Human rights violations are taking place in all parts of the world. It is our duty in the Commission on Human Rights to try to address these violations whenever and wherever they occur. The United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Covenants contain the fundamental principles which provide the basis for this enterprise. Human rights are intrinsically universal, irrespective of our historical and cultural traditions, and the primacy of international law cannot be called into question.

The declaration on human rights, adopted in 1991 by European Community Heads of State and Government meeting in Luxembourg,¹ stated categorically that – and now I quote – ‘respecting, promoting and safeguarding human rights is an essential part of international relations as well as of relations between the Community and its Member States, and other countries’ – end of quotation.

The universal nature of human rights was highlighted by the Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs, speaking to this Commission on 3 February in his capacity as President of the Council of Ministers of the European Community.² On that occasion he also underlined the indivisibility of human rights, emphasizing in particular that all categories of human rights are equally important to the realization of human dignity – be they of a economic, social, cultural, civil or political nature.

Today the promotion and protection of human rights is more important than ever: it is a legitimate and urgent duty of the world community to ensure respect for human rights in all parts of the world. The Community and its Member States refuse to accept that state sovereignty can be used as a shield for any country to carry out violations of human rights. On the contrary, safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms is a legitimate and urgent duty of the world community and of individual states.

It is within this framework that the Community and its Member States recognize the important role of human rights and democracy in achieving balanced and sustainable development. Respect for human rights, the rule of law and effective democratic institutions are basic premises for improving the well-being of the individual through active, free and meaningful participation in the process of development. Against this background the Community and its Member States actively support the consolidation of human rights and democracy as an integrated part of wider development cooperation programmes aimed at alleviating poverty and securing basic social and economic needs.

It is of grave concern to us that tensions and conflicts arising from gross violations of human rights in a country are often also a threat to regional or international peace and security.

In a spirit of cooperation and trust, the Community and its Member States hope that all governments will raise their voices on human rights situations of concern to them on this occasion. The Commission on Human Rights, serviced by the Centre for Human Rights, is the focal point for upholding and monitoring human rights and should be used accordingly. The European Community and its Member States note with satisfaction the increasing attention paid to human rights in all kinds of undertakings executed by the United Nations upon the request of governments.

These undertakings vary from electoral assistance to peace-keeping operations. Striking, however, is the tendency of initiating these activities without major involvement of the Centre for Human Rights. We are of the opinion that this issue merits serious consideration not only here at the Commission on Human Rights, but also at the World Conference on Human Rights, to be held in Vienna this year. It goes to the heart of those concerns which the European Community and its Member States wish to bring to the attention of this Commission.

Mr Chairman, in Europe, as indeed in many other parts of the world, we have in recent years witnessed a grave and worrying escalation of racial hatred and xenophobic violence among the population. The governments of the European Community will not tolerate this development and will spare no effort to end such criminal acts, which clearly break our laws, and have been and will be treated accordingly. The governments of the European Community are firmly committed to democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights. The European human rights monitoring mechanisms in Strasbourg, the rulings of which are binding, demonstrate the intention of Member States to accept international criticism and even international decisions concerning their human rights performance. In other words, as well as our national systems of internal legal remedy, these European states have given their citizens and residents an effective means of international appeal against human rights violations. Moreover, we are prepared to listen carefully to any criticism of our human rights practice in the United Nations framework, especially in this Commission.

I will now turn to the situation in a number of individual countries.

The Community and its Member States strongly condemn the atrocities and loss of lives in the former Yugoslavia. We are deeply concerned that it has not yet been possible to find a solution to this tragic conflict. I do not intend to convey our views on Yugoslavia in detail on this occasion since I did this in my statement of 9 February.³ The Community and its Member States welcome the adoption by the Security Council of Resolution 808 of 22 February 1993 by which it has decided to establish an international tribunal for the prosecution of persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of former Yugoslavia.

The results of the parliamentary elections in Albania last year reflect the Albanian people's wish for a new era. The Community and its Member States welcome the steps the Albanian Government has taken towards democratization.

At the same time we believe that the situation of persons belonging to ethnic minorities needs to be further improved. We note with concern that the draft bills for religious communities and educational institutes would introduce discriminatory policies.

The tragic division of Cyprus, a member of the European family, has important human rights aspects. The Community and its Member States, in line with Security Council resolutions, emphasize that the *status quo* in Cyprus is not acceptable. We remain deeply worried about the deadlock in the discussions, under the auspices of the United Nations, between the parties concerned.

We reaffirm our strong support for the United Nations Secretary-General's mission of good offices, aimed at finding a just and viable solution which will respect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of Cyprus in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolution 789, and the high level agreements. The Community and its Member States welcome the Secretary-General's latest proposals concerning the adoption of confidence building measures and hope that the resumption of talks will lead to progress towards a rapid solution of the Cyprus question.

We welcome the Turkish Government's declared commitment to improve protection of the human rights of the Turkish people.

The Community and its Member States attach great importance to the rule of law and to strict respect for the standards to which Turkey has subscribed by adhering to international conventions and other international instruments on human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to

minorities. We hope that Turkey will live up to its obligations as a founding member of the Council of Europe and party to the European Convention on Human Rights and recently as a party to the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture.

The latest findings of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, published recently, and other reports have given us reason for deep concern. The Committee's report notes indeed, that the number of confirmed reports of human rights violations including, in particular, torture and other serious ill-treatment by Turkish officials, particularly during police detention, have risen over the past twelve months. We agree with the Committee that the adoption of legislation is alone insufficient to contain successfully this practice of torture and ill-treatment. What is needed is a change in the attitude of individuals in the administration. We urge the Turkish Government to persevere in their efforts to effect this.

The Community and its Member States acknowledge the difficult situation prevailing in some parts of Turkey and vigorously condemn all acts of violence and terrorism. The difficult problems, however, do not diminish the Turkish Government's obligation to respect human rights under the international instruments.

Turning now to the states in the territory of the former Soviet Union, we would like to address the situation of human rights in Georgia, Azerbaijan, Tadjikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Developments in these newly independent states are characterized by improvements and encouraging signs on the one hand, remaining problems on the other hand. Positive developments include the release of political prisoners in Georgia, which strives to respect freedom of speech and the press and which held free and fair parliamentary elections. We also note the elections held in Azerbaijan in June 1992. However, the ongoing conflicts in Georgia, Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] and Tadjikistan lead to flagrant human rights violations. We deplore these human rights violations committed by all parties to the conflicts. In Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] we also deplore the use of heavy weapons against civilian targets. We also have to note the arrest of members of the opposition in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and we are worried by reports of summary executions of opponents in Tadjikistan. We hope for increasing stability and firm entrenchment of the rule of law and respect for human rights in these five countries.

In El Salvador, we note the progress achieved, but widespread human rights violations still take place. The Community and its Member States are particularly concerned about the persistence, according to the report of the independent expert, Mr Nikker, of illegal or arbitrary detentions, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and summary executions, its perpetrators reportedly being members or ex-members of military and para-military groups. Civil society's means of defending itself against these violations are still very weak.

Nevertheless, there is no doubt that there has been a significant improvement in the situation of human rights in the country, mainly due to the ending of hostilities. ONUSAL's contribution in this context has proved invaluable.

The Community and its Member States consider that compliance with the peace agreements is an essential prerequisite of respect for human rights in El Salvador. In this respect we note – as did the President of the Security Council on 9 February 1993 – that, although important progress has been achieved and the armed conflict come to an end, essential aspects of the peace process are still to be fulfilled by both parties. These include the recommendations of the *ad hoc* commission and other commissions set up under the peace agreements on the issue of armed forces, the transfer of land to ex-combatants and the agreement on economic and social development. We hope to see significant progress in these important areas in the near future and urge both parties to pursue their efforts in trying to fulfil the process leading to peace and national reconciliation, as well as in collaborating with the Secretary-General in the full realization of the peace agreements.

Under the present circumstances, the Community and its Member States consider that the human rights situation in El Salvador should continue to be considered under agenda item 12.

In spite of the good intentions repeatedly expressed by the Government of Guatemala and the decline in the number of violations according to the independent expert, Mr Tomuschat, the situation of human rights in Guatemala continues to be of special concern to the Community and its Member States.

We are seriously concerned by the generally high level of violence in the country and the persistence of reports of human rights violations such as extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detentions, disappearances, the ill-treatment of street children and the forcible recruiting of civilians – mostly indigenous – into the so-called civil defense patrols.

The Community and its Member States are deeply concerned by the information supplied by the independent expert about the implication of some members of the armed forces in the violations of human rights and by the fact that the judicial system so far has been unable to bring those principally responsible to justice, although we welcome the recent sentence pronounced on the case of Myrna Mack.

While we recognize the efforts of the Serrano Government towards reaching a definitive peace agreement with the *Union Nacional Revolucionaria Guatemalteca* (UNRG) we call upon it, in this International Year for Indigenous Peoples, in which the Nobel peace prize has been granted to Rigoberta Menchù, to improve the situation of indigenous peoples in that country and to ensure, with all due guarantees and the collaboration of the parties concerned, a peaceful return of all refugees.

The Community and its Member States believe that the situation of human rights in Guatemala would be better addressed under item 12, while the present state of affairs continues.

The Community and its Member States have on several occasions drawn the attention of the Cuban authorities to the importance which we attach to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. We note with deep concern the deterioration of the human rights situation in Cuba. The increased harassment of human rights activists and the maintenance of repressive measures indicate the absence of basic democratic guarantees. Organized opposition and dissidents continue to have their rights denied by the Government of Cuba. We very much regret that the Government of Cuba has refused to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur, Mr Groth.

We urge the Cuban Government to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur and to introduce political reforms aimed at achieving a democratic society based on pluralism, respect for human rights and tolerance.

In Haiti, since the military *coup* of 1991, murders, illegal arrests, abduction and brutalities have become the lot of the Haitian people. The European Community and its Member States deplore that situation and note with deep regret that the poorest strata of the society are the most exposed to violations of human rights as they are generally suspected of being sympathetic to the legitimate authorities of Haiti. The last report of Dr Bruni-Celli highlights the repressive nature of the *de facto* authorities and the absence of political and civil liberties. We support the joint initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and of the Secretary-General of the OAS to dispatch a human rights mission in Haiti. We urge the regime of Port-au-Prince to cooperate fully with the mission.

Although some positive developments have taken place recently in Peru, including the holding of general and local elections, the Community and its Member States remain concerned about the serious human rights situation which persists in the country. We call upon all parties to put an end to that situation. We also urge the authorities to ensure full respect for human rights and to see that those responsible for such violations are brought to justice. We hope that the new constitution, which is now being drafted, will guarantee the full respect of democratic principles and prove the commitment of the Peruvian Government and all parties involved to the promotion of a pluralist democracy and respect for human rights.

In Africa, we welcome the progress towards democracy and respect for human rights. Situations of concern nevertheless persist.

Concerning the views of the European Community and its Member States on violations of human rights in South Africa, I refer to my statement on this subject in the Commission on 9 February under agenda item 5.⁴

The Community and its Member States strongly condemn the recent violence committed in Togo and in its capital Lomé, which has given the name to a convention, the symbol of close links between the Community and its Member States with 69 African, Caribbean and Pacific states. We urge that a climate of confidence and security be re-established. This should include the neutrality of the armed forces and guarantees of security and freedom of speech for all. We encourage the holding of free elections as soon as possible.

We regret that the civil war in Liberia has not yet come to an end. The people of Liberia continue to be exposed to the most serious human rights violations of all kinds. The Twelve urgently appeal to all parties to the conflict to join in finding a peaceful solution to the conflict in accordance with the Yamoussoukro IV Agreement and to respect the fundamental human rights of all people in Liberia.

Developments over the past year in Ethiopia have been closely monitored by the Community. Despite some progress in the field of human rights over the past year, we still see a serious need for substantial improvement. The detention of numerous political prisoners as well as detentions without charge are matters of particular concern. We are encouraged by the decision of the transitional government on 8 February to reintroduce habeas corpus and to begin the process of releasing political prisoners. We call upon all parties in the country to work towards diffusing tensions.

The ongoing tragedy in Somalia continues to sadden us greatly. However, the results of the United Nations Informal Preparatory Meeting on National Reconciliation held in Addis Ababa, attended by fourteen Somali factions, are encouraging. We welcome the decision to hold a National Reconciliation Conference, to begin on 15 March and emphasize the need for a political solution to be agreed. We call upon all faction leaders to do everything in their power to facilitate a return to a more stable environment in Somalia.

We look forward to the United Nations Secretary-General's forthcoming report on the situation in Somalia, which will provide the basis for a resolution establishing UNOSOM II. We hope that UNOSOM II will be able to consolidate the gains made by UNITAF and that the mandate of UNOSOM II will contain a substantial human rights element.

We commend all those Somali and foreign aid workers who have voluntarily devoted themselves to caring for the people of Somalia. We continue to be concerned for the safety of these relief workers, some of whom have unfortunately been injured or killed. We call upon all in the country to do their utmost to ensure their safety.

In Rwanda the Community and its Member States recall their statement of 21 January 1993,⁵ in which they welcomed the progress achieved in the peace process initiated in Arusha.

They condemn the flagrant violation of the cease-fire by the Rwandese Patriotic Front, which is prejudicial to the search for a negotiated solution – the only means of ensuring lasting peace and furthering the process of democratization with full respect of human rights.

The Community and its Member States appeal urgently to all political forces to assume their responsibilities in order to avoid an even more catastrophic situation for displaced persons, now numbering hundreds of thousands.

They also condemn all types of violence especially summary executions, including the acts of violence committed by political militants, which have caused hundreds of deaths and heightened political tension.

The Community and its Member States call upon the parties concerned to resume the process of conciliation without delay.

The Community and its Member States are deeply alarmed by the situation in Sudan, where there have been numerous instances of summary execution, detention without trial, torture, religious persecution, and cruel, inhuman and degrading forms of punishment, as described in parts of the reports of the Special Rapporteurs on torture, on religious intolerance and on summary executions. The scale of these abuses, which include discrimination against members of minority groups and their forced displacements, has created severe humanitarian problems including a large number of displaced persons in the country and a flow of refugees to neighbouring countries. We are equally alarmed that access by the civilian population to humanitarian assistance is being severely impeded. We have expressed to the Government of Sudan our deep concern at the systematic abuses of human rights throughout the country, including persistent reports of atrocities by government forces in Juba and the Nuba Hills, and we actively supported the resolution on the human rights situation in the Sudan adopted by the General Assembly in December. In the same spirit the Community and its Member States support the proposed designation of a Special Rapporteur of this Commission. We call on the Sudanese Government to uphold the human rights instruments to which it is a party, and to allow its citizens, including members of all ethnic and religious groups, to enjoy all the rights recognized in those instruments. The Twelve also deplore the violence against civilians by factions of the Sudan's People's Liberation Army and call on all parties to cooperate with international organizations in their effort for humanitarian assistance to the civilian population.

The Community and its Member States deplore the new outbreak of violence in Zaire, causing numerous deaths, including that of the Ambassador of France in Kinshasa. The Twelve express grave anxiety about the fact that the considerable efforts undertaken by the people of Zaire to restore democracy and install a representative government have, in recent days, been brutally crushed by military forces under presidential control.

We call upon the President of Zaire to end the obstruction of the process of democratic transition. We encourage the Chairman of the High Council of the Republic, Monseigneur Monsengwo, and the democratic forces in the country, to continue their efforts to promote a political settlement and to allow the democratic process and full respect for human rights to make a fresh start so as to enable free, fair and democratic elections to be properly organized.

In spite of recent steps taken by the Government of Malawi we continue to be seriously concerned about the situation of human rights in that country. We note the government's declared intention to hold a referendum to enable the people to decide on the introduction of multi-party democracy in Malawi. We are concerned that this referendum should be free and fair, which requires, *inter alia*, that all parties be given adequate time to present their views to the electorate. In this context we welcome the government's decision to postpone the referendum hereby following the suggestion of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Community and its Member States will continue to make their views clear to the Malawi authorities and to consider action at this Commission session should the situation warrant it.

The Community and its Member States appreciate and support the commitment of the Government of Mali to improve the human rights situation and they welcome, in the new political framework, the agreement which was signed last April, aimed at finding the appropriate conditions for a peaceful solution to the problems of the country.

The Community and its Member States consider that satisfactory implementation of such an agreement is crucial to achieving better living conditions for the population of the northern regions and to help them to preserve their cultural heritage.

We are still concerned about the situation prevailing in Niger where tension among ethnic groups remains.

The Community and its Member States welcome the holding of multiparty elections for parliament in Niger on 14 February 1993 as a significant step forward in the democratization process that was initiated by the 1991 national conference.

The Community and its Member States urge all political parties to respect the outcome of the elections and pursue their political goals within the constitutional framework to ensure the completion of peaceful transition to constitutional democratic government at the presidential elections.

The Community and its Member States are still deeply concerned by the situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea. As the Special Rapporteur, Mr Volio Jiménez, points out in his report continuous harassment of political opponents, arbitrary detention, judicial procedures without due guarantees and torture, especially by the presidential guard, are still practised.

The formal guarantees included in the new constitution, as well as the laws recently introduced by the government mean some progress but have not brought a real improvement of the situation. The Twelve call on the government to continue to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur and to follow his recommendations, to which we fully subscribe.

Under item 4 of the agenda I have presented the views of the Community and its Member States on the Occupied Arab Territories.⁶ I will, therefore, refrain from going into detail on this subject at this occasion. But I must refer to the rapidly deteriorating security situation in the Occupied Territories, especially in the Gaza strip. The Community and its Member States condemn all acts of terrorism and violence, regardless of their origin and note with concern the increasing number of attacks on Israeli soldiers and civilians. However, they note with particular concern and dismay the increasing number of children killed and wounded by the Israeli Defense Forces in recent weeks, and the wanton and deliberate destruction of property, sometimes involving the use of anti-tank weapons. Thus, the Community and its Member States in the strongest possible terms call on Israel to respect in full its international obligations regarding human rights, especially under the fourth Geneva Convention.

The Community and its Member States remain concerned by the situation in southern Lebanon. They demand that the humanitarian organizations be granted unimpeded access to detention centres, particularly to Khiam prison.

In Syria the number of political prisoners, arbitrary arrests, restrictions of freedom of assembly and freedom of expression as well as reports of torture and disappearances remain points of continued concern for the Community and its Member States.

However, we welcome the positive and encouraging steps taken by Syria over the last year, including the release of a large number of political prisoners and the lifting of travel restrictions on the Syrian Jewish community.

We urge the Syrian Government to make further efforts to comply with the International Covenants. In this respect, improved access to detainees by lawyers and independent observers would be a welcome demonstration of intent.

The Community and its Member States remain seriously concerned by the situation in Iraq, where massive violations of human rights continue to occur and where we witness no sign of change of the policies of the Iraqi Government which would promote greater respect for the rights of its people in general and for the Kurds and Arab Shia in particular.

In the south, thousands of civilians have been arrested and deported; many of them have been executed without trial. Elsewhere in the country thousands of people, nationals as well as foreigners, arrested years ago, have disappeared from their detention centres. Many detainees are victims of torture and ill-treatment; summary executions continue to take place.

The Twelve firmly condemn these practices, described by Special Rapporteur Van der Stoep. We appeal to the Government of Iraq immediately to abide by the terms of Security Council Reso-

lution 688. We ask the international community to join us in demanding that the Government of Iraq allow for the monitoring of human rights.

The Community and its Member States are seriously concerned at the continued reports of human rights violations in Iran, including those contained in the latest report of the Special Representative, Professor Galindo Pohl. Reported violations include the continuing high number of executions, torture of prisoners, the persecution of religious minorities and the restriction of freedoms of expression, thought, opinion and the press. We would like to draw special attention to the treatment of the Baha'i community who suffered increased human rights abuses in 1992, most recently the confiscation of the homes and property of a great number of Baha'is. We are disturbed at the lack of those guarantees of due process of law provided for in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Iran is a party. We welcome Iran's decision, after a lapse of nearly ten years, to submit to the Human Rights Committee its second periodic report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. However, we share the views expressed during the Committee's consideration of the report that it does not accurately reflect the human rights situation in Iran and we urge the government to implement the Covenant fully, particularly in such areas as the treatment of women, and of ethnic and religious minorities. We are alarmed by Iran's continued failure to repudiate the incitement to murder the author Mr Salman Rushdie, and by the recent reiteration of this incitement by senior religious and political figures in Iran. We find this impossible to reconcile with the recent, welcome, emphasis on freedom of opinion and expression in the speech to this Commission by the Deputy to the President for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs of Iran.

Against this background, we deplore the Government of Iran's continued refusal to cooperate with the Special Representative, Mr Galindo Pohl.

In Afghanistan, the Community and its Member States are concerned that, in spite of the efforts made, violations of human rights are still being reported. There are alarming signs of further deterioration, aggravated by the uncertainty of the situation in the country. The conditions of tens of thousands of Tajik refugees in Afghanistan is a matter of growing concern, in particular because of the increasing difficulties in delivering humanitarian aid and protecting and ensuring their human rights.

We welcome the cooperation that authorities in Afghanistan have extended to the Special Rapporteur and we urge them to further apply the recommendations of Professor Ermacora.

We continue to encourage all Afghan parties to increase their efforts in order to achieve a comprehensive and lasting political solution.

The Community and its Member States continue to be concerned at reports of widespread violations of human rights and restrictions of fundamental freedoms in China including Tibet. These include restrictions on the rights of freedom of expression, religion, assembly, association and fair trial. The administration of justice in China, in our view, does not meet international standards in certain important respects. Among these are the possibility and practice of detention without trial for long periods of time; the arbitrary application of the death penalty and its increasing use; the lack of an independent judiciary, and the denial of rights to defendants. We are particularly concerned about measures which threaten the distinct cultural, religious and ethnic identity of persons belonging to minorities, by the situation in Tibet, by the persecution of religious believers, and the imprisonment of people for expressing their political beliefs. We have raised these concerns on a number of occasions in the last year, most recently over the fate of certain Roman Catholic Bishops who have died, and others whose lives were feared to be in danger. We note with appreciation the recent release of some political activists, but we appeal to the Chinese authorities to grant a general amnesty for all those who have been detained because of their commitment to democracy and the peaceful expression of their political and religious beliefs and to guarantee respect for human rights, in accordance with international human rights standards. We note that China is in a position to strengthen its commitment to the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, by

acceding to the International Covenant. We continue to reject any claim that such appeals amount to interference in China's internal affairs, and we regard the human rights situation in China, including Tibet, to be a legitimate subject of international concern.

The implementation of the Paris Agreements under the auspices of the United Nations has produced significant progress in Cambodia. The European Community and its Member States recall with satisfaction the signature, by all factions, in Cambodia's Supreme National Council, of a number of International Covenants and agreements related to human rights. We are also satisfied with the emergence of political pluralism, the release of political prisoners, the creation of Cambodian NGOs active in the field of human rights.

In spite of these encouraging elements, the situation of human rights and notably the recent upsurge of violence remain a matter of concern. In this respect the European Community and its Member States are particularly concerned about the attitude of the Khmer Rouge; they call upon that faction to stop immediately all acts of violence and to participate positively in the democratic process according to their commitments under the Paris Agreements on Cambodia. The European Community and its Member States hope that the elections to take place in May 1993 and the subsequent presidential election will significantly contribute to the improvement of the situation of human rights and that all factions, including the Khmer Rouge, will participate in the democratic process. We consider that the Centre for Human Rights has an essential part to play in the consolidation of democracy in Cambodia.

The situation of human rights in Burma was vigorously condemned by General Assembly Resolution 47/144, which also underlined some of the measures required to restore democracy and respect for human rights in the country. Unfortunately, up to now, the Burmese authorities have remained deaf to this and previous appeals. In 1992, some positive developments took place including the release of a number of political prisoners and the revoking of certain martial law decrees. Furthermore, the Burmese authorities have recently adopted measures purportedly towards national reconciliation and democracy, in particular by convening a national convention.

The Community and its Member States note, however, with regret that many deputies, duly elected in 1990, have not been allowed to take part in the national convention, that some deputies are even now arbitrarily being held in custody, and that several participants in the national convention have been subjected to pressures intended to limit their freedom of choice. The Community and its Member States therefore believe that the scope of the national convention is extremely restricted.

The general situation continues to be characterized by numerous grave violations of human rights, such as summary executions, torture and arbitrary detentions, and by the government's continuing refusal to give effect to the will of the people of Burma as expressed in the 1990 elections. We deplore the Burmese authorities' continued refusal to comply with their obligations under international law and to cooperate with the United Nations and the ICRC. Repatriation of Rohingya refugees is seriously impeded by the Burmese authorities' rejection of any form of monitoring by UNHCR. The Community and its Member States again urge the authorities in Rangoon to enable the Rohingya refugees to return to their country on terms which allow the competent United Nations organizations to play the role incumbent upon them.

The Community and its Member States deeply regret that the Special Rapporteur of this Commission was not allowed to meet Daw Aung San Suu Kyi during his recent visit. The European Community and its Member States repeat their call for an immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners including Ms Aung San Suu Kyi, and for the Burmese authorities to allow them to participate in political life so there can be a genuine national reconciliation respecting the principles of democracy. In this we echo the appeal of the recent, unprecedented mission of the Nobel peace laureates.

The Community and its Member States continue to follow closely the situation of human rights in East Timor. We have done so with special concern after the violent incident at Dili on 12 November 1991, which we strongly condemned,⁷ in which many defenceless civilians died at the hands of the Indonesian Armed Forces. We acknowledged the prompt investigation by the Indonesian authorities, but we remain concerned over the lack of clear information about the number of people killed and over the persons still unaccounted for, about the disparity of sentences given to civilians on the one hand and the military on the other, and by the denial of access to the territory by human rights organizations. We urge the Indonesian authorities to honour their commitments and to respond fully to the consensus statement on East Timor at last year's session of the Commission on Human Rights. In particular, Mr Chairman, we trust that all those in custody, including all opposition figures, such as Xanana Gusmão will be treated humanely with their rights fully respected. In this context we trust that their trials will comply with accepted rules of fairness in accordance with international human rights and humanitarian law and that the ICRC will be allowed to pay regular visits to these prisoners. The Community and its Member states fully support the Secretary-General's recent initiative to achieve a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement of the question of East Timor, with full respect for the legitimate interests and aspirations of the East Timorese, in line with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

The European Community and its Member States deplore the continuing violence which affects Kashmir, and the ensuing deterioration of the human rights situation in that region. We believe that, while on the one hand terrorist violence must be firmly resisted, the Indian security forces must on the other respect the rule of law. In this connection we have urged the Indian Government to allow humanitarian and international human rights organizations free access to the region in order to give an independent assessment of the situation. We are encouraged by the intention of the Indian Government to set up an independent national Human Rights Commission. We express the hope that, in a spirit of good neighbourliness, the Government of India and Pakistan will refrain from any action that could result in increasing tension in the region, and we urge the Government of Pakistan to take effective steps to prevent violent interference from territory under its control.

The Community and its Member States remain concerned about continuing reports of human rights abuses in Sri Lanka and once again urge the Sri Lanka Government to ensure that such violations are stopped. We note, however, that instances of such abuses have substantially decreased and we greatly welcome this development. We also welcome the various measures adopted by the government to curb human rights abuses and to invite international organizations to visit the country. We appreciate the acceptance of recommendations by the working group on enforced or involuntary disappearances, but note that further efforts are needed to implement these recommendations. We urge the speedy achievement of further concrete results and the continuation of these efforts.

The Community and its Member States remain concerned about the human rights situation in the Chittagong hill tracts in Bangladesh. In this context we warmly hope that the proclamation of a cease-fire in the region and the initiation of a political dialogue between the authorities of Bangladesh and the Shanti Bahini will achieve in the long run a peaceful and lasting political solution acceptable to all parties involved. Moreover, the Community and its Member States assume that the Bangladesh authorities will continue to cooperate with UNHCR on the issue of the Rohingya refugees.

The Community and its Member States remain deeply concerned about the bleak human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, where the government continues to deny its citizens many of the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration and the International Covenants to which it is a party. Consequently, the Community and its

Member States strongly urge the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply with international human rights standards.

In Vietnam, the situation has improved over the last year with the adoption of the Vietnamese constitution and the adoption of liberalization measures in the field of civil and political rights. The European Community and its Member States are encouraged by the openness to dialogue of the Vietnamese authorities and expect that further steps will be taken. In particular, they hope that the citizens imprisoned because of their political opinions or religious beliefs will be released without delay.

Mr Chairman, I thank you for this opportunity to make what has been, I realize, a long statement. I ask you and the distinguished delegates to take these remarks in the spirit in which they were intended, that of solidarity with the victims of human rights violations and as an indication of the great importance which the Community and its Member States attach to the promotion and protection of human rights world-wide.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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- 1 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 91/194.
 - 2 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/039.
 - 3 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/040.
 - 4 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/041.
 - 5 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/021.
 - 6 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/038.
 - 7 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 91/358.

93/080. Statement on combating narco-terrorism – Colombia

Date of issue: 2 March 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States express their shock at and rejection of recent terrorist attacks in Colombia, and their sympathy for the families of the victims. They wish to record their solidarity with the Colombian Government and the Colombian people in their fight against narco-terrorism.

The European Community and its Member States condemn the illicit production, processing and trafficking of drugs, and the violence so often associated with it. The illicit drugs trade damages innocent individuals and undermines democracy and the rule of law.

93/081. Statement on atrocities in eastern Bosnia

Date of issue: 3 March 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States add their strong condemnation to the statement by Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance on the fighting in Eastern Bosnia and the atrocities being committed by Bosnian Serbs as peace talks are continuing at UN Headquarters.

The Community and its Member States are in contact through the Presidency with the United States' and Russian Governments to bring pressure to bear on those responsible with a view to ending the atrocities and to securing free access for international relief efforts.

93/082. Statement at the 49th Session of the Commission on Human Rights on rights of the child (agenda item 24)

Date of issue: 5 March 1993

Place of issue: Geneva

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Statement in international forum

Mr Larsen: I have the honour to address the Commission today on behalf of the European Community and its Member States on the subject of the rights of the child.

The issue of children's rights is among the most important to be considered by this Commission. Children are not only among the most vulnerable members of any society but are the future of society itself. It is vital that we at this Commission give a lead in ensuring that the international community and individual governments give children the primary consideration in the adoption of policies affecting them.

Mr Chairman, we believe that the Convention on the Rights of the Child is a landmark in the development and international recognition of children's rights. As such it is a public avowal of a child's right to expect and be given special consideration. This Convention constitutes a real charter on the rights of the child covering a wide range of rights which are inherent to the dignity of children and young people up to the age of 18. Children should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding. Children should be able to benefit from a close relationship to their parents unless decided otherwise by a judicial authority and maintain personnel and direct contacts with them on a regular basis, even if the parents are separated. Furthermore, the best interests of the child should be the guiding principle in the consideration and implementation of all measures designed to promote and protect the rights of the child.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child established by the Convention plays an important role in its implementation and has generated a permanent dialogue involving all parties concerned with the promotion of children's rights at the international and national levels. We take note with interest of the innovative methods of work adopted by the Committee, including the recent adoption of an urgent action procedure.

The European Community and its Member States also welcomed the convening of the World Summit for Children in September 1990 and the Declaration and Plan of Action which issued from it. The summit called for concerted national action and international cooperation to strive for the achievement of a series of goals for the survival, protection and development of children by the year 2000. We recognize the important role UNICEF has to play in helping states to develop national plans of action, and in particular for achieving the World Summit goals and promoting the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In this context, we want to underline the important role of the national committees of UNICEF.

We acknowledge the vital role played by the non-governmental organizations for the promotion of the rights of the child, by making public opinion aware of the seriousness of problems, by suggesting initiatives and by carrying out projects fitted to the specific needs of children.

The European Community and its Member States are particularly concerned about the phenomenon known as street children. Street children are forced by circumstances beyond their con-

trol to live on the margins of society, without education, health care or security. In developing countries they are often the product of migration to urban areas, unemployment, poverty and broken families. In industrialized countries they are usually the victims of alienation and systematic exclusion. As big cities grow, so does the number of children who live alone, under-nourished, denied affection, education and help. Their deprivation can in turn lead to crime, drug abuse, violence and prostitution. The killing of and violence against street children deprives them of, or threatens, the most fundamental human right of all namely the right to life, but they are also entitled to enjoy other well defined rights according to the Convention on the rights of the child. We welcome that the publicity given to this problem has increased the awareness of the plight of street children and of the protection they should be given. It is essential that governments take the responsibility and recognize their duty to address adequately the question of street children and to investigate all cases of offences against street children and to punish offenders. We also welcome the achievements of non-governmental organizations in promoting street children's rights and in providing practical assistance to improve their situation.

We are deeply concerned that there are an estimated thirty million street children world-wide. At the UN General Assembly last year we introduced a resolution on this issue, which was adopted by consensus, with a large number of co-sponsors. We now hope that the Commission will continue to focus its attention on this problem and look forward to similarly unanimous support for a resolution on the plight of street children which the Community and its Member States will introduce under agenda item 24.

Mr Chairman, the European Community and its Member States are increasingly concerned about the problem of child employment, a phenomenon that exists in most societies, including our own, to varying degrees and which is often a symptom of poverty. It should not be assumed that, because legislation exists, children under a certain age are not being exploited. Legislation alone will not stop the exploitation of child labour while the conditions of poverty remain. Legislation can also, sometimes, be insufficient if it is not enforceable. Moreover governments should not overlook the need to formulate appropriate policies for meeting the needs of those children who are in employment. We believe therefore that all governments must take further action to implement programmes to combat this problem. Employment of children must not prejudice their health and education or otherwise interfere with their development. In this context, we welcome the resolution presented by the Sub-Commission on a programme of action for child labour.

The Community and its Member States recognize that poverty constitutes a violation of human dignity and seriously affects the most vulnerable members of the society, namely children, who are hindered in the exercise of their fundamental rights and freedoms. Families living in conditions of poverty often suffer in overcrowded surroundings with inadequate food, little or no clean water, poor sanitation and an absence of medical treatment. Every day, 150 million children under five go to bed hungry and 23 million are classified as malnourished. State health and welfare programmes are priority programmes if these children are to be given the best chance possible to break out of this cycle. Allocation of national resources should be ensured in the light of the best interests of the child. In some cases, it would mean the difference between life and death. The political will to develop and strengthen these programmes must be shown, and they must not be seen as easy sources of savings when addressing economic difficulties.

Mr Chairman, the Community also remains deeply concerned with the plight of children in areas of armed conflict. In recent years, such a growing number of conflicts have occurred using more sophisticated and brutal weapons and fighting methods, affecting a growing number of civilians, particularly children.

Children in such war-affected areas often suffer from shortage of food, water and adequate shelter. Access to health services and school facilities is often disturbed. Children themselves are victims of attacks, many are killed or wounded by gunfire or mines. The number of children used

as soldiers is increasing and they are getting younger all the time. Children are used as mine detectors and spies with little chance of surviving. Furthermore, even after the end of armed conflicts, a large majority of victims of anti-personnel mines are children and those who survived are seriously handicapped both physically and psychologically. Forced to live in an environment of violence and death, many families abandon their homes and become refugees. In fact, some armed groups aim precisely at evicting people, including children, from their home areas. As a result several million children are refugees in the world today. One of the most damaging effects of war in many countries has been the destruction of the family structure within which children are offered stability and emotional security. In this field of children in armed conflicts, it is important to pay particular attention to the relevance and adequate implementation of existing international instruments, including international humanitarian law. Effects of an armed conflict affect the children long after its end. Particular emphasis should be put on the need to ensure humanitarian assistance and relief and humanitarian access to children in situation of armed conflict. In this respect, special attention must be paid to important measures, such as days of tranquillity and corridors of peace. Children should be envisaged as a 'zone of peace' as recommended by Mr Viit Muntarhorn in his report.

We take note that, for its part, the Committee on the Rights of the Child envisaged the adoption of the following priority measures:

firstly, to recommend to the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General to undertake a study on ways and means to improve the protection of children from the adverse effects of armed conflicts;

secondly, the Committee suggests to consider a preliminary draft of an optional protocol to the Convention, raising to 18 years old the age mentioned in article 38 of the Convention.

Mr Chairman, child prostitution and child pornography are two of the most harmful scourges which afflict the basic human rights of children, the world over, including in our own societies. These human rights violations are particularly abhorrent and they should be an anathema to any country in the world and are an assault to human dignity. There should be no hiding place for people who use, misuse, abuse and exploit children through prostitution or pornography.

No one knows exactly how many children over the world are involved in prostitution. In many parts of the world the combination of continuous population growth, widespread under-employment or unemployment, and lack of political will reduces the possibilities for effective governmental action to eliminate the problem. If governments were to tackle these problems, especially in rural areas, progress could be made in reducing the number of urban street children. Likewise, the provision of appropriate education programmes, including post-primary skills training, is needed. Governments should act decisively, both at the national level and in the framework of the United Nations, to stop this practice of child prostitution, noting that clients come from all over the world. The spread of the HIV virus adds a further and appalling dimension to the problem of child prostitution.

The Community and its Member States were pleased that at the 1992 session of the Commission on Human Rights we were able to support a resolution implementing a programme of action for the prevention of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. We also supported the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children.

The Community and its Member States are developing concrete actions in favour of the protection and the promotion of children's rights in the framework of the cooperation and development policy of the Community. The children are actually the direct beneficiaries of specific programs and also benefit indirectly from other cooperation programmes aimed at supporting the civic society, education and training.

Mr Chairman, I would like to conclude by reiterating the importance the European Community and its Member States attaches to the issue of the rights of the child world-wide in both developed

and developing countries. We urge all governments to accede to and comply with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly when dealing with the urgent problems of street children, child prostitution and sexual exploitation, children affected by armed conflicts and general abuse of children throughout the world.

93/083. Statement on a Council meeting (extracts only)

Date of issue: 8 March 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

[...]

Former Yugoslavia

Lord Owen reported to Ministers on the situation in New York. He emphasized how important the firm and constructive support given by the Community and its Member States to the efforts of the co-chairmen had proved to be in advancing the negotiating process.

Ministers referred back to their declaration of 1 February¹ and reiterated their full support for the actions of the co-chairmen in this crucial phase of the negotiations. They noted that the United States and Russia were backing the Vance/Owen plan by providing all the necessary cooperation.

Ministers noted in particular that it was important now to obtain the approval of both the Serbs and Muslims for the map of the internal frontiers of Bosnia and Herzegovina without delay.

Ministers noted that the coming weeks would be decisive and agreed on the need to continue to exercise the strongest pressure on all sides, in particular on Belgrade. As regards Croatia, it was concluded that support should be given to the current efforts in Geneva to reach a territorial solution which would permit the renewal of the UNPROFOR mandate.

The Sanctions Coordinator reported to the Council on the accomplishment of the mission entrusted to him by the CSCE. He stressed the need to reinforce control measures and the effectiveness of administrative procedures, in particular in matters of transit and transshipment. The Council noted that Ambassador Napolitano would shortly be going to Skopje and New York where he would make contact with the Sanctions Committee.

Ministers recalled once again the crucial importance of strict and scrupulous application of the sanctions in force, particularly on the Danube. They instructed the experts to study this question and to report back to them. They also supported the action under way in the various international fora dealing with such issues. They reserved the right to adopt further isolation measures against Serbia and Montenegro if the situation so demanded.

Ministers took note of the recent statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and stressed the importance of encouraging full participation by the United Nations in implementing the peace plan as soon as it had been endorsed by the Security Council.

Ministers held an exchange of views on the implementation of the humanitarian aid measures now in progress, particularly for the benefit of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. They noted that the Commission would shortly be convening a meeting of experts from the Member States.

Ministers will continue to monitor the development of the situation closely. If circumstances so require, they will meet to review their positions.

[...]

Relations with the United States

In view of the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to strengthening co-operation with the United States in all areas, particularly with the advent of a new administration, Ministers agreed to devote part of their informal 'Gymnichn'-style meeting on 24 and 25 April 1993 at Hindsgavl Castle, Denmark, to a discussion on this subject.

Technical preparations for the discussion of the various aspects of relations with the United States would be carried out by the Permanent Representatives Committee on the basis of a Commission document and by the Political Directors, the Coordinators' Group and CELAD. In this context, Ministers also stressed the importance of the growth initiative resulting from the conclusions of the Edinburgh European Council which would be the subject of discussions in the ECOFIN Council on 15 March 1993.

[...]

Political Dialogue with the Visegrad Countries

During the evening a meeting took place between the Community ministerial troika and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the four Visegrad countries, viz.: Mr Géza Jeszensky, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Hungary; Mr Krzysztof Skubiszewski, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland; Mr Milan Knazkov, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovakia; and Mr Josef Zieleniec, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

The meeting was devoted to a political dialogue on a number of international issues of common interest, in particular relations between the Community and the Visegrad countries, the process of reform in Russia, the situation in the Ukraine and events in former Yugoslavia, with the aim of achieving greater understanding between both groups of the scope of these problems.

[...]

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/034.

93/084. Statement at the 49th Session of the Commission on Human Rights on advisory services in the field of human rights (agenda item 21)

Date of issue: 9 March 1993

Place of issue: Geneva

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Statement in international forum

Mr Larsen: Mr Chairman, allow me, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, to make an intervention under item 21 of the agenda.

Advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights are a very important part of the human rights programmes. The building of human rights infrastructure as well as edu-

cation, training and dissemination of information can be considered vital at a time when human rights and democracy are assuming increasing significance in an ever growing number of countries around the world. The European Community and its Member States welcome the view expressed on several occasions by the Director of the Centre for Human Rights, ASG Ibrahim Fall, that advisory services and technical cooperation should be considered a priority area within the Centre. In the perspective of the World Conference on Human Rights, the Community and its Member States wish to reaffirm the paramount importance we attach to the relationship between human rights, democracy and development and, in this regard, we will continue to support actively the Centre's activities for the promotion of human rights.

Resolution 1992/80 reaffirmed the need for maintaining within the common context of the comprehensive programme of advisory services and technical cooperation a clear distinction between its two components. We are happy to note in the report of the S.G. contained in doc. E/CN.4/1993/61 that, while bearing in mind the substantial interrelationship between the two parts of the programme, the S.G. will indeed make a clear distinction between them. In both parts of the programme, the same standards should be applied for the preparation, execution and follow-up of the components of the programme. The need for thorough assessment in the pre-project phase, for appraisal of activities and for evaluation are equally important for both components.

Let me turn first to the programme of advisory services financed under the regular budget. The European Community and its Member States wish to commend the Centre for the number of activities it undertook, certainly in view of the limited resources, both in terms of finance and of personnel. The budget for the programme should in our view be increased, within the overall UN budgetary framework, to meet the growing need for the various types of assistance the programme provides.

As far as the training courses, fellowships and internships are concerned, we appreciate the efforts towards a more tailor-made approach, but we continue to underline that more transparency is needed. Priority setting, the introduction of more precise criteria for project identification and appraisal, and for the identification of target groups could all contribute to further professionalism. That also applies to a thorough and systematic evaluation of these activities, Mr Chairman. It would in our view contribute to the greater effectiveness of the programme if the staff of the advisory services section applied these concepts as a matter of routine in their daily operations.

In his report the Secretary-General states that the provision of services of experts in the field of human rights is one of the basic components of the advisory services programme. In the same report he notices that the appointment of an expert to deal with a specific country and the provision of advisory services of experts under the programme of advisory services at the request of Member States may confuse the issue of technical assistance. We agree with the Secretary-General that it would be important to find ways for the Commission to follow serious situations of violations of human rights from a critical perspective, while at the same time making available needed help in a way that does not undermine the credibility of the advisory services programme nor discourage governments that do not face serious situations of violations from asking for assistance. Consistency is in our view a prerequisite for such an approach. Difficulties encountered by countries that can be remedied by extending advisory services and technical cooperation should be dealt with solely under that specific item. If the nature of a country situation is more properly characterized as 'violations of human rights' it should logically come under item 12. We have to be aware of possible effects of mixing up agenda items. Advisory services and technical cooperation activities assist governments and may be a complement to, but never a substitute for, the monitoring and investigating activities of the United Nations.

Mr Chairman, I will now turn to the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation. The Fund was established to perform activities of a comprehensive nature: to provide essential assistance to states in the implementation of human rights standards, to contribute to the building up or strengthening

of national and regional institutions and infrastructure in the field of human rights for the firm establishment of democracy and development, to provide long term remedies for existing shortcomings and to help prevent situations that led to a recurring of human rights violations. Since its inception it has implemented a gradually increasing, though still limited, number of projects in these areas. The growing awareness world-wide of the need for programmes of technical assistance in the field of human rights has resulted in an expanding list of requests for such assistance from ever more countries. To cope with these requests, the Centre over the years developed guide-lines for project formulation, implementation and reporting, inspired by those used by UNDP. Members of the advisory group established within the Centre still use these guide-lines for the elaboration and implementation of projects, but feel that they are not fully adapted to the needs of the centre. We encourage the Centre to continue exploring methods with the ILO in this field.

At the same time, the Centre is no longer operating alone in the area of technical assistance in the field of human rights. Development cooperation agencies, within and outside the UN-system, as well as NGO's are integrating the human rights dimension within their programmes.

The European Community and its Member States therefore encourage the Centre to continue redefining its role in the field of technical cooperation, while pursuing a much closer partnership with United Nations agencies and other institutions engaged in related activities. An example of this is in the area of electoral assistance, where both the Centre and other UN entities have expertise. We support the strengthening of cooperation in this context. Similarly, the Centre for Human Rights should play an important and constructive role in multidimensional programs implemented by the UN and which have a human rights perspective.

The global approach to the needs of a country introduced by the Centre for Human Rights at the fourth inter-agency meeting on human rights issues at Geneva, on 25 June 1992, deserves our full support. The Centre, building on its expertise and the wealth of knowledge available from the human rights instruments, treaty bodies and mechanisms, would be well placed to assess the needs of countries requesting technical assistance in the field of human rights and to elaborate those comprehensive programmes which would best meet the needs of those countries. It would indeed appear advisable if for the implementation of those programmes the Centre could rely mostly on the skills and resources of other organizations and NGO's. Project implementation by the Centre could be limited to those areas where special expertise is required that only the Centre can provide. We see the new global approach as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General as a starting point and look forward to a further and more detailed elaboration of the goals and purposes of the programme.

Fruitful cooperation between agencies, both inside and outside the United Nations, requires the active cooperation of all involved. We support ASG Fall in his endeavours to develop this cooperation with relevant agencies and NGO's and from our side we will also encourage the other bodies to collaborate actively with the Centre for Human Rights.

Mr Chairman, on the eve of the World Conference on Human Rights, the programme of technical cooperation is at an important juncture. We acknowledge the changes introduced by the Director of the Centre for Human Rights, ASG Fall, in the administration and operation of the Voluntary Fund. Further efforts to streamline and rationalize working methods and procedures, including efforts to improve evaluation and follow-up, could in our view enhance the confidence of donors and recipients, as well as of agencies and NGO's. At the 48th Commission on Human Rights some delegations spoke in favour of a Board of Trustees for the Voluntary Fund, composed of independent experts. We share this opinion. Other Boards of Trustees in Human Rights Assistance Funds show that this practice is successful. We believe that establishing a Board of Trustees for the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation, entrusted with the task of assisting the Secretary-General in administering the Fund, will assist the Centre in achieving greater transparency towards all in-

volved. The members of such a Board could also play an important role as advocates of, and fund raisers for, the Fund.

Mr Chairman, we firmly believe in the importance of assisting states in their efforts in building the necessary infrastructures and creating durable foundations for the widest realization of human rights. In that perspective we believe that both the advisory services programme under the regular budget, and the technical assistance programme financed by the Voluntary Fund, are essential. The two components of the programme have the potential to become a pillar of the action of the United Nations in the field of human rights. We are convinced that the Fund will attract more contributions from different sources if its management and accountability are further improved. Some Member States of the European Community have already announced, in some cases significantly increased, contributions to the Voluntary Fund for 1993, showing both the importance they attach to the concept of advisory services and technical assistance as well as their faith in the new direction of the programme. It is in the light of this importance that the European Community and its Member States wish to continue their constructive dialogue with the Centre. Expansion of the programme will certainly contribute to a long-lasting impact on the protection, promotion and implementation of human rights, development and democracy.

93/085. Oral questions with debate on the Middle East peace process

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Statement in the European Parliament; Answer to oral questions

Mr Helveg Petersen, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: Mr President, the Presidency is more than pleased to have this opportunity of discussing the Middle East. Important new developments are taking place in the Middle East. This morning I had the opportunity of speaking to the Israeli Foreign Minister, Mr Peres. The tone of the conversation was positive, and it strengthened me in my view that the EC has an important role to play in the Middle East. The parties – including Israel – place increasing emphasis on the EC playing an active role, not least in the multilateral dimension, where the EC has the Presidency in the economic working party.

The Community and its Member States are convinced that the peace process in the Middle East is a unique chance which must be seized if we are to avoid the dangers threatening stability in the region. They are convinced that a just, lasting and comprehensive peace, based on the UN Security Council's Resolutions 242 and 338 are to the advantage of both Israel and its neighbours, the Palestinians and the Middle East as a whole. The Community and its Member States have repeatedly underlined the importance of ensuring respect for human rights and of introducing credibility-building measures as a means of increasing confidence between the parties and to speed the negotiations. They strongly condemned the Israeli decision on 17 December¹ to deport more than 400 Palestinians, and expressed regret that the Israeli authorities failed to react to the former Presidency's appeal to discontinue the deportation policy, which is a breach of the fourth Geneva Convention and in this instance, an infringement of Lebanon's sovereignty. This concern is shared by the international community, as reflected in the UN Security Council's Resolution 799. At the EC/Israel cooperation meeting held in Brussels on 1 February, the EC Foreign Ministers urged the Israeli Foreign Minister, Mr Peres, to act immediately on the deportees issue. The Community and its Member States recognized Israel's legitimate security interests, and they condemned the new wave of violence and terror in the Occupied Territories, irrespective of who was behind them, but at the same time stressed that nothing could justify the deportations, which threatened to undermine the peace process, and which could benefit the self-same groups which were trying to damage the peace process.

On this occasion, Mr Peres told the EC Foreign Ministers of the Israeli cabinet's decision, in response to an American suggestion, to let up to 100 of the deportees return, to halve the period of exile for the rest, to continue with the appeals procedure the Israeli High Court has requested, and to allow humanitarian aid to get through to the deportees. The Community and its Member States see this as an important step forward towards the implementation of the UN Security Council's Resolution 799 and hope that the Israeli Government will continue along this path.

The Community and its Member States fully support the USA's current efforts to restart the peace process and have repeatedly encouraged all parties directly involved to stand by their commitment to the peace process. They will continue to reflect on how the EC can contribute to the achievement of this goal within the framework of the Madrid Agreement and in close cooperation with the American and Russian co-sponsors.

The EC plays a particularly important role in the multilateral track of the peace process. The EC is a co-organizer in three of the five working groups and chairs the working group on regional economic development. In the light of the EC's own history, the EC countries feel that regional economic agreements can play a decisive role in supporting a political agreement. Hence they attach particular importance to chairing the group on regional economic development. They feel too, that economic cooperation should be voluntary, and that all parties stand to gain from the process.

Let me add to this, that the Presidency shares the hope that the bilateral negotiations will be restarted in the near future. During the circular tour of the region undertaken by the American Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Warren Christopher, concessions materialized such that the co-sponsors found it appropriate to issue a declaration, which states that invitations to a new round of bilateral negotiations will be sent out. These will be held in Washington in April. The Presidency fully agrees with the co-sponsors in that we must now look ahead to the future, regardless of the fact that the deportation issue is still attracting attention. The peace negotiations must not be allowed to suffer on account of this issue, especially since the Community and its Member States consider that Israel has already taken an important step towards implementing the UN Security Council's Resolution 799.

[After the following debate Mr Helveg Petersen stated:] Mr President, several Members who have taken part in the debate have raised the question of which concrete initiatives the Twelve ought to take in the multilateral track of the peace process. As you are aware, the Community and its Member States fulfill an important role in the multilateral dimension of the peace process. Particularly in the working party on regional economic development, where the Community and its Member States have the chair and hold the gavel, here in particular the Community and its Member States have taken the initiative on a number of activities since the latest round of meetings in Paris in October 1992. Most recently, the so-called enlarged bureau met in Copenhagen on 26 January this year. The Presidency, in conjunction with the Commission, is about to send a technical mission to the region. These activities are building blocks in the work in the multilateral track of the peace process. At the same time, they play a part in keeping the peace process alive, whilst we wait for the next round of negotiations.

I should like to stress once again in line with the Commission, that progress on the bilateral track is a prerequisite for making a real break-through on the multilateral side.

Mr President, I should like to thank the speaker once again for having raised this question. We are dealing here with a topic which has a very high priority with the Community and its Member States. This can be seen, too, in the active, constructive contribution which the Community and its Member States make in relation both to the bilateral and to the multilateral tracks. We have ongoing contacts with all the parties directly involved, just as we are represented in Washington in connection with the bilateral meetings.

Recent developments underline the fact that it is in the interests of all the parties to find a solution soon. Only solid progress towards a solution can hold back the forces which exist in all camps

and which try to undermine the peace process, sometimes through force. The unique opportunity for long-term and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, which was brought about through the Madrid process, simply must not be allowed to slip through our fingers. It is by no means certain that we shall ever be given a second chance.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/476.

93/086. Oral questions with debate on the rearmament of Iran

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Statement in the European Parliament; Answer to oral questions

Mr Helveg Petersen, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: Mr President, the Community and its Member States attach the greatest importance to the question of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and keeps a close watch on developments in this area.

The Community and its Member States [...] are aware of the claims made in the report to which the Members refer, and in other similar reports, along the lines of Iran supposedly having obtained nuclear weapons from CIS republics. The Community and its Member States however, do not have any firm evidence to support the claims put forward. It goes without saying that the Community and the Member States always take such claims very seriously. As a co-signatory of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Iran is entitled to possess nuclear installations and materials, so long as these are subject to the relevant security requirements, and are solely used for peaceful purposes. Iran is aware of the very great importance we attach to Iran's – and as far as that goes, all the other co-signatories' – fully respecting its commitments as regards the Non-Proliferation Treaty. In this connection it is a welcome sign that Iran signed the convention on chemical weapons in January 1993.

As also appears from the conclusions on Iran from the European Council's meeting in Edinburgh, the Community and its Member States recognize the right of every state to acquire the means of self-defence.¹ They are at the same time very concerned that Iran's weapons purchases do not come to pose a security threat in the region.

Mr President, that is all I wanted to say for the moment.

[After the following debate Mr Helveg Petersen stated:] Mr President, let me first of all thank the Members for having held this debate on this very important topic. As I also said in my introductory reply, the Community and its Member States are very concerned that all international agreements and undertakings in the weapons sector be adhered to, whether it be conventional weapons or weapons of mass destruction that are at issue. We support every effort to improve efficiency and develop international control and verification mechanisms.

Several Members have raised the question of links with the CIS. I am able to tell you that the EC has contributed to the establishment of a research and technology centre in Russia and in the Ukraine with the aim of avoiding a brain drain of nuclear experts from the CIS. The Commission is taking an active part in this work. The Community and its Member States have ongoing discussions on questions relating to the non-proliferation of nuclear material, with the Russian authorities among others. And obviously, during these discussions we also express concern regarding rumours of the setting-up of nuclear relations with Iran.

As far as Iran is concerned, no one must be in any doubt about our closely monitoring developments. The Community and its Member States are firmly convinced that Iran, as any other country, must observe international non-proliferation agreements and rules to the letter. If it is suspected that this is not happening, then it goes without saying that we are prepared to follow it up in the relevant fora and in accordance with international rules.

As regards conventional weapons, we back negotiations between producer countries with a view to limiting and controlling the arms trade. The UN's Register of Conventional Weapons transfers will be a suitable tool in this respect. And I must at the same time stress that all members of the international society must respect international obligations.

Nevertheless, we cannot escape the fact that the Middle East, and perhaps the Gulf region in particular, attract special attention on account of a considerable arms build-up. Neither can we escape the fact that Iran, on account of its geo-political situation, occupies a central position in the future development of the region's defence and security policy. It is therefore not surprising that we who also stressed this in the Edinburgh conclusions are extremely interested in Iran's arms purchases and efforts to acquire a capacity in weapons of mass destruction. I will conclude by assuring the Members that this point too will feature strongly in the critical dialogue we have with the regime in Teheran.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/449.

93/087. Questions No H-50/93 by Ms Pollack on winter aid for displaced persons and H-151/93 by Mr Martin on plans to increase European Community cold-weather funding for refugees in Afghanistan, Iraq, Albania and the former Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-50/93:

According to Oxfam, lack of response from the international community to the UN appeal launched in the autumn of 1992 has led to a serious shortfall in money available for emergency assistance in former Yugoslavia, Albania, Iraq and Afghanistan. Will EPC urge the governments of the Member States to make additional funding available to assist the UN appeal to cover immediate basic needs for displaced people in these countries over the winter?

Question No H-151/93:

Is EPC aware that over 3 million people in Eastern Europe and in Asia are homeless and at risk from the cold and lack of food? Is the President-in-Office prepared to implement a considerable increase in the contribution from the European Community to relieve the plight of the refugees in Afghanistan, Iraq, Albania and the former Yugoslavia?

Answer:

Allow me to give a common answer to the questions raised by the honourable Members on emergency assistance during the winter period.

The honourable Members will be aware of the fact that the Community and its Member States are providing very considerable international emergency assistance delivered through a variety of channels including non-governmental organizations. The Community and its Member States do their utmost to respond to the various UN appeals with the aim of helping deprived people stricken by war, famine or other calamities.

As far as the former Yugoslavia is concerned, the European Council in Edinburgh endorsed the measures to implement the commitments at the Birmingham European Council,¹ including the immediate disbursement of ECU 213 under the Commission's action plan for foodstuffs, medicine, shelter and trucks. The Edinburgh European Council paid tribute to the courage of UNHCR, ICRC and the other organizations engaged in the dangerous task of relief provision.² It called upon all parties to allow the safe passage of humanitarian convoys.

The Community and its Member States will continue to respond generously to the urgent humanitarian requirements in former Yugoslavia. The Edinburgh European Council reaffirmed its support for UNSCR 787 which provides for the necessary measures, including military, to be taken to ensure the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The Community and its Member States remain deeply concerned about the fate of the civilian population in Iraq. They continue to support fully the UN inter-agency humanitarian programme and have made significant contributions both at national and Community level. The major part of the 33,000 tonnes of food required under the UN's winterization programme in northern Iraq has been delivered. Non-governmental organizations, some funded by the Community and i[t]s Member States, have provided significant additional supplies. Priority is now being given to kerosene distribution. The Community has funded the supply of an additional 25 million litres from Turkey in February.

The Community and its Member States deplore the attempts by the Iraqi regime to jeopardize relief efforts by harassing relief personnel and the UN guard and by placing bombs on Turkish relief trucks in northern Iraq.

The Community and its Member States have contributed extensively to the humanitarian operations in Afghanistan and Albania.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/354.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/450.

93/088. Question No H-52/93 by Mr Romeos on the use of German tanks against the Kurds

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

According to German press reports, Turkey is using 'BTR-60' armoured vehicles in operations against the Kurds. These armoured vehicles were provided by Germany in the context of NATO assistance under the condition that they be used for Alliance purposes. How does the European political cooperation intend to respond?

Answer:

The question raised by the honourable Member has not been dealt with in the context of the European political cooperation.

93/089. Question No H-57/93 by Mr Valverde López on the ratification of the Dublin Convention

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

The Edinburgh summit proposed to improve the quality of information to Community citizens;¹ the European Council could itself perhaps set an example. The conclusions of the European Council in Lisbon stated, *inter alia*, that the European Council urges that efforts should be pursued with a view to settling the last problem impeding the signature of the Convention concerning the crossing of the external frontiers and 'calls for all ratifications of the Dublin Convention to be effected by the end of 1992.'

Could EPC provide an interpretative statement, addressed to the Community's citizens, explaining this cryptic declaration by the European Council, so that the public understand what the Heads of State or Government were trying to say, and ascertain the problem?

Could EPC also explain what reasons the two parties concerned gave for not having responded to the European Council's request?

Answer:

This matter, pertaining to an inter-governmental convention, has not been discussed in the framework of EPC.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/449.

93/090. Questions No H-58/93 by Mr Smith on the peace process in El Salvador and H-59/93 by Ms Oddy on the El Salvador peace process

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No-58/93:

Is EPC aware that there are allegations of non-compliance with the peace accords in El Salvador?

Question No H-59/93:

Is EPC aware that the UN Secretary-General has cast doubt on the restructuring of the armed forces in El Salvador and its conformity with the recommendations of the *ad hoc* committee on the purification of the armed forces?

What assistance does EPC intend to give to ensure that the peace process is successful in El Salvador?

Answer:

The honourable Members will be aware of the fact that the Community and its Member States follow very closely the developments of the peace process in El Salvador. They have from the outset

welcomed the peace agreement signed on 16 January 1992 between the Government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front. Much progress has already been realized in El Salvador but the fulfilment of the peace agreement is a difficult task and the implementation has reached a crucial stage.

The Community and its Member States have noted that the second report from the Salvadorean Government to the UN Secretary-General on the planned implementation of the recommendations by the *Ad Hoc* Commission did not conform with these recommendations. They have further noted that negotiations between the FMLN and the authorities are continuing to resolve outstanding problems, of which the purification of the armed forces is one of singular importance.

The Edinburgh European Council¹ called upon both parties to show flexibility in order to allow the fulfilment of the remaining commitments and reaffirmed the determination of the Community and its Member States to maintain their contribution to the national reconstruction of El Salvador. The San José IX ministerial meeting between the Community and its Member States and the Central American countries will offer an occasion to reiterate this commitment.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/449.

93/091. Questions No H-62/93 by Sir James Scott-Hopkins on Greece, H-40/93 by Mr Alavanos on the Skopje issue and H-95/93 by Mr Kostopoulos on Mr Jensen's statements regarding Greece's position on the Skopje issue

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-62/93:

Has EPC given a clear warning to Greece that any interference on her part with the integrity of Montenegro or Macedonia will not be tolerated?

Question No H-40/93:

What initiatives has European political cooperation taken recently to contribute to a settlement to the Skopje issue and what further action does it intend to take based on the stance adopted at European Council meetings?

Question No H-95/93:

During the presentation of the Danish Presidency's programme at the European Parliament plenary (20 January 1993)¹ and following my question on his statements regarding the Skopje issue, Mr Jensen provided an answer which was contrary to the positions adopted by the European Councils in Brussels, Guimarães, Lisbon and Edinburgh.

The Greek Members were understandably angry at his conduct and his position which was contrary to the principles of Community solidarity.

Does EPC endorse the statements made by the Danish Foreign Minister and President-in-Office of the Council?

Answer:

The honourable Members will recall that the Presidency, in response to Question No H-1265/92 and 1270/92,² informed the House last month that the European Council in Edinburgh examined its policy on recognition of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the context of the Lisbon declaration³ and in the light of the report by the Presidency's special representative. It invited Foreign Ministers to remain seized of this question.

My predecessor as President of the Council of Ministers used his visit to the region of former Yugoslavia from 6 to 9 January to discuss matters of mutual interest with President Gligorov and Foreign Minister Maleski. The co-chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on Yugoslavia recently discussed with President Gligorov proposals regarding future relations between the international community, including the Community and its Member States, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/005.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/010.

³ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/254.

93/092. Question No H-70/93/rev. by Ms Llorca Vilaplana on the rape of women in Bosnia

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

If a court is eventually set up to judge war criminals for all the events that have taken and are taking place in the former Yugoslavia, does EPC believe that all those who have committed acts of violence on women should be tried and considered as war criminals, so that financial penalties can be imposed on them to help maintain the children born as a result of their actions and compensate the rape victims?

Answer:

Mr Helveg Petersen, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: In Edinburgh the European Council strongly condemned the systematic suppression and rape of Muslim women in particular,¹ and demanded that all internment camps, especially those for women be closed down immediately. The European Council immediately decided to send a delegation headed by Dame Anne Warburton and including participants from all the Member States to the former Yugoslavia in order to study the situation there. On 1 February,² Dame Anne Warburton submitted a report on her two missions to the former Yugoslavia to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs. Her report confirmed that widespread, systematic rape had been committed during the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, generally with the deliberate intention to demoralize and terrorize the civil population. In Edinburgh the European Council reiterated the Community's and the Member States' well-known view that the persons on all sides responsible for these crimes committed against human rights, will be held personally responsible and brought to justice. This view is shared by the UN Security Council. In its declaration on 13 January,³ the Ministers underlined the need for an International Criminal Court and expressed its wish to support the UN's efforts to establish one. The Expert Committee set up in Geneva as a result of Security Council Resolution No 780, is studying and analyzing information on human rights as well as the serious infringements of the Geneva Conventions which are currently being committed in the former Yugoslavia.

Ms Llorca Vilaplana (PPE): It is indeed easy to make statements but it is much more difficult to actually implement measures capable of overcoming all these obstacles and attacks.

Not only did I ask that the rapists in Bosnia and the former Yugoslavia – where there have been systematic rapes – be considered war criminals, but I also asked that financial penalties be paid by the rapists. I know that this will be difficult. For this reason I would like to emphasize not only this question, but also the following question: Would it be possible for the Community to set up a fund to provide financial assistance to these women, not only to compensate them for their suffering, but also to provide for the eventuality of their giving birth? My feeling is that we should be especially sensitive to the rapes going on in that region. Unfortunately, they are not only happening within the context of the war, but also in the cities. We are currently commemorating an event that took place on 8 March 1908. It would seem that there is always an 8 March inflicted on women.

Mr Helveg Petersen: In connection with the establishment of an international court of justice, as I stated – and as already discussed by the UN – in my opinion it would also be perfectly natural to try and assess the question of compensation and economic sanctions of the kind inquired about by the questioner.

Mr Habsburg (PPE): Mr President-in-Office, you have stated that this business has been harshly condemned. We have been hearing such harsh words for two years. We could wallpaper the whole chamber with them. But nothing is actually done!

A theoretical court that might subsequently punish people, will do nothing for the victims. Moreover, after being so well received in New York, Milosevic is really convinced that nothing will happen to him. Is it not gradually time to take more effective steps than those we have been discussing for months without actually doing anything?

Mr Helveg Petersen: I have been asked about my opinion on the establishment of a court of justice. I answered the question put to me. But I am of the opinion that the decisive aspect, the most important aspect of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, is obviously to bring an end to the hostilities and to pave the way for peaceful development in the country. Obviously, that is our priority. Just these last few days, intense efforts have been made to move towards the signing of a peace agreement. Major political initiatives are being taken to attempt to ensure that the signing of the peace agreement goes ahead with the approval of all parties.

Ms Cramon Daiber (V): I have two questions in addition to this question by Ms Llorca Vilaplana: Firstly, in Edinburgh the Council also decided that the number of refugees absorbed by the European Community should not be increased. I would like to ask you whether, in view of the genocide and the current situation in Bosnia and other parts of the former Yugoslavia, it is not necessary that the European Community finally open its frontiers to the refugees?

Secondly, on the question of the raped women: there is now an extensive network of self-help organizations working with women refugees in our EC countries as well as offering support *in situ* to women's self-help organizations, which do not work nationalistically in this context. I would like to ask you whether you will support the European Parliament resolution – due to be adopted tomorrow – which contains the demand that the European Community give definite financial aid to these self-help organizations.

Mr Helveg Petersen: Consideration has been given as to whether or not the countries concerned should also take in the victims of rape, to the extent that this is necessary. Should this be decided, then together with the UNHCR and the International Red Cross we ought to weigh up how such help can best be provided. It is questionable whether or not it is best for the victims to remain in

the immediate environment, where the women affected can receive psychological and medical assistance. The EC Member States are currently considering various national possibilities for following up the Warburton report. I can inform the House that we in Denmark are considering using the extremely extensive expertise in such treatment which is available in Denmark. I also believe that it is expedient to complement my answer by saying that, in the past weeks and months, the twelve Member States have taken in a very large number of refugees from the former Yugoslavia.

Ms Cramon Daiber (V): Mr President, the President-in-Office of the Council has not answered my question on the provision of definite financial support for women's self-help organizations which operate on a non-nationalistic basis. I would like to hear his response.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/453.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/035.

³ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/004.

93/093. Question No H-76/93/rev. by Mr Nianias on the conflict in the former Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Alarming and reliable reports confirm the presence in Bosnia of some 11,000 Muslim fighters from third countries. Some 700 to 800 of them are said to be from Turkey and approximately the same number from Morocco. Some contingents come from other Muslim countries in the Middle East and Asia.

Could EPC confirm the presence of these mercenaries in Bosnia?

Does not EPC consider that the presence of so many armed groups of this nature might aggravate this already tragic conflict, in view of the presence on European territory of mercenaries from other continents and third countries?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are of course aware of the regular reports about the presence of foreign mercenaries in the former Yugoslavia. I would like to point out in this context that according to those reports, they include nationals from Muslim and non-Muslim countries alike. There seems to be reason to suspect, that the figure of 11,000 mercenaries is a considerable overestimate.

As the question of EC or third country nationals serving in a foreign army is first and foremost the responsibility of their respective countries and institutions, it has as such not been discussed within the framework of EPC.

93/094. Question No H-82/93 by Ms Ewing on violations of the human rights of the Baha'i community in Iran

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Following the confiscation of a large number of private homes and other property belonging to Baha'is by the Iranian revolutionary institutions in Yazd, Tehran [Teheran] and Isfahan, will the EPC lodge a formal protest with the Iranian authorities and call on them to give assurances that any confiscated property will be returned to its rightful, legal owners?

Answer:

Following the EPC *démarche* to the Iranian authorities on 12 June 1992 in connection with the execution of a member of the Baha'i community, Mr Bahman Samandari, the Presidency made further representations to the Iranian authorities in October both in Tehran [Teheran] and Geneva, about the situation of the Baha'is in Iran and expressed concern about the death sentences passed on two Baha'is charged with spying, Mr Bihnam Mithaqi and Mr Kayvan Khalajabadi, and about reports that they did not receive fair trials. The Iranian authorities said that their judicial authorities were examining the conduct of the cases. At the same time, the Presidency's representative in Tehran [Teheran] raised the reports of the confiscation of houses and properties belonging to Baha'is in Yazd, Isfahan and Tehran [Teheran]. The Iranian authorities asserted that Baha'is were free to exercise the rights available to all Iranian citizens if they obeyed the law.

A resolution on human rights in Iran, drafted and co-sponsored by the Community and its Member States, was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 18 December 1992. The resolution *inter alia* expresses concern at the treatment of the Baha'i community.

The Community and its Member States will continue to follow the human rights situation in Iran closely and will not fail to draw to the attention of the Iranian authorities violations of these rights. At the Edinburgh European Council¹ Ministers agreed that the Community and its Member States should maintain a critical dialogue with Iran which reflects concern about Iranian behaviour in a number of areas, particularly human rights. They also stressed that improvement in these areas would be important in determining the extent to which closer relations and confidence could be developed.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/449.

93/095. Question No H-86/93 by Mr Barrera i Costa on the situation in Algeria

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Given that the Government in Algeria is moving increasingly towards a form of military dictatorship and disregarding even the most basic of human rights, and that, having halted the electoral process under way in that country in an unlawful manner, the government has not abided by its undertaking to resume the democratic process, does EPC intend to put pressure on the Algerian Government with a view to securing an undertaking that it will embark on a genuine process of democratization, on the basis of a clearly-defined timetable?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have repeatedly stressed their wish for Algeria to return to a normal institutional life and have encouraged the High Committee of State to promote dialogue

among all parties concerned. They have also urged the Algerian authorities to pursue their publicly announced commitments, namely social and economic reforms, the restructuring of public administration and the protection of fundamental freedoms.

The Community and its Member States support the efforts of the Algerian authorities to restore the democratic process. They hope that this transitional process will be attained with respect for human rights, tolerance and political pluralism. They welcome the Algerian President's announcement of a referendum on the new constitution before the end of 1993 on the expiry of the mandate of the High Committee as well as his stated willingness to pursue the democratic process. The Community and its Member States will continue to follow the situation closely.

The Community and its Member States are willing to cooperate with the Algerian authorities in the economic recovery of their country, bearing in mind, as the Lisbon European Council declaration on Euro/Maghreb relations¹ made clear, that compliance with human rights, fundamental freedoms and democratic values will be important in the context of bilateral relations.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/256.

93/096. Question No H-88/93 by Mr Dessylas on the 415 deported and exiled Palestinians, international law and UN Security Council resolutions

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

The tragic situation of the 415 Palestinian exiles, who are living under inhuman conditions in no-man's-land in south Lebanon and Israel's refusal to allow them to return home constitute a savage violation of fundamental human rights, the 4th Geneva Convention, the principles of international law and UN Security Council resolutions. These events demonstrate how hypocritical and selective the 'New Order' powers are in invoking and implementing UN resolutions (compare Iraq, Serbia, etc.).

What steps will the 12 Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC take against Israel to secure the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions? Will they freeze the EC/Israel Financial Protocol, impose economic sanctions and sever economic and diplomatic relations with Israel?

Answer:

Mr Helveg Petersen, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: In a statement issued on 18 December 1992, the Community and its Member States strongly condemned the Israeli decision to deport more than 400 Palestinians. The Community expressed its regret that the Israeli authorities did not react to the previous Presidency's appeal not to carry out the deportations, which – as the honourable Member remarked – violate not only the fourth Geneva Convention but also Lebanon's sovereignty. These views are shared by the international community, and have been expressed in UN Security Council Resolution No 799.

The EC/Israel Cooperation Council, which met on 1 February in Brussels, presented the Community and Member States with an additional opportunity to exert pressure on the Israelis to take immediate action with regard to the deportees. Even if the Community and the Member States recognized Israel's legitimate security interests and condemned the new wave of violence and terror, regardless of who was responsible for it, it stressed that there was no justification for the deporta-

tions, which threatened to undermine the peace process and which only served to benefit precisely those groups that were trying to destroy this process. The Community appealed for a swift solution to the problem of the deportees. At the Cooperation Council meeting, Mr Peres informed the EC's Foreign Ministers that the Israeli Government could now report that it had decided to allow roughly 100 of the deportees to return and to halve the duration of the exile period for the remaining deportees, to continue the appeal procedure that the Israeli Supreme Court had requested and to allow humanitarian aid to reach the deportees. The Community and its Member States found this to be an important step forward towards an implementation of Security Council Resolution No 799.

The Community and its Member States urgently requested all the parties directly involved to uphold their commitment towards the peace process. This is the only way to solve the problems in the region and to encourage those parties to intensify their efforts to reach a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement.

Mr Dessylas (CG): I regret that the President-in-Office did not give me an answer. Mr President-in-Office, we do not expect you to be Mr Clinton's mouthpiece. You expected Mr Clinton to call the return of 100 deportees a positive move so that you could tell us that important steps had been taken and that 100 deportees had been returned. For the past three months they have promised that 100 deportees would be returned. Just tell me, when will all 415 be returned? In a year? You say you are so very sorry, but that UN decisions are being violated. Yet, when Iraq violates UN decisions, you hide like ninnies behind NATO and ask for Iraq to be bombed because it has violated the precepts of international law. I asked you – and you did not answer me – whether the measures I proposed, namely an embargo and the breaking off of diplomatic relations, will be taken against Israel. Now I would ask the following: are you going to bomb Israel since it has contempt for and makes a mockery of the decisions taken by the UN, the EC and you yourself? You will not, because 40% of Israel's imports are from the EC. Thank you so very much!

Mr Helveg Petersen: It has gradually become known that after Israel had taken the steps I just mentioned, the Middle East peace process entered a new phase. This has raised hopes that the problems are nearing their solution. It is now anticipated that it will be possible to resume the so-called bilateral talks in April, and that signals an important, good and new development in the peace process. At the same time it will also mean that there will be a chance to resume multilateral talks again, which is why I believe that the latest development creates hope that the peace process can get back on the right track.

Mr Cooney (PPE): I have to say at the outset that the political naivety of the European Community in the face of Israeli intransigence is quite staggering. Is the President-in-Office aware that the wastepaper baskets in the Foreign Ministry in Israel are full of condemnatory resolutions and that the only thing which has had any effect on Israeli policy was when the Americans withheld approval for a loan guarantee last year? If the European Community want to play a role in the restoration of civil rights in Israel, and particularly for the deported Palestinians who have been treated with public contempt, then the European Community must use its economic muscle and there are no two ways about it!

Mr Helveg Petersen: Here this morning I personally had the opportunity to meet the Israeli Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Peres. Following this meeting, I am convinced that there is a genuine desire on the Israeli side as well to make progress in the peace process.

Mr Arbeloa Muru (S): I shall be less dramatic than my colleague Mr Dessylas, perhaps because I believe far less in the solution. Unfortunately, I think that double standards are being practised within the international community and that the country applying them is the United States of America.

Mr President of EPC, you cannot answer me because you are bound and tied by the consensus of the Twelve, but I can still ask the question – indeed, that is why we are here in this House.

Do you believe that any of us are going to lift a finger in this situation? Perhaps we need another thousand Jews killed – and I have also always condemned the killing of Palestinians? I have also always condemned the killings of Jews and the killings of Palestinians by Palestinians. However, a total of 1,045 Palestinians has now been murdered. Do we have to see another thousand killed before we take some steps? Instead of deporting 415, do 4,515 have to be deported? This is the unanswerable and tragic question to which you cannot respond. Please excuse me, but my conscience compels me to do it.

Mr Helveg Petersen: I do not think that is a fair way of presenting the problem. What the international community – including the European Community – can do is offer its fullest support to the peace process. Surely the most important thing is to bring about peaceful relations in the area, and the Community must do what it can to contribute towards such a situation. I would also reiterate that, in my informed opinion there is a realistic chance of bilateral talks taking a more positive turn and of our seeing this lead to concrete results.

93/097. Question No H-103/93 by Mr Bonde on discussions of security policy

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Will the Foreign Ministers state how discussions of security policy matters are actually to be organized if Denmark is not to take part in discussions of military aspects?

Answer:

As the honourable Member will be aware, the Union Treaty makes clear that it will be for the WEU, which is an integrated part of the development of the Union, to elaborate and implement decisions and actions of the Union which have defence implications.

At the European Council in Edinburgh,¹ Heads of State and Government noted that, in response to the invitation from the Western European Union, Denmark has become an observer to that organization. They also noted that nothing in the Treaty on the European Union commits Denmark to become a member of the WEU. Accordingly, Denmark does not participate in the elaboration and implementation of decisions and actions of the Union which have defence implications, but will not prevent the development of closer cooperation between Member States in this area.

The European Council took note that Denmark will renounce its right to exercise the Presidency of the Union in each case involving the elaboration and the implementation of decisions and actions of the Union which have defence implications. The normal rules for replacing the President, in case of the President being indisposed, shall apply.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/449.

93/098. Question No H-126/93 by Mr Cushnahan on the situation in Croatia

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Has EPC discussed the recent outbreak of hostilities in Croatia?

Will this outbreak have implications for the efforts at reaching a settlement of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia?

Answer:

In their statement on 25 January,¹ the Community and its Member States expressed grave concern at the resumption of hostilities around Zadar in Croatia and at the possible consequences this might have. They noted that, in addition to destabilizing the already uneasy situation in Croatia, these actions risked harming the highly important and serious negotiations in Geneva on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Similar views were expressed by the UN Security Council and the co-chairmen of the Geneva Conference on the former Yugoslavia.

On 28 January, the Presidency, on behalf of the Community and its Member States, sent an urgent message to Croatian President Tudjman, calling i.a. for an immediate halt to the Croatian offensive. The Croatian President was reminded of the unacceptability of the use of military force to achieve political goals and the risk these actions posed to the negotiating process and to the place of Croatia in the international community.

At their meeting on 1 February,² Ministers repeated their condemnation of the attacks on UNPROFOR and called on all sides to stop fighting, to withdraw their forces from the areas concerned and to cooperate fully and unconditionally in the implementation of the UN peace-keeping plan. Ministers also expressed support for the renewal of the UNPROFOR mandate in Croatia after its expiry in March 1993.

In their declaration, the Community and its Member States expressed full and unequivocal support for the comprehensive plan for a peaceful settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina and strongly urged all parties concerned to accept it and cooperate in its implementation. The Community and its Member States also called upon the Security Council of the United Nations to give its full support to this plan and its implementation.

The Community and its Member States furthermore repeated their willingness to contribute actively to this end and to continue their efforts to help Bosnia-Herzegovina recover from the present tragedy.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/023.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/034.

93/099. Question No H-152/93 by Ms Banotti on Cambodia

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Could EPC inform me of its position regarding the situation in Cambodia, does it intend to send EC observers to the forthcoming democratic elections and has it any plans to send further humanitarian aid to Cambodia in the near future?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are following closely developments in Cambodia and are continuously monitoring the situation.

In this context, the Community and its Member States have committed themselves to the successful implementation of the comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodia conflict and have provided considerable support both to the UN operation and to the rehabilitation of the country.

The Community and its Member States have noted that at the meeting of the Supreme National Council (SNC) held in Beijing on 28 January 1993, under the chairmanship of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, it was decided that elections for the constituent assembly would be held from 23 to 25 May 1993. It was also noted that at that meeting, Prince Sihanouk assured members of the SNC that he would, in the meantime, cooperate actively with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) in the implementation of the Paris Agreements.

The Community and its Member States express the hope that all parties involved will cooperate with UNTAC to enable the elections to be held freely and fairly.

The question of sending EC observers to the elections and that of further humanitarian aid have not been discussed, as yet, in the framework of European political cooperation.

93/100. Question No H-163/93 by Ms García Arias on the rape of women in Bosnia

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Indications show that more and more Muslim women in Bosnia may well be raped. What measures has the Community decided to take to protect these women and help them psychologically and socially? Does EPC consider that political asylum should be granted in the EC to those women who might be rejected or persecuted in their own localities?

Answer:

Mr Helveg Petersen, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: I would refer the honourable Member to the answer I gave previously to a question on the same topic. I can add that, at its 49th meeting in Geneva, the Commission on Human Rights adopted a consensus resolution on the rape of women in the former Yugoslavia. The resolution was supported by the Community and its Member States. Furthermore, I would refer to the answer I gave to the previous question,¹ and stress that, at its meeting on 1 February, the Council agreed to take concrete steps to follow up the recommendations of Dame Anne Warburton's report.

Ms García Arias (S): We have heard that the Community and the Member States are going to contact the parties in the conflict, especially the political leaders, to convince them of the irrefutable nature of the evidence submitted and the need to put a stop to these odious deeds.

Firstly, what measures are being adopted to try and ensure that these acts – which are certainly more likely to happen during situations of conflict – are stopped, at least in their systematic form.

Secondly, in some cultural contexts, these women may find themselves especially persecuted and rejected. Are they going to be left to bear the guilt of the conflict?

Mr Helveg Petersen: Of course it is unreasonable. There is surely nothing in this context concerning the rape of women in the former Yugoslavia that can be characterized as reasonable or decorous or that can be described as positive in any way. The reports coming from the former Yugoslavia are terrible, and I can assure the House that the Council is doing everything it can to find definite proposals for following up the reports we have seen. This is a matter which affects everyone deeply, and the Council intends to take concrete steps to follow it up.

Mr Kostopoulos (NI): Last month, the Committee on Women's Rights held a public hearing on the rapes. It has been ascertained that not only Muslim women have been raped, but also Croatian and Serbian women. Therefore, given that this issue does not concern just Serbian men, and since the President-in-Office has said that practical measures will be taken, I would like to ask whether among those appearing in the dock – apart from Milosevic, who Mr Habsburg told us about – we will also see Mr Habsburg's friend, Mr Tudjman, as well as Mr Izetbegovic? Is this a matter of concern to the Presidency?

Mr Helveg Petersen: The mission carried out by Dame Anne Warburton on behalf of the Community comprised a study of the systematic rape of just Muslim women in Bosnia. That is what she reported on. The Council has undertaken to follow it up with concrete measures aimed at helping the women and children affected. Beyond this, I agree that rape is equally brutal and vicious, regardless of the identity of the people who make themselves guilty of such a crime.

Mr Ephremidis (CG): Questions Nos 35 and 36 are related. I listened to the answers given by the President-in-Office and I feel that they are not satisfactory. We are stating the obvious when we say that we condemn the rape of women. These are shocking crimes which deserve our condemnation, whether they happen in times of peace or civil war. Unfortunately, the phenomenon of rape has been with us since the dawn of mankind, and it must be condemned. The problem, however, is that after the rape, the victims sometimes give birth to children. What will become of these children? There are no clear answers from the Council that would indicate measures will be taken. My question is: What is the Council going to do to take specific measures? Trying to figure out who raped whom and setting up of courts to try the perpetrators of gang rapes is ridiculous. Who are we going to find with Dame Warburton's reports? I quote: 'International agencies have reported that Muslim women who complain that they have been raped are guaranteed asylum for travel to Switzerland. Subsequently, piccaninnies are born'. Clearly they are not being raped by Muslims in Bosnia, or by Serbs, or even by Croats, but by blacks. So let us leave aside the subject of courts and ridiculous little jokes, and let us take care of the victims of rape.

Mr Helveg Petersen: The establishment of a court of justice as proposed by the UN is an important step for the international community in connection with war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia. In addition, it goes without saying – as I have stated on many occasions – that there is a need for concrete initiatives to benefit the victims of rape in the former Yugoslavia. The Commission is considering various possibilities for offering the victims practical help. At issue is whether it would be best, most useful and effective to offer them on-the-spot help – i.e. in their immediate surroundings – or whether some of the victims should be moved to Community Member States where they could be provided with the psychological and other assistance that they need. The Community is quite concretely considering how it can best and most effectively help the victims of war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. Rape in this context is also a war crime.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/092.

93/101. Question No H-177/93 by Mr Lomas on human rights in Colombia

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Amnesty International recently reported on an incident involving human rights violations against Paez Indians of Columbia [Colombia] which occurred in December 1991. 20 Paez Indians, who were gathering on a ranch *El Nilo* in Caloto (occupied by them for 4 years) to discuss common problems and celebrate a religious feast, were killed by armed men, some dressed in military uniform. Civilians have been arrested in connection with the killings, but no arrest warrants have been issued against the National Police implicated in the massacre. Can pressure be put on the Colombian authorities to deal with human rights violations?

Answer:

In their institutionalized dialogue with the countries of Latin America the Community and its Member States have continuously underlined the importance they attach to the respect for human rights. In this context, they have underscored the respect for human rights in the framework of EC policies as expressed in the November 1992 resolution on human rights, democracy and development. The specific case referred to by the honourable Member has not been dealt with in the context of the European political cooperation. Some Member States have, however, bilaterally expressed their concern over this case. The Community and its Member States will continue to monitor closely the situation of human rights in Columbia [Colombia], especially in the context of the Commission on Human Rights and the activities of the special rapporteur on summary or arbitrary executions.

93/102. Question No H-195/93 by Mr Bandrés Molet on the survival of a sub-species of monkey on the Guinean island of Bioko

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

An increase in hunting is seriously threatening the survival of various sub-species of monkeys, some of them unique, on the Guinean island of Bioko.

Of the seven species of monkey of the genus *Cercopithecus* to be found in Bioko, four are represented by sub-species which exist only on that island, a fact which makes their disappearance a matter of particular concern. The increase in hunting is partly a result of the loss of other means of livelihood and the demand for monkey meat in a particular sector of the population. Various specialists are stressing the need to provide effective protection in areas which have already been declared to be nature reserves.

Is European political cooperation aware of these problems, which threaten the existence of unique species? What measures can be carried out in conjunction with the authorities in Equatorial Guinea to preserve these species?

Answer:

The survival of a sub-species of monkey on the Guinean island of Bioko has not been dealt with in the framework of European political cooperation as it is not of its competence.

93/103. Question No H-199/93 by Mr Montesquiou Fezensac on Kuwait prisoners of war and missing persons in Iraq

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Does European political cooperation have exact figures for the numbers of Kuwaitis reported missing and those still held as prisoners of war in Iraq?

Could it say what contacts it has with non-governmental organizations such as the International Red Cross which are committed to obtaining the release of these prisoners?

Could it indicate what progress has been achieved with regard to the sending of a United Nations commission of inquiry to Iraq, called for by the European Parliament in its resolution of 21 January 1993 on the situation in Iraq?

Could it say what other measures might be taken to achieve the same goals?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States remain concerned about Kuwaiti nationals still missing or detained in Iraq, who are believed to number some 600. They fully support the efforts of Kuwait through the ICRC to establish the whereabouts of its missing citizens.

In its Resolutions 686 and 687 the UN Security Council required Iraq to give the ICRC access to detainees and to cooperate with the ICRC in arranging for their registration and repatriation. Iraq continues to refuse to cooperate. In the view of the Community and its Member States the international community must maintain its pressure on Iraq to have it meet in full its obligations under the UN Security Council resolutions. This should include requirements regarding Kuwaiti and third country nationals detained in Iraq.

There are no plans for any further measures at this juncture.

93/104. Questions No H-223/93 by Mr van der Waal on the situation in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh and No H-246/92 by Mr Pagoropoulos on Armenia

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-223/93:

On 21 January 1993 Parliament adopted a resolution (B3-0049/93) on Armenia which described the relentless blockade carried out by Azerbaijan as a violation of international law and insisted that it be lifted forthwith. In mid-February, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees expressed the fear that the Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] was only a month away from mass starvation.

What action has EPC taken on Parliament's resolution with a view to putting an end to the intolerable situation, including food shortages, facing the people living in Armenia and the Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh]?

Question No H-246/92:

A full economic blockade has been imposed, in breach of international law, against Armenia mainly by Azerbaijan but also by Turkey, paralysing economic and social life and threatening the Armenian people with a new form of genocide.

Armenian organizations have repeatedly submitted petitions to European political cooperation concerning the unacceptable situation caused by the economic blockade. What measures will EPC, therefore, take – both with regard to Azerbaijan and Turkey – to end the economic blockade, and will it propose to the Commission the immediate dispatch of humanitarian aid?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States fully share the concerns expressed by the honourable Member over the situation in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh].

The Community and its Member States actively support the continued efforts by the participants in the Minsk process aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh].

The Community and its Member States are in contact with the authorities of Turkey and Azerbaijan on developments in Armenia. Under the impression of the shortages of food and fuel in Armenia, the EC carried out a *démarche* to Turkey on 29 January appealing to this country to allow transport of oil to Armenia.

At the same date the President of the UN Security Council called on all countries in the region to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian supplies.

The Community and its Member States, individually and collectively, will continue their humanitarian relief assistance. Most recently the EC Commission has allocated an additional MECU 13.5 for emergency food aid and medical supplies to Armenia, Georgia and Tadjikistan..

I would like to stress, that the Community and its Member States want to see a lifting of all economic blockades in the region as one of the first steps towards a normalization of the situation in the Trans-Caucasus.

93/105. Question No H-247/93 by Mr Iversen on Iran: sanctions in connection with the Salmon Rushdie affair

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Will EPC take the initiative in condemning the Iranian authorities' latest attack on the author Salman Rushdie? Can the President of EPC state whether moves are being made to impose sanctions (such as reducing or abolishing refunds for Community exports to Iran) unless the Islamic Government lifts the death sentence it imposed on Salman Rushdie?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States condemn the death sentence pronounced by a *fatwa* of Ayatollah Khomeini against Salman Rushdie as an unacceptable violation of the most elementary principles and obligations that govern relations between states and contrary to international law.

They were seriously concerned that senior figures in Iran reaffirmed this incitement to murder on the fourth anniversary of the *fatwa* on 14 February.

At the Edinburgh European Council in December,¹ Ministers agreed that given Iran's importance in the region, the EC should maintain a dialogue with the Iranian Government but that this should be a critical dialogue which reflected concern about Iranian behaviour and called for improvement in a number of areas, particularly human rights, the *fatwa* of Ayatollah Khomeini against Salman Rushdie, and terrorism. Ministers agreed that improvement in these areas would be important in determining the extent to which closer relations and confidence could be developed.

The Community and its Member States will continue to keep the situation under review.

The question of refunds for Community exports does not fall within EPC competence.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/449.

93/106. Question No H-251/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru on the disappearance in Brazil of a European member of a religious order

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Can the Ministers in EPC take the necessary steps to find a member of the Spanish Marist order Manuel Campo Ruiz, who disappeared on the afternoon he went to visit a Spanish prisoner in the Helio Gomes prison, Rio de Janeiro, on 18 December 1992?

Answer:

The question raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed in the framework of the European political cooperation.

93/107. Question No H-255/93 by Ms Sandbæk on a hunger strike by Kurds in Brussels

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Has the hunger strike by 720 Turkish Kurds in Brussels been discussed by EPC and has EPC done anything about it?

Answer:

The question raised by the honourable Member has not been dealt with in the European political cooperation.

It might, however, be appropriate to reiterate in this context that the Turkish authorities are well aware of the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to the rule of

law, the full respect of human rights, and the commitments to which Turkey has subscribed in CSCE, Council of Europe, and UN conventions including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, as set out in the Charter of Paris, the Documents of the Moscow and Copenhagen meetings of the Conference of the Human Dimension of the CSCE, and the report of the Geneva meeting of experts.

93/108. Question No H-265/93 by Mr Pierros on the destruction of Olympic Airways offices in Istanbul

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

The considerable damage caused on Saturday, 20 February 1993 to the Olympic Airways offices in Istanbul by Turkish demonstrators protesting at the situation in Bosnia is a further provocation aimed at Greece and is evidence of the anti-Greek climate in Turkey. Despite the fact that Greece has vigorously protested at this unacceptable occurrence, the Turkish Government appears not only to tolerate but to encourage such a climate, adding another element of instability in the Balkans.

What is the position of EPC regarding this latest instance of Turkish provocation and how does it intend to respond to the conduct of the Turkish authorities?

Answer:

The specific point raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed within the framework of EPC. The Community and its Member States deplore incidents of that kind.

93/109. Question No H-267/93/rev. by Ms van Putten on the trial of Xanana Gusmão in East Timor

Date of issue: 10 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

At the Maastricht summit EPC adopted a statement to the effect that all developments in the investigation of the massacre in East Timor would be monitored by the EC.

Does EPC take the view that EC representation at the trial of Xanana Gusmão, the leader of the East Timor Resistance Movement would be desirable and that the Commission should examine whether the trial is being conducted in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international law?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have constantly and repeatedly conveyed to the Indonesian authorities their concerns and preoccupations over the treatment of Mr Gusmão and his associates who have been detained, and have noted those authorities' assurances in this respect. The Community and its Member States have also pressed (successfully) for early and regular access to Mr Gusmão by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

As regards the trial of Mr Gusmão which started in Dili on 1 February 1993, it has been decided in the framework of European political cooperation that European Community Missions in Jakarta will monitor the proceedings. The outcome of the trial will be assessed in EPC discussions in the light of these missions' reports.

93/110. Statement on Burma

Date of issue: 12 March 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States welcome the adoption on 10 March 1993, by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) of the consensus resolution on the human rights situation in Burma (Myanmar), which was co-sponsored by the Community and its Member States.

The Community and its Member States especially urge the Government of Burma (Myanmar) to release immediately and unconditionally the Nobel peace laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, detained without trial for the last four years, as well as other detained political leaders and all political prisoners excluded from the preparation of the new constitution.

They urge the Government of Burma (Myanmar) to accelerate the process towards democracy by allowing all citizens to participate freely in the political process, in particular through convening the Parliament elected in May 1990, and restore full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Community and its Member States attach strong importance to the international consensus shown by the adoption of the resolution and strongly urge the Government of Burma (Myanmar) as a member of the United Nations and signatory to the United Nations human rights instruments to fulfil its obligations under these instruments.

93/111. Statement on Nagorno-Karabagh

Date of issue: 15 March 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States welcome the progress made at the recent negotiations on the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] carried out in Rome within the framework of the Minsk process, as a first step towards the convening of the Minsk Conference. They urge the parties to take the necessary steps to advance the peace process, including an early cease-fire as an essential prerequisite for establishing a lasting peace in the region.

The Community and its Member States reconfirm their support to the efforts of the chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference, the Honourable Mario Raffaelli and consider that the CSCE peace process represents the appropriate framework to reach a peaceful settlement of the conflict. The Community and its Member States will work with its partner in the CSCE framework in Vienna to assist the efforts at mediation currently underway.

93/112. Statement on the presidential election in Madagascar

Date of issue: 15 March 1993
 Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
 Country of Presidency: Denmark
 Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States warmly welcome the respect for democracy shown during the presidential election by the two candidates and the Malagasy people. They hope very much that the development of democracy in Madagascar will continue in the same spirit and would urge all parties concerned to achieve this objective by peaceful means.

93/113. Opening statement at the Economic Forum

Date of issue: 16 March 1993
 Place of issue: Prague
 Country of Presidency: Denmark
 Status of document: Statement in international forum

Mr Ortmann: Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, allow me at the outset, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, to express our pleasure at being here today in Prague at the first meeting of the Economic Forum. We welcome this meeting as another step in the development and strengthening of the CSCE. We see our presence here today as important for our endeavours to give further political stimulus to the dialogue on the transition to and development of free-market economies.

Since the Bonn CSCE Economic Conference of 1990, human rights, democracy, the rule of law, development toward market economies, security and stability have been closely linked and identified as the basis of our new European architecture. In the Charter of Paris it is stressed that economic cooperation based on market economy constitutes an essential element of our relations and will be instrumental in the construction of a prosperous and united Europe. In Paris we also confirmed that democratic institutions and economic liberty foster economic and social progress.

At the Helsinki Summit we promised to work to reinforce the close link which exists between political pluralism and the operation of a market economy. We also offered our support and solidarity to participating States undergoing transformation to democracy and market economy. We stated the fact that making this transition irreversible would ensure the security and prosperity of us all.

For security cannot and should not be seen from a purely military or political point of view. Economic prosperity, sustained economic development and the maintenance of a sound ecological balance are indispensable if lasting peace and stability are to be found in the CSCE region. Due to its all-encompassing character and wide participation the CSCE is well placed to give comprehensive political support to individuals, enterprises, organizations and states that are fostering prosperity across the region. The CSCE should endorse the efforts of those that are trying to create the legal, economic and social foundations, which are necessary for the establishment of stable, democratic societies. And let me stress, that the European Community and its Member States fully realize the profound social impact of the transition to market economy and the necessity to take appropriate measures to accompany this process in order to prevent an unravelling of the very fabric of the societies concerned.

This meeting represents the first opportunity since the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting to discuss economic and environmental cooperation. Since Helsinki, the transition to market economies has

continued. As a result commitments taken on in Bonn and Paris are being progressively implemented, although the speed has varied from country to country. The European Community and its Member States welcome and encourage this development which we see as one of the prerequisites for the expansion and deepening of the European integration process.

The purpose of this meeting is to have a constructive and free exchange of views and experiences concerning key issues of the transition process. The political impulses, which we hope will be the result of this dialogue, should aim at complementing and supporting the work being done in other fora. For this reason we welcome the participation of representatives of a broad range of international economic and environmental organizations and look forward to their active contribution. Their guidance and expertise will be essential for an effective outcome of our meeting.

In our discussions we will be focusing on three areas, namely the key elements of a favourable business climate, the human factors of the economic transition process and the question of integrating economic and environmental factors during the transition process. The European Community and its Member States consider these subjects essential for a successful transition to market economy. The European Community and its Member States are already actively engaged in the endeavours aiming at supporting the transition to and development of free market economies. These endeavours are notably taking place within the Group of 24, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the PHARE and TACIS programmes as well as on a bilateral basis.

In Helsinki we decided that when the Economic Forum considers questions which may require further study by experts, this will take the form of open-ended seminars on specific subjects. At this point, I would like to stress the role which the international organizations being present here today can play by helping organizing such seminars, possibly in cooperation with a host country.

The European Community and its Member States attach the utmost importance to the participation of newly admitted participating States of the CSCE. These states deserve special attention as outlined in the programme of coordinated support for recently admitted participating States in the Helsinki Document. We welcome their presence here to day which demonstrate their commitment to the basic values of the CSCE.

The European Community and its Member States are concerned about the latest political developments in Russia. However, we are convinced that the democratic forces will stand the test and prove themselves as the basis on which Russia will build its future. As in the past, the European Community and its Member States are willing to support the development in Russia of a stable democratic society based on market economy. With this aim we welcome the news of consultations about intensified support for Russia within the G-7 countries. We attach high priority to the early finalization and signature of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the Community and Russia. This agreement will constitute a tangible contribution to the economic reform process in Russia.

As stated in the Helsinki Document, the Economic Forum is established within the framework of the Committee of Senior Officials. For that reason we have decided that the Forum shall be governed by the same arrangements as those applying to regular CSO meetings with the exception that its plenary meetings shall be open for attendance by NGOs. In addition, the meeting may decide to open some other sessions to attendance to NGOs. The European Community and its Member States consider the presence of NGOs to be important for the outcome of the meetings of the Economic Forum.

To conclude, Mr Chairman, let me state the will of the European Community and its Member States to participate actively and constructively in the meetings of the Economic Forum. We are determined to make the best use of the Economic Forum, which we see as an important platform for a sustained dialogue and for exchange of views and experiences with and among the countries

in transition. We are convinced that the results of this meeting of the Economic Forum will make themselves felt in the world outside this meeting hall and that they will give fresh momentum to the everyday work underway at many levels in the countries in transition.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

93/114. Statement on the withdrawal of Korea from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Date of issue: 17 March 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States express great concern at the decision by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), of which prior notification was given to the United Nations Security Council on 12 March 1993.

The European Community and its Member States consider nuclear proliferation to be a major threat to global security and stability and they believe that the universal accession to the NPT and the full compliance with its obligations are the best ways to guarantee nuclear non-proliferation.

From a global perspective the safeguards inspections carried out by the IAEA under the NPT are of crucial importance for the efficient functioning of the Treaty and therefore need to be as effective as possible. The NPT has recently made considerable progress in universality and efficiency. Withdrawal from the NPT by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and her refusal to have her entire nuclear programme inspected by the IAEA can therefore only have a detrimental effect on the non-proliferation regime as a whole.

The European Community and its Member States therefore strongly urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to reverse her decision and to fulfil all her obligations under the NPT and the Safeguards Agreement. Furthermore it has to be noted that these obligations remain in force for 3 months after an official notification of withdrawal.

93/115. Question No 2518/92 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on Turkish air strikes against the Kurds in Iraq

Date of issue: 23 March 1993
Place of issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 12 October 1992)

The Turkish air force is waging an intermittent war against the Kurdish population in the remote northern provinces of Iraq, which Community countries are unaware of, at least officially. Turkey claims that these air raids are surgical strikes based on detailed information supplied by their secret service aimed at destroying Kurdish Worker Party bases. They imply that these strikes are always directed against very carefully selected targets. The Iraqi farmers and shepherds of the region who have been losing relatives and animals during these highly destructive raids think otherwise. According to a report in the *Vima* newspaper (6 September 1992) Kurdish leaders in Iraq estimate the death toll among innocent farmers in the region last year at 50 and claim that as a result of these raids 50 border towns and villages have been evacuated. In view of these events do the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC intend to ask the Turkish Government to call a halt to these air raids against the Kurdish population?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States condemn terrorism wherever it occurs, including the terrorism of the armed Kurdish Workers Party (PKK). At the same time, terrorism has to be tackled by legal and democratic means, a necessity which has been brought to the attention of the Turkish authorities.

At the end of 1992 the Turks implemented their commitment to cease cross-border operations against the PKK, including air strikes.

93/116. Question No 3121/92 by Mr Smith (S) on proliferation controls

Date of issue: 23 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 14 December 1992)

Will the Foreign Ministers request that the Commission

1. now sets out in full detail in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* the content of the proposals submitted by the EC to the International Atomic Energy Agency by 1 January 1992 to which reference is made;
2. as a matter of urgency prevail upon France as the only Community Member State not yet a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), to sign the Treaty at an early date;
3. publish the details in full in the *Official Journal* of the common criterion on making transparent the conventional arms exports of the Community Member States?

Answer:

1. As regards the first question put forward by the honourable Member, the proposals submitted by the Community and its Member States to the International Atomic Energy Agency have been tabled as a contribution to a debate within the Agency. Therefore, they will not be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.
2. On France's accession to the NPT, the honourable Member will now be aware that France already signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty.
3. The common criteria approved by the Luxembourg and Lisbon European Councils for conventional arms exports are listed in the conclusions by the presidency of both meetings.¹ Although they are not Community legislation, as this matter is of national competence, they will be implemented by all Member States, as an inter-governmental decision.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 91/196 and 92/253.

93/117. Question No 3164/92 by Ms Quistorp (V) on EC observers in the former Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 23 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 6 January 1993)

1. On whose instructions and for what purpose (whereof please supply full details) were EC observers in the former Yugoslavia not allowed – in order, as I am reliably informed, ‘not to fan the flames’ – to supply information on appalling violations of human rights such as

systematic rape, torture and internment to journalists and representatives of the European Parliament?

2. When were the reports of EC observers on such human rights violations made known to the Council or the Commission, and in what manner were these reports then forwarded to the European Parliament and the general public?
3. How does the Commission assess the work of the EC observers?
4. In what way can EC observers cooperate in implementing the decisions taken by the London Conference?
5. What kind of infrastructure can EC observers provide for anti-war groups and anti-nationalist journalists to enable them to communicate with one another within the crisis and conflict zone?
6. What is EPC's analysis of reporting by the mass media on the fighting and atrocities perpetrated by soldiers and bands of killers in Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia?
7. With which aid and refugee organizations are the EC observers in contact?
8. How do you interpret Lord Carrington's resignation?
9. With which representatives of the democratic opposition in Belgrade and Zagreb is EPC holding talks?
10. What reports by EC observers does EPC have on mass rapes and torture and where are they published? As the world's press has been referring to them since 7 August 1992 if not earlier, the case for 'not wishing to fan the flames' has become irrelevant?
11. How are technical facilities being set up to detect and stop arms smuggling, particularly from EC countries?
12. What opportunities are open to EC observers to issue information countering military propaganda to the civilian population affected?

Answer:

The report by the President-in-Office of the Council of the European Communities to the European Parliament on progress towards European Union of December 1992, gives a comprehensive picture of EC involvement in the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, and a reply to most of the points raised by the honourable Member, including regarding sanctions, ECMM, human rights, and humanitarian relief and refugee problem.

Additional clarification is called for on the following points.

The doubts expressed about the integrity of the reporting of the ECMM are unwarranted and without foundation. ECMM is an integral part of the efforts of the Community and its Member States to contribute, through the Geneva Conference and in cooperation with the UN and other international institutions, to a peaceful solution of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. The humanitarian office of the ECMM collates information on humanitarian matters gathered by ECMM monitoring teams and disseminated to ICRC, UNHCR and other appropriate organizations.

The frequent reports of the Presidency on behalf of the Community and its Member States to the European Parliament are witness of their strong and unequivocal views with regard to the universal question of human rights, in the former Yugoslavia and elsewhere.

On 1 February,¹ Ministers stressed their abhorrence of the findings in the report of the Warburton mission on the rape and abuse of women, notably Muslim women, in the former Yugoslavia. They intend to implement the recommendations in the report on assistance to the Bosnian Muslim women victims of rape and other atrocities. The report has been made public.

The Edinburgh European Council repeated the long held view of the Community and its Member States that those responsible for crimes perpetrated against humanitarian law by the different sides will be held personally accountable and brought to justice.²

As to the specific point concerning Lord Carrington's resignation, the honourable Member is referred to the reply given in response to Oral Question H-814/92³ on the same subject.

At the London Conference in August 1992, the Community and its Member States agreed to improve the effectiveness of the sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro through the dispatch of Sanctions Assistance Missions (SAMS) to the neighbouring countries. In the EC/CSCE framework such missions have now been established in Bulgaria, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Ukraine and Hungary, and the dispatch of a SAM to Albania is under way.

The specific point sub 3 of the honourable Member's questionnaire should be addressed to the Commission.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/035.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/450.

³ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/332.

93/118. Question No 3165/92 by Ms Quistorp (V) on human rights violations in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Date of issue: 23 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 6 January 1993)

1. To what extent did the London Conference discuss specific human rights violations involving women, such as horrific rapes, and include such acts under the heading of war crimes?
2. What steps has EPC taken to alleviate the situation of women in the camps forthwith, to protect women from rape, which is a form of torture, and to bring them to places of safety?
3. What steps has EPC taken to ensure that women who have been raped are guaranteed legal redress as war wounded and war victims?
4. What measures has EPC taken in cooperation with the UN to strengthen possible resistance by women and students to the war and to war crimes? What funds have been made available for which mass media and what channels have been used to make this possible?

Answer:

The honourable Member is referred to the reply given in response to Oral Question with debate O-17/93 and Oral Question H-70/93¹ during the February session of the European Parliament.

The report of the Warburton Mission on the treatment of women in the former Yugoslavia has been made public.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/092.

93/119 Question No 3195/92 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on violations of human rights in Uganda

Date of issue: 23 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 6 January 1993)

Last September, Amnesty International published a report on violations of human rights in Uganda. This report came to the conclusion that, although the Government of President Yoweri Museveni has taken a number of positive steps when compared with previous regimes, flagrant breaches of human rights continue in that country. Could EPC discuss the concern felt by Amnesty International over human rights violations in Uganda and examine the potential for European Community action to exert pressure on the Ugandan authorities. In addition, could EPC, in the context of the European policy on development in non-member countries and having regard to the European Parliament's resolution on development of November 1991, propose that positive measures be adopted to promote development in Uganda, in particular:

1. the establishment of effective mechanisms for conducting independent and objective investigations into past violations of human rights by soldiers and government officials;
2. the implementation of training programmes for members of government services in the application of the law on human rights and in particular the United Nations' rules on the treatment of prisoners and the use of arms;
3. finally, support for the work of local human rights organizations?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States keep the situation in Uganda under constant review. They share the view expressed by the honourable Member about the need for genuine democracy and respect for fundamental rights and freedoms in Uganda. They have adopted this position constantly in their contacts with the Ugandan authorities, notably at the Consultative Group meeting in May 1992.

They note the announcement by President Yoweri Museveni that the first direct presidential election in Uganda will be held in 1994.

The Community and its Member States will continue to encourage the political reform process in Uganda, with a view to a permanent, fully accountable, and pluralistic political structure in that country. Positive measures similar to the ones identified by the honourable Member have already been undertaken and further measures are currently being considered.

93/120. Question No 3196/92 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on the teaching of the Greek language in schools in Northern Epirus

Date of issue: 23 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 6 January 1993)

The response of the Albanian Government to the demand of the Greek minority that the Greek language be taught in schools in northern Epirus has been indifference and deliberate inaction. More specifically, the Greeks of northern Epirus accuse the Albanian Ministry of Education of continuing to refuse to comply with international agreements on teaching children in their own language, at least in areas where the minority element predominates. It is also preventing new schools from opening in Aghia Saranta, Agirokastro, Khimara and in certain villages of the Greek minority. Finally, it refuses to agree to the opening of a Greek department at the University of Agirokastro and of a Greek vocational training school in the village of Voulgarati. Will EPC make clear to the Albanian Government that it has a duty to respect the human rights of the Greeks of northern Epirus and to permit Greek schools to open and operate, at least in areas where the minority element predominates?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have on a number of occasions, including in their declaration of 17 February 1992,¹ reminded the Albanian Government of its commitment to abide strictly by CSCE provisions, and in particular those pertaining to the respect of human rights and the rights of minorities.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/064.

93/121. Question No 3211/92 by Mr Lagorio and Ms Magnani Noya (S) on the frontier between Italy and the former Yugoslavia. Revision of the Treaty of Osimo

Date of issue: 23 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 6 January 1993)

In the Treaty of Osimo (1976) the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Italian Republic settled a number of questions which had been left open after the Second World War.

The Treaty was signed in a Europe dramatically overshadowed by East-West tensions and it was therefore influenced by strategic considerations and defence needs.

Moreover, some of the undertaking entered into by Yugoslavia *vis-à-vis* Italy were not fulfilled or were fulfilled in an inequitable manner.

Now that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has disintegrated, Italian public opinion is increasingly calling for the Treaty of Osimo to be revised in order to find a more balanced basis for a number of aspects of relations between Italy and the new Republics of Slovenia and Croatia.

What grieves public opinion in Italy is that the forced exodus of hundreds of thousands of Italians from Istria and Dalmatia after the war did not receive the moral or material acknowledgement due between civilized friendly countries and that the Italian minority which remained in Yugoslavia was not accorded the human rights that are the foundation of a democratic state, whereas the treatment of Slavs under the laws of the Italian Republic was very different, incomparably better and undeniably respected their human rights.

The amendment of the Treaty of Osimo and the conclusion of a new treaty to give justice to the Italians on both sides of the border are necessary in order to create a more stable peace along a frontier with unhappy historical associations. It is a sensitive frontier which must be protected from misunderstandings and tensions in view of the explosive situation in the Balkans.

Will European political cooperation undertake an initiative to encourage Italy, Slovenia and Croatia to amend the Treaty of Osimo?

Answer:

The honourable Member is referred to the reply given in response to Written Question No 1810/92¹ on the Istrian Democratic diet.

Amendment of the Treaty of Osimo is an act under international law which concerns first and foremost the states directly concerned.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/359.

93/122. Question No 3280/92 by Mr Smith (S) on political cooperation with Cuba

Date of issue: 23 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 6 January 1993)

I refer to the answer given to Written Question No 493/92¹ by the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community on 15 October 1992 on the above issues.

Following this response, I would ask Ministers to advise if the injunction referred to in their answer tying Community support to progress in the field of human rights is applied universally. In particular I am interested to know if this type of injunction applies to countries with which the Community has special agreements on trade and technical cooperation, such as Turkey.

Answer:

The answer given to Written Question No 493/92 does not include any injunction along the lines referred to by the honourable Member. The honourable Member will nevertheless be aware that the November 1991 and 1992 resolutions of the Council and the representatives of the Member States dealing with human rights, democracy and development include the guide-lines, procedures, lines of action and ways of implementation to which the Community and its Member States have agreed to base their policy on.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/351.

93/123. Question No 3310/92 by Mr Nianias (RDE) on the Republic of Skopje

Date of issue: 23 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 6 January 1993)

In view of recent aggressive statements by Mr Gligorov, Head of Government of the Yugoslav Republic of Skopje, in an interview given to a Turkish newspaper to the effect that 'Macedonia' should, in his opinion, include Greek and Bulgarian territories whose populations wish to be part of the Republic of Skopje and the misuse of the historic name Macedonia by the Skopje Government headed by a former communist leader who has no hesitation in printing bank notes with a picture of the famous White Tower of Thessaloniki and using various historic symbols revered by the Greeks, such as the star of Philip II of Macedonia and Alexander the Great, what is the reaction of EPC to these extremely serious statements and developments and does it not consider that the Community must reaffirm its position with regard to these deliberate actions and statements by the authorities of the Yugoslav Republic of Skopje?

Does EPC not consider that the general attitude of Mr Gligorov's Government does not augur well for the immediate future of this region of Europe, which could face extremely serious unrest if no action is taken?

Answer:

The honourable Member is referred to the reply given in response to Oral Questions H-40/93, H-54/93, H-62/92 and H-95/93¹ on the same subject during Question Time in January.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/091 (Questions answered during Question Time in March).

93/124. Question No 3371/92 by Mr Canavarro (ARC) on refugees from former Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 23 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 25 January 1993)

At its meeting of 19 November 1992, Parliament called on the Member States to open up their borders to several thousand refugees from former Yugoslavia who are currently living in totally degrading conditions.

According to the Red Cross and 'Médecins sans Frontières', 3,000 people could be 'liberated' immediately on condition that Member States were willing to accept them.

What measures have been and will be taken for this purpose?

Answer:

The honourable Member is referred to the reply given in response to Oral Question H-1260/92 and H-1268/92¹ on the same subject during Question Time in January.

Recent information from UNHCR/ICRC indicates that, for the moment, offers for temporary refuge in third countries, including the Community and its Member States, exceed immediate demand. According to UNHCR the initial need of 6,600 places is so far met by offers for 6,871 available places on 12 January 1993.

According to UNHCR a renewed request for additional offers for temporary refuge will be made if necessary.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/008.

93/125. Questions No 3398/92 by Mr Pierros (PPE) on human rights violations in Turkey, 3399/92 on murders of journalists in Turkey, 3400/92 on executions, use of force and firearms by the Turkish authorities and 3401/92 on torture by the police authorities in Turkey

Date of issue: 23 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written questions in the European Parliament (from 25 January 1993)

Question No 3398/92:

In October 1991, in the run-up to the elections, the Turkish Prime Minister, Süleyman Demirel, declared that 'all police departments will have glass walls' and promised that there would be openness and that accusations of torture and executions by the Turkish authorities would be investigated.

Today, one year later, according to the Amnesty International Report on Human Rights in Turkey, the Turkish Government, adopting the practices of all previous Turkish Governments, is concealing and covering up human rights abuses and is not taking any steps to improve this unacceptable situation.

Despite the fact that Turkish officials occasionally announce that significant measures are to be adopted, in practice there has been no improvement at all in the situation. According to the above-

mentioned report, a series of measures intended to reform the legislation on the ill-treatment and torture of prisoners (which even then would not satisfy the requirements of international law) was blocked by President Özal as constituting a threat to Turkey's national security and was amended by parliament in such a way that it did not protect political prisoners. The amended draft legislation has not yet become law.

What steps will European political cooperation take to seek an improvement in the human rights situation in Turkey?

Question No 3399/92:

According to the latest Amnesty International Report (November 1992), the violation of the rights and the torture of members of the press and of the Turkish Human Rights Association reached a climax with the recent murders of seven journalists in South-East Turkey. Journalists are threatened, intimidated, imprisoned and tortured by the security forces every day.

What action will European political cooperation take on the unacceptable systematic infringement of the freedom of the press by the official Turkish authorities?

Question No 3400/92:

The Amnesty International Report (November 1992) and articles in Turkish newspapers bring to light evidence of flagrant infringements of Article 3 of the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and of Principles 4, 5b and 9 of the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.

According to information obtained from the above-mentioned sources, there has been a significant increase in the number of executions without trial since June 1991, particularly during the operations against Kurdish and leftist organizations. What action will European political cooperation take against this unlawful, inhuman and criminal use of firearms and force by the security forces in Turkey, a country with which the European Community maintains preferential economic and political relations?

Question No 3401/92:

One hundred and seventy-three cases of the savage torture of Turkish citizens by the Turkish police in the first half of 1992 have been officially denounced by the independent Turkish Human Rights Association according to the recent Amnesty International Report (November 1992). Of those cases, 53 have been officially admitted by the Turkish forensic authorities. Under the present procedure, torture victims receive only a minimum of justice and the guilty police officers only a minimum of punishment. Despite the fact that the Turkish Constitutional Court has officially ruled that the applicable legislation is unconstitutional (March 1992), the Turkish Government is unacceptably obstructing the promulgation of the abolition of the law on the prosecution of police officers.

How will European political cooperation react to the flagrant violation of the human rights of Turkish citizens by the police in that country, and how does it see the European Community's relations with Turkey developing?

Answer:

The honourable Member is kindly referred to the answer to his Oral Question No H-20/93.¹

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/019.

93/126. Question No 3432/92 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on the activities of 'volunteers' and mercenaries in Bosnia

Date of issue: 23 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 25 January 1993)

According to press reports the 'independent' military unit Francopan, which comprises mercenaries of the French Foreign Legion and of many other nationalities, has taken action in Bosnia. There are also reports of action by 'volunteers' from certain Islamic countries.

How does European political cooperation intend to deal with this situation in Bosnia?

Answer:

The honourable Member is referred to the reply given in response to Oral Question H-76/93¹ on the same subject during Question Time in February.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/093.

93/127. Question No 3433/92 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on the situation in Kosovo and the Balkans in general

Date of issue: 23 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 25 January 1993)

The possibility of an escalation in Kosovo and in the south of former Yugoslavia triggered by the intervention of 'third parties' is perhaps more disturbing to Greece than any other country in the area. It is particularly concerned at the prospect of possible provocation from those who wish to create conditions for further destabilization and to strengthen Islamic influence in the Balkans through intervention.

Since the consequences of such a development for the area in general and for Greece, a Community Member State, could be negative, does European political cooperation agree that initiatives should be taken:

1. to monitor closely the situation throughout the Balkans,
2. to ensure that the Community is ready to deal with any possible attempt at destabilization and, finally,
3. to strengthen the position of Greece, a Community Member State – both politically and otherwise – in the region?

Answer:

The honourable Member is referred to the reply given in response to Oral Question H-1036/92¹ on the same subject.

The European Council in Edinburgh² declared that the autonomy of Kosovo within Serbia must be restored. It called upon the Serbian authorities to exercise restraint and respect the human rights of the inhabitants of Kosovo. The European Council stated it was in favour of a UN presence in Kosovo. It also reiterated its call upon the Albanian Government to continue to show the necessary restraint.

The working group on ethnic and national communities and minorities and the special group on Kosovo continues its endeavours to help solve the conflict involving ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. A delegation of the working group recently held talks in Tirana and Skopje on the issue.

The Presidency, in a statement at the recent meeting of the CSCE Committee of Senior Officials, indicated the importance the Community and its Member States attach to the long-duration missions in Kosovo, Vojvodina and Sandjak established by the CSCE to prevent spill-over and to restore respect for human rights in those areas.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/388.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/439.

93/128. Question No 3434/92 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on a statement by Mr Demirel in *Le Monde*

Date of issue: 23 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 25 January 1993)

Turkey is blatantly attempting to 'interfere' in the Balkans by openly threatening the territorial integrity of a Community Member State, i.e. Greece. Recently the Turkish Prime Minister, Mr Demirel, in a highly provocative statement beyond all reasonable bounds, told the French newspaper *Le Monde* (23 November 1992) that his country was determined to provide protection for all people of Turkish origin living in Iraq, Caucasia, Bulgaria and Western Thrace. He stated that his country did not want to protect them alone, but together with the rest of the world, meaning the international community. He hastened to make it clear, however, that 'if no one takes any action, we will deal with the matter alone'. Mr Demirel is clearly expressing imperialistic and expansionist intentions typical of the Ottoman mentality, while demonstrating that he knows nothing of the CSCE and at the same time flouting the Treaty of Lausanne which recognizes that Western Thrace is inhabited by Muslims, not Turks.

How does European political cooperation intend to express its opposition to these unfortunate statements by the Turkish Prime Minister and how does it propose to support Greece, a Community country, against the expansionist ambitions of its eastern neighbours?

Answer:

It is not customary for the Community and its Member States to comment on statements made to the press. As to the substance of the question asked by the honourable Member, the Community and its Member States are confident that the existing ties generated through the Association Agreement with the EC and mechanisms provided for within the CSCE will continue to exert a positive influence on the relationship between the European Community and its Member States and Turkey.

93/129. Question No 3486/92 by Mr Fernández-Albor (PPE) on total condemnation of attempted *coups* in Latin America

Date of issue: 23 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 28 January 1993)

Recent attempted *coups* in Latin American countries have once more demonstrated the continuing fragility of certain democratic regimes in that part of the world, following a large number of *coups d'état* by the military and others.

In view of the need to protect at all costs the democratic legitimacy of elected governments, all free and democratic countries – including the Community – must show solidarity by warning against *putschists* who seek to subvert the democratic order which, fortunately, is now taking root almost everywhere in Latin America.

Do the Ministers not consider that it would thus be appropriate to issue a strong declaration to the effect that the Community utterly condemns all attempted *coups* against any legitimately elected Latin American government and that consequently Community diplomatic missions will be withdrawn from any country where the legitimately established government has been toppled by an aggressor?

Answer:

On many occasions the Community and its Member States have expressed their appreciation of the overall consolidation of democracy in Latin America. However, over the past years certain events have attested to the fragility of peace and democracy in this region. Therefore, the Community and its Member States have condemned any attempts at violent overthrow of constitutional order based on popular will. In order to contribute to a further strengthening of democracy, the Community and its Member States have supported, through various Cooperation Agreements, programs and specific projects, the rule of law, the subordination of military and security forces to civil authority, the separation of powers and the independence and impartiality of the judiciary.

93/130. Question No 3524/92 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on the letter from a Greek under sentence of death

Date of issue: 23 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 28 January 1993)

The Greek press recently published a letter from a Greek seaman, Tasos Kondoyannis, who is in prison in Egypt under sentence of death. In his letter he asks to be transferred to Greece, together with his colleagues, Kostas Kastanias and Nikos Zangelidis, so that he can, with his testimony, establish the truth about the 7.5 thousand tonnes of hashish allegedly transported by the M.V. Thanassis.

In view of the fact that Tasos Kondoyannis and the other two were sentenced by an Egyptian court to death by hanging and an appeal has been lodged before the Egyptian Supreme Court of Appeal, will EPC examine the possibility of the Community's intervening to ensure that the above-mentioned request is complied with or to have the whole case reviewed by the Egyptian judicial authorities?

Answer:

The matter referred to by the honourable Member has not been dealt with in the framework of European political cooperation. The Community and its Member States are aware that an appeal has been lodged before the Egyptian Supreme Court of Justice. An intervention by the Community and its Member States at this stage of the procedure is therefore not considered.

93/131. Questions No 3525/92 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on demographic distortion in the Republic of Cyprus and 3526/92 on the return of Greek Cypriots to the occupied territory

Date of issue: 23 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written questions in the European Parliament (from 28 January 1993)

Question No 3525/92:

In a fresh act of provocation, the Denktash regime in occupied Cyprus has decided to increase rather than reduce the number of settlers from Turkey. More specifically, under the pretext of a labour shortage, an additional 5,000 Turks are currently arriving in the occupied territory; according to the Turkish Cypriot press they are to be employed in the clothing industry. What steps will EPC take to bring about the revocation of this decision of the Denktash regime which causes demographic distortion in the Republic of Cyprus?

Question No 3526/92:

The leader of the Turkish Cypriots, Rauf Denktash, recently stated that he had no mandate to sign an agreement which would facilitate the settlement of Greek Cypriots in Kyrenia, Karpasia, Morphou and other occupied areas.

What steps will EPC take to ensure the return of Greek Cypriots to the occupied territory?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have proved their continuing concern over the Cyprus problem which has been reflected in a number of declarations, among which the Dublin declaration¹ and the Lisbon conclusions.² They attach importance to a negotiated agreement on the Cyprus problem in order to put an end to the current unacceptable *status quo*. Therefore, they express the firm hope that the intercommunal discussions conducted by the United Nations Secretary-General will be successful. The Community and its Member States have also made an appeal to all parties concerned to undertake, at an early date, all confidence-building measures which can contribute to the settlement of the problem, especially those called for in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 789.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 90/265.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/253.

93/132. Question No 36/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on the assassination of Kurdish journalists

Date of issue: 23 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 8 February 1993)

Since last March 12 journalists have been assassinated in Turkey; this has provoked widespread international indignation and shows the real level of democratization achieved by Turkey, a country with which the EC has decided to upgrade relations.

In addition, the German journalist, Stefan Waldberg, who was undertaking an assignment to Iraq, has been arrested by the Turkish authorities and is being held in prison, having been sentenced to a 10-year period of imprisonment by the State Security Court at Diyarbakir.

Will EPC say what measures it has so far taken to persuade Turkey to respect the established principle of freedom of the press and the journalists' rights and what it intends to do in this particular case?

Answer:

The Turkish authorities are well aware of the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to the rule of law and the respect of human rights. At the occasion of the EC/Turkey Association Council meeting on 9 November Ministers stressed again that the Community's relationship and regular dialogue with Turkey are carried forward bearing in mind the common attachment to democracy, respect for human rights and international law. The Community and its Member States are confident that the mechanisms provided for in the framework of the CSCE and the Council of Europe can contribute to improve the situation in Turkey. In this context, the Community and its Member States will continue to monitor the situation closely in the light of the Turkish Government's commitment to improve the human rights situation in the country and express their hope that the latter will take all necessary steps to this end.

93/133. Question No 125/93 by Mr Staes (V) on human rights in Greece

Date of issue: 23 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 15 February 1993)

What was the reaction of EPC to the sentencing of a Greek teenager to a year's imprisonment for distributing leaflets with a picture of Alexander the Great and the words 'Not one race in the Balkans has a clear conscience', since this is a sentence that clearly breaches the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights, which Greece has also signed?

Answer:

The matter referred to by the honourable Member has not been dealt with in the framework of European political cooperation.

93/134. Question No 126/93 by Mr Staes (V) on human rights in Vietnam

Date of issue: 23 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 15 February 1993)

What steps does [EPC] propose to take if it proves correct that four film directors in Vietnam have been sentenced to prison terms of four years (2), two years and 16 months for recording events without prior consultation with the authorities?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are continuously monitoring the human rights situation in Vietnam in the framework of European political cooperation. The concrete cases raised by the honourable Member have not been discussed.

However the authorities of Vietnam are well aware of the importance that the Community and its Member States attach to the scrupulous respect for human rights as set out in the declaration on human rights adopted by the Luxembourg European Council in June 1991¹ and the resolution adopted by the Development Council On Human Rights, Democracy And Development on 28 November 1991.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 91/194.

93/135. Question No 143/93 by Mr van der Waal (NI) on compulsory indication of religion on identity cards in Pakistan

Date of issue: 23 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 15 February 1993)

The Pakistan Government intends to introduce a requirement, on the basis of Islamic law, that everyone's religion must be recorded on their identity cards. People must carry their identity cards with them at all times and show them on occasions such as job applications, university enrolment, in court or when requested by the police.

Minorities in Pakistan, including the approximately 800,000 Ahmadiyyas and 1.2 million Christians, fear that this will result in an increase in the discrimination which already exists. The new measures on religious apartheid may lead to continued exclusion of non-Muslims from positions of responsibility, and increased persecution. At present some citizens have already been condemned to death because of alleged 'insults' to (important people concerned with) Islam, or Muslim fundamentalism in Pakistan.

Do the Ministers meeting in EPC not think that introducing this measure will stir up conflict between religions, and do they consider it appropriate to take steps to dissuade the Pakistan authorities from carrying out this plan?

Answer:

The question of compulsory indication of religion on identity cards in Pakistan is a matter which has caused some concern to the Community and its Member States.

In this context, and in view of the Government of Pakistan's decision of 13 October 1992 to introduce a requirement that everyone's religion must be recorded on their identity cards, the then Presidency formally approached the Pakistani Government on 9 November 1992, conveying the concern of the Community and its Member States.

The matter was again raised by the former President of the EC Council of Ministers, during his visit to Pakistan (31 October and 1 November 1992).

The Community and its Member States will continue to monitor the situation closely and will at every opportunity, continue to express their concern to the Pakistani authorities on the adverse effects of any such measures.

93/136. Question No 234/93 by Ms Oddy (S) on human rights abuses in Iraq

Date of issue: 23 March 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 18 February 1993)

When did the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation last discuss the human rights abuses of the Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq?

Will the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation make it a matter of urgency to discuss the human rights abuses of Saddam Hussein?

Answer:

Ministers last discussed the internal situation in Iraq at their extraordinary EPC ministerial meeting in Paris on 13 January 1993, following limited coalition military action to enforce Iraqi compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 687 and other relevant resolutions. Ministers agreed that Iraq's leaders were responsible for the deteriorating situation in the country, and that full and unconditional respect by Iraq of her international obligations remained a precondition for peace and stability in the region.

Ministers remain seriously concerned at continued reports of human rights violations in Iraq, including in the north, which continues to suffer from the Iraqi Government's economic blockade. They have repeatedly expressed this concern publicly and privately to the Iraqi Government and are monitoring the situation closely in conjunction with the United Nations and international humanitarian organizations, particularly the ICRC. They have urged Iraq to act in conformity with her obligations under UN Security Council Resolution 687, 688 and other relevant Security Council resolutions as well as the various international human rights instruments and international humanitarian law, and to cooperate with the UN and the ICRC.

93/137. Statement on the situation in Malawi

Date of issue: 24 March 1993

Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States welcome the recent encouraging signs of improvements in Malawi regarding political freedom and respect for human rights and urge the government to continue the democratization process. They note the decision of the President to reschedule the referendum on the maintenance or rejection of the single party system until 14 June 1993 in accordance with the recommendation of the United Nations. The Community and its Member States hold the firm view that whatever political framework emerges it should safeguard all rights enshrined in international conventions.

It is of fundamental importance that the referendum should be declared free and fair. To allow for this the referendum must be prepared and conducted properly in accordance with international standards. An important part of the preparations is the existence of conditions which allow all parties, including those advocating multi-party democracy, to conduct campaigns prior to the referendum. The presence of international observers during the registration phase as well as during the referendum itself will contribute to the general acceptability of the result.

The structure of the Referendum Commission and its independence will be of crucial importance. As soon as satisfactory agreement on this is reached the Community and its Member States will be prepared to send observers to monitor the registration process and subsequently to consider sending observers to monitor the referendum.

The European Community and its Member States reiterate their continued interest in economic and political progress in Malawi and earnestly hope that the referendum, together with the pursuit of appropriate human rights and economic policies, will lead to conditions for a resumption of a full aid partnership with donors.

93/138. Statement on the report of the Commission on the Truth in El Salvador

Date of issue: 25 March 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States welcome the submission and publication of the report of the Commission on the Truth in El Salvador.

They express their support for the statement on the report of the Commission on the Truth of 18 March 1993 by the President of the United Nations Security Council.

They believe that an early, full and integral implementation of all recommendations will be crucial for achieving national reconciliation and consolidation of peace in El Salvador.

In this context, the European Community and its Member States note with concern that the Salvadorean Parliament, upon the government's initiative, has approved an 'extensive, absolute and unconditional' amnesty before the full implementation of the *ad hoc* commission's recommendations and before putting into effect the conclusions of the Commission on the Truth. They emphasize that this step, which can only contribute positively to national reconciliation if it receives broad support in Salvadorean society, should not prejudice the full implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on the Truth.

93/139. Statement on Bosnia-Herzegovina

Date of issue: 26 March 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States warmly commend the decision of the Bosnian Government to sign the Vance/Owen peace plan. They reiterate their unequivocal support for the plan and pay tribute to the valuable efforts of the two co-chairmen.

They also welcome the agreement between the Muslim and Croat parties on the interim arrangements which form an important part of the peace package.

They hope the Security Council of the United Nations will endorse the Vance/Owen peace plan, and they express their readiness to contribute substantially to its implementation.

The Community and its Member States demand that the Serb side now accept the plan in its entirety and cooperate fully in all aspects of its implementation. The Serbs must stop all aggressions at once, preparing the way for the cessation of hostilities by all sides.

If the Bosnian Serbs refuse to accept the plan now, full international pressure will be brought to bear on them. The Community and its Member States will continue strengthening sanctions and will consider further measures leading to the total isolation of Serbia-Montenegro.

93/140. Statement on South Africa

Date of issue: 30 March 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

In spite of the general downward trend of violence since the beginning of 1993 the wave of violence has continued in certain areas of Natal and Transvaal culminating in a recent series of senseless murders of children and other innocent victims.

The Community and its Member States express their abhorrence and condemnation of these crimes and appeal to all parties engaged in the effort to reach a negotiated settlement for a future political dispensation in South Africa to do their utmost to bring the violence to an end and to renounce violence in all its forms.

In this connection the Community and its Member States have taken due note *inter alia* of the Goldstone Commission's report of 15 March 1993 by the Committee conducting a preliminary investigation into the activities of the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA), as well as of the Commission's recommendations addressed to the international community.

The Community and its Member States have in many ways demonstrated their support for the peace-process in South Africa in particular through the deployment of the European Community Observer Mission in South Africa (ECOMSA). Together with the missions of the United Nations, the OAU and the Commonwealth, ECOMSA has the mandate to observe the situation on the ground in areas most affected by violence and to facilitate dialogue between the relevant parties in order to defuse potential situations of conflict when needed.

The Community and its Member States urge all parties to support the international observer missions in fulfilling their tasks and stress the importance of allowing the international observer missions free access to all parts of South Africa, including the so-called homelands.

They renew their call to all parties to sign the National Peace Accord and to participate in the peace structures. They welcome the forthcoming resumption of multi-party negotiations and urge all parties who have not yet done so to commit themselves to a speedy and peaceful transition to democratic, non-racial, and united South Africa.

93/141. Statement on the detention in Iraq of British citizens Ride and Wainwright

Date of issue: 31 March 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States deplore the continued and unjustified detention in Iraq of the two British citizens Paul Ride and Michael Wainwright, sentenced to 7 and 10 years imprisonment for illegal entry into Iraq.

These sentences and similar ones, passed on citizens from non-European Community countries recently, are wholly out of proportion for such minor technical breaches of the law. The Commu-

nity and its Member States understand that the Iraqi Government has asked the British Government to release frozen assets in exchange for the liberation of the two men.

The Community and its Member States note that it is not within the power of a UN member State to by-pass United Nations resolutions on sanctions or the freezing of assets. These resolutions will remain in place until Iraq has complied with the terms of the cease-fire agreement.

The Community and its Member States call upon Iraq to implement UNSCRs 706 and 712 which make provision for the Iraqi Government to sell USD 1.6 billion of oil to finance the purchase of medical supplies and food to meet the humanitarian requirements of the Iraqi people.

The Community and its Member States urge the Iraqi Government to authorize the early release of the two men. This would be seen by the international community as a positive gesture.

93/142. Statement on Lesotho

Date of issue: 31 March 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States welcome the statements of the international electoral observer teams, including observers from EC Member States, that the general elections on 27 March were, despite some administrative shortcomings, free and fair. They congratulate the people of Lesotho for the admirable patience and determination with which they exercised their right to vote, and recognize the role the military government and all the political parties have played in bringing Lesotho peacefully to democratic elections. The elections represent a major step towards the restoration of democratic, accountable government in Lesotho.

The Community and its Member States urge all parties to work together to ensure a speedy and peaceful transfer of power, and call on the winning party to govern in the spirit of reconciliation and tolerance towards the people of Lesotho of all political persuasions.

93/143. Statement on the former Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 5 April 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States express great concern at the reiterated refusal of the Bosnian Serb leaders to sign the Vance/Owen peace plan. They continue to demand that the plan be accepted by all three parties and consequently implemented. To this end, full international pressure is now being put on the Bosnian Serbs and on the authorities in Belgrade. The Community and its Member States continue to make sanctions more effective, even further isolating Serbia-Montenegro. In this respect they welcome the decision adopted today by the extraordinary Council of Ministers of the WEU on measures to strengthen the enforcement of the UN embargo on the Danube.

The Bosnian Serbs have repudiated the peace plan. The Community and its Member States have repeatedly made it clear (European Council 11-12 December 1992,¹ 1 February 1993²) that non-acceptance of the peace plan would have the most severe consequences and would lead to total international isolation of Serbia-Montenegro. It is now time to take concrete steps down that

route. The Community and its Member States have elaborated a package of possible measures for such a contingency. They therefore welcome the fact that the Security Council is at present dealing with a draft resolution supporting the peace plan and strengthening the sanctions regime, which contains essential elements of the European concept. The Community and its Member States trust that the European members of the Security Council will continue their efforts with a view to the adoption, without delay, of a resolution in accordance with this concept.

If the present policies of the Serb side are carried on, the Bosnian Serbs and Serbia-Montenegro will remain isolated for years to come. However, if the Bosnian Serbs accept the peace plan and it is being fully implemented in good faith, this pressure will gradually be lifted, leading to the full readmittance of Serbia-Montenegro to the international community.

The Community and its Member States are deeply worried about the humanitarian situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially its eastern part. They strongly demand that Serb attacks stop and that humanitarian assistance immediately be given free access.

The Community and its Member States welcome the prolongation of the UNPROFOR mandate. They urge the Croatian Government and the Serbs in Croatia to successfully negotiate a settlement of the disputes between them, based on the principles of the Vance plan.

The Community and its Member States, expressing their full support for the International Conference, warmly thank Cyrus Vance for his great contribution to it and look forward to cooperating with Thorvald Stoltenberg.

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¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/450.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/034.

93/144. Statement on Suriname

Date of issue: 5 April 1993

Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States are seriously concerned at recent developments in Surinam [Suriname] in connection with the appointment by the Surinamese Government of a new commander of the armed forces. They reiterate their full support for the President of the Republic of Surinam [Suriname], Dr R. R. Venetiaan, and his government and recall that subordination of the armed forces to civil authority is of prime importance for the strengthening and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law.

The European Community and its Member States strongly urge all those concerned fully to respect these principles. Any infringement on these principles could not but have negative consequences for the cooperation between the European Community and Surinam.

93/145. Statement on a Council meeting (extracts only)

Date of issue: 5 April 1993

Place of issue: Brussels, Luxembourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Press statement

Accession Negotiations with Norway

The Council examined Norway's request for accession. For the purposes of this examination it drew upon the Commission's opinion and on a report from the Permanent Representatives Committee. At the close of discussions the Council adopted the following conclusions:

Recalling the conclusions adopted by the European Council held in Edinburgh on 12 December 1992¹ concerning those EFTA countries which were candidates for accession to the European Union, the Council:

- welcomed the Commission's positive assessment of the request for accession presented by Norway;
- decided to open negotiations with a view to Norway's accession to the Union;
- approved the general arrangements for the Union negotiations.

Relations with Russia

The Council heard a report from the Presidency on the visit by the ministerial troika to Moscow on 26 and 27 March.

The Council also approved supplementary negotiating directives for a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with Russia, the aim being to complete current negotiations as swiftly as possible.

In addition, the Council held a first reading of the Commission's proposal for a Regulation concerning the provision of technical assistance to economic reform and recovery in the independent states of the former USSR (TACIS). This showed broad agreement among Ministers. The Council will resume work on the matter when it has received the Parliament's opinion, with a view to reaching a decision.

In this context the Council and the Commission made the following statement:

'The Community, which has started to open up its markets to the CCEs and the republics of former USSR, would welcome similar efforts on the part of other industrialized countries.'

[...]

Separate Europe Agreements with the Czech Republic and with Slovakia

The Council authorized the Commission to negotiate two separate Europe Agreements with the Czech Republic and with Slovakia and drew up negotiating directives for that purpose.

These agreements are intended to replace the Europe Agreement signed on 6 December 1991 with the former Czechoslovakia.

[The Council made a declaration on former Yugoslavia²]

[...]

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/449.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/143.

93/146. Statement on Cambodia

Date of issue: 7 April 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States refer to Security Council Resolution 810 on Cambodia, which stipulates the official start as of today, 7 April 1993, of the campaign for the elections to the Constituent Assembly on 23 to 27 May 1993.

The Community and its Member States express their continued strong support for the implementation of the Paris Agreements. They congratulate the Secretary-General, his Special Representative and UNTAC on their success in implementing the provisions of the agreements to the fullest extent possible, particularly in electoral registration and the return of refugees and displaced persons to Cambodia.

It is of utmost importance that the remaining phase of the election process organized by the United Nations be implemented in a peaceful and secure environment, without political intimidation and harassment, to ensure free and fair elections. The Community and its Member States call on all parties to cooperate with UNTAC towards this objective and to respect fully their obligations under the Paris Agreements. They also urge the parties to commit themselves to accept and abide by the outcome of the elections.

In underlining the need for a peaceful climate for free and fair elections in Cambodia, the European Community and its Member States express their deep concern at the continued cease-fire violations, in particular the recent increase in attacks on both UNTAC military and civilian personnel and the brutal attacks against groups of Vietnamese origin. They strongly condemn these actions and urge all Cambodian parties to work for an immediate cessation of such activities.

93/147. Statement on Nagorno-Karabagh

Date of issue: 7 April 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States are seriously concerned about the latest degradation of the relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] conflict. The Community and its Member States regret the enlargement of the combat zone to Kelbajar and the Fizuli area. The Armenian Government is strongly urged to use its influence on the Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] forces for an immediate withdrawal from the Azeri territory and to stop the fighting in the area. All parties are requested not to withdraw from the ongoing negotiations in the Minsk Group of the CSCE due to the recent events.

93/148. Statement on Zaire

Date of issue: 7 April 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States are unable, in the context of their relations with Zaire, to acknowledge the appointment as Prime Minister of Mr Faustin Birindwa by presidential order on the proposal of the political conclave consisting solely of the President's men, without the approval of the High Council of the Republic and consequently without this move forming part of the process of transition defined by the Sovereign National Conference.

Such a government cannot therefore enjoy the cooperation of the Community and its Member States, which have agreed *inter alia* to impose an embargo on arms sales and a policy restricting the granting of visas. The Community and its Member States have also been informed of the adoption by the former National Assembly of a so-called 'harmonized' transitional act. The Community and its Member States are unable for their part to acknowledge this harmonized transitional act and its adoption by the National Assembly, since such moves are in violation of the process of democratic transition which the Community and its Member States continue to support.

The Community and its Member States reaffirm their support for the President of the High Council of the Republic and his efforts to make possible a smooth transition to the holding of free and democratic elections.

93/149. Statement on the assassination of Chris Hani in South Africa

Date of issue: 11 April 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States strongly condemn the assassination of Chris Hani yesterday. They extend their deep felt condolences to Mr Hani's wife and family.

It is indeed tragic that Chris Hani who has been appealing for an end to violence and a return to peace should himself die from the bullets of an assassin. A full and thorough investigation of the murder is called for. The European Community and its Member States stand ready to help in any way they can e.g. through its observers already in South Africa or its experts to the Goldstone Commission.

While fully understanding the grief of many South Africans over the loss of Chris Hani the European Community and its Member States appeal for calm and restraint in this difficult situation. Those elements wanting to prevent a speedy and peaceful transition to a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa must not be allowed to succeed. The European Community and its Member States therefore renew their call to all parties engaged in the multi-party negotiations to redouble their efforts to reach a negotiated settlement, to do their utmost to bring the violence to an end and to renounce violence in all its forms.

93/150. Statement on Malawi

Date of issue: 14 April 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States have noted with satisfaction that the Government of Malawi and other parties, including those advocating multi-party democracy, have reached an agreement on 6 April 1993 on the composition of the Referendum Commission. The Community

and its Member States have therefore decided to send a joint EC Observer Mission to monitor the voter registration process within the common framework established by the UN.

93/151. Statement on Niger

Date of issue: 16 April 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States welcome the holding of multi-party elections for Parliament and President in Niger as a significant step forward in the democratization process that was initiated by the 1991 National Conference.

They welcome the fact that election campaigning and the elections themselves were conducted in a free and fair manner, and generally free from political violence. The Community and its Member States are impressed by the way the people of Niger exercised their right to vote in a peaceful manner throughout the country. At the same time they compliment the COSUPEL for its organization of the elections.

93/152. Opening statement at the CSCE Human Dimension Seminar on migration, including refugees and displaced persons

Date of issue: 20 April 1993
Place of issue: Warsaw
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Statement in international forum

Mr Chairman, first of all, speaking on behalf of the Community and its Member States I would like to express our gratitude to you, Ambassador Cortese, and to your staff for the excellent preparations to this seminar.

The second seminar in a series of CSCE Human Dimension Seminars which were decided upon at the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting has as subject migration. The subject matter of this seminar is certainly a most relevant theme taking into consideration not only the present situation in many of the CSCE participating States but also the intimate relationship between human rights and the treatment of migrants, including refugees and displaced persons. We noted with pleasure that the first CSCE Human Dimension Seminar on Tolerance had a successful course and we hope that we during this seminar can draw on the positive experiences from the first seminar.

Before concluding my introductory remarks I shall not fail to thank Poland and the Polish authorities for hosting us here today. Those of us who were here in November last year attending the seminar on tolerance appreciated very much both the facilities and hospitality provided by our Polish hosts.

On behalf of the Community and its Member States I am now going to state some of the basic principles governing the external aspects of migration policy in our countries. The intervention is structured according to the themes of this seminar.

A. Preventing involuntary migration

It is our firm policy to continue to work for the preservation and restoration of peace, the full respect for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law, so as to diminish migratory pressures that result from war and oppressive and discriminatory government.

It is furthermore our intention to ensure that the Community and its Member States remain open to the outside world, not only through personal and cultural exchanges, but also through our commitment to a liberal trading system, by playing our full part in assisting the developing world, and by establishing a framework of political and economic relations with third countries and groups of third countries.

We will further encourage liberal trade and economic cooperation with countries of emigration, thereby promoting economic development and increasing prosperity in those countries, and so reducing economic motives for migration. To the same end, we will endeavour to ensure that the appropriate volume of development aid is effectively used to encourage sustainable social and economic development, in particular to contribute to job creation and the alleviation of poverty in the countries of origin, so further contributing in the longer term to a reduction of migration pressure.

However, it is also our strong belief that displaced people should be encouraged to stay in the nearest safe area to their homes, and aid and assistance should be directed towards giving them the confidence and the means to do so without prejudice to their temporary admission also in the territory of Member States in cases of particular need.

Being faced with a growing problem of illegal immigration in a time of economic recession, both having serious repercussions on our societies, including the foreign immigrants residing legally in our countries, we are reinforcing our common and individual endeavours to combat illegal immigration. We are looking for increased cooperation from the countries of origin to ensure that illegal immigrants can be returned to their home countries and where appropriate are willing to negotiate multilateral or bilateral agreements to that effect. We welcome in this respect the results of the Budapest Conference to prevent uncontrolled migration (15 and 16 February 1993).

The Community and its Member States are especially increasing their cooperation in response to the particular challenge of persons fleeing from armed conflict and persecution in former Yugoslavia, in particular perpetrated by the Serbian side in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is our intention to alleviate their plight by actions supported by the Community and its Member States directed at supplying accommodation and subsistence, including in principle the temporary admission of persons in particular need in accordance with national possibilities and in the context of a coordinated action by all the Member States. The burden of financing relief activities should be shared more equitably by the international community. In this context, attention is drawn to the specific demands made by the UNHCR to the Member States concerning the temporary admission of ex-detainees. The EC Member States have responded positively to these demands.

In this context we should not lose sight of our overall priority in responding to this conflict: ending the war and establishing with the Vance plan for Croatia and the Vance/Owen peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina – a viable political settlement which maintains the territorial integrity of the two countries and creates the conditions for the return and resettlement in peace of displaced persons. Ultimately, this would be the best prevention of involuntary migration from the former Yugoslavia which we could offer.

On the financial side, let me mention that the Community and its Member States in 1992 in addition to the substantive aid provided for bilaterally were by far the largest contributor to UNHCR, funding no less than 41% of that organization's budget.

The EC-Commission's programs like PHARE and TEMPUS are also worth mentioning in this context. In addition contributions under FEOGA constitute an important element in avoiding hunger.

B. Protection of involuntary migrants

The Community and its Member States remain committed to honour in full our obligations under the 1950 European Human Rights Convention, the 1951 Geneva Convention on the status of

refugees and the 1967 New York Protocol. To this end the European Council of Edinburgh in December 1992¹ has reaffirmed the commitment of the Member States to fulfil their obligations under the 1951 Geneva Convention on refugees. Member States will in this context preserve the right to seek and enjoy asylum from persecution. In order to protect this genuine and basic human right itself the Member States are determined to avoid abuse of this right when the procedure of asylum is used for migration for economic purposes.

By becoming parties to the 1951 Geneva Convention on refugees new non-signatory states could participate collectively in reducing the burdens of involuntary migration.

The Dublin Convention signed on 15 June 1990 foresees a system for determining the state responsible for examining applications for asylum, fully respecting the Geneva Convention. The Dublin Convention thus ensures that applicants for asylum are not referred successively from one Member State to another without any of these states acknowledging itself to be competent to examine the application. In principle, an application will be dealt with by one Member State only. This will reduce abuse of asylum procedures deriving from multiple requests for asylum by one person ('asylum shopping').

Let me in the context of the Dublin Convention underline that this agreement is not a closed arrangement. Other states can associate themselves to this Convention via the parallel Convention once the Dublin Convention has entered into force.

C. Cooperation among institutions

In addition to the ever closer cooperation amongst themselves in this area, the Community and its Member States are collaborating very closely with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The same is valid with the International Organization for Migration.

Close cooperation within the framework of the Council of Europe has been established years ago, and regular contacts take place to exchange mutual information and to profit from different experience and knowledge

As to other frameworks dealing with the European dimension of migration, I would like just to mention e.g. the Vienna Group [and] the Berlin Group on uncontrolled migration. In addition our governments work closely together with national NGO's and other voluntary bodies dedicated to alleviate the plight of refugees and displaced peoples from all over the world.

Much work is going on and the Community and its Member States are aware of the need to avoid duplication of work.

The members of the delegations of the Community and its Member States are looking forward to taking an active part in our work during the seminar. We are convinced that this seminar will be a highly fruitful seminar.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/449.

93/153. Statement on Bosnia

Date of issue: 21 April 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Statement in the European Parliament

Mr Helveg Petersen, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: Madam President, the situation in former Yugoslavia is, as we all know, very grave indeed. Circumstances there are of concern to us all. Every day we see shocking examples of violations of the most elementary human rights. We all know the situation: the Croats and Muslims in Bosnia have signed the Vance/Owen plan and the international community, including the UN and NATO, is making plans for its implementation. The Bosnian Serbs continue to refuse to sign the plan. That is why the UN Security Council on 17 April adopted a resolution which goes a long way towards isolating Serbia and the Serbs outside the FRY, in order to make it clear that the international community cannot and will not accept their present course of action. Meanwhile the Bosnian Serbs continue their armed aggression.

The UN decision to adopt Resolution 820 on harsh new sanctions against the Serbs is a step in the right direction. The sanctions will take effect on 26 April, unless the leaders of the Bosnian Serbs realize at the last minute that, by continuing to challenge the international community, they will be condemning themselves and the rest of the Serbs to lasting and immensely costly isolation; unless by then they have signed the Vance/Owen plan, given their cooperation to its implementation and called a halt to the military offensive. The Serbs are faced with a fateful choice and, in these critical days leading up to the time the tighter sanctions take effect, the Community and its Member States are making a vital contribution to the pressure of the combined international community on the Serbs to make the right choice, i.e. to change their course of action. I am therefore glad of the opportunity, from this influential platform, to launch a strong appeal to the Serbs to think again.

The most important new sanctions include a ban on all transit traffic through Serbia and Montenegro. Only special exceptions will be allowed by the UN Sanctions Committee. The resolution also calls for the freezing of Serbian financial assets abroad and for a ban on all forms of service, apart from telecommunications, mail and legal services. Finally the resolution gives Member States the authority to confiscate ships, aircraft and trucks abroad on suspicion of sanction violations. In that connection, shipping movements will be prohibited along the Montenegrin coast. The resolution is about to be implemented in the EC by the adoption of a new EEC Council Regulation and an ECSC decision and by national measures in areas in which the Member States themselves have powers.

This is a step in the right direction. It is encouraging that the international community has been able to act so decisively against the Serbian aggressor. This determination and consistency will enable us over the days to come to deploy the considerable resources which will be necessary if the sanctions are to have full and immediate effect.

Let me conclude these remarks by saying that the need for humanitarian assistance is still immense. The EC countries have a special duty here. It is good, and it should be noted, that we have always been able to respond positively to requests for further humanitarian assistance.

[After the following debate Mr Helveg Petersen stated:] Madam President, I thank the honourable Member for her strong and committed contribution to this debate. I repeat what I said in my first speech, that the situation in former Yugoslavia is of concern to us all and that we are daily shocked by the violation of elementary human rights.

It has been said on many sides that we must consider military action, for example air strikes against military targets in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia, if the Bosnian Serbs persist in refusing to accept the peace plan. Since Security Council Resolution 820 was adopted, we have not had a chance to hold a full debate in European political cooperation in order to establish a position with regard to it in the light of the latest events. But I can say that at the forthcoming informal meeting

of the Council of Foreign Ministers on 24 and 25 April – in fact just a few days from now – the Council will have an opportunity to hold a wide-ranging debate on this question.

On my own behalf, I would add a couple of factors which must be taken into account in any consideration of this option. To begin with, any such military measures require approval by the UN Security Council. My government attaches the greatest importance to this aspect. I had an opportunity to discuss this and other questions with President Izetbegovic, when he was in Copenhagen on 17 April, just a few days ago. We were both substantially in agreement on this point, i.e. that a UN Security Council resolution would be needed for any action on these lines. We should also recognize that even limited foreign military action from the air, even with the backing of the UN Security Council, could place UNPROFOR and the ECMM in extreme danger and could quite possibly block the very extensive and necessary humanitarian relief.

To sum up therefore, I am personally convinced that the sanctions policy has at least as much chance of producing results if we now implement the very extensive sanctions as soon as possible. They must take effect before we proceed to new measures. This must be stressed, and it has not been sufficiently emphasized in the debate here that sanctions have already brought a large part of the Serbian economy to a standstill. The continuation and strengthening of the sanctions policy will have effects that no rational or responsible national leader could deliberately inflict on his country.

93/154. Question No H-39/93/rev. by Mr Alavanos on the measures taken by Turkey against Kurdish members of Parliament

Date of issue: 21 April 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Is EPC aware of the measures taken in Turkey against MPs of Kurdish origin, which include a request for the waiver of immunity of 18 MPs being considered by the Constitutional Court?

Will EPC be taking the necessary steps to raise the issue with the Turkish Government in the context of the scheduled consultations with Turkey?

Answer:

The specific case raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed within the framework of EPC. However, the Turkish authorities are well aware of the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to the rule of law and the full respect of human rights.

The Community and its Member States will continue to monitor the situation closely in the light of the Turkish Government's commitment to improve the human rights situation in the country and urge the latter to take all necessary steps to this end.

93/155. Question No H-141/93/rev. by Mr Arbeloa Muru on the EC as a sponsor of the Peace Conference

Date of issue: 21 April 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

How did the EPC react to comments by sources in the Middle East to the effect that the European Community ought to appoint a 'leading figure' assisted by a permanent secretariat, to join Russia and the USA as a third 'sponsor' for the Middle East Peace Conference?

Answer:

The EC was invited to attend the Madrid Conference which launched the Middle East peace process in October 1991 as 'a participant alongside the United States and the Soviet Union and represented by its Presidency'. The Madrid framework still underpins the peace process, and a change of the formula is not on the agenda.

From the outset the Community and its Member States have sought to support the efforts of the co-sponsors to help ensure the success of the negotiations and bring comprehensive peace and security to the entire region.

An EC troika of senior officials has visited Washington during every round of the bilateral negotiations in 1991/92. On each occasion they met all the parties to the bilaterals, the US and whenever possible, the Russian co-sponsor. Their role has been welcomed increasingly by all concerned.

The troika at ministerial level visited the Middle East from 30 March to 2 April 1993. The purpose of this visit was to (1) demonstrate the EC's continuing commitment to the peace process, (2) encourage all parties to take part in the 9th round of bilateral negotiations in Washington, and (3) urge the Israelis and the Palestinians to seek a way out of the vicious circle of violence and terror in the Occupied Territories.

The troika visit was welcomed by all parties and substantiated the EC's intention to continue to play an active, constructive and balanced role in the peace process.

The EC has a more direct role to play in the multilateral track of the peace process where it is co-organizer in three of the five working groups and chairman of the Regional Economic Development Working Group (REDWG). Several Member States have hosted meetings of the multilateral working groups and the last meeting of the Steering Committee, which oversees the work of the multilateral groups, was held in London [in] December 1992.

93/156. Question No H-278/93 by Ms Oddy on human rights in Sri Lanka

Date of issue: 21 April 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation aware that Amnesty International has just published 'An Assessment of the Human Rights situation in Sri Lanka'?

What steps do the Foreign Ministers intend to take in the light of Amnesty's conclusions that grave violations of human rights continue in the east and elsewhere prisoners continue to be tortured and ill-treated?

Answer:

The Government of Sri Lanka is well aware of the importance that the Community and its Member States attach to the scrupulous respect for human rights as set out in the declaration on human

rights adopted by the Luxembourg European Council in June 1991¹ and the resolution adopted by the Development Council on human rights, democracy and development on 28 November 1991.

Respect for human rights and democratic principles will also constitute an essential element of the Cooperation Agreement between the EC and Sri Lanka, which is currently being negotiated by the Commission on the basis of the negotiation directives adopted by the Council on 8 February 1993.

The Community and its Member States welcome the commitment made by the Government of Sri Lanka to the United Nations' Commission on Human Rights (UNHCR) in Geneva on 10 March to a comprehensive human rights programme for next year. They will watch closely Sri Lanka's progress in fulfilling the undertakings they have given to the United Nations and will carefully follow all human rights developments in Sri Lanka.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 91/194.

93/157. Question No H-279/93 by Ms Van Dijk on the violation of freedom of the press in Uzbekistan

Date of issue: 21 April 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

A Dutch correspondent working for one of the main Dutch daily newspapers was recently deported by the Uzbek authorities. The reason given was that he had met representatives of the main opposition parties, 'Erk' and 'Birlik'.

Is EPC aware of this event? Bearing in mind that EC aid to Uzbekistan is based on the premise that democratic principles will be respected by the recipient country, is EPC prepared to draw the Uzbek authorities' attention to their responsibility to guarantee freedom of the press in their country?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States share the concerns expressed by the honourable Member.

The participation of Uzbekistan in the CSCE and the signature of the Charter of Paris implies a commitment concerning guaranteed freedom of speech and the deportation of journalists without a valid reason is contrary to this commitment. The Community and its Member States are ready to point this out in their future contacts with the authorities of Uzbekistan.

The Community and its Member States are furthermore underscoring, in their contacts with the authorities of Uzbekistan, the importance they attach to the full respect for human rights as set out in the declaration on human rights adopted by the Luxembourg European Council in June 1991¹ and the resolution adopted by the Development Council on human rights, democracy and development on 28 November 1991.

The Netherlands has informed partners about the specific case raised by the honourable Member in the framework of European political cooperation.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 91/194.

93/158. Question No H-285/93 by Mr Balfe on Malawi

Date of issue: 21 April 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

What attention has EPC given to recent events in Malawi and would it make a statement on the prospects for democracy there?

Answer:

Mr Helveg Petersen, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: In a statement made on 24 March 1993,¹ the Community and its Member States welcomed the recent indications of improvements to the human rights situation in Malawi, and the Community has demanded in the strongest possible terms that the government continue with the democratization process. The Community has taken note of the president's decisions to comply with the UN recommendations to change the date of the referendum whose purpose is to decide whether to maintain the single party system until 14 June 1993, or abolish it.

The Community and its Member States are of the opinion that regardless of which political structure emerges from the election, all the rights enshrined in international agreements must be respected. It is of decisive importance that the referendum is declared free and just. For this to happen, the referendum must be prepared and carried out in accordance with international standards. An important part of the preparations is the attainment of conditions that enable all parties, including those in favour of a multi-party system, to conduct campaigns before the referendum itself. The presence of international observers, during both the registration phase and the actual voting, can make a considerable contribution to the general recognition of the result.

In quite a recent statement, dated 14 April,² the Community and its Member States took note of the agreement on the composition of the electoral committee which had been concluded on 6 April by the Government in Malawi and the other parties, including those in favour of the multi-party system. Since a solution was reached in this way on the composition of the electoral committee and its electoral rules, the Community and Member States sent observers to monitor the registration process and will later also consider sending observers to supervise the referendum itself.

The Community and its Member States reiterate their continuing interest in the economic and political progress being made in Malawi, and sincerely hope that the referendum, in conjunction with efforts to implement suitable human rights and economic policies, will mean that the collaboration on aid can be resumed. In other words, the Community hopes that the referendum is conducted in an orderly manner, thus laying the foundations for a subsequent resumption of collaboration with Malawi on aid.

Mr Balfe (S): I thank the President-in-Office for his replies. As someone who remembers this country when it was called Nyasaland and its capital was called Blantyre, I have taken a close interest in it over a large number of years. Can the Presidency assure us that we will use the agency of Political Cooperation to ensure that the people who are in prison at the moment and denied their democratic rights have a full part in the system, and also that, bearing in mind the healthy example set by another part of what used to be the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, the stepping down of Kenneth Kaunda as a result of a democratic election, we will ensure that we work towards a position where the transition to democracy will mean that the present President, Hastings Banda, is also assured of a relatively peaceful transition and that democracy is not seen as an exercise in bloodshed?

Mr Helveg Petersen: I would like to reiterate what I said earlier on, namely that we are closely following developments in Malawi and the authorities' conduct towards their political opponents. It is with regret that we learned of the supreme court's confirmation, for example, of the gaol sentence facing opposition leader Chihana. Regardless of whether the sentence in question was supposedly correct from the legal point of view in accordance with the Malawi legislation, the sentence means an unfortunate restriction of the opposition's capability to do itself justice in the campaign leading up to the referendum.

I would like to stress to the Government of Malawi the importance attached by the Community as a whole to allowing Chihana's family and legal counsel to visit him for humanitarian reasons. I would also ask the government of that country to give assurances that Chihana will receive any necessary medical treatment and be exempted from work, which could not be justified given his state of health. I believe it is important that the Community inform the Government of Malawi to this effect before the important forthcoming referendum.

Mr Newens (S): I thank the Minister for his reply, but would he not agree that if Chakufwa Chihana remains in prison, any pretence that this can be a really free referendum will not be justified, particularly as many of the exiles who are still abroad will be afraid to return in case they are imprisoned as well? Can he therefore promise that there will be maximum pressure brought to bear to see that people are released and have the opportunity to campaign freely? Can I also ask that he say more about the arrangements which will be made to get observers there. Will we, for example, in the European Parliament be asked to send observers to the referendum when it is eventually held?

Mr Helveg Petersen: With regard to the latter question, I would like to say that it is important that EC observers are sent to monitor the referendum. May I also add that I cannot say at present whether these observers will come from the European Parliament or other parliaments.

As for the first question, I can only repeat that we in the Community attach extremely great importance to the Government of Malawi allowing Chihana's family and legal counsel to visit him and assuring us that he is receiving the necessary medical treatment and is being exempted from work, which would be unjustifiable given his state of health.

I believe it is important that the Government of Malawi understands the great importance that we in the Community attach to the orderly organization of the referendum, in accordance with recognized international principles. We set the very greatest store by this, and I hope that the Government of Malawi will take note of this viewpoint.

Mr Kostopoulos (NI): I would like to thank the President-in-Office and express my satisfaction for the ample answers he has given us to all these questions.

Of course there are differences between us; there can be no denying that. However, I would ask the President-in-Office to turn his attention to his staff, because we submit many questions in writing, and while you, Mr President-in-Office, are very generous, communicative and informative here in the plenary session, your staff – unfortunately – give monosyllabic answers, without actually giving us any real answer, either within European political cooperation or the Council of Ministers.

I would therefore appeal to you to provide some guide-lines so that the answers given in writing are just as good as the answers you give here. For this reason, I would like to congratulate you, because at the last plenary session you were equally informative.

Mr Helveg Petersen: I would like to thank the honourable Member for his complimentary remarks on my answer. I have noted down my views for the written answer and shall ensure that this answer is thorough and hopefully satisfactory.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/137.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/150.

93/159. Questions No H-295/93 by Ms Cramon Daiber on Syria and H-321/93 by Ms Crawley on Malik Al-Asad

Date of issue: 21 April 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-295/93:

On Thursday 25 February, the Syrian Foreign Minister met with the Belgian Foreign Minister as part of the 'preparation' for the Belgian Presidency.

Could the President-in-Office, in the framework of the normal cooperation procedures within the troika, say what guarantees Mr Claes received from his Syrian counterpart on the necessary improvements to the human rights situation and the re-establishment of the freedom to travel of the Jewish community in Syria?

If not, why does EPC insist on having the fourth financial protocol approved by the House?

Question No H-321/93:

Would the EPC put pressure on the Syrian authorities to make known to them the whereabouts of Malik Al-Asad, and would it seek assurances from the Syrian authorities that Malik will be allowed visits by family members and lawyers?

Answer:

With the permission of the honourable Members I will give a joint reply to Oral Questions No H-295/93 and H-321/93, as they both deal with the human rights situation in Syria.

The Community and its Member States follow the human rights situation in Syria closely and have repeatedly expressed their concern about reports of continuing violations. The Syrian Government have recently taken a number of encouraging steps to improve the situation. This includes the release of thousands of political prisoners and steps to facilitate the emigration of Syrian Jews. The majority of the approximately 4,000 Jews have now left the country.

On 26 February 1993 the EC troika of Foreign Ministers had a meeting in Brussels with the Syrian Foreign Minister. On this occasion the troika encouraged Syria to continue to take further positive measures in the field of human rights and stressed the importance they attach to respect for human rights as a key element in the Community and its Member States' relations with third countries. These positions were repeated as recently as on 1 April 1993 during the Damascus leg of the EC troika ministerial visit to the Middle East.

93/160. Question No H-301/93 by Mr Crampton on categories of membership of the European Union

Date of issue: 21 April 1993
Place of issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

At the Subcommittee on Security and Disarmament recently, an official of the German Ministry of Defence said that he saw no real difference between the categories of membership of the West European Union – full members, associate members and observers.

Can the Minister comment on the institutional implications of this in the light of the status of the West European Union as an 'integral part of European Union' in the Maastricht Treaty?

Answer:

The role of the WEU members, associate members and observers are set out in the relevant WEU documents. The implications of the different types of attachment to the WEU are matters which are addressed in that framework.

93/161. Question No H-336/93 by Mr Killilea on EC/US relations

Date of issue: 21 April 1993
Place of issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

While relations between the United States and the European Community are reported to have been marked by a substantial strengthening of the dialogue between them in 1992, what prospects does EPC foresee for enhanced coordination in the coming year on issues such as the Middle East, the former Yugoslavia and issues relating to the United Nations?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States fully share the view of the honourable Member on the importance of close dialogue and cooperation with the United States.

The Transatlantic Declaration signed in November 1990 forms a good basis for the further development of EC/US relations. As stated in the Transatlantic Declaration both sides are resolved to develop and deepen these procedures for consultation so as to reflect the evolution of the European Community and of its relationship with the United States.

The Foreign Ministers will look further into the question of the future relationship between the US and the Community and its Member States during their informal meeting at Hindsgavl on 24 and 25 April 1993.

93/162. Question No H-342/93 by Mr Fitzgerald on the death of Irish aid worker Valerie Place in Somalia

Date of issue: 21 April 1993
Place of issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

In view of the tragic death of Irish aid worker Valerie Place in Somalia in a random attack, does EPC consider that the European Community and the United States can develop a new approach to safe-guarding foreign aid workers in Somalia?

Answer:

Mr Helveg Petersen, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: Let me begin by assuring the House that the Community and its Member States deeply regret the absolutely senseless killing of Valerie Place. In a declaration made on 7 December 1992,¹ the Community already underlined the special importance of providing greater security for aid workers in Somalia. There is a very large number of volunteers from EC Member States in Somalia, and I can assure the honourable Member and Parliament that the Community and its Member States are working closely together with UNITAF and the leadership of UNOSOM II with a view to ensuring the best possible security. According to the Community, the security situation is a key issue regarding the implementation of emergency aid measures in Somalia. We are therefore placing the emphasis on improving the security situation for all voluntary aid workers, whether foreign or national. In conclusion, let me stress my personal admiration for the many thousands of people who, regardless of the risk, have volunteered to take part in the international community's attempts to restore the hope that the Somali people can survive. I have the greatest admiration for the people who are making such a great humanitarian effort in this way.

Mr Fitzgerald (RDE): I thank the President-in-Office for his reply and for the concern and sympathies he has expressed, but is it not true to say, Mr President, that the deaths of people like Valerie Place, who have shown their courage and their commitment to help to solve problems, and the tragedies for their families are something that we should not allow to happen? Unfortunately they do occasionally, but surely even one death – and there have been many more than one – is too many? Would the President-in-Office consider that some recognition should be given posthumously to people like Valerie Place who lose their lives in the cause of world peace?

Mr Helveg Petersen: I give my full support to the sentiments expressed by Mr Fitzgerald with regard to the recognition, including posthumously, of those people who make a great humanitarian effort – an effort without which a large proportion of emergency aid work simply could not get off the ground.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/443.

93/163. Question No H-345/93 by Mr Lalor on EC relations with Indochina

Date of issue: 21 April 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Will EPC say how it has responded to the call by Parliament in its resolution of 12 June 1992¹ on relations between the Community and Indochina (Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia) for the Community to play an active role in the political and economic development of those countries?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are following closely developments in Indochina and are trying to play as active a role as possible in the political and economic development of the region.

The Community and its Member States have requested the Commission to prepare a proposal for a mandate for a Cooperation Agreement with Vietnam and have underlined the fact that the protection of human rights and respect for democracy as expressed in the Council declaration on human rights, democracy and development of 28 November 1991 should constitute an essential part of the agreement.

The Community and its Member States are also paying particular attention to developments in Cambodia and have noted that the peace process is evolving towards the realisation of the objectives set out in the Paris Agreements. They have also noted with concern the increase in cease-fire violations, as stated in the EPC statement on Cambodia dated 7 April 1993. The Community and its Member States will be closely monitoring the evolution of the situation leading to the announced elections (23 to 27 May 1993). The Community and its Member States will also take a keen interest in developments in the post election period and will contribute as actively as possible to the economic and political development of Cambodia.

¹ *OJ C* 176, 13.7.1992, p. 228.

93/164. Question No H-348/93 by Mr Andrews on Somalia

Date of issue: 21 April 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Will EPC provide a detailed assessment of the up-to-date situation in Somalia and the role of the European Community in helping to alleviate famine and restore hope and will it undertake a further visit to Somalia to demonstrate its continued support for that country?

Answer:

As stated in the declaration by the Foreign Affairs Council on 7 December 1992,¹ the Community and its Member States are fully committed to the operation 'Restore Hope' in Somalia. As the honourable Member will be aware a number of Member States have offered or already provided troops for the operation. Furthermore, a number of Member States are contributing financially to the deployment of the troops through the United Nations Somalia Trust Fund set up for that purpose.

As to humanitarian emergency aid for Somalia the Community totalled contributions of some MECU 100 last year. Roughly half of this amount was allocated as food aid (over 230,000 tonnes) and the rest to other relief efforts, including the protection of humanitarian convoys under UN auspices. All individual Member States have also made substantial bilateral donations, some of which have contained elements of rehabilitation. As stated at the Third United Nations Coordination Meeting for Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia in Addis Ababa from 11 to 13 March 1993, the Community and its Member States stand ready to pursue this effort in the current year.

However, any relief and rehabilitation effort depends to a large extent on the improvement of the security situation and therefore on political reconciliation including broad participation by all sectors of Somali society and the re-establishment of national and regional institutions and civil administration in the entire country. The Community and its Member States fully support efforts under the auspices of the UN with this purpose and in accordance with UN resolutions.

The Community and its Member States have decided to send a technical assessment mission at the end of April 1993.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/443.

93/165. Question No H-357/93 by Mr Bandrés Molet on the detention of EC citizens in Morocco

Date of issue: 21 April 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Approximately 150 EC citizens are currently being held in prisons in Morocco, accused of drug-trafficking offences, mainly involving hashish. In the majority of cases, according to independent Moroccan lawyers, the defendants themselves declared to the customs authorities that the hashish they had in their possession was for their own use, and the amounts seized were less than 50 grammes in weight. The aim of the action taken by the Moroccan authorities is in many cases that of confiscation, since the defendants are deprived of all their possessions.

Is European political cooperation aware of this situation? If so, what action can be taken to improve the situation of these EC citizens whilst in detention and, if possible, to secure their release?

Answer:

The specific matter raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed within the framework of European political cooperation.

However, the Community and its Member States will closely monitor the situation and will take all necessary steps to protect and improve the situation of EEC citizen detained in Moroccan prisons.

93/166. Questions No H-380/93/rev. by Mr Speroni on the Community backing for Russian President Yeltsin and H-464/93 by Mr Cushnahan on the situation in Russia

Date of issue: 21 April 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-380/93/rev.:

Why, in statements by Mr Petersen, has EPC demonstrated support for recent moves by Russian President Yeltsin and endorsed constitutionally dubious measures before the competent institutional bodies of the Russian State have given a ruling on them?

Question No H-464/93:

Have the Foreign Ministers, meeting in Political Cooperation, discussed the recent political turmoil in Russia?

How do the Foreign Ministers intend to assist President Yeltsin in restoring political stability?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States regularly discuss the situation in Russia, the most recent occasion being the General Affairs Council in Luxembourg on 5 April 1993.¹

The Community and its Member States support the ongoing political and economic reform process, presently led by President Yeltsin. This was made clear during the visit of the ministerial troika to Moscow on 27 March 1993. President Yeltsin was strongly endorsed in the last Russia-wide elections. The Russian people will have a further opportunity to express their views in the referendum due on 25 April.

As the honourable Member will be aware, the Community and its Member States are currently negotiating a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with Russia. This agreement should also be seen as a tangible contribution to the economic reform process and to a strengthening of the political stability in Russia.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/145.

93/167. Question No H-386/93 by Mr Dessylas on the 415 deported Palestinians and EC/Israel relations

Date of issue: 21 April 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

What specific measures have the Twelve taken to improve relations between the EC and Israel (meetings, agreements, etc.) and on what grounds while the 415 Palestinians are still in exile and Israel continues flagrantly to violate and show utter contempt for UN Security Council resolutions and every principle of international law?

Answer:

Mr Helveg Petersen, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: I answered aspects of the honourable Member's question earlier, in my answer to his Question No 88/93¹ regarding the Palestinian deportees. But please let me add that, in the Cooperation Council between Israel and the EC held in Brussels on 1 February of this year, the Council clearly conveyed to Mr Peres its hope that it would not be forced to adopt a position on the question of whether to update the 1975 Cooperation Agreement without a solution previously being found to the deportation problem. Furthermore, the Council agreed on 1 February to continue its exploratory talks with Israel concerning the updating and modernization of the Cooperation Agreement, since which time there have been several meetings between representatives from the European Commission and Israel at which the question of modernizing the cooperation agreements dating from 1975 has been discussed.

Mr Dessylas (CG): Unfortunately, the President-in-Office did not answer my question.

Mr President-in-Office, is it true what I read in the press, that the EC is giving Israel financial support to settle the Occupied Territories in Palestine? Why are you applying double standards with regard to the enforcement of UN decisions in Serbia and Israel? Can you explain to me why the terrorist Government of Israel is being handled with kid gloves while the response to Serbia

comprises militaristic and imperialistic intervention? Why are there different levels of sensitivity, why are crocodile tears shed for the appeals in Bosnia and why are cold, hard men used against the children of the Intifada in Palestine? How do you explain this? Can you shed some light on this for me? Perhaps it is because 40% of Israel's imports of goods and commodities come from the EC.

Mr Helveg Petersen: I cannot endorse the language used by the questioner in connection with the state of Israel. I find it unforgivable and disgraceful. Must I also add that the European Community naturally does not support the Israeli settlements. The Community has expressed great concern about the Israeli settlements. Of course we do not support them.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/096.

93/168. Question No H-392/93 by Mr Martin on Burma sanctions

Date of issue: 21 April 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Will the President-in-Office consider recommending to EPC the implementation of strong diplomatic, economic, military and financial sanctions on Burma's illegitimate Government?

Answer:

In the light of the policies of the Government of Burma, the Community and its Member States have taken a number of measures which include the suspension of all non-humanitarian aid programmes, cutting of defence links and a total ban on arms sales. They continue to urge other countries to take similar action.

The Community and its Member States tabled and co-sponsored the resolution on Burma which was adopted by consensus at the 49th Session of the Commission on Human Rights (Geneva, 1 February to 12 March 1993).

The Community and its Member States will continue to closely monitor the situation in Burma and participate actively in international efforts to press the Burmese authorities to improve their human rights performance and to institute democratic and economic reforms.

93/169 Questions No H-403/93 by Mr Pierros on the protection of human rights in Albania, H-441/93 by Mr Lagakos on human rights in Albania and H-1183/93 by Mr Kostopoulos on the rights of the Orthodox Church in Albania

Date of issue: 21 April 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-403/93:

In view of the importance the Community and the Member States attach to human rights and given the sporadic measures taken in Albania to bring the country in line with the new conditions obtaining in Europe and the CSCE framework, do the Twelve intend to make representations to the Albanian authorities to comply with the provisions of the Paris Charter and the conditions the

Community sets for the conclusion of agreements with third countries by ensuring that human rights are fully protected in the context of a new legislative framework?

Question No H-441/93:

Is EPC aware that the Albanian Government has prepared a draft law on religion, which, by containing provisions limiting the rights of the religious communities in that country, violates human rights, according to the Helsinki Watch Organization, and is in contravention of its commitments as a member of the CSCE?

In view of the fact that one of the conditions governing assistance under the PHARE programme is observance of human rights, and Albania is a beneficiary of this programme, what action has been taken to dissuade the Albanian authorities from enacting legislation limiting the rights of the religious communities in that country?

Question No H-1183/92:

The Albanian Government is taking unprecedented steps to gag the Orthodox Church on its territory. A bill being pushed through the Albanian Parliament will in practice suppress religious worship by the Orthodox members of the Greek minority, by banning the use of the Greek language for their services and at the same time deposing the Orthodox Archbishop Yannoulatos and requiring him to be replaced by an Albanian cleric. Will the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation take immediate action to protect the rights of the Orthodox Church in Albania and in more general terms to defend the freedom of religion of the Greek Orthodox minority?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have on several occasions expressed grave concern at a number of incidents against the Greek minority in Albania. They have appealed to the Albanian authorities to take the necessary steps so that incidents of such a nature be put an end to and order re-established to the benefit of all the people living in Albania. They have also reminded the Albanian Government of its solemn commitments to abide strictly by CSCE provisions, particularly those pertaining to the respect of human rights including religious freedom and the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. This point was reiterated by the Presidency during the visit of Albanian Deputy Foreign Minister, Arian Starova, to Copenhagen on 5 February 1993, for the first EC/Albanian political dialogue meeting.

The Community and its Member States have signed a Trade and Cooperation Agreement with Albania on 11 May 1992 which entered into force on 1 December 1992. Respect for democratic principles and human rights constitutes an essential element of the agreement, which includes a suspension clause that can be brought into effect in case of violation by one of the parties.

The Community and its Member States will continue to follow closely developments in Albania.

93/170. Question No H-413/93 by Mr Robles Piquer on Asia/Pacific cooperation (APEC system)

Date of issue: 21 April 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Recent statements by Japanese leaders, analysed by Western commentators, have focused on Japan's desire to step up economic cooperation with Asia and the countries of the Pacific rim under a system known by the English acronym APEC.

APEC involves 15 countries, including the United States and Japan. It is said that this system will be a cause of concern to the European countries in particular. Are the Ministers meeting in European political cooperation aware of this and what are their views on the matter?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are closely following developments in the Pacific rim, including Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum which brings together the six ASEAN countries, Japan, People's Republic of China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, South Korea, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the United States.

APEC was founded in 1989 as a forum for regular discussion on regional trade issues and economic cooperation. The 1992 ministerial meeting in Bangkok agreed on the establishment of a permanent secretariat in Singapore.

The Community and its Member States are currently in the framework of the Council considering the possible future relationship with APEC.

93/171. Question No H-421/93 by Mr Bird on human rights in the State of Punjab, India

Date of issue: 21 April 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

What is EPC's view on the human rights situation in the Indian State of Punjab?

Does EPC believe that an independent organization such as Amnesty International, or representatives of the United Nations, should be invited by the Indian Government to the State of Punjab to monitor human rights?

Are the European Community's aid and trade arrangements with India linked to human rights in the State of Punjab, and indeed other parts of the country?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are closely monitoring developments in India, especially in the field of human rights which is also an integrated part of the ongoing dialogue with India.

It is a well established practice of the Community and its Member States to include references to human rights in Cooperation Agreements with third countries. This is also the case with the new Cooperation Agreement with India, which has been negotiated by the Commission.

The Indian authorities are therefore well aware of the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to the respect for human rights as set out in the declaration on human rights adopted by the Luxembourg European Council in June 1991¹ and the resolution adopted by the Development Council on human rights, democracy and development on 28 November 1991.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 91/194.

93/172. Questions No H-443/93/rev. by Mr Imbeni on aid for the town of Tuzla and H-467/93 by Mr Simeoni on a call for the re-opening of Tuzla airport under the protection of UNPROFOR

Date of issue: 21 April 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-443/93/rev.:

The Bosnian town of Tuzla (population: 134,000) is currently housing 280,000 refugees, mostly women, old people and children, whose situation is desperate. At present, humanitarian aid could only be supplied via the neighbouring military airport, which is now operational under the protection of British soldiers, the damage caused by Serbian mines having recently been repaired. However, the aircraft carrying the aid have not yet been given authorization to land. What steps is EPC taking to resolve this serious problem as quickly as possible?

Question No H-467/93:

The Bosnian town of Tuzla has been under siege for more than a year now from Karadzic's militia and the Belgrade army. It has been able to maintain peace between the various nationalities thanks to the efforts of a town council run by a coalition of civic and democratic forces. The arrival of refugees has swelled the population of the town and its suburbs to some 800,000, and essential supplies are threatened. That being the case, why are UNPROFOR and the member countries which have contingents in it refusing to ensure that Tuzla airport is re-opened, although that airport offers greater guarantees of safety than the one in Sarajevo?

Answer:

Mr Helveg Petersen, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: Mr President, please allow me to also make a single comment on a point of order. I have attempted to give concise answers to the questions that have been raised. I do not think it is right to say that only eight questions have been answered. If the supplementaries are also taken into account, then the number of questions that have been answered is quite different.

And now to answer the questions just put: as the honourable Member will know, the situation in Tuzla should be viewed in the broader context of humanitarian actions, including the emergency aid organized by the Community and other organizations throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina. The difficulties concerning access to the civil population by land and air are pressing concerns, and most recently the problem has undoubtedly been accentuated by attempts on the part of various parties to sabotage the UN's attempts to provide the Muslim-controlled town of Srebrenica with supplies and evacuate civilians.

As the European Parliament knows, the Community is using all the means at its disposal, including sanctions, to exert pressure on the warring factions and put an end to the violence and suffering. In recent weeks several appeals have been made to the various parties involved in eastern Bosnia. Strongly worded letters of protest have been sent to Mr Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, and President Milosevic with regard to the Bosnian Serb leadership's persistent refusal to allow humanitarian aid into Cherska and other local communities in eastern Bosnia.

On behalf of the Community and its Member States, the Presidency has condemned the beligerence of and atrocities committed by the Bosnian Serbs. Together with the American and Russian Governments, the Community and its Member States have pressurized those responsible with

a view to stopping the atrocities and securing free access for international aid operations. On 5 April the Council of Foreign Ministers issued a similar demand emphasizing the need for free access.¹

The Community and its Member States will continue to do their utmost to ensure that the aid convoys reach their objectives, and I am happy to be able to report that aid is now getting through to Tuzla in spite of all the difficulties. Let me also add that we have been advised that just today the Commission has decided to earmark MECU 150 for emergency aid in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr Simeoni (ARC): Mr President, the answer by the President-in-Office is nothing more than a general statement. It does not say why Tuzla airport has not opened even though, according to the information currently available to us, it is perhaps more accessible than the Sarajevo airport.

We would like to know what landing difficulties the President-in-Office is talking about.

Mr Helveg Petersen: Unfortunately, the circumstances in the area in question are such that the situation can change from day to day. Some days there is access to Tuzla, other days there is not – due to Serbian military activity in the area. Unfortunately the situation changes, so the supply situation is not entirely regular but it is true that the airport at Tuzla has been open, and that it has been possible to airlift many people from Srebrenica to Tuzla.

Ms Crawley (S): Can I ask the President-in-Office why there were reports in all the major European papers at the end of last week accusing the European Community of not abiding by its obligations given in January 1993, to supply MECU 36.5 for food supplies to Bosnia? In those reports the UNHCR informed the European Community electorate that money was being diverted from health, shelter and sanitation budgets in order to supplement the dwindling food budget because the European Community had not kept to its January undertaking.

Mr Helveg Petersen: I am sorry to have to say that there were obstacles to the transfer of Community funds for humanitarian aid. That is something that I note with displeasure and strong criticism. It should not have been the case, so I repeat that I am happy to say that just today the Commission decided to make a further MECU 150 available for humanitarian aid in Bosnia.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/143.

93/173. Question No H-447/93 by Mr Bonde on the Common Foreign Policy and majority decisions

Date of issue: 21 April 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

In what issue-areas have proposals been made among the Foreign Ministers for decision-making on actions by majority voting?

Answer:

Mr Helveg Petersen, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: No more proposals have been forthcoming from the circle of EC Foreign Ministers to use majority decisions for

adopting actions within the context of European political cooperation. Consensus and agreement are the rule within EPC, and the legal basis for EPC is the Single European Act. When the Maastricht Treaty takes effect, the regulations laid down in Article J.3, para.2 shall apply. The Council shall, when adopting the joint action by unanimous agreement and at any other stage in its development, also unanimously define those matters on which decisions are to be taken by a qualified majority.

Mr Bonde (ARC): When dealing with the Maastricht Treaty there were various lists of topics which it was envisaged might be adopted by majority agreements when the Maastricht Treaty had taken effect. Has work been invested in extending the list to include subjects for which joint action could be envisaged and the possibility of implementing parts of the actions concerned with a qualified majority?

Mr Helveg Petersen: I will repeat the main part of my answer by saying that a possible decision on whether specific agreements may be concluded by a qualified majority can only be taken unanimously and will only concern the joint action in question. Let me also remind the House that joint actions, as I believe the questioner also knows, cannot include matters affecting defence. I therefore believe that the honourable Member, whose views are well known to me from the Danish debate, has no cause to be concerned at the scope of this provision. There have been no discussions or debates in the Council on the list mentioned by the honourable Member.

Mr Kostopoulos (NI): Mr President-in-Office, I would like to ask you whether within the framework of European political cooperation the Greek Government has requested you to hold the elections for the European Parliament one month earlier than the planned date of June 1994, namely in May 1994, and whether this change is welcome within the framework of European political cooperation. There have been extensive reports in the Greek press that the Greek Government wants the elections for the European Parliament to coincide with the Greek elections in May 1994.

Mr Helveg Petersen: The question of setting the date of the elections can be twisted and turned from many viewpoints, but under no circumstances will the fixing of an election date be covered within European political cooperation.

The question at hand is an internal matter, and it therefore follows that my answer must also be that the Council certainly has not discussed the establishment of the time for a date for holding the elections to the European Parliament within EPC. What is more, I can add that today there was a rather short discussion between the Presidency of the Council and the Presidency of the Parliament as to how to arrange the elections to the European Parliament, but it will be something to which there will be time to return.

93/174. Question No H-450/93 by Mr Nianias on crimes committed in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Date of issue: 21 April 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

In the past, the Ministers meeting in EPC have declared and let it be understood that the Serbs alone were responsible for the crimes committed in Bosnia-Herzegovina. There is evidence of a widespread propaganda campaign supporting this view in the Community institutions.

Can the Ministers meeting in EPC state clearly and explicitly whether they continue to support this view or whether they believe that crimes have been committed by all three parties to the conflict – Croats, Muslims and Serbs?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have repeatedly stated that the primary responsibility for the conflict, and its brutality lies with the present leadership of Serbia and of the Bosnian Serbs, they continue to be of that opinion.

93/175. Question No H-455/93 by Mr Ephremidis on measures for a peaceful solution to the Kurdish problem

Date of issue: 21 April 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

The situation in South-East Turkey continues to be explosive and to threaten peace in the region. The Kurds who live in the areas which are under a state of emergency are suffering military repression, the destruction of villages and the forced removal of populations, while there have been hundreds of civilian casualties of the clashes and mopping-up operations. The recent statements by the Kurdish forces about a cease-fire create fresh opportunities for a peaceful solution to the Kurdish problem.

Will European political cooperation produce initiatives to end the persecution of the Kurds and resolve the Kurdish problem legally, and will it raise the matter at the forthcoming meeting of the EEC/Turkey Association Council?

Answer:

The Turkish authorities are well aware of the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to the rule of law and the full respect of human rights.

The Community and its Member States welcome the more peaceful atmosphere of the recent Newroz celebrations in Turkey and hope this positive trend may continue.

The Community and its Member States hope that recent statements by the PKK about a cease-fire contribute also to this end.

The Community and its Member States will continue to monitor the situation closely in the light of the Turkish Government's commitment to improve the human rights situation in the country.

93/176. Question No H-458/93 by Ms Sandbæk on the involvement of other European countries in Europe's development

Date of issue: 21 April 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Will the Foreign Ministers say how the EFTA countries and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe have been involved in foreign policy coordination, and can the Foreign Ministers say what new initiatives and plans are in the pipeline for pan-European cooperation extending to all the nations of Europe?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have decided to intensify their political dialogue with the four applicant EFTA countries, with the aim of assisting these countries, before their accession, to bring their policies in the field of foreign and security affairs close to those of the Community and its Member States. This dialogue takes place both at ministerial level and at the level of officials, and includes closer coordination in the margins of meetings of international organizations such as the UN and the CSCE.

The Community and its Member States are presently considering ways and means to strengthen the political dialogue and cooperation with the Central and Eastern European countries with the aim of taking specific decisions during the forthcoming meeting of the European Council in Copenhagen on 21 and 22 June 1993.

93/177. Statement on Angola

Date of issue: 23 April 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

More than half a year has past since the first multi-party elections took place in Angola, as an outstanding achievement of the process that began with the signing of the Bicesse Accords in May 1991. Contrary to the expectations of those who participated enthusiastically in them and of those who observed and found them as having been generally free and fair, their significance for the future of the country has ever since been overshadowed by the outbreak of hostilities, violence and destruction on a scale yet unknown, in spite of the increasing efforts of the international community to convince UNITA to accept the outcome of the elections.

The Community and its Member States reaffirm their belief that democracy and its inherent values of tolerance and respect for human rights are the only means of overcoming differences and reconciling the Angolan nation. Therefore the Bicesse Peace Agreements and the institutions formed on the basis of the results of the elections and legality must strongly be supported against all adversity, be it military, ideological, financial or otherwise, internal or external. UN Security Council Resolutions 804 and 811 must be complied with.

The Community and its Member States welcome that the Government of Angola and UNITA have opened negotiations in Abidjan under the auspices of the United Nations. They express their strong wish that these negotiations will result in a peaceful solution to the Angolan conflict leading to national unity and reconciliation. There is a need for a re-establishment of the cease-fire and an immediate cessation of all hostilities.

The Community and its Member States are extremely concerned with the humanitarian situation in Angola. The United Nations has issued a strong appeal for humanitarian assistance. We are prepared to provide humanitarian assistance to the millions of Angolans who are the tragic victims of the fighting. In this context, the Community and its Member States recall that they consider it unacceptable to make relief operations dependent on any conditions and that they consider that all sides have an obligation to ensure that the humanitarian aid reaches the populations in need, irrespective of under whose control the areas concerned happen to be.

93/178. Statement on Pakistan

Date of issue: 23 April 1993
 Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
 Country of Presidency: Denmark
 Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States value their relations with Pakistan and are following political developments in that country with interest and attention. They note that this is the third occasion since 1988 on which the President of Pakistan has dismissed the Prime Minister and dissolved the national assembly before the end of its due term.

The European Community and its Member States note that the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the National Assembly intend to take legal action to challenge the decision to dismiss the government. They hope that a clear legal decision by the Supreme Court will be reached soon.

The European Community and its Member States urge all concerned in Pakistan to display full support for the democratic process and express the hope that any fresh elections will be fair and free.

The European Community and its Member States express the hope that the programme of economic reform undertaken by the previous government will continue unaffected by the change in government.

93/179. Closing statement at the CSCE Human Dimension Seminar on migration, including refugees and displaced persons

Date of issue: 23 April 1993
 Place of issue: Warsaw
 Country of Presidency: Denmark
 Status of document: Statement in international forum

Mr Chairman, speaking on behalf of the Community and its Member States I would like to congratulate you, Mr Cortese, and your staff for the successful outcome of this seminar, and thank [the] Polish authorities for carrying out the deliberations so well.

The seminar and the discussions in the various groups have clearly demonstrated that there is a highly complex problem of involuntary migration and that this problem is widely recognized within the international community.

We have noted that it has been stressed by many of the participants that cooperation and solidarity among the members of the international community are prerequisites for dealing effectively with the challenges posed by involuntary migration.

In the future work of the Community and its Member States we will think more of what we can do in dealing with the problem of involuntary migration, hereby especially taking into account the work of the past four days and the ongoing work on this issue in other fora, such as the Vienna follow-up group.

The problem of involuntary migration is generally dealt with in a number of international organizations, such as UNHCR, the Council of Europe, and the European Community. It is obvious that also the CSCE – covering all countries in Europe and North America and dealing with human rights and security – has a role to play in this context. The work in all these fora interlock. This is even more evident in the present situation of warfare going on in the former Yugoslavia.

On behalf of the Community and its Member States I would like to express our gratitude to the international organizations which have been present here, in particular to IOM and UNHCR for

their highly interesting paper on the need of a comprehensive migration policy which was so eminently introduced by Mr Purcell.

A thank should also be directed to NGOs and experts which have contributed actively to the success of this seminar – both in the form of written contributions and interventions during the seminar. It is the view of the Community and its Member States that a seminar of this kind provides a useful framework for the furthering of the necessary and important dialogue between governments and NGOs. We believe that the exchange of views have been of mutual benefit.

The next seminar within the human dimension of the CSCE will take place in Warsaw within a month's time. The Community and its Member States are looking forward to participating in the seminar on national minorities, and the Presidency of the Community and its Member States is ready to assist your office, Mr Chairman, if need be, in preparing the seminar.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

93/180. Joint political declaration of the third ministerial meeting between the European Community and its Member States and the Rio Group countries in Copenhagen, held on 23 and 24 April 1993

Date of issue: 24 April 1993

Place of issue: Copenhagen

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Joint declaration with other actors

1. The third institutionalized ministerial meeting between the Ministers for Foreign affairs of the European Community and its Member States and of the Rio Group countries was held in Copenhagen on 23 and 24 April 1993, in accordance with the provisions of the Rome Declaration of 20 December 1990.¹

2. The Meeting was attended by the following representatives:

On behalf of the European Community:

Denmark

H.E. Mr Niels Helveg Petersen
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Belgium

H.E. Mr F. Roelants
Secretary-General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany

H.E. Dr Klaus Kinkel
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

Greece

H.E. Ms Virginia Tsouderou
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

Spain

H.E. Mr Javier Solana Madariaga
Minister for Foreign affairs

France

H.E. Mr Alain Juppé
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ireland

H.E. Ms Joan Burton
Minister of State

Italy

H.E. Mr Emilio Colombo
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg

H.E. Mr Jacques F. Poos
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands

H.E. Mr P.H. Kooijmans
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Portugal

H.E. Mr José Manuel Durão Barroso
Minister for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom

H.E. Mr Tristan Garel-Jones MP
Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Commission

Mr Manuel Marín
Member of the Commission of the European Community

On behalf of the Rio Group:

Argentina

H.E. Mr Guido Di Tella
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Worship

Bolivia

H.E. Mr Ronald Mac Lean Abaroa
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship

Brazil

H.E. Mr Luiz Felipe Palmeira Lampreia
Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs

Chile

H.E. Mr Enrique Silva Cimma
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Colombia

H.E. Ms Noemí Sanín de Rubio
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ecuador

H.E. Mr Diego Paredes Peña
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mexico

H.E. Mr Fernando Solana
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Paraguay

H.E. Mr Alexis Frutos Vaesken
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Peru

H.E. Mr Oscar de la Puente Raygada
Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

Uruguay

H.E. Mr Sergio Abreu Bonilla
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Venezuela

H.E. Mr Fernando Ochoa Antich
Minister for Foreign Affairs

El Salvador

H.E. Mr José Manuel Pacas Castro
Minister for Foreign Affairs, representing the Central American countries

Jamaica

H.E. Mr Benjamin A. Clare
Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, representing the Caricom countries

3.1. Ministers exchanged views on political and economic subjects of mutual interest, reiterating their resolve to deepen this direct dialogue.

3.2. They affirmed that this third institutionalized meeting since the Rome Declaration of 20 December 1990 marked a further step towards the strengthening of dialogue and cooperation.

4.1. Ministers emphasized the commitment of their governments to the principle of full participation by the people in democratic and pluralist political processes and to the full observance of human rights, political and civil liberties and the rule of law.

Ministers condemned, in this connection, any attempt to overthrow democratic constitutional order.

4.2. Furthermore, Ministers pointed to the close links between democracy, respect for human rights and sustained development which are also of utmost importance in consolidating international cooperation and trust.

4.3. Ministers agreed that consolidation of democracy must be accompanied by economic growth, social justice and equality of opportunities, leading to the eradication of the socio-economic factors that generate poverty, unemployment and marginality and ensuring full observance of social rights.

5.1. Ministers expressed satisfaction that in Latin America and the Caribbean peace and democracy predominate and economic freedom and open markets are being reinforced. These circumstances have promoted the resumption of economic growth and foreign investment in the region as well as the development of regional and subregional integration processes.

5.2. In this regard, Ministers mentioned the important role played by the Rio Group as a factor for strengthening democracy and peace in Latin America.

6. Ministers welcomed progress in the regional integration processes which consolidate democracy in Latin America as well as international dialogue and cooperation.

7. Ministers expressed satisfaction at the holding of the second Ibero/American Summit in Madrid, Spain, on 23 and 24 July 1992, and stressed the importance of the third Ibero/American Summit, to be held in Brazil, in Salvador, Bahia, from 13 to 16 July 1993.

8. Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the further progress made by the Central American States towards peace, dialogue, reconciliation and the consolidation of democracy, as well as at the important achievements attained by means of structural adjustment policies implemented in the region, which will contribute to a higher economic and social development.

They welcomed the presence of Belize as an observer in the Central American summits and the progress in the relations between this country and its neighbours in the region.

8.1. Ministers expressed satisfaction at progress made in implementing the El Salvador Peace Agreements, signed in Mexico on 16 January 1992. They particularly welcomed the end of the armed conflict. They congratulated the Salvadorean people on this achievement, which represented a historic step in the country's development and in the consolidation of peace in the region. They urged both sides to implement fully the peace agreements.

8.2. They welcomed in particular the contribution to this process of the UN, through its good offices, its observer mission ONUSAL and the Friends of the Secretary-General.

9.1. Ministers welcomed the resumption of direct talks between the Government of Guatemala and the URNG and stressed that they are essential to achieve lasting peace and important for full ob-

servance of human rights and the consolidation of democracy. They encouraged both parties to spare no efforts in seeking an early negotiated comprehensive and lasting peace settlement.

9.2. Ministers welcomed with satisfaction the agreement signed on 8 October 1992 between the Government of Guatemala and the Permanent Commissions of Guatemalan Refugees in Mexico, which provides for the voluntary return of the refugees. They welcomed the fact that with the signing of the agreement the number of refugees returning to the country has increased. They appealed to all parties concerned to continue to implement the agreement in a spirit of national reconciliation.

10.1. Ministers expressed deep concern about the persistent violations of human rights in Haiti and the need for the re-establishment of the democratically elected President and the full observance of human rights.

10.2. In this context, they expressed their support for the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the UN and the Secretary-General of the OAS in regard to Haiti, welcomed the deployment of an international civil mission and urged the international community to collaborate in this process.

11. Ministers expressed their wish that Cuba take the necessary steps towards democracy for its full reintegration into the community of Latin American countries.

12. Ministers noted the full reintegration of Peru into the Rio Group.

13. Ministers called for an immediate end to all hostilities in Bosnia-Herzegovina [Bosnia-Herzegovina] and for the Bosnian Serbs to sign the remaining parts of the Vance/Owen peace plan without delay. To this end they agreed that maximum pressure from the international community, including tightening sanctions, should continue to be exerted on the Bosnian Serbs and Serbia-Montenegro. The pressure should be eased only when it is clear that the Serbian side contributed in good faith to the full implementation of the Vance/Owen plan.

14.1. Ministers reaffirmed their support for the United Nations. They encouraged the pursuit of reforms with a view to making the UN more effective in all its areas of activity. They welcomed in particular the ongoing discussion of the proposal of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the UN contained in the 'Agenda for Peace' and the adoption of Resolution 47/181 on an agenda for development. They expressed their wish to see the enhancement of the organization's role in the area of preventive diplomacy, peace-keeping and peace-making. In this context they also agreed to work together in the framework of the UN with a view to contributing to sustainable social and economic development, especially in eradicating poverty, promoting productive employment and protecting the environment.

14.2. Ministers noted with interest the proposal currently under consideration in the United Nations to convene a summit in 1995, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the San Francisco Conference, to examine all aspects of strengthening the United Nations.

14.3. Ministers welcomed the scheduled convening of the forthcoming World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen in 1995, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 47/92.

15.1. Ministers stressed the negative effects of excessive military spending on national and regional development processes. They expressed their conviction that reduction of such spending contributes to the lessening of regional tensions and to respect for international law and fundamental liberties. They also expressed the need for international emphasis on transparency and restraint

in international arms transfers and urged full compliance with the requirements of the UN Conventional Arms Register.

15.2. Ministers stressed the importance of promoting the non-proliferation of nuclear armaments in all its aspects on a world-wide basis. They emphasized the important contribution of the Treaty of Tlatelolco to non-proliferation. They noted with satisfaction, in this connection, the action undertaken by Argentina, Brazil and Chile towards the full implementation of the Treaty as amended, as well as the ratification by France of Additional Protocol I to the Treaty. They looked forward to the early and full entry into force of the Treaty and encouraged all relevant states which had not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty as amended and take the necessary steps to bring it into force. They welcomed the inauguration of the Brazilian/Argentinian Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Material (ABACC), following the signature on 13 December 1991 of the Agreement of Safeguards by Argentina, Brazil, IAEA and ABACC.

15.3. They welcomed the opening for signature in Paris on 13 January 1993 of the Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction.

16.1. Ministers noted with interest the designation of 1993 as the Year of the World's Indigenous People and considered that it presented a timely opportunity for intensifying efforts to protect the rights of indigenous communities and their cultural heritage. In this context, they also welcomed the award of the Nobel peace prize to Rigoberta Menchú Tum.

16.2. They also expressed satisfaction at the participation of the states of the Ibero/American Summit, of the convention setting up the fund for the development of Latin American and Caribbean indigenous people.

17.1. Ministers considered that the World Conference on Human Rights, to be held in June in Vienna, provides a historical opportunity to review progress made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration as well as a unique opportunity to work for universal adherence to the existing human rights instruments and to improve the implementation of existing standards. They were of the opinion that they should continue to exchange views and to endeavour to identify common positions in substance and procedure in the preparation process of the World Conference. In this context, concrete proposals of the San José Declaration on Human Rights of 22 January 1993 were especially mentioned.

17.2. Ministers condemned unreservedly all forms of racism and racial discrimination in any region of the world. They welcomed the decision on the Commission on Human Rights to establish a thematic Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance as a constructive step forward in enhancing the United Nations' work in combating these phenomena. They repeated their commitment to doing all they can, including through legislation, education and training, to ensure that racial prejudices are eliminated.

17.3. Ministers welcomed the fact that the UN General Assembly has requested in its Resolution 47/33 that the International Law Commission should elaborate the draft of a statute for an International Criminal Court as a matter of priority.

17.4. Ministers expressed concern over the difficult situation of children in many regions of the world. In this context Ministers emphasized the need for the purposes and principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to be fully respected. They stressed furthermore the significance of the adoption by consensus of Resolution 47/126 by the 47th UN General Assembly and of Resolution 49/81 by the 49th Session of the Commission on Human Rights, which among others addresses the problem of street children.

18.1. The Ministers welcomed the adoption, by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the non-legally binding authoritative statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. They reaffirmed furthermore their determination to put into practice all the commitments assumed in those documents and to contribute to starting implementation of the Conventions on climate change and on biological diversity as early as possible.

18.2. Ministers stressed that the application of environmental protection measures should not lead to unjustified trade restrictions and pointed to the importance of stepping up multilateral consideration of the relationship between trade and the environment on the basis of the relevant principles set forth in Agenda 21.

19.1. Ministers once again emphasized the importance they attach to the fight against illicit production, trafficking and abuse of drugs and urged all states to take the necessary measures in order to implement the global plan of action adopted by the special session of the United Nations General Assembly held in New York from 20 to 23 February 1990.

19.2. Ministers favoured the search for comprehensive solutions, including demand reduction and alternative development.

19.3. Ministers reiterated the importance of the decision taken by the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 47/99 to hold four plenary meetings, at a high level, at its 48th Session, to examine urgently the state of international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances.

19.4. Ministers viewed with grave concern the connection existing in some cases between terrorist groups and drug traffickers, expressed their solidarity with the authorities and peoples engaged in the fight against narco-terrorism and condemned unreservedly all acts of terrorism as endangering and causing the loss of human lives, undermining human dignity, democracy and the rule of law. They committed themselves to strengthening their cooperation in this field.

20. Ministers held an exchange of views on the world economic situation, with particular reference to the strengthening of relations between Latin America and Europe.

They welcomed the structural changes under way in Latin America and the Caribbean, which are generating fresh dynamism in the region's international economic relations, resulting in a more effective incorporation into the world economy.

They also expressed satisfaction at the improvement in the region's macro-economic factors, particularly those relating to public finance, the growth of GNP, the fall in inflation indices, trade liberalization, the measures to control the rise as well as to relieve the burden of external debt, and the increase in capital flows. The Ministers of the EC voiced their support for the region's efforts in the application of structural adjustment policies.

Ministers noted economic and political developments in the EC, in particular the prospects afforded by the Maastricht Treaty on European Union, the establishment of a European Economic Area and the opening of negotiations on enlargement of the Community.

21. Ministers welcomed the opportunities which the Single Market offers for the development of economic and trade relations between the two regions, in particular through the promotion of economic growth and the simplification of procedures.

In this connection Ministers confirmed their intention of increasing the flow of information and the training of economic agents so that they could better adjust to and profit from the opportunities offered by the Single Market. Special attention should also be paid to the new directives and regulations of the Community market, particularly those relating to the environment, health and product quality.

22. The Ministers of the Rio Group expressed their concern at difficulties of access to the Community market by exports from member countries of the Group, including those which might arise upon application of new regulations. They accordingly called upon the European Community to adopt measures to overcome these difficulties.

23. Ministers noted with interest the recent efforts towards regional cooperation and integration in Latin America and reaffirmed the importance of enhancing cooperation between the Community and regional bodies and free-trade initiatives such as the Andean Pact and Mercosur, LAIA, the Central American Common Market and Caricom. They also expressed their conviction that these integration efforts, as well as the 'Group of Three' and the bilateral free-trade agreements would continue to help draw the region more closely into the multilateral trading system and the world economy.

They noted with interest the progress made by Mercosur, particularly through the decision to establish a common market and an common external tariff in 1995, and wished them success in promoting economic growth and fulfilling their objectives. In this context Ministers noted with satisfaction that an informal meeting with Mercosur was held in the margin of this Conference.

Ministers indicated their satisfaction at the recent progress achieved in the process of integration of the Andean Group, particularly the establishment of the free-trade area and the adoption of a common tariff, during 1993.

They likewise expressed their satisfaction at the fact that, following the signing of the EC/Andean Pact (Copenhagen, 23 April 1993), and EC/Central American countries (San Salvador, 22 February 1993) framework Cooperation Agreements, almost all the Latin American countries are linked to the Community by so-called 'third generation' agreements based on respect for democratic principles and human rights, and involving wider economic cooperation.

Ministers also welcomed the signing by Mexico, the United States and Canada of a free trade agreement and wished them success in promoting economic growth and achieving their objectives.

24. Ministers expressed their concern at the current state of the Uruguay Round negotiations at multilateral level and confirmed the importance they attached to a rapid, satisfactory and balanced overall conclusion allowing the development of a strengthened multilateral system of free and open trade.

They likewise noted that efforts still had to be made to achieve this objective and appealed to all GATT contracting parties, especially those with greater responsibilities in those negotiations, to demonstrate a spirit of cooperation so that a solution acceptable to all could be reached.

[...]

32. Ministers decided to give impetus to the full development at every level – Community, bilateral and subregional – of the priority areas for cooperation set forth in the Santiago Declaration, i.e. the environment, energy, and the fight against drugs and major epidemics.

33. Ministers decided to meet in New York during the 48th United Nations General Assembly and to hold an official meeting in Brazil in the first half of 1994 within the framework of the institutionalized dialogue, in accordance with the alternation rule established in the Rome Declaration.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 90/474.

93/181. Statement on the situation in Russia following the referendum on 25 April 1993

Date of issue: 27 April 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The preliminary result of the referendum on 25 April is a convincing victory for democracy in the Russian Federation. It underscores that a majority of the population supports President Yeltsin and his efforts to promote democracy and a transition to a more market oriented economy.

The Community and its Member States welcome this outcome of the referendum. They congratulate President Yeltsin on the results. It underlines the importance of Russia moving ahead with the necessary democratic and market economy reforms. As the democratically expressed will of the population, the results of the referendum should be respected by all political forces in Russia and should form the basis for a solution of the constitutional problems.

The Community and its Member States are ready to continue and enhance their support for the Russian reform process and look forward to an early agreement on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement currently under negotiation between the EC and Russia.

The Community and its Member States look forward to intensified cooperation with Russia in the future based on the principle of partnership.

93/182. Statement on the Eritrean referendum

Date of issue: 29 April 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States welcome the successful holding of the referendum in Eritrea on 23 to 25 April 1993.

Through the referendum the registered voters almost unanimously voted in favour of an independent Eritrea, thus peacefully ending more than 30 years of conflict.

The EC observation teams noted that the voting procedures were carried out without any major problems and the result clearly reflects the choice of the majority of the people of Eritrea.

The Community and its Member States therefore welcome the emergence of the independent State of Eritrea and they will now proceed to take the national steps necessary for their individual recognition of Eritrea as a new member of the international community.

93/183. Statement on Togo

Date of issue: 29 April 1993
 Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
 Country of Presidency: Denmark
 Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States have taken note of the timetable for elections proposed by the Togolese authorities. They do however feel that it will not be possible to conduct a successful electoral process in Togo unless prior agreement has been reached between all political forces, given the tense situation which has prevailed there for many months.

These elections should really be held in a climate of peace and openness, and the inhabitants of Lomé who have fled should be able to participate.

93/184. Statement on the elections in Yemen

Date of issue: 3 May 1993
 Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
 Country of Presidency: Denmark
 Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States congratulate the people and the Government of Yemen on their first multi-party elections on 27 April 1993.

Fair and free elections, resulting in fully representative institutions are a precondition for bringing a process of democratization to fruition.

In this light the recent elections in Yemen constitute the completion of a bold and important step towards Yemen's democratic goal.

93/185. Question No 197/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on reports on torture in Turkey

Date of issue: 4 May 1993
 Place of issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Denmark
 Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 17 February 1993)

A few days ago yet another report on torture in Turkey was officially presented to the Council of Europe. This report, drawn up by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment, reveals that the issue of torture in Turkey has not been resolved despite the occasional promises from the Turkish Government. In the light of the recent report by the human rights' Organization Helsinki Watch, will EPC give a clear indication that the Community strongly disapproves of such repressive measures by the Turkish police, which are contrary to human rights and international principles?

Answer:

The honourable Member is referred to the answer given to the Oral Question No H-20/93¹ by Mr Pierros on the same subject.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/019.

93/186. Question No 235/93 by Ms Oddy (S) on human rights abuses in Iraq

Date of issue: 4 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 18 February 1993)

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation aware of the testimony and documentary evidence collected by the Iraqi National Congress, including that of Dr Hussein Sharistani, a well-respected Iraqi scientist jailed in 1979 for speaking out in favour of human rights and against Saddam's pursuit of nuclear weapons?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States remain deeply concerned about the continued massive and grave violations of human rights in Iraq and are aware of the evidence collected by the Iraqi National Congress among others. The behaviour of the Iraqi Government, particularly against the Kurds and the Shi'ites has led to an alarming deterioration of the living conditions of the people, compromises the future of Iraqi society and prevents social and economic development.

The Community and its Member States are monitoring the situation closely in conjunction with the United Nations and international humanitarian organizations, particularly the ICRC. They have urged Iraq to act in conformity with its obligations under UN Security Council Resolutions 687, 688, and other relevant Security Council resolutions as well as the various international human rights instruments and international humanitarian law, and to cooperate with the UN and the ICRC.

As further evidence of the importance the Community and its Member States place on the question on human rights abuses in Iraq they sponsored the resolution on the human rights situation in Iraq passed by the recent 49th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. This resolution marks a new development in the human rights field as it, based on the recommendation of the UN Special Rapporteur [on] Iraq, for the first time ever requests the Secretary-General to send human rights monitors to Iraq.

The Community and its Member States fully share the INC's concern over Saddam Hussein's pursuit of nuclear weapons development and over Iraq's non-compliance with its international obligations in the field of nuclear non-proliferation. They played a decisive role in the international efforts aimed at uncovering and rendering harmless Iraq's weapons of mass destruction as mandated by Security Council Resolution 687. Despite persistent Iraqi deception and obstruction, the UNSCOM and IAEA inspection missions have exposed incontrovertible evidence that Iraq had a complex and comprehensive nuclear weapons development programme. The inspection missions have destroyed components of that programme. But further questions are still outstanding. Therefore, the Community and its Member States believe it is essential that the international community maintain concerted pressure on Iraq to scrupulously and unconditionally comply with all relevant UN resolutions, so that Iraq is never again able to threaten its neighbours.

93/187. Question No 263/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S) on prisoners in Mongolia

Date of issue: 4 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 23 February 1993)

Have the Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation inquired into the fate of prisoners, including Wang Manglai, a specialist in the Mongolian language, accused of belonging to two illegal and banned organizations, the Preparatory Committee of the Association of Ethnic Culture of the Ih Ju

League and the Institute for Ethnic Modernization of the Bayan Nur League, which promoted all aspects of Mongolian culture?

Answer:

The specific issues, concerning prisoners in Inner Mongolia to which the honourable Member refers, have not been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation.

However, the Community and its Member States have with concern followed the growing tension between the Chinese authorities and ethnic groups in different regions in China. The Chinese authorities are well aware of the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to respect for human rights as set out in the declaration on human rights adopted by the Luxembourg European Council in June 1991¹ and the resolution adopted by the Development Council on human rights, democracy and development on 28 November 1991.

The Community and its Member States will continue to monitor the human rights situation in China (including Inner Mongolia) closely and will, at every opportunity, continue to express their concern to the Chinese authorities on violations of human rights.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 91/194.

93/188. Question No 264/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S) on reports of torture in Tunisia

Date of issue: 4 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 23 February 1993)

In its report of March 1992 entitled 'Tunisia, prolonged incommunicado detention and torture' Amnesty International urged the Tunisian Government to acknowledge that torture is still a serious problem in Tunisia. The scandalous case of the death of Faisal Barakat is therefore not an isolated one. Will the Community take this into account when implementing the latest Financial Protocol which was adopted recently?

Answer :

The Tunisian authorities are in no doubt about the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to respect for human rights. The Lisbon European Council declaration on relations between Europe and the Maghreb¹ sets out the principles on which those relations should be based. These include respect for international law, the principles of the UN Charter and UN resolutions; respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in civil, political, economic, social and cultural matters and for democratic values exemplified by free and regular elections; the establishment of democratic institutional systems guaranteeing pluralism, effective participation by citizens in the lives of their states and respect for the rights of minorities; and tolerance and co-existence between cultures and religions.

The Community and its Member States maintain a constructive dialogue with the Tunisian authorities on human rights issues. In the course of this dialogue they have raised the position of members of the Islamic 'Al Nadha' (Renaissance) movement to which Mr Barakat belonged. The Community and its Member States have repeatedly emphasized that respect for human rights is a stabilizing not a destabilizing influence. The Tunisian Government has said that it is making efforts to increase awareness of human rights with special courses for the police and the army. It has agreed to re-examine the circumstances of the death of Mr Barakat. A commission, the Higher

Committee for Human Rights and Basic Freedoms, exists to look into human rights abuses, and within the government the position of ombudsman has been created. The Community and its Member States will continue to follow these developments closely.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/256.

93/189. Question No 266/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S) on security law in Malaysia

Date of issue: 4 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 23 February 1993)

What measures has the European Community taken so far to attempt to put an end to the security law in Malaysia, which authorizes indefinite detention without charge or trial and without any right of appeal?

Answer:

The specific issue to which the honourable Member refers has not been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation.

However, the authorities of Malaysia are fully aware of the importance that the Community and its Member States attach to the scrupulous respect for human rights as set out in the declaration on human rights adopted by the Luxembourg European Council in June 1991¹ and the resolution adopted by the Development Council on human rights, democracy and development on 28 November 1991.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 91/194.

93/190. Question No 320/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on EPC's information about breaches of the arms embargo on Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 4 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 1 March 1993)

What information does EPC possess about measures to prevent breaches of the arms embargo on Yugoslavia by a number of European and Islamic countries and banks and about the influx of 'volunteers' and mercenaries who are fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina?

Answer:

The arms embargo is part of the comprehensive package of sanctions imposed by the international community on the parties in former Yugoslavia, particularly Serbia and Montenegro, with a view to encouraging a negotiated settlement of the conflict. The Community and its Member States have from the very beginning of the conflict been very active in ensuring full implementation of the measures imposed.

Together with CSCE they also participate in the sanctions assistance missions which advise the neighbouring states of Serbia and Montenegro on tightening sanctions enforcement procedures and in selecting and curbing violations. SAMCOMM Brussels produces regular progress reports. The SAM liaison group meets regularly in Vienna to discuss practical and financial arrangements for these missions.

The CSO/CSCE in Prague recently appointed Ambassador Napolitano from Italy to the post of Sanctions Coordinator in the CSCE framework. Together with a small back-up team he will provide strategic oversight to the various strands of sanctions activities relating to Yugoslavia. For operational effectiveness of the Sanctions Coordinator, a formal link with the UN Sanctions Committee will be established. The Sanctions Coordinator has his base in Brussels where he will benefit from the presence of SAMCOMM.

On 8 March,¹ Ministers repeated the need to keep maximum pressure on the parties concerned and to strengthen implementation of existing sanctions, in particular on the Danube. Ministers were ready to take further measures, if and when circumstances required.

As to the presence of volunteers and mercenaries in former Yugoslavia, the honourable Member is referred to the reply given in response to Oral Question 76/93 rev.² on the same subject.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/083.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/093.

93/191. Question No 321/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on the mass deportation of the Palestinian 'élite'

Date of issue: 4 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 1 March 1993)

The deportation of the Palestinian 'élite' from their homes and land is reminiscent of a more primitive era and demonstrates the implacable attitude being adopted by the Israeli authorities. In view of the enormous problems resulting, not only in human, but also in political terms, since this constitutes an obstacle to the resumption of negotiations, will EPC call on the Israeli Government to reverse its decision?

Answer:

In their statement of 18 December 1992¹ the Community and its Member States firmly condemned the Israeli decision to deport more than 400 Palestinians. They expressed regret that the Israeli authorities failed to respond to the former Presidency's appeal not to pursue the policy of deportations, which is a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and, in this case, an infringement of the sovereignty of Lebanon.

These concerns are shared by the international community as reflected in UNSCR 799 which the Community and its Member States support.

At the Cooperation Council meeting between the EC and Israel in Brussels on 1 February the Community and its Member States pressed the Israelis again for prompt action over the deportees. While acknowledging the legitimate security interests of Israel and condemning the recent upsurge of violence and terror in the Occupied Territories regardless of its origin, the Community and its

Member States stressed that there was no justification for the deportations, which risked undermining the peace process and served only the interests of the very groups which sought to destroy that process. They called for an urgent solution based on their long-standing adherence to the principles of the universal application of international law, of human rights and UN Security Council resolutions.

At the Cooperation Council meeting it was also made clear to Mr Peres that the Council very much hoped that it would not be put in the position of having to address the issue of the updating of the 1975 Cooperation Agreement in the absence of a solution to the deportation problem.

The Community and its Member States urge all parties directly involved to maintain their commitment to the peace process and to participate in the next round of both the bilaterals and the multilaterals. The peace process constitutes the only way to solve the problems of the region by way of a negotiated just, lasting and comprehensive settlement.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/465.

93/192. Question No 330/93 by Mr Pierros (PPE) on peaceful demonstrators shot dead by police in Turkey

Date of issue: 4 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 2 March 1993)

According to a recent report by Helsinki Watch (December 1992) the Turkish security forces opened fire on peaceful demonstrators on various occasions in 1992 resulting in at least 100 deaths. According to the report, the Turkish security authorities, in violation of international law, use live ammunition as a standard method of crowd control. One such incident occurred in March 1992 during the Kurdish New Year celebrations, resulting in 91 deaths in three cities in South-Eastern Turkey. Peaceful demonstrators were also killed in Izmir, Istanbul and Antalya and Adana. No steps have been taken by the Turkish Government to punish and prosecute the state bodies responsible for this bloodshed.

How does EPC intend to express its condemnation of these unacceptable acts and promote respect for human rights in Turkey?

Answer:

The specific case raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed within the framework of EPC. However, the Turkish authorities are well aware of the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to the rule of law and the full respect of human rights.

The Community and its Member States will continue to monitor the situation closely in the light of the Turkish Government's commitment to improve the human rights situation in the country and urge the latter to take all necessary steps to this end.

The Community and its Member States welcome the more peaceful atmosphere of the recent Newroz celebrations in Turkey and hope this positive trend may continue.

93/193. Question No 331/93 by Mr Pierros (PPE) on the use of torture by the police in Turkey

Date of issue: 4 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 2 March 1993)

According to the latest report by Helsinki Watch, torture continued to be used as a standard form of interrogation in Turkey throughout 1992. According to this report, 16 people died under suspicious circumstances during interrogation in police stations, the police maintaining that six of them committed suicide. Three of the victims were minors, one aged 13 and two aged 17. Although under Turkish law (the decree of 1989), detainees are entitled to immediate access to a lawyer, in practice this right is systematically violated.

The report alleges that the methods of torture used by the police include the breaking of bones, electric shocks, attacks by trained dogs, rape and sexual abuse, beatings with clubs and bastinado etc. The report also cites nine cases of minors being subjected to such methods of torture. None of the children were allowed legal counsel and their parents were not informed. They were arrested on suspicion of taking part in political demonstrations or distributing political tracts. Most of the torture victims were subsequently released without any charges being brought.

What specific measures will EPC take to express its condemnation of the use of torture by the Turkish authorities, which is totally unacceptable in our day and age, and to endeavour to achieve greater respect for human rights in a country which has signed an Association Agreement with the Community and applied for accession as a full member?

Answer:

The specific case raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed within the framework of EPC. However, the Turkish authorities are well aware of the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to the rule of law and the full respect of human rights.

The Community and its Member States will continue to monitor the situation closely in the light of the Turkish Government's commitment to improve the human rights situation in the country and urge the latter to take all necessary steps to this end.

The Community and its Member States welcome the more peaceful atmosphere of the recent Newroz celebrations in Turkey and hope his positive trend may continue.

93/194. Question No 332/93 by Mr Pierros (PPE) on the violation of the freedom of assembly in Turkey

Date of issue: 4 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 2 March 1993)

According to the most recent report by Helsinki Watch (December 1992), freedom of assembly and association is still being systematically violated in Turkey. Throughout 1992 many meetings, demonstrations and marches were prohibited, prevented or forcibly broken up by the police. The activities of many independent organizations were restricted or prohibited by the authorities and

their members suffered persecution, imprisonment and torture. These organizations include the Union for Human Rights and Freedoms, the Association for the Unemployed, the Patriotic Women's Organization, the city of Kartal Council for Arts and Culture etc. Members of these organizations were charged with shouting forbidden slogans, possession of confiscated and forbidden printed matter, activities incompatible with the objectives of their organization, etc.

What specific steps will EPC take to attempt to ensure respect for human rights and, in particular, freedom of assembly and association?

Answer:

The specific case raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed within the framework of EPC. However, the Turkish authorities are well aware of the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to the rule of law and the full respect of human rights.

The Community and its Member States will continue to monitor the situation closely in the light of the Turkish Government's commitment to improve the human rights situation in the country and urge the latter to take all necessary steps to this end.

The Community and its Member States welcome the more peaceful atmosphere of the recent Newroz celebrations in Turkey and hope this positive trend may continue.

93/195. Question No 333/93 by Mr Pierros (PPE) on the murder of journalists in Turkey

Date of issue: 4 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 2 March 1993)

According to the recent report by Helsinki Watch (December 1992) 11 journalists and a newsagent were killed by unknown persons in 1992 in Turkey, demonstrating that 'in Turkey murder is used as a means of censorship'. The Turkish Government has not made any serious attempts to investigate the murders or bring the killers to justice. On the contrary, it is reacting with cynicism and indifference, the Turkish Prime Minister Mr Suleiman Demirel himself commenting that the victims were not bona fide journalists but extremists who were killing each other.

What pressure will EPC bring to bear on Turkey in order to restore freedom of the press and bring to an end the murder to journalists?

Answer:

The specific case raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed within the framework of EPC. However, the Turkish authorities are well aware of the importance which the Community and Member States attach to the rule of law and the full respect of human rights.

The Community and its Member States will continue to monitor the situation closely in the light of the Turkish Government's commitment to improve the human rights situation in the country and urge the latter to take all necessary steps to this end.

The Community and its Member States welcome the more peaceful atmosphere of the recent Newroz celebrations in Turkey and hope this positive trend may continue.

93/196. Question No 487/93 by Mr Torres Couto (S) on violations of human rights in East Timor

Date of issue: 4 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 12 March 1993)

In view of the continuing violations of human rights in East Timor, where the sham trial of the Timor resistance leader Xanana Gusmão is being held, and Indonesia's disregard for the United Nations' resolutions on this territory, what specific measures will the Community take to force Indonesia to respect human rights and international law?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have repeatedly conveyed to the Indonesian authorities their concerns and preoccupations as regards the trial of Xanana Gusmão, especially as far as respect for human rights and the rule of international law are concerned. The trial, which started in Dili on 1 February 1993, is being closely monitored by European Community Missions in Jakarta and its outcome will be assessed in EPC discussions in the light of these Missions' reports.

The Indonesian authorities have, on their part, assured the Community and its Member States that at the ongoing trial, all the necessary measures will be taken in order to assure that provisions on human rights and international law are properly applied.

It should also be recalled that the resolution on the situation in East Timor, adopted by the United Nations Commission for Human Rights, on 11 March 1993, was based on a draft tabled on behalf of the EC Member States.

93/197. Question No 674/92 by Mr Vandemeulebroucke (ARC) on setting up embassies in the former Soviet Union

Date of issue: 5 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 26 March 1992)

Is it true that the Ministers have resisted the opening of joint embassies in the new sovereign states which emerged after the disintegration of the former USSR?

If not, do the Ministers think that such an initiative is worth considering?

If this is the case, how can the Ministers reconcile such an attitude with the Maastricht documents, particularly part II, 'Citizenship of the Union', Article 8C?

Do the Ministers think that joint embassies could help to save on running costs, or do they take the view that each individual Member State has sufficient resources to set up full embassies everywhere?

Answer:

The joint statement issued by the UK and Germany at Leipzig on 30 October 1991 made explicitly clear that both countries, in their approach to the Soviet Union, were working with other partners

within the framework of EPC, including on questions of practical cooperation and the sharing of facilities between diplomatic posts.

The Community and its Member States, following their decision on 31 December and 15 January 1992¹ to recognize the republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States, have begun discussions on the feasibility of sharing facilities in those republics where several or more of them intend to open embassies. The question of sharing facilities, which is also considered in the case of the new capital of Nigeria, Abuja, should be seen in the context of greater cooperation and unity between the Community and its Member States, and as such is perfectly in line with the provisions and the spirit of the Maastricht Treaty, including part II, Article 8C.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Docs 91/472 and 92/008.

93/198. Question No 2972/92 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on the right of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev to travel outside Russia

Date of issue: 5 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 30 November 1992)

Will EPC express its deepest regret at the refusal of the Russian authorities to allow Mr Mikhail Gorbachev to travel outside Russia?

Answer:

The honourable Member will be aware that the travel restrictions imposed on Mr Gorbachev resulted from his refusal to appear before the Russian Constitutional Court. A number of Member States have made bilateral representations to the Russian Government concerning the treatment of Mr Gorbachev. The question has also been discussed in the framework of European political co-operation. The honourable Member will be aware that the travel restrictions have now been lifted.

The Community and its Member States are playing their full part in international efforts to help the economies of Russia and the other states of the former Soviet Union. They have also been pursuing political dialogue actively, with meetings at ministerial and senior official level in Moscow, Brussels, New York and in the Presidency capital. The TACIS programme is intended to provide technical assistance to the former Soviet Union in support of economic and social reform.

Regrettably, in certain regions of the former Soviet Union parties involved in fighting have not shown the political will required to achieve a political settlement. Nagorny-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] is a case in point. The Community and its Member States urge the parties involved – in particular the Governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan alike – to settle their differences and work with the CSCE to bring about a settlement fair to all concerned.

The Community and its Member States are also concerned at continuing violence in Georgia, notably in the region of Abkhazia, which has caused heavy loss of life. In their statement of 14 October 1992,¹ they welcomed the decision of the UN Secretary-General and of the CSCE to send further fact-finding missions to the country. They also welcomed the holding of elections in about 90% of the territory of Georgia on 11 October 1992, and reiterated their commitment to support the stabilization of the situation and the development of democracy and a market economy. They congratulated Mr Eduard Shevardnadze on his election as chairman of the Georgian Parliament and looked forward to a close working relationship with him.

The Community and its Member States are encouraged by the comparatively successful implementation of the 21 July 1992 peace agreement in Moldova. They urge the parties to make progress towards a political solution.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/340.

93/199. Statement on the assassination of President Premadasa, Sri Lanka

Date of issue: 6 May 1993
 Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
 Country of Presidency: Denmark
 Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States are deeply dismayed at the news of the assassination of Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, President of Sri Lanka for the past four years. They deplore the tragic loss of life and strongly condemn this cowardly act of terrorism against the President of Sri Lanka and the persons who were with him.

The Community and its Member States wish to express their solidarity with the democracy in Sri Lanka and their encouragement to all those who in the government, in parliament and in politics endeavour to promote peace and democracy. They express the hope that the efforts of President Premadasa towards economic progress, national reconciliation and the improvement of the human rights situation in the country will be continued and strengthened in the future.

The Community and its Member States express their support for the designated acting President, Mr D.B. Wijetunga, and urge all parties in Sri Lanka to show calm and restraint.

93/200. Statement on a Council meeting (extracts only)

Date of issue: 10 May 1993
 Place of issue: Brussels
 Country of Presidency: Denmark
 Status of document: Press statement

Ex-Yugoslavia

The Ministers, in the presence of Lord Owen, had a wide-ranging debate on the various aspects of the situation in ex-Yugoslavia. The President's press conference comprised the following elements:

- Full support for Vance/Owen peace plan. Nothing has happened to diminish that support.
- Important new development: division amongst the Serbs. Majority of Serbs now accept and support the Vance/Owen plan.
- Milosevic has stated that he will close the border between Serbia and Bosnia. We will keep him to that promise. The EC stands ready as part of an international effort to contribute to this step.
- We welcome UN Security Council Resolution 824 on 'safe areas'. Invite other countries, especially US and Russia, to contribute to the efforts to secure 'safe areas'.
- This is the EC's position – what we will work for. We exclude no other options, if need be.
- We stress the need for multilateral action under UN auspices.
- Consultations with US: we are very satisfied with the way they are being pursued. They will continue. Also consultations with Russia.

- Croatia: fighting between Croats and Muslims deeply worrying. Croats have signed Vance/Owen peace plan, but do not act accordingly. Presidency will make this clear to President Tudjman.

[...]

Relations with Russia

The Council heard a report by Sir Leon Brittan on the outcome of the fourth phase of negotiations for a Partnership Agreement with Russia held in St Petersburg on 6 and 7 May.

On that basis, the Council held an exchange of views following which it arrived at guide-lines for continuing the negotiations.

The Council confirmed the importance it attached to the negotiations and to their being concluded as swiftly as possible.

Relations with the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe

At Edinburgh, the European Council had welcomed the report presented by the Commission concerning the development of relations with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe¹ and had agreed that in Copenhagen in June it would reach decisions on the various components of the Commission's report in order to prepare the countries of Central and Eastern Europe for accession.

The Commission has just submitted to the Council a further communication in which it makes specific suggestions for implementing the various components of its Edinburgh communication.

The Council held a very useful initial debate on the matter during which the crucial importance attached to the future of the Community's relations with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe was confirmed.

The Council stressed that it was essential to ensure that the file was properly prepared with a view to the discussions to be held by the European Council in Copenhagen. Accordingly, it instructed Coreper to submit to it in time for its 8 June meeting as precise and concrete a report as possible in order to enable it to arrive at guidelines or options for submission to the European Council.

Relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council

The Council prepared the Community's position for the ministerial meeting and the fourth joint EC/GCC Council meeting, which would be held on Tuesday 11 May at the Council's headquarters in Brussels.

French Memorandum on the Uruguay Round

The Council was informed by the Minister, Mr Juppé, of the main thrust of the memorandum adopted on that day by the French Government on the Uruguay Round negotiations and shortly to be forwarded to the Commission and the other Member States.

[...]

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/449.

93/201. Joint political declaration of the fourth ministerial meeting between the European Community and its Member States and the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf in Brussels, held on 11 May 1993

Date of issue: 11 May 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Joint declaration with other actors

1. The fourth session of the Joint Council established in accordance with the Cooperation Agreement between the EC on the one hand, and the countries parties to the Charter of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait) on the other hand, was held in Brussels on 11 May 1993.

2. Both sides discussed a number of regional and international questions of common interest in an open and constructive way, with a view to fostering cooperation between their two regions.

3. The Joint Council reviewed developments in commercial and economic cooperation between the two sides. The Ministers noted that mutual trade continues to increase, although slightly, despite the slow-down in the world economy. They emphasized the importance of measures that they and others were taking to stimulate international economic growth and contribute to its sustained recovery. They also expressed support for the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations which would strengthen the multilateral trading system and provide a major boost to the world economy.

The Joint Council received a report on the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement submitted by the Joint Cooperation Committee and noted with satisfaction that cooperation was developing significantly in the areas which had been identified by the Joint Council as priorities.

The Joint Council approved recommendations and proposals for cooperation contained in the report of the Joint Cooperation Committee. Both sides welcomed the success of the second industrial conference held in Doha, in October 1992, which confirmed the optimism of the business communities in the two regions regarding prospects for increased trade and investment. Both agreed that the third industrial conference should take place in the Gulf region towards the end of 1994. They welcomed specific proposals for cooperation in science and technology, standards, human resource development and training and the promotion of joint venture industrial cooperation. They emphasized the usefulness of the high level exchange of views which had taken place in the energy working group on world energy developments and approved continuation of these exchanges, as well as the envisaged cooperation on energy technologies of mutual interest. They recommended that the environment working group should meet soon to consider the proposals for cooperation jointly identified. They also agreed on the extension of the 'wildlife sanctuary for the Gulf region' project for a further year, in order that the positive results could be fully reflected in the operation and management of the sanctuary and in promoting the establishment of similar sanctuaries in other parts of the Gulf region.

4. Recalling their agreement at the third Joint Council meeting in Kuwait to continue their dialogue on the important issues related to climate change, including CO₂ emissions, Ministers took note of the discussions which had been held in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement, both in the Joint Cooperation Committee and the energy working group. They also welcomed the informal ministerial level contacts which had taken place between the two sides.

The EC side recalled its decision to stabilize CO₂ emissions in the Community in the year 2000 at 1990 levels as a contribution to the global problem of climate change. The proposed tax was part of an overall strategy and part of a package of measures intended to realise the stabiliza-

tion objective. The EC side emphasized that economic development must be sustainable environmentally and stated that the proposed tax would not have a discriminatory affect on oil and that its introduction would be conditional on comparable measures being introduced by other countries of the OECD. GCC Ministers continued to express concern about the EC Commission's proposal for a Community carbon-energy tax, the effectiveness of such a tax and the consequences it would have on the world economy and the economies of the GCC countries. Oil was already overtaxed in the Community and further taxation would adversely affect international trade in oil, including EC/GCC trade, and the ability of the GCC countries to undertake the very large investment needed to meet the anticipated increase in long-term international demand for oil.

Recognizing that a continuing dialogue on the inter-related issues of energy and environment served their mutual interest, the two parties agreed to pursue these issues in particular in the framework of the Joint Cooperation Committee in order to contribute to appropriate and effective global solutions to which they are committed.

5. Ministers took note of a report on the free trade negotiations. They welcomed the resumption of negotiations. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to conclude the negotiations successfully as soon as possible.

6. The Ministers of the European Community and the GCC had a full exchange of views on developments in their two regions.

The Ministers of the Community emphasized the important progress in EC integration represented by the realization of the European Single Market with effect from 1 January 1993. They stated their commitment to complete ratification of the Maastricht Treaty before the end of this year and described the perspectives this would present for political, economic and monetary union.

The Ministers of the European Community informed the Ministers of the GCC of the negotiations for the enlargement of the EC which had begun with four countries as well as the planned entry into force on 1 July 1993 of the European Economic Area Agreement. They emphasized the importance of the Community's relations with the neighbouring countries of the southern Mediterranean and the Arab world and its contribution to their development as well as its involvement in the Middle East peace process. They also described the development of their relations with the countries of East and Central Europe, Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union and the important assistance provided to enable them to carry out their political and economic reforms.

The Ministers of the GCC countries informed the Ministers of the Community of developments in the economic integration of their countries as well as the progress made on the establishment of a customs union. They also informed the EC Ministers of the development of GCC relations with other regional groupings and partners.

7. The Ministers welcomed the efforts made since their last meeting to develop relations of cooperation between the European Community and its Member States and the GCC and its member States, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and the principles of international law applicable to the development of cordial relations among nations, and reiterated their continuing commitment to the promotion of human rights. They reaffirmed their commitment to the respect of the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of all states and hold these principles to be universal in character and therefore applicable equally. The Ministers further welcomed the efforts made in the framework of the GCC to consolidate peace and stability in the Gulf in accordance with international legality.

8. The Ministers agreed that strict Iraqi adherence to her international obligations remains a precondition for genuine peace and stability in the Gulf region. They expressed deep concern at Iraq's

continued defiance of relevant Security Council resolutions. In particular, the Ministers underlined the importance they attach to Iraq's full and unconditional compliance with Resolution 687 concerning Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, the immediate release of all Kuwaiti and other POWs and detainees held by that country, Iraq's payment of full compensation for the losses and damages caused by her aggression against the State of Kuwait and Iraq's recognition of its international borders with the State of Kuwait as demarcated with the assistance of the United Nations. The Ministers particularly welcomed the final report laid down by the UN Committee on the demarcation of the international Kuwaiti/Iraqi borders. The Ministers look forward to a firm resolution by the Security Council reiterating the inviolability of the international borders.

9. Reaffirming their governments' continued commitment to the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Iraq, the Ministers expressed alarm and dismay at the continued repression and sufferings of the entire Iraqi population, for which the Iraqi regime bears the sole responsibility.

In this context, they once again underlined the importance they attach to Iraq's unconditional compliance with Security Council Resolution 688. The Ministers also stressed the need for an effective implementation of Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 which deal, *inter alia*, with the means to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi population.

10. The Ministers emphasized the need for cooperation and peaceful coexistence among all states in the Gulf region based on respect for recognized norms and principles of international law.

They acknowledged the right of countries to acquire the means to defend themselves, but expressed preoccupation that individual countries' arms procurement should not pose a threat to regional stability.

The Ministers reaffirmed their strong opposition to all forms of terrorism, whatever their origin, cause and motive, as well as their strong opposition to support by any country of subversive activities in other countries.

Basing themselves on the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and respect for national laws, the Ministers expressed their strong belief that no state is entitled to apply its laws outside its boundaries or to assume the jurisdiction of another sovereign state.

11. In this respect the Ministers noted with concern the lack of progress in the dialogue between the United Arab Emirates and the Islamic Republic of Iran over the question of the islands. They urged the governments of the two states to make use of all available channels and means to resolve these differences on the basis of international law and peaceful coexistence between nations. They expressed the hope that Iran will utilize the good offices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in this regard.

12. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. They welcomed the Convention on Non-Proliferation of Chemical Weapons, which constitutes a meaningful contribution to the establishment of zones free of all weapons of mass destruction. They noted with satisfaction the fact that the Convention has already been signed by a large number of countries both in Europe and in the Middle East, including Israel. They reiterated their commitment to promote the establishment of a zone free from all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and expressed the hope that signature of the chemical weapons Convention will induce countries not yet parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, including Israel, to sign it.

13. The Ministers reviewed the situation in the Middle East and the state of the Middle East peace process. They welcomed the recent resumption of the peace talks in both the bilateral and the multilateral tracks and called on all parties to engage in serious negotiations with a view to early and substantive progress. They stressed that it is absolutely necessary that all parties refrain from ac-

tions or statements that might endanger the peace process. Both sides consider the need for significant confidence building measures. The Ministers firmly believe that the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories, including East Jerusalem, which are in any case illegal under international law, constitute an obstacle to peace. In the EC's view, the lifting of the Arab trade boycott would also contribute to furthering the cause of the peace process.

14. The Ministers reaffirmed their governments' continued commitment to the peace process. They expressed their firm belief that for a settlement to the Arab/Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question to be effective and for an agreement to prove just, lasting and comprehensive, it should be based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of land for peace, security for all countries of the region, within recognized and guaranteed borders, and the exercise by the Palestinians of their right to self-determination.

15. The EC and the GCC expressed their determination to continue to play a constructive and active role in the multilateral negotiations, which go hand-in-hand with the bilaterals. They consider the multilateral negotiations as complementary to and not a substitute for the bilateral negotiations. Thus progress on the core issues of the bilaterals would greatly contribute to the success of the multilaterals.

16. The Ministers remain seriously concerned about the grave deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Territories. They expressed profound regret at the upsurge of violence in the Occupied Territories. They emphasized the need for Israel to respect her international commitments, including in the field of human rights. They also called for Israel to accept the *de jure* applicability of the 4th Geneva Convention to the Occupied Territories and to abide fully by its provisions. Both sides reiterated the importance of financial assistance to the Occupied Territories.

17. Both sides reaffirmed their support for the Ta'if Accord as the best basis for enabling the State of Lebanon to extend its authority over the totality of the Lebanese territories and for preserving Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. The Ministers reiterated their governments' support for and the necessity of the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. They remain committed to participate in Lebanon's reconstruction and look forward to the convocation of a donors conference for Lebanon to be organized within the framework of the IBRD, in which the EC and the GCC will participate.

18. The EC and its Member States and the GCC and its member States reaffirmed their firm determination to continue to contribute to the stability and sustainable development of the Arab world, including the Maghreb region. The GCC briefed EC colleagues on continuing Gulf assistance to Arab countries, including the Maghreb. It noted the EC's report on the development of its relations with the Maghreb in the framework of the Lisbon European Council on Euro/Maghreb relations.

19. The Ministers noted the Arab League's continued efforts to secure implementation by Libya and others of Security Council Resolutions 731 and 748.

20. The Ministers reviewed the situation prevailing in the former Yugoslavia, notably in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and expressed their deep concern and indignation over the fact that the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina is not improving. They strongly condemned the brutal attacks on Srebrenica and other villages in eastern Bosnia by Serbian militia. They also strongly condemned the renewed violence by Croat forces in central Bosnia, and urged all parties to stop the fighting immediately.

They welcomed the UN Security Council's decision to establish an international tribunal to try those accused of war crimes in accordance with the provisions laid down in the Geneva Conventions.

They further welcomed the adoption of UNSCR 824 establishing safe areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina and supported multilateral actions under the auspices of the UN to this end.

21. While warmly welcoming UNSCR 820 which is strengthening the application of sanctions and the economic blockade against the Serbs, the Ministers noted that after the Bosnian President and Bosnian Serb leader signed the Vance/Owen peace plan – the only realistic framework for a negotiated settlement – the repeated refusal of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb Parliament to accept the plan remains the main obstacle to promoting the peace process.

The Serbs will either have to sign the Vance/Owen peace plan and cooperate in its implementation, or they will remain isolated for years to come. In this regard, the Ministers confirmed that they would exclude no other options under the aegis of the UN for bringing about a settlement.

In the GCC view, the Security Council should use every available means to restore international peace and stability, including the authorization of military intervention in accordance with Article 42 of the UN Charter. Lifting the arms embargo on the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to enable that country to exercise its inalienable right to self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter should also be seriously considered.

22. The Ministers remained deeply worried and alarmed about the humanitarian situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially in the eastern part of the country. They strongly demanded that the fighting stop immediately and that humanitarian relief workers be given free access to all relevant areas in the former Yugoslavia. To this end they underlined the need for the UN to take effective steps to ensure such free access for humanitarian relief work immediately.

23. Both sides agreed that the fifth meeting of the Joint Council would be held in the GCC region in the first half of 1994.

Liste des Chefs de Délégation

Etats du Golfe

Emirats Arabes Unis

S.E. M. Rached Abdulla Al-Noaimi

Ministre des Affaires étrangères

Président du Conseil ministériel du Conseil de Coopération du Golfe

Arabie Saoudite

S.A.R. le Prince Saud Al Faisal

Ministre des Affaires étrangères

Bahreïn

S.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa

Ministre des Affaires étrangères

Koweït

S.E. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber

Premier Vice Premier Ministre et Ministre des Affaires étrangères

Sultanat d'Oman

S.E. M. Yousuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah

Ministre d'Etat pour les Affaires étrangères

Qatar

S.E. Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassem Bin Jaber Al-Thani
Ministre des Affaires étrangères

Secrétariat du CCG

S.E. Sheikh Fahim bin Sultan Al-Qasimi
Secrétaire Général

Communauté européenne

Danemark

S.E. M. Niels Helveg Petersen
Ministre des Affaires étrangères
Président du Conseil des Communautés européennes

Belgique

M. Robert Urbain
Ministre du Commerce extérieur et des Affaires européennes

Allemagne

Madame Ursula Seiler-Albring
Ministre d'Etat aux Affaires étrangères

Grèce

M. Georges Papastamkos
Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires étrangères

Espagne

M. Carlos Westendorp
Secrétaire d'Etat pour les relations avec les Communautés européennes

France

M. Alain Juppé
Ministre des Affaires étrangères

Irlande

M. Tom Kitt
Ministre adjoint auprès du Premier Ministre chargé des Affaires européennes

Italie

M. Giuseppe Giacomazzo
Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires étrangères

Luxembourg

S.E. M. Jacques Poos
Vice Premier Ministre et Ministre des Affaires étrangères

Pays-Bas

M. Piet Dankert
Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires étrangères

Portugal

M. José Manuel Durão Barroso
Ministre des Affaires étrangères

Royaume-Uni

The Hon. Douglas Hogg, MP
Ministre d'Etat au Ministère des Affaires étrangères et du Commonwealth

Commission des C.E.

M. M. Marín

Commissaire responsable pour la Coopération au développement

M. H. van den Broek

Commissaire responsable pour les Relations politiques extérieures

Coopération politique européenne

M. Pierre Champenois

Chef du Secrétariat

Secrétariat Général du Conseil des C.E.

M. André Dubois

Directeur Général des Relations extérieures et de la Coopération au développement

93/202. Statement on Chad

Date of issue: 17 May 1993

Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States are deeply concerned at the recent events which have occurred in the south of Chad where members of the army have committed serious violations of human rights. They especially deplore the civilians who have fallen victim to these human rights violations.

They strongly urge the Chad authorities to take all necessary steps to restore order and security in the country. They also urge the Chad authorities to implement further measures to prevent human rights violations based on the findings of the investigation commission into these events.

The European Community and its Member States believe that it is necessary to establish a climate of peace and security in order to achieve the objective of greater democracy in Chad announced by the National Conference, the holding of which is welcomed by the EC, and they call upon the government and all political forces to facilitate the dialogue and collaboration which are indispensable in this connection.

93/203. Statement on Togo

Date of issue: 17 May 1993

Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States regret that the political forces in Togo have not so far been able to reach an agreement making possible the resumption of a free and open electoral process in a climate of renewed peace.

The Community and its Member States think that the holding of elections in the present situation would not allow the people of Togo to exercise their freedom of choice.

The Community and its Member States would not therefore be able to help in organizing the vote or to send observers during the elections.

93/204. Statement on the Vance/Owen plan

Date of issue: 18 May 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States have taken note of the fact that the Bosnian Serbs have not yet accepted the Vance/Owen plan. Their leader, Radovan Karadzic, who personally signed the plan in Athens, has now rejected it.

The Community and its Member States will continue to lend their full support to the Vance/Owen plan. They demand its immediate acceptance by the Bosnian Serbs. To this end, they will, in cooperation with the United States, Russia, and other interested parties, continue, under the aegis of the United Nations, to bring heavy pressure to bear on Serbia/Montenegro and the Bosnian Serbs, with no option being excluded.

At the same time, the Community and its Member States are deeply outraged at the military attacks against Muslim civilians by Bosnian Serb and Bosnian Croat forces. These atrocities must be brought to an end immediately. With a view to seeking an end to Bosnian Croat attacks against Muslims, the Chairman of the EC Council of Ministers will on 18 May participate in a meeting in Mostar with among others the Presidents of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg.

93/205. Statement at the CSCE Human Dimension Seminar on case studies on national minorities issues: positive results

Date of issue: 24/28 May 1993
Place of issue: Warsaw
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Statement in international forum

Mr Quaade: Mr Chairman, speaking on behalf of the Community and its Member States, I take great pleasure in congratulating you, Ambassador Cortese, and your staff. You have, as was the case with the previous seminars here in Warsaw, made excellent preparations for our work. I would also like to express our gratitude to Poland and the Polish authorities for hosting us here today and providing the excellent facilities, which have become so familiar to those of us who were here in November last year and in April this year.

In the course of past centuries, national minorities have often been associated with tragic episodes of European history. These years, we witness trends in international life that pull in two directions. We see an increasing interdependence between nations, which in many respects creates greater uniformity – in thoughts and in actions. At the same time, we witness a growing awareness among people to seek their roots. The so-called ‘near society’ where people are geographically close to each other or bound together by common traits is becoming more visible. This closeness, these affinities transcend borders. These two trends must live together. We must not close our eyes to the needs and wishes of people to gather together around common ideas, culture, language, origin. In this context, we are firmly attached to the comprehensive set of provisions contained in the Copenhagen Document and in the report of the CSCE meeting of experts on national minorities in

Geneva in 1991. We must consider the trend as a positive factor in our continent's life. It lends richness to our continent. It gives diversity – and diversity is the root of democracy. On the other hand, democracy is a prerequisite for diversity and for respect and promotion of human rights including minority rights.

The respect for rights of persons belonging to national minorities forms a part of the respect for universally recognized human rights. Firstly, this implies that the questions relating to national minorities can only be satisfactorily resolved in the context of free and open societies, where the rule of law is applied, individual and economic freedoms are respected, judicial guarantees are provided and democracy prevails. Secondly, to belong to a minority is not just a birth mark but it is also a sustained and conscious individual choice, and no disadvantage should arise to any individual from his or her birth, or from the choice either to assert his membership of a minority or to assimilate with the majority. Rights can be exercised and enjoyed individually, as well as in community with other members of the group. Further, the state is called upon to protect the identity of minorities, and to create conditions for its promotion.

The twelve Member States of the European Community have expressed these principles in their proposal for a CSCE Code of Conduct governing mutual relations between participating States in the field of security, presented in the CSCE Forum for Security and Cooperation in December 1992. This proposal which is cosponsored by Canada, Iceland and Norway suggests that a CSCE Code of Conduct should contain the following provisions relating to the protection of national minorities:

- commitment in particular to respect the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, including their right to express their identity, and where appropriate to enjoy local autonomy,
- recognition of need for each national minority to respect rights of others,
- prohibition on use of armed forces to limit the exercise of human rights by individuals or by minority groups.

These ideas were also taken up in a statement by the Presidency of the European Community and its Member States to the seminar on a Code of Conduct held in Vienna in the beginning of May 1993.

The protection of national minorities always was a basic principle of the CSCE process, successively reiterated by all participating States. The violation of the commitments is considered a threat to the peaceful development of societies and does not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the state concerned. On the other hand, we recognize that many states are conscious of the recurring difficulty of giving practical effect to those commitments. Consequently, the Community and its Member States welcome the opportunity which this seminar presents to have an exchange of views about the practice of the participating States and to search for ways in which the commitments could be implemented with positive results in practice.

The European Community and its Member States hold that respect for the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, as part of respect for human rights in general, constitute an essential factor in achieving a new era of democracy, peace and unity in Europe. We believe that we can take important steps towards a better protection and a better promotion of the rights of national minorities if we could approach the issue of national minorities from the angle that national minorities [...] are a source of richness for our cultures and not just a problem which we have to solve – even if we must never close our eyes to the complications.

Consequently, the Community and its Member States very much welcome the fact that this seminar will concentrate on positive results on national minorities issues, which can best be achieved by democratic means.

We look forward to a fruitful discussion and especially to the exchange of ideas and practical experience on positive solutions to issues of national minorities, which may be of benefit to oth-

ers. In this context, it is important to underline that the issue of national minorities is also under discussion in other frameworks and that valuable work is being done there.

The Community and its Member States will contribute to this seminar in the same constructive spirit in which we have participated in the previous seminars in the series of CSCE Human Dimension Seminars.

[...]

93/206. Question No 520/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on the infringement of international law by the Torricelli bill

Date of issue: 24 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 29 March 1993)

Given that the Torricelli bill recently passed by the US Congress violates international law, what action does European political cooperation intend to take to persuade the USA to repeal this law? Does it intend to emphasize that, should the USA refuse to repeal Law No HR5006 concerning trade with third countries, the EC will adopt a directive which ensures that companies based in the EC are not subject to measures which extend the jurisdiction of third countries and which protects them from such pressures? Will the EC examine and initiate legal proceedings against the international ramifications of this law?

*Answer:*¹

The Council would refer the honourable Member to the reply given on 18 November 1992 to Question H-1065/92 put by Ms Piermont.

¹ This reply has been given by the Council of the European Communities, within whose province the question came.

93/207. Statement on the preparation of the European Council in Copenhagen, held on 21 and 22 June 1993

Date of issue: 26 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Statement in the European Parliament

Mr Helveg Petersen, President-in-Office of the Council: Thank you, Mr President! Let me stress first of all that what I can say today on next month's European Council in Copenhagen is necessarily of a very provisional nature. It is four weeks away yet, and European Councils where it has been possible to fix the agenda four weeks in advance are few and far between. I also think it is actually one of the European Council's strengths that we avoid a very lengthy preparation. The general Council of Foreign Ministers on 8 June will discuss the preparations for the Copenhagen meeting. It is only then, when the collective process of preparation is complete, that the President-in-Office of the European Council can sketch out the agenda in the traditional letter to his colleagues. What I am able to say today is thus purely a reflection of the Presidency's own preliminary considerations.

After the result of the Danish referendum and the progress made on the ratification procedure in Great Britain, it seems as if we in Copenhagen can sense that the lengthy period of uncertainty now lies behind us, and that our efforts can be concentrated on finding solutions to the many serious problems, both internal and external, facing the Community and the Union. It is important that Copenhagen lay down the necessary political guide-lines for this work. It is also only natural that we use the opportunity to take stock of progress since Edinburgh, with a view to making transparency and subsidiarity a reality. I am looking forward to seeing the promised paper from the Commission on these questions.

The Presidency will likewise report to the European Council on the practical implementation within the Council. We hope that we will be able to report the signing of an inter-institutional agreement on subsidiarity. The European Council will in the light of this be able to draw up some guide-lines for further work on transparency, for example.

The Presidency sees growth and employment as major agenda items in Copenhagen. Edinburgh laid down the main principles of a joint initiative between the Member States and the EC on economic revival in Europe. The basic principles still apply: an open market economy with free competition, sustainable growth which respects the environment, stable prices with sound public finances and monetary policy. The recipe is a familiar one, in its broad outlines too: making use of the scope which exists within the budgetary policy, giving high priority to infrastructure and other public investments, encouraging private investment, particularly in small and medium-sized enterprises, wage restraint and consequently the creation of the conditions for a fall in interest rates.

The European Council in Copenhagen, taking this as its point of departure, will be able to note a certain amount of progress: the result of the ECOFIN Council in April, new initiatives in France and Denmark, agreement on the guide-lines for EMS cooperation as established in Kolding in Denmark last weekend.

But the European Council will probably also note that this is not enough, that we cannot sit passively by in view of the steadily deteriorating employment situation, that the Edinburgh process must continue, including in the Member States' budgeting for 1994, and finally, that certain aspects must be given greater weight. The President-in-Office of the European Council attaches great importance to these questions. He thinks too, therefore, that the Commission's coming report on competitiveness and employment will be an important contribution to the European Council's discussion of these points.

The next main theme which the Presidency sees for Copenhagen is the relationship with Eastern and Central Europe. The next item on the Parliament's agenda today will provide an opportunity to address the question in greater detail. With regard to the European Council in Copenhagen, the Presidency in its last four weeks will continue its efforts to ensure that Copenhagen can send a clear message to those countries with whom we have or will have European Agreements. A message that membership of the Union is not merely an expression of what the countries in question want, but also of what we want, that we are looking forward to this being translated into reality as soon as these countries fulfil the necessary requirements, and that we will conduct our future relations with the coming enlargement in mind.

This can be brought about by, among other things, systematic dialogue and consultation, not only in the areas of foreign affairs and security policy, but also in the many specific areas of a trans-European nature such as energy, the environment and transport infrastructure. Where it is in all our interests to see policies and structures built up in line with the membership situation of these countries. Finally, this may come about by the prospect of membership being backed up by a real opening up of the markets and by concentrated and effective financial support.

The European Council in Copenhagen takes place just before the World Economic Summit in Tokyo. As a result, the meeting in Copenhagen will naturally be used to finish preparing the Com-

munity's position on the principle points of discussion in Tokyo. The Uruguay Round is not the least of these, its completion being of such immeasurable importance for economic growth.

But we must also discuss Russia, and as regards Russia, the Commission and the Presidency are also working hard so as the Partnership Agreement with Russia can be signed in the presence of President Yeltsin on the fringes of the European Council.

The European Council in Copenhagen will also be an opportunity to take stock and lay down the guide-lines needed for the first enlargement negotiations with Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway. The European Council will receive a report on the state of play in this area, and is expected on the basis of this to note that after a slow start, the negotiation machinery is moving into top gear. This will make it possible to draw the necessary conclusions as regards the work programme for the decisive months ahead, and confirm the timetable for the enlargement which lay behind the Lisbon and Edinburgh decisions to launch the process of enlargement.

The European Council will also briefly take stock of the actual implementation of the Single Market, including in the area of free movement of persons. The European Council wants to have a report on the table from the coordinators on this topic.

Four weeks is an even longer time in foreign affairs than it is in economics. The tragic situation in the former Yugoslavia will of course be discussed in Copenhagen. The list of other EPC topics will be drawn up later.

This, in broad outline, is the shape the European Council in Copenhagen will take, as the Presidency sees it at the moment, but of course it may be added to. Let me sum up: growth and employment will be a major item, as will relations with the countries in Eastern and Central Europe, discussion of the Community position at the World Summit in Tokyo, the relationship with Russia, the enlargement negotiations, the implementation of the Single Market, and lastly the vital discussions on foreign affairs.

The Copenhagen summit promises to be very substantial in its choice of topics, and I believe that it will be possible for the Community to make considerable progress at the Copenhagen summit.

[...]

[After the following debate Mr Helveg Petersen stated:] Madam President, several speakers today have commented on the Danish referendum. The Danish Yes was unequivocal, and it was a wise decision made by the majority of Danes. Some of the uncertainty surrounding European cooperation has hereby been removed, as has one of the obstacles preventing the Community from taking sound, new decisions. I think we should remember that the Danish Yes materialized after an intensive, democratic discussion which resulted in almost 86% of Danes casting their vote. It was no chance decision, it was a decision reached after intensive democratic debate. I want to say this because, when I heard Mr Bonde speaking, it sounded almost as if there were only a few captains of industry and newspaper editors who had backed the Danish Yes. Nothing could be further from the truth.

But it is true to say, as did Mr Cot at the very beginning of our debate, that there was indeed a large minority that voted No. This is something we must take up, as has been said several times during the course of this debate. We must ask ourselves: Why? I am quite convinced that it is the economic situation which is the root cause of there being in Denmark, as in other Community countries, uncertainty surrounding European cooperation, that there is opposition to and doubt concerning the construction of Europe.

On the other hand, I do not think Mr Cot is right, when he suggests that the way forward ought to be that we once again turn our attention to new large scale institutional changes in our working

relations. I believe the reverse is true, that fresh large scale rows about the institutional questions would deflect attention away from all that interests our fellow citizens, their employment, their environment, above all their everyday lives. The institutions are not geared to the everyday lives of our fellow citizens. It is not the European institutions that are standing in the way of our making real progress as regards growth, employment and a better environment. The institutions are not blocking anything. What is blocking the way forward is our own lack of ability and will to make the right decisions within these institutions.

We must realize that at a time such as this, where the jobless total unfortunately is still rising, it is quite difficult to argue in favour of European integration, because the man in the street does not see it as being a good thing in itself.

This is exactly why it is so enormously important that we, at the summit in Copenhagen and afterwards in the coming months and six-month periods, energetically pursue the idea of the Twelve making a joint effort to coordinate their economic policies in order to foster growth and employment. I take the point the President of the Commission, Mr Delors, made on the connection between environment and employment. I believe that in those comments and in that line of thought which lay behind Mr Delors' comments, there are ideas which we must take considerable time and trouble to examine in depth.

I cannot refrain from commenting on Mr Bonde's remark that there will be an alternative anti-Maastricht summit in Copenhagen. I can assure Mr Bonde that I shall at any rate be following very closely to see what Mr Bonde can find to agree on with Ms Thatcher, Mr Le Pen and the German Right, and what those anti-Maastricht forces at work across Europe actually can agree on. I am certain that Mr Bonde will also inform his colleagues in the European Parliament of what great new initiative has been agreed upon to solve the problems confronting us. I think it will be fairly thin, what is agreed upon, if indeed there is anything at all.

Expectations for the Copenhagen summit are running high. I hope too that the expectations are realistic. I should like to express my thanks for the many contributions made by the honourable Members of Parliament, all of which form a backdrop to the preparations for the summit in Copenhagen. It is the Presidency's wish that the Copenhagen summit should set out new and important guide-lines for those areas I have mentioned, for growth and employment, for an opening up to Central and Eastern Europe and Russia, for subsidiarity and transparency, for progress in world trade and also for the enlargement of the EC. I should like to say to those speakers who have voiced criticism of the enlargement that it is no solution for the Communities to remain as they are. Experience from the Communities has shown that enlargement *per se* helps to introduce dynamism and development in the working relationship. We must welcome enlargement through the addition of the new applicant countries, and not be fearful of it. It may well help bring fresh ideas to our cooperation.

In brief, it is the Presidency's intention that the Copenhagen summit should provide a fresh start. We must not ask for nor expect miracles, but the European Parliament and the peoples of Europe have a right to expect of us the correct mix of commitment and realism, and that this should colour the decisions which are to be taken in Copenhagen.

93/208. Statement on recent developments in the republics of the former Soviet Union

Date of issue: 26 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Statement in the European Parliament

Mr Ørstrøm Møller, President of European political cooperation: Mr President, I should like to begin with European political cooperation's account of the situation in the former Soviet Union, and then turn to the specific Question No 76/93, the TACIS regulation and the environment.

The first thing, namely the general account of the situation in the former Soviet Union. The result of the referendum in Russia on 25 April 1993 was a victory for President Yeltsin. It underlined the fact that the majority of Russians back President Yeltsin and his policy of reform. The referendum also underlined that Russia today has gone far in its efforts to introduce democracy. Not only did a far larger proportion of the Russian population take part in the referendum than anyone had expected, over 60% in fact, but the result has also been accepted by all political groups, although people naturally put their different interpretations on the result. In traditional circles in Russia, people are used to regarding anything other than absolute unanimity a defeat.

The result of the referendum has not solved Russia's problems, and even though it momentarily looks as though there is a cease-fire in operation between the warring factions in Moscow, it probably indicates no more than a passing phase and a re-marshalling of the arguments.

The most important thing now is to make use of the momentum created by the referendum in order to help the process of reform along. President Yeltsin indeed, with his most recent move for a new Russian constitution, once again seems to stand out as the one who sets the pace of the reform process in Russia. The proposal aims to establish a president who has influence heading a two-chamber parliamentary system.

It is also important that progress soon be made in the economic sector, so that before too long, Russians can see more concrete results of the reform process. This is vital if backing for the reforms is to continue. The most pressing tasks are to bring inflation under control and to continue the process of privatization. The Western world must play its part in helping to ensure that the reform process continues, and that it is given more impetus.

The EC is prepared to bring forward the negotiations on a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, and the Presidency is using every available channel to enable such an agreement to be signed in connection with the European Council's meeting in Copenhagen in June 1993, i.e. in a little more than a month's time. An agreement of this type will be a real contribution to the reform process. It provides for closer economic cooperation between the EC and Russia, and holds out the prospect of a free trade area between the EC and Russia. The sooner the agreement is ready, and the sooner it can come into force, the better.

It is not only in the West that people are pleased with the result of the referendum. The other CIS countries are also happy. The other CIS countries see continued democratic development in Russia as being a precondition for Russia's continued acceptance of the independence of these new countries. Since the referendum, the CIS countries too have held a meeting at Head-of-State level, where among other things, the possibilities of closer economic cooperation were discussed. As yet it is too early to comment on the prospects of this new initiative's being able to lead the way out of the doldrums in which CIS cooperation finds itself. The truth is, that up until now, CIS cooperation has principally distinguished itself by the signature of several hundred agreements, of which only a very few have actually been implemented.

The result of the referendum may possibly have a positive effect on the attempts to find a solution to the many conflicts that have arisen after the collapse of the Soviet Union, including in Georgia and Nagorno-Karabagh.

With your permission, Mr President, I would like to go on to give an answer to Question No 76/93, posed by Mr Collins. In the proposal for a new regulation on technical assistance to the former Soviet Union, the Commission has laid the stress on giving priority to those sectors which have a direct effect on the process of economic reform and recovery in the former Soviet Union.

Even though the environment is not one of the high priority sectors, Article 3(3) of the TACIS regulation states that the environmental aspect must be taken into account in connection with the technical programming. Energy is otherwise one of the five priority sectors in the TACIS programme. The sector mainly deals with nuclear activities with a substantial environmental dimension.

The European Parliament is in the process of drafting the recommendation it will make on the proposal. In doing so, it will doubtless have the opportunity of discussing this point with the Commission. The Council has for its part held an initial discussion of the Commission proposal, to which it will return when the European Parliament has made its recommendation. As you probably appreciate, I am unable to forecast the outcome of the discussions which the Council is to hold in the light of the awaited recommendation.

Having said that, Mr President, I should like to add that the Presidency also feels it is important to include the environmental dimension when drawing up and implementing the TACIS intervention programme, and that the Council too, perhaps, will [...] adopt a positive attitude in line with the wishes and ambitions which we all share.

[After the following debate Mr Ørstrøm Møller stated:] Mr President, it has been interesting to listen to the debate here today, which to a great extent has linked security policy and economic development. I think it is interesting to see how there is a broad consensus of opinion which says that stability and security policy equilibrium can be brought about, or at least helped along, by the use of economic and financial instruments. The fact that we in the EC have the possibility of contributing to a stable development in Russia, and through this achieve political and economic progress and thus remove a military threat which has existed against our continent for more than 40 years, is indeed a remarkable step forward. We in Europe are beginning increasingly to use security policy's gentle instruments instead of its tough ones, to the benefit of the entire population of Europe. This is also the philosophy that has lain behind the Council's interest in an early implementation of the TACIS programme. The Council wants to see progress in this field in order to use the TACIS programme as an element of what I call security policy, stability in our part of the world.

The Council was asked a specific question concerning comitology. Mr President, I cannot match Sir Leon Brittan's gift with words, really striking and very much to the point, so I shall not try, but simply back up what Sir Leon Brittan said to the Parliament: please do not force a task upon the Presidency, place requirements on the Presidency, which it has no chance of getting through Council, and with the result that we halt the help going out to people who have need of it.

[After the continuing debate Mr Ørstrøm Møller stated:] I will relay the Parliament's views to the Council faithfully and to the best of my ability. I will do my utmost to gain Council's acceptance of them; but I cannot and have no hope of compelling others to accept a line which they perhaps do not wish to follow.

[After the continuing debate Mr Ørstrøm Møller stated:] Mr President, I have gone as far as I can. I have done my utmost. I have told the Parliament where I stand, what the Presidency will do, what consequences it will have. I can go no further, Mr President. I am sorry.

93/209. Statement on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Date of issue: 26 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Statement in the European Parliament

Mr Helveg Petersen, President of European political cooperation: Mr President, a description of recent developments in the former Yugoslavia takes its natural point of departure in the meeting held on 1 and 2 May 1993 between the warring parties and the co-chairmen of the Geneva Conference on the former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance. The leader of the Bosnian Serbs, Karadzic, here signed the map of Bosnia-Herzegovina, as drawn up and divided into ten provinces by Vance and Owen. In so doing, he cleared away the last technical difficulty remaining in the path of the acceptance needed for the Vance/Owen peace plan and for its implementation.

The following sequence of events has given us an object lesson in how much value one can place on Mr Karadzic's words and deeds, and in this case, his signature. By no means did he support the Vance/Owen peace plan, having given his formal acceptance of it – quite the opposite! He immediately distanced himself from it by letting the validity of his signature rest on the holding of a referendum in the Bosnian-Serb areas. The referendum was held on 14 and 15 May 1993. Its result must be considered a foregone conclusion, and the referendum can only be called a political manoeuvre.

The chain of events in Bosnia, where Bosnian, Croatian and Muslim units became involved in military clashes, provoked a sharp response from the Community and its Member States in the shape of a letter from me dated 12 May to Croatia's President Tudjman. As a follow-up to this, and on receiving an invitation from the Croatian President, on 18 May I took part in a meeting in Medugorje outside Mostar in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Besides the Croatian President, those present included President Izetbegovic, the Bosnian-Croatian leader Boban, Lord Owen, Thorvald Stoltenburg and UNPROFOR's highest command. It was made clear to President Tudjman that documented proof existed showing that the main responsibility for the acts of war had to be laid at the door of the Bosnian Croats, and with this, also the responsibility for any negative consequences for Croatia. The Community would react in the same way to all the warring parties. The warnings have apparently had an effect. The meeting closed with agreement on making a gradual start on the implementation of the Vance/Owen peace plan in the Muslim and Croatian areas, including the implementation of the so-called interim arrangements, i.e. the provisional administrative arrangements for the transitional period until such time as free elections can be held in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

On 22 May, on Saturday, the Foreign Ministers for Russia, Spain, Great Britain, France and the USA reached agreement on a joint action programme for the handling of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. The programme was drawn up after intense consultations. The programme groups together under five points the immediate active input, that which can be done immediately:

Point 1: The humanitarian aid for the population of Bosnia-Herzegovina is to be continued.

Point 2: The economic sanctions on Serbia and Montenegro in respect of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, most recently Resolution 820 of 17 April 1993, are to be implemented effectively until all conditions for their lifting are fulfilled, including the withdrawal of Bosnian Serb forces from occupied areas.

Point 3: The Belgrade authorities' follow-up of their declared willingness to close the border with Bosnia-Herzegovina will be closely watched. We are prepared if necessary, provided this is also acceptable to Belgrade, to send international observers in at short notice to monitor the effectiveness of the closure.

Point 4: The course is set for a rapid adoption of a UN Security Council resolution as the basis for the setting up of safe areas under military protection with a view to securing the continuing supply of humanitarian aid.

Point 5: The setting-up in the immediate future of a war crimes court as envisaged in the UN Security Council Resolution 808 of 22 February 1993.

Mr President, it will appear from the detailing of the main points above that we are dealing with elements which were already on the table in the previous efforts to make peace. The pro-

gramme is the outcome of agreement on a number of individual measures, whose implementation is considered urgent, and as such this action programme may prove useful. The basic for a peaceful, long-term and political solution to the Yugoslav conflict is still the Vance/Owen plan, and this was most recently confirmed in the declaration of 18 May 1993. With the action programme which I have briefly described here, what has happened is that the way is now clear for a reinforced action-orientated effort whose goal is the implementation of the peace plan in agreement with the EC countries, the USA and Russia.

[After the following debate Mr Helveg Petersen stated:] Mr President, I should like to thank the Members who have participated in the debate on this question, which does feature continuously on the Council's agenda, occupying a lot of Council time, and where new developments are constantly taking place.

I should like to repeat what I said on the so-called Washington Agreement. This is a short-term action programme, but quite definitely not a peace plan. There is no question of there being a plan to replace the perspective of the Vance/Owen plan for a peaceful solution in the region. The Vance/Owen plan remains the Communities' policy. It has been unreservedly backed up by the Council on many occasions, including its sanctions policy, which is necessary to force it through. The Vance/Owen plan remains the Communities' policy for the region. The next thing to happen – formally under the aegis of the Council – is that the Council meets on 8 June, intending to carry out a wide-ranging discussion of the question. The next day, the Foreign Ministers for the Twelve meet the American Secretary of State Warren Christopher, in order to discuss the position as regards the future moves in Bosnia.

93/210. Oral questions with debate on developments in political relations with Central and Eastern Europe

Date of issue: 26 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Statement in the European Parliament; Answer to oral questions

Mr Helveg Petersen, President-in-Office of the Council and for European political cooperation: Madam President, I should like to thank Mr De Clercq and Mr Barón Crespo for their questions, which give a welcome opportunity to give an account of the discussions in Council of this very important issue.

The report tabled by the Commission for the European Council in Edinburgh, and in which a move towards closer association with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe is suggested, is currently being studied in the Council. Discussions cover all the points taken up by the Commission in its report, including the question of accelerating the pace of liberalization of trade within the framework of the European Agreements.

The Commission has just sent the Council a communication, in which it sets out specific proposals for the implementation of the various elements of the Edinburgh declaration. The Council has since had its initial, very useful discussion on this. It was confirmed that Member States ascribe particular importance to Community links with the countries in Central and Eastern Europe. The Member States share the views set out by the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs and Security, which underline the importance of stability and the strengthening of democracy in the Eastern and Central European countries.

The Council stressed during its discussions the importance of ensuring that the file be well prepared before the European Council discussions in Copenhagen. It has therefore asked the Council services to present a report at the meeting on 8 June; this report is to be as precise and specific as

possible, so that the Council can draft the guide-lines or choices which are to be put before the European Council later in June. The groundwork for the decisions is thus well in hand.

But at the same time you will appreciate that it is not possible just now to say anything definite on the results of these discussions, or on the decisions which the European Council has to take at the meeting in Copenhagen in order to prepare the countries of Eastern and Central Europe for their future accession. I must stress this once again: work in the Council is well under way on the basis of the Commission's proposal, which has been warmly welcomed by the Council members.

As far as Slovenia is concerned, the Council signed an economic and trade Cooperation Agreement with this country on 5 April 1993. This agreement by and large contains the same provisions as the 1980 agreement with the former Yugoslavia. I had the chance of giving an account of the agreement's content during a meeting with the European Parliament's Committee on External Economic Relations at the beginning of April. I must remind you that the agreement should be seen against the background of the positive measures adopted in favour of those Yugoslavian republics cooperating in the peace effort, and the aim of which is to enable them to maintain those advantages they had in consequence of the old 1980 agreement.

Broadly speaking, the agreement with Slovenia is about giving free access to the Community market for industrial goods, and making substantial concessions in the agricultural sector, without any requirement for reciprocity. It constitutes a first stage in the links between the Community and Slovenia. It is established that later on it may be replaced by a European Agreement of Association in line with those the Community has signed with countries in Central and Eastern Europe. As the Parliament is aware, the European Agreements contain more binding provisions and are based notably on a reciprocal opening of the markets within the framework of a free trade zone. It will be possible to move in this direction with Slovenia, when both parties feel the conditions allow.

93/211. Question No H-231/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru on EC presence in Somalia

Date of issue: 26 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

If 'it would be regrettable if the EC were absent from the decision-making process which has so far been directed by the USA', as two EC Commissioners have declared, how is such an absence to be made good? Through a military contribution, perhaps? Or an increase in aid to a country which is a party to the Lomé Convention?

Answer:

As the honourable Member will be aware UNSC Resolution 814 of 26 March, among other things, decides to expand the size of UNOSOM and authorizes the mandate for the expanded UNOSOM (UNOSOM II) for an initial period to 31 October 1993, unless previously renewed by the SC.

Following the adoption of UNSC Resolution 814 the SC formally requested Belgium, Germany, France, Greece, Ireland and Italy, among other countries to provide troops to UNOSOM II.

On 12 April, the UN Fifth Commission approved, without voting, Resolution L.37, approving an amount of USD 300 million to finance UNOSOM II from 1 May to 30 June. The Community and its Member States will contribute to the financing of the operation.

I would remind the honourable Member that as to humanitarian emergency aid for Somalia the Community totalled contributions of some MECU 100 last year. Roughly half of this amount was allocated as food aid (over 230,000 tonnes) and the rest to other relief efforts, including the protec-

tion of humanitarian convoys under UN auspices. All individual Member States have also made substantial bilateral donations, some of which have contained elements of rehabilitation. As stated at the Third United Nations Coordination Meeting for Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia in Addis Ababa from 11 to 13 March 1993, the Community and its Member States stand ready to pursue this effort in the current year.

The Community and its Member States have decided to send a technical assessment mission to the country shortly.

93/212. Question No H-402/93/rev. by Mr Ribeiro on the situation in East Timor

Date of issue: 26 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

In view of the fact that, according to press reports, the President of the Council of Ministers, the Danish Foreign Minister, has assured a member of his own country's parliament that the Danish Government, the Community and its other Member States are following developments in East Timor attentively, and in view of the importance of the very recent United Nations resolution at the tenth session of the Commission on Human Rights, can European political cooperation say whether such attention and interest could lead to the dispatch of an EC observer to East Timor during the Danish Presidency, and whether any such decision would be coordinated with the European Parliament with a view to complying with its resolution of November 1991?

Answer:

Mr Ørstrøm Møller, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: I can fully confirm that the Community and its Member States are very attentively following both the general developments in East Timor and the court case against Xanana Gusmão in Dili. As indicated in the Presidency's answer to Written Question No 487/93¹ from Mr Torres Couto in April 1993 on human rights violations in East Timor, the Community and its Member States have repeatedly expressed their concern to the Indonesian authorities regarding the court case against Xanana Gusmão, particularly with regard to their respect for human rights. The court case was brought on 1 February 1993 in Dili, and representatives from the Community's embassies in Jakarta were present in an observer capacity at many of the proceedings. The procedure and pronouncement of the sentence on 21 May 1993, when Xanana Gusmão was sentenced to life imprisonment, will continue to be discussed within EPC against the background of the reports by these representatives. I can also point out that the United Nations resolution on the situation in East Timor, adopted at the tenth session of the Commission on Human Rights on 11 March 1993, was based on a draft document submitted by the Community and its Member States. Let me add that the Community and its Member States promptly protested twice to the Indonesian authorities about the court proceedings, because the authorities prevented the Community's representatives and observers from other countries' international organizations from attending meetings during the trial of Xanana Gusmão. The pronouncement of the sentence of life imprisonment for Xanana Gusmão will now [be] subjected to closer scrutiny.

Mr Ribeiro (CG): Mr President, I think that these answers genuinely follow on from the previous ones, in so far as the Minister tells us that the issue is being followed in a general and attentive manner that shows there is some concern. However, as regards specific issues, there were not any specific answers to specific questions. In this case in particular, the question was whether the interests of European political cooperation are reflected in a possible visit to East Timor and

whether this could be articulated by the European Parliament. I think this is extremely important since, as this question is already two months old – and it has now been two months since Xanana Gusmão was sentenced – the situation is much more serious. We cannot limit ourselves to a situation or an answer which includes ‘some concern’. Moreover, current reports are saying that Xanana Gusmão has begun a hunger strike.

This situation deserves something more than this vague answer about ‘following the issues in a general and attentive manner’. On the other hand, the Minister recently said that the issue of arms was receiving special attention. On this issue too, there were questions for which there was literally no answer, whereas the question was what is happening with regard to the monitoring of the supplying of arms to Indonesia in the situations which we have learned about.

I would therefore like to ask for a more concrete answer concerning specific measures and what will be done, apart from showing concern and following the issue in a general and vague manner.

Mr Ørstrøm Møller: In actual fact, I think that my answer was extraordinarily specific, for as I said, that affair will continue to be discussed within EPC against the background of the reports submitted by our representatives, and that also means the issue will be discussed obviously with regard to what should be done in a given instance. However, it is clear that I cannot say here today on the basis of a sentence pronounced on 21 May 1993, which still has to be discussed within EPC what the result of such a discussion might be. I do not believe it is reasonable for the questioner to say that nothing is being done about this issue. For openers, it has been the subject of intensive treatment. Secondly, I explicitly stated that it will be discussed within EPC on the basis of the reports submitted.

Ms Belo (PSE): Mr President, the representative of European political cooperation says that Political Cooperation is paying attention, but how can we be sure of this if, for the first time, we have neither a minister nor a secretary of state, but only a representative? If they are not paying attention to the Members, then how can we be certain that they are paying attention to East Timor?

In any case, the question I wanted to ask concerned the following: the European Parliament approved the sending of a delegation to Timor. Indonesia did not give initial authorization for this visit. The President of this House wrote again one month ago to once again ask for authorization for the visit. I would like to know what Political Cooperation is prepared to do to ensure that the visit by the Members of the European Parliament can actually take place.

Mr Ørstrøm Møller: When the questioner begins by expressing her dissatisfaction with the fact that the answer is not coming from a Foreign Minister, it is probably best that I do not reply to the question.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/196.

93/213. Question No H-429/93 by Mr David Martin on misdirection of European Community aid to Guatemalan military

Date of issue: 26 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Is EPC aware that there is great concern that European Community aid for Guatemala is not reaching the people for whom it was intended and is being diverted by the Guatemalan Government to

the military? What measures are being taken to monitor the distribution of this aid and what is being done to make sure it reaches the people it was intended for?

Answer:

The specific case mentioned by the honourable Member has not been discussed within the framework of European political cooperation.

The practical arrangements related to aid are being dealt with by the Commission, and the honourable Member may rest assured that aid distribution is being monitored closely.

Allegation of corrupt practices in respect of Community aid will be investigated promptly and rigorously. If the honourable Member has any specific evidence to offer, the Community and its Member States would be grateful if he would make it available.

93/214. Questions No H-476/93 by Mr Alavanos on statements by the President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and H-106/93 by Mr Nianias on the Republic of Skopje

Date of issue: 26 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-476/93:

In his statements made on 31 March 1993 the President of the Government of Skopje (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Kiro Gligorov, called into question the borders in the Balkans laid down by the Treaties of Versailles and Bucharest, claiming that these treaties will lapse following Skopje's imminent accession to the United Nations.

These statements sabotage any efforts that the official UN negotiators for former Yugoslavia might make in terms of confidence-building measures and are ominous in their general implications for the region. How does EPC react to these statements?

Question No H-106/93:

Could EPC tell us what it is considering doing about the activities of the present Government of the Republic of Skopje at the United Nations, bearing in mind the position taken by the European Heads of State or Government at the Lisbon summit and confirmed at the Edinburgh summit¹ concerning the recognition of that republic?

Answer:

I may be permitted to respond simultaneously to Oral Questions H-106/93 and H-476/93 by Mr Nianias and Mr Alavanos which cover the same subject.

The honourable Members will recall that on 7 April 1993, the UNSC recommended admission of the FYROM to the UN. UNSCR 817 urged parties to cooperate with the co-chairmen in order to arrive at a speedy settlement of the difference over the name. On 8 April, the UNGA, by acclamation, admitted the FYROM to the UN.

The co-chairmen of the steering committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia continue their efforts towards finding a mutually acceptable solution, in cooperation with

the parties concerned. In this context, I may refer to the response given in reply to Oral Questions H-40/93, H-54/93, H-62/93 and H-95/93 during Question Time in February.²

Furthermore, and in parallel, the sub-group of the working group on ethnic and national minorities dealing with the FYROM is continuing its work in the framework of the ICFY.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Docs 92/254 and 92/450.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/091.

93/215. Question No H-493/93 by Ms Llorca Vilaplana on the disappearance of children in refugee camps

Date of issue: 26 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

It was reported in the press in February this year that over 40 children living in refugee camps in Sweden had disappeared.

An inquiry into the disappearances, which were first detected in the autumn of last year, gave rise to differing interpretations and an investigation into the incidents was launched.

No explanation appears to have been found for these disturbing reports.

Do the Ministers meeting in EPC have any information on this matter?

Answer:

Mr Ørstrøm Møller, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: I fully understand the concern underpinning the question raised here. However, it is my understanding that it is based on press reports and rumours, and there are those who cling to this type of thing. It is clear that the matter to which the honourable Member refers has not been discussed in the context of EPC. So when I am asked what EPC can say on this matter, this very brief response is all I can offer.

Ms Llorca Vilaplana (PPE): The answer given by the representative of European political cooperation was certainly short. However, it is true, as he said so well, that there is a concern underpinning this question, namely that these events are occurring around the world with increasing frequency. You do not believe that the issue which I have raised is based on rumours – magazines and newspapers feature page after page full of stories devoted to these events, which still have not had any light shed on them. Indeed, it was the Stockholm CID that raised the alarm, as did the special school. In addition, there have been excavations in the environs of Stockholm to see if the bodies of these children – who were allegedly used for prostitution rings and pornographic videos – could be found. I would like to draw your attention to this fact, but I would also like to mention the series of allegations made, if you will, although these are not just allegations but real events to which these children were subjected. Children are the main victims in all displacements.

Mr Kostopoulos asked you before what could be done with these children who are wandering throughout Europe. Would it be possible to facilitate the adoption process for them? For there are a great many organizations which would adopt them, but their opportunities are limited due to a series of restrictive measures, given that these children belong to nobody and, at the end of the day, the governments do not take care of them either. I feel that a much more active policy would at least provide some comfort for those people who are reading reports about this every day.

Mr Ørstrøm Møller: Now the questioner has asked her supplementary, as if it had virtually been proven that such a thing had taken place. I do not believe that there is proof of this – at least not with regard to European political cooperation. The questioner also wondered whether something could be done to solve the problem which was described, with children travelling around in Europe. I think we can all agree that a fate of this kind, where children are forced to travel between the different Member States without their parents, is a frightful problem. But the question is whether, in the first instance, we should call upon the Member States to solve it within the framework of their legislation and the international conventions that must apply to the area concerned.

Mr Balfe (PSE): I came into this building at 8.30 a.m. this morning to meet the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs. I met the Minister of State, addressed four questions to him and he answered none of them. This question was tabled five weeks and two days ago. It reflects a particular concern in a country applying for membership of this Community. If Political Cooperation is unwilling to make basic enquiries about points made by Members, what is the purpose of Question Time? Is Political Cooperation seriously trying to address the questions of Members – and this is a very precise one – or is it just here on a defensive batting exercise? Will the Minister say whether or not Political Cooperation has made any attempt to find out the facts behind this question?

Mr Ørstrøm Møller: With reference to the meeting at 8.30 a.m. this morning, at which I – as the questioner implied – was also present and in actual fact answered him at some length, it is my belief that if the questioner listens to my speech again or looks at some of the papers which we brought to the meeting and distributed to the committee, and which in any case most members of the committee were very glad to receive, he will find that the greater part of the question that was raised is actually answered therein. Moreover, I added that I would look into the questions that remained, concerning supplementary material with a view to accommodating the questioner. As for the specific question concerning the extent to which European political cooperation will approach the Swedish authorities on the basis of rumours and reports in various kinds of newspaper[s], I will say that no decision has been made on the matter.

93/216. Questions No H-519/93 by Mr Hughes on security of Iranian political refugees and exiles in Community countries, H-535/93 by Mr Alex Smith on the violation of Security Council Resolution 598 by Iran, H-537/93 by Mr Falconer, taken over by Ms Oddy, on Iran's foreign debt crises and H-557/93 by Mr Newens on the brutal suppression of unrest in Iran

Date of issue: 26 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-519/93:

What measures have been taken to safeguard political refugees and exiles from Iran and what steps will be taken to prevent the Iranian regime killing its opponents in Europe?

Question No H-535/93:

What is the view of EPC on the fact that since 19 April 1993 Iran has been indiscriminately shelling Iranian Kurdish villages in the Iraqi Kurdistan border region in contravention of UN Security Council Resolution 598?

Question No H-537/93:

Iran is negotiating to reschedule its foreign debts. Given the massive expenditure taking place in Iran on rearmament, does EPC agree that a block on rescheduling would limit militarization?

Question No H-557/93:

Is EPC aware of, and does it have a position on, the brutal suppression by the Iranian regime of the wave of anti-government demonstrations and strikes which has swept over that country in recent weeks?

Answer:

Mr Ørstrøm Møller, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: I think it is a splendid idea to answer these four questions in one go, so that the matter can be treated as a whole. I therefore wholeheartedly welcome the President's proposal to give a joint answer to Questions 33, 34, 35 and 36, all of which concern Iran.

At the European Council meeting held in Edinburgh in December 1992,¹ it was agreed that in view of Iran's significance in the region, a dialogue should be maintained with the Iranian Government. It was decided that this dialogue should be critical and reflect our concern at Iran's behaviour in a whole range of areas, including human rights, the Ayatollah Khomeini's *fatwa* against Salman Rushdie, and terrorism. The Ministers agreed that improvements in these areas would be decisive for the degree to which closer relations could be established and trust created between Iran and the Community and its Member States.

At the European Council's meeting, the Ministers decided that the Community and its Member States would recognize every state's right to acquire the means to defend itself. At the same time, the Ministers emphasized that they felt very strongly that Iran's arms purchases did not constitute a threat to stability in the region. The Community and its Member States are familiar with the reports about Iran's military activity in the border area between Iran and Iraq, and I can inform the House that the situation is being followed very closely.

Since the cease-fire agreed in August 1988 between Iran and Iraq, there have been various reports on violations of this agreement. The Community and its Member States have repeatedly and urgently requested the parties involved to desist from actions that constitute a violation of the cease-fire, as well as from any other moves that might heighten the tension.

The Community and its Member States are also familiar with the reports on recent disturbances in Iran. They will continue to follow the human rights situation in Iran very closely and point out any violations of human rights to the Iranian authorities.

Mr Hughes (PSE): The President-in-Office has given a very general response that does not seem to have picked up any of the specific questions that have been grouped together. I would like to follow up my question on the security of Iranian political refugees and exiles in Community countries. I wonder whether the President-in-Office is aware that during the last 13 years the Iranian regime has mounted 21 assassination attempts in Community countries and a further 17 in countries that have applied for membership, most of them tragically successful. Last month this Parliament adopted a resolution on the latest of those assassinations, that of Mr Naghdi in Rome in March this year. He was a representative of the National Resistance of Iran.

With this in mind, I would like to put two specific questions and hope I can get specific answers. I wonder first what action European political cooperation has taken to condemn the use of state terrorism by the Iranian regime and the assassination of Mr Naghdi. Secondly, will European

political cooperation use its influence to make sure that this issue is raised in the United Nations Security Council? It is not just a European Community issue. The regime has been linked to the World Trade Center bombing and to the bombing in Bombay. It is high time it was brought to the UN and that we stop the dialogue that the President-in-Office has described.

Mr Smith, Alex (PSE): Well, if that is how European political cooperation treats a serious subject, which they could deal with in depth, I shudder to think how it will treat trivialities. I have two brief and direct points. Yesterday the French Government condemned Iranian air strikes against mujaheddin [mojaheddin] guerrilla bases inside Iraq which took place on Tuesday. Will European political cooperation issue a similar condemnation?

Secondly, to return to a subject which I have raised in this Chamber previously, has European political cooperation got any further information for me on arms and military material supplied to Iran by companies within European Community Member States?

Ms Oddy (PSE): Are the Foreign Ministers aware that Iran has an accumulated debt of USD 35 billion in short-term commercial debt, that its borrowing from domestic banks has reached 10 trillion rials and that the *mullahs* have printed unlimited currency? Clearly, with this level of debt there is social unrest. To give a few examples, on 17 January two repressive centres were set ablaze in Babol. On 6 February there were world-wide demonstrations in 216 cities. On 19 February workers went on strike in a major factory. On 22 February an oil well exploded and there was labour unrest in the south. Clearly we are seeing here a very serious economic crisis which could have implications for the whole world.

Mr Balfe (PSE): I must say that on the basis of the answers we are getting from the President-in-Office, I can see why not a single Danish Member has turned up for Question Time. They know that we will hear nothing. I am sorry, one has turned up!

I would like to ask the President-in-Office two precise questions in the hope of getting an answer. When was the last time that a *démarche* was made to the Iranian authorities on a human rights subject by European political cooperation and what was it about? Secondly, what consultations have so far taken place to establish a common position on Iran for the Human Rights Conference in Vienna? These are two very precise questions. Would the President-in-Office please give an answer.

Mr Ørstrøm Møller: I will try to come as close as I can to answering the questions raised. But to a large extent the best procedure as far as Iran is concerned – and the same applies to other countries as well – is for the Community to maintain what may be described as a critical dialogue. So when I am asked a specific question about when the Community or the Twelve last made a *démarche* – that was the word used – to the Iranian authorities, my answer, if you please, is that we are doing so continually. We are maintaining a critical dialogue with the Iranian authorities with a view to steering them in the direction just indicated by the questioner. So it is the opinion of the Twelve that it is this manner of proceeding which leads to the best results.

Possibly we could do it in such a way that we made a very strong *démarche* on special occasions and then allowed a certain period to pass without doing anything at all. But that would give the authorities in the country concerned the impression that we were not following events continuously, so we opted for another approach, namely a critical dialogue.

With respect to the question on what one might term acts of terrorism carried out in other countries, it is our attitude that this form of terrorism must also be condemned by the Twelve. When going into the question of what can be done to help with the right of residence or right of asylum, e.g. in some of the Member States for those persons who can be regarded as persecuted, I find my-

self forced once again to say what I have already repeated on many occasions: that this is a question which lies outside the field of competence of both the Community and European political co-operation. Rather, it is a question on which the countries concerned must take their own stance, and which they are trying to solve between them, so as to give those people exposed to this kind of threat the possibility of finding a place to stay.

It goes without saying that we are also following the social situation, and we are extremely aware of the economic consequences. We are acutely aware that vast economic resources are being used to purchase arms and the like, and the Community is following the situation very closely the whole time.

As for the specific question asked as to whether we were prepared to issue a condemnation – and my understanding, if my information is correct, is that the French Government yesterday expressed its condemnation of a military operation carried out in the area – no steps have been taken to do any such thing; but I shall immediately look into the matter and see whether the time is ripe for a reaction on our part.

Ms Belo (PSE): I withdrew my question because I saw that Political Cooperation was not answering specific questions, and my question was similar to those posed by my colleagues.

Mr Balfe (PSE): On a point of order, Mr President. Neither of my questions has been answered. I said when was a *démarche* made? Either the President-in-Office does not know because he is inadequately briefed, or he is refusing to say. Secondly, I asked what consultations had taken place in the run-up to the Vienna UN Conference on Human Rights. The President-in-Office did not answer the question. What is the use of Question Time if Ministers are either not briefed properly to give us the facts or have them and refuse to give them to us? When was a *démarche* made? Dates please!

Mr Ørstrøm Møller: I attempted to answer the question, and it may well be that some people think that it sounded as if I do not know. That may well be. I said that we are conducting a critical dialogue all the time with the Iranian authorities with a view to influencing the human rights situation, and when it was asked when we had made a *démarche*, I said that we were doing this the whole time.

[...]

I also answered that question previously by saying that we had opted to conduct a critical dialogue instead of making formal *démarches* interspersed with periods of inactivity on our part.

With respect to the question of what we are preparing for as far as the Vienna UN Conference on Human Rights is concerned, I can inform the House that we are also maintaining continuous dialogues and consultations with a view to obtaining the best possible result.

Mr Kostopoulos (NI): The President-in-Office said that the issue of terrorism belongs to the Member States, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity. Briefly, I would like to ask the following: Is there no discussion of terrorism within the framework of the cooperation in Schengen, Trevi, etc.? Is any mention made of the terrorist acts carried out by the Iranian authorities against students, Iranian democrats and resistance fighters? Have any measures been taken to protect them?

Mr Ørstrøm Møller: I have been misunderstood here, and it is undoubtedly my fault. I did not say that terrorist problems should be treated in the way claimed by the questioner. I said that the right of asylum was within the field of competence of the Member States, and that it was they who

should decide the extent to which they wanted to take in people who were exposed to threats originating from other countries.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/449.

93/217. Question No H-529/93 by Mr Bandrés Molet on immigrants held in the Plaza de Toros, Tangier

Date of issue: 26 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Since 20 August 1992 an unspecified number of black African immigrants have been held incommunicado in the Plaza de Toros in Tangier, without being allowed to communicate with their families or humanitarian organizations and under strict military guard.

It is possible that this situation could be the unintended result of certain agreements between the Government of Morocco and the European Community, or the Government of Spain acting as the Community's external border.

In view of this situation, what action can EPC take on behalf of these African immigrants who are being held illegally in Tangier?

Answer:

The case mentioned by the honourable Member has not been discussed in European political co-operation.

However, I will not fail to mention that the Lisbon European Council declaration made clear that Euro/Maghreb relations must be founded on a common commitment to international law, human rights, fundamental freedoms and democratic values.¹ Morocco is aware of the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to such principles in their bilateral relations with third countries.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/256.

93/218. Question No H-541/93 by Ms Oddy on the assassination of President Premadasa and Lalith Athulathmudali in Sri Lanka

Date of issue: 26 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Following the assassination of President Premadasa on 1 May and Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, leader of the Democratic National United Front on 23 April in Sri Lanka, what steps will EPC take to ensure peace and democracy in Sri Lanka and prevent a further outbreak of violence?

Answer:

Mr Ørstrøm Møller, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: On 6 May 1993,¹ the Community and its Member States sent out a statement in which they expressed their deep regret at the cowardly terrorist action which claimed the life of President Premadasa. Moreover, in that statement, the Community and its Member States expressed their solidarity with the democracy in Sri Lanka and their support for all those who, in the government or parliament or through political activities, are endeavouring to advance the cause of democracy. The Community and its Member States will continue to follow developments in Sri Lanka very closely and call upon all parties involved to demonstrate calm and exercise restraint.

I can add that it is worth noting that one of the first acts on the part of the president was to invite the members of the LTTE to negotiations on a peaceful solution to the conflict. It is equally positive that Sri Lanka intends to maintain its policy of openness to the outside world in questions of human rights and continued efforts to enhance the development of democracy.

We were also pleased to note that the provincial council elections in Sri Lanka, which took place on 17 May 1993, were conducted peacefully and without any problems.

Ms Oddy (PSE): There were seven provincial councils elected last week. Western province was a clear victory for the opposition. In two other provinces where the opposition won the government has nominated UNP chief ministers instead of the parties which have gained the majority. Would the Foreign Ministers not accept that this is not wholly in accordance with democratic principles? Will they exert pressure on the Sri Lankan parties to ensure that proper democratic principles are enforced? And will they continue to monitor the situation closely, because although there was no major incident in the election process, I have details of a number of irregularities?

Mr Ørstrøm Møller: I believe we should be happy with progress when it is made, and there is reason to be happy about the way in which the provincial council elections in Sri Lanka were conducted. I have seen no evidence anywhere to suggest that they did not go off smoothly and unproblematically. To me this would appear to be a significant step in the right direction. That being said, and having expressed contentment or happiness with the particular development currently underway, I can follow the questioner by going so far as to say that our efforts and deliberations will naturally continue, and that we are very closely following developments in Sri Lanka. If or when circumstances should arise, the Twelve should reconsider whether the situation merits action being taken to fulfil the need and objective expressed.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/199.

93/219. Question No H-543/93 by Ms Dury on Morocco as vice-chairman of the International Conference on Human Rights

Date of issue: 26 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

A major international human rights conference will be organized under UN auspices in Vienna in June. The conference is a highly important event. However, it has been reported that Morocco will be acting as vice-chairman.

Unless the Moroccan regime makes a significant gesture towards the hundreds of political prisoners in its jails, the award of this office must be regarded as inappropriate and shocking.

Does the EPC intend to react, either by urging that Morocco should show genuine respect for the principles of the International Bill of Human Rights or by challenging Morocco's right to hold the vice-chairmanship?

Answer:

As indicated by the honourable Member the Second World Conference on Human Rights will indeed take place from 14 to 25 June. General Assembly Resolution 45/155 established a preparatory committee which was instructed to deal with the substantial preparation of the Conference. The preparatory committee, which since September 1991 has met in four sessions, was presided by a five-member bureau composed of a chairman, three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur, with due regard to equitable geographic representation. The election of this bureau took place at the first session of the Prepcom, in accordance with GA Resolution 45/155.

In accordance with general practice at United Nations the host country, Austria, will preside over the World Conference itself. At the last preparatory committee, no agreement was reached on the distribution of membership of the World Conference's general committee.

As the honourable Member will be aware, seats are attributed among regional groups whose internal decisions are normally confirmed by the other groups.

The European Community and its Member States are calling upon all member States of the United Nations, independent from their election in the general committee of the conference or the bureau of the preparatory committee, to increase efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights. It is equally the opinion of the European Community and its Member States that the implementation of commitments already undertaken or to be expected at the conference is of utmost importance. In that sense the World Conference is to be seen as a historic opportunity to make progress in the future.

93/220. Question No H-550/93 by Mr Crampton on Western European Union: 'Platform on European Security Interests'

Date of issue: 26 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Does not EPC consider the Hague 'Platform on European Security Interests' of 1987 of the Western European Union, especially sections 1 and 2, to be rather out of date now? Is EPC going to ask the WEU to revise this in the light both of political events in Europe since 1989 and the Treaty on European Union?

Answer:

The Hague 'Platform on European Security Interests' of 27 October 1987 is [a] WEU document. The question of revision of WEU documents is a matter for the WEU to assess.

93/221. Question No H-552/93 by Mr Chabert on the Armenian/Azerbaijani conflict

Date of issue: 26 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

At the beginning of April the Turkish President, Mr Turgut Ozal, is said to have recommended the use of force against the Armenians, following the capture by Armenian troops of the Azeri town of Kalbadjan on 3 April after fierce fighting.

How do the Ministers meeting in European political cooperation intend to react to these sentiments?

What measures do the Ministers intend to take in response to the action by Azerbaijan?

In particular, are they considering suspending all support or Community aid to Azerbaijan?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are seriously concerned about the recent development of the Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] conflict.

On 7 April 1993 the Community and its Member States issued a statement on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh].¹ Here the Community and its Member States expressed their concern about the degradation of the relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] conflict. They regretted the enlargement of the combat zone to Kelbajar and the Fizuli area, they called upon the conflicting parties to stop the fighting and they urged the Armenian Government to use its influence on the Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] forces for an immediate withdrawal from the Azeri territory.

The International Community has on several occasions underlined that it rejects territorial gains and other *faits accomplis* through the use of force by whatever side in the conflict. Such actions are totally destructive in terms of the negotiation process.

The Community and its Member States have consistently argued that the parties to the Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] dispute should remain committed to the ongoing negotiations in the Minsk peace process, which represents the only realistic framework to reach a political settlement to the conflict. They note that at their first meeting in Ankara on 21 April 1992 President Ter-Petrosian of Armenia and Elchibei of Azerbaijan reaffirmed their public commitment to the CSCE talks. The Community and its Member States hope that these talks will lead not only to a cease-fire and a withdrawal of occupying forces, but also to a wider normalization of relations in the region, including the resumption of all economic activities.

The Community and its Member States have noted the latest initiative taken by Russia, USA and Turkey. The Community and its Member States welcome initiatives within the framework of the CSCE that give new momentum to the peace process. They urge the parties to sign the plan by 26 May 1993 as proposed by the mediators and to implement in good faith in order to allow the CSCE talks to reconvene in an atmosphere more conducive to successful negotiations.

The Community and its Member States underline once again that military aims are not and cannot be a substitute for peaceful cooperation in all fields on a regional basis.

The economic and humanitarian situation in the region is steadily deteriorating. The EC countries will continue to assist the ongoing programmes of humanitarian aid, but the relief work has been seriously hampered by the escalation of the conflict. The Community and its Member States, individually and collectively, will continue their humanitarian relief assistance as such assistance does not have political conditions attached to it. Recently the Community and its Member States made a further MECU 9.5 available for emergency relief work in Armenia and Georgia. It is, however, of the utmost importance that international aid to both Armenia and Azerbaijan is not used to support military purposes.

The Community and its Member States are in contact with the authorities of the neighbouring countries on developments in Armenia and Azerbaijan. Due to the shortages of food and fuel in Armenia, the EC has on several occasions appealed to Turkey to allow transports of humanitarian aid to Armenia.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/147.

93/222. Questions No H-565/93 by Mr Pierros on EPC efforts to resolve the Cyprus problem and H-1203/92/rev. by Mr Kostopoulos on a settlement in Cyprus on the basis of international law and UN resolutions

Date of issue: 26 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-565/93:

The Commission announced this week that its opinion on Cyprus's application for EC membership will be completed before July. The opinion, according to Commissioner Hans van den Broek, will 'unambiguously' confirm the Community's intention eventually to accept Cyprus as a member. Does EPC plan new initiatives to address the political problems stemming from Turkey's occupation of northern Cyprus, or does it plan simply to support the United Nations-sponsored talks between the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities?

Question No H-1203/92/rev.:

Bearing in mind that, in accordance with Security Council resolutions, the current regime in Cyprus is unacceptable and that the intercommunal talks are in severe difficulties because of the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr Rauf Denktash, what initiatives will EPC take to reach a settlement, in accordance with international law and UN resolutions, during 1993?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States, whilst welcoming the meeting on 30 March 1993 between Mr Clerides and Mr Denktash and the announced resumption of negotiations on 24 May 1993 in New York, still remain concerned about the situation in Cyprus and stress, in line with the Security Council resolutions, that the present situation in Cyprus is not acceptable.

The Community and its Member States, recalling their previous declarations on Cyprus and in particular the Dublin declaration and the Lisbon conclusions,¹ strongly support the UN Secretary-General's set of ideas and his efforts aimed at finding a just and viable solution to the Cyprus question. A solution which will respect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the country, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions.

The Community and its Member States have also made an appeal to all parties concerned to undertake, and implement at an early date, all confidence-building measures which can contribute to the settlement of the problem, especially those called for in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 789.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Docs 90/265 and 92/253.

93/223. Question No H-570/93 by Mr Cushnahan on the situation in Africa

Date of issue: 26 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

While it is wholly appropriate that the Foreign Ministers should devote attention to the continuing problems in the former Yugoslavia, have the Ministers devoted adequate attention to the deteriorating situation in several African countries such as Somalia, Ethiopia and the Sudan?

Answer:

I can assure the honourable Member that Ministers have been devoting all possible attention to the situation in African countries including the ones he referred to.

On Somalia – where the situation has clearly improved – I kindly refer the honourable Member to the answer provided to Oral Question H-231/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru.¹

The Community and its Member States fully share the concern expressed by the honourable Member as to the situation in Sudan. The results of the last years' fighting are alarming: an estimated 4 million people are internally displaced and approximately 270,000 refugees have fled into neighbouring countries. Hundreds of thousands are severely threatened by malnutrition and diseases. Already some 500,000 may have died in the wake of conflict.

Furthermore, there are severe violations of human rights. In this field, may I recall the decisive role played by the Community and its Member States in the adoption of a critical resolution at the UN General Assembly in December 1992 and in the appointment in Geneva at the UNHCR of a special UN rapporteur for Sudan in March 1993.

The Community and its Member States believe that only a comprehensive approach can contribute to overcoming the present situation. Some form of reconciliation has to be reached if an adequate level of humanitarian assistance to Sudan is to be provided. The Community and its Member States will continue their support to the peace efforts in Abuja under mediation of Nigeria. A reflection is currently taking place within the EPC and the Council framework on the possibilities for the Community and its Member States to contribute further to the peace efforts. Sudan will also be on the agenda of the Development Council on 25 May. In the meantime, let me stress that the Community and its Member States have been providing Sudan with very substantial relief aid. Unfortunately, even this has been limited by lack of access into many areas of Sudan. A mission from the Commission is about to visit Sudan to assess the situation on the ground.

With regard to Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Minister for Foreign Affairs visited EC capitals on a comprehensive tour to European capitals in late 1992 and in the beginning of 1993 during which he met several EC Foreign Ministers. In addition, developments in Ethiopia have regularly been discussed within the EPC framework, especially in view of the referendum in Eritrea. The Community and its Member States have noted with concern the decision of the OLF and others to leave the transition process. They will continue to urge all parties concerned to settle their differences through dialogue in the spirit of the National Charter.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/211.

93/224. Question No H-581/93 by Mr Dessylas on a hunger strike to the death of 22 political detainees in prisons in the Transvaal in South Africa

Date of issue: 26 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

On 1 May 22 political detainees, trade union leaders and members of the African National Congress (ANC), being kept in the Leevkop prisons in the Transvaal in South Africa began a hunger strike to the death to force the racist Government of De Klerck [De Klerk] to free them as he had promised in agreements signed with the ANC.

What immediate action do the twelve Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC intend to take *vis-à-vis* the Government of Mr De Klerck [De Klerk] to press for the immediate release of the 22 detainees in question and all the other political detainees in South Africa?

Answer:

As the honourable Member is certainly aware, the Community and its Member States made several *démarches* to the South African Government urging for the immediate release of all political prisoners.

The Community and its Member States note that the new situation in South Africa allows for any differences of view on this issue between the government and the ANC to be settled through direct dialogue. They expect this will be the case as far as the situation the honourable Member refers to is concerned.

93/225. Question No H-584/93 by Mr Ephremidis on the unacceptable decision by the Hungarian Government to ban historic symbols of the labour movement

Date of issue: 26 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

At the proposal of the Hungarian Government, the Hungarian Parliament, in the face of strong international opposition, has decided to ban historic symbols of the labour movement identifying them with the symbols of fascism and nazism.

Does EPC intend to protest to the Hungarian Government about this flagrant attack on Europe's historical past and call for the elimination of this provision which constitutes an insult to the anti-fascist struggle and the democratic traditions of the peoples of Europe and is contrary to international principles and the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights?

Answer:

The question raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation.

93/226. Statement on Guatemala

Date of issue: 27 May 1993

Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States express their utmost concern about the decision of President Serrano on 25 May 1993 to break off constitutional order and, in particular, to dissolve Parliament and the Supreme Court. These measures undermine the democratic institutions and violate civil liberties.

The Community and its Member States strongly urge President Serrano to re-establish without delay the democratic institutions which are fundamental to a successful conclusion of the peace process and the full observance of human rights.

93/227. Statement at the CSCE Human Dimension Seminar on case studies on national minorities: positive results

Date of issue: 28 May 1993

Place of issue: Warsaw

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Statement in international forum

Mr Quaade: Mr Chairman, speaking on behalf of the Community and its Member States I would like to congratulate you, Ambassador Cortese, and your staff for the successful outcome of this seminar. I would also like to thank Poland and the Polish authorities for having hosted us here in the past week.

I would also like to express our gratitude to our two moderators, Ms Karen Knop and Mr Jean-Pierre Worms, who carried out a very good work in the two discussion groups.

The Community and its Member States would also like to give a special thank to the CSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Mr Max van der Stoep for his very useful and valuable intervention in the beginning of this seminar.

The aim of this seminar was to concentrate on positive results on national minorities issues. We hope that some of the case studies on positive results, which we have learned about on this seminar, may serve as an inspiration to others in order to protect national minorities and promote the rights of persons belonging to such minorities. However, we are very well aware that the results put forward on this seminar are far from being complete, but should be considered as a part in a very long ongoing process.

This seminar which has taken place within the CSCE framework has demonstrated the close interrelationship between the question of national minorities, conflict prevention and the tasks of the CSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.

A special thank should be directed to the NGOs and experts who have contributed so actively to the seminar – both in the form of written contributions and interventions during the seminar. It is the view of the Community and its Member States that this seminar provided a useful framework for the furthering of the necessary and important dialogue between governments and NGOs. We are convinced that the exchange of views have been of mutual benefit.

We note that a solution for the handling of the conclusions of the moderators has been found for this seminar. During the seminar it was found expedient to establish sub-groups. The discussions took place in a constructive atmosphere. In this context, I would like to express our gratitude to all who contributed to the valuable work done in these groups.

In order to further improve the work of the seminars within the CSCE Human Dimension, I would like to suggest that in future the moderators in advance should prepare working-papers with a more specified agenda for the work in the respective discussions groups to be circulated to participating States in due time before the seminar. This would help to make our discussions more constructive and it would certainly be a useful guidance when appointing the experts for our delegations and in that way serve to make our delegations more homogeneous. In this context, it would also be useful if participating States as a general rule could be able to circulate their contributions in advance before the seminars.

The Community and its Member States hope that the constructive ideas put forward on this seminar will serve as an inspiration in the ongoing work of participating States on how to find viable solutions to the problems of national minorities.

This seminar has been the last one before the implementation meeting. We are looking forward to participating in this meeting here in Warsaw in September.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

93/228. Question No 165/93 by Mr Valverde López (PPE) on the Convention establishing Europol

Date of issue: 28 May 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 17 February 1993)

The Lisbon European Council called on the competent authorities to apply the working programme on asylum and immigration agreed at Maastricht and to prepare the Convention necessary for the establishment of Europol.

What is the current state of progress? What is the position of each government?

*Answer:*¹

1. As regards implementation of the work programme on asylum and immigration, the Presidency has forwarded to the European Parliament the texts adopted by the Ministers responsible for immigration at their meeting on 30 November and 1 December 1992.
2. With regard to the creation of Europol and the drawing up of the Convention necessary for its establishment, the honourable Member is asked to refer to the reply given by the Council to Written Question No 207/93 put by Mr Kostopoulos.

¹ This reply has been given by the Council of the European Communities, within whose province the question came.

93/229. Statement on Tibet

Date of issue: 1 June 1993

Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States were deeply concerned by reports of arrests of Tibetans including of Mr Gendun Rinchen and Mr Lobsang Yonten before and during the visit to Tibet, which their representatives in Peking undertook on 16 to 23 May 1993. During the visit the representatives tried to obtain full clarification from the Chinese authorities and requested that those detained were released at once. They also requested access to them. If there was any question of bringing individuals to trial, they urged the Chinese authorities to facilitate presence of foreign observers. The Community and its Member States will continue to seek full information from the Chinese authorities in Peking.

The Community and its Member States are also concerned at subsequent reports of police action against demonstrations in Lhasa.

The Community and its Member States, having received reports from their representatives who visited Tibet express their disquiet at the general human rights situation of the Tibetan people and urge the Chinese authorities to ensure that these rights are fully respected.

The Community and its Member States believe that the problems of Tibet can best be resolved through dialogue between the Chinese authorities and the representatives of the Tibetan people, including its spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, and urge both sides to engage in this without pre-conditions.

93/230. Statement on Malawi

Date of issue: 2 June 1993

Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States have followed closely developments in Malawi since the announcement of the referendum to decide whether Malawi should maintain the existing single-party system of government or adopt a multi-party system.

The Community and its Member States were pleased to note that many of the suggestions put forward by the United Nations concerning the conduct of the referendum have been adopted, even though some key recommendations were resisted until a late stage in the referendum timetable.

The Community and its Member States feel bound to draw the attention of the Malawi Government to certain important areas of concern. There are numerous reports of harassment and intimidation in various forms: physical maltreatment of individual multi-party advocates, obstruction, and cancellation of meetings. It is worrying that no responsible government representatives have made any public effort to restrain, for example, the activities of the Malawi Young Pioneers. Another concern is that the advocates of multi-party democracy have been denied satisfactory coverage of their views on the government controlled media, particularly radio, as foreseen in the regulations for the referendum.

In light of the above, the Community and its Member States believe that the Malawi authorities have failed to reach acceptable standards of democratic campaigning, thus calling into question their commitment to increased respect for human rights. Such action could lead international opinion to the conclusion that the referendum did not take place in a free and fair climate.

Nevertheless, the Community and its Member States are encouraged by the fact that advocates of both systems of government have now committed themselves to continued participation in the referendum process. For this reason, the Community and its Member States are providing international observers and financial support for the referendum. For this support to be maintained it is imperative that the remaining part of the campaign takes place under circumstances that permit the true views of the Malawi people to be reflected in the vote.

Finally, the Community and its Member States recall that the respect of human rights and of the rules of good governance remains the necessary condition for the resumption of normal cooperation.

93/231. Statement on Guatemala

Date of issue: 7 June 1993
 Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
 Country of Presidency: Denmark
 Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States welcome the return to constitutional order in Guatemala through legal and peaceful means.

They express their support to the new constitutional President Ramiro de Leon Carpio and believe that his appointment will contribute to achieving the necessary respect of the democratic institutions which are essential to a successful conclusion of the peace process and the full observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

93/232. Statement on a Council meeting (extracts only)

Date of issue: 7, 8 and 9 June 1993
 Place of issue: Brussels, Brussels
 Country of Presidency: Denmark
 Status of document: Press statement

[...]

[The Council made a declaration on the former Yugoslavia¹]

South Africa

The Council heard a report from its President on his recent journey to South Africa and the evolution of the situation in that country.

In his presentation to the press, the President stressed the following points: the Community and its Member States deem it important to be ready to adjust their policy towards South Africa concurrently with developments in that country towards majority rule and democracy.

The Community and its Member States see the establishment of the Transitional Executive Council as one of the most important steps towards majority rule. For the first time in the history of South Africa a kind of governmental forum with representatives of the majority of the population will come into being.

The Community and its Member States will take the following steps once the TEC is in place:

- a new development initiative will be launched. There will be a dialogue with the TEC on development cooperation. The Council (Development) has already adopted the major outline of the new programme, with more emphasis on democratization and support for institution building;
- Member States will, where appropriate, likewise be ready to enter into a dialogue with the TEC on development matters, including support for the election process;
- the Community and its Member States will be ready to enter into a dialogue with the TEC on future economic relations between the Community and South Africa.
- the Community and its Member States will strive to promote a decision within the World Bank, IMF and other relevant international organizations for a normalization of relations with South Africa;

- reporting under the Code of Conduct for European enterprises in South Africa will be discontinued. Heads of Mission will report annually on developments in the area of labour conditions, in particular concerning equality of opportunities;
- the Commission's office in South Africa will be upgraded to a normal delegation;
- the ban on military attachés accredited to South Africa and on granting of accreditation to military attachés from South Africa will be lifted, solely with a view to promoting the democratization and integration process in the security field;
- likewise, the freezing of official contacts and international agreements in the security field will be discontinued.

[The Council made a declaration on Somalia²]

Implementation of the CFSP

The Ministers took note of current preparatory work on security with a view to implementation of the CFSP and instructed the Political Committee to continue that work.

Iraq

Ministers noted that the critical situation of the UN Inter-agency Humanitarian Programme for Iraq gives rise to deep concern. The Community and its Member States will be prepared to contribute further to this programme.

Uruguay Round

The Council heard a report by Sir Leon Brittan on the state of play in the negotiations concerning the Uruguay Round.

The Council also welcomed the presentation by the French Foreign Minister of his government's memorandum on the Uruguay Round.

The Council had a thorough exchange of views on these statements, which should contribute to giving a new impetus to the negotiations with a view to bringing them to a successful conclusion.

The Council reaffirmed the Community's will to achieve a substantial, global and balanced result through truly multilateral negotiations. The Council considered that it is a main objective of the negotiations that international trade take place under commonly agreed rules so that unilateral action is avoided.

To this end the Council will follow closely developments over the coming months in order to permit the Commission to play an active and constructive role in the negotiations. The Commission will report regularly on progress in the negotiations with a view to creating the conditions for a satisfactory agreement.

Relations with the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe

With a view to the Copenhagen European Council meeting, the Council examined the various aspects of the Commission communication concerning closer association with the CCEE. The chapters in question concern the objective of accession, the establishment of more structured relations with the CCEE, including the possibility of meetings at Head of State and Government level, the improvement of market access, increased efficiency of aid and encouragement of economic integration.

The Council established guidelines or options relating to those various aspects, for submission to the European Council.

Relations with Russia

The Council noted a statement by Sir Leon Brittan on progress in the negotiations with Russia for a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.

[...]

Copenhagen European Council

The Council briefly discussed preparations for the European Council meeting in Copenhagen on 21 and 22 June 1993.

Those preparations are also the subject of the current tour of Member States' capitals by the President of the European Council.

[...]

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/233.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/234.

93/233. Statement on the former Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 8 June 1993

Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States pledge themselves to intensify efforts to achieve a lasting and equitable peace in former Yugoslavia in close cooperation with the rest of the international community. In this context, the Community and its Member States are looking forward to meeting US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, in Luxembourg on 9 June 1993.

The Vance/Owen peace plan remains the centrepiece of EC strategy for peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina. There is no feasible alternative to the Vance/Owen peace plan as the basis for reaching a durable political solution based on the principles agreed by all at the London Conference, including the sovereignty of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the inviolability of its territorial integrity, respect for its pluralist character, and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg who have the authority to pursue implementation of the Vance/Owen peace plan through contacts with the parties, have our full confidence and support in this matter.

The Community and its Member States welcome the measures developed and supported by the Community and its Member States in the Joint Action Programme agreed on 22 May 1993 in Washington by the Foreign Ministers of five members of the Security Council, with the aim of preparing the ground for the implementation of the Vance/Owen peace plan. They attach importance to the new commitments of the United States and Russia in this task.

The Community and its Member States lend their full support to SCR 836 on safe areas, which has as its immediate objective the protection of lives now threatened by aggressive military action, and which constitutes a first step in the comprehensive implementation of the Vance/Owen peace

plan. Implementation of this resolution requires additional troops and funding, and the Community and its Member States support the efforts of the UNSC to this end with other members of the international community.

The sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council against Serbia/Montenegro and the Bosnian Serbs will be rigorously enforced until the conditions in the relevant UNSC resolutions for their lifting have been met. The Community and its Member States will continue to monitor closely the situation in the Krajina, as well as any Croatian acts in contravention of the Vance/Owen peace plan in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They will initiate restrictive measures against Croatia if the situation so requires. They insist that all parties protect the lives and safety of relief personnel and let relief convoys pass unimpeded. The Community and its Member States are concerned about a possible spill-over of the conflict. They support a substantial increase in the preventive international presence in Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The Community and its Member States reaffirm that options for new and tougher measures must be kept open.

93/234. Statement on Somalia

Date of issue: 8 June 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Luxembourg, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States express their deep concern over the events in Mogadishu in recent days and condemn without reservation the premeditated killing and wounding of Pakistani soldiers who were conducting a weapons verification inspection with UNOSOM II. They express their regret and sympathy to the people and Government of Pakistan, and especially to the families of those who lost their lives.

The Community and its Member States reiterate their full support for the United Nations in its efforts to bring peace and stability to Somalia. They look forward to the publication of the Secretary-General's enquiry into the recent incident and the role of the factional leaders involved.

The Community and its Member States call on all Somali parties, movements, and factions to respect the cease-fire, to comply with the agreements on political reconciliation they entered into in Addis Ababa in March and to cooperate fully with UNOSOM II so that it can fulfil its essential humanitarian mandate.

93/235. Statement on Burundi

Date of issue: 9 June 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States welcome the good conduct of the presidential elections on 1 June 1993 in Burundi. They express the hope that the outcome of these elections will be respected by all the parties concerned. They trust that the President-elect and the government which will emerge from the free and democratic parliamentary elections scheduled for 29 June will continue along the path to democratization and reconciliation embarked upon by President Buyoya.

93/236. Statement on Cambodia

Date of issue: 10 June 1993
 Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
 Country of Presidency: Denmark
 Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States wish to congratulate the people of Cambodia on the historic and successful elections of representatives for a constituent assembly. The impressive high voter participation in spite of the special atmosphere that surrounded the election is a victory for democracy and for the peace process.

The Community and its Member States also wish to congratulate and thank the United Nations Secretary-General, UNTAC and participating international polling station officers for the enormous effort and hard work invested in the preparation and actual implementation of the elections.

The Community and its Member States call on all Cambodian parties to abide by their commitment under the Paris Agreements to respect the results of the elections, the conduct of which has been characterized as free and fair by all observers. They also call upon the constituent assembly to complete its task of drafting and adopting a new Cambodian constitution within 3 months of the date of elections. They encourage the parties which participated in the elections to work together constructively under the aegis of Prince Sihanouk, to facilitate the emergence of a government of reconciliation.

The Community and its Member States reaffirm their determination to continue their support for the peace process and for the reconstruction of Cambodia.

93/237. Annual memorandum to the European Parliament on the activities of the Community and its Member States in the field of human rights

Date of issue: 11 June 1993
 Place of issue: Brussels, Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Denmark
 Status of document: Report to the European Parliament

Introduction

1. The moral necessity and the universal character of human rights has gradually been developed as a fundamental element of the European identity to find it confirmed constitutionally from the end of the 18th century onwards. Although not explicitly mentioned in its original constituting Treaties, the European Community has been constructed by democratic states which by this means wanted to reinforce democratic and peaceful societies. The strength of European democratic societies has gained momentum, and gradually human rights has become more important in the relations of the European Community and its Member States with third countries.

2. It is not the aim of this memorandum to go into the details of the fundamental texts defining the basic principles and policies of the European Community and its Member States on human rights. Suffice it to recall the declaration on the European identity of 14 December 1973, the joint inter-institutional declaration of 5 April 1977, the European Council declaration on democracy of April 1978, the ministerial declaration of 21 July 1986, the preamble of the European Single Act, the European Council declaration on human rights of 29 June 1991¹ and the Development Council resolution of 28 November 1991 and 18 November 1992. In a forward looking manner the provi-

sions of the Treaty on the European Union in art. F, paragraph 2; art G. (new article 130u, paragraph 2) and art. J paragraph I should also be borne in mind.

3. In this context, the Presidency has, since 1987, forwarded to the European Parliament an annual memorandum on the activities of the Community and its Member States on the protection and promotion of human rights. The presentation of this memorandum is intended to keep the honourable Members informed about trends and developments in the period from May 1992 to April 1993, *inter alia* human rights violations in specific situations; activities of the Community and its Member States in international fora (specifically at the 47th United Nations General Assembly and the 49th Session of the Commission on Human Rights); the World Conference on Human Rights; human rights, democracy and development; and the resolution of the European Parliament on human rights in the world of 12 March 1993.

4. The memorandum is presented against a background of crucial events and developments in the field of human rights:

- from 14 to 25 June 1993 the World Conference on Human rights will take place at ministerial level in Vienna. It will focus the attention of decision-makers at national and international level, non-governmental organizations, mass media and the international public opinion on a programme of action for the further enhancement of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- 1993 has been proclaimed the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, people which in many parts of the world are particularly vulnerable to human rights abuses: the International Year will contribute to the better protection of the human rights of indigenous people, the strengthening of their identity and culture, the enhancement of their participation in national decision making processes as well as the larger focus in international fora on their plight.
- The international community has firmly rejected flagrant and continuing violations of basic human rights and humanitarian law. In this context new institutions such as an International Criminal Court and an *ad hoc* tribunal for war crimes in the former Yugoslavia are being further developed.

5. The memorandum has become a focal point in associating the European Parliament with the work of European political cooperation, as provided for in the European Single Act and in future in the Treaty on the European Union (Art. J 7). In presenting this memorandum the European Community and its Member States acknowledge the specific interest paid by the European Parliament to human rights questions. This was again reflected in the adoption by the European Parliament at its March session of the report on 'the human rights situation in the world in 1991-1992 and the Community policy in the field of human rights' to which the attention of the Presidency has been drawn in a letter dated 19 February 1993.

Human rights in the foreign policy of the European Community and its Member States

6. Through action they have taken during 1992, the European Community and its Member States have reaffirmed their belief that respect for, promotion and safeguarding of human rights is an essential part of international relations. It forms one of the cornerstones of European cooperation and is an important aspect of relations between the European Community and its Member States, and other countries.

7. This principle has been put into practice through further integration of human rights issues in political and economic relations, and in development cooperation with third countries. This has equally been reflected in the reports by the Commission and Member States on the implementation of the 28 November 1991 resolution on human rights, democracy and development. In particular attention is drawn to the following:

- in the updating of agreements setting out the terms of the Community's formal relations with other countries and groups of countries, human rights are, in accordance with the resolution on human rights, democracy and development, forming an essential element.
- At consultative meetings and meetings in the context of political dialogue, the European Community and its Member States and other countries or groups of countries, the human rights issue has become an integral part of the discussion. This has been reflected in joint communiqués.
- In the context of the European political cooperation common criteria have been identified which lay the basis of national policies on arms exports. Among these figures 'the respect of human rights in the country of final destination'. Violations of human rights were a significant factor in the imposition of arms embargoes (e.g. in relation to Burma and Zaire).

8. All these activities reflect the refusal of the European Community and its Member States that state sovereignty can be used as a shield for any country to carry out violations of human rights. On the contrary, they insist that the safeguarding of human rights and fundamental freedoms is a legitimate and urgent duty of the world community and individual states. In this context, the European Community and its Member States,

- actively participated in the efforts by the international community to investigate and halt the policy of ethnic cleansing and other grave breaches of human rights in the former Yugoslavia; strongly supported the establishment of an international tribunal for war crimes in the former Yugoslavia as set out in UNSCR 808; supported the dedicated efforts of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights Mazowiecki; established an EC Mission led by Dame Anne Warburton investigating the treatment of Muslim women in the former Yugoslavia; coordinated their follow-up to the recommendations in its report and welcomed and supported CSCE Rapporteur Missions, such as the Thomson/Blackwell missions to inspect alleged places of detention in the Republics of Serbia and Montenegro and probably soon in Bosnia. Further, the Community and its Member States – together with the United States – requested the establishment of the Corell mission according to the CSCE Moscow Mechanism. The mission has investigated the human rights situation in Croatia and has made a report concerning the establishment of an international war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. The report has been transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the President of the United Nations Security Council. The Community and its Member States have played an active role in the series of CSCE human dimension seminars, e.g. the seminars on tolerance, migration and persons belonging to national minorities, which have been organized by the CSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in Warsaw;
- actively contributed to the international humanitarian operations in Somalia;
- welcomed the submission and publication of the Report of the Commission on the Truth in El Salvador;
- supported and contributed to the deployment of a UN/OAS human rights observer mission in Haiti;
- continued to support international operations in Iraq, Cambodia and elsewhere;
- in addition, the European Community and its Member States continued to play an active role in the cosponsorship of country-specific resolutions in both the UN General Assembly (3rd Committee) and the Commission on Human Rights and to condemn serious violations of human rights wherever and whenever they occurred.

9. In order to make it easier for officials of the Member States and the Commission to have access to information about the complex field of human rights and existing procedures, and about the functioning of international fora dealing with human rights, as well as to be up-to-date on the positions taken by experts of the European Community and its Member States in various fora up to and including 1992, a handbook has been elaborated in the context of the European political cooperation.

10. The book is primarily intended for the staff in the Foreign Ministries of the EC partners, as well as for the staff of the Embassies and Missions of Member States. It could however be of interest to the European Parliament and therefore a copy of the English and of the French version of it is attached to this memorandum.

Human rights, democracy and development

11. The European Community and its Member States have made this important policy issue a fundamental element in their external relations. In the political dialogue with third countries human rights, democracy and development has become a significant agenda item.

12. In order to ensure coherence and consistency, two joint meetings between the EPC Working Group on Human Rights and the Council Development Working Group have taken place in 1992. Increased use has been made of the EPC communications network to exchange information on potential significant adjustments to development cooperation programmes with the objective of encouraging or supporting increased efforts towards democracy and respect for human rights and in reaction to serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

13. As part of the follow-up to the Council resolution of 28 November 1991 the Community and its Member States, at the 18 November 1992 Council meeting on development cooperation, reaffirmed their determination to give priority to their support for areas for positive action identified in the 1991 resolution, i.e. active support for:

- countries which are attempting to institute democracy and improve their human rights performance;
- the holding of elections, the setting up of new democratic institutions and the strengthening of the rule of law;
- the strengthening of the judiciary, the administration of justice, crime prevention and the treatment of offenders;
- promoting the role of NGOs and other institutions which are necessary for a pluralist society;
- the adoption of a decentralized approach to cooperation;
- ensuring equal opportunities for all.

They expressed the belief that these areas could be supplemented by action in other areas such as:

- promotion of free press and other media;
- participation by persons belonging to minorities in programmes of development;
- underpinning of peaceful settlement of internal and regional conflicts;
- support for political exiles wishing to return to their country of origin.

14. In the context of the European political cooperation the Community and its Member States have furthermore elaborated guide-lines for the promotion of human rights, democracy and good government in Latin America and Africa. These guide-lines form a general background to the co-operation between the Community and its Member States with Latin America and African countries and are a clear indication of the careful consideration given by the Community and its Member States to human rights, democracy and development in their concrete cooperation activities.

EC action with relation to human rights violations in specific cases

15. Since May last year the European Community and its Member States have addressed specific cases of human rights violations through various means at their disposal:

- action at the UN General Assembly and Commission on Human Rights and within the CSCE framework;

- the publication of over 60 declarations and statements;
- over 140 approaches and *démarches* to governments and other parties concerned were made;
- direct bilateral contacts and political dialogue;
- continued close scrutiny of situations based on joint reports received from Heads of Mission (since May 1992 more than eighty joint reports have been requested).

16. In the last twelve months, the Community and its Member States have been preoccupied with a number of issues which have required a firm, unequivocal and persistent response from their part, notably:

In Europe:

- Former Yugoslavia: policies of ethnic cleansing; violence against women; rights of persons belonging to minorities; attacks on and bombing of civilian population; detention camps; displaced persons; access for humanitarian aid;
- Albania: discrimination of persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities;
- Cyprus: deadlock in discussions under the auspices of the UN;
- Turkey: rights of persons belonging to minorities; reports on torture;
- Former Soviet Union: ethnic conflicts; attacks on civilians; summary executions; arrest of opposition members;

In Latin America:

- El Salvador: implementation of the recommendations of the *ad hoc* commission and other commissions set up under the peace agreements;
- Guatemala: extra judicial executions, arbitrary detentions, and disappearances; ill-treatment of street children; situation of indigenous people;
- Cuba: harassment of human rights activists;
- Haiti: extra judicial executions and arbitrary detentions and disappearances;

In Africa:

- South Africa: political violence and killings;
- Togo: violence; freedom of speech;
- Liberia: civil war;
- Ethiopia: political prisoners;
- Somalia: holding of National Reconciliation Conference;
- Rwanda: civil war, displaced persons; summary executions;
- Sudan: summary executions; detentions without process; torture; religious persecution; violations of rights of persons belonging to minorities including their forced displacement; access to humanitarian assistance;
- Zaire: violence against opposition; obstruction of democratic transition;
- Malawi: freedom of press; trade union rights; elections;
- Mali: implementation of peace agreement;
- Niger: tension among ethnic groups;
- Equatorial Guinea: political violence; arbitrary detention; torture of opposition members;

In the Middle East:

- Occupied Arab territories: killing of children; situation of detainees; breaches on the fourth Geneva Convention including deportations of civilians;
- Syria: political prisoners; arbitrary arrests; restrictions of freedom of assembly and expression; torture; disappearances;

- Iraq: arrest and deportation of civilians; extra judicial and summary executions; torture; disappearances;
- Iran: executions; torture; persecution of persons belonging to religious minorities including the Baha'i community; death threats against foreign nationals; restriction of freedoms of opinion and expression;

In Asia:

- Afghanistan: situation of refugees; access to humanitarian aid;
- China: restriction of freedoms of opinion and expression, religion, assembly, association and fair trial; arbitrary application of death penalty and its increasing use; rights of persons belonging to minorities; political prisoners;
- Burma: summary executions; torture; arbitrary executions; political prisoners;
- East Timor: violence against civilians; detention of opposition members;
- India and Pakistan: violence in Kashmir;
- Sri Lanka: implementation of measures to curb human rights abuses;
- Bangladesh: situation in Chittagong hill tracts;
- North Korea: denial of many human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- Vietnam: political prisoners;

17. Thematic issues, which have drawn the attention of the Community and its Member States, concern: the establishment of an International Criminal Court as well as an *ad hoc* tribunal for war crimes in the former Yugoslavia; women's rights; problems of xenophobia, racism and ethnic cleansing; torture; rights of persons belonging to minorities; religious intolerance; the holding of fair and free elections; the plight of streetchildren; the continued use of death penalty, forced disappearances.

18. In addition to *démarches* and other actions undertaken, the Community and its Member States raised explicitly its concern about country situation at the occasion of the third committee meetings of the 47th General Assembly as well as at the 49th Session of the Commission on Human Rights. [...]

19. Positive developments have occurred in different regions of the world as far as the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in a number of countries is concerned. The Community and its Member States have welcomed these positive developments through public statements, through positive measures in their cooperation policies and through the assistance offered to electoral processes, the establishment of democratic institutions and human rights commissions.

Third Committee of UNGA 47

20. The Third Committee session at UNGA 47 was carried out in a very well-organized and productive manner. The contribution of the Community and its Member States was highly visible: four resolutions were introduced (ethnic cleansing and racial hatred, street children, Iraq and Iran); a major role was played in introducing or supporting several other resolutions; EC cohesion on country situations remained strong. In sum, the Community and its Member States were seen as the only group to adopt common positions throughout the session. This had a great influence on the course of the events.

21. The Community and its Member States intend to continue to raise their profile on all issues in the Third Committee and to continue to promote increased UN involvement, on a case by case basis, in large scale human rights abuses.

49th Session of the UN Commission on Human Rights

22. The 49th Session to the CHR proceeded in a constructive and cooperative manner. A north-south division of the Commission was perceptible during the session, as in recent years, but dividing lines were not always clearly fixed. In general, voting pattern on the resolutions of the CHR improved in a direction favourable to the protection of human rights, including resolutions where the European Community and its Member States took the lead.

23. A number of new and important themes were dealt with in resolutions of the Commission, in some cases on the initiative of the European Community, bringing the total number of adopted resolutions up to 97 and decisions to 15 as compared to last year's 83 resolutions and 15 decisions. This development demonstrates the increasing importance attached to the Commission but also increases concern for its effective functioning. As an encouraging sign, the number of votings remained low at 15 compared to 16 in 1992. In only 2 cases out of the 15 did the Community members of the Commission split their votes. The voting pattern [...] is a good reflection of the strengthened internal cohesion.

24. The coordination activity among the European Community and its Member States reached an unprecedented level during the 49th Session of the Commission and the results achieved in this regard were equally satisfying. In general, the Community and its Member States significantly strengthened their internal cohesion and external visibility:

- 10 common statements were delivered (opening statement; former Yugoslavia; Occupied Territories; South Africa; racism and racial discrimination; human rights, democracy and development; the World Conference on Human Rights; country situations; rights of the child; advisory services in the field of human rights);
- the Presidency, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, introduced draft resolutions on seven subjects, i.e. three more than last year. These resolutions covered the following subjects: the situation in the former Yugoslavia; China; Iran; Iraq; East Timor; Occupied Territories; plight of street children;
- the Presidency and the troika, on behalf of the Community and its Member States, played a prominent role in the Western group where cooperation between the European Community and its Member States and other countries did not in general cause problems;
- The cooperation with groups and countries outside the Western group intensified and produced in most cases good results. This was the case in contacts with a number of individual countries, with the Rio Group, the Arab group, and for the first time also the four Visegrad countries (Hungary, Poland, and the Czech and Slovak Republics).

25. The Community and its Member States commended the Commission on Human Rights for having responded clearly and promptly to the grave and massive violations of human rights in the former Yugoslavia through the holding of two special sessions in accordance with ECOSOC Resolution 1990/48 of 25 May 1990. The two special sessions of the Commission so far have strengthened the credibility of the Commission as an operational forum in the field of human rights and enhanced the image of the United Nations in this field. Therefore, the Community and its Member States will continue to support the holding of special sessions when events so require.

World Conference on Human Rights

26. In the light of the priority the European Community and its Member States attach to human rights, they have supported without hesitation, and from the very outset, the initiative of convening a World Conference on Human Rights. It is the belief of the European Community and its Member States that the World Conference is an historic opportunity for the international commu-

nity to confirm the universality of human rights, to pursue a constructive dialogue on ways and means of improving their implementation and thereby also helping to promote progress in development. Being aware of the important role of NGOs with respect to the world-wide promotion of human rights, the European Community has made available funds amounting to more than 1 MECU in order to support the participation of NGOs in the regional conferences held during the preparatory process and in the World Conference itself.

27. The European Community and its Member States have actively contributed to and participated in the preparatory process leading up to the World Conference. This has included attendance at the sessions of the Preparatory Committee and, as observer, at various regional preparatory conferences. The European Community and its Member States have repeated and developed their priorities and expectations for the World Conference during this process – i.a. by the adoption and publicising of a position paper [...].

28. As stated in this position paper the European Community and its Member States expect, in essence, as an outcome from the World Conference:

- a confirmation by the international community of the universality and indivisibility of human rights and the reaffirmation that violations of human rights are a legitimate concern of the international community;
- an engagement to arrive at the full implementation of existing human rights standards, the universal ratification of human rights instruments and the withdrawal of reservations to these instruments;
- a decision on a system-wide approach to human rights within the UN;
- an agreement on practical measures in support of human rights and democracy as an integral part of development;
- a confirmation of the important role of non-governmental organizations, national institutions and the media;
- an increased proportion should, within the overall framework of the UN regular budget, be put directly at the disposal of the USG/High Commissioner in order to cover the costs of the Centre for Human Rights, the supervisory bodies, monitoring systems, advisory services. This enhanced budget should be used to reinforce the voluntary methods of financing the Centre's technical cooperation activities; the Conference should call for generous contributions to the existing trust funds;
- an agreement on the need for additional resources for human rights within the UN in order to give a strengthened UN Centre for Human Rights the possibility to execute adequately the many tasks entrusted to it;
- an upgrading of the Director for the Centre for Human Rights to Under-Secretary-General or High Commissioner for Human Rights with increased responsibility for coordination of system-wide activities;
- support to and follow-up on action and activities within the objectives of the International Year of the World's Indigenous People with a view to furthering, i.a. the current work on rights of indigenous people;
- strengthened action against torture;
- reaffirmation of all states to do their utmost to prevent and suppress all manifestations of racism and xenophobia;
- improved coordination between UN bodies and strengthened action as regards the rights of women and violence against women.

Dialogue with the European Parliament

29. In continued efforts to ensure the respect for, the promotion and protection of human rights, the activities of the European Parliament, has continued to play a significant, fundamental role in

raising public awareness, within and outside the European Community. By making use of the means at its disposal, and in particular by resolutions, parliamentary questions, and through the activities of its sub-committee on human rights, it has made a distinctive contribution to the promotion of respect for human rights. In this context, reference is made to the European Parliament's declaration on human rights and fundamental freedoms of 12 April 1989.

30. In the view of the Community and its Member States all institutions of the Community and each individual Member State have a common responsibility to work for the respect for human rights with every means at their disposal. It is the view of the European Community and its Member States that European Parliament can still further strengthen its role. Positive actions, e.g. through dialogue in the framework of joint parliamentary meetings and through active participation in observer or monitoring missions, can reinforce the positive contribution the Parliament can play.

31. The Community and its Member States have noted with appreciation the Resolution on Human Rights in the World and Community Human Rights Policy for the years 1991-1992 adopted by the European Parliament on 12 March 1993. They acknowledge the continued interest and concern of the European Parliament in human rights reflected in the decision of the Bureau to send a parliamentary delegation to the World Conference on Human Rights.

32. The recent activities of the Community and its Member States will hopefully be welcome to the European Parliament. The European Parliament can be assured that the attention of the EPC Political Committee is regularly drawn to human rights issues. Equally, the Political Committee will in the future, as in the past, not refrain from offering opinions which in the framework of the objectives of a common foreign and security policy and in the light of the November 1991 resolution, may require Community action.

33. The presentation of this memorandum to the European Parliament on the activities of the Community and its Member States in the field of human rights could in the future take place at the end of the year so as to coincide with and complement the reports by the Commission and by Member States on the implementation of the November 1991 resolution. By doing this, the dialogue with the European Parliament may be strengthened and the exchange on human rights may be improved between the Community institutions generally and Parliament and the Community and its Member States in particular.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 91/194.

93/238. Question No 71/93 by Mr Torres Couto (S) on the peace process in Angola

Date of issue: 15 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 9 February 1993)

The Bicesse Agreements between the MPLA and UNITA must be considered to have failed, since the subsequent elections in Angola have not resulted in the creation of a multi-party democracy, the institution of a parliament genuinely representative of the Angolan people as a whole or a lasting peace. In view of the threatened resumption of armed conflict, which would have the most severe consequences for the long-suffering people of Angola, can the Council state:

- what initiatives the European Council has taken or intends to take with a view to continuing the peace process in Angola;

- how it interprets the Angolan elections and the subsequent political disturbances, which have already led to what can only be called genocide at national level ?

Answer:

Reference is made to the statements issued by the Community and its Member States on 22 January, 17 February and 23 April 1993 respectively.¹

The situation in Angola remains a source of extreme concern for the Community and its Member States. We attach great importance to the implementation of the Bicesse Accords, which continues to be the basis and general framework for restoring peace in Angola. We have provided significant financial and material contributions as well as observers to elections in Angola, and support the UN's valuable role.

The Community and its Member States note with deep regret that the first democratic elections in Angola held in September 1992 and recognized as having been in general free and fair by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General were subsequently followed by violent incidents arising out of electoral disputes. They called for an immediate end to the violence and for all parties to respect the final outcome of the democratic process and to continue to implement the peace accords, in particular as regards the demobilization and confinement of their troops and collection of their weapons, the formation of the unified national armed force and the creation of conditions allowing the holding of a second ballot.

The Community and its Member States indicated that they would hold responsible any party which would obstruct the peace process, to which all parties have committed themselves and which has been democratically endorsed by the Angola people.

Unfortunately these appeals have not been followed. The Community and its States deplore the outbreak of widespread and fierce fighting in Angola and the heavy losses of human lives incurred. They appealed strongly to both parties, especially UNITA, to observe the peace agreement, to bring an end to the fighting, to abide by the results of the elections and resume the demobilization process. Likewise they appealed to the countries in the region to refrain from any act that could contribute to an internationalization of the present conflict. A solution cannot be found on the battleground. A general cease-fire is the first and immediate objective in this context.

The Community and its Member States see the prolongation of the United Nations' verification mission for Angola UNAVEM – as an essential contribution to maintaining peace. They fully support UN resolutions, in particular the recently approved UNSC Resolution 811 and strongly urged the parties concerned, in particular UNITA to abide by its terms.

The Community and its Member States welcome that the Government of Angola and UNITA have opened negotiations in Abidjan under the auspices of the United Nations. They express their strong wish that these negotiations will result in a peaceful solution to the Angolan conflict leading to national unity and reconciliation. There is a need for a re-establishment of the cease-fire and an immediate cessation of all hostilities.

The Community and its Member States are extremely concerned with the humanitarian situation in Angola. The United Nations has issued a strong appeal for humanitarian assistance. We are prepared to provide humanitarian assistance to the millions of Angolans who are the tragic victims of the fighting. In this context the Community and its Member States recall that they consider it unacceptable to make relief operations dependent on any conditions and they consider that all sides have an obligation to ensure that the humanitarian aid reaches the populations in need, irrespective of under whose control the areas concerned happen to be.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Docs 93/022, 93/062 and 93/177.

93/239. Question No 394/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S) on Iranians in the war in Sudan

Date of issue: 15 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 15 March 1993)

Has EPC any definite news of the involvement of Iranian combatants on the side of government troops in the war in Sudan? If so, what political comment can it make on it?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have no conclusive information on the issue raised by the honourable Member. However, the overall situation in Sudan continues to be a source of extreme concern for the Community and its Member States. I can assure the honourable Member that the Community and its Member States are following the development closely and that they are ready to support the political dialogue necessary to put an end to the armed fighting which is inflicting enormous suffering on the people of the Sudan.

93/240. Question No 597/93 by Mr Penders (PPE) on the arrest of NCR/*Handelsblad*'s Moscow correspondent

Date of issue: 15 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 11 April 1993)

1. Is EPC aware that the *NCR/Handelsblad*'s Moscow correspondent, Hubert Smeets, was arrested in Uzbekistan on 12 February 1993 and subsequently expelled as an undesirable alien for holding talks with members of the opposition 'in breach of the programme'?
2. Is EPC prepared to investigate this incident and request explanations?
3. Is EPC prepared to point out to the Uzbekistan authorities that CSCE membership and signature of CSCE instruments and the Charter of Paris imply a commitment concerning guaranteed freedom of speech and that the expulsion of journalists without a valid reason is contrary to this commitment?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States share the concerns expressed by the honourable Member. They agree that the participation of Uzbekistan in the CSCE and the signature of CSCE instruments and the Charter of Paris implies a commitment concerning guaranteed freedom of speech and that the expulsion of journalists without a valid reason is contrary to this commitment. The Community and its Member States are ready to point this out in their future contacts with the authorities of Uzbekistan.

Furthermore, as will be recalled from the answer given to Ms Van Dijk at the European Parliament's session in April 1993 (Question No H-279/93),¹ the Community and its Member States are, in their contacts with the authorities of Uzbekistan, underscoring the importance they attach to the full respect for human rights as set out in the European Council declaration on human rights of

June 1991² and the resolution on human rights, democracy and development of 28 November 1991.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/157.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 91/194.

93/241. Statement on North Korea

Date of issue: 16 June 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States take note of the joint statement of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America issued in New York at the conclusion on 11 June 1993, of government-level talks between the two countries, and the intention of the DPRK and the USA to continue the dialogue with a view to resolving the nuclear issue and to achieving a nuclear-free Korean peninsula.

In this connection the Community and its Member States welcome the unilateral decision of the DPRK to suspend the effectuation of its withdrawal from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. This positive step should now be followed by the DPRK's reaffirmation of its commitment to the NPT.

In light of their strong commitment to a strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, the European Community and its Member States call upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to honour all its obligations under its Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA and to reaffirm its commitment to the bilateral inspection arrangements agreed in principle with the Republic of Korea.

93/242. Question No 265/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S) on prisoners in Burundi

Date of issue: 16 June 1993
Place of issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 23 February 1993)

Are the 500 or so people who were imprisoned following the uprisings in Burundi in late 1991 still in gaol? Have they been informed of the charges against them or sent for trial?

Answer:

According to the last information available, between April and August 1992 about 70 people accused of involvement in the November 1991 insurgency had been sentenced to prison terms. Another five were sentenced to death but their execution had been suspended. About 400 people had yet to be tried. I can assure the honourable Member that the authorities of Burundi are in no doubt about the serious concern of the Community and its Member States about the sentence pronounced and the conditions under which the trials were conducted.

The Community and its Member States will continue to follow developments closely. They hope that recent progress made by Burundi towards a multi-party democracy will bring about full

respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, which include the right to fair and independent trials.

93/243. Statement on Azerbaijan

Date of issue: 17 June 1993

Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States are following developments in Azerbaijan with great concern and are alarmed by the possibility that the present armed rebellion might lead to civil war. They condemn any attempt to remove by unconstitutional means the democratically elected President. They urge all the leading figures in Azerbaijani political life to work for a peaceful and constitutional solution to the present crisis in which respect for democratic institutions and for the rule of law are upheld.

The Community and its Member States also consider a stable, constitutional Azerbaijan vital in efforts to negotiate a peaceful political solution to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh]. They regret that the present crisis should coincide with the positive responses of all parties to the Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] dispute to the peace plan presented by the CSCE. They hope that a swift resolution of Azerbaijan's domestic crisis will allow for the early implementation of this peace plan.

93/244. Question No 621/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S) on the Middle East peace process

Date of issue: 17 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 1 April 1993)

As a co-organizer in the working party on refugees, what progress has been made by EPC during negotiations following the opening of the Middle East peace process in Madrid?

Answer:

Each of the five working groups established within the multilateral track of the Middle East peace process has begun to work on practical steps within their specific domains. These are designed to broaden regional cooperation and to benefit the parties in concrete ways. Inter-sessional activities and seminars have become an increasingly valuable part of this process.

Two substantive meetings of the refugees working group have taken place so far. Issues under consideration include data bases, a survey of living conditions in the O[ccupied] T[erritorie]s, health, child welfare, human resource development, vocational training, job creation and family reunification. The Community has offered to compile an inventory of existing activities involving refugees in the Middle East and within this study to pay special attention to the issue of social and economic infrastructure. The working group has requested that one Member State undertake a 'Mission d'Evaluation' on the matter of family reunification.

These issues will be pursued further at the next meeting of the refugees working group taking place in Oslo on 11 to 13 May 1993.

93/245. Question No 622/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S) on the Middle East peace process

Date of issue: 17 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 1 April 1993)

As a co-organizer in the working party on the environment, what progress has been made by EPC during negotiations following the opening of the Middle East peace process in Madrid?

Answer:

Each of the five working groups established within the multilateral track of the Middle East peace process has begun to work on practical steps within their specific domains. These are designed to broaden regional cooperation and to benefit the parties in concrete ways. Inter-sessional activities and seminars have become an increasingly valuable part of this process.

There have been two substantive meetings of the environment working group. Issues under discussion include desertification, environmental management, data collection, training, maritime pollution and emergency response preparedness and waste management. The Japanese held a successful seminar on environmental management in Tokyo in mid 1992.

These issues will be pursued at the next meeting of the environment working group scheduled to take place in Tokyo on 24 to 25 May 1993.

93/246. Question No 631/93 by Mr Alavanos (CG) on the economic blockade of Armenia by Azerbaijan

Date of issue: 17 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 5 April 1993)

In a letter of 8 February 1993 addressed to the President-in-Office of EPC the Armenian community of Thessaloniki describes the tragic situation obtaining in Armenia as a result of the economic blockade by Azerbaijan accompanied by the hampering of its transport communications by Turkey. It requests EPC to:

1. express its condemnation of the blockade by Azerbaijan, which is a violation of international law, and call on the Government of Azerbaijan to lift this blockade forthwith,
2. suspend all EC aid to Azerbaijan until the blockade is completely lifted,
3. make representations to the Turkish Government with a view to securing the unconditional opening up of communication routes in order to ensure the free movement of trade and the unrestricted entry of all aid intended for Armenia,
4. support the peace process with a view to securing a cease-fire and a settlement between Nagorny Karabagh [Nagorno-Karabagh] and Azerbaijan, and
5. find emergency aid to Armenia and Nagorny Karabagh [Nagorno-Karabagh].

Has EPC taken note of this letter and what measures will it take to meet the above five requests?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are seriously concerned about the recent development in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabagh.

On 7 April 1993 the Community and its Members States issued a statement on the situation in Nagorno-Karabagh. Here the Community and its Member States expressed their concern about the degradation of the relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict. They regretted the enlargement of the combat zone to Kelbajar and the Fizuli area, they called upon the conflicting parties to stop the fighting and they urged the Armenian Government to use its influence on the Nagorno-Karabagh forces for an immediate withdrawal from the Azeri territory.

The international Community has on several occasions underlined that it rejects territorial gains and other *faits accomplis* through the use of force by whatever side in the conflict. Such actions are totally destructive in terms of the negotiation process.

The Community and its Member States have consistently argued that the parties to the Nagorno-Karabagh dispute should remain committed to the ongoing negotiations in the Minsk peace process which represents the only realistic framework to reach a political settlement to the conflict. They note that at their first meeting in Ankara on 21 April 1992 President Ter-Petrosian of Armenia and Elchibei of Azerbaijan reaffirmed their public commitment to the CSCE talks. The Community and its Member States hope that these talks will lead not only to a cease-fire and a withdrawal of occupying forces but also to a wider normalization of relations in the region, including the lifting of all economic blockades.

The economic and humanitarian situation in the region is steadily deteriorating. The EC countries will continue to assist the ongoing programmes of humanitarian aid but the relief work has been seriously hampered by the escalation of the conflict. The Community and its Member States, individually and collectively, will continue their humanitarian relief assistance as such assistance does not have political conditions attached to it. Recently the Community and its Member States made a further MECU 9.5 available for emergency relief work in Armenia and Georgia. It is however of the utmost importance that international aid to both Armenia and Azerbaijan is not used to support military purposes.

The Community and its Member States are in contact with the authorities of the neighbouring countries on developments in Armenia and Azerbaijan. Due to the shortages of food and fuel in Armenia, the EC has on several occasions appealed to Turkey to allow transports of humanitarian aid to Armenia.

93/247. Question No 693/93 by Mr Langer (V), Ms Belo (S), Mr Bertens (LDR), Mr Bontempi (S), Mr Canavaro (ARC), Mr Carniti (S), Ms Cassanmagnago Cerretti (PPE), Mr Coates (S), Ms Cramon Daiber (V), Mr Crampton (S), Ms Ernst de la Graete (V), Mr Geraghty (NI), Mr Iacono, Mr Laroni (S), Mr Melandri (V), Mr Oostlander (PPE), Ms Piermont (ARC), Ms Roth (V), Ms Sakellariou, Ms van Putten, Mr Vertemati, Mr White and Mr de la Cámara Martínez (S) on EC initiatives in the peace negotiations between Israel and Palestinians

Date of issue: 17 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 7 April 1993)

Following the elections in Israel, peace negotiations have been resumed between Israel and the Palestinians. When this process began there were still two superpowers which gave a fair measure of support to each side and ensured that the conference was relatively balanced. This could explain the rather modest part played by the European Community (and the United Nations). Meanwhile, the international situation has changed for good, and there have been calls from many quarters – from democratic forces in Israel as well as from the Palestinians – for the EC to exert a greater, constructive influence on the talks. We therefore ask the Ministers meeting in European political cooperation:

1. What is their view of the EC's part hitherto in the Middle East peace negotiations?
2. What action do they propose to take to bring the EC's influence to bear more effectively, with the aim of reviving the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians and achieving a just solution?
3. Does EPC consider that it would be useful to establish contact with the Government of Israel and the PLO as soon as possible to explore these possibilities?
4. What other initiatives does EPC consider opportune to promote a just peace between Israel and the Palestinians?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States believe that the Middle East peace process represents a unique opportunity, which must be seized. They therefore welcome the resumption of the peace talks on 27 April.

The Community and its Member States believe that for an agreement to prove just, lasting and comprehensive it will have to be based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. However, they recognize that it is for the parties to the dispute to establish the terms of a settlement, which, to be effective, must be freely negotiated and agreed among them.

The EC was invited to attend the Madrid Conference which launched the Middle East peace process in October 1991 as 'a participant alongside the United States and the Soviet Union'. The Madrid framework still underpins the peace process and a change of the formula is not on the agenda. From the outset the Community and its Member States, in full coordination with the co-sponsors, have sought to promote the success of the negotiations and bring comprehensive peace and security to the entire region.

An EC troika of senior officials has visited Washington during every round of the bilateral negotiations. The latest such visit took place from 28 to 29 April at the beginning of the ninth round. On each occasion they met all the parties to the bilaterals, the US and whenever possible, the Russian co-sponsor. Their role has been welcomed increasingly by all concerned.

The troika at ministerial level visited the Middle East from 30 March to 2 April. The purpose of the visit was to (1) demonstrate the EC's continuing commitment to the peace process; (2) encourage all parties to take part in the ninth round of bilateral negotiations in Washington; and (3) urge the Israelis and the Palestinians to seek a way out of the vicious circle of violence and terror in the Occupied Territories.

The troika visit was welcomed by all parties and substantiated the EC's intention to continue to play an active, constructive and balanced role in the peace process.

The EC and its Member States have a more direct role to play in the multilateral track of the peace process where it is co-organizer in three of the five working groups and chairman of the regional economic development working group (REDWG). The Community and its Member States have been active in making proposals for a wide range of cooperation activities to bring the

parties together and to consolidate peace when it is achieved. Several Member States have hosted meetings of the Steering Committee, which oversees the work of the multilateral groups, was held in London in December 1992.

93/248. Conclusions of the European Council meeting in Copenhagen, held on 21 and 22 June 1992 (extracts only)

Date of issue: 21/22 June 1993

Place of issue: Copenhagen

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Conclusions of the European Council

Introduction

The European Council welcomed the outcome of the Danish referendum and the prospect of a rapid completion of ratification procedures on the Maastricht Treaty in all Member States. It is determined that this important step should mark the ending of a prolonged period of uncertainty on the Community's direction and be the occasion for the Union to meet with renewed vigour and determination the many challenges with which it is faced internally and externally, making full use of the possibilities offered by the new Treaty. The principles spelled out by the European Councils in Birmingham and Edinburgh regarding democracy, subsidiarity and openness will guide the implementation of the new Treaty with a view to bringing the Community closer to its citizens.

The European Council in Copenhagen gave special attention, on the one hand, to action aimed at tackling the economic and social problems faced by the Community and particularly the unacceptably high level of unemployment and, on the other hand, to the wide range of issues relating to peace and security in Europe. It recognizes that only by proving that the Community is instrumental in contributing to the security and well-being of all the citizens can the Community count on continued public support for the construction of Europe.

The members of the European Council held an exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament. The discussion took place against the background of the increased political and legislative role which the European Parliament will have under the Treaty of Maastricht. The European Council underlined the importance of making the best possible use of those provisions while fully respecting the institutional balance set out in the Maastricht Treaty. It at the same time stressed the need for national Parliaments to be more closely involved in the Community's activities. It welcomed the growing contacts between national parliaments and the European Parliament.

[...]

GATT

The European Council welcomed the Commission's report on progress in the Uruguay Round to date. It underlined the need for the Community to continue to play an active part in achieving further progress while preserving the European identity throughout the negotiations.

The European Council stressed that it was essential to relaunch the multilateral process in Geneva as soon as possible on all topics, including agriculture, in order to complete a comprehensive, durable and balanced agreement before the end of the year. This was urgently needed in order to create the new, rules-based world trading system in which unilateral action is ruled out. A round concluded on this basis will promote the durable expansion of international trade which is a key to the promotion of economic growth and job creation in Europe and throughout the world.

Early identification of the main elements of a large market access component and real progress on services and intellectual property, including contributions from all GATT partners, would help to maintain momentum and pave the way for the conclusion in time of the final package.

Enlargement

The European Council took note of progress in the enlargement negotiations with Austria, Finland, Sweden and Norway. It noted that the initial difficulties encountered in launching the negotiations had now been overcome and that the pace of the negotiations was speeding up. It recalled that the negotiations will, to the extent possible, be conducted in parallel, while dealing with each candidate on its own merit.

The European Council invited the Commission, the Council, and the candidate countries to ensure that the negotiations proceed constructively and expeditiously. The European Council is determined that the objective of the first enlargement of the European Union in accordance with the guide-lines laid down by the Lisbon and Edinburgh European Councils¹ should become a reality by 1 January 1995.

Relations with Malta and Cyprus

The European Council considered that its guide-lines with regard to enlargement with the EFTA countries shall be without prejudice to the situation of other countries which have applied to join the Union. The Union will consider each of these membership applications on its own merits.

The European Council welcomed the Commission's intention to present shortly its opinions on Malta and on Cyprus. These opinions will be examined rapidly by the Council taking into consideration the particular situation of each of the two countries.

Relations with Turkey

With regard to Turkey, the European Council asked the Council to ensure that there is now an effective implementation of the guide-lines laid down by the European Council in Lisbon on intensified cooperation and development of relations with Turkey in line with the prospect laid down in the Association Agreement of 1964 and the Protocol of 1970 as far as it relates to the establishment of a customs union.

Relations with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe

The associated countries

The European Council held a thorough discussion on the relations between the Community and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe with which the Community has concluded or plans to conclude Europe Agreements ('associated countries'), on the basis of the Commission's communication prepared at the invitation of the Edinburgh European Council.

The European Council welcomed the courageous efforts undertaken by the associated countries to modernize their economies, which have been weakened by 40 years of central planning, and to ensure a rapid transition to a market economy. The Community and its Member States pledge their support to this reform process. Peace and security in Europe depend on the success of those efforts.

The European Council today agreed that the associated countries in Central and Eastern Europe that so desire shall become members of the European Union. Accession will take place as soon as an associated country is able to assume the obligations of membership by satisfying the economic and political conditions required.

Membership requires that the candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities, the existence of a functioning market economy as well as the capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union. Membership presupposes the candidate's ability to take on the obligations of membership including adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union.

The Union's capacity to absorb new members, while maintaining the momentum of European integration, is also an important consideration in the general interest of both the Union and the candidate countries.

The European Council will continue to follow closely progress in each associated country towards fulfilling the conditions of accession to the Union and draw the appropriate conclusions.

[...]

Other Central and East European countries

The European Council discussed the economic situation in Albania. It welcomed the conclusions of the Council (economic and financial affairs) on 7 June and the recognition by the Community of the need to ensure adequate support, through grants, loans or both to Albania. The European Council also underlined the importance of making full use of the provisions relating to political dialogue foreseen under the present agreement with Albania.

In order to strengthen the trade and commercial links between the three Baltic states and the Community, the European Council invited the Commission to submit proposals for developing the existing trade agreements with the Baltic states into freetrade agreements. It remains the objective of the Community to conclude Europe Agreements with the Baltic states as soon as the necessary conditions have been met.

Pact on Stability in Europe

The European Council discussed the French proposal for an initiative to be taken by the European Union in favour of a pact on stability in Europe. This initiative is directed towards assuring in practice the application of the principles agreed by European countries with regard to respect for borders and rights of minorities. The European Council agreed that recent events in Europe have shown that action in these areas is timely and appropriate. It welcomed the idea of using the instrument of 'joint action' in accordance with the procedures provided for in the common foreign and security policy.

The European Council invited the Council (general affairs) to examine the proposal and report to its meeting in December 1993 with a view to convening a preparatory conference on the pact.

Russia

The European Council welcomed the new initiatives in the area of political reforms in Russia undertaken by President Yeltsin. It hopes these efforts will be successful and contribute to consolidating democracy and a market economy.

The European Council welcomed the progress made recently in the negotiations on a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with Russia. It expressed its hope for an early conclusion of such an agreement, in the context of creating a contractual relationship between the Community and Russia which reflects the political and economic role which Russia plays on the international scene and where consultations – also at the highest level – are a regular feature of the relationship.

The European Council is looking forward to continuing the close cooperation with Russia in the political field and to jointly contributing to the solution of international crises. This is seen as an essential contribution to peace and stability in Europe and the world. The European Council agreed to propose regular Community meetings between its President, the President of the Commission and the Russian President.

The European Council expressed its readiness to continue and enhance its support for the Russian reform process. The coming G7 [G-7] Summit is seen as a timely opportunity to further the substantial efforts already made to support the reform measures underway in Russia as well as other countries of the former Soviet Union. The European Council took stock of the preparation of the discussion at the G7 [G-7] Summit on aid to Russia. The Community and its Member States attached particular importance to progress in Tokyo on issues relating to nuclear safety (power stations, nuclear waste, and dismantling of nuclear weapons). It welcomed in this context the substantial follow-up now being given to the guide-lines laid down by the European Council in Lisbon including the agreement recently reached by the Council (economic and financial affairs) on Euratom loans aimed at improving safety in nuclear power stations in former Soviet Union republics as well as in Central and East European countries.

The European Council also stressed the importance of putting the European Energy Charter into practical reality.

The European Council pledged the support of the Community to other concrete steps to promote the efficiency of aid directed towards Russia and to concrete projects aimed at accelerating the process of privatization, in particular through appropriate training of Russian entrepreneurs in the context of technical assistance. The European Council emphasized that the effectiveness of aid efforts depends on the existence of stability-oriented economic policies in Russia.

Ukraine

The European Council expressed keen interest in expanding cooperation with Ukraine. Substantial progress towards the fulfilment by Ukraine of its commitments under the Lisbon Protocol to ratify START I and to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapons state is essential for Ukraine's full integration into the international community and would promote the development of its relations with the Community and its Member States.

Former Yugoslavia

The European Council adopted the declaration on Bosnia-Herzegovina set out in [the] Annex.²

Relations with the Maghreb countries

The European Council recalled its determination to see the relationship with the Maghreb countries placed at a level of importance and intensity which corresponds to the close links which have been formed by geography and history. This should be done within the framework of an upgraded partnership between the Union and the individual Maghreb countries.

The European Council invited the Council to approve rapidly the draft directives presently being examined for a Partnership Agreement with Morocco.

It took note with satisfaction of the Commission's intention to submit rapidly draft directives for the negotiation of a similar agreement with Tunisia.

Conclusions reached by Foreign Ministers

The European Council took note of the conclusions reached by Foreign Ministers on the issues set out in [the] Annex.³

Common foreign and security policy – Preparatory work on security

The European Council noted the preparatory work already done by Foreign Ministers on security in connection with the mandate from the Edinburgh European Council and invited them to continue their work with a view to defining the necessary basic elements for a policy of the Union by the date of entry into force of the Treaty.

[...]

Racism and xenophobia

The European Council strongly condemned the recent attacks on immigrants and refugees in its Member States and expressed its deep sympathy with the innocent victims of such aggression.

The European Council reiterated its strong resolve to fight by all available means intolerance and racism in all its forms. It stressed that such intolerance and racism is unacceptable in our present-day society.

The European Council confirmed the commitment to protect everybody, including immigrants and refugees, against violations of fundamental rights and freedoms as embodied in constitutions and laws of Member States, the European Convention on Human Rights and other international conventions, including the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

The European Council recalled its previous declarations on racism and xenophobia and decided to intensify the efforts to identify and to root out the causes. It pledged that Member States will do their utmost to protect immigrants, refugees and others against expressions and manifestations of racism and intolerance.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Docs 92/253 and 92/449.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/250.

³ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/249.

93/249. Conclusions reached by Foreign Ministers meeting on occasion of the European Council in Copenhagen, held on 21 and 22 June 1993

Date of issue: 21/22 June 1993

Place of issue: Copenhagen

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Conclusions of the European Council

The Foreign Ministers, meeting on the occasion of the European Council in Copenhagen on 21 and 22 June 1993, agreed on the following conclusions:

Africa

Europe is Africa's major partner, politically, economically, and with regard to development cooperation. The Community and its Member States underlined the importance of a continued cooperation based on solidarity.

In 1993 the Community and its Member States have taken a number of steps towards deeper and wider cooperation with Africa. They stressed the importance of further expansion of cooperation in democratization, peaceful development and development assistance.

The Community and its Member States are committed to supporting the democratization process which is gaining momentum in Africa, including support for good governance, sound economic management and respect for human rights. They recalled the resolution adopted by the Council (development) on 28 November 1991 on human rights, democracy and development.

The Community and its Member States have engaged themselves actively in supporting the election process in a number of African countries. They will continue their efforts to coordinate this assistance to ensure that all African countries in a transitional process towards democracy are offered the necessary support and attention.

The successful referendum on the independence of Eritrea after 30 years of civil war has raised hopes that conflicts in Africa can be solved in a peaceful manner.

The Community and its Member States welcomed the increasing engagement by African countries in solving crises and armed conflicts, as seen recently in a number of cases. They also hoped that Heads of State of the OAU at their forthcoming Cairo summit will address the important question of conflict prevention and resolution. A useful contact with the OAU was established during the visit to Copenhagen in June of the Secretary-General of this organization.

The Community and its Member States have further strengthened development cooperation with Africa. The Lomé Convention forms an important element in this cooperation. Effectiveness and speed in the implementation of the European Development Fund is increasing to the benefit of all parties.

Development Ministers have agreed on a special rehabilitation initiative for Africa. At least MECU 100 will be allocated immediately to fast track rehabilitation programmes in selected sub-Saharan countries. The Council is examining a further special rehabilitation programme for developing countries.

South Africa

The Community and its Member States welcomed the recent major progress in the negotiation process in South Africa. They hoped that the parties will reach an agreement in the very near future that will set South Africa firmly on the road towards democracy.

The establishment of a Transitional Executive Council will be a further step in the normalization and strengthening of political and economic relations between the Community and its Member States and South Africa.

The Community and its Member States reaffirmed their commitment to contribute to the economic and social development of the new South Africa. Reconstruction and sustainable economic growth will only come about in a democratic and non-violent environment. Therefore the Community and its Member States stand prepared to provide support to the first free elections foreseen in April 1994 including election observers, as well as to strengthen their assistance to the democratization process and the efforts to curb violence.

Sudan

The Community and its Member States expressed their concern with the continued civil war in Sudan between the government in Khartoum and the SPLA factions in the south. Some 500,000 people have already died and many more have been displaced. The Abuja talks between the parties have made little progress towards a solution. There is also serious concern for the human rights situation in Sudan including repression of civil society in northern Sudan by the government, killings, arrests and torture by government forces in the war zones and killings, arrests and executions by rebel forces. They urge the Government of Sudan not to support activities which go against a constructive relationship with the Community and its Member States.

The Community and its Member States welcomed the increased attention which the international community is now directing to the humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in the country. An EC troika mission of Development Ministers is currently visiting the Sudan to underline the seriousness with which the Community and its Member States view the humanitarian crisis and the urgent need for all parties to ensure a resolution of the problems. Following the report from the mission, the Community and its Member States will consider how they can best contribute further to an alleviation of the plight of the Sudanese people including restoration of respect for human rights.

Somalia

The Community and its Member States welcomed the major efforts of the United Nations to contribute to the restoration of peace and security, to reconciliation and political settlement in Somalia and to prevent another human catastrophe. To this end, disarmament of factions and restoration of law and order are important goals. The Community and its Member States condemned the attack perpetrated on Pakistani UN soldiers which resulted in the deaths of 23 of them and the wounding of many more. Those responsible must be brought to justice. They also regretted all civilian casualties and extended their sympathy to all those affected by these tragic events. They called on all parties to comply fully with Security Council resolutions.

Angola

The Community and its Member States deeply regretted the suspension of the negotiations between the Angolan Government and UNITA and UNITA's continued efforts to seize additional territory through military power. The Community and its Member States expressed their full support for Security Council Resolution 834 of 1 June 1993, in which the actions of UNITA were strongly condemned and an appeal was made to both parties for a return as soon as possible to the negotiating table and for the re-establishment of the cease-fire. They reaffirmed that in order to solve the present crisis a peaceful solution must be found based on national reconciliation and on the principles of the peace agreement. The Community and its Member States were extremely concerned with the humanitarian situation in Angola. They call upon UNITA to accept the UN plan for humanitarian relief. The Community and its Member States committed themselves to respond to the UN appeal for assistance following the donors' conference of 3 June.

Mozambique

The Community and its Member States regretted the serious delays in the peace process in Mozambique. While it is heartening that the cease-fire is holding, it is most disappointing that not much progress has been made in implementation of the peace agreement. The Community and its Member States called upon the Government of Mozambique and Renamo to live up to the undertakings entered into when the peace agreement was signed. Furthermore, they restated their commitment to contribute to the rehabilitation and economic and social development of Mozambique.

Liberia

The Community and its Member States deplored the recent senseless killings of civilians in Liberia. The killings underline the urgent need to find a political solution to the crisis. The Community and its Member States reaffirmed their belief that the Yamoussoukro IV Accord is the best possible framework for such a peaceful resolution of the Liberian conflict, and they urged all parties to support the efforts of the UN and OAU Special Representatives to bring a peaceful end to the civil war.

Malawi

The Community and its Member States welcomed the peaceful and efficient conduct of the referendum in Malawi on 14 June, including the substantial improvement in the conditions for the final stages of the campaigning period. They are convinced that the outcome fairly reflects the views of the Malawi people. They urged Malawi's political leaders to work closely together in the new circumstances to safeguard human rights, promote democracy and to deal with outstanding governance issues, thus opening the way to the resumption of full economic cooperation.

Zaire

The Community and its Member States reiterated their support for the process of national reconciliation and wished to express their concern at the deterioration of the situation in Zaire, which is marked by a halt to the democratization process and by repeated infringements of human rights, notably the arbitrary arrest and detention of persons for crimes of opinion.

The Community and its Member States also denounced any incitement to ethnic hatred as reflected in political violence and excesses in certain regions of the country, which are causing massive displacements of people. They reaffirmed their support to the President of the High Council of the Republic and urged him to continue his efforts.

Nigeria

The Community and its Member States took note, with great concern, of recent developments in Nigeria which could place in question the transition to civil rule after successful presidential elections on 12 June. They expressed the hope that the transition to civil rule will be allowed to continue so that full democracy can be introduced in Africa's largest nation without delay.

Middle East

The Community and its Member States welcomed the resumption of the bilateral talks aimed at a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Arab/Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question. They urged all parties concerned to build on the results already achieved and to press ahead with substantive negotiations in a spirit of goodwill and compromise.

The Community and its Member States once more called on all parties concerned to refrain from all actions which could undermine the peace process. They remained convinced that the confidence-building measures suggested by the Community and its Member States and significant improvements on the ground, including of the human rights situation, would be instrumental in moving the peace process towards a successful conclusion.

In accordance with their well-known positions of principle, the Community and its Member States will continue to play an active, constructive and balanced part in the Middle East peace process, in both its bilateral and multilateral aspects. They commended the untiring efforts of the co-sponsors to move the process forward and are prepared to participate in international arrangements in support of a peace settlement.

Central America

The Community and its Member States noted with satisfaction the progress made in Central America to attain peace, dialogue and reconciliation as well as the achievements in the consolidation of democracy and regional integration.

In this context, they welcomed progress in the implementation of the El Salvador Peace Agreements and called on the signatories to fulfil all the remaining commitments, including the recom-

mendations of the *Ad Hoc* Commission and the Truth Commission, in order to complete the peace process and achieve national reconciliation.

The Community and its Member States expressed their satisfaction at the peaceful and constitutional outcome of the recent crisis in Guatemala and hope that the appointment of a new constitutional President will contribute to the strengthening of the democratic institutions, the full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the resumption of the peace negotiations.

The Community and its Member States also welcomed the signing in San Salvador of the Co-operation Agreement between the European Community and the countries of the Central American Isthmus which will contribute to intensify and further increase their mutual cooperation.

Cambodia

The Community and its Member States welcomed the holding of elections in Cambodia – thanks to the support of the United Nations – which have demonstrated the aspirations of the Cambodian people towards peace and democracy.

They noted the decision by the Constituent Assembly confirming Prince Norodom Sihanouk at the Head of the State of Cambodia. They expressed the hope that the peace process may be concluded in the best possible conditions with the adoption within three months of a constitution and the early formation of a government which will allow national reconciliation to begin.

93/250. Statement on Bosnia-Herzegovina

Date of issue: 21/22 June 1993

Place of issue: Copenhagen

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Conclusions of the European Council

The European Council reviewed the extremely grave situation in the former Yugoslavia and the latest negotiations between the parties to the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina on the basis of a report by Lord Owen to [the] Ministers.

The European Council expresses its full confidence in the co-chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia and encourages them to pursue their efforts to promote a fair and viable settlement acceptable to all three constituent peoples of Bosnia-Herzegovina. It will not accept a territorial solution dictated by Serbs and Croats at the expense of the Bosnian Muslims.

The European Council reaffirms its conviction that a negotiated settlement has to be based on the principles of the London Conference, reflected in the Vance/Owen peace plan, particularly the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the protection of human rights and the rights of minorities, the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by force, the vital need for humanitarian aid to be provided and reach those in need, the prosecution of war crimes and breaches of international humanitarian law.

The European Council supports the call of the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina for an immediate cease-fire. It reaffirms the need for wider international support for humanitarian aid and for guaranteed safe passage of convoys.

Speedy implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on safe areas is an indispensable contribution to the implementation of the objectives mentioned above. The European Council decided to respond positively to the request of the UN Secretary-General for men and money. It urged Member States to comply with that request within their abilities. At the same time, it appeals to other members of the international community to do likewise.

Sanctions will remain in place and will be tightened until conditions for their lifting set by the United Nations and the European Community have been met. The Community and its Member States will contribute further resources to their strict enforcement.

93/251. Statement on the European Council meeting in Copenhagen, held on 21 and 22 June and on the term in office of the Danish Presidency (extracts only)

Date of issue: 23 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Report on European Council to the European Parliament; Statement in the European Parliament

Mr Nyrup Rasmussen, President-in-Office of the European Council: Mr President, let me begin my statement to Parliament with a frank observation.

In the light of the dramatic developments in Yugoslavia, it might have been feared that the tragedy unfolding there would have overshadowed our summit in Copenhagen, would have made it difficult for us to agree on clear signals and deal with the major problems facing Europe.

I think that, on the one hand, it was morally and politically imperative for the European Council in Copenhagen to make a supreme effort to respond to the tragedy in former Yugoslavia. On the other hand, it was equally clear that the European Council had many other tasks to accomplish.

The Copenhagen meeting on 21 and 22 June took place at a crucial stage in European cooperation. The Danish referendum on 18 May and the prospect of an early British ratification made it possible to put an end to months of uncertainty. Indeed, for too long, we have had to use up political energy in a period of uncertainty – a period of time which should have been devoted to winning popular acceptance of the need to ratify the Maastricht Treaty. We now have a basis on which to get to grips with the major tasks facing both the Community and its Member States and hence to create renewed confidence and optimism over the future.

The greatest challenge today is to put the new European cooperation into effect. That must be done by taking practical decisions of direct relevance to ordinary citizens, enterprises and the labour market. We must now concentrate on the content of cooperation, and the new Treaty gives us scope and a new framework for political decisions. Practical work must be what the European Community is all about over the next few years.

I say that in order to stress – and do not misunderstand me here – that, now more than ever, the main thrust of our work should be on practical political decisions dealing with key questions of day-to-day relevance to the citizens of Europe, first and foremost, unemployment. I therefore do not feel that there is time for fruitless discussions on subjects such as new institutional structures, which divert attention away from the content of cooperation. They would not in any case lead to concrete results in the present situation.

The European Council in Copenhagen met this challenge head on. In a number of key areas it succeeded in taking important decisions and putting down markers for future work.

Allow me to make one or two more observations before I come to the actual practical decisions.

The Council meeting in Copenhagen was an unusual one in many respects. I have already mentioned that, from the start, there was a degree of uncertainty. Could we now, in the light of the tragic developments in former Yugoslavia, take decisions which might remove the uncertainty from Europe and restore confidence? We used the European Council meeting in Copenhagen to demonstrate that we are now taking the first steps on the road to security and confidence, have be-

gun to create new optimism and hope. We concentrated on two main themes. The first was the economy and employment. The second, Europe's security.

In assessing the conclusions of the European Council meeting here in Parliament, it seems to me that, as far as the economy and jobs are concerned, we might pause for a moment and make a historical comparison. The European Council first began to discuss the Community's internal market in 1982. Recent developments bear witness to the outcome of those discussions. I venture before Parliament to voice the hope that that first experience we had in 1982 will repeat itself in the years to come in a new first-time experience: we shall see the European Council and the Councils of Ministers, in cooperation with Parliament, take major new decisions, particularly in such areas as the renewal of Europe, economic recovery and employment, in an entirely new and much more up-to-date way.

Just think. For the first time the European Council in Copenhagen devoted over half its time to discussing how we can create a basis for new hope for the many millions of unemployed in Europe. I also feel that the initiatives and ideas of Commission President, Jacques Delors, got a good reception; I will come back to this in a moment. We have begun to take the first tentative steps towards achieving agreement on how the ground is to be prepared for the development of Europe in the next century. How do we bring about a combined economic and structural renewal in all our nations and in European cooperation?

The second main theme I have to address is Yugoslavia. I asked my closest advisers whether what actually took place at the European Council meeting was nothing but words and phrases or whether the decisions taken were really concrete ones when compared with those of earlier Council meetings. I think that, on this matter, we actually took a fairly far-reaching decision. For the first time, quite apart from the fact that the Member States of the European Community already contribute substantial forces to the operations in former Yugoslavia, the delegates to the European Council meeting in Copenhagen said to one another: on the matter of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 836, we should also play our part in terms of both money and troops.

We all know how quickly the situation is developing in Yugoslavia. We all know that, in the dramatic course of events we have witnessed, the international community was not able to give the right response at the right time, but we also know that the civil war and the terrible bloodshed which are taking place in former Yugoslavia have their own awful inner logic and dynamism. What we now see ahead of us are complex negotiations in Geneva and a demand from the European Communities for the establishment of a number of basic positions and principles which we feel should be applied in consultation with the three sides. In my opinion the European Council in Copenhagen met all these challenges head on. In a number of important areas we did in fact succeed in taking concrete decisions.

On the subject of growth and employment, the key developments were some concrete short-term decisions and indeed also a positive reception for the exciting new ideas from Jacques Delors. The European Council concluded that the EC and its Member States were firmly resolved to restore confidence by implementing a clear strategy for the short and medium term. We want to revive sustainable economic growth, strengthen our international competitiveness and bring down unemployment.

I will first briefly review the decisions we took on short-term economic policy. The European Council agreed that a coordinated economic effort based on the Edinburgh conclusions and the decisions of the Council of Finance and Economics Ministers in April should emphatically be continued and strengthened and should be extended into 1994. We noted with satisfaction that some of the Member States have taken new and supplementary measures as a follow-up to the April decisions of the ECOFIN Council.

The Member States must now lay special emphasis on these objectives for economic growth and employment in their national budgetary planning for 1994. In concrete terms, that will mean

moving forward with a number of public spending projects, particularly in the field of infrastructure, environmental protection and urban renewal, and promoting private investment.

The idea is indeed a simple one. It is as simple as it has been difficult to implant into our consciousness. We are well aware, as the Commission has pointed out so often in recent months, that many of the Member States have large budget deficits. But we also know that there are differences of scale between the various deficits and that the economic margin for manoeuvre differs from country to country. One thing we all have in common is that, irrespective of our national difficulties in terms of the economic crisis, it is quite clear that, if we all simultaneously decide to increase our investment a little more than we would consider appropriate on a national basis, but in the knowledge that we are all doing so at the same time, we will achieve a multiplier effect in sales on the Community's internal market which it is immensely important to emphasize in national planning, and that is in fact what we agreed on.

An extra effort must also be made at Community level. The European Council asked the European Investment Bank to increase the temporary lending facility from ECU 5 billion to ECU 8 billion and to extend its validity beyond 1994. Of these additional ECU 3 billion, 2 billion will be used for the trans-European network and 1 billion to strengthen the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises.

I would make a further point here: how often in our efforts to create a basis for new economic growth have we concerned ourselves with ways of getting interest rates down to lower levels in Europe? We have done so rightly, because we know that the short-term interest rate in Europe is three times as high in round figures as it is in Japan and the United States. It is therefore urgent, as Jacques Delors has said, to get interest rates down, and speed is almost more urgent than the extent of the reduction.

I am therefore particularly glad that the European Council meeting in Copenhagen also said: in addition to setting aside one billion ECU to strengthen the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, we now ask the ECOFIN Council to examine how an interest rate subsidy of up to 3% for small and medium-sized enterprises can be brought about over the next five years, especially in combination with job creation.

I think it is an important first step, and I hope and believe that the Economics and Finance Ministers will realize how necessary it is to secure a reduction in interest rates, not least for the very large group of small and medium-sized enterprises, which account for such a major share of employment in Europe.

The European Council emphasized the importance of a rapid implementation of the Edinburgh decisions on a massive increase in Community support for the less favoured regions in the EC. Allow me to remind you that total support over the period 1994-98 will amount to three times the value of the Marshall aid programme at constant prices. That is a very significant sum, something we often forget to point out in public but which also emphasizes how important it is to secure an early settlement of the legal treatment for the new funds.

The Heads of State and Government in Copenhagen therefore agreed that the regulations on the structural funds should be formally adopted before the end of July 1993. I noted with great satisfaction that the President of the European Parliament was in agreement on this point. I believe that it is important that this decision and this timetable be adhered to, so that we can move forward to the economic investment measures as quickly as possible, for the sake of both the countries concerned and employment.

There was also agreement that the Member States should be able to draw on a temporary EC lending facility of up to ECU 5 billion. The facility will run until the end of 1995. It will be used to step up the timetable for investment projects under the structural funds.

The European Council had a lengthy discussion on medium and long-term facilities to boost the competitiveness of our businesses and employment on the basis of an initiative from Jacques Delors. The Heads of State and Government gave a positive response to Jacques Delors' proposals for a medium-term European strategy to create economic growth ahead to the year 2000.

The European Council called on the Commission to present a White Paper on this to be examined at the Brussels summit in December 1993. In concrete terms, the Member States must present proposals to the Commission by 1 September for specific points to be contained in this White Paper. The Commission will of course – as prescribed by the tradition which has grown up – consult the partners to the labour market.

As I read the Commission's initiative presented by Jacques Delors, I see in the new proposals not only a traditional economic approach. I see much more exciting ideas indicating that Europe is beginning to understand that we cannot regain full employment as we once knew it; but we can create a European society in which everyone can lead an active life through a combination of work, training and personal development.

I was very pleased with Jacques Delors' presentation, and even more pleased at the positive reaction of the Heads of State and Government. I felt that we had now begun to take up topics such as the interaction between the environment and growth in the form of new ideas on levies for the environment offsetting reductions in income tax. Exciting ideas which we must take up if we are to find answers to the legitimate needs of our citizens for security and stability, to their concerns for the future, to their worries over jobs for themselves and generations to come and to their desire for an active life.

The European Council debate on the Commission proposals is now being prepared by the Council of Economics and Finance Ministers. They will also have to discuss the Commission's forthcoming proposals on guide-lines for Member States' economic policy in the light of the terms of the Maastricht Treaty, in preparation for a debate in the European Council which will also take place in 1993. Here I am thinking in particular of Article 103 of the Maastricht Treaty on the co-ordination of economic policy.

Of course, also in the economic area, we had a discussion on monetary policy. There was agreement that it was of crucial importance to create conditions for a rapid reduction in interest rates. That will make a key contribution to economic recovery in Europe.

The European Council expressed satisfaction with the development of the EMS. There was also agreement on this at the informal ECOFIN meeting in May. At the same time we called on the Commission to present proposals to be adopted by 1 January 1994 on the transition to stage 2 of Economic and Monetary Union.

The effectiveness of the efforts of the Community and the Member States on growth and employment is, as we know, increased by international coordination. The successful meeting of the Economics and Finance Ministers with the EFTA countries in April was a clear contribution to this. We also hope that agreement will be reached at the World Economic Summit in Tokyo next month on the basis for targeted action to promote economic growth.

The European Council assessed progress on the internal market, which has been in place since 1 January 1993. It is vital that the internal market become not only a legal but also an economic reality. The rules must be administered effectively and with as little bureaucracy as possible.

The Heads of State and Government noted with satisfaction that the Council of Transport Ministers, on the eve of the European Council, agreed on a package solution to the problem of road transport levies and other matters. This paved the way for the full liberalization of road transport so that the industry can be placed on an equal footing with air and sea transport which, as you know, are already liberalized.

The European Council stressed that the internal market cannot be made effective without full achievement of free movement of persons and free movement of goods, services and capital. That also requires measures on such matters as the fight against crime and the illegal trade in drugs and effective controls at the external frontiers. The Heads of State and Government called on the ministers responsible to expedite the work on these very urgent measures.

I now come to a subject which I know is of great concern to Parliament, and rightly so. It is absolutely vital to the future of our European cooperation that we try to create a Community which is close to the citizens. More closeness and more openness are absolutely vital for the continued development of our cooperation. The debate in all Member States over the past year has shown that significant progress cannot be made in European cooperation if our populations do not fully understand and support what is happening, one of the greatest challenges to us as political leaders is to bring the European Community closer to the citizens.

The European Parliament has also played an important role here in reducing the distance between the Community and its citizens. Our common aim must be to remove the democratic deficit in the Community, a problem to which many have rightly drawn attention. There is no doubt in my mind that the European Parliament will take on a greater role in that task in the future.

I also think that the national parliaments should be drawn more into the cooperation with the EC institutions. There is a need to step up mutual cooperation between the national parliaments on EC matters. That will also contribute to reducing the democratic deficit.

The Heads of State and Government assessed the results achieved in these areas in Copenhagen. We called on all the institutions to ensure that the principles of subsidiarity and openness are firmly anchored in all aspects of the Community's activities.

On the principle of subsidiarity, the European Council noted with satisfaction that the Commission now only presents proposals when they are in conformity with the subsidiarity criteria. We expect that, before the European Council meeting in Brussels in December 1993, the Commission will have completed its review of existing and forthcoming legislation in relation to the subsidiarity principle.

We also noted with satisfaction that the Council and the Commission are now applying the principles, guide-lines and procedures which were adopted in Edinburgh. We hope that the European Parliament will before long be able to make its final contribution to these endeavours.

The European Council noted the first progress which had been made under the Danish Presidency on the implementation of the Edinburgh conclusions regarding openness, including public access to certain of the Council's debates, the simplification and consolidation of EC legislation and the general process of information provision. The European Council called on both the Council and the Commission to continue its work to improve public access to information.

Considerable progress was made in the work on the new ombudsman institution under the Danish Presidency. Personally, I regret that Parliament could not accept the Council's proposals on this and on the proposed agreement on subsidiarity at the Inter-institutional Conference on 7 June. The European Council called on Parliament and the Council to solve the last outstanding questions on the ombudsman institution before the Maastricht Treaty comes into force and, as matters stand, we can happily look forward to the last ratification, that of Britain, taking place in a relatively short space of time. We are talking of only a few months.

The European Council also agreed to continue action to control fraud and irregularities involving the Community's budgetary resources. I think it is important to secure full implementation of the terms of the Maastricht Treaty in this area. In this way we are making another major contribution to building popular confidence in the EC cooperation process.

The European Council of course also had a discussion in depth on the Uruguay Round. We all agreed on the need for renewed progress as soon as possible in the multilateral negotiations in

Geneva on all the outstanding questions, including agriculture. Our firm objective is to conclude a general, lasting and balanced agreement before the close of the year.

The European Council also took a concrete decision on the enlargement negotiations with Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway, which were launched under the Danish Presidency. We called on the Commission, the Council and the applicant countries to press ahead with the negotiations, with a view to achieving our joint aim of membership for these four countries by 1 January 1995.

A very important topic, which I believe will have a significant outcome, was of course that of Central and Eastern Europe. We agreed that the countries which have Association Agreements with the EC can become members of the Community. Accession will take place as soon as an associated country is able to assume the obligations of membership.

Our new partner countries will not be satisfied with the prospect of membership alone. We must, as of now, make concrete concessions to these countries which will improve their scope for exports to the EC. The European Council therefore approved the package which significantly improves market access for these countries. At the same time the Community will continue to earmark considerable resources for technical assistance to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The Community will make active use of the financing arrangements of the European Investment Bank and its medium-term lending facilities aimed at these countries. Not least in the political dialogue at ministerial level and at all levels, there was agreement on the need for an improvement.

The European Council also called on the Commission to present proposals on free trade agreements with the Baltic countries. For these countries too, therefore, there will be a clear improvement in prospects for greater market access. We also agreed that the aim of the Community was to enter into Association Agreements with the Baltic states when the necessary conditions were met.

The Heads of State and Government discussed the French proposal on a pact for stability in Europe. We called on the Council to deal with the proposal at Foreign Minister level in preparation for the European Council meeting in Brussels in December 1993. The Commission indicated that it would shortly present its opinion on the applications of Malta and Cyprus for membership. The Council will then discuss these applications in the light of the special circumstances of each country.

On the subject of Turkey we agreed to call on the Council to secure the implementation of the guide-lines which were outlined at the European Council meeting in Lisbon.

I would like to make one or two additional observations on relations with Russia. It is clear to everyone that the European Community's relations with Russia form a key element in our pattern of external relations. The European Council noted with satisfaction the recent progress in negotiations on a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement. But we also went considerably further in Copenhagen. We did so because we have long held that there is perhaps not the balance in relations between Russia and the European Communities which Russia itself, as a large and important nation, rightly feels entitled to expect. The European Council therefore decided in Copenhagen to set up a permanent political dialogue at top level between the Russian leadership and the leadership of the European Communities, involving both the European Council and the Commission on the one hand and the ministerial level generally on the other hand.

We are now offering the hand of friendship to Russia, which should be seen in the context of the conclusion of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement we are now negotiating. It is also a recognition of the fact that, of course, the European Communities see harmony with Russia in the same perspective as the transatlantic dialogue we have with the USA and Canada. We reaffirmed our desire to continue and expand our support to the Russian reform process and look forward to the forthcoming G7 [G-7] meeting in Tokyo in July. Finally the European Council voiced its keen interest in developing cooperation with Ukraine.

The situation in the former Yugoslavia was, as I have already stated, a main theme of the meeting. The grave seriousness of the situation was emphasized by, amongst others, President Izetbegovic, who came to Copenhagen to meet the EC troika. We assessed developments in detail at the Copenhagen meeting. The only statement adopted was in fact concerned with former Yugoslavia.

We confirmed that the solution must be based on the principles of the London Conference, reflected in the Vance/Owen plan. According to these principles, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina must be maintained, the protection of human rights and minority rights must be guaranteed and the acquisition of territory by force is declared inadmissible; the principles also include the provision of humanitarian aid and the prosecution of war criminals. The European Council supported the demand of the Muslims for an immediate cease-fire and backed the rapid implementation of the UN resolutions on safe areas; it also expressed the desire to contribute to achieving the aims I have just indicated.

I now come to a part of the statement on which I wish to lay particular emphasis: as I said in my introduction, we decided in Copenhagen that the Members of the European Council were prepared to give an effective response to the appeal of the UN Secretary-General for the men and financial resources needed to implement Resolution 836. That resolution is of course also addressed to other countries outside our Community, but it was important for us in Copenhagen to reaffirm that words must be followed by deeds. The sanctions will be upheld and made more effective. The Community and its Member States – and that means all Member States – will contribute further to the strict observance of the sanctions.

The European Council also discussed racism and xenophobia. We condemned in the strongest terms the recent attacks on immigrants and refugees in Community Member States. The European Council is firmly resolved to combat intolerance and racism in all its manifestations with all the means at its disposal.

I would also draw Parliament's attention to the important conclusions the Council adopted on relations with the Maghreb countries, on Africa, the Middle East, Central America, Cambodia and the common foreign and security policy.

To sum up, it is my assessment that the European Council meeting in Copenhagen may be the first step in a period in which resolute action, speed and effectiveness are at a premium in our decision-making. No one can be certain; it is the first meeting we have had since the completion (almost) of the Maastricht ratification process. It is important that the Council and Parliament, together with the Commission, ensure that the first step we have now taken is followed up by resolute action. I hope for good cooperation with Parliament so that, together, we can transpose the visions and outline decisions we have conceived into practical and tangible results of benefit to the citizens of Europe.

[...]

[After the following debate Mr Helveg Petersen, President-in-Office of the Council, stated:] Mr President, on 1 January the EC found itself in a period of transition marked by uncertainty. Many people were questioning the basis and orientation of our cooperation. There was a great deal of uncertainty surrounding economic and social development. Now we are able to put this uncertainty behind us. The Maastricht Treaty and the Edinburgh decision come into force in the autumn. The Community can now concentrate with renewed energy on the many major problems and challenges facing us. The Danish Presidency has seen one of its principal tasks as being the restoration of confidence and faith in the future. The fight against rising unemployment has been one of the Presidency's primary tasks. The President of the European Council has already talked about the growth and employment initiative and the conclusions of the Copenhagen summit, so I shall not say anything more on that.

Openness and subsidiarity in the Community have been given very high priority during the Danish Presidency. We are well down the road in terms of putting the Edinburgh decisions into practice. As regards openness we have achieved solid results all round: access to the Council's work, information on the Council's role and its decision-making process, simplification of and easier access to Community legislation and improved public access to the information available to the Community institutions. In all, 9 open Council debates have been held under the Danish Presidency. The public has thereby been able to see how the Council works in practice. I believe that this has dispelled some of the mystique surrounding the way in which the EC functions. The public Council meetings have covered a wide range of topics: general work programmes, agriculture, the internal market, employment, social dialogue and development policy, to name but a few areas.

We have also made good progress with implementing the Edinburgh decisions on information about the Council's work and decision-making process. Background information ahead of Council meetings has been improved. Press briefings have been consistently held, both before and after the Council meetings. The general information on the Council's role has been increased and improved. Work on altering the Council rules of procedure is also well in hand with a view to publication of formal votes. Guide-lines have been approved for the drafting of EC legislation which encourage simplification, and thereby improve the public's chances of understanding it. The aim is to improve the quality and hence the accessibility of future EC legislation. The same applies to current legislation. Work on this is already far advanced.

Openness and public access to the institutions' documents are inseparably linked. The Commission has issued two reports on this subject during the Danish Presidency. The basic principle in both reports is a general rule on the right of access to files with a very few exceptions. Against the background of the Commission's report, we in Council have been working on the drafting of the more detailed principles and guide-lines for access to files. The European Council in Copenhagen noted this progress and gave added impetus to continuing work in this high priority area.

As regards subsidiarity too, we have made solid progress, although – it must be admitted – not as much as the Presidency would have liked. The subsidiarity principle is now an integral part of Council debates. In each and every case, an assessment is made of whether a given measure should be dealt with by the EC, or whether the Member States are equally capable of doing the job themselves. During the Danish Presidency we have furthermore tried to lay the foundations for an inter-institutional agreement between the three institutions within the framework of the triad. Several meetings have taken place with the Parliament. The Presidency has gone to considerable trouble in order to accommodate the Parliament's wishes. At the inter-institutional meeting on 7 June, a balanced compromise text was tabled, based on the European Parliament's original proposal. In spite of this, the European Parliament did not wish to contribute to a result in the shape of an inter-institutional agreement between the three institutions. This is to be regretted, not least on account of the European public, which watches closely to see how we translate the subsidiarity principle into practice.

The same applies to the question of an EC ombudsman, which has been a matter of priority for the Danish Presidency. The Presidency had expended considerable effort in drafting a compromise text, closely resembling the Parliament's own proposal. Let me here take advantage of the opportunity to restate the rules of play which traditionally apply to inter-institutional agreements. Firstly, such agreements cannot lead to treaty alterations by the back door. The rules governing treaty alterations are laid down in detail in both the Rome and Maastricht Treaties. Secondly, the rule of play whereby we try to reach solutions on a case-by-case basis and not link up different subjects with different bases in order to reach agreement. Even though the attempt to reach an inter-institutional agreement on subsidiarity with the Parliament was unsuccessful, I can confirm that both the Commission and the Council are for their part fully living up to and applying the Edinburgh decisions. The Copenhagen summit fully confirmed this line. The European Council

urged the Parliament to support the Council's and the Commission's full implementation of the Edinburgh conclusions.

Seen overall, the Danish Presidency has contributed to a new way of working within the Community. We have taken the first important steps towards the change of course signalled by the Edinburgh decisions, with more democracy, greater openness and more subsidiarity.

Following the Edinburgh meeting, there have been detailed discussions with the Parliament on budget discipline. The goal has been a new inter-institutional agreement between the Council, the Parliament and the Commission. Meetings have taken place at the political as well as at the technical level. Unfortunately it has not so far been possible to reach agreement. In the Council's view, the Parliament has increased its demands in several areas during the course of the negotiations. Nevertheless, it is still the Presidency's hope that a compromise may be reached so that the budgetary procedure for 1994 can come in under a new agreement on budget discipline.

[...]

1 January 1993 was a red letter day for the Community. One of the pillars of the Community, the Single Market, officially came into being. The achievement of the Single Market, including not least the abolition of border controls, has run smoothly. The few practical problems which have arisen have been solved effectively and quickly. It has been a real success story for EC co-operation. Abolition of border controls is the most eloquent expression of the Single Market's having come into being. This is the visible proof to EC citizens that real progress has been made. The adoption of the final pieces of legislation having a bearing on the abolition of border controls has stood high on the Presidency's agenda. In this area too, great progress has been made over the past six months.

[...]

The implementation of the Single Market requires an extension of police and security cooperation, and cooperation on immigration policy between Member States. In a number of instances, progress has been made on Member States' cooperation on immigration, asylum and crime. An agreement has been signed for the establishment of a European drugs information unit. This helps in the fight against organized, drugs-related crime.

Amongst the most important of the Presidency's priorities has been the environment, including the promotion of environmentally sustainable development. Taking its point of departure in the Fifth Environmental Action Programme, a resolution was passed on guide-lines and principles for the EC's environmental policy in the 1990's. Among these important principles is that of sustainable development, prevention and joint responsibility as well as the principle whereby the environmental aspect has to be brought into every part of Community policy. It has now been laid down that the Community must strive for economic and social development which does not overtax the environment and those natural resources which human activity and development depend upon. On the other hand, we note with regret that it appears unlikely we shall get a CO₂ tax adopted under our Presidency. A tax of this type is unavoidable if the Community is to live up to its own as well as the international obligations we have taken upon ourselves. One bright spot though, is that we have got the so-called monitoring mechanism for CO₂ leaks adopted.

[...]

The enlargement negotiations with the four applicant EFTA countries have been a top priority for the Danish Presidency. In accordance with the Edinburgh conclusions, we engaged upon enlargement negotiations on 1 February with Austria, Sweden and Finland, and with Norway on 5 April. The negotiations got off to a slower start than had been planned or expected by the Presidency. In recent weeks the negotiations have, however, gathered speed, and at the most recent ne-

negotiations at ministerial level considerable progress was made. Agreement has now been reached on a very large proportion of the negotiation chapters which are either wholly or in part covered by the EEA Agreement. The work programme for subsequent negotiations has furthermore been extended, so that it now includes by far the greater part of the negotiation chapters. We hope that the momentum created can be maintained under the coming Belgian Presidency. The European Council in Copenhagen was successful in setting a timetable for the enlargement negotiations, so we can enlarge the circle of membership as early as 1 January 1995 through the addition of the EFTA applicant countries. The EEA Agreement was one of the major points of negotiation still outstanding when Denmark assumed the Presidency. Thanks to the willingness to compromise displayed by all parties, it proved possible at an early stage in the Presidency to reach agreement on a supplementary protocol, aimed at implementing the agreement without Switzerland. The agreement will then come into force, after the European Parliament has given its assent, and the national ratification procedures are complete.

On the international scene, the EC under the Danish Presidency has played a constructive role in several areas. A major task was to make an effective contribution towards binding the new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe more closely to the EC. This challenge is perhaps the greatest one facing the EC in the years immediately ahead. The decisions at the European Council's meeting in Copenhagen contain a strong message to these countries,¹ telling them that we share their wish to become members of the European Union. At the same time, far-reaching decisions were taken in Copenhagen on closer political dialogue and increased market access. The decisions on a closer association with the Central and East European countries herald a new epoch. This applies not only to those countries which already have Association Agreements with the EC, but also other countries in that part of Europe with which the Community will also enter into Association Agreements in the future. I will here call to mind that the Copenhagen summit placed on record that it is also the EC's aim to have Association Agreements with the Baltic countries. I am convinced that the Copenhagen decisions play a part in strengthening democracy, increasing stability and furthering economic development and the transition to a market economy in the Central and East European countries.

The Uruguay Round negotiations have in effect lain dormant after the unsuccessful attempt at reaching a compromise before the end of the Bush administration. During the Transatlantic Summit in Washington on 7 May, both sides emphasized their wish to bring the negotiations to a positive conclusion before the end of 1993. The preliminary steps have been taken. There are grounds for saying that the Clinton administration can probably expect to get the fast-track authorization extended to 15 December 1993. It is the Presidency's hope that we now, after more than 7 years, can glimpse the beginning of the end of the Uruguay Round. This will be a particularly important contribution towards restoring global economic growth. The Copenhagen meeting confirmed, as the President has already said, the goal of completing the negotiations before the end of 1993.

The conflict in the former Yugoslavia has from its outbreak aroused the strongest emotions. It is a conflict taking place in Europe, and we measure it by the same yardstick as we would a similar development at home in our own countries. The Member States have elected to make an enormous effort in the attempt to make peace. There are a number of things we have wanted to take into account, within the limits of our means. First and foremost, we have contributed to a negotiation process the aim of which is to form a basis for peaceful co-existence between the ethnic groups. Then we have tried to limit the human costs, and we have sought to prevent the conflict spreading further. Finally, we have not been prepared to accept a course of events which could increase the risk of a similar catastrophic development materializing elsewhere, specifically in Eastern and Central Europe.

When we took over the Presidency, and with it the responsibility for the EC effort, the peace process had reached a critical stage. Negotiation of the Vance/Owen plan as you know was completed at the start of the Danish Presidency. It was based on the considerations mentioned previ-

ously, and was given unreserved support by the Community and the Member States. The Vance/Owen plan as such has been unravelled by the parties themselves, as Lord Owen has put it. The London Conference principles meanwhile have not lost their value. We still fully support these principles. At the same time, the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina has further deteriorated. The negotiations between the parties on cease-fire, on the form of Bosnia-Herzegovina's future administrative division, are more necessary than ever before. We shall put our full weight behind the Muslims in these negotiations, and exert pressure on the Serbs and Croats so as to bring about a reasonable and sustainable solution. Our approach to the future negotiations will be marked by the same considerations as I mentioned previously. We will never accept a solution which is dictated by Serbs and Croats at the expense of the Muslims. The establishment of safe areas is an important step until such time as a solution, negotiated and accepted by all three parties, has been found. A rapid setting-up of such areas is in itself a contribution towards a settlement.

The sanctions against Serbia, Montenegro and the Bosnian Serbs are one of our most important means of exerting pressure. They will be maintained until such time as the conditions for their removal, laid down by the UN and the EC, have been fulfilled. Today, a year after the introduction of sanctions, Serbia's and Montenegro's economy is clearly affected. We will contribute with further resources to draw the sanctions belt even tighter. At the same time, we must continue and step up humanitarian aid. Many hundreds of thousands of lives were saved last winter. We are now in a situation where the international community must free more resources in order to ensure the continuation of a high-pressure supply of aid.

The conflict in the former Yugoslavia has weighed heavily on the six months of Danish Presidency. Sadly, this will also be the case during the Belgian Presidency. It has been said many times: there are no easy solutions to this conflict. We knew this when we took over the Presidency. Events have left us in no doubt. But we must not be tempted into believing that there is no solution. It must be possible to get the parties, especially the Serbs, to see that they can only lose by continuing the confrontations. The EC will still be prepared to bring maximum pressure to bear on the Serbs and, if necessary, on the Croats to bring them to this realisation.

The continued development of the transatlantic relationship has also been ascribed great importance under the Danish Presidency. There are good reasons for this. Firstly, we have considered it important right from the start to send a clear signal to the American Government. The USA must be left in no doubt as to the great importance we Europeans attach to the transatlantic relationship. Secondly, we are facing a series of new challenges which we can only meet through close transatlantic cooperation. After the end of the Cold War, the common tasks have changed in nature, but there are no fewer of them, and they are no less important. Thirdly, the EC's international role is now increasing. As we in the EC assume greater responsibility for international developments, the need for close cooperation and coordination with the USA grows correspondingly.

We have identified the following areas as being some of those which are particularly important in cooperation terms: the strengthening of global growth, trade questions, environmental problems, population expansion, human rights, democracy, support for the reforms in the CIS countries and policy in relation to the former Yugoslavia. During the transatlantic summit meeting in Washington in May, the President of the European Council, Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, presented the EC's thoughts to President Clinton. The American President welcomed the European initiative, and reacted positively to the ideas put forward. With this, a process was set in motion, which will stretch far beyond the Danish Presidency. In the years ahead we shall maintain and develop the transatlantic relationship. In short: a strong EC needs a strong transatlantic working relationship.

The peace process in the Middle East at the start of the Danish Presidency was at a highly critical phase. The Presidency's activities were therefore concentrated in the first instance on helping to enable the parties directly involved to maintain their commitment, as regards the negotiation

route's being the sole realistic possibility of achieving a long-term, just peace. As part of these efforts, the EC troika of Foreign Ministers visited the region at the end of March and at the beginning of April. The visit helped to demonstrate that the Community still intends to play an active, constructive and balanced role in both tracks of the peace process, in accordance with our familiar principles. The bilateral negotiations now appear to be moving along lines which give rise to hope of actual progress. The positive atmosphere also rubbed off on the negotiations in the multilateral track, which made good progress. The same applies to the economic working party, which the EC is chairing, and where the Community and its Member States greatly influence the work through projects and proposals of promise.

As regards Latin America, the principle task for the Danish Presidency was the annual meeting of Foreign Ministers between the EC and the countries in the Rio Group, held in Copenhagen on 23 and 24 April.² Additionally, consolidation of the links with the Central American countries in connection with the San José meeting in El Salvador on 22 and 23 February.³ Both meetings have helped to deepen the EC's dialogue with the two regions, including not least the touchy subjects of human rights and democratic principles. With the signing of a new, wider-ranging Cooperation Agreement between the EC and the Andean Pact, and a similar agreement between the EC and the Central American countries, it has now been possible to conclude the development of advanced agreements between the EC and Latin America.

Africa has been high on the Presidency's list of priorities. Relations between the Community and Africa are now closer and more extensive. Cooperation on important points has included democratization, peace and security and then of course, too, development aid. I should like to highlight electoral aid as being a concrete expression of this cooperation. A joint EC presence is increasingly found in connection with elections in Africa. It is my hope that the coming Presidencies will continue this type of cooperation with African countries.

Peace and security are of fundamental importance for Africa's future. We have begun a dialogue with the OAU's General Secretary on this organization's possibilities of preventing and resolving conflicts, and on the Community's possibilities for playing a supporting role. Moving on to development aid, I should like to highlight the decision of the Foreign Ministers at the Council meeting on 25 May on a special initiative for Africa. The decision means that EC aid of at least MECU 100 will be paid immediately to a number of hard-hit African countries south of the Sahara.

I have had the opportunity to visit South Africa myself as President-in-Office of the Council. I underlined the Presidency's hope of seeing a breakthrough in negotiations very soon. I informed people of the steps we will take in the EC, when the Transitional Council is set up. I further told the parties that the Community is willing to make a significant contribution to the approaching elections.

In the Sudan we are witnessing a human catastrophe. Against this backdrop, the Foreign Ministers of the troika have this very day ended their visit to the country, made in order to bring pressure to bear on the parties, so that the conflict may be resolved. In Somalia, progress has been made along the road to peace and security. It is therefore particularly tragic that large numbers of people have been killed whilst they were working actively for a solution to the country's problems.

In Asia, the Community and its Member States follow political developments within and between the countries with a watchful eye. The Presidency has considered it important to follow the human rights situation in, amongst others, Burma and China, including Tibet. Special attention has also been paid to the peace process in Cambodia. A dialogue on aspects of security policy in South-East Asia has been started with the ASEAN countries, together with the so-called dialogue partners. As part of Community cooperation, a series of joint committee meetings have been held

under the Danish Presidency with, amongst others, China, Pakistan and Mongolia. Vietnam's economic and political reform programmes have attracted particular attention. The Commission is expected before the end of this month to present draft negotiation directives for an economic Co-operation Agreement between Vietnam and the Community. Finally, a political dialogue has taken place with Japan on the joint EC/Japan statement.

Turning now to human rights, I am pleased to be able to say that the Community has consolidated and extended its policy over the last six months, supporting democracy, development and human rights. This has shown itself in intensified cooperation in terms of support for the electoral processes. During the World Conference on Human Rights, which is now taking place in Vienna, we have been working with equal determination for the establishment of a common basis which uses practical measures to promote democracy and human rights in the developing countries.

Mr President, allow me now, at the end of the Danish Presidency, to close by saying that Europe will be facing many great challenges in the years ahead. The lengthy period of uncertainty, where our energies were very much concentrated on the Community's own framework, is now over. We are now free to concentrate on those subjects which are of immediate interest to the people of Europe: unemployment, poor economic growth and political stability in Europe.

The pattern for future development is drawn. With the prospect of the Maastricht Treaty and the Edinburgh decision soon coming into force, the EC is able to turn to the many challenges which can only be addressed by the Community. It is time for the Community to live up to the expectations which the people of Europe and the outside world rightly have of us.

[...]

[After the continuing debate, Mr Nyrop Rasmussen, President-in-Office of the European Council, stated:] Madam President, I have listened with great interest to the contributions from the parliamentary groups. I noticed a common thread running through them coloured by frustration over the economic crisis and the widespread unemployment afflicting Europe.

[...]

With regard to policy in areas other than the economy, I feel that we have made good progress on Eastern and Central Europe in particular. It is now no longer a general message of closer cooperation with the Visegrad countries, Bulgaria and Romania, but an assurance of membership and a perspective for future work in the European Council and the Council of Ministers.

With regard to Russia, a definite decision has been taken by the European Council. We said at the Copenhagen meeting: we consider it to be of the utmost importance that Russia be treated as a country of crucial significance to the world economy and to world politics; we will therefore now develop a political dialogue on the lines of that we have developed for the USA and Canada. It is a new and very important signal to which effect will now be given in practice.

I feel that Bosnia is a catastrophe. We can share responsibilities and burdens, we can have long discussions. But, in all honesty, what more could the European Council in Copenhagen have done? Indeed we could have presented a picture of disunity and powerlessness to act. We could have depicted a situation in which one country wanted one thing, another something else. Some wanted an arms embargo, some wanted to intervene with a large contingent of troops. As I have said, we could have presented a picture of disunity. That is easy enough. Anyone can do that. The difficult thing is to achieve agreement on a common strategy, which can be discussed at a high or at a lower level of ambition.

I actually think that we achieved quite a lot. We stood by the responsibility we also have in Europe to facilitate the implementation of UN Resolution 836 to set up safe areas in Bosnia. And I

think that the Muslims can take part in the current negotiations in Geneva in the knowledge that there is a signal from Europe to the effect that, if lasting and viable solutions are to be reached, all three parties must agree to them and fundamental principles must be respected: the protection of minorities, international guarantees for viable territory and integrity were clearly emphasized. The sanctions must be upheld until such a solution is achieved. Effect must now be given to the recognition and prosecution before a war crimes tribunal of crimes which have been committed.

[...]

Madam President, it just remains for me, on behalf of the European Council, to express the hope that the second half of 1993 will not be a time of disappointment and despair but a time to recognize how greatly we need resolute action and viable decision-making. To recognize that all of what was decided in Edinburgh must now be made to work. That is what we can do in the shorter term. What we can do in the autumn is, in addition, to ensure that political decisions on the White Paper awaited from the Commission are taken swiftly. They must not wither and die amid wranglings over institutional prerogatives, they must be implemented on a basis such that the Belgian Presidency can say in December: OK, the first step was taken in Copenhagen; now we are bringing the process to fruition in December of the same year, so that 1993 and 1994 – and the European Parliament has a crucial share in the responsibility for this – will be the years in which the tide of affairs relating to employment, the economy and political action on Eastern and Central Europe begins to turn in a positive direction.

[After the continuing debate, Mr Helveg Petersen, President-in-Office of the Council, stated:] Mr President, one honourable Member said that Denmark's highest point lay 137m above sea level. That is incorrect. It is 173m. That is not very much either, but it is nevertheless correct in every respect to talk of a real summit in Copenhagen, partly because the Heads of Government were there and took decisions, and partly because these were significant decisions, important for the development of the Communities.

As a parliamentarian of many years' standing, I know what parliamentary debate is all about, it is no use having a thin skin, and I do not have a thin skin. Yet I must say that I was completely taken aback by Mr Tindeman's angry remarks – not least because what Mr Tindemans said was quite wrong. He complained that the Presidency had not shown itself in the Parliament. The fact of the matter is that the Presidency has been present during every single plenary. If Mr Tindemans has got the impression that we have not been here, it can only be due to his own absence. It is not the Presidency which has been absent, and it is not the Presidency which is absent now – it is Mr Tindemans!

[...]

I shall make one or two comments on Yugoslavia, particularly on an issue which I believe is absolutely central to the debate. This is the question of the arms embargo, which was discussed at the summit in Copenhagen. The Heads of Government discussed this intensely, and I have to say that the outcome of the debate was that there was no majority backing in the European Council for a recommendation that the arms embargo be lifted.

The general view in the Council is that it is not a good, but a bad idea. It would lead to more war and to more acts of war at a higher level. It would probably lead to it being absolutely necessary to withdraw the UNPROFOR troops from the former Yugoslavia, which would further damage the emergency relief effort and thereby in actual fact lead to an overall deterioration in the situation. This is the reasoning which lay behind the European Council's view on the lifting of the arms embargo. Opinions may differ as to whether this view is correct. But it is the concern not to

Generally speaking, I believe that the importance of the emergency relief work which is actually going on is overlooked in the debate. I think this is dangerous. If the UNPROFOR troops were not protecting the relief work, the humanitarian situation would be far, far worse than it is – and it is already bad enough!

So there was no backing for that idea, and so I think too that it is realistic to say to those sectors of Muslim opinion and of the government which support the lifting of the arms embargo: It is unrealistic for you to count on it happening! It will not happen. I cannot see that there will be any chance of lifting the arms embargo in the UN Security Council in the present situation. It is dangerous to base one's policy on an illusion, and it is illusory to think that the international community is prepared to lift the arms embargo in the present situation. That is what must be the realistic basis for consideration. That option is not on the table at the moment.

Lastly, I should like to say something on a subject which I think the debate today has underplayed. That is the decisions which the summit took regarding Central and Eastern Europe, the Baltic states and Russia. On the basis of excellent and committed work by the Commission, the summit took wise and far-reaching decisions. These are to do with how the EC is to organize its links to the Central and Eastern European countries over a period of many years. The ground rules for this were laid in Copenhagen. We are talking here about links between the EC and 400 million people in Central and Eastern Europe and Russia.

What happened as regards the Visegrad countries, Bulgaria and Rumania, was, that firstly the EC held out the prospect of membership by saying: You can join, and we shall welcome you when you fulfil the conditions! Then they were given an undertaking to extend the political dialogue. We are talking here about future Member States. It is important that we commence political dialogue with them in good time. We have many common problems and interests, let us really intensify the political dialogue. They need it and we need it.

Thirdly and lastly, the Copenhagen decisions, based on good suggestions from the Commission, included wider access to the European markets for the Central and Eastern European countries. Without access to our markets, they have no chance of improving their economies. If they are not allowed to sell to us, they have no means of investing in and modernizing their own businesses and industries. This is fundamental for them. It is the difference between life and death for their economic reforms. The summit decisions on this point may also have far-reaching effects.

On the Baltic states, the plan is that Commission proposals are to provide the basis for the development of a free trade area alongside the promises which we have already made to draft European Agreements.

As far as Russia is concerned, the summit agreed to offer Russia, our large neighbour to the east, top-level consultations on a regular basis between the President-in-Office of the European Council, the Commission President and the Russian President. I see this as an important signal to Russia in that we are saying: We are prepared to have regular contact with you at the highest level. This may be the beginning, a cornerstone, one might say, in the development of cooperative ties between the EC and Russia in the years ahead.

Mr President, I have commented on some of the many questions which have been raised. I considered it particularly important to take up these questions, and I think that in the light of what was agreed in Copenhagen, it is very wide of the mark to say that this summit produced nothing of importance in terms of political results. It did!

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/248.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/180.

³ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/072.

93/252. Question No H-232/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru on the Middle East peace process

Date of issue: 23 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

As the principal organizers of the working party on regional economic development, what progress have the EPC Ministers made in the negotiations which have taken place since the Middle East peace process opened in Madrid?

Answer:

Three meetings of the Regional Economic Development Working Group (REDWG) have been held since the Middle East peace process opened in Madrid in October 1991. The latest meeting was in Rome on 4 and 5 May 1993. The Community is 'gavel holder' of the group, reflecting the importance it attaches to regional economic arrangements underpinning a political settlement.

A number of sectors have been identified for priority study such as training, tourism, communications, networks (based on the EC's example), institutions and a bibliography of existing literature on regional economic development. Exploratory missions have visited the region and a number of seminars/workshops have been held. Several new projects were added to this 'inventory' at the Rome meeting, namely a Middle East road survey; agricultural cooperation; electricity grid inter-connection survey; trade cooperation (barriers and promotion) and financial markets and investment. Each inventory item has a 'shepherd' to help mobilise resources, experts and expertise.

The World Bank, which attends these meetings as a friend of the Chair, made a report to the second REDWG meeting in Paris in October 1992 on the regional economy and a framework for cooperation. It was asked to examine the contribution that the economy of the Occupied Territories could make to the economy of the region in the light of a settlement and the sources of potential finance for regional economic development from inside and outside the region. Reports will be made to the next REDWG meeting which is likely to take place in the autumn. At the Rome meeting the World Bank was also asked to prepare recommendations on priority projects to overcome infrastructure constraints in the region for review at the next REDWG meeting. Inter-sessional meetings will be held at technical expert level both bilaterally and multilaterally to complete the World Bank's work. A wide range of inter-sessional activity is also envisaged within the framework of the various inventory proposals.

93/253. Question No H-572/93 by Mr Kostopoulos on humanitarian aid to Armenia

Date of issue: 23 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

The Armenian National Committee of Greece has described as unacceptable and contrary to the principles of international law the Turkish Government's decision not to allow Turkish territory or airspace to be used to transport humanitarian aid from the developed countries to Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] which are cut off by Azerbaijani troops. The Armenian National Committee of Greece points out that this action is indicative of Turkey's attitude to human rights and of its true objectives which are to implement its pan-Turkish expansionist designs and

exterminate the Armenian people. Will EPC ask the Turkish Government not to obstruct delivery of humanitarian aid to Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh]?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are seriously concerned about the humanitarian situation in Armenia and will of course continue their relief assistance. Since the beginning of 1993 large sums of emergency relief assistance and other forms of humanitarian aid have been made available by the Community and its Member States to both Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The Community and its Member States are in contact with the authorities of the neighbouring countries on developments in the area. Due to the shortages of food and fuel in Armenia, the EC has on several occasions appealed to Turkey to allow transports of humanitarian aid to Armenia.

93/254. Question No H-578/93 by Ms Oddy on international loans to Iran

Date of issue: 23 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Is EPC aware that the United States is making moves to stop loans to Iran in recognition of the fact that such finance is being diverted to further its militarization? Does EPC share this concern?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are closely following Iran's arms procurement activities. They are aware of press reports that the US is considering stopping loans to Iran to p[r]event their diversion to such activities.

Whilst acknowledging the right of countries to acquire the means to defend themselves Ministers at the Edinburgh European Council in December 1992¹ expressed concern that Iran's arms procurement should not pose a threat to regional stability. Furthermore, Ministers agreed that given Iran's importance in the region, a dialogue should be maintained with the Iranian Government but that this should be a critical dialogue which reflected concern about Iranian behaviour and called for improvement in a number of areas, particularly human rights, the *fatwa* of Ayatollah Khomeini against Salman Rushdie and terrorism. Ministers agreed that improvement in these areas would be important in determining the extent to which closer relations and confidence could be developed.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/449.

93/255. Question No H-587/93/rev. by Mr Alavanos on the lifting of sanctions against the new Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 23 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

At the Athens Conference, as on various occasions in the past and at the meeting of the Bosnian Serb Assembly, the authorities of the new Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia in particular,

were instrumental in urging the Bosnian Serbs to sign the peace plan. The Community's mediator, Lord Owen, has confirmed this several times in his statements.

What is EPC's view on lifting the sanctions against the new Yugoslavia to encourage that country in its constructive approach to the problems of the region?

Answer:

Mr Helveg Petersen, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: The Community and its Member States welcome any change in attitude from the Serbian side, especially the stated intention to indulge in constructive cooperation associated with efforts to stop the war in the former Yugoslavia. The honourable Member will note, however, that the goodwill expressed has not unfortunately been effectively followed up by the Serbs. Since the sanctions imposed on Serbia-Montenegro took effect, the Community and its Member States have called for the sanctions to remain in place until the conditions required for lifting them have been fulfilled. The Foreign Minister's declaration of 8 June¹ and the Council declaration made at yesterday's summit meeting² reinforce this already well-known view.

Mr Alavanos (CG): My question certainly missed its chance, because it presupposes that the agreements made in Athens will be enforced, and this [is] something which has not happened. In view of this, my question is not appropriate. Nevertheless, since I have the opportunity to pose a question, I would like to ask the President-in-Office whether he believes that there has been discrimination in dealing with the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia. For example, on the one hand, there are tough measures against Serbia, while, at the same time, there is tolerance for the tough actions taken by the Croats at the expense of the Muslims. I would also like to flesh my question out somewhat: Does the President-in-Office not believe that, at the end of the day, Community policy *vis-à-vis* the former Yugoslavia was mistaken and that many of the statements made by the American Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, are true as regards the recognition of the other republics by the Community?

Mr Helveg Petersen: I shall not make myself the judge of whether the situation in the former Yugoslavia might have turned out differently if we had conducted a different policy on recognition. It is an extremely hypothetical question, and one which historians must try and enlighten us about. Events have turned out as they did – we all know what happened – and we must adopt a political position accordingly. I shall not open myself up to any criticism. That would not help matters in any respect whatsoever.

Mr Kostopoulos (NI): Both Mr Christopher and the former Foreign Minister of France, Mr Dumas, stated that the inferno raging today in the former Yugoslavia is due to Germany's position in 1991. What is done is done. What is of interest to me now, specifically, is the following:

Firstly, has the Council come up with a specific strategy for the Balkans?

Secondly, is it aware that without Serbia, there cannot be peace in the region?

Thirdly, is it going to assimilate and include Serbia, and integrate it into the construction of Europe?

These are the specific and serious proposals, which are being thought about, and which are really making the Members think, especially the conservative Member, Mr Prag, who is on the Policy Committee, as well as others. Can the Council tell us what, specifically, it is thinking of doing? Is it, or is it not, trying to establish another strategy for the Balkans?

Mr Helveg Petersen: I have noted the views of Messrs Dumas and Christopher, but I must distance myself completely from judging the historical course of events. In my opinion I have given a detailed presentation of the Community's policy regarding the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, and I see no reason to repeat what I explained just now as well as earlier in the day.

Mr Oostlander (PPE): A report appeared in Agence Europe that over a very short period of time thousands of Greek lorries crossed the border into Serbia, so it would appear that one of the Member States is currently lifting the sanctions, a fact which is accompanied by the official reception of a person who is listed as a war criminal in various countries and by the United Nations, and who should really be pursued by the new European Court of Justice in The Hague. Is it not possible to use force to impose the sanctions with a view to ensuring that there is absolutely no way in which the lorries can cross the border, or has the mandate of the personnel on the Serbian border been too limited up to now?

Mr Helveg Petersen: Of course these sanctions, which are certainly the most stringent ever imposed by the international community, must be complied with. We are well aware that there are problems in some border areas, including the border with the former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia. This new republic is experiencing considerable administrative problems connected with its monitoring of the border, and in my opinion the international community should offer its assistance so that the traffic crossing the border can be monitored more closely than is the case at the moment. This is also a view that was expressed at the European Council meetings yesterday and the day before.

[...]

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/233.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/250.

93/256. Question No H-592/93/rev. by Mr Romeos on the UN peace-keeping force in Cyprus

Date of issue: 23 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

In the light of Russia's veto on changing the system of UNFICYP funding and the apparent risk of a serious weakening of the UN peace-keeping force in Cyprus, how will the CPE respond within the UN and to the Russian Government to avert this danger?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States expressed their surprise and their regret over the initial Russian veto in the UN Security Council on the draft resolution on the future funding of the UNFICYP forces in Cyprus.

The Community and its Member States are pleased that it was possible subsequently on 26 May 1993, to agree to UN Security Council Resolution 831 on that same issue.

93/257. Question No H-594/93 by Mr Nianias on the Yugoslavia conflict

Date of issue: 23 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

After the recent developments in Yugoslavia and in light of the eruption of a new war between the Croats and Muslims in Bosnia, including Mr Milosevic's action to impose an embargo against Bosnia to include the Bosnian Serbs, are the Ministers prepared to give us a more balanced and fairer account of the atrocities, torture and massacres committed allegedly and almost exclusively by the Serbs?

Is it not the case that the criminals of these atrocities will spread to every possible corner of the country of Bosnia, and that the specific accusation that the Serbs committed these crimes was fabricated in order to support the policy of war which prevailed in the chaos of European diplomacy?

Answer:

The innumerable atrocities committed in former Yugoslavia have been investigated and confirmed by special missions and representatives of the UN, CSCE, ICRC and many other international organizations.

The response of the international community to these appalling events has been clear and unequivocal in its condemnation. In this sad context, UNSCR 827 provides an important framework for the prosecution of persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in former Yugoslavia since 1991.

93/258. Question No H-596/93 by Mr Bird on street children of Guatemala

Date of issue: 23 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation aware of the allegations of institutionalized official violence against the street children of Guatemala and the Casa Alianza organization by the Government of Guatemala?

Will the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC take urgent action to call upon the Guatemalan Government to refrain from pursuing such unacceptable and inhuman policies?

Answer:

As the honourable Member will be aware, the plight of street children world-wide, and specifically in the Latin American region has for several years been at the centre of attention of the EPC. At the initiative of the Community and its Member States the United Nations General Assembly adopted at its 47th Session a resolution on street children; as a follow-up, the Commission on Human Rights at its 49th Session considered the matter and equally adopted a resolution. The Community and its Member States continue to follow the situation closely and draw the attention of concerned governments to the unacceptable situation.

In the case of Guatemala, the Community and its Member States express the hope that the new president, whose positive record on human rights is well-known, will spare no efforts to eliminate violence against street children, to establish full respect for human rights and to start a fruitful co-operation with organizations active in this field. This hope was expressed in the EC statement on Guatemala of 7 June 1993.¹

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/231.

93/259. Question No H-604/93 by Mr Barrera i Costa on the disappearance of José Ramón García Gómez in Mexico

Date of issue: 23 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

On 16 December 1988 José Ramón García Gómez disappeared in Cuautla in the State of Morelos, Mexico. So far the Mexican judicial authorities have been unable to establish the facts, despite the efforts of his wife, a Spanish national, the National Human Rights Commission and the Special Public Prosecutor's Office. In its recommendation No 7/92 of 27 January 1992, the National Human Rights Commission makes express reference to the possible involvement of police organizations in the disappearance of J.R. García Gómez. Is EPC aware of this matter? Will it raise the matter with the Mexican Government?

Answer:

The specific case referred to by the honourable Member has not been dealt with in the context of EPC. The European Community and its Member States are preoccupied by the disappearances of persons all over the world and have in contacts with several authorities stated their preoccupation, enquiring about the whereabouts of persons signalled to be missing.

93/260. Question No H-644/93 by Mr Langer on ethnic cleansing in Croatia

Date of issue: 23 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

It appears that several hundred individual Serbs or Serbian families living in various parts of Croatia – including Rijeka/Fiume, Split/Spalato, Zagreb, and Pula/Pola – are being forcibly removed from their homes, which are regularly requisitioned, more often than not to accommodate members of the Croatian armed forces. The original occupants are frequently obliged to emigrate. Is European political cooperation aware of this phenomenon, which seems to be part of a more widespread and invariably abominable strategy of ethnic cleansing and 'regimentation' being pursued in different parts of former Yugoslavia? How does it view the matter and what is its response?

Answer:

The honourable Member is no doubt aware of the persistent, unequivocal condemnation and rejection by the CMS of the reprehensible practice of ethnic cleansing.

The CMS welcome and support UNSCR 827 on the establishment of an international tribunal for the sole purpose of prosecuting persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in former Yugoslavia since 1991, including the practice of ethnic cleansing.

93/261. Question No H-645/93 by Mr Habsburg on the situation of the Hungarian minority in Vojvodina

Date of issue: 23 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

According to reliable reports, the Serbian authorities are starving out the 600,000 ethnic Hungarians in Vojvodina in order to carry out ethnic cleansing in favour of the Serbs.

Would the Ministers be prepared to permit an exception to the embargo provisions so that this ethnic minority can receive the humanitarian aid it needs?

Answer:

I am pleased to inform the honourable Member that humanitarian aid is already excepted from the embargo imposed by the international community on Serbia-Montenegro. The import of essential humanitarian supplies, such as medical supplies and foodstuff, are provided for in UN Security Council Resolution 757. The UN Sanctions Committee established by UN Security Council Resolution 724 monitors the import to Serbia-Montenegro to ensure full compliance with relevant resolutions.

93/262. Question No H-652/93 by Mr Simeoni on the application of European Parliament resolutions on Bosnia-Herzegovina

Date of issue: 23 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

On 22 April 1993 the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the need to ensure the delivery of supplies to the population of Tuzla, Bosnia, by reopening the town's airport under the protection of the United Nations Protection Force. On 27 May 1993 the European Parliament adopted a resolution on Bosnia-Herzegovina. What steps has EPC taken or does it intend to take, to apply the measures set out in these two resolutions?

Answer:

Mr Helveg Petersen, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: I must refer the honourable Member to the answer given in response to Questions H-443/93 and H-467/93 on the same subject.¹ UN Security Council Resolution No 824 of 4 May 1993 designated Sarajevo, Tuzla, Gorazd, Bihac, Srebrenica and their surroundings as safe areas. UN Security Council Resolution No 836 adopted on 4 June 1993 guarantees, among other things, that these safe areas will be fully respected and extended the mandate of the UN forces and authorized them in self-defence to use the means required to implement the resolution including the use of force. Moreover, it was decided in Security Council Resolution No 836 that the Member States must take all necessary measures in connection with the use of the air force by means of regionally organized arrangements under the command of the UN Security Council.

Let me add that yesterday and the day before yesterday at the European Council meeting in Copenhagen,² as is well-known, there was agreement that a rapid implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions concerning safe areas is a necessary step in the peace process. The European Council favourably received the UN Secretary-General's call for manpower and funding, in which he appealed to the Member States to meet his requests as far as possible. At the same time, the European Council appealed to other members of the international community to do the same. France has already let it be known that it will provide 800 soldiers in fulfilment of this undertaking. No doubt several more firm commitments will be forthcoming from other countries, both within and outside the EC. Let me add that now that the European Council meeting is over, the Danish Government is busy assessing what contribution Denmark should make.

Mr Simeoni (ARC): Mr President-in-Office, I am neither English, nor conservative, but I still cannot help being reminded of Winston Churchill who said the day after the Munich accords: 'We

have chosen to lose our honour in order to avoid the war. Now we have our dishonour and we shall yet have the war'. For there can be no doubt that what we will have to pay the price for what we have allowed to happen in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and perhaps our children will go on paying it.

In future, Europe will inspire not only scepticism or mistrust, but, as far as Sarajevo is concerned, it will evoke hatred. I would have a great many questions to ask you, Mr President-in-Office of the Council, but the Rules of Procedure oblige me to limit myself to just one: 'Why is the European Community negotiating with the leaders of extremists most of whom are likely to find themselves up in front of a tribunal for war crimes and crimes against humanity, and why does it steadfastly ignore the existence, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, of a legally, democratically elected parliament?'

Mr Helveg Petersen: One of the fixed elements in the Community's policy has been to support the process of negotiation within the framework of the extension of the London Conference. Negotiations are necessary, but they must also yield results. So far there have been very few, but the Community may not, of course, abandon such an approach, and the EC negotiator, Lord Owen, is actively participating in all efforts aimed at trying to find a peaceful solution to the terrible conflict in the former Yugoslavia, which is a source of concern to us all, and which gives rise to much painful reflection and so many worries. It is essential that there is a negotiated solution, and the Community is endeavouring to support one in every way it can.

Mr Langer (V): I would like to ask the President-in-Office of the Council to answer the question as to whether European political cooperation is aware that there are some regions of Bosnia-Herzegovina in which our resolutions give rise to expectations. I am referring, in particular, to Tuzla, one of the multi-ethnic areas where people of different origins are still living together harmoniously. Do we really want to wait until this city has also been destroyed or do we want to help the people there first?

Furthermore, I would like to ask you to take up with the President of Parliament the question as to what happened to the motion mentioned by Mr Simeoni, according to which there were plans for Parliament to take steps, say, to invite the Parliament or members of the legal, Bosnian authorities to visit us. What has become of this?

Mr Helveg Petersen: Perhaps I misunderstood the question. I thought it had been directed at the President of Parliament. I am not entirely sure that I understood what question was put to me and what question was put to the President of Parliament. However, if I understood it correctly, I shall attempt to give an answer. The situation in Tuzla should be seen within a wider context of humanitarian actions, including acute emergency aid, as the Community and other organizations appreciate throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina. The persistent problems of gaining access to the population by air and over land are much on our minds. In recent months the Presidency has repeatedly protested strongly to the warring factions about the obstruction of humanitarian aid intended for the local population in eastern Bosnia. Nobody in the former Yugoslavia can have the slightest doubt that we regard this problem as very serious, and I can inform this House that the European Council, at its meeting yesterday, once again dealt with the question of access to the threatened areas for humanitarian aid. Moreover, I can add that at the Conference on human rights in Vienna the Danish Government tabled a proposal for the international recognition of the right to transport humanitarian aid unhindered. Adopting a proposal of this kind at the Conference on human rights would send out an important signal that humanitarian aid must get through and that the humanitarian aid organizations are entitled to convey it.

Mr Habsburg (PPE): Mr President-in-Office, in your answer you said a great deal about motions. We now have so many motions that we could cover the entire Chamber with them. What we would really like to know is what has become of all these motions. Surely they are now just so much waste paper! So I implore you now, please tell us what has actually happened.

Mr Helveg Petersen: Well now, for purely practical reasons I would be lacking things too far by giving such a detailed answer to this question, but the resolutions that have been adopted and which constitute the basis of the international community's actions with regard to Yugoslavia have resulted in tremendous efforts being made. A very great commitment has been made in terms of troops and humanitarian aid. I believe that these efforts, which are actually of a humanitarian nature, have been undervalued by the European public. There are UNPROFOR troops on the ground to protect the emergency aid and they are doing an outstanding job. There is a great influx of supplies, not a constant one, but a substantial flow nevertheless. Without this international support the situation on the ground in Yugoslavia would be far worse than it is – and that is bad enough.

1 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/172.

2 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/250.

93/263. Question No H-664/93 by Mr Sakellariou on the call for military intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Date of issue: 23 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

According to a report in the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* of 5/6 June 1993, the Member of the Commission with special responsibility for the common foreign and security policy, Mr Hans van den Broek, has called for military intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina to halt the aggression of the Bosnian Serbs and restore the state recognized by the EC.

Does EPC believe, as Mr van den Broek appears to, that military intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina is necessary and worthwhile, despite the enormous loss of life it would entail according to all the military experts?

Answer:

Mr Helveg Petersen, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: As the honourable Member will be aware, right from the outset of this unfortunate conflict, the Community and its Member States have endeavoured to contribute towards reaching sustainable peace in close cooperation with the international community. We shall continue to work in this direction.

Throughout the entire Danish Presidency, the Vance/Owen peace plan was the keystone of the EC Member States strategy for peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina. As is well-known, the basis for maintaining the Vance/Owen peace plan as the only negotiated solution has now fallen away. Yesterday and the day before, at the European Council meeting the Heads of State and Government expressed their faith in Lord Owen's continued efforts to negotiate a peaceful solution based on the principles of the London Conference, a solution which can be approved by all parties to the conflict. The Community and its Member States fully support UN Security Council Resolution No 836 on safe areas and are continuing to implement the sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council against Serbia-Montenegro. The sanctions will be maintained until the conditions required to raise them are fulfilled.

The Community and its Member States are continuing to keep a very close watch on the situation in Krajina as well as every action taken by the Croats that is endangering the efforts to secure peace. The Community and its Member States share the great concern for a possible spread of the

conflict. They are in favour of intensifying the preventive international presence in Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Community and its Member States underline that the option to take new, stronger steps is being kept open. Must I remind the House that a nordic battalion is stationed right there in Macedonia as part of the efforts to prevent the spread of the conflict.

The Presidency has constantly emphasized that it is absolutely essential that a negotiated solution, a political solution, be reached. The potential military solutions have little prospect of success. The problems at issue are political problems and require political solutions.

Mr Sakellariou (PSE): Thank you Mr President-in-Office of EPC for the general information with which you provided me. I read the newspaper every day and was already aware about most of what you said. However, your closing remarks were most interesting, namely that the European Community has in fact always emphasized the peaceful, diplomatic solution of the problem.

I may conclude from this that the Presidency of EPC regards the call by Commissioner van den Broek for military intervention as poorly qualified and incompatible with EC policy. Does EPC intend to take corresponding steps *vis-à-vis* the Commission in order to ensure that such damaging one-man actions cease, or does EPC believe that what Mr van den Broek said is neither crucial nor significant?

Mr Helveg Petersen: The Community's approach to this matter is reflected very clearly in the Council resolutions and, most recently, in the resolutions adopted at the Copenhagen summit. The Council has on many occasions discussed in depth whether resorting to military methods might be a possibility. The most frequent discussions have focused on whether the arms embargo should be lifted. Earlier today I had an opportunity to speak on the Danish Government's view in this matter. This view is shared by most of the EC Member States and especially by those Member States which themselves have troops on the ground in areas of the former Yugoslavia.

Our view is that lifting the arms embargo would lead to an escalation of the war, meaning that hostilities would reach new heights of violence. It is fairly certain that this, in turn, would mean that those countries with troops on the ground there would have to withdraw their forces. As a result, the provision of emergency aid would largely come to a standstill, with extremely severe and unfortunate effects for the civil population.

For that reason there is no majority or prevailing opinion, either within the European Council or in the Council of Foreign Ministers within the context of EPC, in favour of taking steps to lift the arms embargo. We regard that as the wrong path to take. Moreover, as the situation appears at the moment, the Council seems disinclined to go that way. Instead we must endeavour to keep the negotiations alive, which is precisely what has been happening over the last 24 hours in Geneva. We must maintain a strict policy of sanctions and also provide a high level of aid for the civil population.

Mr Alavanos (CG): Mr President, I respect the personal views and opinions of the Prime Minister's Government. Here, however, he is speaking as President-in-Office of the Presidency of the Twelve. So why this repeated use in his official answers to the European Parliament of the term 'Macedonia', when he knows that this issue is currently being debated at the UN between the two sides, when he knows what the official provisional name is, and when he knows that this is an issue which, for better or for worse, is of such concern and worry to a Member State! Why doesn't the President-in-Office use the term used in official texts throughout the Community? I deplore this situation, Mr President.

Mr Kostopoulos (NI): The President-in-Office did not answer us as regards Mr van den Broek's belligerent stance. I can, however, give you my opinion. The Commissioner is well-known for being pro-Turkey and fiercely anti-Greek. He is the one who, the day before yesterday, at the Coun-

cil summit in Copenhagen, proposed to President Delors that he talk about 'northern' and 'southern' Cyprus and reject its accession to the EC.

Mr van den Broek certainly does not want to know that there is an independent Cypriot State.

The same thing is happening with Serbia. His bellicose stance can be explained by his pro-Turkey position. This is just like Ankara, which recommended war for the same reason.

Mr President-in-Office, I am baffled at how you and the Commission can support this. Why do you not just tell us directly whether you agree with his bellicose stance?

Mr Helveg Petersen: The correct term is the former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia. For the sake of convenience another term is often used, but I should stress that the official name is of course the former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia. Of this there may be no doubt.

As far as Mr van den Broek's comments are concerned, I can only say that within the Council there is no support for lifting the arms embargo. This also answers the question concerning the attitude towards Mr van den Broek's statements.

Mr Habsburg (PPE): I would simply like to receive a clear answer to the question as to which arguments are used to reject the option of lifting the arms embargo. Surely, if bands of robbers swarm into an area we cannot disarm the police! As you well know, the Serbs possess all the arms, the Bosnians are being attacked and killed, and we are doing nothing about it. The provision of humanitarian aid is merely an alibi reaction intended to compensate for the inactivity of the European Community.

So I would ask you to state the reasons used by the Community to reject the option of lifting the arms embargo.

Mr Helveg Petersen: I must distance myself strongly from the view that humanitarian aid is some sort of alibi. Humanitarian aid is being provided at considerable economic sacrifice and also at the sacrifice of human lives in order to help a desperate civil population. It is not an alibi, it is essential emergency aid – and I really believe that Mr Habsburg clearly understands the arguments I have presented on many occasions.

In my opinion, the arguments for not lifting the arms embargo are utterly compelling. It would not lead to a peaceful solution, but to an escalation of the war. It would result in the suspension of UNPROFOR actions and the withdrawal of their forces. Mr Habsburg is shaking his head, but the countries which have troops there have let it be known that they would withdraw their troops if the arms embargo was lifted, a move that would ultimately result in the provision of emergency aid coming to a standstill.

Furthermore – and this is definitely an argument on which the Members of this House must adopt an opinion – there is no prospect whatsoever of the UN Security Council passing a resolution to lift the arms embargo. It is absolutely clear that, before this can happen, the Security Council would have to pass a resolution to that effect. No such resolution will be forthcoming, and it is an illusion to believe that it will. So I believe I have given comprehensive arguments in support of my view, which is also the view shared by the Council.

93/264. Question No H-669/93 by Mr Crampton on The Hague Declaration of 1987

Date of issue: 23 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

In view of the declaration on Western European Union appended to the Treaty on European Union (Maastricht) I am concerned at the answer given to my Question H-550/93 on 26 May 1993.¹

The declaration on WEU quite clearly indicates that the WEU is an integral part of the development of the Union. Does the answer to my question mean that this integral part of the European Community will, after Maastricht is ratified and in force, be able to maintain as its fundamental policy foundation (The Hague Declaration of 1987) one that the European Community will have no say in revising?

Answer:

The answer to the honourable Member's previous question on this matter recalled that The Hague 'Platform on European Security Interests' of 27 October 1987 is a WEU document and that the question of revision of WEU documents is a matter for the WEU to assess.

It is right, as the honourable Member states in his question, that the WEU is an integral part of the development of the Union. The Union can thus request the WEU to elaborate and implement decisions and actions of the Union which have defence implications.

The WEU is, however, a self-contained, international organization, with its own treaty, documents, procedures and institutions. This means that the European Community has no right to change any WEU document. This is equally true after the Maastricht Treaty has entered into force.

Needless to say, Member States of the Union which are also members of the WEU have the opportunity to raise the question of revision of WEU documents within the WEU.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/220.

93/265. Question No H-670/93 by Mr Dessylas on the immediate threat to the lives of two Kurdish activists and political refugees

Date of issue: 23 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

In February 1993 two Kurdish activists, Ali Gülmez and Süleyman Sahin, members of the illegal TKP/ML-TIKKO party, escaped from the Sagmasilar prison in Istanbul to Greece where they were initially recognized as political refugees. At present they are being held at the Diavata prison in Thessaloniki under immediate threat of extradition to Turkey where they are to be tried by the Special State Security Court (a joint military and civilian court) for membership of a subversive organization for which Article 146(1) of the Turkish Legal Code prescribes the death sentence.

What immediate representations will EPC make to the Greek authorities to prevent the extradition to Turkey of these two Kurdish activists and political refugees and to secure their immediate release from prison?

Answer:

The specific case discussed by the honourable Member has not been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation.

93/266. Question No H-671/93 by Mr Gallenzi on entry visas for the Community Member States

Date of issue: 23 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

In some CIS republics only one Community Member State has a diplomatic mission to represent its interests. Could European political cooperation therefore instruct the representative of the relevant Member State in each instance to issue visas valid for all twelve Member States in order to encourage the people of the newly independent CIS republics and of the European Community to forge ties of friendship and trading links?

Answer:

The question of visas is part of the inter-governmental cooperation in the field of immigration, and is therefore not a matter for EPC as such.

93/267. Question No H-678/93 by Ms Ruiz-Giménez Aguilar on the situation in Peru

Date of issue: 23 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Bearing in mind the urgent resolution adopted by the European Parliament at its part-session in April this year on respect for human rights in Peru, can the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC state what measures have been or are to be adopted to ensure that the right to freedom of expression and information is respected in Peru?

Answer:

As the honourable Member will be aware, the European Community and its Member States have taken a clear position on the situation prevailing in Peru since the events of April 1992. The specific European interest in Peruvian respect for human rights was strongly stated at the occasion of the third ministerial meeting between the European Community and its Member States and the Rio Group on 23 and 24 April 1993 in Copenhagen.¹ The Community and its Member States will continue in the future to raise the subject of respect for human rights, and in particular respect for freedom of expression and information as basic elements to a genuinely democratic system.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/180.

93/268. Question No H-684/93 by Mr David Martin on sanctions on Iraq

Date of issue: 23 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

In the light of growing evidence that it is the ordinary Iraqi citizens who are suffering as a result of Western sanctions on Iraq, does the Council believe that sanctions are achieving their original stated purpose?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States share the deep concern expressed by the honourable Member over the fate of the civilian population in Iraq. They have repeatedly called upon Iraq to cease its repression and end the economic blockade against the civilian population in the north. The Iraqi regime carries responsibility for the deterioration in the humanitarian situation in the region. Iraq has not yet implemented Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 which are mandatory and establish a mechanism for Iraq to export oil to finance the purchase of essential humanitarian supplies to relieve suffering throughout Iraq. The Community and its Member States continue to stress the need for an early and effective implementation of this mechanism. It should be emphasized that the Community regulations of 1990/1991 which established an embargo against Iraq include exemptions for the supply of medical and food products, as does the mandatory embargo against Iraq decided by the UN Security Council.

The Community and its Member States consider that the most effective way to help the civilian population is by acting in close cooperation with the UN effort. They continue to support the United Nations Inter-Agency Programme for the region. The UN Agencies involved have a clear understanding of the humanitarian situation in the field, and the UN Guard Force is playing an important role in ensuring the safety of the population and of UN personnel.

The Community and its Member States have also repeatedly called on the Iraqi authorities to comply fully with the provisions of Security Council Resolution 688, which demands an end to the repression of Iraqi civilians, and to cooperate with the humanitarian relief programme of the United Nations. They have also underlined the importance they attach to the full respect of the human rights of all Iraqi citizens.

93/269. Question No H-687/93 by Mr Cushnahan on the murders of UN soldiers in Somalia

Date of issue: 23 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Has EPC discussed the recent murders of 23 UN soldiers and others in Somalia?

What action do the Foreign Ministers propose to take to help to stabilize this situation?

Answer:

In their declaration of 8 June 1993¹ the Community and its Member States expressed their deep concern over the events in Mogadishu in recent days and condemned without reservation the pre-meditated killing and wounding of Pakistani soldiers who were conducting a weapons verification inspection with UNOSOM II. They expressed their regret and sympathy to the people and Government of Pakistan, and especially to the families of those who lost their lives.

The Community and its Member States reiterate their full support for the United Nations in its efforts to bring peace and stability to Somalia. They look forward to the publication of the Secretary-General's enquiry into the recent incident and the role of the factional leaders involved.

The Community and its Member States call on all Somali parties, movements and factions to respect the cease-fire, to comply with the agreements on political reconciliation they entered into in Addis Ababa in March and to cooperate fully with UNOSOM II so that it can fulfil its essential humanitarian mandate.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/234.

93/270. Question No H-688/93 by Mr Pierros on EPC response to the crackdown in Serbia

Date of issue: 23 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia in early June authorized unprecedented police violence against anti-government demonstrators and moved to ban the state's most prominent opposition party, the Serbian Renewal Movement.

How, beyond expressions of 'concern', has EPC responded to this unashamed display of authoritarianism?

Answer:

Following the riots in Belgrade on 1 June and the arrest of the leader of the opposition PSO, Vuk Draskovic, the Presidency carried out a *démarche* in Belgrade, deploring the violence and expressing outrage over the treatment of Mr Draskovic, while in police custody. Similar *démarches* were carried out by the Swedish CSCE-Presidency and by the US. It was stated clearly that these actions violated all norms of civilised behaviour and CSCE principles, and that the CMS intended to pursue this issue in the CSCE and other international fora. In this *démarche*, the CMS also objected strongly to the request by the Serbian public prosecutor to the Constitutional Court to ban the PSO, and warned that this would have further serious consequences for Serbia's international standing.

On 8 June, Ministers decided to make a new *démarche* to the authorities in Belgrade requesting the immediate release from custody of Mr and Ms Draskovic. At their meeting with US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, that day Ministers asked the US to make a similar approach.

93/271. Statement on Nagorno-Karabagh

Date of issue: 24 June 1993

Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States welcome the acceptance by all the parties to the Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] dispute of the CSCE plan put to them by Signor Raffaelli. They believe that this plan represents the best hope for a comprehensive cease-fire in the region, for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 822 of 30 April and for real progress towards a negotiated settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] conflict. They pay tribute in particular to President Ter Petrossian of Armenia for his successful personal intervention to se-

cure the agreement of representatives of the Armenian community in Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] to this plan.

The Community and its Member States hope that the Armenian Government will continue to urge full acceptance of the peace plan on those elements in Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] who have not yet accepted it and that those elements in Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] will refrain from exploiting the present internal difficulties in Azerbaijan on the ground in and around Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh]. They warn that in the present circumstances any offensive operation by whatever side may jeopardize the peace plan.

The Community and its Member States urge the parties to the conflict to continue to lend their full support to the plan, thus facilitating the deployment of the first phase of the CSCE monitoring mission. They also urge the parties to agree to accept the withdrawal of troops from occupied territories and guarantee the security of CSCE observers on the ground as soon as they are deployed.

93/272. Statement on Nigeria

Date of issue: 25 June 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States deplore the arbitrary decision of the Nigerian military Government to annul the Nigerian presidential elections, suspend the National Electoral Commission, and thereby to stop the promised transition to civilian rule. Reports from international observers suggest that the elections gave Nigerians a fair and adequate chance to express their choice for a democratically elected civilian government.

The Community and its Member States have consistently supported the programme for a return to democratic civilian rule, and had expected this process to be completed and power handed over to a democratic civilian government by 27 August. The Community and its Member States call upon the Nigerian authorities to reconsider their decision to annul the elections.

93/273. Question No 229/93 by Ms Ewing (ARC) on human rights in Malawi

Date of issue: 25 June 1993
Place of issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 18 February 1993)

Given the recent increases in human rights abuses in Malawi, which include torture, abuses of legal processes and the expulsion of a number of Irish missionary priests, will the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC send a letter of condemnation of these actions to President Hastings Banda?

Answer:

I can assure the honourable Member that the authorities of Malawi are in no doubt about the importance the Community and its Member States attach to full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms in that country.

The Community and its Member States recently welcomed encouraging signs of improvements in Malawi regarding political freedom and respect for human rights and urged the government to

continue the democratization process. They hope that the referendum, together with the pursuit of appropriate human rights and economic policies, will lead to conditions for a resumption of a full aid partnership with donors.

In addition reference is made to the reply given on 22 April 1993 to a similar question – No 285/93¹ from Mr Balfe, United Kingdom.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/158.

93/274. Question No 404/93 by Mr Bird (S) on the European Community and Haiti

Date of issue: 25 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 5 March 1993)

Will EPC inform me:

1. If the European Community recognizes the deposed President Aristide as the legitimate and democratically elected President of Haiti?
2. If the European Community is actively supporting the economic sanctions policy of the Organization of American States against the current military rulers of Haiti?
3. If the European Community is calling for the United Nations to take a more proactive role in assisting the return of democracy to Haiti?
4. How the European Community is opposing the gross violations of human rights that are alleged to be occurring in Haiti?

Answer:

As the honourable Member will be aware, the Community and its Member States have consistently reaffirmed their commitment to the restoration of constitutional order and the re-establishment of the legitimate authorities in Haiti.

On several occasions they have expressed their willingness to support all efforts conducive to a settlement of the Haitian crisis. In that context, they have urged all parties concerned to work towards this end. This policy was confirmed recently as the members of the European Community co-sponsored the General Assembly resolution on the situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti, which was adopted on 20 April 1993.

The Community and its Member States have welcomed the efforts by the Organization of American States and the United States, and in particular of the Special Representative of both organizations to bring about the restoration of democracy and the respect of human rights.

The deployment of an international civil mission in order to put an end to violence and human rights violations has also been welcomed by the Community and its Member States who, on the occasion of the 49th Session of the Commission on Human Rights co-sponsored a resolution on the human rights situation in Haiti. The Community and its Member States are examining further modalities of contributing to the activities of the observer teams to be deployed in all Haitian districts.

93/275. Question No 566/93 by Ms Oddy (S) on religious persecution of Ahmadi Muslims

Date of issue: 25 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 30 March 1993)

Are the Ministers in European political cooperation aware of the religious persecution experienced by the Ahmadi Muslim sect in Pakistan and Bangladesh? What steps do the Ministers in EPC intend to take to end the persecution of the Ahmadi people?

Answer:

The authorities in Pakistan and Bangladesh are well aware of the importance that the Community and its Member States attach to the scrupulous respect for human rights as set out in the declaration on human rights adopted by the Luxembourg European Council in June 1991¹ and the resolution adopted by the Development Council on human rights, democracy and development on 28 November 1991.

The Community and its Member States will continue to monitor the situation, especially in the field of human rights, in Pakistan and Bangladesh and will take appropriate action in case of violation of human rights and the religious persecution of minorities.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 91/194.

93/276. Question No 593/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on Russian residents of the Baltic states

Date of issue: 25 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 31 March 1993)

Russians living in the Baltic states, Moldova, Georgia and Tadzhikistan are treated as second-class citizens by government authorities in those countries. In view of this, will EPC say whether it will point out to those countries that Community aid will continue only on condition that they pursue a policy of respect for the human rights of minorities?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are paying close attention to the situation of the Russian speaking population groups in the Baltic countries. They have been working actively to alleviate tensions within Estonia and Latvia as well as to promote stable and harmonious relations between the Baltic states and Russia on a broader scale. In contacts with the Baltic countries the importance of respect for human rights is stressed and the Baltic countries themselves attach great importance in living up to the high standards in this field. In this context they have supported the Baltic countries' decisions to ask international organizations to report on the human rights situation in the Baltic states. They welcome the report on Latvia by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and the report on the situation in Estonia from the CSCE mission under the human dimension mechanism. Both reports clearly state that allegations of human rights violations cannot

be substantiated in either country. The missions, however, suggest a number of practical measures to be taken, which will help improve relations between the population groups.

The Community and its Member States are also following closely the situation of ethnic minorities, including the Russian population groups, in other CIS states closely. This includes Moldova, Georgia and Tadjikistan. As for Moldova the CSCE human dimension mission has reported that it found that the overall situation for the ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities in Moldova has already improved. However, violations of human rights in the Trans-Dniester area, presently under control of the Russian-speaking secessionists, were reported to the mission.

In their contacts with the authorities of Moldova, Georgia and Tadjikistan, the Community and its Member States steadily underlines that they attach great importance to the full respect for human rights as set out in the declaration on human rights adopted by the Luxembourg European Council in June 1991¹ and the resolution adopted by the Development Council on human rights, democracy and development on 28 November 1991.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 91/194.

93/277. Question No 623/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S) on the Middle East peace process

Date of issue: 25 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 1 April 1993)

As a co-organizer in the working party on water, what progress has been made by EPC during the negotiations following the opening of the Middle East peace process in Madrid?

Answer:

Each of the five working groups established within the multilateral track of the Middle East peace process has begun to work on practical steps within their specific domains. These are designed to broaden regional cooperation and to benefit the parties in concrete ways. Inter-sessional activities and seminars have become an increasingly valuable part of this process.

There have been three substantive meetings of the Water Working Group so far which have discussed such subjects as enhancing water supplies, water management and data sharing. The latest meeting took place in Geneva from 27 to 29 April 1993. It coincided with the resumption of the bilateral negotiations in Washington, after a tense period following the Palestinian deportees issue, and this had an impact on the debate. Not all the points on the agenda were discussed and have been deferred to the next meeting, scheduled for September.

93/278. Question No 701/93 by Mr Hadjigeorgiou (PPE) on assistance for the Armenian people

Date of issue: 25 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 7 April 1993)

The relentless war being waged in the enclaves of Nagorny Karabagh [Nagorno-Karabagh] within Azerbaijan has affected not only the population of these two countries but also neighbouring Armenia, which is being blockaded by Azerbaijan and Turkey (hampering of communications, the blowing up of natural gas and oil pipelines and the destruction of railways etc.).

How is the European Community reacting to the inadmissible blockade of Armenia, which is a violation of international law and what steps will it take to provide emergency humanitarian aid for Armenia and Nagorny Karabagh [Nagorno-Karabagh]? What steps has it taken to support peace plans for this area?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are seriously concerned about the recent development in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabagh.

On 7 April 1993 the Community and its Member States issued a statement on the situation in Nagorno-Karabagh. Here the Community and its Member States expressed their concern about the degradation of the relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict. They regretted the enlargement of the combat zone to Kelbajar and the Fizuli area, they called upon the conflicting parties to stop the fighting and they urged the Armenian Government to use its influence on the Nagorno-Karabagh forces for an immediate withdrawal from the Azeri territory.

The international community has on several occasions underlined that it rejects territorial gains and other *faits accomplis* through the use of force by whatever side in the conflict. Such actions are totally destructive in terms of the negotiation process.

The Commission and its Member States have consistently argued that the parties to the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict should remain committed to the ongoing negotiations in the Minsk peace process, which represents the only realistic framework to reach a political settlement to the conflict. They note that at their first meeting in Ankara on 21 April 1992 President Ter-Petrossian of Armenia and Elchibei of Azerbaijan reaffirmed their public commitment to the CSCE talks. The Community and its Member States hope that these talks will lead not only to a cease-fire and a withdrawal of occupying forces, but also to a wider normalization of relations in the region, including the lifting of all economic blockades.

The European Community and its Member States are concerned about the use of economic blockades to further the military aims of the parties to the conflict. They appeal for the early lifting of these blockades, i.e. the Azerbaijan blockade of the Republic of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh and the Armenian blockade of the Azerbaijani district of Nakhichevan.

The economic and humanitarian situation in the region is steadily deteriorating. The EC countries will continue to assist the ongoing programmes of humanitarian aid, but the relief work has been seriously hampered by the escalation of the conflict. The Commission and its Member States individually and collectively, will continue their humanitarian relief assistance as such assistance does not have political conditions attached to it. Recently the Community and its Member States made a further MECU 9.5 available for emergency relief work in Armenia and Georgia. It is however of the utmost importance that international aid to both Armenia and Azerbaijan is not used to support military purposes.

The Community and its Member States are in contact with the authorities of the neighbouring countries on developments in Armenia and Azerbaijan. Due to the shortages of food and fuel in Armenia, the EC has on several occasions appealed to Turkey to allow transports of humanitarian aid to Armenia.

93/279. Question No 744/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S) on the situation in Algeria

Date of issue: 25 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 14 April 1993)

Is EPC keeping a close watch on the situation of the thousands of people being held without charges or trial in Algeria and the constant accusations of torture and ill-treatment?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have repeatedly stressed their wish for Algeria to return to a normal institutional life and have encouraged the High Committee of State to promote dialogue among all parties concerned. They have also urged the Algerian authorities to pursue their publicly announced commitments namely social and economic reforms, the restructuring of public administration and the protection of fundamental freedoms.

The Community and its Member States support the efforts of the Algerian authorities to restore the democratic process. They hope that this transitional process will be attained with respect for human rights, tolerance and political pluralism. They welcome the Algerian President's announcement of a referendum on the new constitution before the end of 1993 on wily of the mandate of the High Committee as well as his stated willingness to pursue the democratic process. The Community and its Member States will continue to follow the situation closely.

The Lisbon European Council declaration, June 1992,¹ made clear that Euro/Maghreb relations must be founded on a common commitment to international law, human rights, fundamental freedoms and democratic values.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/256.

93/280. Question No 878/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on the political refugee Moukedi Mayi

Date of issue: 25 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 23 April 1993)

The Zairean dissident Moukedi Mayi, who has spent the last 10 years in Greece, is faced with the nightmarish prospect of the firing squad in his home country following the Greek authorities' rejection of his application for political asylum. Will EPC take up the case of the political refugee Moukedi Mayi?

Answer:

The specific case raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed within the framework of European political cooperation.

Attention is however drawn to the statement made by the Community and its Member States on Zaire on 1 February 1993,¹ in which the Community and its Member States among other things

urged the political authorities of Zaire to do everything in their power to maintain order in Zaire in compliance with human rights.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/036.

93/281. Question No 880/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on the property of Greeks in Istanbul

Date of issue: 25 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 23 April 1993)

The Turkish authorities are depriving Greeks of their property in Istanbul through acts of provocation. This process began in early 1993 with two court decisions on 6 and 11 January which refused to recognize the rights of the heirs to two large Greek estates – the Tzannetou and that of the former Patriarch Maximos. Will EPC take up the issue of Greek property in Istanbul and intervene to save it?

Answer:

The specific case raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed within the framework of European political cooperation.

93/282. Question No 916/93 by Mr Roumeliotis (S) on the problems of the Pontic Greeks in Georgia

Date of issue: 25 June 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 27 April 1993)

110,000 Pontic Greeks living in Georgia are facing severe problems as a result of the ethnic strife in the region.

Clashes between Georgians and Abkhazians have been going on for months in the region while the Greeks are left stranded between the warring factions since they have no reason for getting involved on either one side or the other.

Will EPC take up this matter with a view to a possible solution?

Answer:

The international community has expressed its regret over the recent escalation of the war in Abkhazia. Although the results of the Russian/Georgian meeting in Sochi on 6 and 7 April gives some hope for optimism it has so far not been possible to establish a cease-fire. The Community and its Member States have on several occasions underlined that an immediate cease-fire must be brought about as an essential prerequisite for establishing a lasting peace in the region.

The Community and its Member States have clearly stated its support to the initiatives of the UN and the CSCE in the case of Georgia. The UN and the CSCE represent the appropriate frame-

work to reach a peaceful settlement of the conflict. The CSCE representation in Georgia has initiated different fact-finding missions to Abkhazia.

The results, however, indicate that there is no sign of major breakthroughs towards peace in the near future. The Community and its Member States would therefore like to stress that they will monitor the protection of the fundamental rights of all ethnic groups in Georgia closely.

The Community and its Member States will continue to assess the ongoing programmes of humanitarian aid in the region.

93/283. Statement on South Africa

Date of issue: 26 June 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States have constantly urged all parties in South Africa to support the ongoing peaceful negotiations for the establishment of a non-racial, united and democratic South Africa.

The European Community and its Member States are deeply disturbed by and strongly condemn the violent actions perpetrated by right wing groups at the World Trade Centre on 25 June 1993 leading to a totally unwarranted disruption of the deliberations of the multi-party negotiating Council.

The European Community and its Member States strongly hope that such actions will not be allowed to hamper the efforts of the negotiating parties to reach an agreement in the very near future that will set South Africa firmly on the road towards democracy.

93/284. Statement on the detention of Vuk Draskovic and his wife

Date of issue: 28 June 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States have approached the Belgrade leadership on the detention and ill treatment of Vuk Draskovic and his wife, requesting their release and demanding to visit both.

The Community and its Member States have received no answer to the request, put to the Belgrade authorities on 7 June.

The detention, ill treatment and lack of information on the health of Mr and Ms Draskovic constitute flagrant violations of their human rights. They represent a further illustration of the irresponsible policy of the Serbian leadership that will contribute to isolate Serbia-Montenegro from the international community, carrying serious consequences for the Serbian-Montenegrin population.

The Community and its Member States have not given up their request for the release of Vuk Draskovic and his wife and urgent demands to be given the possibility to visit them

93/285. Statement on Tadjikistan

Date of issue: 29 June 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States strongly deplore the decision of the authorities in Tadjikistan to ban the four main opposition parties. They strongly condemn the mistreatment and forced exile of opposition figures since the present government reasserted its control in Tadjikistan at the beginning of 1993. The Community and its Member States express the hope that the ban will be repealed by the Tajik Parliament at its next session.

The Community and its Member States consider these actions contrary to human rights and fundamental freedoms as enshrined in the Charter of Paris and other basic CSCE documents, including elected democratic government and political pluralism, to which Tadjikistan is publicly committed. They also consider these actions contrary to the objective of national reconciliation which is badly needed in a country so recently wrecked by civil war. They consider that freedom of expression for all sections of the Tajik population, including through political parties and other political organizations, should form a vital part of such a reconciliation.

93/286. Statement on the situation in the Congo

Date of issue: 30 June 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States have from the start consistently supported and closely followed the move towards greater democracy in the Congo, which had highly auspicious beginnings.

They note with regret that this democratic process is currently facing a crisis which has virtually paralysed the economic life of the capital and resulted in material difficulties for the population. The Community and its Member States express the hope that the Congolese people and their political leaders will swiftly work out a peaceful solution which is the only way of carrying to a successful conclusion the democratic process desired by the Congolese people and re-establishing normal economic conditions.

93/287. Statement on the trial in Transdnistria

Date of issue: 30 June 1993
Place of issue: Brussels, Copenhagen
Country of Presidency: Denmark
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States support the efforts of the Moldovan Government to organize a fair trial in accordance with the relevant international human rights standards, including in particular those derived from the CSCE, for the following six prisoners: Ilie Ilascu, Alexandru Lesco, Tudor Petrov-Popa, Petru Godiac, Andrei Ivantoc and Valentin Garbuz.

The Community and its Member States do not recognize the legitimacy of the court in Tiraspol (Transdnistria). The Community and its Member States call on all interested parties to use their

influence on the self-proclaimed authorities in Transnistria to hand over the prisoners to the legitimate Moldovan authorities.

The Community and its Member States believe that the trial of these prisoners in the Transnistrian region will have a negative effect on negotiations on a settlement to the dispute over the status of the Transnistria region.

93/288. Statement on Haiti

Date of issue: 6 July 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States welcome the agreement which was reached in New York on 3 July 1993 between President Aristide and the Commander-in-Chief of the Haitian Army and which paves the way for the restoration of constitutional order and the return of President Aristide to Haiti.

They congratulate both the UN and the OAS on the success represented by this agreement, and also Mr Dante Caputo, the Special Representative of the Secretaries-General of these two organizations.

The European Community and its Member States express their full support for this agreement. They urge all Haitian parties concerned to ensure that it is fully respected and implemented, so that a return to constitutional order takes place peacefully which would make it possible to lay the foundations for lasting national reconciliation.

The European Community and its Member States reaffirm their desire to resume cooperation relations with Haiti after the lifting of sanctions imposed by the Security Council.

93/289. Question No 541/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on the application of the principles of humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 8 July 1993
Place of issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 30 March 1993)

As part of the continuing efforts towards peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina and throughout former Yugoslavia in general, could EPC make an urgent appeal once again to the leaders of all the various nationalities and ethnic groups living in the territory to bring an end to the torture and killing and to close the concentration camps of all the warring parties, so that the principles of humanitarian law, as laid down in the Geneva Convention (in particular Article 3), may at last be upheld?

Answer:

The honourable Member is aware of the persistent efforts by the Community and its Member States to put a halt to human rights abuses in the former Yugoslavia. This subject and the wider context of humanitarian operations are quite rightly the focus of much discussion in the House as, e.g., last month when I had the opportunity to address the operations.

On 10 May, Ministers condemned the ongoing violence in central Bosnia, particularly the organized attacks by Croats on Muslims. They issued a strong warning to President Tudjman noting that the CMS would be forced to stop preparatory work for closer relations with Croatia and warning that the international community would consider stronger measures against this republic if there was no change.

On 18 May, the Community and its Member States expressed outrage at the continued military attacks against Muslim civilians to Bosnian Serb and Bosnian Croat forces and called for these atrocities to be brought to an end. Subsequently, the chairman of the Council of Ministers participated in a meeting in Bosnia-Herzegovina with Presidents Tudjman and Izetbegovic, the co-chairmen and UNPROFOR Commander General Wahlgren to discuss the matter. At this meeting, agreement was reached by the parties concerned on joint action on the implementation of the Vance/Owen peace plan.

I can assure the honourable Member that the Community and its Member States will continue to do all they can to improve the situation and to force parties to abide by the Geneva Convention.

93/290. Question No 723/93 by Mr Mendez de Vigo (PPE) on the situation in Equatorial Guinea

Date of issue: 8 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 14 April 1993)

Following Parliament's adoption on 21 January 1993 of an urgent motion for a resolution (B3-56/93) proposing the suspension of all aid to the regime of General Obiang Nguema,

1. What steps have been taken by the Foreign Ministers to implement this decision of the European Parliament?
2. How do the Foreign Ministers assess [...] the French Government's attitude to the regime in Equatorial Guinea?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have been following developments in Equatorial Guinea closely and will continue to do so in the future. In this context, resolutions approved by the European Parliament have been duly taken into account.

Though the signing of the National Agreement gave rise at first to moderate optimism, the Community and its Member States remain at present seriously concerned at the government's deficient implementation of the agreement and at its uncooperative attitude regarding the necessary guarantees for the election process. They will continue to follow the situation closely.

93/291. Question No 743/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S) on executions and disappearances in Chad

Date of issue: 8 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 14 April 1993)

Given the failure of the Chad Government to take any effective action in response to the hundreds of illegal executions and disappearances, has EPC taken any steps to draw that government's attention to this extremely serious situation?

Answer:

On 17 May 1993, the Community and its Member States expressed publicly their deep concern at the recent events which have occurred in the south of Chad where members of the army have committed serious violations of human rights. They especially deplored the civilians who have fallen victim to these human rights violations.

They strongly urged the Chad authorities to take all necessary steps to restore order and security in the country. They also urged the Chad authorities to implement further measures to prevent human rights violations based on the findings of the investigation commission into these events.

The Community and its Member States believe that it is necessary to establish a climate of peace and security in order to achieve the objective of greater democracy in Chad announced by the National Conference, the holding of which was welcomed by the EC, and they called upon the government and all political forces to facilitate the dialogue and collaboration which are indispensable in this connection.

93/292. Questions No 825/93 by Ms Oddy (S) on Hashim Sa'id and 989/93 by Mr Moorhouse (PPE) on a political prisoner in Syria: Basil Hurani

Date of issue: 8 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 14 April 1993)

Question No 825/93:

Are the Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation aware of Hashim Sa'id, a medical student, who has been imprisoned in Syria without trial since 1983?

What steps will the Ministers take to ensure his situation is highlighted to the Syrian Government and pressure them for an early release?

Question No 989/93:

Will the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation exert pressure on the Syrian authorities to improve their human rights record and could they, in particular, press the case of Basil Hurani, a Syrian prisoner who has been detained without trial since February 1982, apparently for membership of a political group which seeks democratic reforms?

Answer:

With the permission of the honourable Members a joint reply will be given to Written Questions No 825/93 and 989/93, as they both deal with the human rights situation in Syria.

The Community and its Member States understand that Basil Hurani was transferred for trial by the State Security Court in July 1992 in connection with membership of the 'Party of Communist Action.' They have no information on the whereabouts of Hashim Sa'id.

The Community and its Member States follow the human rights situation in Syria closely and have repeatedly expressed their concern about reports of continuing violations. The Syrian Government has recently taken a number of encouraging steps to improve the situation. This includes the release of thousands of political prisoners and steps to facilitate the emigration of Syrian Jews, the majority of whom have now left the country.

The EC troika of Foreign Ministers had a meeting with the Syrian Foreign Minister in Brussels on 26 February 1993. On that occasion they encouraged Syria to adopt further positive measures in the field of human rights and stressed the importance they attach to respect for human rights as a key element in the Community and its Member States' relations with third countries. These positions were repeated on 1 April 1993 during the Damascus leg of the EC troika ministerial visit to the Middle East.

A constructive dialogue with the Syrian authorities on this subject has thus been initiated, and is being pursued by the Community and its Member States at official level.

93/293. Question No 1067/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on the decision by Mr Rabin on the Gaza Strip

Date of issue: 8 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 6 May 1993)

The Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, has decided to seal off the Gaza Strip until further notice. Will EPC say how it views this decision?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are seriously concerned about the economic and social consequences of the closure of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including the separation of the West Bank from East Jerusalem which has caused particular hardship. They acknowledge the consequent reduction of violence on the Israeli side of the Green Line but they are gravely concerned at the continuing death toll in the Occupied Territories. They have made representations to the Israeli confidence-building measures to that effect.

The Community and its Member States have raised with the Israeli authorities the economic and social consequences of the closure and have encouraged them to adopt measures to foster economic activity and employment in the O[ccupied] T[erritorie]s. Such measures should include the easing of restrictions on the Palestinian private sector and the removal of obstacles to trade. They have also stressed the need for transparency in budgets and taxation. Recalling their well known positions on Jerusalem, the Community and its Member States have called for arrangements, which effectively provide transit or access to East Jerusalem.

93/294. Question No 1095/93 by Mr Pierros (PPE) on acts of vandalism perpetrated on the orthodox church on Imbros (Turkish name: Imroz)

Date of issue: 8 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 10 May 1993)

Religious fanaticism in Turkey and pogroms against Greeks and Christians in areas in which they have lived for centuries, continue unabated. Only recently, between 11 and 13 March 1993, persons unknown vandalized icons and removed an entire wooden icon screen from the country church of the Virgin in the village of Panayia on Imbros.

What specific steps will European political cooperation take to require Turkey, with which the Community is cultivating close political and economic links, to respect the rights of Greek minorities on its territory and to protect the religious heritage and places of worship of Orthodoxy?

Answer:

The specific case raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed within the framework of European political cooperation.

93/295. Question No 1096/93 by Mr Pierros (PPE) on the damage to a Greek school in Istanbul

Date of issue: 8 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 10 May 1993)

The climate of fabricated hostility and fanaticism against Greece which is being cultivated in Turkey by official and semi-official sources often takes the form of damage to and intimidation of the Greek minority in Istanbul. Following the damage to the Olympic Airways offices on 20 February 1993, the Zografio High School building was severely damaged on 16 March 1993 by 'persons unknown' at the end of a basketball match between Greek and Turkish teams.

Will European political cooperation draw the Turkish Government's attention to the question of the protection of the Greek minority in Turkey?

Answer:

The specific case raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed within the framework of European political cooperation.

93/296. Question No 1097/93 by Mr Pierros (PPE) on the economic blockade of Armenia

Date of issue: 8 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 10 May 1993)

The Republic of Armenia is experiencing difficulties because of the armed conflict with neighbouring Azerbaijan. At the same time, an unprecedented economic blockade is being imposed on it not only by Azerbaijan but by Turkey which is Armenia's only channel to the outside world. In the name of solidarity with fellow Muslims in Azerbaijan, the Turkish authorities are doing everything in their power to prevent Armenia from replenishing goods which are essential not only for the economy but for the survival of the Armenians.

Will European political cooperation take steps to end Turkey's unacceptable economic blockade against Armenia?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are seriously concerned about the humanitarian situation in Armenia and will of course continue their relief assistance. Since the beginning of 1993 large sums of emergency relief assistance and other forms of humanitarian aid have been made available by the Community and its Member States to both Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The Community and its Member States are in contact with the authorities of the neighbouring countries on developments in the area. Due to the shortages of food and fuel in Armenia, the EC has on several occasions appealed to Turkey to allow transports of humanitarian aid to Armenia.

93/297. Question No 1117/93 by Mr Pierros (PPE) on the enforcement of embargoes in ex-Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 8 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 29 April 1993)

An embargo on arms deals with the warring former Yugoslav republics and an embargo on all trade with Serbia and Montenegro have not stopped the war in ex-Yugoslavia. This suggests that either those republics have unusually large reserves of weapons and oil or the embargoes are being broken. If the embargoes are being broken, does EPC believe stricter enforcement of them would help to end the killing in the region and, if so, does EPC plan further measures to ensure their enforcement?

Answer:

The honourable Member is aware of the sanctions decided by UNSCR 757, 787 and 820. In the Community framework and nationally measures have been taken to ensure implementation of the provisions of the above-mentioned UNSCRs.

In addition, NATO and WEU naval units are involved in surveillance of shipping in the Adriatic. Joint EC/CSCE Sanctions Assistance Missions (SAMs) advise neighbouring states of former Yugoslavia on tightening sanctions, enforcement procedures and in detecting and curbing violations. Samcomm Brussels produces regular progress reports. The so called Sanctions Liaison Group meets regularly in Vienna to discuss practical and financial arrangements. SAM teams are currently deployed in Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, FYROM [Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia], Ukraine, Croatia and Albania.

A Sanctions Coordinator provides strategic oversight to the various strands of activities relating to the sanctions against Serbia/Montenegro together with a small back-up team. At various occasions, Ministers have undertaken to reinforce existing sanctions and to contribute extra personnel to the SAMs.

Technical and financial assistance is given to the riparian states (Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine) to help them enforce the embargo against Serbia/Montenegro through improved monitoring of the Danube. Furthermore, WEU monitors are deployed on the Danube to assist in this effort.

The Community and its Member States are furthermore ready to assist in effective monitoring of the border between Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina if the Security Council so decides.

93/298. Question No 1365/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on nuclear accidents in the former USSR

Date of issue: 8 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 4 June 1993)

At least twelve nuclear accidents have been recorded in the former USSR since 1957, the last of which occurred in the secret Siberian city 'Tomsk-7'. In nearly all these cases, as the environmentalist group Greenpeace has revealed, the authorities attempted to cover up the disaster caused by the nuclear accidents.

In view of the nuclear accident in 'Tomsk-7', do the Ministers meeting in EPC intend to make it clear to the Russian authorities that it is imperative that the international community be informed of the scale of the environmental disaster caused by the radioactive cloud in that region?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States share the concerns expressed by the honourable parliamentarian concerning the safety of nuclear facilities in the former Soviet Union.

In this context the Community and its Member States have been at the forefront of efforts to implement the measures identified by the Munich Economic Summit and adopted by the G24 [G-24]. The Community and its Member States will continue, in their contacts with the Russian authorities, to underline the importance they attach to full information on the environmental consequences of any future nuclear accident.

As regards 'Tomsk-7', which is a military facility and not a civil nuclear power plant, the Russian administration has provided detailed and timely information. Furthermore, the prompt invitation to the IAEA to send a special commission to inspect this nuclear weapons establishment runs counter to suggestions that the Russian authorities attempted to cover up the disaster.

93/299. Question No 1366/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on the persecution of the Baha'is in Iran

Date of issue: 8 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 4 June 1993)

Having regard to the recent resolution by a group of MEPs on the continuing persecution of the Baha'i in Iran (B3-28/93), do the Ministers meeting in EPC intend to ask the Iranian Government to take measures to put an end to the unlawful sequestration of the assets of the Baha'i and to return such assets to their rightful owners?

Answer:

I would refer the honourable Member to the reply given to Oral Question No [H-]82/93¹ on this same subject.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/094.

93/300. Question No 1421/93 by Ms Ewing (ARC) on Dr Tran Than Thuc

Date of issue: 8 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 9 June 1993)

Human rights abuses are continuing in Vietnam, and a British Foreign Office official has confirmed this following a recent visit to that country. Does European political cooperation have any information on the detention of political prisoners and in particular Dr Tran Than Thuc who was sentenced to 16 years' imprisonment in December 1988?

Answer:

The specific matter raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation. The Community and its Member States are, however, continuously monitoring the situation in Vietnam, especially in the field of human rights and will take all action necessary if abuses occur.

Moreover the Vietnamese authorities are well aware of the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to the respect for human rights as set out in the declaration on human rights adopted by the Luxembourg European Council in June 1991¹ and the resolution adopted by the Development Council on human rights, democracy and development on 28 November 1991.

The Community and its Member States have requested the Commission to prepare a proposal for negotiating Directives for a Cooperation Agreement with Vietnam, and have underlined the fact that the protection of human rights and respect for democracy should constitute an essential part of the agreement.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 91/194.

93/301. Question No 1431/93 by Mr Barton, Mr Benoit (S), Mr Bertens (LDR), Ms Bindi, Mr Borgo (PPE), Mr Canavarro (ARC), Mr Carniti (S), Ms Cassanmagnago Cerretti (PPE), Mr Crampton, Ms Díez de Rivera Icaza (S), Mr Fantini, Mr Gaibisso (PPE), Ms Gröner, Mr Imbeni, Ms Izquierdo Rojo (S), Mr Langer (V), Mr Laroni (S), Mr Mottola (PPE), Mr Newman (S), Mr Nianias (RDE), Mr Nielsen (LDR), Mr Onesta (V), Mr Prag (PPE), Mr Regge (S), Ms Roth (V), Ms van Putten and Mr White (S) on the EC's role in the Middle East peace process

Date of issue: 8 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 9 June 1993)

In view of the desire expressed by both the Israeli Government and the representatives of the Palestinian people for the European Community to become more actively involved in supporting the Middle East peace process, what steps has EPC taken or does it intend to take at a moment of such historical importance?

Answer:

I would refer the honourable Members to the replies given to Oral Question No H-1411/93/rev. and to Written Question No 693/93¹ on this subject.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/247.

93/302. Statement on Estonia

Date of issue: 9 July 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States welcome the fact that the amendments made by the Estonian Parliament to the law on aliens are in line with the recommendations of the Council of Europe, the CSCE and the Community and its Member States and represent a substantial improvement of this law.

This political act is a clear indication of the attachment of Estonia to democratic principles and its commitment to political dialogue and compromise and non-confrontation with its communities and its neighbouring countries.

The Community and its Member States believe that this approach should be encouraged, the more so as it may serve as an example for other states faced with similar problems.

The Community and its Member States express the hope that the progress made in Estonia will result in a deepening of the dialogue, thereby allowing the other unresolved questions to be addressed.

93/303. Statement on Belize

Date of issue: 12 July 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States are pleased that on 28 June Guatemala clearly and decisively reaffirmed its recognition of Belize and undertook to continue to tighten relations with that country. They consider that this reaffirmation will make an important contribution to regional stability and hope that relations between Guatemala and Belize will continue to improve and result in a full and final solution to their territorial dispute.

93/304. Statement on the occasion of the investiture of the president-elect of the Republic of Burundi

Date of issue: 12 July 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

On the occasion of his investiture as President of the Republic of Burundi, the Community and its Member States address their congratulations to the President-elect, Mr Melchior Ndadaye, upon his election and their best wishes for every success in the high function he will henceforth be holding.

The Community and its Member States welcome with great satisfaction the exemplary process of democratization which has led to the recent presidential and general elections, and address a message of solidarity to the authorities and people of the Republic of Burundi.

93/305. Statement on Nigeria

Date of issue: 13 July 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States express their deep concern at the developments which have occurred in Nigeria since the government's decision to cancel the presidential elections of 12 June 1993. They are firmly convinced that a swift return to civil and democratic government is necessary.

After so many disappointing changes to the transitional programme, they would hope that the date of 27 August 1993 planned for the definitive handing over of power to a civil regime will in fact be respected and that Nigeria will find the means of achieving this objective in a democratic and peaceful way.

In the meantime, the Community and its Member States have decided to adopt the following measures with regard to the present authorities of Nigeria:

- suspension of cooperation in the military sphere;
- restrictions on visas for members of the military or the security forces and their families;
- suspension of visits by members of the military;
- suspension of any further cooperation aid.

The position of the Community and its Member States will be regularly reviewed in the light of new developments in implementation of the transitional programme and in particular the respecting of the date of 27 August 1993 which has been fixed for transition to civil and democratic government.

93/306. Statement on the programme of the Belgian Presidency

Date of issue: 14 July 1993
Place of issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Programme speech in the European Parliament

Mr Claes, President-in-Office of the Council: It is an honour for me, but also a challenge, to present before the European Parliament today, the national holiday of France, whom I heartily congratulate, the programme that Belgium has undertaken to carry out during the following six months.

At the very outset, however, I would like to make it quite clear that the role and function of the Presidency must be seen in its proper context. It has been said, as if by an oracle, that: To those whom they wish to destroy, the gods offer first the Presidency of the European Community. Which is a warning to us not to become over ambitious. Neither should it be an invitation to us to

remain passive. The Presidency is not the kind of power that one seizes. Neither can a programme be imposed, nor policy options be compelled. The Presidency does however bestow an authority that enables one to identify and put forward balanced options that take different interests fairly into account.

Contrary to what is sometimes thought, the programme for a Presidency is not a creation out of nothing which has fallen, so to speak, out of the supranational heavens as a gift from the gods. The more prosaic reality is that it is part of an ongoing process, the content of which is determined by what previous Presidencies have set in motion, and especially by the proposals from the Commission which under the Treaty has the sole right of initiative. Under our Presidency we will, of course, propose to respect that right of initiative to the full.

It is in this spirit, Mr President, that I now put before you, as President of the Council, the broad lines of the Belgian programme. It is not my intention to submit a long list of dossiers that Belgium will have to deal with during the second half of the year. This list has been discussed extensively in the document that has been handed to you. What one can, however, expect from the Presidency is a vision of the direction that European integration must take. And it is about that vision that I want to talk to you today, about the lessons we have learnt from the past and the plans we have laid for the future.

The Community is currently going through a particularly serious crisis, for which there are three fundamental reasons.

Firstly there is the general mistrust, even discredit, which weighs heavily on our political institutions. The Danish referendum of June 1992 was a clear indication of this, but the French referendum and the ratification problems in the United Kingdom are also writings on the wall.

Secondly there is the deep economic unease which profoundly affects the social fabric of the Community. Unemployment has now passed the threshold of what is acceptable; the realization that the problems of employment are no longer caused solely by short term economic factors but can be attributed in the end quite as much to structural factors is both revealing and alarming.

Lastly there is the paradoxical fact that the disappearance of the two super-power system of the past and the profound changes that this has wrought on the international stage have left the direction of international relations in a vacuum. The impotence not only of the European Community, but also of the United Nations and the international community as such, to contain the crisis in Yugoslavia is a sad testimony and concrete confirmation of that.

These three facts, Mr President, are for many the reason for a passive Euro-pessimism. For us, on the other hand, they are challenges which Europe can and must respond to. I am pleased to remind you of the words spoken in 1949 by Paul Henri Spaak on the eve of the creation of the European Communities as he said: 'This pessimism is justified only if we do nothing to organize ourselves and save ourselves. But if we organize Europe, there is no reason for such pessimism to exist.' The Treaty on European Union which will almost certainly come into force under the Belgian Presidency, provides us with a new frame of reference and a new range of instruments with which to meet these challenges. With the help of Maastricht the task of our Presidency is therefore first and foremost to put an end to the political crisis of confidence and the socio-economic unease, and at the same time to attempt to bring to an end the struggles so unworthy of mankind that are playing themselves out on the very doorstep of the Community.

Europe is for its citizens, not *vice versa*. This was the main message of the European Council in Birmingham. If we are to restore our citizens' trust in the European construction and its political institutions, we have to prove the truth of this message.

The prominent place which the new Europe gives to European citizens must first of all be demonstrated by the active and passive voting rights which they enjoy in elections to the European

Parliament, regardless of where they live. Under our Presidency the practical details of this will be worked out, in view of the upcoming elections in June 1994.

It was also decided to bring Europe closer to its citizens: we will make sure that this happens by a well thought-out application of the principle of subsidiarity, by making Community activities more transparent, by more involvement in European decision-making for the European Parliament, the national Parliaments as well as for the Committee of the Regions which still remains to be set up.

True European citizenship also means every one of us being able to move freely and unhindered within the Community: we will therefore continue to work with determination towards removing controls on internal borders and replacing them with uniform controls on the single external border. Of course this means that we will have to establish certain essential measures to accompany this, in the form of a common visa policy and a coordinated asylum and immigration policy.

The well-being of our citizens always goes hand in hand with prosperity. The 17 million men and women, young people and older people who are currently out of work represent a supply of human capital which is not being used. This kind of wastage, as Commission President Delors put it recently, is also a human tragedy for those who are forced out of the labour market. We find this socially unacceptable, and it also places great strains on the further unification of the Community. The European Council in Copenhagen has therefore taken important decisions relating to strengthening the Edinburgh growth initiative and also to dealing with the question of employment. It was decided to delegate to the Commission the task of producing a White Paper about the growth and employment strategy which should be pursued. In particular, it will be necessary to find an answer to the fact that the European economy is creating too few jobs and that its competitive position deteriorates. We must renew our economy by means of future-oriented activity in the fields of research and development, training and education, the application of technological developments and our transport and telecommunications infrastructure. In order to make growth more employment intensive, it will be very important to make the labour market operate more efficiently. We must pursue an active employment policy, based on training, with new proposals for labour organization and mobility. No doubt we will also have to revise the relationship between the cost of labour and the cost of capital as factors in production, as well as daring to look at compensatory measures, for example tax measures. However, the measures which are taken must not result in social degeneration. For this reason we consider that the social partners must also be closely involved in the discussions, and that these discussions must take place not only within the ECOFIN Council, but also in other Councils such as the Social Affairs Council.

Also, we may not forget the environmental dimension. We will attempt to enrich the EC's environmental policy – which already is an area in which integration is quite advanced – by giving it a sustainable development dimension so that it may evolve into a 'second-generation' policy for the environment. This implies an increasingly central role for environmental directives, a gradual strengthening of environmental standards, the impact of which must be felt in all areas of decision-making, and attention for consistency at the international level.

It goes without saying that the further extension of Economic and Monetary Union must also ensure the prosperity of our citizens. This will be brought into its second stage during our Presidency. In view of this, the European Monetary Institute will be set up, and we will make sure that the secondary legislation which has to accompany this transfer, is adopted in good time.

The Edinburgh growth initiative, with its recent adjustments which were agreed in Copenhagen, will be continued. The similar policy measures which have been taken by the United States and Japan can only serve to increase the impact of this.

European social policy needs a new impetus: we have to breathe some life into the Social Charter and the Social Protocol after an excessively long period of lethargy. This is a top-priority of

our Presidency. We are fully aware, however, that divisions among the Twelve render a successful outcome more difficult.

In order to succeed in these vital tasks, it will of course be necessary to mount a constant guard over monetary stability. Also, we must not fail to see the external dimensions of this question: the successful completion of the Uruguay Round is high on our agenda. I want to emphasize that the Community is not a protectionist fortress. We do not, however, want to be the victim of a naive and unilateral free trade liberalism either. The central principle in our trade relations with industrialized partners must be reciprocity. The newly industrialized countries, in South-East Asia and elsewhere, must be requested to respect minimal social and environmental norms.

Finally, it should be said that we must continue to reject unilateralism and that we may have to arm ourselves, if necessary, with effective trade policy instruments in order to defend ourselves.

Our citizens, to whose well-being, prosperity and security we are committed, are becoming increasingly concerned about the dramatic events which are unfolding on the Community's own doorstep: namely the crisis in the former Yugoslavia. This has also exposed the limitations of a European political cooperation which all too often goes no further than making declarations. For the first time in its political history, the Community has come up against a crisis in which declarations of principle are not enough. In order to put a stop to the spiral of hate and violence, more than a common position is needed: common action is also required.

The Treaty of Maastricht provides for a new form of cooperation between the Member States, which should allow them to act in a credible and consistent way in external affairs. This country is determined to make real use of the new tools now available to it. In the organizational domain we will introduce a series of practical measures to streamline our foreign affairs apparatus. On a more practical level we will organize so-called common activities which allow us to act within a precise legal framework, with a clear division of tasks and a fair division of burdens. I am looking forward to cooperating with the European Parliament in this important area. In accordance with the Treaty, this consultation obligation will be put into effect without delay. The main options of the Community's foreign policy will form the core of our consultations. It is already clear that our attention here is directed not only towards continued work on a peaceful solution to the crisis in the former Yugoslavia, but also towards consolidating the process of democratization in Russia and the other CIS republics, bringing about a lasting peace in the Middle East, and finally alleviating the harrowing poverty from which people, mainly in Africa are suffering.

However, this will not be enough to achieve the stability which we want to see within Europe and outside as well. Considerable efforts will therefore be made under the Belgian Presidency on the further development of our structural links with the outside world. The dynamic which has been set in motion by the Danish Presidency in the extension negotiations with Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway, will be fully honoured under the Belgian Presidency. Here the decisions taken by the European Council at Copenhagen¹ will serve as a guide-line for us: as far as possible the negotiations will be carried out in parallel, whereby each candidate Member State will be assessed on its own merits. The negotiations will take place in a rapid and constructive way with the Treaty of Maastricht and the *acquis communautaire* as the only guiding principles.

We will continue to work on the intensification of our relations with Central and Eastern Europe. This is looking promising, and the final goal is the entry of these countries into the Community. This must be possible as soon as they are able to fulfil the economic and political obligations required. It is our duty to do our utmost in the attempt to consolidate these young democracies and help the successful outcome of their fundamental economic reforms. Each failure will be paid by growing regional instability and increasing and uncontrolled immigration in the Community. Further attention will also be paid to our links with Russia and some of the other CIS republics. The only way to stimulate democracy and the market economy is by reaching balanced and realistic agreements.

Pursuing an active foreign policy with regard to Central and Eastern Europe while neglecting our Mediterranean policy would be both irresponsible and incomprehensible. For this reason it is essential to move quickly towards balanced Euro-Maghreb Agreements. These agreements must include closer cooperation with the Community, as well as regional cooperation.

Finally, we would like to give a new face to our development policy within the framework of Maastricht. It should be clear that the principle of respect for human rights will be the foundation underlying all our external activities.

Mr President, the implementation of Maastricht cannot and must not take place in an institutional vacuum, quite the contrary. Our Presidency must guard over the principle of the realization of the unicity of the institutional framework for European Union, which will guarantee a degree of coherence and continuity in its activities which is quite indispensable. This crucial task could well be definitive in terms of the direction which the Union will develop later. In particular, the required level of inventiveness must be demonstrated in the institutional integration of the common foreign and security policy and the policy in the domain of justice and home affairs: under our Presidency the unification of the Council Secretariat, the merging of the working groups and the recognition of the Coreper as a preparatory organ for actions taken by the Council, must all be carried out. However, relations with the European Parliament must also be brought in line with Maastricht: in particular the co-decision right of the European Parliament should work to the benefit of the democratic content of European decision-making. However, we must not lose sight in all this of the primary role played by the Commission: with its right of initiative, the Commission is and remains the driving force behind the European construction. During its Presidency this country will ensure that the Commission can play its role to the full. I do not underestimate the difficulties in the relations between the Parliament and the Council, which are often characterized by conflict. The Presidency is only the interpreter or spokesman towards the Parliament of the will of the Council. However, the Presidency will always make efforts to find an agreement and work in a spirit of reconciliation. The Parliament is no doubt aware of the fact that institutional squabbling would only cause damage to the European construction. At a time when some are questioning the future of the European construction, when the basic principles which have served as our guide for forty years are being criticized, and when nationalism is once again raising its head, it would be suicidal to cripple the work of the Community because of disputes between the institutions. Those who believe in the European Community and you know that this applies to Belgium, as I know that it also applies to the great majority of those in Parliament – must help each other to reach their common goals. We must therefore make every effort to bring about the relationship of trust and cooperation between the Council and the Parliament which will be necessary to ensure the further development of the European Union. I believe that our initial contacts at the Extraordinary General Affairs Council on 2 July, the informal consultation meeting on 12 July and also the debate on the structural funds yesterday afternoon have furnished proof of our mutual good will and efforts in this regard.

Mr President, at the beginning of Belgium's last Presidency in 1987, my predecessor, now a Member of your Parliament, Mr Leo Tindemans, made the following statement, and I quote: 'The fortuity of time means that it now falls to Belgium during its Presidency, to oversee the first implementation of the Single Act'. I could repeat the same sentence, six years later, simply by inserting the words 'Treaty on European Union' instead of 'Single Act'. Our experience from that period has taught us that the implementation of treaty provisions is more than a purely mechanical process of converting dead words into equally dead practice. If it is to succeed, this implementation must be supported by the political will to see progress. It seems to me that after the successful referendum in Denmark and with good prospects for an end to the ratification procedure in the United Kingdom, a significant strain has been lifted from the future of Europe. With the end of the uncertainty about Maastricht, a renewed dynamic may result, creating new opportunities which this Presidency will seize with imagination and determination in order to build an ever closer Eu-

ropean Union. The Treaty of Maastricht is thereby not an endpoint but rather a point of departure for further deepening and democratization. Mr President, this is the ideal which is held by your Parliament. It is also my own.

[...]

[After the following debate Mr Claes stated:] Mr President, perhaps some short-sighted nationalists have not yet understood, but this President is representing Belgium and the representative of Belgium is therefore proud to speak the three national languages of the country and will continue to do so.

[...]

I emphasize again what we are seeing here, that Europe and narrow nationalism are not in the last resort compatible, that Europe needs a solid democratic basis and that is naturally in conflict with such a nationalistic outlook. I would therefore say there is only one conclusion to be drawn on that point, and that is to strive to create a deeper, broader Europe in which there is very certainly room for all cultures and all peoples but where a solid democratic basis is needed for everything, which at least assumes sufficient forbearance, which here in one speech seemed to be totally lacking.

Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, in listening to the spokesmen of the various groups, whom I thank for their valued contributions, I have a growing feeling of confidence in the future, not only of the European institutions but also of our opportunities to face a series of challenges, new ones, not just for the European Community but for the whole world community. It is striking that these challenges are of a cross-border nature and so require also international, cross-border answers, which brings us automatically to the conclusion that certain international organizations, it may be the UN but it may also be the European Community, will have to play an ever more important part, which indeed assumes a process of development in depth which is just as compelling as it is urgent. I would say that to improve our public credibility we must now think first of all of combating the economic recession and of tackling new structural problems falling within the broad socio-economic framework. I think that in that respect we need what the British call confidence building measures and the first of those is a very speedy definitive ratification of the Treaty of Maastricht; the second, outside the Community, is the winding up of the GATT negotiations.

As far as Maastricht is concerned, let me be clear, we must be able to start the second phase of economic and monetary union towards 1 January 1994, which means that the monetary institute must be established and that it must be possible for a series of so-called secondary but no less important measures to be adopted and at the same time also for the new pillars of the Treaty to be erected in a solid Community foundation.

As regards the Uruguay Round I thought that in my introduction I sufficiently described the conditions which the agreement must meet, but I feel sure that we shall not find a solution to today's problems in protectionism. From the short-term economic point of view I think that, if we can finish off quickly the structural fund operation, the Community will have available a strong instrument, together with other measures adopted at Edinburgh and Copenhagen, for struggling against the tide of the recession and, in so far as the conclusions of the G7 [G-7] regarding a stronger coordination of conjunctural policy between Japan, the United States of America and the Community can be put into practice, that too seems to me to be a helpful measure which we must not underestimate. But we must be well aware that this does not meet the structural challenges, which mainly concern the labour market.

I was very much impressed by the report made by Mr Delors, President of the Commission, at the Copenhagen summit, in which he showed and proved to us that we must start thinking urgently about our decreasing competitiveness and that with the same amount of investment we can-

not create in Europe the same number of jobs as in the United States and Japan. It seems that we have not the capacity to adapt ourselves as rapidly to the requirements of the new technologies and that there are considerable efforts to be made in this field as regards training and education.

So I think the decision taken at Copenhagen to ask the Commission to provide us with a new White Paper which is to give structural answers to these new challenges meets a real need. I do not think we need have any taboo subjects in this basic discussion. That does not mean – and here I am speaking to Ms Dury – that we must prepare to destroy the social construction which is characteristic of the European Community. I cannot imagine that the fundamental concept of solidarity will disappear tomorrow in our search for solutions to the challenges facing us.

The main feature – and here I take up what Mr Tindemans said – is undoubtedly the maintenance, consolidation and strengthening of the peace and stability which the Community has brought at last to Western Europe. I am convinced that Western Europe cannot remain an island of peace and stability and that a multi-faceted policy must therefore be developed, in the first place that of enlargement. I think we are in a highly contradictory situation. Inside the Community people complain about all kinds of gaps, deficiencies and weaknesses of the Community, yet at the frontiers of the Community today people are almost clamouring to be admitted to the European family. We must admit, it is a striking contradiction. I think that in the enlargement negotiations we can only let ourselves be guided by the Treaty of Maastricht as a whole, together with the *acquis communautaire* so that there can be no room for definitive exceptions. From the institutional point of view the problem has been clearly brought out by various speakers. I should like to take a more modified view of the position.

The Copenhagen Council expressed the wish to move quickly and to try to finish off the process of enlargement with regard to the Scandinavian and Austrian applications towards 1 January 1995. I say with conviction that I do not see how both this process of enlargement and the substantive debate on the institutions in all its aspects can be finished off at the same time. Does this mean that this very important institutional problem must be neglected? Far from it. Not a single enlargement question will be settled before an answer has been given to a series of obvious institutional questions which for that matter may be raised by the applicants for accession as well. I think therefore that on this point we shall have to choose the middle way by which a series of institutional problems must obviously be settled before the enlargement questions are cleared up, whilst other features which are just as important institutionally will only receive an initial discussion in the course of the next few months. But for the consolidation of stability and peace the first essential would seem to be enlargement.

Second, we need to strengthen solidarity and cooperation with a series of neighbouring countries. I think Copenhagen took a not unimportant step in that direction too. Copenhagen told the countries of Central Europe clearly on behalf of the Community that they are regarded as being future members and that meanwhile cooperation in the political, the socio-economic and the scientific fields is being strengthened. If you add to that the possibilities of intensifying cooperation with the area of the Mediterranean Sea and the new Partnership Agreements being negotiated with republics of the former Soviet Union, I think a second fundamental facet is provided. A third facet is undoubtedly the coordination and integration of the immigration and visa policy, which is an important feature in the development or at least the consolidation of stability.

As far as I am concerned, Mr President, those are the major observations on the points raised by the spokesmen of the groups. I think it is indeed important, as Mr Tindemans has said, to be able to encourage and stimulate the European idea by new initiatives. It is a heartening challenge to which we must apply ourselves. But as I already said in my introduction, I am convinced that we can look forward with more confidence to the future if starting out from the confidence-building measures which it should be possible to take before 31 December and the development of a structural economic policy which offers an answer to a number of new challenges – we can win back public confidence in the European institutions.

That is the great challenge with which we are faced and for which I hope the various institutions together will be able to make the necessary efforts. It is my hope that together we shall succeed in concluding a new inter-institutional agreement and in view of the first contacts which have been made, I am fairly confident that it must be possible, not only as regards the ombudsman and subsidiarity but also in respect of budgetary problems and financial perspectives, to reach, during the Belgian Presidency, satisfactory compromises which must be the subject of a new inter-institutional agreement.

[After the continuing debate Mr Claes stated:] Madam President, Mr Morán López, Mr Mitolo and Mr Lucas Pires have brought the economic challenges up again. I should like to emphasize that unfortunately I do not know at the moment which office hands out miracle solutions. Having said that, I firmly believe that we have made a move in the right direction in taking as our basis the decisions adopted at Edinburgh and strengthened at Copenhagen. What is more, the most recent Finance Ministers' meetings have shown that the will does exist to bring about the economic and budgetary conditions for pursuing a policy of lower interest rates.

At the structural level, apart from the need to reach a global agreement this year on the Uruguay Round, I stress the importance of the White Paper which is to be prepared by the Commission and is to contain, I say in answer to Mr Guidolin's speech, proposals for the reform of the labour market in which, without doubt, account will be taken of the work already done by Parliament.

On this subject I should also like to say to Ms Thyssen that the Belgian programme very clearly refers in some four different respects to the specific role and possibilities of the SMUs and that better representation for them is also advocated.

I would say to Mr Desama that in this context too we are not underestimating the importance of the fourth outline programme on research and development. I confess I have no very clear picture of the budget Ministers' work on this fourth programme. In any case I shall ensure that this programme is maintained, always within the framework of the budgetary resources available.

I would also say to Ms Hermans that in the framework of the reform of the labour market education and training have certainly a very important part to play.

As far as all this is concerned I can say to Mr Van der Waal that it is certainly not the intention of the Belgian Presidency to organize a special summit to be restricted to the show element. We hope it will be possible to organize a special summit at which a start will primarily be made with the second phase of economic and monetary union, and why should it not be possible there to give approval also to a new inter-institutional agreement?

I have noticed that in a number of speeches, by Mr Sälzer and Mr De Clercq amongst others, great importance was, quite rightly, attached to institutional problems. I have already said in my first answer that there is clearly a link between enlargement and institutional problems. You cannot decide on enlargement by even one Member State unless certain problems connected with representation in Parliament, with the operation of the Commission, with the operation of the Council and the right to vote in the Council, are solved first. So it is inevitable that certain aspects must be institutionally dealt with before a decision can be taken on enlargement. Of course I am well aware that this is not the expected answer to the questions raised. If a special inter-governmental conference is suggested for the purpose, perhaps I might say that the right psychological moment must be chosen. There is no sense in convening a special inter-governmental conference if there is not some guarantee of success in advance. On that point I should like to tell Mr De Clercq that I shall put before my colleagues in the Council, as a suggestion, his proposal for setting up in the very near future a Committee of Wise Men. He will readily accept that, not having a mandate today, I cannot commit myself in this, but I shall certainly put the idea directly to my colleagues.

I should like to assure Mr Vandemeulebroucke that we shall indeed be taking up the social charter and that the necessary measures are already taken for the Committee of the Regions, as envisaged in the Treaty of Maastricht, to start up as soon as the Treaty actually comes into force. I shall not conceal the fact that in this matter we have a budgetary and an infrastructural problem. It was stated at Maastricht that the Committee of the Regions would have to rely on the same secretariat as that acting for the Economic and Social Committee. That will undoubtedly raise problems to begin with. In this matter it is the Presidency which is asking for more budgetary resources. You know the problems facing us, but we still think that the Committee of the Regions cannot make a proper start if it can only call upon the existing secretariat available today to the Economic and Social Committee.

I would say to Mr Galle that, as regards his argument on behalf of the ombudsman or 'ombudsperson', I am convinced, first, that we are not far from the possibility of an inter-institutional agreement on the matter and, secondly, that, as regards the statute of the ombudsman, it is my modest opinion that it is mainly the Parliament that can and must take decisions in the matter.

Mr Boissière raised some questions about active and passive citizenship and the electoral procedure. All I can tell you for the moment is that the problem of active and passive citizenship is already down on the Council's agenda for 19 July, that we are aware of the urgency of the problem, but that we shall need unanimity in the Council for a decision.

Mr de Gucht and Mr Newton Dunn raised once more the problem of the openness of the Council. If I may speak personally I must say that I have never been very enthusiastic about televised Council meetings. I do not think public opinion is very interested in what I call poor television. I do think that votes and explanations of votes should be made public. That is the gist of our proposals.

[...]

I should like to tell Mr de Gucht that I do not intend to make any misuse of this platform for national politics. When he states that Belgium must set an example in Yugoslavia and must increase its military efforts I should like to say two things.

First, I am convinced, and as a Belgian I am proud to say it, that today Belgium is more than doing its duty in the international community with some 1,000 troops in the former Yugoslavia and some 900 in Somalia and that in addition the Belgian expenditure in the framework of humanitarian programmes may be seen at all times. If you wish for further efforts, and this is my second objection, you will have to review your programme in which you give public opinion the impression that the defence budget in Belgium may be reduced by 10,000 million. These two options are not compatible.

I can assure Ms Fontaine that we share her views about subsidiarity, that is, that subsidiarity must take account of the inter-institutional balance and that it must be looked at from both directions. A problem may be better dealt with at national, regional or local level, but if, on the other hand, it can be dealt with more effectively at European level, the member countries are expected to accept the consequences.

I promise Mr van Ouirve that I shall urge my colleagues who are responsible for justice and internal affairs to ensure that as regards the third pillar there is the possibility of more information for Parliament, and in particular of debate with Parliament.

Mr Papoutsis and Mr Alavanos asked for action on the Cyprus file.

I hope they will be understanding as regards my answer. We received the Commission's opinion only two weeks ago. This point is on the Council's agenda for 19 July next, but I cannot predict what the Council's attitude will be. I cannot guarantee that the Council is ready to adopt a final decision on the opinion presented by the Commission. What I can say is that we are determined to proceed with all necessary speed in this matter.

Finally I should like to end, Madam President, by telling Mr Langes that I greatly valued his argument and that I can easily follow him. I am in favour of a greater balance between the institutions. I told you yesterday in my personal capacity and I repeat today that on one point I have less appreciation of Maastricht, namely as regards the upgrading of Parliament, which is manifestly insufficient. That is also the main reason why I stated in my conclusions today that Maastricht cannot be the final step and that democratization and development in depth must clearly be the next. In any case I should like to tell Ms Thyssen too that we are already doing what is possible to encourage this debate. Let us hope together that we succeed very quickly in improving and rounding off the building of Europe on this point.

[After the continuing debate Mr Claes stated:] I was not intending to avoid replying to your question. We shall be raising the matter in the Council, but I repeat what I have already said: to reach a conclusion we need unanimity, and that is quite a different matter.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/248.

93/307. Statement on the outcome of the Tokyo Economic Summit

Date of issue: 14 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Statement in the European Parliament

Mr Claes, President-in-Office of the Council: Mr President, I shall simply give the political conclusions of the G7 [G-7]. First, as regards the UN, even though the members of the G7 [G-7] recognized that they have no authority in this sphere, they stressed the need to strengthen this organization's institutional capacity, above all to reinforce their peace-keeping and peace-making powers.

The new problems discussed – this is my second point – seem to me important; according to the members of the G7 [G-7] they call for much greater international cooperation. First of all there is the problem of refugees, uncontrolled migration and terrorism. Another problem is caused by the proliferation of weapons of destruction. On this point North Korea was given a very serious warning. Ukraine also received a warning. On the other hand, the members of the G7 [G-7] expressed themselves very clearly in favour of extending the Non-Proliferation Treaty indefinitely. As Mr Christophersen has already said, support was expressed for Mr Yeltsin. Russia and Ukraine were encouraged to settle their problems by dialogue.

As regards the former Yugoslavia, I think the best thing will be for me to read you the text of the final *communiqué*, drawn up in English.

Faced with the rapidly deteriorating situation in former Yugoslavia, we reaffirm our commitment to the territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina and to a negotiated settlement based on the principles of the London Conference. We cannot agree to a solution dictated by the Serbs and Croats at the expense of the Bosnian Muslims. We will not accept any territorial solution unless it has the agreement of the three parties. If the Serbs and Croats persist in dismembering Bosnia through changes of border by force or ethnic cleansing, they will place themselves beyond the pale of the international community and cannot expect any economic or commercial assistance, especially reconstruction aid. The UN Security Council resolutions on safe areas must be implemented fully and immediately to protect the civilian population. We commit ourselves to assist the Secretary-General of the United Nations to implement UN Security Council Resolution 836 by sending troops, by air protection of UNPROFOR, by financial and logistical contributions or by appropriate diplomatic action. Sanctions should be upheld until the conditions in the relevant Security Council resolutions are met. Stronger measures are not excluded. The flow of humanitarian aid to Bosnia must be increased. Deeply concerned about the situation in Kosovo, we call on the Serbian Government to reverse its decision to expel the CSCE monitors from Kosovo and elsewhere in Serbia and to agree to a significant increase in their numbers.

That is as far as Yugoslavia is concerned.

The Seven expressed themselves as being optimistic about the trend in Cambodia and regard that operation as a success for the UN. As regards the Middle East, the parties concerned are encouraged to pursue the negotiations energetically. Iran and Libya are clearly warned that they need not count on any understanding if they do not comply with the directives and orders of the Security Council. On the one hand Iran is invited to make a contribution to international efforts for peace and stability, but on the other hand is warned in no uncertain terms 'to cease actions contrary to these objectives', and by 'these objectives' means helping to bring about peace and stability.

My last point concerns South Africa. All forces pursuing the process of non-racial democratization are encouraged to continue their efforts and to bring them to a happy conclusion.

93/308. Question No H-449/93/rev. by Mr Nianias on weapons trading (or rearmament) by Bulgaria and Turkey

Date of issue: 14 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Bulgaria and Turkey have concluded an agreement on the joint production and sale of weapons.

Does the EPC have information on this subject and, if so, can it inform Parliament of the markets which are likely to be chosen by the two governments for sales of their weapons?

Is there a possibility that the two producers may use the weapons themselves for their own purposes, i.e. that Bulgaria and Turkey are rearming at a time when the general trend is towards disarmament?

Answer:

The particular problem raised by the honourable Member was not discussed in the framework of European political cooperation.

93/309. Question No H-640/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru on defensive weapons for Bosnia

Date of issue: 14 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Why do the European Community and the international community not supply weapons for local defence – mortars, anti-tank guns, telescopic rifles, lorries and fuel – to the Bosnian Muslims to enable them to defend themselves against aggression, rather than prolonging it?

Answer:

Mr Claes, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: The honourable Member must be aware that on 29 June 1993 the United Nations Security Council rejected the proposal for partial lifting of the arms embargo on the whole of former Yugoslavia. So deliveries of arms and military material to the Muslims are prohibited.

In this context it is appropriate to recall that the declaration of the European Council of Copenhagen on Bosnia-Herzegovina¹ calls for a negotiated settlement of the conflict which should be founded on the principles of the London Conference and be fair, viable, and acceptable to the three peoples of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr Arbeloa Muru (PSE): I have just heard while I was in my office that you and another Member of this House have expressed a negative opinion of the Conference of Vienna. I was also there, President-in-Office of the Council and I do not share your opinion. There has been no proliferation of conferences on human rights. There has been one conference, held 25 years after that of Teheran.

However, be that as it may, Mr President-in-Office, permit me simply to ask – to avoid entering into a legal-military disquisition – do you consider that aggressors enjoy the same rights as those against whom aggression is perpetrated? And, secondly, when the Community recognized the independence of Bosnia, did it or did it not also recognize its right to defend itself?

Mr Claes: Firstly, I really must insist that people do not put words into my mouth. I have never, at any time, complained of a so-called proliferation or inflation of human rights conferences. I simply said that we should avoid an inflation of international conferences on all manner of different subjects in order to protect effectiveness. I certainly do not consider it excessive to meet once every 25 years at the world level to discuss the situation concerning issues relating to human rights. I hope that clears up any misunderstanding on that head. Returning now to the questions that have just been raised, I would like to tell the honourable Member that if he considers that the arms embargo should be lifted in the name of so-called fairness, he should know for a start that he is asking for the immediate withdrawal of all blue berets and, hence, suspension of humanitarian aid. Secondly, that he [...] inviting the risk of internationalization of the conflict and, thirdly, bearing in mind the present coalition between Serbs and Croats, that he is asking that the risk of liquidation of the Bosnian minority in Bosnia-Herzegovina be assumed, which also applies in military terms in this instance. I genuinely believe that the terms in which he has presented the problem are erroneous and that the risks associated with his approach are far greater than the possible advantages of lifting the arms embargo.

Mr Habsburg (PPE): Mr President-in-Office, the current situation is rather like this: robbers attack a village, so the police are disarmed! That is the attitude taken at the moment by the Community. To anyone who has been to Bosnia – and God knows, I have been there often enough – it must be absolutely clear that this imbalance between Serbs and Bosnians is responsible for the present situation. This means that those who are under attack must be given the chance to defend themselves, a chance they do not have today! Do you really believe that the solution is to establish so-called safe areas? All that this policy will achieve is to create a new Palestine or a new Lebanon here in Europe!

Mr Claes: I maintain that the repercussions of the proposed solution are as adverse as the situation with which we are faced today. May I repeat that lifting the arms embargo implies the immediate withdrawal of the blue berets who are currently responsible for humanitarian aid and, secondly, that we should be fully aware that we run the risk of internationalizing the conflict and, thirdly, that with the suggestion of more heavily arming the Muslim minority in Bosnia, on account of the coalition currently existing between Serbs and Croats, there would be a danger that the minority might be totally liquidated in next to no time. It goes without saying that I fully respect the views of those who argue the contrary. I am passing on the opinion that prevailed in the Copenhagen summit and it is my task here to repeat the opinion held by the Council. That is what I have to say in this regard.

Regarding your second question, I consider that Resolution 638 concerning what are known as the safety zones can only be viewed as a temporary and even short-term 'solution', as a means to

reach a final agreement in which, may I repeat, the Community clearly states that it must respect the principles as laid down in the London Conference, which means that the national security of Bosnia-Herzegovina must be respected, that respect for human rights and minorities must be guaranteed in the solution and that the Community is only prepared to accept an agreement when the three parties concerned give their assent on this point. It is exclusively with this approach and this approach only that we continue to encourage the three parties concerned to enter into dialogue in Geneva.

Mr Balfe (PSE): Having been here throughout this tragedy I recognize the difficulties that the Council has, but do they not see that in the multi-ethnic Europe in which we now live the fate of the Muslims in former Yugoslavia contrasts with the readiness of the coalition to take action in the Gulf? People ask quite seriously whether the 'level killing field' referred to by the British Foreign Secretary is the right approach to take and whether we should not be taking stronger action to ensure that the settlement which comes about in Yugoslavia does not sow the seeds of the next conflict. In other words, it is quite clear that the Bosnian Muslims are the weaker party and that a major diplomatic effort is needed to secure a share of the territory for them which offers at least some prospect of surviving as an international settlement rather than just being the starting point for the next outbreak of violence. I hope the Belgian Presidency can give some sort of commitment to trying to take an initiative in this regard.

Mr Claes: I really do not think that any major difference of opinion exists between the honourable Member and myself. I certainly consider, as the Copenhagen summit said, that the final solution must be based on respect for the sovereignty of Bosnia-Herzegovina with, in addition, respect for the minorities and, what is important in emphasizing how far we agree, there must certainly be enough territory for the Muslim minority to ensure that it is a viable solution. And, to my mind, we are here not just talking about surface area, or percentage of territory – 30% is frequently mentioned – but also about such essential and vital considerations as livelihood, access to the sea or to navigable rivers. These are just a few elements to which others can be added, but unfortunately we have not yet got that far, we do not yet have the three parties around the table. We have not yet commenced discussion of a map upon which liveable and tenable solutions may be sketched because, although it affords no pleasure to do so, we should once more bring it home, although it gives no pleasure to do so, that as we sit here talking together, there is still no sign of a consensus within the Bosnian presidium.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/250.

93/310. Question No H-694/93 by Mr Alavanos on the Greek membership of the WEU

Date of issue: 14 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

A recommendation which has been approved by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Western European Union and has now been submitted to the WEU Council stresses that the WEU member States might suspend ratification of the Protocol of Greece's accession to the WEU unless agreement is reached on the question of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

How do the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC intend to react to the above-mentioned recommendation of the WEU Parliamentary Assembly? Which Community Member State parliaments

which are also members of the WEU Assembly have ratified the Protocol on Greece's accession to the WEU?

Answer:

The question put by the honourable Member is a matter for the institutions of the WEU and was not discussed in European political cooperation.

93/311. Question No H-705/93 by Mr Balfe on the disappearances of children in refugee camps

Date of issue: 14 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

At the May part-session the Council, despite having five weeks' notice of the question, was unable to give information on newspaper reports that over forty children living in refugee camps in Sweden had disappeared.¹

Bearing in mind that Sweden is an applicant member for the European Community, can the Council explain why the information requested was not forthcoming? Did the Council fail to ask or are the Swedish authorities failing to cooperate?

Answer:

Mr Claes, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: I will answer this question very briefly by referring to the answer that was given to Ms Llorca Vilaplana in response to Oral Question H-493/93. I may add that this matter is not dealt with in the context of European political cooperation.

Mr Balfe (PSE): We seem to be going round in a circle. The question was put in the context of policy within an applicant country, Sweden. At the time we asked why the information was not forthcoming. In particular, I would now ask: did EPC fail to ask, or are the Swedish authorities failing to cooperate? This clearly is a matter which falls within European political cooperation. It affects a Community policy. It affects an issue that my colleague, Ms Llorca Vilaplana, has followed up, and it is a matter which concerns us. I hope that the Belgian Presidency is not going to follow the dreadful example of the Danish Presidency of refusing to take the European Parliament seriously. We have always had good Belgian Presidencies, and we have the advantage that they appear to believe in the European Community. I hope that they will demonstrate that belief by trying to answer the very simple questions that are put to them, and I invite them to start by answering this one.

Mr Claes: I gave not only a simple but I think also a clear answer that confirms what was said earlier and, in the event it proves necessary, I will here repeat although it will not be necessary – that the rumours and news published in the Swedish sensationalist press have never been confirmed by any reliable source. I may add that the Swedish authorities instructed a special committee to initiate an enquiry into reception of immigrant orphans by the Swedish community. I have absolutely no reason whatsoever to question the seriousness of any of the Swedish administration's procedures, and this particular issue is no exception.

Ms Llorca Vilaplana (PPE): Mr President, as the representative of European political cooperation has stated, I did indeed submit this question previously and received an answer which was nega-

tive to all intents and purposes, in that I was told that European political cooperation did not deal with this matter. That is why, with the change in the Presidency of the EPC, Mr Balfe has repeated the question, in order to discover whether further information has been forthcoming in the meantime. It is for this reason also that I have submitted the same question to the Commission and I hope that, between us, we can shed some light on the matter.

Do not let yourself be persuaded, Mr President-in-Office, that this is the preserve of the sensationalist press. You have only to read reports published daily on the way children are treated and about disappearances; I do not wish to imply that this is an issue affecting Sweden exclusively: unfortunately the same occurs in many other countries also. When my question to the Commission comes up tonight, I will have the opportunity to repeat all the figures which, I can assure you, are by no means trivial and are of the utmost importance for all of us.

Mr Claes: We must clarify what exactly we are talking about. A short while ago we were dealing with Sweden, and not with problems which can arise regarding children in other countries. I am at your disposal later on to answer questions presented on this subject but, as far as the situation in Sweden is concerned, I have nothing to add to what I said earlier. The Swedish administration has taken a series of measures. We have absolutely no reason to question the seriousness of the approach adopted by the Swedish authorities.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/215.

93/312. Question No H-711/93 by Ms Mebrak Zaidi on the murder and torture of street children in certain Latin American countries

Date of issue: 14 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

In view of the continuing murder and torture of street children in some Latin American countries, despite various condemnations by the international community, can the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC say what measures have been taken to support the work of NGOs which seek to protect such children, as requested in Resolution B3-527/92 adopted by the European Parliament on 9 April 1992?

Do the Ministers plan to take any steps in respect of states which ignore children's right to respect for their physical and moral integrity and respect for their human dignity?

Answer:

The tragic plight of street children in some Latin American countries, to which the honourable Member refers, has been the focus of attention of NGOs, national parliaments and the European Parliament. The European Community and its Member States have denounced this situation as unacceptable and have expressed their concern during contacts with the governments concerned.

The Community and its Member States are closely monitoring this disturbing problem within the context of European political cooperation and are reacting as the situation demands in various international forums. On the initiative of the Community and its Member States, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 47/126 on the situation of street children at its 47th Session. Resolution 1993/81 on the tragic plight of street children which was also proposed by the Community

and co-sponsored by all the Member States was subsequently adopted at the 49th Session of the Commission on Human Rights.

In answer to the first part of her question, I refer the honourable Member to the Commission which has been able to provide Community aid for actions on behalf of certain key sectors, including street children within the framework of budgetary lines A-3030 (defence of human rights), B7-5078 (support for democratization in Latin America) and B7-5053 (support for action on behalf of human rights and democracy in developing countries).

The honourable Member will recognize that these actions are positive measures designed to ensure respect for the rights of children and to make a practical contribution to improving the situation of street children.

93/313. Question No 717/93 by Mr Kostopoulos on the Community's stance towards countries failing to respect human rights

Date of issue: 14 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

As the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC will be aware that certain countries being supplied with European arms are failing to respect human rights, will they take a firm stand with the authorities in those countries and warn them that the Community and its Member States will suspend their arms supplies if they continue with this practice which is an affront to our standards?

Answer:

I can assure the honourable Member that, within the framework of coordinating their policy on arms exports and implementing the resolution of the Development Council of 28 November 1991 which attaches major importance to the question of the military expenditure of developing countries, the Community and its Member States are not ignoring the link which exists between human rights, development and military expenditure. In addition to stressing the grave consequences of excessive military expenditure for development they have also curtailed their arms exports and have imposed and/or applied, where appropriate, military embargoes such as that recently introduced in the cases of Zaire and Haiti.

93/314. Question No H-720/93 by Ms Dury on the support by the Twelve for the Tshisekedi Government

Date of issue: 14 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

At the beginning of April the Twelve took the decision not to recognize the Birindwa Government appointed by President Mobutu. This was a major diplomatic signal in favour of the legal government led by Mr Tshisekedi. That support has since seemed scarcely to go beyond declarations of intent. What was the attitude of the Member States on accreditation of representatives of the Birindwa Government at the last WHO and ILO general conferences and the United Nations World Human Rights Conference?

Answer:

Each time the problem of accreditation has been raised regarding Zaire's representation at international meetings, the Community and its Member States have stated that granting technical accreditation in no way implies recognition of the Birindwa Government, and have repeated their statement of 7 April¹ which makes it clear that the Community and its Member States cannot, within the framework of their relations with Zaire, accept the nomination of Mr Faustin Birindwa as prime minister by presidential decree on the proposal of a political conclave composed exclusively of representatives of the presidential faction, without the approval of the High Council of the Republic and therefore outside the transition process laid down by the Sovereign National Conference.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/148.

93/315. Question No H-732/93 by Ms Oddy on attacks on and killing of disabled soldiers in El Salvador

Date of issue: 14 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Is the European Commission aware that on 20 May 1993 the Salvadorean national police allegedly baton-charged, tear-gassed and shot disabled veterans and three people were killed?

What steps will EPC take to express disapproval of this attack to the El Salvador authorities?

Answer:

I do not speak for the Commission but on behalf of the Community and its Member States and can confirm to the honourable Member that developments in the context of the El Salvador peace process are followed very closely within the context of European political cooperation. The Community and its Member States have very recently expressed their concern at the continuing violation of human rights in the form of murders and violent crime in all parts of El Salvador which affects all sectors of its population. They called on the Government of El Salvador to take every necessary action to investigate these crimes and prosecute those responsible.

93/316. Question No H-736/93 by Ms Crawley on street children in Guatemala

Date of issue: 14 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Evidence is coming to light of unacceptable treatment of street children in Guatemala by the authorities; reports are of violence and torture. Will EPC take steps to monitor this situation, and to make it clear to Guatemalan authorities that these actions against minors are not acceptable to the whole international community?

Answer:

The European Community and its Member States are keenly aware of the problem of violence against street children in Guatemala. They are following this intolerable situation closely, and brought up this question as well as that of violations of human rights with the Guatemalan Government of former President Serrano. The Community and its Member States have called for human rights, including those of children, to be respected, both in their direct contacts with the Guatemalan Government and at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

The European Community also funds a number of projects for the benefit of street children in Guatemala. The Community and its Member States hope that the new president, Leon Carpio, who distinguished himself in the position of Attorney-General for Human Rights by his courageous fight to defend human rights, will be able, with the support of various sections of the Guatemalan population, to implement the reforms needed to put an end to violence against street children.

93/317. Question No H-738/93 by Mr Bandres Molet on the disappearance of a Spanish citizen in the Dominican Republic

Date of issue: 14 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

A Spanish citizen, Mr José Antonio Gonzalez Alvarez, disappeared in the Dominican Republic in July 1992, since when there has been no news of his whereabouts.

Despite the efforts of his family, the Spanish Foreign Ministry and the Spanish Embassy in the Dominican Republic, it has not been possible to shed any light on the whereabouts of Mr Antonio Gonzalez Alvarez.

Could the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC make representations to the Dominican Republic authorities to help in trying to trace this Community citizen?

Answer:

As the specific case raised by the honourable Member is primarily the responsibility of a Member State, it has not been raised in European political cooperation. The Community and its Member States are concerned at the large number of disappearances of persons throughout the world, and in their contacts with several countries have stressed this concern and insisted that information should be provided on the fate of persons reported missing.

93/318. Question No H-742/93 by Mr Dessylas on the imprisonment and prosecution of a Kurdish political refugee by the French authorities

Date of issue: 14 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Ali Gün, a Kurdish anti-Fascist militant, who holds a Turkish passport was accorded political refugee status by the French authorities seven years ago. For the past seven months he has been held in custody in Paris and is now in real danger of being sentenced on the trumped-up charge of

collecting funds for left-wing Turkish organizations between the end of 1991 and the beginning of 1992, although he can prove that during this time he was in Greece for family reasons.

What immediate representations do the twelve Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC intend to make to the French authorities to prevail on them to release Ali Gün, the Kurdish militant and political refugee, forthwith and to drop the charges against him?

Answer:

The honourable Member's question does not come within the framework of European political cooperation.

93/319. Questions No H-753/93 by Mr Papayannakis on the expulsion of the Archimandrite of Argrokastrò by the Albanian authorities, No H-759/93 by Mr Pagoropoulos on the expulsion of a Greek Archimandrite from Albania and No H-760/93 by Mr Pierros on the deportation of a Greek Archimandrite from Albania

Date of issue: 14 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-753/93:

On 25 June 1993 the Albanian authorities expelled Archimandrite Chrysostomos of Argrokastrò in violation of all the principles of human and religious rights which it has accepted as a condition for Albanian membership of the ECSC. Furthermore, they have launched attacks against the Greek minority and set churches alight. Since actions of this kind compromise Albania in the eyes of the international community and do nothing to promote relations of friendship and cooperation between Albania and Greece and the rest of the European Community, will EPC say whether it intends to take these incidents into account in the negotiations on the conclusion of a Cooperation Agreement between Albania and the European Community and, more generally, to call on the Albanian authorities to respect human rights and avoid creating a new flash point in the southern Balkans?

Question No H-759/93:

The Albanian Government has expelled the Greek Archimandrite Chrysostomos, thereby flagrantly violating the human rights and, in particular, the religious rights of the Greek minority. It has also used force to quell popular protests. Since this measure forms part of a more general campaign of provocation and oppression conducted against the Greek minority by the Albanian Government which indicates what the latter really thinks about democratization in Albania, will EPC say what representations it has made to the Albanian Government to rehabilitate Archimandrite Chrysostomos and to relax pressure on the Greek minority, particularly since measures of this kind and incidents such as those that have taken place on the border between Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia pose a very real threat to peace in the region?

Question No H-760/93:

The Albanian authorities have once again flagrantly violated human rights by expelling Archimandrite Chrysostomos Mavdoni, the spiritual leader of the Greek minority of Argrokastrò on

the trumped-up charge of anti-Albanian activities. This measure forms part of a general campaign of human rights violations conducted by the Albanian Government against the sizeable Greek minority. Given that Albania receives substantive technical assistance and food aid from the Community, will EPC say whether it intends to condemn this measure and to use its influence to prevent unacceptable actions of this kind by the Albanian authorities in future?

Answer:

Honourable Members will, I am sure, allow me to give a joint answer to Questions H-753/93, H-759/93 and H-760/93, which all refer to the same subject.

The Community and its Member States have monitored the development of the human rights situation in Albania constantly. They have always expressed their concern at measures taken by the Albanian Government concerning religious groups. In this context, they called on the Albanian Government on several occasions to comply with its CSCE obligations. The Member States saw it as an encouraging sign when on 31 March 1993 a constitutional law on human rights was adopted which in Article 26 provides for the rights of minorities. However, they are aware that the implementation of these principles will require much work, including the adoption of laws safeguarding the basic human rights of all the members of the Greek minority, permitting them to develop their own ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity, to teach and be taught in their mother tongue and to form associations with a view to protecting their interests and their identity.

The Member States will take every opportunity to urge the Albanian authorities to take the necessary measures, and will continue to monitor human rights developments very closely.

Albania now has organized relations with the Council of Europe involving the establishment of an 'Albania Task Force', the accession of Albania to the Cultural Convention and the participation of Albania as a special guest in the activities of the Parliamentary Assembly. The undertaking to respect all democratic principles and standards, as well as human rights, underpins this structured relationship.

The Community and its Member States will continue to follow developments in Albania with the greatest attention. They seek to foster a constructive dialogue between the parties concerned without forgetting the potential contribution of multilateral organizations.

93/320. Question No H-770/93 by Ms Banotti on the situation in Liberia

Date of issue: 14 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Has EPC discussed the situation in Liberia in recent months, in particular the brutal slaying of five American nuns? What is the EC's position in relation to the ECOWAS peace plan for Liberia, which among other things would forbid European companies from doing business with any of the warring factions? Would EPC be prepared to highlight the plight of Liberia at a future meeting?

Answer:

The situation in Liberia has been kept under constant review at all levels of European political co-operation.

At the meeting of the European Council in Copenhagen¹ the Heads of State or Government deplored the recent senseless murders of civilians in Liberia. These murders underline the urgency of

finding a political solution to the crisis. The Community and its Member States have reaffirmed their conviction that the Yamoussoukro IV Agreement forms the best possible framework for resolving the conflict in Liberia peacefully, and they have urged all parties to support the efforts being made by the UN and the special representatives of the OAU to bring the civil war to an end by peaceful means.

I can assure the honourable Member that the Community and its Member States will continue to keep the situation in Liberia under very close review.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/249.

93/321. Questions No H-787/93 by Mr Geraghty on US bombing of Iraq and H-779/93 by Mr Cushnahan, taken over by Mr Cox, on the situation in the Middle East

Date of issue: 14 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-787/93:

Apropos of the recent US bombing of Iraq, will EPC state whether it agrees with the assertion that this action was fully in compliance with the spirit and letter of Article 51 of the UN Charter?

Question No H-779/93:

Has EPC discussed the recent missile attack on a building in Baghdad by the United States?

Answer:

Mr Claes, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: I propose to reply jointly to the questions from Mr Cushnahan and Mr Geraghty, which deal with the same subject. This subject has not been broached within Political Cooperation, but the Community and its Member States have taken note of the charges brought against the fourteen persons implicated in the assassination attempt against ex-President George Bush, as well as statements from the American authorities, stressing that the coercive action of the United States against Iraq was taken after a thorough inquiry by the police, the courts and the American secret service and that it is based on the principle of legitimate defence contained in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, in reaction to undeniable proof of the implication of the Iraqi information service in this assassination attempt.

The American raid was targeted to destroy the terrorist infrastructure of the Iraqi regime and annihilate its capacity to promote international terrorism. The Community and its Member States consider that any measures taken in reaction to terrorist attacks must be appropriate, measured and lawful. They condemn all forms of terrorism, their authors, accomplices and instigators, as well as the governments which support them. They reiterate their determination and their commitment to the struggle against international terrorism.

Mr Cox (LDR): Mr President, I should like to thank you first for facilitating the tabling of these questions which I believe to be important. As you are aware, my colleague Mr Cushnahan is detained in Ireland through personal illness.

On the matter of the response which we have had, I note that the President-in-Office has said that the Council meeting in European political cooperation has not yet had the opportunity to discuss this matter so I should like to know whether and when it will be on an agenda. I should like particularly to say to the President-in-Office that I very much support the point he has made about the desirability of eliminating international terrorism and condemning any form of terrorism. I would suggest to him that this particular response is not specific enough. I am extremely perturbed that we in the Community might be revealing a degree of laxity with regard to the principles of international law, were we not through EPC – when this gets on the agenda – to signal in some way our grave displeasure, at the very minimum, at the fact that the argument of self-defence should be used in justification of this. I believe it is not proportionate in terms of the practice of international law and I believe it would be a very bad precedent to set. Although restricted in what he is able to say, bearing in mind that it has not yet been discussed, I should like to hear the President-in-Office reassure us that he and the Belgian Presidency attach importance to supporting the principles of international law, which this action does not.

Mr Claes: First, I think the facts can be regarded as proven. The information provided by the United States is convincing and accepted.

As regards the legal arguments this is admittedly a broad interpretation of Article 51, but there is no denying that in this particular case we are also confronted by a semi-permanent policy of international terrorism, and total disregard for international law on the part of Iraq. Please do not reverse the roles. The various resolutions passed by the Security Council are not being respected. You know as well as I do that just a few days ago the Head of that State seemed far more interested in the development of missiles than in the need to provide food and medical aid to his people, and this goes against a resolution by the United Nations.

So we really have to accept that continuously repeated disrespect for United Nations resolutions deserves a firm response from the international Community, which in no way excludes the need to discuss both the foundation and the interpretation of the United Nations Charter. On this point, as I have said, I think we are confronted by a broad interpretation, which is explained and can only be explained by the permanent policy of international terrorism followed by Saddam Hussein.

Mr Kostopoulos (PSE): I take a different view. I believe the situation was 'set up' by the Kuwait authorities, as emerged from the first announcements by the American Government in April, when the group was arrested. First of all, they are guilty but they have not been tried. The facts available are not such as to allow us, if you will, to condemn those guilty persons in advance, i.e. before their trial. But independently of that, I would like to know whether the President-in-Office of EPC agrees that a country that is politically and militarily dominant can take the decision to bombard any country, even if it is Iraq, without a decision by the United Nations, and that the Security Council can give its approval after the event, in other words after the bombing has taken place.

Mr Claes: We live in a democracy and I shall merely say to the honourable Member that I do not share his point of view. I believe I speak from knowledge of the case. We have analyzed the documents provided by the United States very carefully and I do not think this was provocation organized by Kuwait.

Having said that, I do not think I abuse the authority of the Secretary-General of the United Nations by reminding the honourable Member that the Secretary-General of the United Nations was notified of the intervention before action was taken and in no way disapproved of it.

Mr Habsburg (PPE): Mr President, I am particularly in agreement with you that something had to be done and I also believe that the proof was real. But you must nevertheless recognize that there has been a certain amount of criticism here in Europe. The reason is that there was immediate re-

action as regards Iraq, but when we see the horrors that the Serbs are committing in Bosnia-Herzegovina, nothing is done! So people say, 'the reason is simply that there is oil in Iraq and there isn't any in Bosnia'. The conclusion is virtually inescapable.

Mr Claes: I do not think that the presence or absence of oil has much to do with it. I think that the comparison between the two is not valid. The first case involves Iraq which occupied another country. I do not think that can be compared with the tragedy in former Yugoslavia where, certainly, the Serbs bear a crushing responsibility, but where I must still say, with the entire Council, that the other parties in the conflict, and especially the Croats – look at what is happening at the moment – also bear their share of responsibility.

Secondly, to pretend that we are doing nothing seems to me exaggerated. Do I have to remind you that the forces we made available to the United Nations have already lost over fifty soldiers and more that two hundred have been seriously wounded in this Yugoslav tragedy? Must I also remind you of all the humanitarian aid that has been given and emphasize that it was Europe that took the political initiative at least to try to bring this civil war that confronts us to an end?

Of course I am no prouder than you of the results we have obtained up to now. But I still think we should not become discouraged and we must continue to look for peaceful solutions to settle this tragic problem of former Yugoslavia once and for all.

Mr Smith, Alex (PSE): I would like to agree with what Mr Cox said about an appropriate level of defence. I think this was way over the top. I am a bit disturbed by some of the things the President-in-Office said. Is he saying that this was a legitimate act of self-defence, that in response to a threat to a citizen in a Member State, that Member State is entitled to take action along the lines the United States did? As to the evidence of the involvement of the Iraqi Secret Service, has this been documented? Do we trust what we have been told? Although the alleged assassins have been brought to trial, they seem to me, from what I have read, to have been a pretty inept bunch of assassins. And what of the innocent civilians killed in this attack on no other authority than that of the US President?

Mr Claes: It goes without saying that like the honourable Member I regret the death of innocent people in this military strike. But for the rest, I can only confirm what I have said. I consider, along with all the members of the Security Council, except perhaps China, that the evidence which has been provided is convincing.

93/322. Statement on the kidnapping of two British tourists in Eastern Turkey

Date of issue: 16 July 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States condemn the kidnapping of two British tourists in Eastern Turkey on 6 July and demand their immediate and unconditional release.

93/323. Statement on a Council meeting (extracts only)

Date of issue: 19/20 July 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

[...]

Former Yugoslavia

The Council decided to entrust the Presidency with the task of going to the former Yugoslavia to meet the three parties, if possible in their respective capitals.

The object of the mission was to support the efforts of the co-chairman in bringing the protagonists to the negotiating table without delay.

The Presidency was directed to recall the Community's position, in accordance with the Copenhagen declaration,¹ in order to reach a solution which was acceptable to all the parties and viable with regard to the Muslim entity.

The Council also noted the Commission's intention, given that available financial resources had been exhausted, to make new proposals concerning the further financing of humanitarian aid by the Community for the peoples of former Yugoslavia. Those proposals might involve a revision of the financial perspective.

In this context, Vice-President Marin recalled that the European Community and its Member States had, from the beginning of the conflict in former Yugoslavia, been the world's major humanitarian aid donor. To date, the European Community and its Member States had contributed a total of around USD 870 million, i.e. 68% of the total effort made by the international community. The European Community alone had contributed a total of USD 575 million, i.e. 45% of total humanitarian aid.

Somalia

Ministers held an exchange of views on the situation in Somalia.

They recalled the political objective of the action undertaken under United Nations aegis in Somalia. They stressed the importance which they attached to the United Nations being actively involved in the search for a lasting political solution and to the rapid start-up, wherever possible, of rehabilitation programmes.

The Presidency was directed to remind the United Nations Secretary-General and his departments of these objectives, while assuring them of the support of the Community and its Member States in their difficult task.

Pact on Stability in Europe

Within the framework of the implementation of the conclusions of the Copenhagen European Council,² the Council agreed to set up a high-level *ad hoc* working party to prepare the report requested in Copenhagen for the Brussels European Council in December 1993 regarding the French proposal for a pact on stability in Europe. The results of the proceedings of that working party would be submitted to Ministers by the Permanent Representatives Committee, for an initial discussion as early as the October meeting.

Accession of Cyprus and Malta – Council Conclusions

The Council heard the presentation of the Commission's opinions on the applications for membership by Cyprus and Malta.

The Council welcomed the positive message contained in those opinions regarding the eligibility and suitability of Cyprus and Malta to be part of European Union.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine those opinions – in the light of the generally positive assessment expressed by the Council – to enable the Council to adopt a position on the conclusions proposed by the Commission at its next meeting.

[...]

EC/Japan Summit

The Council [...] heard reports from its President and from Sir Leon Brittan on the outcome of the EC/Japan Summit held in Tokyo on 6 July 1993.

[...]

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/250.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/248.

93/324. Statement on the detention of Ms Aung San Suu Kyi

Date of issue: 20 July 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

Pointing out that 20 July will mark the fourth anniversary of the detention of Ms Aung San Suu Kyi in Rangoon, the Community and its Member States call upon the State Law and Order Restoration Council to lift the restrictions imposed on Ms Aung San Suu Kyi immediately, and thus enable her to participate in the political process. We believe that this may open the way for national reconciliation in Burma and for the rapid formation of a democratically elected civilian government, reflecting the wishes of the Burmese people as expressed in the May 1990 elections.

93/325. Statement on Rwanda

Date of issue: 20 July 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States are concerned at the repeated delays in the signing of the Arusha Agreements.

In order to safeguard all that has been achieved in negotiations and keep up the impetus of the peace process, the Community and its Member States would urge the political leaders of both parties to finalize the agreements as quickly as possible.

They are backing the continuing efforts of the Tanzanian Government to mediate in achieving the signing of the peace agreements

93/326. Statement on Togo

Date of issue: 20 July 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States welcome the signing of the agreement of 11 July 1993 by the representative of the President of the Togolese Republic and 'COD II' (Democratic Opposition Union), which prepares the way for reconciliation of the Togolese people and democracy. They would urge all the political forces in Togo to cooperate in the spirit of the agreement and to refrain from any act which might jeopardize implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement.

The Community and its Member States agree in principle to assist in the organization of the next elections.

93/327. Statement on Tadjikistan

Date of issue: 23 July 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States condemn the current worsening of armed violence in Tadjikistan, at its borders and in northern Afghanistan. They deplore the death of the numerous civil and military victims.

The Community and its Member States give great importance to stability in the region and express their attachment to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Tadjikistan. They call upon all the parties involved to show moderation in order to avoid internationalizing the conflict. They reiterate the importance of a strict compliance by all parties with CSCE principles.

As in their statement of 29 June 1993 condemning the banning of four opposition parties in Tadjikistan, the Community and its Member States enjoin all the parties involved to initiate a dialogue which is the sole means of achieving national reconciliation. They further call upon the authorities in Dushanbe to assist in the return and re-integration of Tajiks who have fled the civil war.

The Community and its Member States consider that a global, peaceful and definitive settlement to the civil war in Tadjikistan can be achieved only through talks between the states directly concerned in the region, in conjunction with UN representatives on the spot and with the support of the CSCE. They encourage the UN Secretary-General and the Presidency-in-Office of the CSCE in their efforts to that end.

93/328. Statement on street children in Brazil

Date of issue: 24 July 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States express their profound indignation about reports from Brazil according to which an undefined number of street children have been killed in tragic circumstances.

The European Community and its Member States are confident that the Brazilian authorities will swiftly take all necessary measures to ensure that such events will not recur and that those guilty be punished.

93/329. Statement on the situation in Lebanon

Date of issue: 27 July 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States are greatly concerned at the resurgence of violence on the Lebanese/Israeli border, whether they concern operations by the Israeli army in Lebanon or attacks against Israel emanating from Lebanon. They firmly condemn once more all acts of violence whatever their origin.

They deeply regret the civilian casualties resulting from such violence and operations which have already caused the exodus of several thousand people. The civilian population throughout the region has a right to peace and security.

They call for an immediate stop to all such actions directed against the sovereignty of Lebanon, its territorial integrity and its independence and which threaten the peace process. They also call on all parties concerned to respect and cooperate with the UN forces in the region.

The European Community and its Member States recall that they have for many years called for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

The all too long years of violence and conflict have shown that the use of force and recourse to violence have brought neither a solution nor the prospect of peace for any of the parties involved.

They call on all parties to show restraint and to pursue intensively the peace process negotiations, which have reached a crucial phase. Only their successful conclusion will offer any hope of an untroubled future for this region and its sorely tried people.

93/330. Question No 745/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S) on the failure to investigate deaths in Malawi

Date of issue: 27 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 14 April 1993)

Has EPC expressed to the Government of Malawi its strong condemnation of that government's failure to investigate the numerous deaths of people held in custody as a result of torture, poor conditions of imprisonment and absence of medical treatment, in contravention of the Legal Investigation Act?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States fully share the concern expressed by the honourable Member. As the honourable Member will be aware, they have restricted their development cooperation in Malawi, due to the political and human rights situation in the country.

In a statement issued on 24 March 1993¹ the Community and its Member States welcomed recent encouraging signs of improvements in Malawi regarding political freedom and respect for human rights and urged the government to continue the democratization process. The Community and its Member States hold the firm view that whatever political framework emerges from the referendum on multi-party democracy it should safeguard all rights enshrined in international conventions.

The Community and its Member States reiterated their continued interest in economic and political progress in Malawi and hoped that the referendum, together with the pursuit of appropriate human rights and economic policies, would lead to conditions for a resumption of a full aid partnership with donors.

The Community and its Member States have followed closely developments in Malawi since the announcement of the referendum to decide whether Malawi should maintain the existing single-party system of government or adopt a multi-party system.

The Community and its Member States were pleased to note that many of the suggestions put forward by the United Nations concerning the conduct of the referendum have been adopted, even though some key recommendations were resisted until a late stage in the referendum timetable.

The Community and its Member States felt bound to draw the attention of the Malawi Government to certain important areas of concern. There are numerous reports of harassment and intimidation in various forms: physical maltreatment of individual multi-party advocates, obstruction, and cancellation of meetings. It is worrying that no responsible government representatives have made any public effort to restrain, for example, the activities of the Malawi Young Pioneers. Another concern is that the advocates of multi-party democracy have been denied satisfactory coverage of their views on the government controlled media, particularly radio, as foreseen in the regulations for the referendum.

In light of the above, the Community and its Member States believe that the Malawi authorities have failed to reach acceptable standards of democratic campaigning, thus calling into question their commitment to increased respect for human rights. Such action could lead international opinion to the conclusion that the referendum did not take place in a free and fair climate.

Nevertheless, the Community and its Member States are encouraged by the fact that advocates of both systems of government have now committed themselves to continued participation in the referendum process. For this reason, the Community and its Member States are providing international observers and financial support for the referendum. For this support to be maintained it is imperative that the remaining part of the campaign takes place under circumstances that permit the true views of the Malawi people to be reflected in the vote.

Finally, the Community and its Member States recalled to the Malawi Government that the respect of human rights and of the rules of good governance remains the necessary condition for the resumption of normal cooperation.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/137.

93/331. Question No 879/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on the incorporation of the 'homelands' in South Africa

Date of issue: 27 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 23 April 1993)

For years the South African Government has pursued a policy of making large areas of the country independent by creating autonomous African homelands for the black population. This subject was recently raised in talks between the African National Congress and its allies and the demand was put forward that the autonomous African homelands should be incorporated into the South African State. In view of this, will EPC confirm that the Community and its Member States support the incorporation of these homelands into South Africa and the abolition of racist partitioning imposed by apartheid?

Answer:

The policy of the Community and its Member States towards the 'homelands' question has always been clear: the Community and its Member States do not recognize the so-called 'independent homelands'. They also note that this issue is being addressed within the framework of the ongoing multilateral negotiations in South Africa.

93/332. Question No 1094/93 by Mr Glinne (S) on essential protection for trade union rights and union officials in El Salvador

Date of issue: 27 July 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 10 May 1993)

In El Salvador, parliamentarians belonging to the ruling Arena party have proposed a number of amendments to that country's employment code, which is currently being revised. One of the proposed amendments would entail punishing trade union officials for 'treason' when their actions challenge the privileges accorded to North American interests, particularly in the 'free development zones', which enjoy extremely favourable treatment as regards taxation and curbs on wage costs.

The tabling of the amendment was the culmination of a week-long media campaign – which bordered on hysteria – against the UNOC (National Union of Workers and Peasants) because it accused the government of infringing internationally defined trade union rights.

On 4 February 1993, Mr Lane Kirkland, President of the United States AFL-CIO, sent a letter to Mr Alfredo Cristiani, the President of El Salvador, protesting in very strong terms against Arena's draft law and stating that its cause would not be served by adopting a law which constituted a very clear attack on freedom of speech. The business community, taking its lead from Arena and the conservative party, is blatantly putting the blame on the trade unions in El Salvador for any setbacks suffered by ambitious schemes criticized by the United States Congress itself.

Other leading figures, in particular churchmen, have voiced their very serious reservations.

Has European political cooperation been, is it still and will it remain indifferent to this enormous breach of human rights and workers' liberties and will it or will it not, in view of the evidence and complaints placed before the US Congress itself, take action in cooperation with the international Labour Organization?

Answer:

As the honourable Member will be aware, the European Community and its Member States have, in the context of the San José process and at the occasion of bilateral contacts, continuously stressed the importance they attach to human rights. They explicitly repeated the need to ensure that peace be accompanied by economic development and social justice, as well as by the observance of civil, political and social rights.

The European Community and its Member States have, in the context of the National Reconstruction Plan for El Salvador and the Multi-Annual Programme for Human Rights in Central America, supported activities which will contribute to realize these objectives.

The matter referred to by the honourable Member has not been discussed within the EPC. As the honourable Member rightly indicates, the matter to which he refers falls within the competence of the ILO, with which the Member States actively participate.

93/333. Statement on the new abduction by the PKK of European citizens in the east of Turkey

Date of issue: 30 July 1993
 Place of issue: Brussels
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States, already outraged at the abduction of British tourists on 6 July 1993,¹ condemn in the strongest terms the taking of four French nationals as hostages by the PKK on 24 July 1993 on the southern Lake Van region. They again demand the immediate and unconditional release of their citizens.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/322.

93/334. Statement on the Arusha Agreements

Date of issue: 5 August 1993
 Place of issue: Brussels
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States warmly welcome the signing on 4 August 1993 of the Arusha Agreements.

These agreements, signed by the President of the Rwandese Republic and the President of the Rwandese Patriotic Front, are the end result of long and laborious negotiations and constitute an appropriate basis on which to build a fair and lasting peace, to the benefit of all the countries of the sub-region.

The Community and its Member States appreciate the work done by the parties in the interests of the Rwandese people. They pay tribute to the sustained diplomatic efforts of the Tanzanian mediator and to the actions of the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Organization and the observers from Western and African governments.

They request all the parties concerned to ensure full compliance with and effective implementation of the agreements concluded, in a climate of national reconciliation and of mutual confidence and tolerance. They stress that these agreements must help to strengthen democracy and lead to free elections.

The Community and its Member States reaffirm their commitment to support the efforts of the Rwandese authorities and other partners and friends of Rwanda as part of the process of consolidating peace, restoring stability and security, and achieving economic and social development.

93/335. Statement on Congo

Date of issue: 24 August 1993
 Place of issue: Brussels
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States welcome the agreement concluded on 4 August 1993 between the Congolese parties under the auspices of HE El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the

Gabonese Republic, and in the presence *inter alia* of Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun, Special Envoy of the Organization of African Unity.

The European Community and its Member States would urge all parties to respect the agreement reached so that the political crisis can be resolved swiftly and it will then be possible to re-establish, at the earliest opportunity the conditions needed to solve the serious economic and social problems together with the foundations for effective cooperation with external partners.

The European Community and its Member States have taken note of the requests concerning participation in the Arbitration Board and the committees responsible for the organization and monitoring of elections, and several members are prepared to give a favourable response.

93/336. Statement on the PKK kidnapping of tourists

Date of issue: 25 August 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States remind that they have strongly condemned the hostage taking by the PKK of 4 French citizens on 24 July, which followed the abduction of 2 British tourists on 6 July.¹

Although those nationals have been released, the PKK now claims responsibility for the kidnapping of 2 Italian nationals in Eastern Turkey together with 2 Swiss citizens, while 2 German nationals and a New Zealander have been abducted and are still kept in captivity.

The Community and its Member States cannot but most strongly reiterate their condemnation of hostage taking as a repulsive and criminal practice which cannot be justified by any political motive or objective. The Community and its Member States demand the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Docs 93/322. and 93/333.

93/337. Statement on Nicaragua

Date of issue: 26 August 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

In the face of the dramatic events which have occurred in Nicaragua, the European Community and its Member States unreservedly condemn the use of violence for political ends, which jeopardizes the rule of law, and reiterate their support for the Government of President Chamorro. They welcome the long awaited freeing of the hostages.

The European Community and its Member States urge genuine national reconciliation and would impress upon all the political and social forces the need to combine their efforts in order to overcome their differences and work towards the strengthening of democracy and the necessary development of Nicaragua.

93/338. Question No 1256/93 by Mr Glinne (S) on 'ethnic cleansing' and human rights violations in Myanmar (Burma)

Date of issue: 30 August 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 18 May 1993)

At the end of February 1993, the UN Commission on Human Rights completed a report of some fifty pages on the human rights situation in Myanmar [Burma]. It covers ruthless 'ethnic cleansing' of scores of ethnic minorities; the dominant role of the military (the State Law and Order Restoration Council-SLORC); the repudiation of democratic movements, accompanied by great violence (particularly in 1988 and 1990 and persisting to date); the neutralization through imprisonment of Ms Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the opposition; forced labour; torture; rape; etc. The world has remained virtually deaf to the appeals for help issued in February by seven Nobel prize winners, the Dalai Lama and a number of well-known Myanmar [Burma] citizens (including the Minister for Foreign Affairs) who, having met on the Tibet/Myanmar [Burma] border, called for the release of political prisoners (SLORC has made the gesture of releasing some 1,700 ordinary prisoners), the restoration of her rights to Ms Aung San Suu Kyi, the imposition of an economic embargo and a halt to arms supplies.

What is EPC's stance on the above-mentioned report by the UN Commission and the appeal made by a number of respected figures to the international community, particularly as regards the fate of the main opposition leader, Ms Aung San Suu Kyi, winner of the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize?

Answer:

The European Community and its Member States have closely monitored the situation in Burma and have actively participated in international efforts to press the Burmese authorities to improve their human rights performance and to institute democratic and economic reforms.

In response to the policies of the Government of Burma, the Community and its Member States have taken a number of measures which include the suspension of all non-humanitarian aid programmes, the cutting of defence links and a total ban on arms sales. Furthermore, the Community and its Member States tabled and co-sponsored the resolution of Burma which was adopted by consensus at the 49th Session of the Commission on Human Rights (Geneva, 1 February to 12 March 1993).

The Community and its Member States have repeatedly urged the Government of Burma to release unconditionally the Nobel Prize Laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, as well as other detained political leaders and all political prisoners, and will constantly continue their efforts toward this end.

93/339. Question No 1362/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on the situation of the Tuareg people

Date of issue: 30 August 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 4 June 1993)

In view of the European Parliament's resolutions on the situation of the Tuareg people, do the Ministers meeting in EPC intend to put pressure on all the countries involved, namely, Algeria, Mauritania, Mali and Nigeria, to help achieve a final settlement of the problem?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have been urging all those concerned to find a peaceful solution to the problems related to the Tuareg community. They welcome the agreement on a ceasefire reached on 19 March 1993 between the army of Niger and the Tuareg rebels and they hope that the recent holding of multi-party elections for parliament and president in Niger will contribute to the necessary dialogue.

In Mali, since the signing of the National Pact between the new democratically elected government and the members of AZAWAD on 11 April 1992 in Bamako and since the last rebel chief of the AZAWAD Popular Liberation Front joined the majority in April 1993, thereby officially ending the rebellion, the problem of the Tuareg rebellion has been in the process of being solved.

With regard to the reintegration programmes for the Tuaregs in Mali, mention should be made of the signing on 22 December 1992 of an agreement between the IFAD and Algeria and Mali and of the recent European Community aid programme for the return of Malian refugees.

93/340. Question No 1433/93 by Mr Bertens and Mr de Gucht (LDR) on the worsening situation in Cambodia

Date of issue: 30 August 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 9 June 1993)

In view of the support by ASEAN for the proposal for presidential elections in Cambodia to be held before the legislative elections in May 1993 which are planned under the Paris Peace Agreement of 1991;

in view of the refusal of the Khmer Rouge to cooperate with the UN in disarming their forces and their repeated harassing of UN officials in Cambodia;

in view of the frequent disputes between Prince Sihanouk and the head of the UN mission, Mr Yasushi Akashi;

in view of the fact that, of the USD 880 million pledged at the international meeting in Tokyo in June 1992, organized to support the reconstruction of Cambodia's devastated economy, only USD 10 million had been provided by the beginning of 1993;

how does EPC intend to generate the political determination among the members of the Security Council and other participants in the attempt to restore peace in Cambodia, without which it cannot succeed?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have followed closely developments in Cambodia which have led to the successful holding of elections, in which the Cambodian people were able to freely express their political views. It has been a long and difficult process, during which many obstacles had to be overcome. In this context, the Community and its Member States recently issued a statement in which they congratulated the people of Cambodia on the historic and successful elections of representatives for a constituent assembly.

The Community and its Member States have called on all Cambodian parties to abide by the results of the elections and have also called upon the Constituent Assembly to complete its tasks of drafting and adopting a new Cambodian constitution within three months of the date of the elections.

The Community and its Member States have encouraged the parties which participated in the elections to work together constructively to facilitate the emergence of a government of reconciliation which will lead Cambodia towards economic recovery and the establishment of a state of democracy and justice.

93/341. Statement on the Middle East peace process

Date of issue: 31 August 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

The Israeli/Palestinian Agreement in principle constitutes a historic step towards the establishment of peace in this sorely tried region.

The European Community and its Member States pay tribute to the vision and courage of the Israeli and Palestinian leaders who have managed to overcome numerous and thorny obstacles in order to lay the foundations for a better future for both their peoples. They are prepared to facilitate the implementation and success of this agreement.

The European Community and its Member States take this opportunity of reiterating their total support for the Middle East peace process, initiated in Madrid, with a view to it resulting, through full application of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, in a global, just and lasting solution to the whole Israeli/Arab conflict.

93/342. Statement on elections in the Central African Republic

Date of issue: 1 September 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States welcome the fact that the balloting and vote counting in the first round of legislative and presidential elections were carried out under good conditions. They consider that the responsible attitude shown by all sectors of the population and the opposing political forces during both the campaign and the balloting is a clear indication of the commitment of the Central African Republic to the democratic process.

The Community and its Member States stress the importance they attach to the final results of the elections being published as soon as possible.

93/343. Statement on Haiti

Date of issue: 1 September 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States welcome the ratification of Mr Malval as Prime Minister by the Haitian Parliament and his investiture by President Aristide. This investiture constitutes a fundamental stage in the implementation of the New York Agreement of 3 July 1993.

Following the suspension of sanctions on 27 August 1993 by the Security Council, the European Community and its Member States are suspending the measures which they had introduced pursuant to Resolution 841 of 16 June 1993. In accordance with their statement of 6 July 1993, they will be resuming their cooperation with Haiti, which was interrupted by the *coup d'état*.

The European Community and its Member States sincerely hope that the taking up of his duties by the Prime Minister will be followed by the implementation of the other points in the agreement of 3 July 1993 in order to swiftly conclude the process of restoring constitutional order and make possible the return of President Aristide to Haiti.

93/344. Statement on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania

Date of issue: 1 September 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States welcome the completion of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania in accordance with the Russian/Lithuanian Agreement of 8 September 1992, the joint Russian/Lithuanian declaration of 30 August 1993 and Paragraph 15 of the CSCE Helsinki final document. They acknowledge the efforts made in recent days by Russia and Lithuania, in particular by President Yeltsin and Brazauskas, to resolve the problems relating to troop withdrawals. The Community and its Member States welcome the proposed meeting between Presidents Yeltsin and Brazauskas. They hope that the fact that the troop withdrawals have now been completed, will enable Russia and Lithuania to open a new chapter in their bilateral relations. They believe that the completion of withdrawals from Lithuania will make an important contribution to stability and security in northern Europe.

The Community and its Member States now hope that Russia will accept and implement time-tables for early and complete withdrawal from Estonia and Latvia, in accordance with the CSCE Helsinki final document, without linkage to other problems. The Community and its Member States call on Russia and Estonia and Latvia, respectively, to resolve all outstanding problems relating to troop withdrawals through dialogue held in a constructive and flexible manner, in particular at the highest political level.

93/345. Question No 1375/93 by Mr Glinne (S) on the role of the drug *khat* in the war between armed bands in Somalia

Date of issue: 2 September 1993
Place of issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 4 June 1993)

Psychotropes, a journal devoted to drugs and their uses, has published a scientific account of the dangers posed by *khat* (also called *miraa*) based on the work of an international team.¹ The leaves of the *khat* plant are picked from shrubs on the plains of Kenya or in the regions of Hargeisa and Meru in Somalia, or in Ethiopia: when chewed, they release a juice which is a sort of natural amphetamine: among habitual users it initially causes euphoria which then gives way to the restless, irrational and very violent behaviour characteristic of the armed bands – mostly young people –

ravaging Somalia. The UN and non-government aid organizations are aware of the extent of dependence on this drug and it is estimated that millions of people take it every day: rapid air transport plays an important role since *khat* leaves must be consumed fresh, i.e. within 24 hours after picking. *Khat* imports from Kenya alone, where production and exportation is legal, generate at least USD 100 million.² Non-military consumers spend an estimated USD 6 a day on *khat* if they are able to obtain supplies – the equivalent of 20 kilos of maize or rice, enough to feed six persons for a whole week.

Would the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation use the means at their disposal to assess the social, economic and physical damage caused in Somalia by the traffic in *khat*, which should be combated with the utmost severity? Corruption must be rooted out from the very heart of the remaining administration and the authorities responsible for the general coordination of aid and reconstruction granted to Somalia by the international community. Responsibility must be firmly pinned on Kenya and Ethiopia, and the trafficking networks and money-laundering operations in Mogadishu, Rome and elsewhere must be smashed.

Answer:

The specific matter raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation.

In general the vast border areas of Somalia lack security and stability and are out of control by both UNOSOM and the Ethiopian and Kenyan authorities. General coordination of aid and reconstruction in Somalia lies with the UN.

¹ CP 592, Outremont Branch, Montreal, Quebec H2V 4N2

² *The New Republic*, article by Jonathan Stevenson, issue of 23 November 1992

93/346. Question No 1457/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on the expulsion of the chairman of the Himarë Association from Albania

Date of issue: 2 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 9 June 1993)

On 17 March 1993 the Albanian authorities expelled the chairman of the Himarë Association, Mr Dimitris Dimalexis, in an attempt to intimidate the Greek minority in Albania.

What pressure will EPC bring to bear on the Albanian authorities to ensure that they respect the human rights of the Greek minority?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have been monitoring the evolution of the human rights situation in Albania very closely, in particular as regards to some measures that were taken by the Albanian Government concerning religious groups. In this framework they have repeatedly reminded the Albanian Government of its solemn commitment to abide strictly by relevant CSCE provisions.

In this context the Community and its Member States were encouraged by the adoption on 31 March 1993 of a constitutional law on human rights which lists in its Article 26 provisions on the rights of minorities.

They are, however, acutely aware that much remains to be done in terms of implementation of these provisions, *inter alia* by the adoption of legislation to ensure concretely that all members of the Greek minority effectively enjoy their fundamental rights to develop their own ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity, to teach and be taught in their mother tongue and to associate in organizations and societies to protect their interests and identity.

The Community and its Member States will continue to urge the Albanian authorities to take the necessary measures and to follow the evolution of the situation very closely.

A structured relationship between Albania and the Council of Europe has been set up by the establishment of an 'Albanian Task Force', the adhesion of Albania to the Cultural Convention and the participation of Albania as special guest in the activities of the Parliamentary Assembly. Commitment to all democratic principles and standards and human rights forms the basis of this structured relationship.

The Community and its Member States will continue to follow closely developments in Albania. They will favour[...] a constructive dialogue between the parties concerned without forgetting the potential contribution of multilateral organizations.

93/347. Question No 1469/93 by Mr Robles Piquer (PPE) on new prospects in the context of the Spratly Islands

Date of issue: 2 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 14 June 1993)

According to recent assessments and reports in the western press, Chinese claims on the whole of the southern China Sea, backed up by vigorous deployment of its naval power, are continuing to cause difficulties for the countries which also claim sovereignty in the region (Vietnam and Taiwan) or part of the islands concerned (Malaysia, the Philippines and Brunei). Indonesia should also be included as although it does not directly claim the Spratly Islands, there are grounds for fearing that Chinese expansion is likely to reach the Natuna Islands to their south.

Following their participation in the twelfth ministerial meeting in Manila, how do the Ministers meeting in EPC assess expectations which are being raised of the possible involvement of Japan in a naval power struggle with China, encouraged to this end by the countries of ASEAN?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States follow closely developments in Asian security, including those surrounding territorial claims in the south China Sea.

The Community and its Member States believe that it is important to maintain political dialogue between the countries of the region as a means of defusing any tension which exist. In this context they welcome discussion at the ASEAN PMC/SOM meeting in Singapore on 20 and 21 May, which reaffirmed support for the ASEAN declaration of 22 July 1992 urging peaceful resolution of disputes over the Spratly Islands. They note that two other claimant countries, China and Vietnam, have also supported the declaration, that both these countries are likely to join in future meetings of the PMC/SOM and that in the meantime they are both actively participating in meetings of the scientific working group on marine scientific research in the south China Sea and of the workshop on managing potential conflicts in the south China Sea, both hosted by members of ASEAN.

The Community and its Member States will continue to follow closely the debate on the Spratly Islands.

93/348. Question No 1504/93 by Mr Simpson (PPE) on duties of commissioners

Date of issue: 2 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 14 June 1993)

On or about 7 October 1992 a telex signed by the Chef de Cabinet of Vice-President Marín was sent to all EC Heads of Delegation in the ACP countries. It reads as follows:

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in New York on 21 September 1992 during the UN General Assembly, held a preliminary exchange of views on the problems raised by the election to the Security Council of certain members of the Western Group.

In this context, the Political Affairs Committee notes the general support given to Spain by the Community and its Member States.

On the basis of this decision by European political cooperation, Vice-President Marín wishes you to make personal representations to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, or, in his absence, to his deputy, with a view to securing his support for the application by the Member State in question.

This should be done as soon as possible.

Ignacio Garcia-Valdecases, Chef de Cabinet

1. Did the Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation give instructions to Vice-President Marín to send this letter? Alternatively, did they instruct the Commission to do so?
2. For how long has it been their policy to use the Commission and ACP delegations to further the interests of an individual Member State?
3. Do they approve of Vice-President Marín's actions? If not, what action do they propose to take to ensure that this conduct is not repeated in future?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have drawn attention to the fact that, in the framework of European political cooperation, *démarches* to third countries are the responsibility of the Presidency.

93/349. Question No 1569/93 by Mr Simeoni (ARC) on the disappearance of Mr Jacky Bleunven (French) in Pakistan

Date of issue: 2 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 17 June 1993)

On 14 September 1991 Mr Jacky Bleunven, a seasoned sportsman, set out to walk around the world, starting out from Brest (Britanny). On 29 January 1992, he arrived in Pakistan, and nothing more was heard from him after 13 February.

In spring 1992, an association 'Courir le monde', was set up in order to organize and coordinate the search for Mr Bleunven. Having alerted the Pakistani and French authorities without suc-

cess, the association sent four people to Pakistan in June - July 1992 to investigate. They learned that Mr Bleunven had been arrested or detained in Marri, an area named after a tribe from the province of Baluchistan. In October - November 1992, the ADRAF (Association for the Development of Franco-Arab Relations) agreed to organize and finance the sending of an investigative journalist, Mr Alain Debos, who traced Mr Bleunven and discovered that he had been arrested by the Pakistani authorities and transferred to Dera-Gazhi Khan. However, the Pakistani authorities deny this. On 13 February 1993 the 'Courir le monde' association organized a demonstration outside the Pakistani Embassy in Paris and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs without success.

Can European political cooperation say whether the case of Mr Bleunven has been drawn to the attention of the embassies of the Member States in Pakistan? What representations can they make to the Pakistani authorities with a view to finally discovering what has happened to Mr Bleunven?

Answer:

The issue raised by the honourable Member is above all a matter for the Member State and its bilateral relations with Pakistan, and has not been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation.

93/350. Question No 1577/93 by Mr Welsh (PPE) on persecutions of Christians and Animists in Sudan

Date of issue: 2 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 17 June 1993)

Christian sources and aid workers have produced irrefutable evidence of the persecution of the southern tribes in the Sudan by the Islamic Government in what appears to be a systematic attempt to establish an Islamic state and eliminate all other religions.

The civil war between north and south has provided a cover for the mass displacement of the southern population, the establishment of concentration camps where torture and rape are everyday occurrences, and forced conversion of Christians and Animists. Indeed it appears that Islamic aid agencies are using the provision of the most basic necessities of life as an inducement to convert, withholding them from those who refuse to abjure their faith.

Can European political cooperation state what steps it is taking to remedy this appalling situation, which amounts to a kind of religious ethnic cleansing? Will it take action to condemn the Sudanese authorities at the United Nations and take appropriate steps to enforce sanctions, including cutting off aid in an attempt to put a stop to the persecution of innocent people?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States fully share the concern expressed by the honourable Member as to the situation in Sudan. The results of the last years' fighting are alarming: an estimated 4 million people are internally displaced and approximately 270,000 refugees have fled into neighbouring countries. Hundreds of thousands are severely threatened by malnutrition and diseases. Already some 500,000 may have died in the wake of conflict.

Furthermore, as the honourable Member correctly states, there have been severe violations of human rights. In this field, may I recall the decisive role played by the Community and its Member States in the adoption of a critical resolution at the UN General Assembly in December 1992

and in the appointment in Geneva at the UNHCR of a special UN rapporteur for Sudan in March 1993. The Community and its Member States support the nomination of Ambassador Traxler as a special envoy on humanitarian affairs, who will make an assessment on the humanitarian situation in Sudan. They sincerely hope the Sudanese Government will cooperate in due time.

A Development Ministers troika has recently visited Sudan to underline the seriousness with which the Community and its Member States view the humanitarian crisis and concluded that political solutions are needed to end the fighting between the factions and to achieve peace and stability throughout the country. A reflection is currently taking place within the EPC and the Council framework on the possibilities for the Community and its Member States to contribute further to the peace efforts.

The Community and its Member States have already largely frozen their development aid to Sudan because of the human rights situation in the country. However, the Community and its Member States remain major donors of humanitarian assistance to the Sudanese people. Aid is targeted on the basis of need and without political conditions, but has been limited in some areas by an uncooperative attitude of both the Sudanese Government and the SPLA factions. The Community and its Member States are now considering what further measures can be taken to enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian aid.

93/351. Question No 1589/93 by Ms Dury (S) on the departure of former Soviet troops from the Baltic states

Date of issue: 2 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 18 June 1993)

For over two years now it has been known that one of the factors which triggered the war in the former Yugoslavia was the turbulent withdrawal of the Yugoslav army from the republics seeking independence.

Today, the withdrawal of the troops of the former Soviet army from the Baltic states has been slowed down and then unilaterally stopped on orders from Moscow, in flagrant violation of the relevant international agreements. Are we not witnessing a serious concatenation of risks? How does European political cooperation view the situation?

When all European policy should be taking account of Russia's internal stability, what position or common action does EPC intend to take to prevent an escalation in the Baltic region and encourage the parties to cooperate?

Do not the prospects of the common foreign and security policy demand that Political Cooperation take a more courageous and incisive stand with regard to the prevention of conflict in the Baltic region, in the rest of Europe and elsewhere?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States fully share the view of the honourable Member as to the importance of a continued withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic states in accordance with the 1992 Helsinki CSCE Summit Declaration, the Russian/Lithuanian Agreement and the UNGA Resolution 47/21. The Community and its Member States have made this clear both bilaterally to the Russian authorities and in the multilateral framework of the CSCE, the Baltic Sea Council, and the United Nations.

The Community and its Member States are also paying close attention to the situation of the Russian speaking population groups in the Baltic countries. They have been working actively to alleviate tensions within Estonia and Latvia as well as to promote stable and harmonious relations between the Baltic states and Russia on a broader scale. In contacts with the Baltic countries the importance of respect for human rights is stressed and the Baltic countries themselves attach great importance in living up to the high standard in this field. In this context they have supported the Baltic countries' decision to ask international organizations to report on the human rights situation in the Baltic states. They welcome the report on Latvia by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, the report on the situation in Estonia from the CSCE mission under the human dimension mechanism, the report on Estonia from the Council of Europe and the report on Estonia from the CSCE High Commissioner for national minorities. These reports clearly state that allegations of human rights violations cannot be substantiated but suggest a number of practical measures to be taken, which will help improve relations between the population groups.

93/352. Statement on Bosnia-Herzegovina

Date of issue: 3 September 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States have learnt with concern and regret of the interruption of the Geneva negotiations on Bosnia-Herzegovina. In this context, they pay tribute to the efforts of the co-presidents. They remain convinced that only an agreement negotiated and accepted by the parties in accordance with the principles of the London Conference and the conclusions of the European Council in Copenhagen¹ will make it possible to resolve the conflict. They reaffirm their readiness to participate actively in the implementation of such an agreement and the guarantees implied by it on the basis of a mandate sufficient to ensure its implementation.

The Community and its Member States strongly urge the three parties to ensure that what has been achieved by the conference is not lost and in particular that the confidence-building measures foreseen during the most recent meetings in Geneva can be applied without delay, and that, in the interests of the long-suffering population, there are no longer any obstacles to humanitarian convoys.

The Community and its Member States urgently call on the parties to refrain from any action likely to lead to a resumption of hostilities. They recall the decision of the Atlantic Council of 9 August 1993 concerning actions which could be taken further to relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. They invite the parties to resume negotiations without delay.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/250.

93/353. Statement on Nagorno-Karabagh

Date of issue: 3 September 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States condemn the recent offensives by local Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh], which are making deeper and deeper incursions into Azerbaijani territory. They note with regret that such actions are extending the area of armed con-

flict to encompass more and more of Azerbaijani territory and are creating a very serious refugee problem in Azerbaijan and one already involving neighbouring countries, with a concomitant increased threat to regional security.

The Community and its Member States reaffirm their support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the states in the region.

The Community and its Member States fully support the efforts being made by the Minsk Group within the framework of the CSCE to consolidate the provisional cease-fire decided on 31 August 1993 between the Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] authorities and the Azerbaijan Government. They urge both parties to embark on any form of additional dialogue which would make it possible to implement the timetable on which there was agreement in principle by all parties at the end of June.

The Community and its Member States also hope to see local Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] fully respect United Nations Security Council Resolutions 822 and 853, and withdraw from the regions of Kelbadjar, Agdam, Fizouli and Djebail. The Community and its Member States have no evidence that Azerbaijan would be capable of initiating major attacks from these regions.

The Community and its Member States call on the Government of the Republic of Armenia to use its decisive influence over the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh to see that they comply with Security Council Resolutions 822 and 853 and the proposals of the CSCE Minsk Group. The Community and its Member States call upon Armenia to ensure that the local Armenian forces carrying out offensives in Azerbaijan territory are not given the material means of further extending such offensives.

93/354. Statement on Nicaragua

Date of issue: 6 September 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

On account of the events of 2 September in Nicaragua, the European Community and its Member States reiterate their support for President Chamorro in her efforts to bring about the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, including the guarantee of civil control of the armed forces.

93/355. Question No 1467/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S) on the report on the activities of the head of the Israeli Shin Beth organization

Date of issue: 6 September 1993
Place of issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 14 June 1993)

Are the Ministers aware of the report drawn up by an investigating committee on the activities of the head of the Israeli Shin Beth organization and his dealing with Palestinian detainees?

Answer:

The report to which the honourable Member is referring has not been discussed within the framework of European political cooperation.

93/356. Question No 1596/93 by Mr Pierros (PPE) on NATO's force restructuring

Date of issue: 6 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 18 June 1993)

In the wake of NATO's latest force reorganization, which represents the closest integration to date of United States and allied – notably German – troops, the role of France in the alliance is as ambiguous as ever.

Is EPC seeking to forge a suitable political and military role for France in NATO, and if so, what proposals to that end has it made?

Answer:

The issue raised by the honourable Member is not of EPC competence.

93/357. Statement on the creation of a Majlis Al-Choura in Saudi Arabia

Date of issue: 10 September 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States have taken note of and welcome the creation in Saudi Arabia of an advisory council, – the Majlis Al-Choura – for which provision was made in a series of reforms announced by HM King Fahd in March 1992.

They consider the creation of the Majlis Al-Choura to be the first concrete step towards greater participation by the Saudi people in the conduct of the political and economic affairs of the Kingdom.

93/358. Statement on the Middle East peace process

Date of issue: 13 September 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States pay tribute to the vision and courage of the Israeli and Palestinian leaders who signed this historic agreement which represents a positive breakthrough in the peace process.

The European Community and its Member States offer their continuing political support and readiness to participate in further international arrangements arising in connection with implementation of the agreement.

Stressing the fact that the Community and its Member States are already the largest net contributor to the Occupied Territories, the Community and its Member States announce their intention to continue to be a substantive contributor. The European Community is ready to offer a package of immediate aid of MECU 20 and to discuss medium term aid with Palestinian institutions as they are formed.

The European Community and its Member States reiterate their commitment to a comprehensive peace and hope that progress will be accomplished in other bilateral negotiations and in the multilateral talks on future cooperation; as a chairman of the regional economic development working group the European Community and its Member States are prepared to contribute to all forms of regional economic cooperation.

93/359. Statement on developments in the former Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 14 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Statement in the European Parliament

Mr Claes, President-in-Office of the Council: Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, the war in the former Yugoslavia has been going on for two years now. Two million people have been displaced as a result of the fighting and ethnic cleansing. In the next few weeks the civilian population will be facing the first signs of winter. The humanitarian problem looks like being enormous and difficult to deal with. Twenty five thousand UN troops are currently on the ground in the former Yugoslavia, many of them nationals of European Community Member States. Nearly four hundred EC observers, depending on the circumstances, are acting as local observers and mediators, trying to put in place confidence-building measures and to promote contacts between the various factions in Bosnia and Croatia. The EEC and its Member States are also providing some 70% of all humanitarian aid in former Yugoslavia.

The EEC has just decided to release a further MECU 89. The co-chairmen of the steering committee of the Geneva Conference, Lord Owen and Mr Stoltenberg, have continued their tireless efforts to keep the parties talking. After the Bosnian Serbs refused to accept a solution based on the Vance/Owen plan the Serbs and Croats worked out new proposals together. The aim was to reconcile the various positions on the basis of these new proposals. I must specifically stress here that this was not a European Community plan or a plan devised by co-chairmen Owen and Stoltenberg. The co-chairmen merely act as mediators between the parties. They are working to achieve the best possible compromise. In the Community's view this compromise must first and foremost be acceptable to the three parties and must serve to safeguard the existence of the Muslim community in Bosnia. Particularly important here is the guarantee of access to the sea and adherence to the principles agreed in London, especially in regard to the territorial integrity of Bosnia, respect for human rights and the protection of minorities.

The Geneva talks are currently suspended. The Serbs and Croats do not feel able to make new concessions to the Muslims. The Muslims think that the results so far of negotiations on how to carve up the map are unsatisfactory as far as the Muslim area around Bihac, access to the sea and links with the Muslim enclaves in eastern Bosnia are concerned.

In recent months I, and no doubt other colleagues too, have been in constant touch with Lord Owen, who regularly sends detailed written briefings to the Ministers of the Twelve on the progress of the negotiations. Lord Owen attended and reported to the recent informal meeting of Foreign Ministers in Aldenbiesen in Belgian Limburg.

I have to tell you that not one Member State came up with any alternatives for continuing the conduct of the negotiations. The mediators thus enjoy full and unequivocal support. The unanimity of views on the Geneva talks has without doubt been strengthened in the last few days. The Community and Member States have reached a clear decision to leave no stone unturned in their efforts to get Serbs, Croats and Muslims back to the negotiating table. A number of approaches to that end have already been made to all the parties concerned. It [is] vital to get a negotiated settlement, otherwise the war is certain to continue and we shall have a new humanitarian tragedy on

our hands. According to the co-chairmen there is a real danger of total anarchy and chaos in Bosnia given that the local military chiefs think they can do as they like. Obviously the arguments of the Twelve vary, depending on who they are dealing with. What we have to do is maintain the pressure on the Serbs and Croats until they agree to show the requisite flexibility and offer guarantees in respect of the Muslims.

I would note in passing that the UN Security Council's policy of sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro, despite its well known and regrettable insufficiencies, has finally born fruit and forced Milosevic to show greater restraint. We now have to investigate concrete ways of implementing the Geneva accords and even reconstructing the country in future. With this in mind the Twelve are ready to cooperate in the implementation of the Geneva plan once the three parties have signed it. A wide range of measures will be involved: maintaining the cessation of hostilities, demilitarization, the protection of freedom of access and free movement, technical assistance in the protection of minorities and human rights, not forgetting the continuation of food distribution and aid to refugees for as long as necessary.

The Ministers reaffirmed in Aldenbiesen the importance of making a credible contribution to implementing the military measures under the agreement. In that context they welcomed the readiness of the United States to put in some twenty five thousand troops. Care must also be taken to organize an efficient chain of command as part of a precisely defined mandate which will offer the necessary guarantees in operational terms.

Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, the Community and its Member States have confirmed that they intend providing an administrator for the town of Mostar, in accordance with the Geneva Agreements. The Croats are in fact refusing to accept an administrator from the United Nations, as provided for in the case of Sarajevo. The administrator in Mostar will not take up his post until the Geneva Agreement has been signed and brought into effect. The Community and its Member States also support all efforts seeking to guarantee the Bosnian Muslims access to the sea. A team of French and German experts has just received authorization to visit the Croatian coast to consider the feasibility of setting up a commercial port there.

Whether or not the Geneva Agreement is signed, enormous problems have to be tackled in regard to humanitarian aid, in terms not only of the availability of financial resources but access to the population groups. Day after day, humanitarian convoys have to contend with harassment from the local commanders who appear unaware of the orders from above. Worse still: the Croatian authorities in Bosnia, and in Croatia itself are largely responsible for blocking the humanitarian aid destined for central Bosnia, even though the warehouses on the Dalmatian coast are full. The repeated representations made by the Community to President Tudjman in an effort to obtain real guarantees on this have so far proved vain. The various UNPROFOR programmes are likely to remain a dead letter if there is no change in the attitude of the Croatian authorities.

Other representations by the Community have proved fruitless: our attempts to remind the supporters of Mr Boban and his Croatian allies that the International Red Cross should have free and guaranteed access to the prison camps and that the fundamental principles of humanitarian law must be respected, for example. The Foreign Ministers have therefore agreed to maintain pressure on the authorities concerned. As I mentioned earlier, the Community and its Member States are the largest provider of humanitarian aid to Bosnia, and this includes both material aid and protection for it. The Commission was quick to respond to the Council's requests that it should consider making additional sums available.

While our attention has in recent months focused on Bosnia, the events of the past few days remind us that the problem of the Krajina is as pressing as ever. The situation is again deteriorating there: the results of the negotiations are constantly called into question and implementation on the ground of certain provisions of the Vance plan, particularly concerning refugees, has proved impossible. According to the European Community monitors, the Serbian artillery attacks at the

end of last week on Croatia and the UN protected areas, in the north and the south, were the heaviest recorded since last January's Croatian offensive. As a result of the efforts of the negotiators at the Geneva Conference, President Tudjman has just agreed to an interim cease-fire, but it has to be said that the situation remains tense in the extreme.

The situation in Kosovo continues to be a cause for concern, particularly since the Belgrade authorities have refused to continue to allow the presence of CSCE observers. The Community has tried to compensate for their withdrawal, and Community monitors have obtained permission to go to Kosovo. The Community and its Member States have decided to instruct the ambassadors *sur place* to continue to keep them regularly informed of the situation.

Let me conclude, Mr President, by summarizing in a few words the content of my statement and the general position of the Community and its Member States: we support the efforts of the Geneva negotiators; we call upon the parties to establish as rapidly as possible a negotiated solution acceptable to all three sides, respecting a number of principles; we are prepared to take part in implementing that solution and, finally, we shall continue to provide humanitarian aid.

[After the following debate Mr Claes stated:] I think the right word has been used here: what we are facing is latter-day barbarism. The question is simply whether history gives us any examples of how to punish barbarous deeds with the necessary efficiency. May I say, Mr President, that Parliament has quite properly made a number of criticisms of the policy we have pursued or the lack of it. Let us be clear on one thing. This House too is manifestly very good at precise and correct diagnosis. But I am sure you will not take it amiss if I say that I have not heard any suggestions from you either for an alternative, effective and feasible remedy, none at all. I would ask those of you who are heckling me and who are members of political parties which form the government in your various countries whether your governments are really prepared to endorse the remedies they are obviously hinting at but do not dare to name out loud. I have seen and heard nothing of them, nothing. That is the truth of the matter. It is uncomfortable to have to admit it, but that's the way it is.

So thank you for the diagnosis, but as for the remedy we shall have to make do with the resources we already have, whether we like it or not. And let me make it plain once again, for Ms Pack's benefit too, that we have no plan to offer today, just as Stoltenberg and Owen have no plan to offer.

[...]

Following the failure of the Vance/Owen plan we said quite clearly that we were not prepared to put a new plan on the table but that we were and are prepared to support whatever comes out of negotiations by the three parties, to help those negotiations succeed and to promote them, provided they meet a series of criteria, preconditions and elements which we have listed so often already that we do not need to repeat them here today.

It is also evident that we want today to exert more pressure on both Serbs and Croats, on the one hand to obtain additional territorial concessions and on the other hand to obtain a credible and lasting solution to the Muslims' legitimate demand for access to the sea. We do not, however, wish to put pressure on the Muslims because we quite properly feel that they have had less of a fair deal so far, in the negotiations too. And as for sanctions, I must remind honourable Members that the Community has no power over the ending or otherwise of sanctions. It is the Security Council which has to decide this, not us.

The formal position of the Council is this: the Security Council should not lift sanctions, even when an agreement is signed. The parties must first prove that they are ready and able to respect and implement the agreements they sign, and only then in our view can there be any question of – gradually – lifting sanctions. There are after all problems not only in Bosnia but elsewhere in the territory of former Yugoslavia. In a word, Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, we think that in or-

der to secure peace and stability in the area we must do everything possible to get the parties to the negotiating table again and to get both Croats and Serbs to listen properly to the legitimate demands of the Bosnians. I hope that following the adoption of the Maastricht Treaty the Council will be prepared to treat important parts of the policy to be pursued on former Yugoslavia as Community actions, which obviously cannot be the case at the moment. Meantime we, as Mr van den Broek said, must find new budgetary resources to see us through to the end of the year in terms of humanitarian aid, which is a priority. As indicated, we are prepared to help implement any agreement approved by the three parties and to give them the necessary guarantees that the various elements contained in that agreement will be respected.

93/360. Statement on the Middle East peace process

Date of issue: 14 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Statement in the European Parliament

Mr Claes, President-in-Office of the Council: Mr President, yesterday's signing of the agreement between Israel and the PLO in Washington is a historic event of the utmost significance. Mr Delors and I, representing the Community and its Member States, witnessed with some emotion a ceremony which marked a decisive turning point in relations between Israel and the Palestinians, for the whole region and for the world, given the implications of the conflict and its many facets. I must pay tribute once again to the courage, vision and responsibility manifested by the architects of this victory for peace and understanding amongst peoples. I am firmly convinced that nothing will ever be quite the same again, because without wishing to play down the importance of earlier milestones such as Camp David I must stress that the true nub of the problem was this mutual recognition of Israel and the PLO. This recognition gives new impetus to the process which began in Madrid, just when we feared it had ground to a halt.

I must also pay tribute to the mediators who brought about this historic event and those who in Oslo and elsewhere accomplished a *rapprochement* which many dreamed of but few believed in. The Community and its Member States have every reason to be pleased.

Let us go back for a moment to the period after Venice in June 1980 when Europe declared, bringing down something of a storm on its head, that, and I quote:

A just solution must finally be found to the Palestinian problem, which is not simply one of refugees. That solution consists in recognition by both sides of the right to existence and security of all the states in the region, including Israel, within secure and recognized frontiers, and justice for all of the peoples, which implies the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Europe, at that time the Nine, declared itself willing to work for a global peace settlement and in that context to take part on the ground in a system offering international guarantees. Talks of that kind had, in the Community's view, to involve all the parties concerned, that is to say the Palestinians too, and once again I quote: 'The PLO, which will have to be associated with negotiations'.

June 1980. It has taken thirteen years. Many complications and many to-ings and fro-ings before at last we could see the prelude to an agreement based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 between parties who only yesterday were implacable foes, Israel and the PLO. The peace talks in Madrid can thus resume on a solid basis without having to resort to stratagems in order to secure the rightful representation of the Palestinian people.

Peace has everything going for it thanks to this sensational development which Europe has wished for and welcomed. But amidst the euphoria of the last few days we must keep a cool head. The chances for peace are better now and there is no doubt that the new impetus which has been imparted is irreversible, but there are still many obstacles to be overcome before a global and lasting solution is reached. The accord between Israel and the PLO acknowledges this and even lists the difficulties. One stage has been completed and new perspectives are opening up. It is now up to the Israeli Government and the PLO to make it work without disappointing those for whom they speak and who have placed their hopes in their hands. The Community and its Member States are prepared to play fully the role to which they pledged themselves in Madrid at the start of the peace process. We are prepared to provide the international guarantees required for a global solution, though exactly how we shall do this remains to be seen. We have every interest in seeing peace take root in the whole of this region which is such an integral part of the Mediterranean area.

The talks will now resume, both bilaterally because it is up to the parties in the first instance to agree on the elements of a solution acceptable to both of them, and multilaterally too, one of the aims being to establish a framework for regional cooperation with Europe's help which will secure harmonious development for all the peoples of this region.

So what will the Community and the Member States be doing in the coming weeks and months? There is no doubting our political commitment. We must act quickly and do everything possible in the region, but also in Israel and the Occupied Territories, to convince those who still have doubts either because they do not yet believe in the process which has begun or because they want to pursue a policy of opposition to it. Specifically, the Community is prepared to take the requisite steps to organize all the necessary cooperation at regional level, firstly by bringing its political influence to bear and secondly by freeing up the funds urgently needed in order to get the Palestinian organizations in the Occupied Territories functioning or, let us make no bones about it, to get them back on the rails. This is essential to the credibility of the peace process now that these battered organizations have to take up the responsibility which self-rule brings.

The people of the Occupied Territories must also be able to see straight away that things actually have changed not just politically but in their everyday lives too. In other words, without hesitating and wasting time we must offer efficient and well-targeted help for their infrastructure, public health, housing, education and aid to their small business sector. With that in view the Council has decided, within the existing overall budget, to give an extra MECU 20 over and above the 70 million already made available this year. This should cover things for the immediate future.

In the medium and longer term, the Community and its Member States must take part in a programme of reconstruction and regional development. The Commission proposes earmarking for this MECU 500, that is MECU 100 for each of the next five years, MECU 50 in the form of gifts and MECU 50 in the form of loans. Those sums and the way in which they are broken down seems to me to be reasonable. They should make it possible to meet the requirements that have been identified. But, aside from the budgetary aspect, in regard to which Parliament clearly has a voice – and the Council is asking for its support here – there remains the whole issue of the use of the monies available and the coordination of international aid. It is one thing to commit the credits and quite another to spend them wisely.

Certain conditions must be met. I am thinking here about the setting-up of Palestinian reception and administrative facilities which, in many cases, are non-existent. This requires effective management and proper coordination between the donors and the international organizations involved, the UN agencies, and in particular UNRWA which has proved itself during recent decades, and other specialized institutions such as the World Bank and the European Investment Bank etc.

The Community has allocated for refugees alone more than ECU 1 billion over the past twenty years and need not be ashamed of its efforts. It, along with the Member States, is by far the largest

donor. That being so, it is naturally called upon to play a major role. There are a variety of possible solutions. The most sensible would seem to be to use the working group on regional development, set up in connection with the Madrid Conference, to channel and coordinate the various international measures. That group exists. It has, without question, been legally constituted. It brings together the main regional and international protagonists. Furthermore, it is chaired by the European Community.

Moving on from the short-term considerations which I have just mentioned, an overall peace settlement must be established against a background of regional cooperation. Only if cooperation of this kind is developed will it be possible, as was the case in post-war Europe, to set in place the foundations of real solidarity between the peoples of the region. Moreover, the contribution that Europe is able to make to the development of the region and its integration, in the context of expanded Mediterranean cooperation, will to a large extent depend on the readiness of those countries to cooperate with each other. The needs are great and the possibilities of cooperation evident in the areas of water, energy and infrastructure.

The Community and its Member States are prepared to provide their assistance and expertise for a project of that kind, which is not dissimilar to the ECSC project in the fifties. The Commission is looking at the necessary proposals. Relations between the European Community and Israel go back a long way. A Cooperation Agreement was concluded in 1975. Negotiations are currently taking place for the purpose of updating and improving it. Here too, we have to take account of the new state of affairs. It is the hope of the Presidency that a new agreement will be able to be concluded by the end of the year so that cooperation between the Community and Israel can be founded on solid and modern bases. The strengthening of that cooperation clearly falls within the regional framework I have described. An extension of the Cooperation Agreements with countries like Jordan, Syria and the Lebanon should now be contemplated, provided, of course, that the latter participate fully in the overall settlement.

In that connection, I would ask the House to take up again actively the issue of the fourth Financial Protocol with Syria which is still being held up. It seems to me that the time has come to get things moving again. But it is not only the Community and its Member States that have to respond to the historic events which demand our attention. The assistance of the other Arab countries will be decisive. This is required politically, through their involvement without ulterior motive in the peace process, that is to say overcoming any political or psychological prejudices that might exist in relation to one party or another. And economically, through mobilization of their financial resources.

It would not be right if only countries from outside the region, beginning with the European Community, made the financial efforts needed to secure the well-being of the region in the long-term. At their meeting this weekend, the Ministers discussed all aspects of this vast issue, and the general approach suggested by the Commission and the ideas of its President appeared to be well-received. The Council has done what is necessary for the provision of emergency aid. The Commission proposals for the medium term are being considered. A troika could shortly be sent to the region to set out the Community point of view and make our partners aware of the need to provide the necessary financial contributions. Discussions will soon be held with the Palestinian and Israeli experts invited to Brussels for the purpose of defining priorities.

Moreover, the level and nature of our relations with the PLO will have to be adjusted in line with the new developments. It seemed appropriate to invite the PLO chairman to come to Brussels to establish contacts, and Mr Arafat has responded positively to this invitation. The Arab countries will now also have to agree to review certain aspects of their policy which are no longer appropriate in the current political context. I am thinking in particular of the boycott against Israel

which, apart from its economic consequences, seems to me very much out-of-date. The Community and its Member States will persist in their efforts to get those measures lifted.

Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, such are, at this point in time, the Presidency views on the issue of peace in the Middle East. Within the Community and its Member States, there is large degree of consensus. Together with Parliament, we should join forces and provide the necessary measures and resources. At their Alden-Biesen meeting, the Ministers discussed the implementation of the PESC and joint measures. This is not the time to embark upon discussion of the details and scope of joint action under the Treaty. But I would say that the Middle East seems to me a suitable area in which to undertake such action and assert a European presence. We are faced with the challenge of peace. We must take it up by mobilizing all the resources available, whether national, Community or inter-governmental. That is what the Presidency intends doing in the coming months.

[...]

[After the following debate Mr Claes stated:] Mr President, I should like to begin by thanking all of those who have spoken in support of the Commission and to encourage the Council which, as I have explained to you, relies heavily on the Commission in this matter.

I should like above all to thank Mr Cheysson because I believe that he has touched upon a vital aspect which should be of interest to us all, that is attempting to share our Community experiences with the region. I think that that is the best way of structurally securing stability, peace and well-being.

A propos of this I would just like to say for the benefit of Mr Penders who I think has left the chamber, that what I said about Syria and the Fourth Protocol only applies if Syria in fact declares itself willing to endorse fully the perspectives for peace and stability as they appear today.

To Ms Nielsen I would say this. I do not know which of the two, Rabin or Arafat, is taking the greater risk. All I know is that the risks taken on both sides are significant. What seems to me to be more important, as Ms Dinguirard has said, is to do all we can to stop those who refuse to come to terms with history and prefer to carry on with the strategy of violence. I believe that we can do this by taking specific decisions on direct aid, particularly in the Occupied Territories. In this connection, as far as the medium term is concerned, I wish to confirm to Mr Guermeur that our aid is, in any case, going to take several forms. There is direct aid but also, of course, technical assistance and, by the way, we can at any rate point out that we have increased our experience on this, particularly in Central Europe.

Thirdly, we have, of course, to encourage investment in the region, and the ideal instrument for this has to be the European Investment Bank. I would add furthermore that, as I said in my introduction, we shall have to do all we can to finalize a detailed agreement to make it possible, and this is something the Israelis are calling for – and I am aware of the problems the Commission faces here – for us to do in all our power to enable Israel to obtain the cooperation of the Community in the field of research and development.

I think it was Mr Puerta who said that it takes more intelligence to make peace than to make war. One thing, at any rate, is certain, namely that it has again today been clearly demonstrated that those who have the clear-sightedness and courage to embark on a campaign can achieve results. They deserve all our help which – and I repeat this for the benefit of Mr Miranda da Silva – has always been based on three principles: respect for Resolutions 242 and 338, recognition of the independence of the State of Israel within secure and recognized frontiers and the right of the

Palestinian people to self-determination. That must continue to provide the basis for Community policy. Finally, I must end by expressing the wish that this example of clear-sightedness and courage might act as an inspiration to those who, in the former Yugoslavia, are currently sowing only the seeds of despair. May this same courage lead us in the former Yugoslavia also to a peaceful solution around the negotiating table.

[...]

93/361. Oral questions with debate on Islamic fundamentalism and relations with Algeria

Date of issue: 14 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Statement in the European Parliament; Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of the Council: Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, in response to the questions from Mr Crespo and Mr Cheysson, I should like to point out that, within the framework of Political Cooperation, the Community and its Member States have, on several occasions and in a variety of fora, discussed developments in decisive areas and the consequences of Muslim fundamentalism.

They are endeavouring to assist the economic and social development of those countries under direct threat from extremism and terrorism and are conducting with those countries which directly or indirectly support terrorism a critical bilateral or multilateral dialogue. Finally, they are taking measures to ensure that all aspects of the immigration issue can be dealt with.

It is clear from that list of actual measures that European political cooperation has not dealt directly with Muslim fundamentalism as a specific issue, although the matter has been considered as part of a general exercise by the working group on 'forecasts and prognoses'. But this involved only an exchange of views and not measures agreed within the framework of Political Cooperation.

That does not mean that this issue is not of concern to the Community and its Member States, far from it. It is very much borne in mind in discussions within European political cooperation at all levels, when the discussion concerns specific cases – Iran, the Sudan or Algeria, for example – or the peace process in the Middle East, which is opposed by fundamentalist terrorist movements such as Hamas, not to mention attacks on foreign tourists in Egypt.

And what has been the outcome of these various measures? First, as Mr Cheysson reminded us, following the last visit of the parliamentary delegation to Algeria, we must be careful to distinguish between extremism and fundamentalism, religion and fanaticism, political activity and terrorism. Admittedly, it is not always easy to make such distinctions but they are vital. We must therefore be careful not to be too quick to label and fall into a kind of cultural rejection which would itself be a form of the intolerance of which we tend to criticize others, and in particular the Muslims.

The problem is of a religious nature, but in its real effects – and you have described some of them, Mr Cheysson – it is above all cultural, social and economic. Those therefore are the areas in which we must act, and our action must be guided by the different situations and nature of the problems. Having said that, the answer is not a simple one, particularly since there can be no single answer. The strength of fundamentalism, as we regularly experience it, resides primarily in the simplicity of its message, not to say its deliberate simplism. Fundamentalism rejects doubt and nu-

ance. In its simplicity, it has the answer to everything. It restores consistency, even if only in appearance, where, as a result of the collapse of totalitarian ideologies and the breakdown of the socio-economic models which went with them, confusion, poverty, an increasing lack of hope in a better future and indeed, frequently, corruption hold sway.

It is necessary therefore to influence the collective psychology of those peoples. But this is no easy matter. We can, however, to some extent consistently influence the socio-economic conditions which are at the root of the problem. To that end, the Community and its Member States are endeavouring to maintain a dialogue as far as possible. Even though this may be, as in the case of Iran, a critical dialogue, that is to say one in which we stand by our principles and deal in depth with the issues. We cannot accept cultural and thus political retreat.

Secondly, we have to encourage regional cooperation, not only with Europe but within the region itself. That is what we [are] trying to do with, for example, the countries of the Maghreb. Thirdly, we have to establish links of interdependency and influence economic development, avoiding as far as possible the mistakes of the past which led Algeria, for example, to its current situation. This requires coordinated action with the relevant international institutions and certain elements of conditionality.

Fourthly, we have to combat not fundamentalism as such, but its violent aspects, in particular terrorism. This involves criminal prosecution – our countries are cooperating in the Trevi Group – but also prevention based on assistance which focuses on human rights and fundamental freedoms. There is neither a miracle answer nor a single answer to the problem of fundamentalism, whether Muslim or in any other guise. We have, in effect, to keep a cool head and defend our beliefs while accepting differences. Fundamentalism is particularly widespread among the younger generations, those who form the majority in the countries which pose a problem. A demographic element is therefore involved here also.

I fully endorse what the two speakers have had to say and would like to say to Mr Baron Crespo that I do in fact share his view that the current progress towards a peace settlement in the Middle East is definitely an important and positive factor in the fight against fundamentalism as a whole. It is the unjust situations which have arisen in the region which have led to certain forms of rejection, leading to despair and violence.

I should like finally to thank Mr Cheysson who has given us a realistic but worrying description of how local conditions can provoke fundamentalism. A worrying but a realistic description of what is happening and what could still happen if our Community does not very quickly and resolutely, taking the time needed but without procrastination, play its proper role in the countries already directly confronting this problem. But also, and more generally, within the broader framework of a standing Euro/Arab dialogue.

[...]

93/362. Presentation of the 1994 draft general budget of the European Communities (extracts only)

Date of issue: 15 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Statement in the European Parliament

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of the Council: Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, the reason why I am here today for this now traditional exercise of presenting the draft general budget drawn up by the Council for the 1994 financial year is that the budget portfolio has very recently changed

hands in the Belgian Government. I am therefore standing in for my colleague, Mr Van Rompuy, the new Minister for the Budget and President-in-Office of the Budget Council, whose heavy commitments so soon after taking office prevent him from appearing in person before the House today. That is why I am standing in for him. Budgetary affairs are particularly difficult currently, both in the Community and nationally, and I can assure you that the Presidency is giving them its fullest attention.

I come now to the substance of my speech, the budgetary procedure for 1994. I am advised in this connection that there was a very useful discussion at the now traditional meeting with a large delegation from the European Parliament. In particular, the meeting gave each of the parties involved in the budgetary procedure the opportunity to emphasize the main issues in this exercise as it saw them.

Speaking for the Council at that meeting, Ms Officiers, Minister for the Budget until a few days ago, stressed the absolute necessity of setting the 1994 budgetary procedure in the particularly difficult financial and economic context besetting the finances and economies of all Member States of our Community. If my information is correct, the honourable Members representing the European Parliament were not unappreciative of this crucial point.

At all events, this factor featured very prominently in the deliberations of the Council and its subordinate bodies during the preparation of the draft budget for 1994. The Council's position is explained in Volume 7 of the budget documents setting out all the details of the draft budget it has produced. The Council states there that, I quote

It has taken into account the financial perspective set at the European Council meeting in Edinburgh and the own resources ceiling, as well as the difficult economic circumstances marked by a slowdown in growth in the Community. The budgetary discipline essential in each of the Member States must also be brought to bear on the establishment of the European Community's budget. The Council therefore calls on the European Parliament to set the total non-compulsory expenditure at a level lower than that entailed by the maximum increase permitted by the Treaty [...].

I personally am convinced that the two branches of the budget authority will be fully conscious of their responsibilities towards the Community as they perform their respective roles in setting the budget. There is no reason why it should be otherwise, given that, since the budget was first drafted, the monetary and financial environment has been shaken by events that have threatened the very edifice of the European monetary system, which is so vital to the Community's development. The priorities in the 1994 budget have to be set accordingly. This means that the growth in expenditure has to be limited in the 1994 budget with a rate of increase well below those decided in the past few years. In the use that we make of the available budget resources, therefore, absolute priority has to be given to the Community's unavoidable commitments so as to promote the objectives of economic and financial cohesion and advance its progress towards economic and monetary union.

During its first reading of the draft 1994 budget, the Council endeavoured to take these aspects into consideration according to its preferred options. It was pleased to find very much the same criteria applied in the Commission's preliminary draft budget. I think I am right in saying that the Council's options do not coincide in all cases with Parliament's. That is understandable. The important thing in the present situation is that the essentials should really be taken into account in the objectives that you and we pursue in the budgetary procedure we are embarking upon. That is the only way for us to have effective and trusting cooperation between the two branches of the budget authority.

Trusting cooperation is vital in my view, so true is it that each branch of the budget authority needs the other and serious disagreement over the budget is the last thing the Community needs. So much for the political background to the decisions taken by the Council in the procedure for setting the draft 1994 budget.

Let us now consider the main components of the draft budget.

[...]

This brings me to the last part of the budget, which makes provision for the Community's external policies.

This area of policy is extremely important to the Community, and the overall level of funding in the draft budget is slightly below that for 1993 in terms of commitment appropriations, but a little higher in terms of payment appropriations. In reality, this reflects the Council's resolve to consolidate, or reinforce to a reasonable extent, all the key policies in this area, where in most cases it has accepted the amounts proposed by the Commission. This is particularly true of cooperation with the developing countries in Asia and Latin America (MECU 635.7); cooperation with the Mediterranean countries (MECU 348); and cooperation with the Central and East European countries (MECU 1,573, including MECU 510 for the independent states of the former Soviet Union). This is true in the case of the commitment appropriations, and even more so in that of the payment appropriations.

I think it useful at this juncture to mention a number of appropriations whose size makes them part of the structural framework of Community external policy. At MECU 582.6, funding for food aid is at the level requested by the Commission. Among the other funding for cooperation, the draft budget includes the full amount, MECU 140, entered in the preliminary draft budget for aid to non-governmental organizations. The Council has also agreed the various amounts requested by the Commission for assistance to the process of democratization in various parts of the world. For emergency humanitarian aid, the Council has consolidated the 1993 commitment appropriations, at MECU 171.4, and agreed to a big increase, of 25%, in payment appropriations. In short, the outcome of the Council's first reading is a draft budget that takes good care of all the Community's major policies. The reductions made concern various activities for which the legal basis has as yet to be either defined more clearly or supplemented.

This completes my presentation of the draft budget that emerged from the Council's first reading completed on 22 July. The total commitment appropriations come to MECU 72,406.92, which is 4.85% more than in the 1993 budget. The payment appropriations total MECU 69,011.47, an increase of 5.32%. Compared to the financial perspective set out in the conclusions of the Edinburgh European Council meeting, this leaves margins of MECU 904 in commitment appropriations and MECU 1,220.5 in payment appropriations.

I started my speech, Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, by saying that it was a pleasure and honour for me to have this opportunity to address the House. I was not merely being polite, and I am already looking forward to further opportunities over the months ahead. In doing so, I am perfectly aware that our discussions cannot always be easy. They never are between a budget minister and his parliament, even at national level. It also has to be realized that our dealings are not being made any easier by the current economic, social and financial situation.

I can, however, assure you that it is the firm intention of the Council, and of the Presidency in particular, to do everything in its power to ensure that the final outcome of the budgetary procedure is such that there is suitable funding for all the Community's important objectives to the extent, at all events, that it appears compatible with current circumstances. You will find the Belgian Presidency a willing talking partner that will readily act as your ambassador to the Council of Ministers, in which capacity it will draw on its powers of persuasion with greatest commitment on behalf of demands from Parliament that serve the most vital interests of the Community.

The Belgian Presidency is engaged in other important negotiations with you, such as those on the inter-institutional agreement directly linked to the budgetary procedure. Speedy conclusion of this agreement is crucial. We have had a series of meetings on this subject, at both political and technical levels. At the most recent of these meetings, the triologue on 9 September, an agreement

in principle settling the main points outstanding was reached. I do not wish to say any more at this stage, since the text has not yet been absolutely finalized and reaching a final agreement is a matter for our respective institutions, each applying its own rules.

In the interests of rapid success in these various areas, the Presidency hopes that the Council and Parliament are going to work together in a spirit of mutual confidence with invaluable assistance from the Commission. This applies in particular to the 1994 budgetary procedure. At all events, to conclude this presentation of the draft budget for 1994, I can assure you that the Belgian Presidency will spare no effort to agree with Parliament on a budget for the year ahead which will be acceptable to both branches of the budget authority and will be as closely attuned as possible to the interests of the Community.

93/363. Question No H-643/93/rev. by Mr Arbeloa Muru on total arms embargo on the former Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 15 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Does the CPE believe that the twelve EC Member States have truly controlled arms exports to the Serb and Croat aggressors in the former Yugoslavia? What practical measures are in place for controlling such exports?

Answer:

On 5 July 1991, the Community and its Member States decided to impose an embargo on arms and military equipment for the whole of the former Yugoslavia. They have issued several urgent appeals to third countries which could be considered as potential arms suppliers to follow suit. United Nations Security Council Resolution 713 of 25 September 1991 placed a military embargo on the territory of former Yugoslavia as a whole. This resolution was implemented by Resolution 724 of 15 December 1991 establishing a Sanctions Committee to monitor the application of the embargo. The system of sanctions has been confirmed by several subsequent Security Council resolutions, in particular Resolutions 757, 760, 787 and 820.

Each of the partner States has forwarded communications on the implementation of the embargo at national level to Security Council Sanctions Committee 724.

Since the beginning of the embargo, the Community and its Member States have exchanged information on a regular basis, within the framework of Political Cooperation, on the various aspects of the embargo, including its implementation and monitoring.

By their participation in CSCE sanctions, aid missions and their support for the countries bordering Serbia, the Community and its Member States have made a significant contribution to implementing the sanctions. They have also welcomed the WEU and NATO decisions to monitor the implementation of the United Nations sanctions and the WEU decision to strengthen the application of these sanctions.

93/364. Question No H-737/93 by Ms Crawley on Mustafa Khalifa

Date of issue: 15 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Would EPC take steps to discover the whereabouts of Mustafa Khalifa, at present held in prison in Syria? Mustafa Khalifa has never advocated violence, nor committed any criminal offence. He is imprisoned because he is a member of the non-violent, political party, PCA. Will EPC take steps to both ascertain his state of health and to obtain his release?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are monitoring the human rights situation in Syria very closely. They have made their concerns known to the Syrian authorities on several occasions. A constructive dialogue with Syria on the general human rights situation was launched at the beginning of this year.

The Syrian Government has recently taken encouraging steps to improve the human rights situation. The Syrian authorities have released hundreds of political prisoners and abolished measures that discriminated against Syrian Jews as regards their right to travel. Amnesty International has recently been authorized to observe the trials of several political prisoners.

The Community and its Member States will continue to encourage the Syrian authorities to take such positive measures.

At present the Community and its Member States know nothing about the fate of Mustafa Khalifa.

93/365. Questions No H-791/93 by Mr Alavanos on human rights in Albania and H-798/93 by Mr Langer on the strained relations between Albania and Greece

Date of issue: 15 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-791/93:

The Albanian authorities have recently been violating human rights, democratic freedoms and the rights of minorities and preventing citizens from freely expressing their religious beliefs and performing their religious duties. Given that the trade and economic agreements between the European Community and Albania were concluded on the precondition that these principles would be guaranteed and respected, do the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC intend to review these agreements in the light of this commitment to respect human rights?

Question No H-798/93:

In view of the tensions between Albania and Greece over issues which could perhaps be resolved without over-dramatization but which, in an area so packed with flash-points, could degenerate into something worse, does EPC intend to take steps to contribute in the most appropriate manner to mutual comprehension and an easing of tension between the Government of Greece, an important Community Member State, and the Government of Albania, a country to which the European Community is providing extensive and necessary assistance?

Answer:

I am sure the honourable Members will permit me to give a joint answer to Questions H-902/93 and H-909/93 which deal with the same topic.

The Community and its Member States have, for some time, been monitoring the development of the human rights situation in Albania. They have frequently expressed their concern at the measures taken by the Albanian Government concerning human rights. They have called on the Albanian Government to respect solemnly all their commitments under the CSCE.

Nonetheless, they are aware that a greater effort needs to be made to implement these principles before the democratization process in Albania reaches a point where all political and religious convictions are respected.

The Community and its Member States signed a Trade Agreement with Albania which came into force on 1 December 1992. The full respect for democratic principles and human rights is an essential part of that agreement.

Structured relations between Albania and the Council of Europe were inaugurated with Albania's accession to the Cultural Convention and its participation in the activities of the Parliamentary Assembly as a special guest. The basis of that structured relationship is the commitment to respect all democratic principle and standards and human rights.

The Community and its Member States will neglect no opportunity to urge the Albanian authorities to adopt the necessary measures. In particular it is closely monitoring the development of the Fatos Nana [Nano] case to ensure that the principles of law and the independence of the judiciary are respected in all political actions.

93/366. Question No H-805/93 by Mr Kostopoulos on negotiations on the Cyprus problem

Date of issue: 15 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

The Turkish and Turkish Cypriot side is once again torpedoing negotiations for a solution to the Cyprus problem; according to statements made by Mr Denktash broadcast on Turkish-Cypriot radio, it takes the view that the time is ripe to promote the idea of international recognition of the pseudo state. Given the Turkish side has apparently proposed that the talks continue in Nicosia instead of in New York, do the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC intend to notify the parties concerned that they insist on both the procedural arrangements and the substance of the UN plan for a solution to the Cyprus problem?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States continue to be concerned at the situation in Cyprus and they repeat that, as the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council confirm, the current situation is unacceptable.

In keeping with their statements on Cyprus – in particular the Dublin declaration and the Lisbon conclusions¹ – the Community and its Member States support the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to arrive at a viable solution to the Cyprus question. They are in favour of a solution which respects the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the country, in conformity with the United Nations resolutions.

The Community and its Member States have appealed to all the parties involved to commit themselves to adopting all measures – in particular those provided in Security Council Resolution 789 – which could contribute to solving the problem.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 90/265 and 92/253.

93/367. Question No H-828/93 by Ms Llorca Vilaplana on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Date of issue: 15 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Attempts to end the war in former Yugoslavia have involved countless meetings and other moves, which have so far failed to achieve a result.

Attempts to split Bosnia-Herzegovina into three states in order to facilitate the distribution of territory between Croatia and Serbia – a proposal which has not been accepted – threaten to heighten both the ineffectiveness of the mediators and the danger facing a population which is already enduring immeasurable suffering.

Could consideration be given within European political cooperation to the possibility of creating a form of temporary protectorate, with the agreement of the UN, whereby Bosnia-Herzegovina would be placed under EC administration as a buffer state between Serbia and Croatia, a status which it has already held in the past and which proved an effective peace-keeping measure?

Answer:

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: At the European Council in Copenhagen¹ the Community and its Member States reaffirmed their conviction that a negotiated settlement of the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina had to be justifiable and based on the principles laid down by the London Conference, namely the independence, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the protection of human rights and minority rights, the inadmissibility of acquiring territory by force, the imperative necessity for humanitarian aid to be provided and to reach those needing it, and the prosecution of those guilty of war crimes and of violating international humanitarian law.

The Community and its Member States further affirmed their entire confidence in the co-chairmen of the steering committee of the International Conference on ex-Yugoslavia and encouraged them to continue their efforts to promote such a settlement. Several solutions to the conflict have already been proposed in Geneva, such as the Vance/Owen plan and the new draft for an overall settlement. In the latter plan there is once again a call for a contribution to be made by the international community, with the United Nations taking over the temporary administration of Sarajevo and the European Community taking over that of Mostar.

The honourable Member can be sure that the Community and its Member States will assume their responsibilities by taking part in appropriate fashion in the implementation of a solution to the conflict that conforms to the principles just mentioned. They have declared themselves ready to examine whatever is requested of them under this heading by the co-chairmen of the Interna-

tional Conference on ex-Yugoslavia. And, to mention the element of most recent date, namely the Gymnich decisions of last week-end in Belgium, the Gymnich [...] has confirmed its readiness in principle to appoint a civil administrator for Mostar.

Ms Llorca Vilaplana (PPE): I am very grateful for the statement the President-in-Office of the Council has made on Bosnia-Herzegovina, which differs very little from every other statement made up to now.

I know Europe is full of goodwill and ready to send food, provide humanitarian aid, monitor respect for human rights, etc., etc. But certainly in the debate held here yesterday on the Bosnia-Herzegovina question, the President complained that there was plenty of criticism, but there were no offers of solutions.

Well, I did offer a solution – he did not want to recognize it as such – which is that Bosnia-Herzegovina should not be broken up. That is where the danger lies, with the commander of the Bosnian army saying that he will not accept partition of the country into three states, and will continue the conflict.

European history is full of examples of grave situations ensuing from the creation of corridors. I think the idea is intolerable, extremely serious and terribly dangerous, and it is my duty to say so here.

Mr Urbain: I should like to say, by way of completing my first reply, the question is what can be done to guarantee and put into effect a peace agreement concluded in Geneva for the parties. On this point, a trusteeship, as suggested by the honourable Member – seeing that this proposal was not made by anyone at the negotiating table, that it would not be assented to by the three parties and that it would no doubt require United Nations' cover, which would be very difficult to obtain – could be imposed by force alone under conditions that neither the European Community nor the international community would be willing to countenance. So the only realistic procedure, despite its shortcomings that I emphasized just now, remains to continue negotiations on the basis of what has already been achieved in Geneva, particularly as regards the constitutional status of the new Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Ms Crawley (PSE): On the issue you raised in your answer to Ms Llorca Vilaplana's question of dealing with war criminals, perhaps you could reflect with us on how it is possible to bring war criminals to justice when at the same time the Western powers are sitting around the negotiating table with some of those war criminals. The situation in 1945 was very different. At the Nuremberg Trials the allies had not been sitting around the table with Hitler.

Mr Urbain: Dare I say that, where such important and difficult matters are concerned, there are no such words as 'never' and 'always'? We saw an example a few days ago in another part of the world, where, after forty years of bloody clashes, it has been realized that a certain problem could not be resolved by force. I think that, if one were to transpose the situation, *mutatis mutandis*, to ex-Yugoslavia, it would be possible to explain a lot of things.

President: Mr President-in-Office, you said a short time ago that you would answer a supplementary question by Mr Maher on the arms embargo to Yugoslavia, in connection with Question [No H-643/93/rev.].² I know that the author of Question [No H-643/93/rev.] is not here. May I nevertheless ask you to give a reply now to the question by Mr Maher?

Mr Urbain: The Community and its Member States decided on 7 July 1991 to impose an embargo on the whole of ex-Yugoslavia for weapons and military equipment. They made several urgent appeals to countries that could be deemed to be potential suppliers of weapons to do the same.

Resolution 713 of the UN Security Council of 25 September 1991 subjected the entire territory of ex-Yugoslavia to a military embargo, which was put into effect by Resolution 724 of 15 December 1991 establishing a sanctions committee to monitor the application of the embargo. The sanctions scheme was confirmed by several subsequent Security Council resolutions, among which Resolutions 757, 760, 787 and 820.

The effective implementation of the embargo on a national basis was the subject of statements by each of the participants in Sanctions Committee 724 established by the Security Council. In the framework of European political cooperation the Community and its Member States have, since the beginning of the embargo, exchanged information regularly on the various aspects of the embargo, including observance and monitoring of its implementation.

The Community and its Member States make a significant contribution to the implementation of the embargo by participating in aid missions and in CSCE sanctions and by their support for Serbia's neighbouring countries. They have also given a favourable reception to WEU and NATO decisions to monitor the implementation of sanctions decreed by the United Nations and the WEU's decision to reinforce the application of its sanctions on the Danube.

[...]

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/250.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/363.

93/368. Question No H-841/93 by Ms Tazdait on French people held prisoner in Bosnia by the Croats

Date of issue: 15 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Four family men living in France, including one French citizen, who have been organizing humanitarian convoys, are being held prisoner by the Croats in Bosnia.

Has EPC any information about them?

Has it taken steps to secure their release?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States attach the highest importance to the safety of humanitarian convoys in the former Yugoslavia. They have made several joint and bilateral representations to the parties concerned.

Recently, the Presidency sent a strongly worded message to the Croatian authorities. In his reply, President Tudjman stated that the Croatian authorities were doing everything possible to guarantee the safety of the convoys. In conjunction with the Geneva Conference on the protection of war victims, the troika made representations to Croatian Foreign Minister, Mr Granic, requesting free access by the ICRC to prison camps, particularly those situated in the south of Mostar.

Political Cooperation has the following information on the specific case referred to by the honourable Member: the French member of the convoy, Mr Fand Mazni, was freed during August. The honourable Member can rest assured that the Community and its Member States will insist with the greatest firmness on respect by all parties concerned on the principles of human rights and on the commitments which have been given.

93/369. Question No H-855/93 by Ms Van Hemeldonck on European UNO forces

Date of issue: 15 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

What measures have been taken, or are under consideration, for the reimbursement of European military personnel on active service in the event of sickness, accident, physical injury or death?

Do the Foreign Ministers agree that European forces participating in a European defence system should be covered by common European regulations both in times of war and in peacetime?

Answer:

There are currently no 'European forces' nor does any plan exist to create such a force. The arrangements for compensation for service victims in the existing multinational forces, such as the European Corps, are determined on a national basis.

Troops from Community Member States currently taking part in foreign operations are national contingents placed at the disposal of the United Nations. These troops are therefore covered by the system of guarantees established by the UN.

93/370. Questions No H-902/93 by Mr Ephremidis on political arrests in Albania and H-909/93 by Mr Papoutsis on the political situation in Albania

Date of issue: 15 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-902/93:

Has EPC taken an interest in the recent wave of arrests of leading opposition officials in Albania and will it take direct action to obtain the release of Ramiz Alia, the former President of Albania, and Fatos Nano, the former Prime Minister, and of the other officials arrested with them during the summer for both humanitarian and essentially political reasons justified by those authoritarian acts against the Socialist Party of Albania?

Question No H-909/93:

Given that all opposition groups continue to doubt the essential functioning of democracy in Albania following the arrest and imprisonment of the leader of the official opposition and former Prime Minister Fatos Nano, who is being held under wretched conditions and in solitary confinement, will EPC make representations to the Albanian Government and insist on the need for human rights and democratic freedoms to be respected if the Community is to continue to provide technical and economic assistance to Albania?

Answer:

I am sure the honourable Members will permit me to answer Questions Nos H-79/73 and H-798/93, which deal with the same topic, jointly.

The Community and its Member States have been monitoring the development of the human rights situation in Albania for some time. They have, on several occasions, expressed their con-

cern at the measures adopted by the Albanian Government in the case of religious groups. They have also frequently called on the Albanian Government to solemnly respect all its undertakings under the CSCE. The Member States have been encouraged by the adoption on 31 March 1993 of a Constitutional Act on Human Rights, Article 26 of which deals with the rights of minorities. They are aware, however, that further efforts will be required to implement these principles, particularly the adoption of legislation guaranteeing that all members of minority groups enjoy the basic right to develop their own ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity, to teach and to be taught in their native language and to form associations to defend their interests and identity.

The Community and its Member States have signed a trade agreement with Albania which came into force on 1 December 1992. Full respect for democratic principles and human rights are an essential part of this agreement.

The Community and its Member States will use every occasion to urge the Albanian authorities to adopt the necessary measures. They will continue to follow closely the development of the human rights situation.

93/371. Question No H-910/93 by Mr Pierros on an acceptable territorial *status quo* in the Balkans

Date of issue: 15 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

History and ongoing chauvinism in the Balkans suggest that an end to the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina would not end tensions over areas where fighting has not broken out.

How does EPC envision the creation of an acceptable territorial *status quo* in the region after the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina?

Answer:

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of the Council: The main objectives of the external policy of the Community and its Member States towards the Balkan countries are as follows: to preserve political stability, support democracy and contribute to social and economic progress in the interests of both the Community and the countries concerned. The approaches adopted and the instruments used are very numerous and fall within the competence of both the Member States and the European Community itself.

It was in this spirit that the Copenhagen European Council discussed an initiative by [the] European Union in favour of an agreement on stability in Europe.¹ So it is undeniable that the joint efforts made in the framework of Community activities or, further, in the framework of political cooperation have a multiplier effect.

As regards the territories that are the victims of the conflict in ex-Yugoslavia, the Community and its Member States have openly intimated their readiness to take an active part in implementing an agreement negotiated and accepted by the parties concerned, pursuant to the principles of the London Conference and the decisions of the Copenhagen European Council.² They are likewise ready to contribute to the guarantees that might attach to such an agreement, on the basis of a mandate adequate to allow their implementation.

As regards the overall region, the Community and its Member States will ensure the maintenance of an acceptable territorial *status quo* through the observance of the principles of the UN

Charter and the commitments undertaken in the framework of the CSCE. The latter provide in particular that states shall mutually regard as inviolable all their frontiers, respect the territorial integrity of other states and refrain from resorting to the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of another state.

At the same time, this inviolability of frontiers is coupled with the possibility for states to settle their differences by peaceful means, on the basis of international law. Consequently, frontiers cannot be altered except by common accord.

On the question of Kosovo, the Community and its Member States have drawn attention to the importance they attach to the maintenance of a dialogue between the various peoples and to the restoration of the constitutional status of this province within the framework of Serbia-Montenegro.

The Community and its Member States will therefore endeavour to use all legal, political, diplomatic or financial means, through the various institutions concerned, to allow the aforementioned objectives to be attained.

Within the future European Union it will be for the European Council and the Council to make the necessary arrangements for using efficiently the instruments provided for by Title 5 of the Treaty on European Union.

Mr Pierros (PPE): Three very quick questions to the representative of Political Cooperation.

First, to what extent does he think the Community would provide a system of territorial guarantees from the moment when hostilities cease?

Second, to what extent is the Community disposed to promote actively a system, a mechanism of regional Balkan cooperation?

Third, to what extent is the Community disposed to consider founding a banking institution for Balkan development and, in any case, to increase economic aid to the whole of the Balkans?

Finally, Mr President, I would like to express my sorrow at Ms Dury's comments. I just want to refer her to the minutes of the House, where both the Commission and the Council found the accusations against Greece to be entirely unfounded. If Ms Dury has specific facts and figures, let her by all means put them before the House.

Mr Urbain: Regarding the territorial guarantees system, it is clear that, as I have just pointed out in my initial statement, it is first and foremost for the countries in the region to establish this among themselves. However, it needs to be emphasized that, as regards both this problem and regional cooperation, the Balladur plan on minorities and on frontiers takes up the idea put forward at the European Summit and will remain one of the elements of the policy that the Community intends to pursue in this part of Europe.

As regards the establishment of a banking institute for Balkan development, the Presidency has not as yet adopted a position. I would emphasize that this is a proposal that has been put forward also in connection with the situation in the Middle East. I would, finally, mention that it was an idea that was adopted and implemented for the benefit of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in the shape of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the results of which at the present time, we have to admit, are, to say the least, unsatisfactory and at all events considerably below what had been expected.

Mr Kostopoulos (PSE): I would first of all like to answer Ms Dury that the next government in Greece will be a socialist government. Because, first, Ms Dury cannot get away with inaccuracies. Secondly, she must not be prejudiced and shower Greece with poison and empathy. Third, so far as the embargo is concerned, what she told us here has been proved by both the Council and the

Commission to be unfounded and baseless. I would therefore ask that we should be careful what we say.

Now, I would like to ask the President-in-Office a specific question: Mr President-in-Office, in recent times Serbia's stance concerning the negotiations has been fairly constructive. That, indeed, has been acknowledged by the negotiators themselves and by the Community. My question, then, is whether Political Cooperation is considering asking for the present embargo against Serbia to be lifted.

Mr Urbain: The Council's reply is 'no'.

Ms Crawley (PSE): I have some headed notepaper in my room. At the top of it, Mr President-in-Office, are the words 'The Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina'. I understand that that republic was recognized by this Community some time ago now. Therefore, there is somewhere a faultline in the logic of your argument, when you say that the Belgian Presidency follows other Presidencies in ensuring that frontiers are inviolable, territorial integrity is sustained, frontiers cannot be changed without mutual agreement and that the criterion for this is the preservation of democracy. How can you justify supporting the Owen/Stoltenberg Agreement, which actually institutionalizes the transfer of territories that have been taken away by force, through rape, murder and torture, that were once recognized 'inviolably' by this European Community?

Mr Urbain: The draft agreement under consideration provides for a Bosnia-Herzegovina made up of three republics, obviously, as the Council President stated on the conclusion of his journey through the three cities of ex-Yugoslavia that I mentioned just now, it is probably not the most glorious of solutions. It is at all events the only one that seems possible.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/248.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/250.

93/372. Question No H-913/93 by Mr Cushnahan on the situation in former Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 15 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Will EPC report on its efforts to achieve an end to the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia?

Answer:

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: Since the beginning of the conflict in ex-Yugoslavia, successive Presidencies have always kept Parliament informed both about the various phases of this grievous conflict and about the manifold efforts made by the Community and its Member States to bring hostilities to an end and to contribute to a negotiated settlement accepted by all the parties concerned.

The Presidency has frequently had the opportunity to set out the position of the Community and its Member States on various aspects when replying to written and oral questions put by the honourable Members. As recently as yesterday, in this House, Mr Claes, President-in-Office of the Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs, explained what the positions of the Twelve were after

the Gymnich Council held on the 11 and 12 of September in the province of Limburg in Belgium.¹

The talks held by the Presidency with the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Security and the meetings between the Head of the Secretariat for European political cooperation and that Committee have been put to very good account so as to have an exchange of views between the European Parliament and Political Cooperation. I would remind you that, in essence, the action pursued by the Community and its Member States is concentrated on three main axes. Preventive diplomatic action, the concrete expression of which has been the institution of an International Conference for Yugoslavia. Humanitarian action and action in the field that has both a preventive purpose – such as the European Community monitoring missions – and an operational function – such as humanitarian undertakings and monitoring the sanctions imposed.

The Presidency visited ex-Yugoslavia from 20 to 22 July. On its visits to Zagreb, Sarajevo and Belgrade, it called on the parties to implement an immediate cease-fire and to contribute to finding a fair settlement that was viable and in conformity with the London principles and the decisions taken by the Copenhagen European Council.² The Community and its Member States are ready to play an active part in putting into operation such a settlement and such guarantees as it would be able to implement on the basis of a mandate adequate to allow such implementation.

The Community and its Member States have recently undertaken several actions aimed at reducing tension in the Krajina area and at making possible the smooth passage of all humanitarian aid. On this matter you are perhaps aware of the latest information, namely the conclusion of a cease-fire between Serbs and Croats in that very area of Krajina and an agreement concluded between Presidents Izetbegovic and Tudjman on the removal of obstacles to the passage of humanitarian aid to Mostar.

It was in the same spirit that the Community and its Member States, in their statement of 3 September,³ made an urgent appeal to the parties not to allow what had been achieved at the Geneva Conference to be lost. They called on them to resume negotiations without delay.

Mr Maher (LDR): On behalf of Mr Cushnahan, I thank the President-in-Office for his explanation. Having participated in some meetings with representatives of political parties representing the Serbs, I can tell you that they say that the embargo being imposed by the European Community is biting very deeply and that factories are closing down and that in some cases even food is scarce. But nevertheless they go on fighting, which seems to suggest that there is no shortage of military weaponry. Is it possible for the European Community to do something further to limit the supplies of military material which enable the war to go on?

Mr Urbain: If you wish, I can answer the question, but I should be anticipating slightly one of the next questions, which deals precisely with the supply of weapons to the protagonists in the Yugoslavian conflict and with the measures taken or to be taken in the conflict.

Mr Bru Purón (PSE): I am grateful to the President-in-Office of the Council for his extensive response to the first of the four questions on the war in Bosnia and other regions of former Yugoslavia.

The European Community's intervention and dedication are praiseworthy and I think any accusation of passivity or inertia on the part of the Community in this matter must be repudiated. But I have to say that as the possibility of reaching agreement – especially as regards Bosnia – is increasing, intervention by the Community seems to be decreasing. For example, the troika, which operated on a daily basis in the early days of the war, is not in evidence today. The Community, the President of the Council or the troika, as appropriate, used to be in constant contact with the mediators, Dr Owen and Mr Stoltenberg. But now it seems that contact is no longer maintained, or at least this is not made public in the media, at a time when we are very close to the Geneva Con-

ference, and – according to the latest news given to us by the President-in-Office – to a settlement. As regards the concrete measures which can be taken, has the possibility of sending a contingent of armed forces been planned for – not to guarantee humanitarian aid, which has been done, and very well – but to guarantee the future peace conditions? Shouldn't the Community take the initiative on this, especially as President Clinton has offered 25,000 troops if the Community contributes another 25,000?

As regards corridors to the sea for Bosnia, I think a support force from the Community would be crucial.

Mr Urbain: I have before me a list of the steps taken by the Presidency during the past months, and I think I can say that seldom has a day or two gone by without initiatives being taken.

Having said that, we recognize that, while there are various facets to the problem, which will in fact be touched on in the next three questions, in particular the question of Mostar, of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the problem of weapon supplies, we recognize that the general position adopted by the Twelve, which has always enjoyed general approval and consensus, aims to reiterate our support for the negotiators in Geneva, Lord Owen and Mr Stoltenberg, and that, unless something very unexpected happens or a fundamental change occurs in the situation on the ground, the Twelve will have to go on appealing to the protagonists in the Bosnia-Herzegovina conflict to return at the earliest possible date to negotiations in Geneva, while inviting all parties to show flexibility.

The last piece of information I gave you opens up hopeful perspectives in this respect, even though it is not the first time that a cease-fire has been decided on and even though, unfortunately, its viability is not very great. Let us hope that the efforts now being made and that will continue to be made will end in a political settlement to this cruel conflict.

Ms Dury (PSE): I am acquainted in a personal capacity with the opinions held by Mr Urbain, but I have to intimate to the Belgian Presidency all my repugnance, despite what my friend Bru Purón has said about the European Community's efforts in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

It is truly high time that the Council of Ministers of the Presidency made clear by all possible means – and I do not exclude military means – that everything must be done to allow a multi-cultural, multi-religious state to survive in ex-Yugoslavia. We carry within ourselves the seeds of war if we do not counter what is happening in ex-Yugoslavia. And my question is this: what contribution will the Belgian Presidency make, seeing that the next Presidency is the Greek Presidency, that it is a Presidency that is not neutral, that the Greek Government has never observed the embargo, and so what means will the Belgian Presidency bring to bear, before the next Presidency, to provide against actions that will for ever go on protecting the Serbs and Serbia in its actions and its political wishes?

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/359.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/250.

³ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/353.

93/373. Question No 1364/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on the embargo against Cuba

Date of issue: 16 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 4 June 1993)

World-famous writers who have visited Cuba (such as Gunther Grass writing recently in the Spanish newspaper *El Pais*) have appealed to the international community for the embargo to be lifted. The writers have emphasized that the embargo is not playing a constructive role in fostering internal political reforms in Cuba and that, indeed, it is generating a tendency among the vast majority of Cubans to ascribe all their problems to the boycott.

While it is of course true that 60% of Cuba's problems are due to the embargo, the remaining 40% are purely internal. The writers claim that, in order to be able to create a better future for themselves, Cubans first need the embargo to be lifted and then need to implement internal reforms to set them on the path to parliamentary democracy.

Bearing these conclusions in mind, do the Ministers meeting in EPC intend to take any steps towards helping Cuba and its people?

Answer:

The European Community and its Member States have indicated their disagreement, from the legal point of view, with the extra-territorial application of certain measures contained in the Cuban Democracy Act. In their contacts with the United States, they have also pointed out the possibility that the embargo may be having counter-productive consequences. To claim, however, that most of Cuba's problems are due to the United States embargo is hardly in keeping with the facts. The fundamental reason for the disastrous state of Cuba's economy must rather be found in structural problems inherent in its centralized economic system.

The European Community and its Member States regularly impress upon the Cuban authorities the need to respect human rights and urge a more open political system. They regard this as the best way of encouraging a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba. As for the problems of the Cuban people, the European Community and its Member States are endeavouring to assist by providing humanitarian aid.

93/374. Question No 1564/93 by Mr Smith (S) on the supply of arms to Iran

Date of issue: 16 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 17 June 1993)

Will EPC establish an investigation into the supply by companies Muiden Chemie of the Netherlands, Allivane of the United Kingdom, Gea Remie and Erbeyr of Italy and Spel of Portugal (part financed by the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro in Italy) of arms and other military equipment to Iran in 1987 contrary to the EC embargo?

Answer:

The question raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation.

An official EC arms embargo against either Iran or Iraq did not exist in 1987, however export of arms to countries at war was at that time in general prohibited under national export regulations.

Violations of national export regulations, in fact of international embargoes should these exist, are punishable under national law hence prosecution is a national discretion. The European political cooperation is not competent to conduct investigations as referred to in the question.

For the time being, the Community and its Member States apply towards Iran the common criteria on arms exports agreed by the European Council on 28 and 29 June 1991¹ to all arms exports to third countries.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 91/196.

93/375. Question No 1648/93 by Mr Smith (S) on arms trade

Date of issue: 16 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 28 June 1993)

What consideration has been made by EPC of the proposals agreed at the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in New Delhi in April 1993 calling for a global ban on the trade in arms, based on the report by Germany's Elke Leonhard?

Answer:

The specific issue raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation.

However, I would like to stress that transparency in the transfer of conventional weapons has always been one of the main concerns of the Community and its Member States.

The Community and its Member States have been encouraging all UN members to comply with the UN resolutions on the issue, namely:

- UNGA Resolution 47/52 L, which requests Member States to provide data and information to the UN Register on Conventional arms by 30 April 1993, established in 1991 following an initiative by the Community and its Member States and Japan;
- UNGA Resolution 46/36 L, which requests Member States to provide information on international arms transfers;
- UNGA Resolution 46/35 A, which requests Member States to make their CBM returns within the framework of the Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention;
- and UNGA Resolution 40/91 B, which requests Member States to report on military budgets.

I can assure the honourable Member that transparency in the transfer of armaments will continue to be a priority for the Community and its Member States.

93/376. Question No 1739/93 by Mr White (PSE) on European political cooperation

Date of issue: 16 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 29 June 1993)

In view of the European Communities' failure to impose effective economic sanctions against the military regime in Haiti, what steps are being undertaken by European political cooperation to restore Jean-Bertrand Aristide as the legitimate President of Haiti?

Answer:

As the honourable Member will be aware, the European Community and its Member States have continuously taken the position that the legitimate President of Haiti has to be restored. The Community and its Member States have supported the adoption by the UN Security Council of Resolution 841 imposing a trade embargo on petroleum, petroleum products and arms and related material of all types and freezing assets of the *de facto* regime abroad. The necessary decisions within the Community framework – Council Regulation (EEC) No 1608/93 of 24 June 1993 – and within the competences of Member States are being taken to make these sanctions effective.

The Community and its Member States have expressed their full support for the Agreement of Governors Island (New York, 3 July 1993) signed by Jean-Bertrand Aristide, President of the Republic and the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, and under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) which foresees the return of the President of the Republic, Jean-Bertrand Aristide to Haiti on 30 October 1993.

The agreement also includes the nomination of a Prime Minister by the President and indicates the suspension, under the initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, of the sanctions adopted under UN Security Council Resolution 841 once this Prime Minister has assumed office.

The Community and its Member States have subsequently indicated their willingness to resume cooperation relations with Haiti after the suspension of sanctions imposed by the Security Council.

93/377. Question No E-1908/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on Christians of Iraq

Date of issue: 16 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 15 July 1993)

In recent year, the 500,000 Christians of Iraq, the vast majority of whom live in the north-west of the country, have found themselves caught up in the war between the Baghdad regime and the Kurds. As a result of the war many have been killed and 150,000 have been forcibly moved to squatter-like refugee camps around the Iraqi capital. Their lives are unbearable and they want to return to their homes, though they are prevented from doing so mainly by Iraqi soldiers but also by Kurds.

In view of this, what can be done to help the Christians of Iraq to return to their traditional homes?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are concerned about the human rights situation in Iraq, including the fate of the Christians. They are monitoring the situation closely in conjunction with the United Nations and international humanitarian organizations, particularly the ICRC. They have urged Iraq to act in conformity with its obligations under UN Security Council Resolutions 687, 688, and other relevant Security Council resolutions as well as the various international human rights instrument and international humanitarian law, and to cooperate with the UN and the ICRC.

The Community and its Member States sponsored the resolution on the human rights situation in Iraq passed by the 49th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in March

1993. Based on the recommendation of the UN Special Rapporteur [on] Iraq, the resolution requests the Secretary-General for the first time ever to send human rights monitors to Iraq.

The Community and its Member States consider that the most effective way to help the civilian population is by acting in close cooperation with the UN effort. They continue to support the United Nations Inter-Agency Programme for the region. The UN agencies involved have a clear understanding of the humanitarian situation in the field, and the UN Guard Force is playing an important role in ensuring the safety of the population and of UN personnel.

93/378. Statement on Haiti

Date of issue: 20 September 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States express their indignation at the series of assassinations of supporters of President Aristide and at the threats made against members of the constitutional government and political activists who are in favour of the return of the President.

The European Community and its Member States condemn such violence which runs counter to the national reconciliation to be achieved on the basis of the Governor's Island Agreement. They stress the obligation to maintain order which is incumbent on the army and the police and demand that those responsible be prosecuted and punished.

93/379. Statement on the situation in Russia

Date of issue: 22 September 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States have taken note of the recent political developments in Russia, which are the apparently inevitable consequence of a stalemate created by forces opposed to the process of democratic reform.

The Community and its Member States continue to support this process of democratization, which is backed by the whole international community.

The Community and its Member States support President Yeltsin as the only directly elected authority in his efforts to keep up the pace of this process, which has already been given the people's seal of approval in the referendum of 25 April 1993. It is for the people of Russia to decide on its system of government and constitution.

The Community and its Member States appreciate the fact that free and democratic elections making it possible to move on from the present political situation will take place. This is an essential condition for the economic and social development which will enable the Russian people to create the prosperity to which they aspire.

The Community and its Member States hope that the elections planned for 11 and 12 December 1993 will be completed without turmoil and will prove to be a decisive turn on the path of reform.

93/380. Statement on recent events in South Africa

Date of issue: 25 September 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States warmly welcome recent events in South Africa, which have enabled Mr Nelson Mandela, the President of the ANC, to call in New York for the lifting of all economic sanctions still in force *vis-à-vis* his country. They consider these events as the culmination of the first phase of a process that will lead to non-racial democracy in South Africa.

The Multi Party Negotiating process at Kempton Park has now led to the decision to create a Transitional Executive Council. The Community and its Member States express the hope that once the TEC is in place it will be able to fulfil the historic task that the parties to the negotiating process have reserved for it, namely to be the first step in representative government and to facilitate the transition to a democratic order in South Africa.

The Community and its Member States appeal to all parties to continue their efforts and call on all South African political forces to participate in the process of transition, to ensure that all agreements reached in the multi-party negotiations are adhered to, to put an end to violence and to participate fully in the emerging democratic life of their country.

The Community and its Member States recall their decision of 8 June last to adjust their policy towards S[outh] A[frica] concurrently with developments in that country towards majority rule and democracy. They note with satisfaction that other important partners have recently announced that they will lift the economic sanctions still in place, as the Community and its Member States have done before. As to others measures, the Community and its Member States will shortly consider further steps in line with the decision of 8 June.

93/381. Opening statement at the CSCE implementation review meeting of the human dimension

Date of issue: 27 September 1993
Place of issue: Warsaw
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Statement in international forum

Monsieur le Président, chers collègues, Mesdames, Messieurs,

1. Permettez-moi d'abord, au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses Etats membres, de remercier le Bureau des Institutions démocratiques et des droits de l'homme pour l'intense préparation qui a précédé cette réunion. Cette préparation constituera sans aucun doute un gage de réussite pour nos travaux.

2. La CSCE a entrepris récemment un vaste processus de réformes pour adapter ses structures et ses instruments aux nouveaux défis auxquels elle est confrontée. Si la CSCE diversifie ainsi ses moyens d'action, son inspiration demeure toutefois identique. Elle procède toujours de la même conviction. Il n'y a pas d'ordre international stable qui puisse s'établir sur l'oppression de certains peuples ou sur la négation des droits humains fondamentaux.

3. Cette conviction s'est exprimée avec force dans les documents de la CSCE. Le Document de Copenhague a défini les principes essentiels de la démocratie, de l'Etat de droit et du respect des droits de l'homme. La Charte de Paris pour une nouvelle Europe consacra solennellement ces va-

leurs. Le Document de Moscou, enfin compléta les normes existantes et établit un mécanisme en vue d'en assurer le respect.

La dimension humaine demeure un des piliers de la CSCE. Elle a toutefois, depuis la réunion de Moscou, du être adaptée aux profondes mutations qu'a connues ce processus. Il importe, en effet, aujourd'hui d'assurer l'application des engagements déjà souscrits plutôt que de poursuivre un exercice normatif.

La CSCE, a en matière de dimension humaine, développé une approche plus coopérative et moins confrontationnelle. Plutôt que de s'arrêter à la dénonciation des violations, la CSCE s'attache à multiplier les moyens en vue d'y pallier. Enfin et surtout, la dimension humaine apparaît désormais comme une des composantes fondamentales de la diplomatie préventive que la CSCE entend mener.

4. La présente réunion sur la mise en oeuvre des engagements concernant la dimension humaine de la CSCE revêt, de l'avis de la Communauté européenne et de ses Etats membres, une importance primordiale. Cette réunion devrait en effet nous permettre de juger des progrès accomplis et des insuffisances persistantes au regard des engagements définis dans les documents CSCE.

5. Si l'on ne peut ignorer les progrès remarquables qui ont été accomplis depuis trois ans, force nous est toutefois de constater que les espoirs qu'avait suscités la Charte de Paris ont été partiellement déçus. La liberté retrouvée s'est en effet, en plusieurs endroits de l'aire géographique de la CSCE, traduite par un nationalisme exacerbé et le rejet de l'autre.

6. Le conflit qui a éclaté sur le territoire de l'ancienne Yougoslavie a causé d'immenses souffrances humaines. Les droits de l'homme et le droit humanitaire international ont été bafoués tout particulièrement en Bosnie-Herzégovine.

Comme l'a souligné le Conseil européen de Copenhague, la Communauté européenne et ses Etats membres poursuivent leurs efforts en vue d'un règlement négocié qui doit notamment se fonder sur l'indépendance, la souveraineté et l'intégrité territoriale de la Bosnie, la protection des droits de l'homme et des minorités et le caractère inadmissible de l'acquisition de territoires par la force.

7. Dans la région du Nagorno Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh], aussi, le conflit s'est traduit par des violences vis-à-vis des populations et des déportations. Les patients efforts du Président du groupe de Minsk visant à restaurer la paix dans cette région n'ont pu jusqu'ici aboutir. Le conflit au contraire s'est étendu de manière inadmissible à d'autres régions de l'Azerbaïdjan.

En d'autres endroits encore, en Géorgie, au Tadjikistan, des combats se poursuivent engendrant négation des principes CSCE et détresse humaine.

8. La CSCE ne pouvait demeurer indifférente à la violation de ses valeurs les plus fondamentales. Elle a oeuvré de manière permanente afin d'y mettre fin. Son action, n'a pas été purement déclaratoire. Au contraire.

La CSCE a multiplié ses efforts en vue de prévenir et de contenir les conflits. Le souci de la dimension humaine fait partie intégrante de ses efforts de diplomatie préventive. Force est en effet de constater que la violation des normes qui ont été souscrites dans ce domaine constitue tant une cause qu'une conséquence du développement des conflits.

La Serbie-Monténégro qui porte la responsabilité première du conflit yougoslave a été suspendue des activités de la CSCE.

9. L'action du Haut Commissaire CSCE aux minorités nationales témoigne du lien étroit qui existe entre la diplomatie préventive et la dimension humaine. La situation des minorités nationales constitue une des sources principales de conflit en Europe. Le Haut Commissaire de la CSCE aux minorités nationales est appelé à détecter ces conflits à un stade précoce et au besoin à engager une action en vue de les contenir. La Communauté européenne et ses Etats membres invitent les Etats qui n'ont pas encore mis en oeuvre ses recommandations à en tenir compte. Ils se félicitent par ailleurs de l'invitation à participer à nos travaux qui lui a été adressée.

10. Le mécanisme de la dimension humaine de la CSCE établi à Moscou constitue un des autres instruments de la CSCE pour examiner la situation des droits de l'homme. Ce mécanisme fut mis en oeuvre, à l'initiative de la Communauté européenne et de ses Etats membres, en vue d'enquêter sur les violences dont des civils avaient fait l'objet en Croatie et en Bosnie. La mission Corell qui y fit suite recommanda notamment que soit créé un tribunal international pour juger les crimes de guerre perpétrés sur le territoire de l'ancienne Yougoslavie.

Le Comité des Hauts Fonctionnaires, plus récemment, décidait de l'envoi d'une mission de rapporteurs en Serbie-Monténégro en vue d'y enquêter sur le respect des droits de l'homme et particulièrement sur les violences qu'auraient subies les époux Draskovic. En violation des engagements souscrits lors de la réunion de Moscou, la Serbie-Monténégro n'autorisa pas la mission à avoir accès à son territoire.

Le mécanisme de la dimension humaine fut encore mis en oeuvre, sur une base volontaire par l'Estonie et la Moldova qui invitèrent des missions d'experts CSCE à examiner leurs législations respectives relatives à la citoyenneté et aux droits des minorités nationales.

11. Le Comité des Hauts Fonctionnaires de la CSCE décida aussi de l'envoi de missions humanitaires sur le territoire de l'ancienne république yougoslave.

La mission CSCE conduite par Sir John Thomson procéda à une enquête sur les violations des droits de l'homme et particulièrement sur les conditions de vie dans les camps de détention en Bosnie-Herzégovine et en Serbie.

Le Comité des Hauts Fonctionnaires décidait en février dernier, en vue de compléter ces activités et de récolter de nouvelles informations, d'envoyer une nouvelle mission d'inspection des camps de détention sous la conduite de l'Ambassadeur Blackwell.

12. La CSCE a dépêché d'autres missions de plus longue durée dans des régions de tension en Europe. Ces missions témoignent également de l'interaction entre la diplomatie préventive et la promotion des droits de l'homme.

Les missions de longue durée au Kosovo, dans le Sandjak et en Voïvodine furent déployées en vue de prévenir une extension du conflit à ces régions. Le mandat de ces missions les invitait à promouvoir le dialogue et à rassembler des informations sur les cas de violations des droits de l'homme.

L'utilité de ces missions a été reconnue par tous. La Communauté et ses Etats membres déplorent dès lors vivement qu'elles n'aient pu poursuivre leurs activités à la suite du refus des autorités de Belgrade de prolonger le protocole d'accord. Ainsi que l'attestent les informations disponibles, le départ des missions a été suivi d'un accroissement de la répression.

Une autre mission CSCE demeure en activité en vue de prévenir l'extension du conflit dans l'ancienne république yougoslave de Macédoine.

La mission CSCE en Géorgie est, à titre principal, chargée de procéder à des consultations avec les parties au conflit en Ossétie en vue d'identifier et de résoudre les sources de tension ainsi que de favoriser la création d'un cadre politique de négociations.

En Estonie, la mission de la CSCE a pour mandat de promouvoir la stabilité, le dialogue et la compréhension entre les Communautés.

Une mission CSCE a été déployée en Moldova pour faciliter un règlement pacifique, durable et global du conflit en Transdnestr.

13. La Communauté européenne et ses Etats membres ont pris connaissance des récents développements de la situation politique en Russie. Les événements qui sont intervenus à Moscou apparaissent comme une conséquence apparemment inéluctable de l'impasse créée par les forces s'opposant au processus de réforme démocratique. Les élections libres qui seront organisées en décembre devraient permettre d'assurer la représentativité du Parlement russe, conformément aux exigences de la CSCE en matière de démocratie. La Communauté et ses Etats membres ont, dans ces conditions, tenu à soutenir le Président Eltsine qui seul détient une autorité en vertu d'élections directes et dont la légitimité a encore été renforcée par le référendum du 25 avril.

14. L'examen de la mise en oeuvre des engagements concernant la dimension humaine de la CSCE que nous entreprendrons ces prochaines semaines contribuera à la mission de diplomatie préventive de la CSCE.

La force de la CSCE, dès l'origine, a été de se préoccuper non seulement d'édicter des principes et des normes mais aussi d'examiner, lors de réunions multilatérales, comment ces engagements étaient mis en oeuvre par les Etats participants. Cet exercice garde aujourd'hui toute sa pertinence.

15. Les Etats membres de la Communauté européenne rencontrent comme d'autres Etats participants des difficultés à mettre pleinement en oeuvre les engagements exigeants de la CSCE. Ils sont disposés à répondre aux questions relatives à leurs propres législations ou à leurs pratiques administratives, à expliquer tant leurs réussites que leurs échecs éventuels. Examiner le respect par un état participant de ses engagements pourrait être perçu comme une procédure essentiellement accusatoire. Ce n'est toutefois pas dans cet esprit que la Communauté européenne et ses Etats membres conçoivent cet exercice. Certes, il convient, sous peine de priver la réunion de toute crédibilité, de nommer clairement les sujets de préoccupation. Notre souci devrait toutefois être avant tout d'entamer un dialogue constructif avec les Etats qui rencontrent certains problèmes dans la mise en oeuvre de leurs engagements.

16. La présente réunion devrait aussi nous permettre d'évaluer les instruments dont la CSCE dispose pour contrôler et favoriser le respect des engagements concernant la dimension humaine.

17. Les missions de la CSCE qui intègrent le souci de la dimension humaine dans leurs tâches de diplomatie préventive assurent, dans cette perspective, un rôle irremplaçable. Il serait dès lors opportun que leurs rapports puissent bénéficier d'une attention plus soutenue dans le cadre du processus de consultation et de décision de la CSCE.

Le bureau des institutions démocratiques et des droits de l'homme a incontestablement un rôle d'intermédiaire à assurer entre les différentes sources d'information sur les violations aux droits de l'homme et les organes de décisions politiques. Il importe dès lors d'établir des liens plus étroits entre les activités de cette institution et les instances de décision de façon à ce qu'il ne restent pas en marge du processus.

Les besoins des missions en personnel qualifié ou en équipement ne sont parfois couverts qu'avec retard ou parcimonie. Or, en s'abstenant d'apporter un soutien suffisant aux missions CSCE, les Etats participants réduisent la portée de leurs propres engagements. La Communauté et ses Etats membres essayeront pour leur part d'être plus attentifs à cet aspect.

Monsieur le Président,

18. On ne saurait évoquer les droits de l'homme, la démocratie, l'Etat de droit et la protection des minorités nationales sans saluer l'action que mène le Conseil de l'Europe pour promouvoir ces principes.

La Communauté européenne et ses Etats membres se félicitent dans ces conditions de la participation du Conseil de l'Europe à nos travaux. Nous espérons que le Conseil de l'Europe pourra nous partager son expertise et ses réalisations.

19. Nous nous félicitons également de la présence de la Commission européenne 'Démocratie par le droit' dont les travaux, notamment en matière de minorités nationales, intéressent au premier chef nos débats.

La participation de la Banque européenne pour la reconstruction et le développement, quant à elle, souligne les liens étroits qui existent entre la démocratie et le développement économique.

20. La Communauté et ses Etats membres se félicitent de la contribution de l'Assemblée parlementaire de la CSCE qui s'est réunie en juillet dernier à Helsinki. La déclaration de l'Assemblée parlementaire comporte un ensemble d'observations et de recommandations importantes particulièrement sur les questions des réfugiés et des minorités.

21. Je voudrais, enfin, saluer les organisations non gouvernementales qui sont représentées à cette réunion.

Le document de Helsinki a, à juste titre, étendu les possibilités qui leur sont offertes de présenter des contributions. Nul doute que ces dispositions de même que les contacts étroits qui pourront se nouer entre les organisations non gouvernementales et les délégations contribueront au succès de nos travaux.

Monsieur le Président,

22. La dimension humaine est une des composantes essentielles du processus CSCE. Les engagements que nous avons souscrits dans ce domaine ne sont pas purement abstraits. De leur respect ou de leur violation dépendent la vie et le bonheur de millions d'hommes et de femmes. C'est devant eux aussi que nous sommes responsables de nos actes. C'est envers eux aussi que nous sommes redevables du succès de la présente réunion.

Au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses Etats membres, je voudrais vous exprimer notre volonté d'y contribuer.

93/382. Statement at the Plenary Session of the 48th UN General Assembly

Date of issue: 28 September 1993

Place of issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Statement in international forum

Mr Claes: I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

Mr President, allow me first of all to pay tribute to your predecessor H.E. Stoyan Ganey who has conducted our activities during the 47th Session of the General Assembly.

Our assembly has unanimously decided to entrust to you the running of this 48th Session. We welcome that decision as we are familiar with your personal qualities and your professional experience. We also see this as a well-earned tribute to your country, the Republic of Guyana, and to the contribution made by the Caribbean region to the activities of our organization. The European Community and its Member States, which continue to have fruitful relations with the countries of the Caribbean zone within the dynamic framework of the Lomé Convention, wish to assure you of their fullest collaboration.

They also welcome the admission to our organization of the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Eritrea, the Principality of Monaco, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Principality of Andorra.

Mr President, in his address to this assembly last year, my British colleague, Mr Douglas Hurd, already made the point that after a brief interlude of optimism the world had entered a period of instability and of challenges to law and order. This trend has increased over the last twelve months. We now have to cope with new crisis situations while, only to speak about Europe, a just and lasting solution to a long standing problem such as the Cyprus one, has yet to be found, despite continued efforts of our organization.

Long restrained by the so-called balance of terror, latent antagonisms have resurfaced in the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The collapse of the old institutional frameworks has led to the emergence of forms of rapidly competing nationalisms. The personal ambitions of certain rulers and the propaganda machine they control have plunged clans or whole peoples into conflicts involving the blind use of violence. In that process, the basic rights of the individual and the elementary rules of international humanitarian law have been constantly flouted.

In other countries, the economic and social crisis has continued to provide fertile ground for religious fundamentalism, enabling it to increase the number of both its followers and its victims. Elsewhere, the existence of a large immigrant population has served as a pretext for reactions of racial intolerance, which have even led to deliberate criminal acts. All these forms of fanaticism designate human beings as the enemy to be destroyed. They must be contended, not only through political declarations and laws but also through a more sincere and more committed engagement in favour of the human values which should unite us all across continents and cultures.

The proliferation of these situations has gone hand-in-hand with a growing desire to possess arms of mass destruction. In this connection, we are concerned at the actions of Member States of our organization which have ample resources, bear regional responsibilities and claim to be seeking peace. The proliferation of such arms represents a grave threat to both global and regional security and stability. It is of the utmost importance that the NPT should be extended unconditionally in 1995 for an indefinite period.

Economic underdevelopment and the unacceptable living conditions of hundreds of millions of inhabitants of the planet constitute another major concern for the European Community and its Member States.

The outcome of three decades of development cooperation cannot be regarded as positive. This means that all of us countries of the south and of the north, must take serious stock of the situation. We know that it is pointless to speak of peace in the world if we do not at the same time work towards global economic and social development. The forthcoming World Conferences in Cairo, Copenhagen and Beijing will be important landmarks in this process.

Mr President, our preoccupations have not made us blind to the important efforts undertaken in all regions of the world towards democratization and economic recovery.

The republics which made up the former Soviet Union have pursued the immense task of creating a political, economic and social framework designed to strengthen their sense of identity as

individual nations. We must help these countries to find ways of achieving deep national reconciliation while fully respecting their territorial integrity. The European Community and its Member States will continue to support them substantially through technical assistance and Partnership Agreements. They will also maintain their trade with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, in particular through new or strengthened association agreements.

The European Community and its Member States support President Yeltsin in [his] efforts to promote economic and political reform as well as to strengthen democracy in his country.

It is in Africa that the gap between objectives and realities remains most discouraging. Two hundred million people across the continent live in abject poverty. However, in spite of armed conflicts and acute economic problems, there are indubitable signs of the dawn of a new political era. It is up to the African people of course to determine the pace and practical form of their democratic development. Some dictators, however, still cling to the power which they long since exercise only to their own exclusive benefit. Their armies, for whose services they somehow manage to pay, are like a weapon permanently aimed at their own people. Despite appearances, they are now no more than an anachronistic element of underdevelopment.

South Africa is approaching the historic moment when the democratic majority of its people will accede to power. The path has, alas, been littered with further massacres and attacks. The European Community and its Member States reiterate their support for the negotiating process pursued by President Frederik De Klerk and Doctor Nelson Mandela and appeal to the international community to assist South Africa in this crucial phase by helping to organize elections and to rebuild and develop the country.

In Asia, the positive trend of the last few years has been maintained. On the economic front, the Asian countries of the Pacific rim, particularly China, are characterized by remarkable dynamism. The European Community and its Member States hope that this progress will swiftly bear positive results for the living and working conditions of their population.

Latin America is a continent at peace which is continuing its economic recovery in accordance with the objectives of democratically elected governments. In several of these countries rapid population growth, social imbalances and drug-trafficking are, however, still a considerable handicap in the march towards progress.

More attention has been paid by the authorities to the indigenous peoples, but certain tragic events have occurred to remind us of the precarious conditions in which they live.

The European Community and its Member States welcome the substantial improved prospects for peace and stability in the Middle East. They hope that following the recent Israel/Palestinian Agreements new decisive steps will be taken by Israel and the Arab countries directly concerned by the Middle East peace process.

The recent Israeli/Jordanian declaration of principles is a positive move in this direction. We call upon this assembly to take account of these major developments when considering the situation in the Middle East.

The European Community and its Member States, in line with their long-standing position, stand ready to assume, in close coordination with competent international institutions, an important part of the general coordination of the assistance offered by the international community to the Palestinian people in the Occupied Territories. In this connection donor countries will, above all, have to be guided by criteria of efficiency and swiftness.

Mr President, during this difficult period the UN has not just been a passive onlooker.

The World Conference on Human Rights made it possible to adopt a Final Declaration which reaffirms and enriches the universal consensus on the essential respect due in all circumstances to

the human person. The Vienna Programme of Action provides for a large number of measures to ensure greater respect for, and promotion of, such rights throughout the world. The European Community and its Member States will endeavour as from the present session to achieve application of these measures, in particular as regards increased resources for the Centre for Human Rights and the appointment of a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The other World Conferences on Population, Social Development and the Promotion of Women have actively continued their preparations. The follow-up to Rio was ensured by the first meeting of the Sustainable Development Commission, which, from the outset, established partnership, which we consider to be very promising.

The agenda for peace has been discussed in various fora. The warm welcome it has received has been followed by various practical implementing measures. We would, however, like our assembly to show more willingness to abandon its reservations regarding certain types of preventive action which have already been adopted in practice by the Security Council and the Secretary-General.

The organization itself has embarked on, and made progress, with a series of restructuring measures. The most complex is probably the restructuring of the Security Council but it is encouraging that this topic is now the subject of open dialogue.

Pending a reform which should not compromise its efficiency, the Council has kept up the pace of its activities. It has given a larger place in practice to the concepts of preventive diplomacy and cooperation with regional organizations. You, Mr Secretary-General, have resolutely backed this trend both through your numerous visits on the ground or those of your personal representatives and through the adjustments you have made within the Secretariat. These have focused particularly on strengthening the departments responsible for managing peace-keeping operations. The indispensable extension of these services has not yet been completed and will require further assistance from the Member States. There has been an overwhelming increase in the UN's operations in this area over the last few years. They have not simply multiplied; their objectives have also diversified. In several cases, the traditional task of peace-keeping has had to be supplemented or, initially, replaced by the much more delicate task of enforcing peace.

The organization has, in the eyes of some, met with failure in the very difficult situations with which it has had to cope in the former Yugoslavia and Somalia. The duplicity of some warlords constitutes a permanent threat of destabilization.

Moreover, in no circumstances has the international community chosen to combine humanitarian aid missions with peace restoring missions. The use of force was seen only as a last resort in order to come to the help of people held hostage by self-proclaimed leaders. Our organization has consequently been constrained to use, under certain circumstances, means corresponding to the provocations it had to face. We must however, draw the lessons from the experience acquired through these various operations.

The breadth and complexity of humanitarian crises throughout the world also require greater coordination of humanitarian assistance both during strategic planning of operations and during their implementation on the ground.

The spirit of perseverance, in compliance with the Charter and human rights, is more necessary than ever. It has enabled Cambodia to implement the Paris Agreements in conditions which proved to be very difficult. This represents a great victory for the Cambodian people as well as a remarkable success for the UN, and was achieved through unprecedented effort: by numerous governments, by thousands of officials and volunteers, by large numbers of soldiers too, dozens of whom sacrificed their lives. The European Community and its Member States pay tribute to the Blue Helmets who, frequently killed in cold blood, have been victims of their duty throughout the

world. Their safety, as well as that of all UN staff, must be improved and the pursuit of their aggressors must be organized more effectively.

The European Community and its Member States are also convinced of the need to react to the consequences of the presence of mines resulting from armed conflicts. These devices claim numerous victims every year amongst the civilian population and jeopardize the rehabilitation of vast areas of territory ravaged by war. We ask this assembly to examine the draft resolution which we have submitted on this topic with a view to more systematic and effective organization of assistance to mine clearing. We also welcome the French initiative of asking the United Nations' Secretary-General to convene a conference to review the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which cause unnecessary suffering.

Consequently, Mr President, the overall picture of activities by the UN and its Members during the last twelve months is far from disappointing and I could have listed many other positive developments. However, when we consider the difficulties facing us, it is difficult to claim categorically that, whatever happens, the UN will be able to meet the challenges of the future effectively.

The Secretariat's capacities are being used to the full and that is no longer sufficient to deal with Member States' wishes in every case. The organization's coffers are empty or virtually so. The development of new activities is hampered more and more often by disagreements about the allocation of costs. Most of the main contributors, who are seriously affected in their own countries by an unfavourable economic situation, regard strict budgetary restraint as more important than ever. The cost of peace-keeping operations alone will be USD 3.6 billion for 1993.

In addition to the immediate cash-flow problems, there is an increasing structural deficit in the balance between the ability to take multilateral action and ever-increasing requests for intervention. What can we do to ensure that the UN does not fall victim to its own success? We feel that finding a solution entails three areas of action.

The first thing, of course, is for all Member States to pay their contributions fully and timely. That is a fundamental obligation with which the European Community and its Member States never fail to comply. The effort this requires is neither more nor less than that demanded of other contributors, be they 'big' or 'small', for each Member State is required to make a contribution in line with its ability to pay. Failure to pay represents a serious breach of the commitments given, and it is all the more regrettable that certain defaulting countries at the same time lay claim to a privileged role in the organization's debates and decisions.

Secondly, the various reforms undertaken in order to improve the operational efficiency of the organization have to be pursued with a maximum of determination. We have in mind in particular the management of the Secretariat, the control of its expenses and the forthcoming restructurations in the economic and social sector. It is unacceptable that the objectives set could not be met due to interminable negotiations or power struggles between senior administrators.

Thirdly, although the UN remains an inter-governmental body, it is called upon more and more frequently to fulfil a central government task, with responsibility for solving each and every problem that may arise.

In order to cope with this growing tide of demands, the Secretary-General in his agenda for peace has quite rightly stressed the need for cooperation with regional organizations and arrangements.

But are these up and running? Do they exist everywhere? Does the strengthening of cooperation between the UN and regional organizations offer real prospects if the latter do not become effective centres of decision and action? We feel that without the capacity for swift and ongoing intervention on a regional scale, preventive diplomacy by our organization [...] a resource which is undoubtedly indispensable but of limited scope. It will indeed facilitate successes here and there,

but will be insufficient to come to grips with the most deep-rooted and most threatening antagonisms.

If nothing changes, the danger of implosion of entire countries is real; the situation will channel multilateral resources more and more into makeshift rescue and rehabilitation operations to the detriment of collective sustainable development objectives.

In this connection the positive effects of an area of stability such as the European Community do not need to be demonstrated anymore. The European Community was inspired at the start by a profound desire for pacification and reconstruction. The same needs and aspirations are to be found elsewhere in the world but have not been matched by a comparable response.

We believe that there is no alternative to the establishing of such areas in every continent. The resolute pursuit of regional economic integration is a decisive and indispensable step in that direction. The benefits of economies of scale and free movement of persons and goods then contribute as much to consolidating peace as to sharing prosperity. By uniting to form centres of stability and progress, the participating countries gradually free themselves of the mounting problems and crises which, at this time of enormous change, tend to be more than they can cope with on their own.

In addition to these areas of stability, it is also necessary to create or strengthen broader regional mechanisms, making it possible for a number of sub-regions to develop principles of peaceful and prosperous co-existence.

Here, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe can serve, if not as a universal model, at least as a source of inspiration. Even if its ability to intervene directly is limited, it constitutes an indispensable platform for dialogue. When internal or bilateral crises occur, it encourages the neighbouring countries to display moderation and thus contributes to limiting the conflict. As respect for common rules grows, more concrete collective actions can be envisaged.

These are essential tools to achieve the threefold objective which the Secretary-General is recommending in his last report on the activities of the organization: peace, development and democracy.

To be sure, in all continents regional bodies have already embarked on this course of action: in the past year they contributed, in cooperation with the UN, to crucial mediation and peace-keeping ventures. But it was always after the conflict had flared up. Areas of genuine stability and more reliable regional mechanisms would make it possible to forestall major crises by reducing their causes.

Regional integration indeed can only help containing the collective frustrations and anxieties which fuel nationalist movements. It also provides a formidable incentive for economic growth and therefore a strategic element in combating poverty. Finally, regional economic integration, as it is progressively being built, simply eliminates the option of war from the thinking of the governments and peoples involved.

Mr President, the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia and its tragic consequences make it all too clear that the comments we have just made relate to a course of action that will prove long and demanding rather than a magic cure. Neither the European Community nor the CSCE has been able to prevent the outbreak of the conflict and the subsequent series of disasters. Like the UN and the United States of America, the European Community and its Member States have consequently been accused of lacking strategy and of indifference.

For the European Community and its Member States one of the lessons to be learnt from this catastrophe is that the deepening of its own internal relations – more Europe rather than less Europe – would strengthen the role it has to play as an instrument for influencing stability and peace in Europe and neighbouring areas.

No one can dispute, however, the fact that the European Community and its Member States have endeavoured to mediate from the earliest days of the conflict. It is the Members of the European Community who, going against the stream, managed to persuade the whole Security Council to react to the worsening situation. Without compromising their positions of principle and despite numerous disappointments, the Member States of the European Community have at no point wearied of their thankless task.

The efforts deployed at the London and Geneva Conferences bear witness to this. As you are aware, the European Community and its Member States have played a fundamental role on the ground, particularly through the activities of their monitors, in the implementation of sanctions and through their contribution to UNPROFOR and to measures to help the victims of the civil war.

The European Community and its Member States also reiterate their readiness to participate in the implementation of a peace-plan accepted by all parties.

Mr President, the Treaty of Maastricht on the European Union should provide us with the means of strengthening the European Union's ability to act in the world, in particular by implementing the common foreign and security policy. Once it has entered into force – which should happen in the next few days – that Treaty will enable the European Union to play an increased role in all areas of international policy and security and to establish close working relations between the European Union and the Western European Union.

Moreover, the imminent enlargement of the European Union to include new members will simply increase its ability to exercise a stabilizing influence over adjacent countries.

Mr President, the enlargement of the European Union and its readiness to conclude association and Cooperation Agreements of ever wider scope with virtually all regions and countries of the globe are proof of our sincere desire to forge ahead with the building of Europe while at the same time opening Europe to the world. This is the kind of Europe which is proving increasingly able to serve the objectives of the Charter. It provides encouragement to other countries and regions to unite, to join together, as Europe has done, in the common task of achieving greater peace in tomorrow's world.

Thank you, Mr President.

93/383. Memorandum to the Plenary Session of the 48th UN General Assembly

Date of issue: 28 September 1993

Place of issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Statement in international forum

This memorandum is circulated concurrently with the speech delivered to the General Assembly of the United Nations on 28 September 1993 by Mr Willy Claes,¹ Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States. It forms an integral part of that speech.

1. Central and Eastern Europe and the newly independent states

The European Community and its Member States are contributing substantially to the transformation to democratic institutions, market economies and respect for human rights in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and they welcome the results achieved thus far.

The process of political, economic and social reform in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe is furthermore supported and closely followed by the discussions in the context of the G24 [G-24] process, which, under the chairmanship of the European Commission, coordinates international assistance to the region.

The European Communities' PHARE programme provides technical assistance over a range of sectors responding to the needs of individual countries. This assistance includes initiatives on privatization, nuclear safety programmes, industrial environmental projects as well as democratization projects and dialogue among social partners. The European Community and its Member States continue to strengthen this assistance with the aim of supporting the process of reform and integration in the European institutions.

Following the signature of Europe Agreements with Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia in December 1991, the European Community and its Member States signed similar agreements with Romania in February 1993 and with Bulgaria in March 1993. They expect to sign new agreements with the successor Czech Republic and Slovakia very shortly.

Cooperation Agreements have been signed with Albania, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovenia. Those open the perspective of a possible conclusion of Europe Agreements as soon as necessary conditions have been met. In the interim the European Community intends to negotiate very shortly free trade agreements with the Baltic states. The European Community and its Member States continue to support Albania and the Baltic states with a programme of humanitarian, technical and balance of payments assistance.

The Copenhagen European Council agreed in June 1993² that those countries in Central and Eastern Europe with whom the European Community and its Member states have concluded or plan to conclude (Association) European Agreements, can become Members of the European Union if they so desire. Accession will take place as soon as the country is able to take on the obligations of membership by fulfilling the economic, financial and political conditions required, considering the Union's capacity to absorb new members while maintaining the momentum of European integration.

To help prepare the associated countries for membership, the European Council agreed to enhance cooperation between the European Community and the associated countries by:

- proposing that they enter into a structured relationship with the Institutions of the European Union within the framework of a reinforced and extended multilateral dialogue and concertation on matters of common interest,
- accelerating the efforts of the European Community to open its markets, and thus stressing the crucial importance of trade in the transition to a market economy, and to underline the social dimension of the reforms,
- continuing to devote a considerable part of the budgetary resources foreseen for external action to the Central and Eastern European countries, in particular through the PHARE programme and in conjunction with other European and international financial institutions.

As part of their efforts to draw the associated countries closer to the European Community and its Member States, the Presidents of the European Council and the Commission met the leaders of Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia (Visegrad) in London on 28 October 1992. Political dialogue meetings were held between EC Foreign Ministers and their Visegrad counterparts in March 1993. They continued this dialogue with the six associated countries in September 1993.

The European Community and its Member States strongly support the early, orderly and complete withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic states, in accordance with paragraph 15 of the CSCE Helsinki Document, without linkage to other issues. They welcome the completion on 31 August of troop withdrawals from Lithuania and now look to Russia to agree to and implement

withdrawal timetables acceptable to Estonia and Latvia. They call on Russia, Estonia and Latvia to resolve outstanding problems in a permanent, constructive and flexible manner.

The European Community and its Member States are equally playing their full part in international efforts to help the democratic transformation and the economic transition of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan [Kazakhstan] and the other new states. The TACIS programme provides technical assistance in support of economic reform and recovery.

The European Community and its Member States welcome the progress made recently in the negotiations on Partnership and Cooperation Agreements with Russia and Ukraine. They hope this will lead to the early conclusion of such agreements. They look forward to a contractual relationship between the European Community and Russia which reflects the political and economic role which Russia plays on the international scene, and where consultations – also at the highest level – are a regular feature of the relationship.

Similarly, the European Community and its Member States look forward to expanding cooperation with Belarus and Kazakhstan [Kazakhstan]. Important progress has been made in the negotiations on a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.

The fulfilment by Ukraine and Kazakhstan of their commitments under the Lisbon Protocol to ratify START I and to become a party to the NPT as a non-nuclear weapons state is essential for their full integration into the international community and will promote the development of their relations with the European Community and its Member States. They congratulate Belarus with the ratification of the Lisbon Protocol and the recent accession to the NPT. They urge Ukraine and Kazakhstan to follow the example of Belarus and accede to the NPT as non-nuclear weapon states. They urge further Ukraine to ratify START I. Fulfilment of all outstanding Lisbon Protocol commitments is essential for the full integration of these states into the international community and will promote the development of their relations with the European Community and its Member States.

The European Community and its Member States regret the continuing conflicts in many parts of the former Soviet Union. In a number of situations, the parties involved in fighting have not shown the political will required to achieve a political settlement and promote reform. In the case of Nagorno Karabach [Nagorno-Karabagh], the European Community and its Member States call on the parties involved to reach and consolidate durable cease-fire arrangements and welcome the support given by the UN Security Council in this regard. They endorse the continuing efforts by the Minsk Group of the CSCE to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict. They call upon the Armenian forces in Nagorno Karabach [Nagorno-Karabagh] to fully respect the UN Security Council Resolutions 822 and 853, and withdraw from the regions of Kelbadjar, Agdam, Fizouli and Djebail.

They regret that the cease-fire agreement in the Georgian region of Abkhazia has been broken and they are disturbed by the intensity of renewed fighting in the region. The European Community and its Member States call for the immediate reinstatement of the cease-fire agreement. They support the efforts of the United Nations and the CSCE to bring peace and stability to Georgia.

They call on the parties involved to resolve the dispute over the status of the Transdnistria region of Moldova and to come to an early agreement on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Moldova. They welcome the valuable role of the CSCE mission, which they hope will be supported by all parties.

The European Community and its Member States have expressed their concern at the continuing violence in Tajikistan and around its border with Afghanistan. They call upon the Tajik Government to establish a dialogue with the opposition, to lift the ban on opposition parties' activities and to reintegrate the refugees. They welcome the availability displayed by the UN Security Council in its presidential statement as well as the endeavours of the CSCE.

2. Former Yugoslavia

The crisis in the former Yugoslavia, particularly in Bosnia-Herzegovina, has been a cause of deepest concern to the international community because of the very serious threat to peace and stability it represents and its creation of immense and unacceptable human suffering. The European Community and its Member States remain actively involved with the aim of finding a peaceful and lasting solution through the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia chaired jointly by the UN Secretary-General and the European Community Council Chairman, through direct contacts with the parties concerned, through the European Community Monitor Mission (ECMM), in the framework of the CSCE, and by cooperating with third countries and international organizations. The Member States of the European Community are large troop contributors to the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the former Yugoslavia, providing more than half of its personnel.

The *démarche* which the Presidency undertook with the authorities in Zagreb, Sarajevo and Belgrade from 20 to 22 July 1993 was aimed at recalling the European Community's position, at underscoring the support for the co-chairmen of the International Conference and at urging the parties involved to negotiate a solution which would be viable and acceptable to all interested parties. The European Community and its Member States continue to strive for a fair and viable settlement of the conflict, based on the principles of the London Conference and acceptable to all three constituent peoples in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In this respect, the tireless efforts of Lord Owen and Mr Stoltenberg are a most valuable contribution to the search for such a settlement.

2.1 Bosnia-Herzegovina

The European Community and its Member States repeatedly condemned the atrocities, including mass killings and ethnic cleansing and attacks on and barbaric shelling of civil populations, which have been committed in Bosnia-Herzegovina, clearly as part of a systematic campaign to seize territory and cities by force.

The Edinburgh European Council of 12 December 1992³ held the leadership of Serbia and the Bosnian Serbs primarily responsible for the conflict, and its brutality.

From early on in the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the European Community and its Member States have taken the position that the perpetrators of these mass killings and other grave breaches of international humanitarian law will be held personally responsible for their actions. They supported the establishment of an international tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

On 3 March 1993,⁴ the European Community and its Member States strongly condemned the atrocities committed by Bosnian Serbs in eastern Bosnia. They equally expressed their outrage about military attacks of Bosnian Croat forces against Muslim civilians.

The European Community and its Member States repeatedly urged all parties to accept the proposals for a political solution of the conflict submitted by the co-chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. They expressed their support for the initial plan put forward by the co-chairmen, as a coherent and comprehensive settlement which took into account the legitimate interests of the three constituent communities of Bosnia-Herzegovina. This plan was rejected by the Bosnian Serbs in May 1993.

On 22 June,⁵ the Copenhagen European Council stated that it would not accept a territorial solution dictated by Serbs and Croats at the expense of the Muslims. It reaffirmed that a negotiated settlement had to be based on the principles of the London Conference, reflected in the VOPP, particularly the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Council also underlined the importance of a speedy implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 836 on safe areas and decided to respond positively to the request of the Secretary-General for personnel and money to this end.

Concerning the proposals which have been tabled in Geneva after the rejection by the Bosnian Serbs of the so-called Vance/Owen peace plan, the European Community and its Member States have indicated on several occasions, and notably during their informal Gymnich meeting held in Alden Biesen on 11 and 12 September 1993, that they do not wish to impose any solution whatsoever on the parties to the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They urged all interested parties to resume negotiations in Geneva as soon as possible and to show the necessary flexibility so as to allow for an agreement acceptable to all, building on the current proposals for which there seems to be no other alternative available. They reaffirmed their readiness to contribute to the implementation of such an agreement, notably on Mostar, it being understood that the practical modalities of such an implementation are to be studied in detail, taking also into account the necessary cooperation with other countries or institutions which would be involved in this process.

The European Community and its Member States remain firm on their denial of the claim by the FRY to continue automatically the membership of the former Yugoslavia in international organizations.

2.2 Croatia

On 25 January 1993⁶ the European Community and its Member States expressed their grave concern at the resumption of hostilities around Zadar, which had been initiated by the Croatian side. All sides, and in particular the Government of Croatia, were urgently called on to bring hostilities to an immediate end. All parties involved were requested to participate in good faith with the implementation of all aspects of the Vance plan, including the return of the refugees. Subsequently, on 5 April 1993,⁷ the Community and its Member States welcomed the prolongation of the UNPROFOR mandate. The European Community and its Member States firmly support the efforts undertaken within the International Conference for the Former Yugoslavia with a view to finding a political settlement for the United Nations protected areas in accordance with the principles of the Vance plan and UNSCR 802.

2.3 Sanctions

The European Community and its Member States repeatedly made it clear that existing sanctions would remain in place and would be tightened until conditions for their lifting set by the United Nations and the European Community have been met.

The European Community and its Member States equally attach the utmost importance to the strict implementation of the agreed sanctions against the Federative Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and have provided considerable resources to this end, contributing to the overall improvement in the implementation of the sanctions which have taken place over the past year.

In this context they fully supported UNSC Resolution 787 which strengthened sanctions against the Federative Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and opened the possibility to enforce them and UNSCR 820 which imposed further sanctions on the Federative Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the Serbian controlled areas in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The European Community and its Member States undertook to give this resolution a comprehensive follow-up.

In a joint operation with CSCE, the European Community and its Member States coordinated the support for the neighbouring countries' efforts to implement the sanctions. Sanction Assistance Missions have been sent to Bulgaria, Rumania [Romania], Hungary, Albania, Croatia, FYROM [Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia] and Ukraine. Through the activities of the WEU, Member States of the European Community are also active in monitoring the implementation of sanctions on the Danube.

The European Community and its Member States recognize the economic problems which some states have encountered from the imposition of sanctions against the Federative Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). They welcome the efforts of the international financial institutions to take account of these economic problems in their dealings with the countries concerned.

The European Community and its Member States never ruled out further sanctions or restrictive measures if actions from parties involved so warranted. In this context they specifically insisted that all parties protect the lives and safety of relief personnel and let relief convoys pass unimpeded.

2.4 EC-Monitor Mission

Together with long term missions of other international organizations, the EC-Monitor Missions have played a key role in controlling the conflict through monitoring and mediation. In view of the danger of spill-over, the mission was extended to monitoring of the border areas in Hungary, Bulgaria, Albania and FYROM.

The UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and the EC Monitoring Mission (ECMM) are cooperating on the ground in the implementation of the UN peace-keeping plan for Croatia. As part of the UN plan, the ECMM have taken up monitoring duties in those parts of the so called 'Pink Zones' where Serbs are living between the cease-fire line and the UN Protected Areas, and help UNPROFOR supervise the demilitarization and disarmament process. In Bosnia-Herzegovina the ECMM engages in local diplomacy and mediation with a view to building confidence, when possible, and supporting humanitarian action.

2.5 Human rights

The European Community and its Member States have repeatedly condemned, regardless of the perpetrators, the continuing widespread violence and cruelty and the savage breaches of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia. The perpetrators will be held personally responsible for their actions and the CMS will cooperate with the United Nations and the relevant bodies in ensuring that justice is done. The European Community and its Member States have contributed actively to the establishment of an international tribunal to this extent (UNSC Resolution 808).

In view of the systematic and excessive violations of basic human rights through 'ethnic cleansing', they strongly supported the activities of the special rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights of the United Nations, the former Polish Prime Minister Mazowiecki.

The European Community and its Member States strongly condemned the systematic detention and rape of Muslim women, which formed part of a deliberate strategy to terrorize the Muslim community in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They demanded that all detention camps and in particular camps for women be immediately closed. A delegation headed by Dame Anne Warburton was despatched and confirmed in its report that rape had been perpetrated on a wide scale and in such a way as to be part of a clear pattern. The European Community and its Member States provide assistance to the Bosnian Muslim women victims of these practices.

2.6 Humanitarian relief

The European Community and its Member States, as the largest donor, continue their humanitarian assistance to the distressed victims of the conflict. The European Council in Birmingham⁸ decided to speed up EC assistance and to immediately provide further staff and resources in order to strengthen UNHCR's capacity. Member States have also made considerable contributions for humanitarian assistance through multilateral channels and national and international NGOs. The as-

stance contributed considerably to avoiding another major human tragedy in the winter of 1992/93.

The European Council in Edinburgh⁹ paid tribute to the courage and steadfastness of the forces in UNPROFOR and in the airlift, and of the ECHM, UNHCR, ICRC and the other organizations engaged in the dangerous task of relief provision.

2.7 Protection to vulnerable categories

The European Community and its Member States will continue to respond within their possibilities to requests of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the ICRC to meet urgent humanitarian needs by i.a. extending protection on a temporary basis to certain vulnerable categories of the population of the former Yugoslavia.

2.8 Kosovo

The European Community and its Member States repeatedly expressed their concern at a possible spillover of the conflict, particularly to Kosovo. The European Council of Birmingham urged all parties concerned in Kosovo to exercise restraint and to negotiate constructively. It supported the work of the CSCE-long-term mission of Ambassador Bogh. In Edinburgh, the European Council stated that the autonomy of Kosovo within Serbia must be restored. On 8 June 1993¹⁰ the European Community and its Member States expressed their support for a substantial increase in the preventive international presence in Kosovo.

Therefore the European Community and its Member States deeply regret the fact that the CSCE long-term missions in Kosovo, Sandjak and Voivodina [Vojvodina] have now been prevented by the Belgrade authorities from continuing their most valuable activities in these areas. The current suspension of their presence serves no one.

The European Community and its Member States welcome UN Security Council Resolution 855 and call on the Belgrade authorities to reconsider their decision to discontinue the CSCE long-term missions.

3. Cyprus

The European Community and its Member States continue to follow developments in Cyprus, especially in the light of the application by the republic of Cyprus for membership of the European Community.

They reaffirm their strong support for the efforts of the UN Secretary-General, in the framework of his mission of good offices, aimed at negotiating an agreement for the resolution of the Cyprus question and putting an end to the current unacceptable *status quo*.

They note with concern the interruption of inter-communal talks and express the firm hope that these talks will resume soon and achieve a just, viable and lasting resolution of the Cyprus question, which will respect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the country, a member of the European family, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, including Resolutions 774 and 789. To this end, they urge all parties concerned to undertake at an early date the confidence-building measures called for in UNSC Resolution 789.

4. Middle East and Maghreb

4.1 Middle East Peace Process

The European Community and its Member States have consistently considered the Middle East peace process as a unique opportunity for the region. They supported the sustained efforts of the

co-sponsors to move the process forward and will themselves continue to play an active, constructive and balanced role in accordance with their well-known positions of principle which remain fully valid.

The European Community and its Member States warmly welcome the Israeli/Palestinian Agreement and the mutual recognition of Israel and the PLO, events which are of historic importance. They insist on the need to pursue the process which has found a new dynamism and have the firm intention to support it with a visible political and economic action.

Similarly, the European Community and its Member States welcome the progress made in the negotiations between Israel and Jordan. They hope that advances will be realized in the negotiations between Israel and Lebanon and between Israel and Syria.

They recall that the European Community together with its Member States already is the principal donor to the Occupied Territories, moreover, they have agreed on the need of a supplementary effort. For immediate action, on top of the aid already granted through UNRWA, the Commission proposes a contribution of MECU 20. For the middle term, an important financial assistance effort of grants and loans will be approved by the EC Ministers of Finance. The support effort will be opened up to other countries in the region involved in the process, in accordance with their participation in it.

In the multilateral track of the peace process the European Community is co-organizer in three of the five working groups and chairman of the regional economic development working group (REDWG). In the framework of its responsibility as chairman of this working group, the European Community will endeavour to coordinate the contributions and assistance pledged by third countries in close cooperation with the relevant international institutions.

The European Community and its Member States stand ready to participate in any further international peace arrangements and believe that for an agreement to prove just, lasting and comprehensive it will have to be based on UNSCRS 242 and 338. They recognize that it is for the parties to the dispute to establish the terms of a settlement, which, to be effective, must be freely negotiated and agreed among them.

4.2 Lebanon

The European Community and its Member States seek the full implementation of UNSCR 425. They reaffirm their support for Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. They have repeatedly called for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and for cooperation by the parties with the United Nations forces serving there.

The European Community and its Member States have firmly condemned all acts of violence on the Lebanese/Israeli border, whether they concern operations by the Israeli army in Lebanon or attacks against Israel emanating from Lebanon.

4.3 Iran

As a major regional power, Iran has an important role to play in contributing to security and stability in the Gulf region. The European Community and its Member States therefore see merit in continuing to engage Iran in a critical dialogue. This enables them to air their concerns about certain aspects of Iranian behaviour, notably human rights, the *fatwa* of Ayatollah Khomeini against the author Salman Rushdie, terrorism and arms procurement. Improvement in these areas will affect the extent to which closer relations and confidence can be developed. The European Community and its Member States have also encouraged Iran to take a more constructive approach to the Middle East peace process.

4.4 Iraq

The European Community and its Member States remain committed to prompt and full implementation of all Security Council resolutions pertaining to Iraq.

The European Community and its Member States remain fully supportive of UNSCOM and the IAEA as they implement SCRs 687, 707 and 715 and call upon Iraq to fulfil all its outstanding obligations. The successful implementation of the long-term monitoring plans is an essential element in ensuring that Iraq does not re-embark on prohibited weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programmes.

The European Community and its Member States welcome the results of the work of the UN Iraq/Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission. They support UNSCR 833 which reaffirms that the decisions of the Commission regarding the demarcation of the boundary are final. They consider this resolution as a contribution to the consolidation of peace and stability in the Gulf region.

The deterioration in the humanitarian situation of the civilian population throughout Iraq is of major concern to the European Community and its Member States. The Iraqi regime carries full responsibility for it because it continues to fail to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 which establish a mechanism for Iraq to export oil to finance the purchase of essential humanitarian supplies.

The European Community and its Member States consider that the most effective way to help the civilian population is by acting in close cooperation with the UN effort. They fully support the United Nations Inter-Agency Programme for the region and have made significant cash and in-kind contributions, both at Community and national levels.

4.5 Libya

The European Community and its Member States, while noting that a letter has been addressed to the United Nations' Secretary-General by the Libyan authorities, deplore that Libya has not met the requirements of UNSCRs 731 and 748.

The European Community and its Member States expect that Libya will finally answer quickly and satisfactorily to the request it has received so as to permit the start of a process leading to the lifting of sanctions.

4.6 Maghreb

The European Community and its Member States remain committed to the stability and prosperity of the Mediterranean region. At the Copenhagen European Council in June 1993, the European Community and its Member States reiterated their determination to see their relationship with the Maghreb countries placed at a level of importance and intensity which corresponds to the close links which have been formed by geography and history. This will be done within the framework of an upgraded partnership between the Union and the individual Maghreb countries as elaborated one year ago at the Lisbon European Council.

The European Community and its Member States are currently engaged in preparing negotiations with Morocco and Tunisia to this end and hope to pursue a similar dialogue in the near future with Algeria.

4.7 Western Sahara

The European Community and its Member States reiterate their support for the UN settlement plan, as endorsed by UNSCRs 658, 690, 725 and 809 and their appreciation for the work of MIN-

URSO. They call upon all the parties to cooperate fully with the UN Secretary-General and his Special Representative and to avoid doing anything which would hinder the rapid implementation of that plan.

5. *Asia*

5.1 Cambodia

The European Community and its Member States congratulate the UN transitional authority in Cambodia on the successful holding of elections for a constituent assembly in May and pay tribute to the determination of the people of Cambodia to decide their future.

They welcome the progress accomplished since the elections towards a national reconciliation under the authority of King Norodom Sihanouk and in particular the formation of a national provisional government and the constitution of a unified administration.

The European Community and its Member States welcome the completion of the adoption of the new constitution and the transformation of the constituent assembly into a new legislative assembly so that a new government could be formed.

The European Community and its Member States reaffirm their determination to continue, in cooperation with the new Cambodian Government established after the adoption of the constitution, their support to the reconstruction of Cambodia with the aims to consolidate the peace process in conformity with the Paris Agreements.

5.2 East Timor

The European Community and its Member States support the UN Secretary-General's endeavours to achieve a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement of the question of East Timor in line with the principles of the UN Charter, with full respect for the legitimate interests and aspirations of the East Timorese. They continue to support a dialogue without preconditions between Portugal and Indonesia under the aegis of the United Nations Secretary-General.

The European Community and its Member States have consistently urged that the ICRC be allowed unhindered access to Xanana Gusmão and other political prisoners.

The European Community and its Member States express their concern at the reports of continuing human rights violations in East Timor and the importance they attach to a rapid implementation of Resolution 1993/97 adopted by the Commission on Human Rights.

5.3 China

The European Community and its Member States reiterate the significance of their relations with China and are interested in strengthening a continued positive, constructive and forward looking dialogue. Through this dialogue they support the drive towards political reforms, good governance and respect for human rights and encourage China to play a responsible regional and global role in areas of both economic, trade, political and security concern.

The Member States of the European Community expressed their concern about the human rights situation in China by introducing, with others, a draft resolution at the 49th Session of the Commission on Human Rights in March 1993 (concerning the human rights situation in China).

The European Community and its Member States have furthermore expressed their deep concern at reports of arrests of Tibetans during the recent visit of heads of mission to Tibet (16 to 23 May 1993), and have urged the Chinese authorities to ensure that the human rights of all Tibetan people are fully respected, as mentioned in the EC statement issued on 1 June 1993.

5.4 North Korea

The European Community and its Member States consider North Korea's continued refusal to allow the IAEA to carry out the special inspection of the two sites first requested in February to be a cause of considerable concern. They have taken note with satisfaction of the joint statements of 11 June and 19 July issued by the US and the DPRK following their two rounds of talks, and, in particular, of the suspension by North Korea of its intention to withdraw from the NPT and its preparedness to begin consultations with the IAEA on outstanding safeguards and other issues and to begin North/South talks on bilateral issues, including nuclear, as soon as possible.

The European Community and its Member States, firmly committed to the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, request the DPRK to honour all its obligations under the safeguards agreement with the IAEA and to reaffirm its commitment to the North/South joint declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

They recall in that respect SCR 825 of 11 May under which the Security Council called on the DPRK to honour its non-proliferation obligations under the NPT and comply with its safeguards agreement with the IAEA, and decided to remain seized of the matter and consider further Security Council action as necessary.

5.5 Burma

The political and human rights situation in Burma continues to concern deeply the European Community and its Member States. They have consistently called upon the State Law and Order Restoration Council to lift restrictions imposed on political leaders, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and to release all political prisoners. The way must be opened for national reconciliation and for the rapid formation of a democratically elected government, reflecting the wishes of the Burmese people, as expressed in the 1990 elections.

The European Community and its Member States welcomed the adoption by consensus of a resolution on the situation in Burma in March 1993 by the 49th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNHCR). They strongly urge the Government of Burma to fulfil its obligations under the United Nations human rights instruments.

The European Community and its Member States express the hope that a continued dialogue on the repatriation of Rohingya-refugees will lead to an accelerated pace of repatriation which would be facilitated by a UNHCR presence in Arakan.

The European Community and its Member States reiterate that they will only be prepared to re-establish constructive relations with Burma, including a resumption of development assistance programmes, once Burma fulfils its obligations in the field of human rights and democracy.

5.6 Japan

In accordance with the joint declaration between Japan and the European Community and its Member States, the third summit meeting between Japan and the EC was held in Tokyo on 6 July 1993. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to intensify the dialogue especially concerning preventive diplomacy, peace-keeping and UN activities in Cambodia.

5.7 India/Pakistan

The European Community and its Member States attach great value to their relations with India and Pakistan, with both of which countries they have friendly relations. For instance, they have agreed on the signing of a trade and Cooperation Agreement and on the establishment of a political dialogue with India. They are therefore especially concerned about the lack of progress in the

bilateral discussions to improve relations between India and Pakistan and urge both countries to settle their differences, notably with regard to Kashmir.

The European Community and its Member States deplore the continuing violence which affects Kashmir and increasing reports about the ensuing deterioration of the human rights situation in that region.

They believe that, while on the one hand, terrorist violence must be firmly resisted, the Indian security forces must on the other hand respect the rule of law. In this connection, the European Community and its Member States have urged the Indian Government to allow humanitarian and international human rights organizations free access to the region in order to produce an independent assessment of the situation and welcome the recent visit by the International Committee of Jurists.

They hope that support for militant organizations operating from outside India might be stopped and welcome the positive reports that have been received to this effect.

The European Community and its Member States express the hope that the forthcoming elections on 6th and 9th October 1993, which are so important for political stability in Pakistan, will be fair and free.

5.8 Vietnam

The European Community and its Member States welcome the continued reform efforts of the Vietnamese Government which has paved the way for a reintegration of Vietnam into the international community, including the resumption of assistance from the international financial institutions.

5.9 Sri Lanka

The European Community and its Member States remain concerned about continuing reports of human rights abuses in Sri Lanka, and while condemning the use of violence by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, once again urge the Sri Lankan Government to ensure that such violations are stopped. They note, however, that instances of such abuses have substantially decreased, and they greatly welcome this development. They also welcome the various measures adopted by the Sri Lankan Government to curb human rights abuses and to invite international organizations to visit the country. The European Community and its Member States appreciate Sri Lanka's acceptance of the recommendations made by the working group on enforced or involuntary disappearances, but note that further efforts are needed to implement these recommendations.

6. Africa

6.1 Rwanda

The European Community and its Member States have fully supported the peace process which started practically in July 1992 with the signature in Arusha of a cease-fire Agreement. They have welcomed the signing on 4 August 1993¹¹ of the Arusha Agreements which constitute an appropriate basis on which to build a fair and lasting peace. The European Community and its Member States appreciate the work done by the parties and pay tribute to the sustained diplomatic efforts of the Tanzanian facilitator and to the actions of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Organization.

They request all the parties concerned to ensure full compliance with and effective implementation of the agreements concluded. They stress that these agreements must help to strengthen democracy and lead to free elections.

The European Community and its Member States reaffirm their commitment to support the efforts of the Rwandese authorities and other partners and friends of Rwanda as part of the process of consolidating peace, restoring stability and security, and achieving economic and social development.

6.2 South Africa

The peaceful transition to a democratic, united and non-racial society has received an important impetus through the recent major progress in the multi-party negotiating process in this country, which was welcomed by the European Council of Copenhagen.¹² Further major steps will be the establishment of a Transitional Executive Council and nation-wide democratic elections, due to take place in April 1994.

The European Community and its Member States look forward to these events which will also signal further normalization and strengthening of political and economic relations between the European Community and its Member States and South Africa.

More in particular, on 8 June 1993¹³ the President of the Council has announced the following steps the European Community and its Member States have agreed to take once TEC is in place:

- a new development initiative will be launched. There will be a dialogue with the TEC on development cooperation. The Council (development) has already adopted the major outline of the new programme, with more emphasis on democratization and support for institution building;
- Member States will, where appropriate, likewise be ready to enter into a dialogue with the TEC on development matters, including support for the election process;
- the European Community and its Member States will be ready to enter into a dialogue with the TEC on the future economic relations between the Community and South Africa;
- the European Community and its Member States will strive to promote a decision within the World Bank, IMF and other relevant international organizations for a normalization of relations with South Africa;
- the reporting under the Code of Conduct for European enterprises in South Africa will be discontinued. Heads of Mission will report annually on developments in the area of labour conditions, in particular concerning equality of opportunities;
- the Commission will open a delegation in South Africa;
- the ban on military attachés accredited to South Africa and on granting of accreditation to military attachés from South Africa will be lifted, solely with a view to promote the democratization and integration process in the security field;
- likewise the freezing of official contacts and international agreements in the security field will be discontinued.

The European Community and its Member States are contributing to the peaceful transition process in South Africa, e.g. through the presence of observers (ECOMSA) in accordance with SCR 772 and through the experts to the Goldstone Commission. Similarly the European Community and its Member States stand ready to support the evolving electoral process leading to the first democratic elections in South Africa, scheduled to take place [on] 27 April 1994. The mandates for both missions have been prolonged to 28 April 1994.

In May and July of 1993 visits to South Africa by the President of the Council of Ministers took place, during which the urgent need for a political settlement and in particular agreement on the establishment of the Transitional Executive Council was stressed. In this context the decision of the Council to initiate a new development initiative once TEC is in place was communicated.

The European Community and its Member States express their concern at the withdrawal of the INKATHA Freedom Party and of the Conservative Party from the multilateral negotiations and have urged both parties to return to the negotiating table.

The European Community and its Member States attach importance to the first democratic elections in South Africa scheduled to take place on 27 April 1994, being free and fair and to this end stand ready to support the preparation and the holding of the elections.

The European Community and its Member States remain concerned at the continuing high level of violence in South Africa. In this context they called on all parties engaged in the multi-party negotiations to redouble their efforts and do their utmost to bring violence to an end.

6.3 Sudan

The European Community and its Member States remain concerned at the suffering of the people of Sudan as a result of the continuing civil war, as well as that caused by a deteriorating human rights situation, as was expressed by the European Council of Copenhagen. The war has led to the lasting internal displacement of some four million people, and approximately 270,000 refugees have fled to neighbouring countries. The European Community and its Member States note that the inter-factional fighting in the south of Sudan only adds further to the misery of a population already severely harmed by the results of war: death and destruction, malnutrition and disease.

Severe violations of human rights have led to the adoption of a critical resolution at the General Assembly in December 1992. The European Community and its Member States have supported this resolution as well as the mandate of UN-rapporteur Biro as contained in Resolution 1993/60 of the Commission on Human Rights. Similarly the European Community and its Member States have welcomed the nomination of a special United Nations envoy on humanitarian affairs, who will assess the situation in Sudan. The European Community and its Member States insist that he receive all cooperation necessary to carry out the mandate that the international community has given him.

In June 1993 the troika of Ministers for Development Cooperation visited Sudan, to hold talks with representatives of all concerned parties, both in the southern and the northern parts of the country. The troika has expressed the serious concern of the European Community and its Member States at the humanitarian crisis and has stressed the urgent need for a political solution to the conflict. In this context the European Community and its Member States, who are major donors of humanitarian assistance to the stricken populations of Sudan, have reiterated to the parties to the conflict the fundamental demand that both humanitarian organizations and the humanitarian assistance as such receive unhindered access to the populations in need. The European Community and its Member States welcome the initiative launched by the leaders of Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Eritrea aimed at stimulating dialogue between the parties to civil war. It calls upon all sides in the conflict to respond positively and constructively to this development.

6.4 Somalia

The Copenhagen European Council of June 1993 has welcomed the major efforts of the United Nations to contribute to the restoration of peace and security in Somalia and has called on all parties to comply fully with all relevant Security Council resolutions. The European Community and its Member States have called on all Somali parties, movements and factions to comply with the Addis Ababa Agreements of March 1993 and to cooperate fully with UNOSOM II.

The European Community and its Member States are fully committed to the United Nations' operations in Somalia to which they contribute financially. Moreover, several Member States also contribute troops. They have underlined the importance for the United Nations to be actively involved in the efforts to reach a lasting political solution, as well as to enable, wherever the situation allows, the rapid starting up of reconstruction programmes. They trust that the security conditions on the ground shall positively evolve in order to allow the full completion of the UN mandate in Somalia which is essentially humanitarian in nature.

The European Community has contributed some MECU 100 last year, in the form of food aid as well as other relief efforts including the protection of humanitarian convoys under UN auspices. At the Development Council meeting on 25 May 1993 the Community support for the humanitarian efforts in the UN framework was reaffirmed, albeit that the Council also underlined the responsibility of Somalia itself to establish the necessary preconditions for reconstruction. The European Council of Copenhagen has condemned the attack on UN soldiers and has called for those responsible to be brought to justice. The Heads of State and Government have in this context also expressed their regret at all civilian casualties.

6.5 Angola

The European Community and its Member States are extremely concerned at the humanitarian situation in Angola after the outbreak of widespread and fierce fighting which erupted after the non-acceptance by UNITA of the result of the first democratic elections held in September 1992, although these elections have been recognized by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and the international community as generally free and fair. The European Council of Copenhagen has expressed full support for UNSCR 834 of June 1993, in which the actions of UNITA were condemned, and has called on UNITA to accept the UN plan for humanitarian relief.

The European Community and its Member States have called on all parties to respect the final outcome of the democratic process and to end the violence. They appealed to both parties, in particular UNITA, to observe the peace agreement. The European Community and its Member States regret that the negotiations between the Government of Angola and UNITA, opened in Abidjan under the auspices of the UN, have been suspended. Recalling the relevant UN resolutions on Angola, the European Community and its Member States welcome and fully support UNSCR 864, through which the international community, by adopting important measures, has stressed its determination to bring peace back to Angola on the basis of the 'Acordos de paz', the results of the September 1992 elections and the additional principles agreed to in Abidjan. The European Community and its Member States deeply regret that UNITA has not responded in a positive way to the requests of the Security Council in order to avoid the entering into force of the first measures contained in UNSCR 864 and calls on the leadership of UNITA to return to the negotiating table on the basis of that resolution. They are prepared to respond to the UN appeal to provide humanitarian assistance.

The European Community and its Member States have stated that they consider unacceptable to make relief operations dependent on any condition. They further consider that all sides have the obligation to ensure that the humanitarian aid reaches the population in need irrespective of under whose control the concerned areas happen to be.

6.6 Mozambique

Since the signing of the peace agreement between the Government of Mozambique and Renamo in Rome on 4 October 1992, the European Community and its Member States have supported the peace process in which the UN fulfils a central role. They note with satisfaction that the recent meeting in Maputo between President Chissano and the chairman of Renamo Dhlakama has apparently resulted in a positive outcome. They trust that a decisive impulse may now emerge from that meeting so as to overcome the delays incurred since the signing of the general peace agreement. The European Community and its Member States support UNSCR 863, which urges the Government of Mozambique and Renamo to apply, without further postponement, the revised timetable for the implementation of the general peace agreement and reaffirm the importance of the holding of elections no later than October 1994.

The European Community and its Member States, as indicated at the meeting in Maputo (8 and 9 June 1993) held as a follow-up to the Rome donors conference, are prepared to contribute to the

economic and social rehabilitation and development of Mozambique provided that the Mozambican parties proceed with the implementations of all the clauses agreed upon in Rome.

6.7 Zaire

The European Community and its Member States support the process of democratic transition as defined by the Sovereign National Conference and note the important role therein of the High Council of the Republic, the chairman of which they urge to continue his efforts. Moves that run counter to the process of democratic transition – such as the nomination of a Prime Minister by Presidential order, without the approval of the HCR, or the adoption by the former National Assembly of a so-called ‘harmonized’ transitional act – cannot be accepted. The European Community and its Member States continue to apply a policy restricting the granting of certain visas and to impose an embargo on arms sales to Zaire.

The European Community and its Member States are concerned at the marked deterioration of the situation in Zaire both as regards the halting of the democratic process and the repeated infringements of human rights. In this respect they support the relevant resolutions of the UN Commission on Human Rights. The incitement to ethnic hatred has already led to outbreaks of violence in certain regions, causing massive displacement of people.

6.8 Nigeria

The European Community and its Member States follow with great concern the evolution of the situation in Nigeria. They note that the presidential elections held on 12 June 1993 on the basis of reports by international observers can be judged as having been in general free and fair. They therefore deplore the arbitrary decision by the Nigerian military Government to annul the outcome of these elections. They took note of General Babangida’s departure and of the arrival of an interim civilian president, Mr Ernest Shane Kan. They hope that the democratic process in Nigeria can be restored rapidly.

On 13 July 1993¹⁴ the European Community and its Member States have decided to adopt the following measures with regard to the Nigerian military Government:

- suspension of cooperation in the military sphere
- restrictions on visas for members of the military or the security forces and their families;
- suspension of visits by members of the military;
- suspension of any further cooperation aid.

The position of the European Community and its Member States will be regularly examined in keeping with further developments in the implementation of the transitional programme towards a civilian and democratic government.

6.9 Togo

The European Community and its Member States have followed with concern the political and economic situation in Togo. Numerous incidents of violence were recorded, i.a. causing casualties among the civilian population of Lomé and the flight of great numbers of refugees to neighbouring countries. Two Member States have made available their efforts at mediation. After the proposition by the Togolese authorities of a timetable for elections, the European Community and its Member States have expressed the view that a prior agreement between political forces in Togo, reducing the tension in this country, was necessary in order to make it possible to conduct a successful electoral process.

In this light the European Community and its Member States welcome the agreement of 11 July 1993 between the representative of the President of Togo and the opposition, which paves

the way for reconciliation of the Togolese people and democracy. They regret however that the elections did not take place in the best conditions. They hope that all Togolese political forces will participate in the next legislative elections under good democratic conditions.

6.10 Malawi

The European Community and its Member States have taken great interest in the democratization process in Malawi, which has encountered many obstacles in the past. The concern over political freedom, good governance and the observance of human rights have led the European Community and its Member States to restrict economic cooperation with this country. They therefore have noted with satisfaction the peaceful and efficient conduct of the referendum on multi-party democracy in Malawi on 14 June 1993, including the substantial improvement in the conditions for the final stage of the campaigning period. The European Community and its Member States have contributed to the group of international observers present in Malawi both in the preparatory voter-registration phase and during the referendum itself. They consider that the outcome fairly reflects the view of the Malawi people. In light of the result of the referendum and the subsequent steps taken by the government to continue the reforms leading to the organization of democratic elections by the end of the year, the European Community and its Member States have decided to lift the restrictions on their development cooperation with Malawi. The Copenhagen European Council of June 1993 has urged political leaders in Malawi to work together for democracy and human rights, thus opening the way to the resumption of full economic cooperation.

6.11 Liberia

The European Community and its Member States have followed with great concern the developments in Liberia, where a continuing conflict has led to senseless killings of civilians, as deplored by the European Council of Copenhagen. The European Community and its Member States have taken the position that a political solution along the lines of the Yamoussoukro Agreements should be found in order to end the military confrontations in this country which have caused so much human suffering. In this context they welcome the framework agreement adopted in Geneva, under auspices of the United Nations, on 17 July and the subsequent formal signing thereof in Cotonou on 25 July 1993. They hope that the cease-fire, which is a part of this agreement, will continue to be observed, and that parties will build on the achievement of this agreement to bring a peaceful end to the civil war.

6.12 Burundi

The European Community and its Member States have followed with great interest the exemplary process of democratization in Burundi that has led to the successful conduct of presidential elections on 1 June 1993. On 12 June 1993 they have addressed their congratulations to the newly democratically elected president of Burundi at the occasion of his investiture.

6.13 Eritrea

The European Community and its Member States have welcomed the successful holding of the referendum on 23 to 25 April 1993 and the emergence of the independent state which has peacefully brought to an end more than 30 years of conflict and stand ready to contribute to its reconstruction and development.

7. *Latin America*

The trend towards the consolidation of democracy has continued in Latin America in spite of some remaining problems. Fortunately the attempts against the democratic system were success-

fully defeated. Economic reforms towards more market-oriented economies have been pursued and accompanied by progress in regional integration.

The European Community and its Member States and the countries of Latin America have strengthened their relations over the last year. The consolidation of democracy, respect for human rights and regional integration were among the main elements of the multiple dialogue between the two regions.

The European Community and its Member States have reinforced relations with the Central American countries through the new Framework Agreement on Cooperation signed in San Salvador in February. A new Framework Cooperation Agreement with the Andean Pact countries has also been signed.

7.1 EC/Rio Group

In accordance with the provisions of the Rome Declaration of 20 December 1990,¹⁵ the third institutionalized ministerial meeting between the European Community and the Rio Group was held in Copenhagen on 23 and 24 April 1993.¹⁶

Ministers of both regions insisted on the engagement of their government to the principles of democracy and the respect for human rights. Any attempt to overthrow democratic constitutional order was condemned. It was also stated that the consolidation of democracy must go together with economic development and social justice.

At the third institutionalized meeting Ministers mentioned the important role played by the Rio Group as a factor for strengthening democracy and peace in Latin America. In this context, the full reintegration of Peru into the Rio Group was noted and Ministers expressed their wish that Cuba take the necessary steps towards democracy for its full reintegration into the community of Latin American countries.

7.2 The San José Process

In the context of the dialogue and cooperation established by the Declaration of San José of September 1984, the IX ministerial conference was held in February 1993 in San Salvador.¹⁷

At the conference, Ministers affirmed that the meeting constituted a significant progress towards the strengthening of dialogue and cooperation. They expressed in particular their belief that the Cooperation Agreement known as the San Salvador Agreement, signed during the ministerial conference, would mark a new period in relations between both regions.

At the San José IX Conference Ministers also welcomed the progress made by the Central American States towards peace, dialogue and reconciliation as well as the consolidation of democracy. They stressed the urgent need to put an end to all forms of violence where it persists in order to guarantee the security and promote the well-being of the population. In particular, the valuable work in the implementation of the initial projects under the multiannual programme which is financed by the European Community to promote human rights in Central America, has been welcomed at that occasion.

7.3 Guatemala

The European Community and its Member States have closely followed political events in the country, in particular the resumption of the peace talks and the return of the first group of Guatemalan refugees from their shelters in Mexico. In this context, the European Community and its Member States have made appeals for adequate preparation of the return of refugees and contributed financially to their resettlement.

More recently, the European Community and its Member States expressed their deep preoccupation when the constitutional order was suspended. They welcomed the return to constitutional order in Guatemala through legal and peaceful means. They expressed their full support to the new constitutional President Ramiro de Leon Carpio. The European Community and its Member States have expressed the hope that his appointment will contribute to achieving the necessary respect of democratic institutions which are essential to a successful conclusion of the peace process and full observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this context, they have taken a positive attitude to assisting the new President to overcome socio-economic difficulties.

The European Community and its Member States welcomed the reaffirmation of Guatemalan recognition of Belize and expressed the hope that relations between the two countries would continue to improve and result in a full and final settlement of their territorial dispute.

7.4 El Salvador

The European Community and its Member States have from the outset supported the peace accords and have continuously stressed the importance of the full implementation by all parties involved of all elements of the El Salvador Peace Agreement. They welcomed the measures taken by the government to implement the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Commission and urge the Salvadorean authorities to fully comply with their engagements. The European Community and its Member States insist that all the measures recommended by the Truth Commission have to be fully implemented in accordance with the peace agreement. They also express the hope that the full implementation of the peace agreement will put an end to existing violence and will pave the way for free and just elections to which they intend to contribute with the appropriate assistance.

7.5 Nicaragua

The European Community and its Member States have noted with concern the growing use of violence for political ends in Nicaragua. They urge genuine national reconciliation and would impress upon all the political and social forces the need to combine their efforts in order to overcome their differences and work towards the strengthening of democracy and the necessary development of Nicaragua.

The European Community and its Member States reiterate their support for President Chamorro in her efforts to bring about the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, including the guarantee of civil control of the armed forces. They welcome the assistance to the Nicaraguan reconciliation process by the Central American States through the newly formed presidential commission.

The European Community and its Member States have taken note of the various offers for good offices made by, i.e. the Presidents of the Central American countries as well as the OAS, and they are ready to do their part as appropriate, if be requested by all parties in Nicaragua.

7.6 Haiti

The European Community and its Member States have continued to insist on the restoration of President Aristide and the rule of law. They supported the continuous efforts of the OAS and the UN to find a solution in conformity with that goal and pay tribute to both organizations and in particular Mr Dante Caputo. The European Community and its Member States fully applied Resolution 841 of the Security Council imposing a UN embargo in order to bring about a constitutional solution.

The Governors Island Agreement of 3 July 1993¹⁸ between President Aristide and the Commander-in-Chief of the army received full support from the European Community and its

Member States. They are convinced that this agreement paves the way for the restoration of constitutional order and the return of President Aristide to Haiti.

The European Community and its Member States welcome the ratification by Haiti's parliament of Mr Malval as Prime Minister and his assuming of office in Haiti. That ratification constitutes a decisive step in the implementation of the Governors Island Agreement of 3 July 1993.

Following the suspension of the sanctions by the Security Council on 27 August 1993, the European Community and its Member States have suspended the measures undertaken in compliance with Resolution 841 of 16 June. In accordance with their declaration of 6 July, they will resume their cooperation with Haiti which had been discontinued in the wake of the military *coup*.

The European Community and its Member States firmly hope that the assuming of office by the Prime Minister will be followed by the implementation of the other points of the agreement of 3 July, in order to bring about an early conclusion to the process of restoration of the constitutional order and to allow the return to Haiti of President Aristide.

The European Community and its Member States fully support the extension of the mandate of the Special UN Rapporteur on Human Rights in Haiti as called for by the Commission on Human Rights in its Resolution 1993/68.

7.7 Cuba

The European Community and its Member States advocate a peaceful transition to pluralistic democracy including negotiations with the opposition. They are strongly in favour of democratic changes which would guarantee the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

7.8 Peru

The European Community and its Member States are noting the return of Peru to constitutional order after the elections to the Constitutional Democratic Congress and the adoption of a new constitution. They hope that this process will effectively guarantee the re-establishment of democracy and the full respect for human rights and that violence which has affected the Peruvian population for many years will be ended.

8. *Preventive diplomacy*

The Member States of the European Community have actively contributed to the implementation of the report of the Secretary-General 'An Agenda for Peace' which has contributed over the last year to enhance the United Nations' concrete contribution to peace and security.

They support the importance attached to preventive diplomacy and the idea of preventive deployment. Member States have responded positively and promptly to calls in this connection. The European Community and its Member States underline the importance of coordination between the United Nations and regional organizations. For their part, they have cooperated actively and closely with the United Nations at the political level as well as in the field both in the context of maintenance or enforcement of international peace and security, in providing humanitarian assistance, and in the human rights field.

Examples of such a fruitful cooperation are multiple: cooperation within the International Conference on Yugoslavia, between UNPROFOR and the EC Monitoring Missions in the former Yugoslavia and between UNPROFOR and NATO; cooperation in South Africa between observers deployed by the European Community and its Member States (ECOMSA) and the United Nations Observer Mission (UNOMSA); cooperation with ONUSAL in El Salvador; cooperation in Somalia.

9. *European architecture*

9.1. CSCE

The European Community and its Member States attach primary importance to the comprehensive nature of the CSCE process, which brings together the governments and peoples of Europe as well as those of the United States and Canada to make a distinct contribution to peace and stability.

In December 1992 the Stockholm CSCE Council of Ministers meeting indicated the guidelines of the CSCE strategy for 1993, underlining some priorities such as:

- increasing cooperation with relevant international organizations, with particular reference to the United Nations;
- appointment of a Secretary-General and strengthening of the CSCE's operational capabilities through structural reforms;
- appointment of a High Commissioner on National Minorities to strengthen the CSCE ability to provide for early warning and advice. In 1993, he has been active in Slovakia, Hungary, the Baltic states, FYROM and Albania;
- more active use of missions and representatives as a part of preventive diplomacy, but also for negotiation and consultation in crisis areas (examples in the last year include Estonia, Georgia, Moldova, Serbia and Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh]);
- greater use of the Forum for Security Cooperation as a place for negotiation and dialogue.

The Council of Ministers furthermore reaffirmed the vital importance of the commitment of all participating States to settle their disputes by peaceful means and adopted in this connection a set of measures, among which a Convention on Conciliation and Arbitration within the CSCE.

The European Community and its Member States contributed actively to the conclusions of the Council and remain involved in their implementation. The European Community and its Member States consider the guide-lines of the Council, aimed at ensuring increased effectiveness to the fundamental tasks of prevention, management, and peaceful settlement of disputes, as an important step towards a renewed and reinforced role for the CSCE as a regional arrangement. They hope cooperation on the ground will follow.

In view of these objectives the European Community and its Member States welcome particularly the exchange of letters in May 1993 between the UN Secretary-General and the CSCE Chairman-in-Office, which has established the appropriate framework in order to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the United Nations' Secretariat and the CSCE.

The European Community and its Member States were active in encouraging the structural reforms of the CSCE and welcome the appointments of Ambassador Höynck as Secretary-General of the CSCE and of Ambassador van der Stoep as High Commissioner on National Minorities.

During last year the European Community and its Member States had the opportunity to welcome the participation in the CSCE of the newly formed Czech and Slovak Republics as well as the admission of FYROM (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) with observer status, but decided also that the exclusion of the representatives of the FRY (Former Republic of Yugoslavia) (Serbia and Montenegro) from all meetings of the CSCE should be continued because of clear, gross and uncorrected violations of CSCE commitments. The European Community and its Member States see an important role for the CSCE in monitoring states' commitments in human rights as one means of defusing tensions and benefiting individuals.

9.2. Conference on stability in Europe

The European Community and its Member States will continue to use their joint influence and make all efforts to prevent, limit and resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner and examine ways and

means to further preserve stability in the different regions of Central and Eastern Europe and the new independent States. In this respect, the European Council discussed an initiative to be taken by the European Union in favour of a pact on stability in Europe. This initiative is directed towards assuring in practice the application of the principles agreed by European countries with regard to respect of borders and rights of minorities. The European Council welcomed the idea of using the instrument of 'Joint Action' in accordance with the procedures provided for in the common foreign and security policy.

9.3. Council of Europe

The European Community and its Member States welcome the holding in Vienna on 8 and 9 October of a first summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe. They are determined to make this meeting a success in order to allow the Council of Europe to contribute to the stability of the European continent.

10. Human rights

Respect for human rights has become one of the cornerstones of cooperation as well as of relations between the European Community and its Member States and other countries. This has been reflected in political dialogue held and agreements concluded with third countries.

On 18 November 1992 the European Community and its Member States, through a 'Development' Council resolution, reaffirmed their determination to give priority to their support for areas for positive action. Following areas have been identified for priority action: setting up of new democratic institutions, strengthening the rule of law and encouragement of wider public participation, the promotion of good governance and reduction of excessive military expenditure, the promotion of a free press and other media, the participation by minorities in the benefits of development assistance and in wider political processes, the underpinning of peaceful settlement of internal and regional conflicts, the support for political exiles wishing to return to their country of origin.

The European Community and its Member States have welcomed the holding of the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993. They spared no efforts during the Preparatory Committees and the Conference itself to make the conference a success. Real progress has been achieved through the high level attendance at the conference, the positive attitude of many countries, the presence of international media and non governmental organizations. The result is a forward-looking, action oriented final document. The main challenge after the World Conference is to keep up the momentum for action. The European Community and its Member States stand ready to implement recommendations of the World Conference during the 48th United Nations General Assembly, in particular concerning the establishment of a High Commissioner for Human Rights, the increase of the percentage of the regular UN-budget allocated to human rights and the reinforcement of the UN Centre for Human Rights. They express the hope that the positive spirit experienced in Vienna will guide activities in the Third and Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and of the 50th Session of the Commission on Human Rights.

11. Disarmament and arms control

The European Community and its Member States welcome the signing in January 1993 in Paris of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. However, if the Convention is to be credible and workable, it must be backed up by universal and effective accession. It is equally important and urgent to set up the future organization for banning chemical weapons between now and when the Convention enters into force, which it is hoped will be in the Spring of 1995. It is

important that all the signatory countries participate most actively in the work of the Preparatory Commission.

The European Community and its Member States attach the greatest importance to the full implementation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) which entered into force in November 1992. Together with the concluding act of the negotiation on the personnel strength of conventional armed forces in Europe (CFE 1A) and the 1992 Vienna Document, the CFE Treaty forms the basis of a significant increase in military and political stability and cooperation in Europe. We urge all party states to comply fully with all the provisions of the CFE Treaty, especially the obligation to carry out the reductions within the Treaty's time limits, as agreed at the Extraordinary Conference in Oslo in June 1992.

The European Community and its Member States stress the crucial role that the CSCE forum for security cooperation plays in shaping a new cooperative security order in Europe. They emphasize the importance of early material progress in the work of the forum. To that end, they have put forward specific proposals for principles governing conventional arms transfers and for a CSCE code of conduct governing mutual relations between participating States in the field of security. They call upon all CSCE States to ensure that they are adequately represented in Vienna, since the success of the CSCE forum for security cooperation will depend to a large extent on full and effective participation by all CSCE members. They regard the Treaty on open skies as a unique confidence-building measure covering the whole territory of the signatory States. They attach great importance to the full participation of all the CSCE States and to the earliest possible entry into force of the above Treaty.

Nuclear disarmament continues to be one of the highest priorities for the European Community and its Member States in the field of arms control and disarmament. The Member States warmly welcomed the START I and II Treaties in July 1991 and January 1993 respectively as crucial stages in nuclear arms control. However, given that the implementation of START II is organically linked to the entry into force of START I, it is vital that all the parties concerned ratify the latter and fulfil the obligations entered into in the Lisbon Protocol. The effective implementation of nuclear arms control agreements requires the urgent attention and commitment of the whole international community.

The European Community and its Member States consider that the highest priority should be given to rapid implementation of the agreements concluded and to compliance with unilateral decisions taken in respect of nuclear arms control. They therefore support the efforts of those states which have taken the initiative of assisting the states concerned of the former USSR to dispose of weapons due to be dismantled under existing agreements, within the agreed time limits and under the best safety conditions.

It is in this same spirit that the European Community and its Member States are making their contribution, together with the United States, Canada, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland and Russia, to the setting-up of an International Science and Technology Centre in Russia. They hope that the Centre will soon be able to assist substantially in redirecting into civilian work ex-USSR scientists employed in the military sector.

The European Community and its Member States are supportive of the statements of France, Russia and the United States about the suspension of their nuclear tests and the United Kingdom's confirmation that it will not carry out any tests for as long as the American moratorium lasts.

The European Community and its Member States are in favour of a complete, universal and internationally verifiable test ban treaty. In this respect they note with satisfaction the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to give its *ad hoc* committee on a nuclear test ban a mandate to negotiate a comprehensive test ban treaty.

The European Community and its Member States are gratified that the United Nations Conventional Arms Register became operational on 30 April 1993. The full implementation of Resolution 46/36L, adopted almost unanimously, and Resolution 47/52L, adopted by consensus by the member States of the United Nations, should constitute a first step towards increased transparency and restraint as regards conventional weapons transfers. It is vitally important that all States which have not yet done so, including those which do not have exports or imports in the weapons categories subject to declaration should make their national contribution to the Weapons Register as soon as possible.

The European Community and its Member States are taking an active part in work being done by the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva in accordance with Resolution 46/36L on transparency in the area of armaments. As regards the work of the Conference on the possible expansion of the Register to include military holdings and procurement through national production, they hope that its report will make an important contribution to the proceedings of the group of governmental experts which the Secretary-General has been asked to convene in 1994.

The considerable number of deaths and injuries, including civilians and, in particular, children, caused in numerous regions by the indiscriminate use of certain conventional weapons, such as anti-personnel mines, has led the European Community and its Member States to consider how best to strengthen the implementation of and adherence to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, concluded on 10 October 1980, and in particular the second protocol thereto which provides for 'prohibitions or restrictions on the use of mines, booby traps and other devices'.

The European Community and its Member States recommend that measures be taken to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries inflicted, particularly among civilians, as a result of the excessive use of anti-personnel mines in armed conflicts in various regions of the world. They call upon all states to apply rigorously the principles embodied in the provisions of Protocol II to the 1981 Convention. France has asked the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene, pursuant to the Convention, a review conference which could take place in 1994. The European Community and its Member States hope that the effect of this initiative will be to increase the number of states party to the Convention, which to date number 37, and that the review conference will enable the implementation and effectiveness of the Convention to be enhanced.

The European Community and its Member States support the review of the 1981 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects. They took note with satisfaction of the readiness expressed by the UN Secretary-General towards facilitating the preparatory works to the Convention revision. They are of the opinion that the review of the provisions of Protocol II to the Convention concerning mines, should be dealt with in the first instance.

The European Community and its Member States will continue to encourage and support any initiative contributing to greater security in any given region.

12. Nuclear non-proliferation

The Non-Proliferation Treaty is the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime. The European Community and its Member States therefore strongly support its unconditional and indefinite extension in 1995. They also seek to intensify their cooperation in combating the spread of all weapons of mass destruction.

The European Community and its Member States continue to support proposals for improving the effectiveness of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s safeguards system.

13. Terrorism

The European Community and its Member States condemn unreservedly all acts of terrorism, whether national or international, wherever and by whomever committed and for whatever religious, political, social or cultural reason. These acts endanger and cause the loss of human lives, undermine human dignity, democracy and the rule of law. State sponsorship of terrorism is in particular to be rejected and brought to an end.

The European Community and its Member States welcome the work undertaken by the United Nations and commit themselves to strengthen their cooperation with other countries in this field.

14. Drugs

The European Community and its Member States are concerned at the high level of illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse of drugs world-wide. The global nature of the drugs problem requires that all states take the necessary measures in the framework of a balanced approach towards controlling drug supply and reducing demand and, all the more, underlines the need for a high degree of international cooperation. In this context, the implementation of the global plan of action adopted by the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly held in New York from 20 to 23 February 1990 needs to be emphasized. The European Community and its Member States hope that the high level plenary meeting scheduled for 26 and 27 October will strengthen and promote international cooperation more generally. This meeting should confirm the role of UNDCP in the coordination of action of the UN system in this field, in close cooperation with the CND and the international financial institutions.

More specifically as regards the situation in Lebanon, where the problem of the production and distribution of illicit drugs has become acute, it was decided to set up two working groups to deal with the specific issues.

The European Community and its Member States are engaged in a similar dialogue with the government of Morocco. They are also closely following the situation as regards illicit drugs production in Pakistan, Afghanistan, China/Burma and Nigeria. They wish that more attention would be paid to combating drug traffic and abuse in sub Saharan Africa.

The European Community and its Member States, each within their own spheres of competence, are committed to cooperating with producer and transit countries to combat drug abuse and the illicit production and trafficking of drugs. This policy has been introduced into Cooperation Agreements with 24 third countries. Besides, a revised European plan to combat drugs was adopted by the Edinburgh European Council at the end of 1992. Furthermore, in February 1993, the European Community decided to establish a European monitoring centre for drugs and drug addiction in Europe. The centre will cooperate with international organizations, in particular European governmental and non-governmental agencies, and will be open to participation of third states. The European Community and its Member States reiterate the importance they attach to assistance for alternative development and law enforcement and to technical cooperation. They therefore resolutely support the action undertaken in this framework by the UNDCP.

15. World Social Summit

The European Community and its Member States welcome the World Social Summit for social development which will take place in Copenhagen in March 1995. They approve the three core issues of the summit, namely, the enhancement of social integration, alleviation and reduction of poverty, and generation of productive employment. Building upon their long experience of social development, they will take an active part in the preparation of the summit.

16. Economic and social context

Like most industrialized countries, the European Community has in recent years experienced a longer and more pronounced slow-down in its economic activity than initially forecast. Although world trade in goods saw an overall increase in 1992, growth forecasts for production and trade in 1993 were revised downwards. This was also true for the European Community, where production growth in 1992 was estimated at only 1% and will probably be negative in 1993 (-0.5%). A million jobs were lost in the Community in 1992 and the number of unemployed is estimated to be nearing the 20-million mark.

In this difficult context, the Community is still, in spite of everything, faithful to its free-trade traditions. It holds the leading position in world trade, ahead of the United States and Japan. The European Community's share of world imports in 1992 was 21.5% and that of exports 19.9%. According to GATT figures for 1992, the Community has a trade-balance deficit of 65 billion dollars, with imports accounting for USD 1,520 billion and exports for 1,455 billion.

Work to put the Single Market in place by 1 January 1993 continued. The aim is to create an area without frontiers by eliminating obstacles to the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital between Member States of the European Community.

Completion of the Single Market is thus helping, in several economic sectors, to improve access to the European Community and promote greater transparency and legal security.

Nearly all the necessary measures have now been adopted and over two-thirds of them have already been implemented. It has not, however, been possible to eliminate all the barriers to the free movement of persons within the EC.

Continuous efforts are therefore needed to ensure that the Single Market operates smoothly.

In response to the economic recession and the rise in unemployment, a coordinated European economic growth and recovery initiative was launched in December 1992. It comprises national and Community measures which are closely linked and are designed to restore business confidence, lay the foundations for economic recovery and promote the creation of new jobs. A set of measures, including a temporary lending facility of ECU 5 billion and the setting up of a European Investment Fund, should trigger additional growth of 0.6% in GNP in the EC in 1993 and create 450,000 new jobs. In addition to the short-term economic measures taken in 1992 and 1993, the European Council agreed that macro-economic policy should be supplemented by structural measures in each Member State in accordance with its individual characteristics in order to achieve a substantial reduction in the intolerable level of unemployment, in particular amongst young people, the long-term unemployed and those suffering the greatest social exclusion.

The Community action thus started is, from the outset, in line with both the spirit and the letter of the Treaty on European Union. Subject to ratification by the Member States, one of the Treaty's essential components, economic and monetary union, will enter a new phase on 1 January 1994: this will involve the almost total completion of the economic aspect of the Union and will prepare for setting up the European Monetary Institute as a further step towards monetary union.

17. EC external relations

High on the list of the European Community's priorities is the conclusion of the Uruguay Round by the end of this year. The European Community is accordingly determined to work towards a global and balanced solution which would help to reinforce, to the benefit of all partners, the openness of the trade system and its foundation on multilateral rules. To that end the European Community expects all countries, whether industrialized or developing, participating in the multi-

lateral trade negotiations to contribute in proportion to their actual resources to a balanced overall result. At the last G7 [G-7] meeting the Community was pleased to note a greater will to cooperate towards that end. Success is vital if growing protectionist trends are to be halted.

In an economic world characterized by increasing interdependence, the Community remains convinced of the need for a multilateral trade system and cannot see any other way of developing and preserving steady and balanced trade than by negotiation and agreement. It is therefore in favour of the establishment of the World Trade Organization.

Rapid implementation of the Treaty on European Union should have a favourable effect on the negotiations for enlargement of the Community. Those negotiations started at the beginning of 1993 with Finland, Austria, Norway and Sweden. The Community hopes to achieve this enlargement as soon as possible before 1 January 1995.

The Council has begun examining the Commission's opinions on the accession of Cyprus and Malta. Relations with those countries are being strengthened, on the basis of the Association Agreements, by developing political dialogue. Relations with Turkey have been intensified, in particular by developing political dialogue at the highest level.

The Community continues to develop close cooperation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe within the framework of Europe Association Agreements designed to support their efforts to restructure their economies and institutions and thus to prepare them for joining the European Union. At this stage such agreements have been concluded with Hungary, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria and initialed with the Czech and Slovak Republics.

In addition, so-called 'first generation' Cooperation Agreements designed to pave the way for later conclusion of Europe Association Agreements have been concluded with the Baltic states and Albania.

Activities under the PHARE programme, which supports the reform process in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, continued in 1992 (ECU 1 billion) and in 1993.

As regards the Commonwealth of Independent States, in October 1992 the European Community reaffirmed its commitment to facilitating the transition to democracy so as to ensure the full integration of the CIS countries into the world political and economic system. To that end a brief has been prepared with a view to the possible conclusion of Partnership and Cooperation Agreements between the Community and the republics of the former Soviet Union. Talks have already taken place with some of the republics (Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan).

Implementation of the TACIS technical assistance programme (MECU 450 in 1992) provides substantial support for the complex economic reforms in the states of the former Soviet Union and for their transition to a market economy. On an international level, an agreement was signed in November 1992 between the Community, the United States, Japan and Russia setting up an International Science and Technology Centre for retraining scientists and engineers from the former Soviet Union and notably those who were specialized in the field of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

Since early 1991 the European Community and its Member States have accounted for 68% of total aid to the former Soviet Union, namely ECU 53 billion out of the total of 78 billion pledged.

With regard to the four Republics of the former Yugoslavia (Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the territory of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), the Community has adopted measures designed to maintain the same trade and economic advantages for them as were provided for in the EEC/Yugoslavia Cooperation Agreement of 1980, which was denounced in 1991.

With regard to Serbia and Montenegro, the Community has implemented and strengthened the embargo introduced by the United Nations Resolutions.

The new Mediterranean policy, involving *inter alia* strengthened trade, economic and financial cooperation with the Community's Mediterranean partners, has been made fully operational with Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel and Syria.

Euro/Maghreb Partnership Agreements, designed *inter alia* to prepare for the transition to a free-trade area, are developing in parallel.

The Community is also contributing to the Middle East peace process. The Council has decided that MECU 20 will be added to the MECU 70 already entered in the 1993 budget by way of Community financial support for the Middle East peace process. This amount will be utilized to help establish the necessary administrative structures in Jericho and the Gaza strip, in particular in the field of education and health, assistance with setting up small undertakings and food aid. Furthermore, the Council will examine urgently the proposals the Commission intends to submit shortly for a five-year aid programme comprising loans and grants. By way of a reminder, the aid the Community has given the Palestinians over the years amounts to close on ECU 1 billion.

The Community's plans for the coming five years also include substantial aid for neighbouring countries involved in the peace process.

On an economic level, the Community attaches great importance to developing its relations with its partners in Asia and Latin America, and Cooperation Agreements have been concluded with the majority of them. These countries now have access, within certain limits, to loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB).

The positive development of the political situation in Haiti has enabled the Community to suspend the embargo measures taken in respect of that country.

18. Development cooperation

The European Community and its Member States provided close on 45% of Official Development Aid (ODA) in 1992 and half of ODA to the least developed countries. The scale of their financial contribution, measured in terms of Gross National Product (0.43%), is significantly higher than the average for the OECD countries (0.33%). However, on the whole prospects for the continuing growth of development assistance are not very promising. Whilst several Member States have been able to maintain or even increase their budgets, other Member States have been obliged to trim their budgets and development cooperation has not always escaped those budget cuts. The Member States nevertheless reiterate their commitment to earmarking 0.7% of their GNP to ODA and, if it has not yet been done, agree to step up their aid programmes to achieve that figure as soon as possible.

Improving the quality of aid remains a top priority. The Community and its Member States will remain attentive partners in this respect. They will examine all ways that might help to improve the effectiveness and quality of their aid programmes. The changing nature of development spending, with a marked trend towards financial assistance (debt-relief, structural adjustment) and humanitarian aid also obliges them to reflect further on means of action and to make a comparative analysis of the most appropriate instruments for promoting development.

In drafting the document on 'Cooperation in the run-up to 2000', the Commission wished to stimulate a thorough debate on the future of European development cooperation. That debate has already made it possible to pinpoint some priority lines of action. Attention has been focused above all on the need for coordination, consistency and complementarity.

The imminent entry into force of the Treaty on European Union can only increase the need for an active and successful cooperation policy on the part of the Community and its Member States. With this in mind the Community has recently decided to strengthen coordination at several lev-

els: first of all at policy level. Attention will focus mainly on poverty, which is the top priority for development policy at European level. Other intervention sectors pinpointed for coordination of policies are health, food security, education and training. Specific measures for ensuring such co-ordination at all appropriate levels are currently under discussion. It should also be noted that Community coordination already exists in fields such as human rights, population and family planning, structural adjustment, environment, aid evaluation, the role of women in development, and emergency aid. It will thus essentially be a question of consolidating and strengthening that coordination.

Another area in which greater coordination will be sought is that of field work. Such coordination could be carried out at both geographical and sectoral level. The practical details of this operational coordination are currently under discussion in the relevant Community committees.

The Council has also taken the view that more effective coordination should cover the various development instruments which the Community has at its disposal. It has also been agreed to promote consistency between development cooperation policy and other sectoral policies such as the common agricultural policy, commercial policy and environmental policy. The Treaty on European Union provides for strengthening such consistency and includes amongst its main objectives the promotion of sustainable growth respecting the environment. Integration of the development cooperation and environment policies is therefore particularly important, especially in the context of the new Community action programme for the environment and of the international activities of the Community and its Member States (see Chapter 20: Environment).

Lastly, coordination should extend to all the other bilateral and multilateral providers of funds. It is clear that the need for coordination and consistency applies to all our international relations. The United Nations enjoys a privileged position in this regard. The Community and its Member States hope that in this context it will be possible to make more substantial progress in restructuring the operational activities of the United Nations.

The Community and its Member States are working on the links to be established between development cooperation policy and political relations with the developing countries. Among the topics which the Community promotes in its agreements with the countries receiving its aid are respect for human rights and democratization. A Council Resolution of November 1991 established the formal basis for strengthening that policy. It is hardly surprising that implementation of that resolution should from time to time come up against difficulties and has on occasion met with open criticism from the partner countries. We nevertheless feel that a continuing dialogue on these subjects, however difficult, is the only way to deal with the problem. Our efforts in this field are not only prompted by the concern of our own Parliaments and of public opinion in our countries but stem from the commitments which are part of the United Nations Charter and the Declaration of Human Rights.

Africa remains the focal point for European policy on cooperation. The forthcoming Tokyo Conference will give the Community and its Member States a fresh opportunity to stress the priority that they attach to Africa's development. The needs are particularly great in certain countries which have been hit by civil wars and other conflicts. Last May the European Community decided on a 'Special Initiative for Africa' of at least MECU 100, which will finance rehabilitation projects in several sub-Saharan countries. Discussions on the possible extension of that financing mechanism to other regions in the world are under way. Its resources must underpin aid measures situated between emergency humanitarian aid on the one hand and the resumption of long-term development programmes on the other.

19. Humanitarian action

The last few years have been marked by a considerable increase in humanitarian action in the world and by a significant change in the nature of that action. Several problems are involved. First

of all, the sheer volume of need, which vastly outstrips the resources available for this type of operation; secondly, the pressure put on logistic and administrative capacities for ensuring proper implementation; thirdly, the nature of host structures (problem of the collapse of state structures or open hostility towards the international community); fourthly, the erosion of resources intended for structural development cooperation programmes.

With regard to the mobilization of resources, the Community and its Member States remain important and attentive partners. Estimates of humanitarian aid from the Community and the Member States stand at over ECU 1 billion for 1992. The Community's own budget for that purpose has increased by 70% over 1991 and is approximately MECU 400.

As regards internal logistic and administrative structures, we would cite the establishment with the European Commission of the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) in 1992.

We would also like to say that the central and independent role of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in implementing Community humanitarian and emergency programmes has been acknowledged. Most of the European humanitarian measures have been implemented in collaboration with other international organizations, in particular those of the United Nations. Thought will have to be given to putting in place cooperation arrangements capable of meeting all the financial and accounting requests and requirements of the institutions concerned.

The Community welcomes the action taken on an urgent request from the Twelve for the creation of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs. We continue to support this new department, which can help to meet certain challenges posed by the complexity of humanitarian measures.

One of these challenges is administrative and political coordination between peace-keeping and humanitarian aid activities. Military protection for humanitarian operations has on several occasions been an inescapable necessity. It deserves, however, some serious thinking, for which the United Nations is certainly the most appropriate forum. The Community and its Member States wish at this point to express their disquiet at the difficulties provoked by the uncertainty surrounding certain humanitarian interventions. This is a development which might well further complicate the task of officials in charge of operations on the ground and which may make the mobilization of financial resources for such humanitarian aid more difficult.

Our fourth concern is about the dangers of the erosion of aid resources for longer-term structural cooperation. In fact, pressing emergency and humanitarian aid requirements are likely increasingly to be met through direct or indirect withdrawals from ordinary resources intended for traditional cooperation. It may be asked if this trend might not create a vicious circle resulting more and more in emergency interventions at the expense of long-term development.

20. Environment

The Treaty on European Union, which was negotiated simultaneously with preparations for the Rio Conference, places added emphasis on the need for the European Community and its Member States to promote sustainable development both within the Community and at international level.

The Community and its Member States are continuing their efforts to give practical form, both internally and externally, to the commitments entered into at the Rio Conference, in accordance with the plan set forth at the Lisbon European Council.

On the internal level the Fifth Action Programme traced the broad lines of the European Community's future policy.

Its main thrust is as follows:

- shared responsibility of all the economic and social partners, in accordance with the 'polluter pays', principle, to achieve sustainable development;

- greater integration of environmental policy into economic life, with particular emphasis on the principle of prevention;
- gradual reduction of emissions to take account of the best available technology and of the economic viability of new standards;
- a horizontal dimension: environmental policy has an impact on other sectors of decision-making (trade, transport, development cooperation);
- the importance of the international dimension of action by the Community and its Member States to solve global and international problems (in accordance with the EC position on forests, the world climate and biodiversity conventions and the drafting of an international convention on desertification in the countries seriously affected by drought and/or desertification, in particular in Africa).

At external level the Community and its Member States are endeavouring to mobilize the first tranche of MECU 600 for the implementation of Agenda 21. This is essentially a matter of identifying concretely such programmes and projects as might enter into the calculation of the financial efforts of the Community and its Member States. Those efforts and, in broader terms, the integration of the environment into their development cooperation programme will be all the more fruitful where the individual developing countries endeavour to shape and implement national strategies for sustainable development which respect their environment.

The Community emphasizes the importance of the environment action programme drawn up in Lucerne for Central and Eastern Europe. The aim of sustainable development also necessitates in this region an approach combining both economics and the environment.

The Member States and the Commission have put more emphasis on integrating the 'environmental' dimension into their operational programmes. Progress made on this point, especially in the work attitude of aid programme operators, is most remarkable. Many developing countries are currently collaborating in a very dynamic way on including this topic in aid programmes and projects.

The Global Environment Facility merits very special attention in this context. In our opinion this facility should, as a financial mechanism, play a driving role in implementing projects relating to global environmental problems. At the very recent meeting of the donors to this facility (September 1993), substantial progress was achieved towards preparing further meetings which should allow to collect a minimum of resources required to pass from the pilot stage to the transitional stage.

We are aware of the importance of the problem of soil deterioration in general and of desertification in particular, especially in Africa. The Community and the Member States take an active part in the proceedings linked with the negotiations on the Desertification Convention and are determined to collaborate closely with the countries and organizations concerned to try to put an end to such deterioration.

The Community and the Member States also play a very active part in the proceedings on the protection of forests and the sustainable exploitation thereof both at international and regional level. Thus, on the initiative of the European Parliament, the Community has created a specific budget line to finance field work for the protection and sustainable development of tropical forests. Its financial appropriation has been fixed at MECU 50 for 1993.

The Sustainable Development Commission held its first meeting last June. The meeting was generally regarded as a success. The Community and its Member States played a very active part in it. Indeed, we consider that the work of this commission is of capital importance for realizing the objectives set out at Rio de Janeiro. We would again emphasize the dynamic role played by the Sustainable Development Commission as a political forum at the centre of the follow-up process to the Rio Conference and would draw attention above all to the chairman's conclusions at the

high-level meeting to the effect that the political nature of the commission should be further expanded.

We are satisfied that the United Nations Secretariat has been able to adapt to these new needs. It should also be pointed out that it is vital that the sustainable development dimension imbues the operations of all the operational agencies of the United Nations system. We think that additional efforts need to be made on this point.

The Community and its Member States are pleased that the Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity have received new signatures and they hope that the ratification procedures can be completed as soon as possible. The Community and its Member States will make every effort to ratify those Conventions by the end of the year.

21. *Law of the sea*

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea establishes a legal system for two-thirds of the surface of our planet. While helping to guarantee the international peace and security of the seas and oceans it also maps out a general framework in the field of protecting the marine environment. The European Community and its Member States have constantly expressed their attachment to this convention. Difficulties regarding the arrangements for exploiting the deep sea-bed have unfortunately prevented this instrument of inestimable value from being ratified or acceded to so far.

The European Community and its Member States therefore actively support the informal consultation process initiated three years ago by the United Nations Secretary-General which was designed to make the convention universally acceptable. They note with satisfaction the progress being made in this area and intend to continue their efforts until an agreement can be reached which would reflect, in a legally binding text, the results garnered during the consultations.

The European Community and its Member States fervently hope that such a solution may be found within a reasonable time so that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea can enter into force and enjoy universal participation, which is the only way to ensure that it is fully effective.

In the wake of the Rio Summit there recently took place the United Nations Conference on straddling stocks and highly migratory fish stocks. There is no doubt that this provides the opportunity for effectively meeting the concern of ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of these fishery resources. While possible compromise areas have already emerged concerning concrete protection measures which might be adopted, we hope that the Conference will likewise achieve consensus on the basic principles which should guide the drafting of such measures.

The European Community and its Member States have constantly expressed the idea that an acceptable solution should be based on cooperation, taking into account the rights of all the states concerned, in accordance with the delicate balance obtained by the 1992 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The success of the final meetings which will take place in 1994 as recommended by the Conference will depend largely on responses to this question.

1 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/382.

2 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/248.

3 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/450.

4 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/081.

5 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/250.

6 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/023.

7 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/143.

- 8 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/354.
- 9 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/450.
- 10 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/234.
- 11 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/334.
- 12 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/249.
- 13 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/232.
- 14 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/305.
- 15 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 90/474.
- 16 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/180.
- 17 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/072.
- 18 *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/288.

93/384. Statement on Liberia

Date of issue: 29 September 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States welcome the agreement concluded at Cotonou on 25 July 1993 between the Liberian parties during the summit of Heads of State and Government of the ECOWAS. The Community and its Member States support the efforts made in this connection by the United Nations Organization and the Organization of African Unity.

The Community and its Member States encourage all the Liberian parties to apply the Cotonou Agreement in good faith and take part, in accordance with the conditions laid down, in the provisional institutions responsible for administering the country before the elections. They take note of the decision to extend the participation in ECOMOG to other African states and express their hope that such decisions will be implemented swiftly.

The Community and its Member States are pleased to note the inclusion of humanitarian aid in the process of a return to peace. They welcome the fact that the principles relating to this in the Cotonou Agreement are being implemented and would urge that adequate arrangements be made to allow aid to reach all Liberians in all regions of the country by the most direct routes.

Finally, the Community and its Member States confirm that they are prepared to consider when the time comes what assistance they will be able to provide in the context of the process of a return to peace in Liberia.

93/385. Statement on Cambodia

Date of issue: 30 September 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States welcome the adoption of a new constitution by Cambodia and express the hope that this constitution will provide a solid basis for a peaceful, democratic and prosperous Cambodia. They congratulate His Majesty Prince Sihanouk on his appointment as constitutional monarch and express the hope that the process of national reconciliation will continue to make progress under his authority.

The next step towards achieving that goal, in accordance with the provisions of the Paris Agreements, is to form a new government after transforming the Constituent Assembly into a Legislative Assembly; the Community and its Member States congratulate His Royal Highness Prince Ranariddh and His Excellency Mr Hun Sen on their appointment as first and second Prime Ministers.

The Community and its Member States reaffirm their desire to continue support for the rebuilding of Cambodia in cooperation with the new Cambodian Government, with the aim of consolidating the peace process embarked on pursuant to the Paris Agreements, and would urge the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [Cambodia] to rejoin the peace process by agreeing to open up the areas which it controls to the regular forces of the legitimate Government of Cambodia in order to ensure the unity of the country in accordance with the second Paris Agreement guaranteeing the neutrality, unity and integrity of Cambodian territory.

93/386. Statement on freedom of expression and the media at the CSCE review meeting

Date of issue: 30 September 1993

Place of issue: Warsaw

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Statement in international forum

This statement is made as part of the contribution of the European Community and its Member States to the deliberations of this review meeting.

1. Freedom of expression is one of the fundamental rights of the individual, without which other rights are difficult to acquire and to defend. The freedom of individuals and the media to state opinions about their governments is one of the essential features of democracy. To put this another way, abuse of the freedom of expression is one of the essential elements of tyranny. It is in precisely those countries where the media are controlled by the state, and people are frightened to speak openly, that we see the worst abuses of democracy and human rights.

2. Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

These ideas are upheld in Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and in Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

3. The importance of the free exchange of information was stressed in the Helsinki Final Act, and every subsequent CSCE document relating to the human dimension. CSCE commitments in this area are spelled out extensively in the Copenhagen document of 1990. It is no exaggeration to say that freedom of expression and a free media are fundamental to carrying out all our other human dimension commitments.

4. It is widely recognized, however, that the right to freedom of expression, important as it is, cannot be absolute, regardless of the consequences. The European Convention on Human Rights, for example, specifies that freedom of expression may be restricted in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

5. The greatest care and restraint must be exercised in allowing freedom of expression to be denied in a given situation. The potential limitations to freedom of expression which I have listed have therefore given rise to a substantial body of case law, both in national courts and under international supervisory mechanisms, including the European Commission and Court of Human Rights. The judgement of the European Court in one such case included the following passage, which is worth repeating here:

Freedom of expression constitutes one of the essential foundations of a democratic society, one of the basic conditions for its progress and for the development of every person. It is applicable not only to information or ideas that are favourably received or regarded as inoffensive, but also to those that offend, shock or disturb the state or any sector of the population. Such are the demands of that pluralism, tolerance and broad-mindedness without which there is no democratic society.

6. To say that the right cannot be absolute is one thing; but some governments would go much further. They tell us that freedom of expression is simply too dangerous; that for one reason or another the stability of their country is not sufficiently good to allow the people this 'luxury'. Such statements should be treated with extreme scepticism. Governments which take this attitude are usually only trying to protect their hold on power. They know that if the truth was told, they would no longer be the government. This has nothing to do with the well-being of the people. When such governments are reminded of the CSCE and other commitments which bind them, we are sometimes told that we are 'interfering in internal affairs'. We are not. As the 1992 Helsinki Summit Declaration reaffirmed, 'commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension of the CSCE are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States, and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the state concerned'. A similar sentiment was included in the recent Vienna Declaration and plan of action, which some of us here had the privilege of helping to negotiate at the World Conference on Human Rights.

7. Perhaps the most difficult area is in dealing with terrorism. The Community and its Member States are well aware of the genuine difficulties which some CSCE governments face in dealing with people or organizations who advocate and practice violence, regardless of whether it results in the death or injury of innocent people. We take the view that those who plan and execute acts of terrorism, and those who support them, cannot in all circumstances have exactly the same rights as the rest of the population. For example, in 1988 the British Government decided that it could no longer [...] terrorist and paramilitary organisations, and those who support them, to have direct access to television and radio [in] the UK. The government issued notices to the broadcasting organizations requiring them not to broadcast direct statements by Northern Ireland terrorist groups or those who would speak for them. In the context of a continuing and violent conflict, we believe this to be a very limited and justifiable restriction. A similar restriction is in force in Ireland.

8. Other countries in the CSCE area also have to contend with internal conflicts involving terrorism. One such country is Turkey. The Turkish constitution guarantees freedom of expression and of the press, and the National Assembly has approved constitutional amendments removing the state's monopoly on television and radio broadcasting. The Anti-Terror Law of April 1991 lifted restrictions on the reporting of events in the state of emergency region, and allowed the use of the Kurdish language except for official purposes, including education.

9. But some events in South-Eastern Turkey continue to give cause for serious concern. Journalists, particularly those with pro-Kurdish or left wing views, are often harassed. Over 300 books, newspapers and other publications have been banned by the authorities. At least 16 journalists – several of them connected with the pro-Kurdish newspaper *Ozgür Gündem* – have been murdered since the death of Halit Gungen in Diyarbakir on 18 February 1992. Altogether, over 100 people have been murdered in mysterious circumstances in South-East Turkey since autumn 1991.

There are persistent allegations that the Turkish security forces are involved in the killings. We hope that our Turkish colleagues will be able to say what action their authorities are taking to ensure that these deaths are properly investigated, and that the Turkish security forces are seen to be fully accountable for their actions.

10. In Azerbaijan, steps towards a free press have been halted since President Elchibei was ousted from power in June. In Georgia, there has been some progress towards freedom of speech and the press, but there are reports that separatists and supporters of the former president have been arrested and tried, with allegations of torture. In Tadjikistan, there have been extensive violations of human rights since the ex-communist regime established itself earlier this year. Opposition figures have been killed, mistreated or forced into exile. Purges (including torture and murder) of people originating from the Pamirs or Garm have been widespread. Independent publications have been closed down. In June the Supreme Court banned opposition parties.

11. In Turkmenistan, the right to freedom of expression, belief, and receipt of information – other than state secrets – is written into the new constitution. Censorship and interference by the authorities is expressly forbidden. However, in practice there are virtually no opposition parties or independent media, and journalists who have tried to produce independent publications have been threatened and assaulted. Foreign publications have been confiscated.

12. Uzbekistan is under authoritarian rule. A number of critics of the government, and others out of favour, have been put on trial or violently assaulted, others forced into exile. Opposition figures have been severely harassed and opposition parties are unable to function. The constitution provides for freedom of expression, but the media remain under the control of the government. The sale of foreign publications is banned or severely restricted. Foreign journalists are also restricted and some have been expelled. No right to demonstrate exists; a demonstration by students in 1992 was broken up by police firing into the crowd, causing deaths.

13. The participating States mentioned are not of course the only ones where problems persist in relation to freedom of expression and a free media, but those I have mentioned illustrate the nature and extent of the problems which exist. We hope that the delegations of these countries will be willing to explain what action their governments are taking to bring their performance into line with their CSCE-commitments.

14. Finally, I would like to mention the various sources of help which may be available to participating States who do not yet have an established tradition of free and independent media. The British Know How Fund, for example, has provided advice and technical assistance to governments and media organizations in the new democracies. Other countries have similar bilateral schemes. Council of Europe and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development delegates will, I am sure, provide details of the ways in which they are able to help. The non-governmental organizations which are active in this field also have valuable experience and advice to offer in helping governments to create the conditions in which freedom of expression and a free media can flourish.

93/387. Statement on the situation in Russia

Date of issue: 30 September 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Statement in the European Parliament

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of the Council: Mr President, honourable Members, for two years past Russia has occupied an important place in the work of the European institutions, an important place in the Council's activities with the preparation of humanitarian aid programmes to the newly-independent states, the setting up of the important technical aid programme, TACIS, and with the discussions necessary for negotiating the future Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the Russian Federation and the Community.

It has an important place in this Assembly too, because the European Parliament is following the political, economic and social situation in Russia very closely and encouraging the efforts made on both sides to integrate Russia further into a Europe which we should all like to make more stable, more prosperous and more democratic.

It has an important place, finally, in European political cooperation where the experts and political directors of our Ministers for Foreign Affairs ceaselessly analyse the numerous and sometimes contradictory events which enliven Russian political life so as to allow the Council of Ministers to determine clearly the Community's political positions with regard to Russia. That was the case last week when, right away on 22 September,¹ the Twelve immediately published a declaration following the announcement by President Boris Yeltsin suspending the legislative, administrative and supervisory powers of the Russian Parliament and Congress.

In that declaration the Community and its Member States:

- supported the continuation of the process of democratization in Russia;
- supported President Yeltsin, the sole directly elected Russian authority, in his efforts to maintain the momentum of that progress;
- reaffirmed that it was for the Russian people alone to determine their system of government and their constitution;
- appreciated the fact that free and democratic elections making it possible to unfreeze the present political situation, were to take place on 11 or 12 December next;
- expressed the hope in addition that those elections would take place in an orderly manner and would be a decisive turning point towards that goal.

I must stress that last point, ladies and gentlemen. We are actually following the present crisis very closely and must also hope for an outcome free from violence.

The political support thus given to President Yeltsin by the Community and its Member States is justified first by the fact that we regard Boris Yeltsin [...] as being the sole legitimately empowered authority in the Russian Federation today. This legitimacy results from the fact that Boris Yeltsin was elected by universal suffrage on 12 June 1991 with 57.3% of the votes, from the fact that Boris Yeltsin in August 1991 courageously took the lead in opposing the reactionary *coup* and from the fact that 58% of voters gave him their confidence in the referendum of 25 April last.

I should also like to point out that our political support for President Yeltsin also stems from the fact that his political initiative was necessary, and on at least three levels. In the first place it was necessary so that the Russian authorities might at last tackle an economic situation which had become catastrophic and which is making millions of men, women and children the poverty-stricken victims of the uncontrolled transition, without any social welfare protection, to a new economic system.

I am convinced that the success of the economic reforms in Russia will condition the whole of the process of democratization of Russian society. For two years past these economic reforms have been systematically blocked by the Parliament: privatization of land and businesses, independence of the Central Bank, restructuring of obsolete industrial sectors, the setting up of a modern tax system. In all fields of management and reform of the economy the Parliament has placed obstacles in the path of the Russian Government. A society in which inflation is at present ap-

proaching 20% per month, where the budget imposed by the Parliament envisaged a budget deficit of some 25% of the gross national product in a society which can only move away from democracy, from stability and so from social justice.

In the second place, President Yeltsin's political initiative was needed in addition to bring a solution to the institutional freeze which has been paralysing Russia for months. Here in fact is a country of 350 million inhabitants, the largest and most densely populated in Europe, which had become incapable of taking, in a balanced, democratic manner, the major political decisions necessary for shaping the Russia of tomorrow. For more than two years the conservative and ultra-nationalist forces with a majority in the Russian Parliament, have been preventing the adoption in Russia of a new constitution. The present constitution dates from 1977. It has been amended several times and no longer offers Russia the clear, democratic and effective political institutions suitable for a great country.

Since December last, the date of the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies, Boris Yeltsin has spared no efforts to find a compromise with the Parliament on a new draft constitution. Neither the referendum of 25 April last, when 58% of voters expressed their confidence in Boris Yeltsin, nor the meeting in June last of a constitutional conference have made it possible to overcome the blockage created by the Parliament.

Moreover I draw your attention to the fact that these political uncertainties have had consequences for the stability of the Russian Federation. Each camp has tended to redouble promises of greater autonomy to the 88 republics and regions of the federation, some of which are showing disturbing centrifugal tendencies.

Finally President Yeltsin's political initiative was also necessary at diplomatic level – whether in the former Yugoslavia, in the Baltic states, in relations with Japan or above all in relations with the other ex-Soviet republics – Russian policy has been characterized by U-turns and constant uncertainties. In certain regions these uncertainties have contributed to the development of instability.

In conclusion, Mr President, honourable Members, I should like to reaffirm to you the political confidence which the Community and its Member States have placed in Boris Yeltsin. That confidence is based on his indisputable legitimacy and on the essential nature of the political initiative which he attempted to take on 21 September last. Naturally that confidence is not unlimited. We are continuing to follow the situation very closely and we think it very important that the legislative elections on 11 and 12 December next should respect the democratic principles defined by the CSCE. That presupposes, *inter alia*, that the parties which wish to do so may put up for election, that the candidates should have uncensored access to the various media and that each citizen should be in a position to exercise freely, without pressure or constraint, the right which is the foundation of all democracies: the right to vote.

[...]

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/379.

93/388. Statement on Russia

Date of issue: 4 October 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States are following the events in Moscow with great concern.

They deplore the loss of human life in Moscow for which elements hostile to the democratization process in Russia carry a heavy responsibility, for having deliberately provoked violence in the Russian Parliament and in different parts of the capital.

The Community and its Member States reiterate their support for President Yeltsin and the process of reform. The Community and its Member States stress the importance of early restoration of peaceful and democratic order.

It is now more than ever necessary that the process towards democracy is carried through, and this should be achieved through free elections which will allow the Russian people to pronounce themselves clearly on their future.

93/389. Statement on a Council meeting (extracts only)

Date of issue: 4 October 1993

Place of issue: Luxembourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

[The Council made a declaration on Russia¹]

In addition, following a statement by the Commission on progress in the sixth round of negotiations for a partnership agreement with Russia, held in Brussels on 23 and 24 September 1993, the Council expressed its wish to speed up proceedings so that the negotiations could be rounded off by the end of the year.

[...]

Former Yugoslavia

Ministers heard a report by the co-chairmen, Lord Owen and Mr T. Stoltenberg. They held a detailed discussion of the situation and the prospects for negotiations following the failure of the peace proposals before the Parliament in Sarajevo.

Ministers confirmed their full support for the co-chairmen, Lord Owen and Mr Stoltenberg.

Ministers concluded that, as matters now stood, there was no realistic solution apart from continuing with the negotiating process and that a military solution was out of the question.

They decided to appeal to the three parties once again to resume dialogue with the aim of swiftly arriving at an acceptable agreement and to abide by what had been established so far in the negotiations. They pointed to the considerable responsibility borne by the parties *vis-à-vis* the war-stricken civilian population faced with impending humanitarian disaster.

Ministers confirmed that the Community and its Member States remained ready to play their part, under United Nations authority, in implementing a peace plan agreed by the parties and that their preparations should accordingly press ahead in close liaison with the other institutions concerned.

As regards the administration of Mostar, Ministers agreed to ask the WEU to consider the support which it could give in organizing a police force and improving certain vital logistical functions, particularly in the medical field.

Ministers discussed serious problems arising with regard to humanitarian aid in view of the growing shortage of available resources and transport difficulties. They thought it inadmissible for

part of such humanitarian assistance to be taken for the armed forces and diverted from its intended recipients. They decided to make the strongest representations to all parties to get them to take a cooperative attitude and to emphasize that they would be held directly responsible in the eyes of international humanitarian law.

Ministers noted that over and above the contribution of MECU 89 for the rest of the year the Commission had found another MECU 86 by reallocating appropriations, thus bringing the total contributions to MECU 175, but the UNHCR's estimated requirements amounted to USD 750 million for the remainder of the year. In spite of budgetary difficulties, they decided that the Community and its Member States had as far as possible to keep up the effort being made. They also agreed to approach other potential donor countries, in particular the Islamic countries, in order for them to play a greater part in the effort to provide assistance for Bosnia Herzegovina.

Ministers asked the Presidency to keep in close touch with partners, particularly the United States, on these points.

[...]

Middle East

Ministers recorded agreement on the principle of concluding a new agreement with Israel and agreed that negotiations should begin shortly. They accordingly instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to draw up swiftly, on the basis of the Commission's recommendation, negotiating directives for adoption by the Council.

Ministers also instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to consider as a matter of urgency specific proposals which they requested the Commission to put forward as regards aid for the Occupied Territories, eligible for Community financing, and the adjustment of the Financial Protocols with the other countries in the region in the light of the new regional cooperation aspect.

South Africa

The Council welcomed the recent political developments in South Africa, especially the agreement on the setting-up of a Transitional Executive Council (TEC). Those developments paved the way for normalization of relations between the Community and a democratic South Africa.

Ministers confirmed their decision on 28 September 1993 in New York regarding the lifting of sanctions still in force against South Africa, i.e. the recall of military attachés accredited to South Africa and refusal to consent to the accreditation of South African military attachés and the freeze on official contacts and international security agreements. As regards the lifting of the ban on any new nuclear cooperation and the stop to exports of sensitive equipment for the polic[e] and armed forces, the Council agreed to discuss the matter again at its November meeting.

In addition Ministers confirmed the following positive measures: conversion of the Commission office in South Africa into a normal delegation, encouragement of the normalization of relations between the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and other relevant international institutions and South Africa, and suspension of the drawing-up of the annual report on the Code of Conduct for European firms in South Africa. Confirming its commitment to contribute to the economic and social development of the new South Africa, the Council also held an initial discussion on a Commission communication putting forward some guide-lines for a Community policy to support the transition to democracy in South Africa.

The communication was welcomed. The Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to consider it further and report back at the Council's November meeting.

[...]

Relations with Switzerland

The Council heard a presentation by the Commission of its communication on future relations with Switzerland.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to consider the communication and report back for its November meeting.

[...]

Enlargement

The Council prepared for the third negotiating meetings at ministerial level with Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway, to be held on the morning of 5 October in Luxembourg.

The Council in particular assessed, on the basis of information supplied by the Commission, the progress of the negotiations and prospects for their future course.

Pact on Stability in Europe

With a view to the European Council meeting in Brussels, Ministers assessed progress in work on the Pact on Stability in Europe. They had before them a report from the *ad hoc* high-level working party on the Pact on Stability, summarizing work to date and setting out the broad lines decided on by the Community and its Member States.

It will be recalled that the European Council, meeting in Copenhagen, received a proposal from the French Government for an initiative by the European Union for such a Pact, designed in particular to ensure practical application of the principles established by European countries as regards observance of frontiers and the rights of minorities.

In conclusion Ministers approved the outcome of proceedings as described in the above report. They also took note of comments by third countries as outlined in that report.

In addition Ministers approved the timetable for action to be carried out and the procedures to be followed, particularly for informal consultations with the third countries concerned.

Lastly, Ministers noted the Presidency's intention of giving a presentation of current work at the forthcoming Council of Europe summit and at the CSCE ministerial meeting on 30 November. An interim report on the Pact on Stability would also be submitted by the Presidency to the General Affairs Council meeting in November.

[...]

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/388.

93/390. Statement on the High Commissioner for National Minorities

Date of issue: 6 October 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Statement in international forum

The institution of a CSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities is generally considered as one of the main recent achievements of the CSCE.

Mr Van der Stoel, the distinguished Netherlands veteran politician appointed as High Commissioner, was hardly installed in January 1993 when the new realities of the CSCE region called for initiatives on his part. Thus, he was to visit the Baltic states, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Albania, Greece, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Hungary and is following closely the question of the Roma. No doubt he has other initiatives in mind, while keeping an eye on previous ones that can hardly be regarded as resolved.

As he has pointed out to us in this meeting and at the CSO, the state authorities in question were frank and open, placing no obstacles to his activities and contacts. He has also pointed out that the concept of 'national minority' as such has not been a barrier, in this regard he has indeed always adopted a pragmatic approach.

Thus, at this stage – with barely nine months of activity – it is more than clear that the High Commissioner has started on the right footing. He has followed an effective, discreet and careful diplomatic line, avoiding confrontation and controversy and he has presented to the CSO and to the governments in question concrete and wise suggestions which will ease tension and lead to an atmosphere of better inter-communal understanding.

Of course, the final test would be whether the suggestions in question are implemented by the governments concerned.

However, some issues that may arise in the future are worth mentioning at this point:

- the High Commissioner is expected to address several other national minority issues in the near future. Due to his continued involvement with current issues and due to his limited staff, the High Commissioner might not be able to take up all newly emerging minority issues which would deserve his attention. In this regard, it is for the High Commissioner to propose additional means and support for his office to even better fulfil his mandate;
- the need to ensure close collaboration and consultation with the chairman-in-office and close coordination with other CSCE organs, missions and initiatives;
- the need for the High Commissioner Office to contact such specialists (be they regional or general specialists). This is why we support the proposal to extend the list of experts for the Moscow mechanism with such experts.

To conclude, the High Commissioner should be very much commended for his work until now. The way he has gone about his task has undoubtedly contributed to the easing of tension and has also enhanced the credibility of the CSCE as a potentially effective institution of early warning and preventive diplomacy.

93/391. Question No 1367/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on human rights in Mexico

Date of issue: 6 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 4 June 1993)

In view of the fact that the indigenous peoples living in Mexico are suffering human rights violations, do the Ministers meeting in EPC intend to urge the Mexican authorities to put an end to such violations in the courts, prisons and rural areas of Mexico?

Answer:

As the honourable Member will be aware, the Community and its Member States have noted with interest the designation of 1993 as the year of the World's Indigenous People and considered that it presented a timely opportunity for intensifying efforts to protect the rights of indigenous com-

munities and their cultural heritage. These considerations were subscribed by Mexico at the third institutionalized ministerial meeting between the European Community and the Rio Group, held in Copenhagen on 23 and 24 April 1993.

At the World Conference on Human Rights, which took place in Vienna from 14 to 25 June, the plight of indigenous people has been addressed. The Community and its Member States express the hope that all Member States of the United Nations will ensure the full and free participation of indigenous people in all aspects of society, in particular in matters of concern to them.

93/392. Question No 1491/93 by Mr Langer (V) on the International Civilian Peace-Keeping and Peace-Building Training Program (IPT)

Date of issue: 6 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 14 June 1993)

From 13 September to 9 October 1993, the first International Civilian Peace-Keeping and Peace-Building Training Program (IPT) foundation course is to be held in the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and the Settlement of Conflicts (ÖSFK) in Stadtschlaining (Burgenland) under the aegis of the Austrian Government. This is intended to help to train qualified civilian personnel to be sent on peace-keeping and peace-building missions as part of UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali's 'Agenda for peace'. It could also be regarded as a specific and positive contribution which can be made by neutral or smaller countries.

Is European political cooperation aware of this measure, and what view does it take of it? Will it take steps to support and extend this and other, similar courses? Will it ensure that EC nationals are sent to participate?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are aware of the International Civilian Peace-Keeping and Peace-Building Training Programme (IPT) organized in Stadtschlaining under the aegis of the Austrian Government and are in agreement with the honourable Member of Parliament that this course can positively contribute to the implementation of the 'Agenda for Peace'. It is up to Member States to decide whether they will send nationals to participate in the course.

93/393. Question No 1649/93 by Mr Smith (S) on arms export control to Bosnia

Date of issue: 6 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 28 June 1993)

Further to the reply by the EPC to Written Question No 1093/92¹ on arms exports and the Commission reply to Written Question No 1092/92,² what further decisions have been taken by EPC in regard to development of arms export control to Bosnia, Serbia and Montenegro and Croatia; and to Iraq, Iran and the Gulf States as a result of the EPC *ad hoc* working party?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have decided on an embargo on arms and military material covering the entire territory of ex-Yugoslavia, effective as of 5 July 1991. They have also urged

all other third countries who could be considered as possible arms suppliers to do the same. This embargo which has been reinforced by the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council has been applied by Member States on a national basis. The Community and its Member States have, in the framework of European political cooperation, on a continuous basis monitored all aspects of the embargo, including its application and surveillance. Furthermore, the Community and its Member States are actively contributing to the implementation of the embargo in the Adriatic, the Danube and the countries neighbouring Serbia.

In the case of Iraq, an embargo on arms and military material exists since 6 August 1990. In the case of Iran and the Gulf States the European Community and its Member States apply the common criteria on arms exports agreed by the European Council on 28 and 29 June 1991.³

¹ *OJC* 202, 10.8.1992, p. 65.

² *OJC* 95, 5.4.1993, p. 14.

³ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 91/196.

93/394. Question No 1805/93 by Mr de la Malène (RDE) on the situation in Cambodia

Date of issue: 6 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 13 July 1993)

In view of the deterioration in the political situation in Cambodia, mainly because of the failure of the Khmer Rouge to comply with the Paris Agreements and the impossible position of the UN troops, theoretically responsible for preparing the way for elections and demilitarizing the Khmer Rouge but without the practical means to do so, does not EPC consider it necessary to condemn, as a matter of urgency, the unacceptable acts of the Khmer Rouge and their incomplete and unbalanced implementation of the Paris Agreements?

Answer:

The honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Written Question No 1433/93.¹

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/340.

93/395. Closing statement at the CSCE implementation review meeting of the human dimension

Date of issue: 14 October 1993

Place of issue: Warsaw

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Statement in international forum

Monsieur le Président, au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses Etats membres, je voudrais chaleureusement remercier le Directeur du Bureau de Varsovie pour tout le travail qu'il a fourni, lui et ses collaborateurs, pour faire de cette réunion une réussite.

J'aimerais également me faire l'interprète de la Communauté et de ses Etats membres pour exprimer notre reconnaissance aux autorités polonaises pour les efforts qu'elles ont déployés pour nous ces semaines-ci.

Notre gratitude va également à tous et à toutes, dont tout particulièrement les modérateurs et les rapporteurs, mais aussi les organisations internationales et les organisations non gouvernementales, qui ont contribué aux travaux de cette conférence.

Monsieur le Président, plutôt que de poursuivre un exercice normatif dans le domaine de la dimension humaine, la CSCE a pensé qu'il importait aujourd'hui de s'assurer de l'application des engagements déjà souscrits et d'évaluer les instruments dont nous disposons pour favoriser le respect de ces engagements. Tel était le but de cette réunion.

A présent que celle-ci se termine, je suis heureux de pouvoir vous dire que la Communauté et ses Etats membres estiment que l'objectif fixé a été atteint, même si à l'avenir de telles réunions pourraient être resserrées.

Qu'il me soit à présent permis de souligner un élément qui nous paraît être comme un fil conducteur dans tous nos travaux et qui, vous le savez bien, tient particulièrement au coeur de la Communauté et de ses Etats membres. Il s'agit de l'interaction entre la dimension humaine et la diplomatie préventive. Je le rappelais encore lors du passage parmi nous de Madame Af Ugglas: les droits de l'homme doivent rester une des composantes fondamentales de l'analyse et de l'action politique de la CSCE.

C'est pourquoi nous nous réjouissons de constater que tout au long de nos travaux les délégations ont insisté pour rapprocher Varsovie de Prague et de Vienne.

Dans le même sens, on a proposé la prise en compte systématique de la dimension humaine dans les travaux du Comité des Hauts Fonctionnaires et du Groupe de Vienne, ainsi que dans le mandat à donner à nos missions. Toujours dans le même sens, on a convenu que le Comité des Hauts Fonctionnaires devait mieux utiliser les rapports des missions.

Voilà autant d'exemples, et il y en a bien d'autres, de recommandations auxquelles cette réunion a abouti et qui vont dans la bonne direction, celle du lien entre la dimension humaine et la diplomatie préventive.

L'insistance avec laquelle le rôle que le Bureau des Institutions démocratiques et des droits de l'homme peut remplir dans le domaine de l'observation des élections est, de l'avis de la Communauté européenne, un autre point positif à souligner.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres se réjouissent également de l'appréciation très positive qui a été portée sur les activités du Haut Commissaire pour les minorités nationales. Tant la personnalité de ce dernier que son mandat y sont pour beaucoup.

Monsieur le Président, face aux violations massives des droits de l'homme sur le territoire de l'ex-Yougoslavie, la Communauté européenne tient à rappeler l'importance du respect des principes du droit humanitaire international par toutes les parties concernées.

Par ailleurs, la Communauté européenne tient à saluer l'invitation faite par la délégation russe à envoyer des observateurs pour les prochaines élections législatives en Fédération de Russie.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres se félicitent aussi de la réponse que le Groupe de Vienne du Comité des Hauts Fonctionnaires a donnée à l'appel qui avait été lancé ici-même par le représentant de la Géorgie.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres sont heureux de pouvoir soutenir la candidature britannique au poste de Directeur du Bureau des droits de l'homme et des Institutions Démocratiques.

Nous estimons que le caractère dynamique de la candidate ainsi que sa grande connaissance des droits de l'homme sont des atouts qui lui permettront de poursuivre l'oeuvre que l'Ambassadeur Cortese a si bien su entreprendre.

Enfin, cette réunion est la toute première de son genre. Il est en conséquence normal de tirer une leçon de cette expérience. Ce sera l'affaire de Budapest.

Monsieur le Président, il me semble à première vue que les textes présentés par les rapporteurs ont été rédigés avec un tel sérieux qu'il ne devraient normalement pas susciter de débats démesurément longs. Si tel était le cas, puis-je me permettre de suggérer que cette réunion puisse se clôturer ce soir-même avec la réception que le Directeur du Bureau de Varsovie a l'amabilité d'offrir?

Je termine en réitérant tous nos remerciements à ceux qui ont généreusement contribué à cette conférence.

93/396. Statement on Haiti

Date of issue: 15 October 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States express their indignation following the murder of the Minister for Justice of the constitutional Government of Haiti, Mr Malary. They call for those responsible to be pursued and punished. The European Community and its Member States condemn attempts to sabotage the Governor's Island Agreement of 3 July, which is to lead to the restoration of constitutional order and the return of President Aristide on 30 October. They reiterate their full support for the Government of Prime Minister Malval.

93/397. Statement on the Pakistan elections

Date of issue: 20 October 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States have followed with interest the electoral process and the elections in Pakistan on 6 and 9 October 1993. They note with satisfaction that the reports from the EC-monitoring team as well as other observer groups conclude that the elections were in general free, fair, impartial and transparent, enabling voters to elect the representatives of their choice. They congratulate the caretaker government and all those actively involved in the preparation and the organization of the elections for their achievement and are of the view that an important contribution to strengthening democracy in Pakistan has been made.

The Community and its Member States congratulate Ms Benazir Bhutto on her election as Prime Minister of Pakistan, and wish her new government every success in tackling the challenges which it faces.

93/398. Question No 1565/93 by Mr Smith (S) on the Iraqi nuclear programme

Date of issue: 20 October 1993
Place of issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 17 June 1993)

What communications has EPC had with the Japanese Foreign Affairs Ministry and MITI in regard to the British Intelligence Service report of 14 March 1988 that Iraq was intending to obtain orders from Japanese machine tool companies for use in its clandestine military nuclear programme?

Answer:

The particular question raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed in European political cooperation.

93/399. Question No E-1822/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (PSE) on prisoners in Lebanon

Date of issue: 20 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 13 July 1993)

Have the Ministers meeting in EPC looked into the fate of prisoners in Lebanon – who might be classified as prisoners of conscience – who are sympathizers of General Aoun and were calling for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon?

Answer:

The question raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed within EPC.

93/400. Question No E-1823/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (PSE) on the whereabouts of Aziz al-Sayyid Jassem in Iraq

Date of issue: 20 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 13 July 1993)

Do the Ministers meeting in EPC know the whereabouts of Aziz al-Sayyid Jassem?

Answer:

Aziz Al-Sayyid Jassem is a Shi'ite Muslim, from An Nasiriyah, and is the former editor of the government's review *Al Ghad* (Tomorrow). According to the 1993 Amnesty International report he was arrested in April 1991 for failing to write articles favourable to the Iraqi Government following the invasion of Kuwait and held until January 1993 on the premises of the security service ('Mudiriyat al Amn al Amma') in Baghdad. Nothing has been heard of him since.

93/401. Question No E-1882/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on the property of Greeks in Istanbul at the mercy of Turkish authorities through prosecution of a lawyer

Date of issue: 20 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 15 July 1993)

Further to my Question No 880/93¹ concerning the property of Greeks in Istanbul, I would add the following:

The Turks have brought serious charges in the criminal court against a lawyer of Greek origin, Ms Elpida Frangopoulou, who has been battling for years in the courts to defend what remains of Greek property in Istanbul.

The Turks have brought an extremely serious charge against Mrs Frangopoulou – slandering the Turkish state –, by reactivating a law which had not been invoked in recent years. Should Ms Elpida Frangopoulou be convicted, her lawyer's licence would be revoked, leaving Greeks who are fighting to retain their property totally undefended. In view of the fact that Ms Frangopoulou is representing clients in a number of important current cases, will EPC ask the Turkish authorities to halt the proceedings against her immediately?

Answer:

The specific case raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed within the framework of European political cooperation. The Turkish authorities are well aware of the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to the rule of law.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/281.

93/402. Questions No E-1966/93 and E-1968/93 by Mr Glinne (PSE) on the Community attitude towards the dictatorship in Haiti and on the opportunity to freeze the accounts of Haitian dictator Raoul Cedras

Date of issue: 20 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written questions in the European Parliament (from 19 July 1993)

Question No E-1966/93:

President Aristide recently said he was willing to take part in discussions based on a compromise different from that touched on by the ACP/EEC Joint Assembly. The proposal put forward by the Organization of American States, the UN and the United States – which is thought to be acceptable to General Raoul Cedras, the main instigator of the *coup* on 30 September 1991 – would include the following provisions:

1. recognition of Father Aristide as President for the remainder of his five year mandate;
2. a broad amnesty for the soldiers and 'death squads' responsible for at least 3,000 deaths since September 1991, and for partisans of the president involved in 'necklace' killings (a tyre impregnated with petrol is put round the neck of the victims and set on fire);
3. the United States would 'professionalize' the army and detach it from the police and the civil authorities;
4. the UN would send 300 observers to Haiti and the Organization of American States would increase its undersized group of 16 observers already in Port-au-Prince by 200;
5. the USA, France and Canada would resume their aid programmes and gradually transform the observers into technical assistance teams;
6. the embargo would be lifted.

This proposal has obvious disadvantages: President Aristide would remain outside the country until summer 1994, i.e. until expiry of General Cedras' mandate, and the 'elections' which replaced one third of the senate would not be declared void.

What is EPC's reaction to these proposals?

Question No E-1968/93:

The 'boat people' who leave Haiti for Florida do so because they have lost hope of finding any security or means of subsistence in their own country but are often intercepted and sent back to Port-au-Prince by the US navy.

To quote reliable sources, however, the dictator Raoul Cedras and his accomplices have large accounts at North American and European banks.

Would it not be an idea to freeze those accounts and actively facilitate the safe return to Haiti of President Aristide who was democratically elected in September 1991?

Political decisions to this effect would undoubtedly prompt many of those seeking refuge in the United States and the Caribbean to return to Haiti.

To date (June 1993) approximately how many Haitians have legally and illegally found precarious refuge in the overseas departments and territories of Community countries (Saint Martin etc.) where, without really finding salvation, they have created considerable economic, social and health problems?

Answer:¹

I would refer the honourable Member to the reply given to Written Question No 1739/93² on the same subject. In particular, I refer the honourable Member to the Governor's Island Agreement which foresees the return of the President of the Republic of Haiti on 30 October 1993. This has received the full support of the European Community and its Member States.

The attention of the honourable Member is drawn to UN Security Council Resolution 841, adopted on 16 June 1993, which imposed a trade embargo to Haiti and also established a freezing of all assets belonging directly or indirectly to the Government of Haiti or to the *de facto* authorities of Haiti. The European Community and its Member States had taken the necessary measures to implement this resolution (Regulation (EEC) No 1603/93, adopted by the Council on 24 June 1993).

In compliance with the Governor's Island Agreement, these sanctions have been suspended by the Security Council (27 August 1993) and the European Community and its Member States (1 September 1993) following the ratification of Mr Malval as Prime Minister by the Haitian Parliament and his investiture by President Aristide.

As far as refugees are concerned, I refer the honourable Member to the Member States concerned as this matter does not fall within the competence of the EPC.

¹ This reply has been provided by the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation, within whose province the question came.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/376.

93/403. Question No E-1997/93 by Mr Glinne (PSE) on 'Political cleansing' in Colombia

Date of issue: 20 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 19 July 1993)

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the armed forces and their associated death squads regard as 'legitimate' targets for assassination all those 'guilty' of support for democratic elections, strong local authorities, aid programmes for disadvantaged people, the creation of human rights committees (particularly by Catholic church leaders in Villavicencio and elsewhere) or those merely suspected of membership of a trade union or the Patriotic Union, the party which won a majority in the 1986 municipal elections in the Meta region, including its capital Villavicencio. The most well known victims up to now were Dr José Rodrigo García (26 November 1992) and his wife María Mercedes Méndez (3 June 1992) together with several thousand others killed since the beginning of the 'revenge' against the 1986 election results (the bodies are piled up in *botaderos de cadáveres*, open mass graves), while 300,000 inhabitants survive as 'internal refugees'. The Colombian section of the Andean Committee of Jurists estimates that there were 4,300 murders last year (12 per day). The inclusion of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the 1991 constitution is mere window-dressing, while the 'state of emergency' has been tightened to a 'state of internal unrest' which in practice allows all kinds of abuses: the army and its death squad are responsible for three-quarters of the deaths, the other quarter can be attributed to the three insurgent movements.

What is European political cooperation's response to the following questions?

1. Why is Colombia, where there are just as many atrocities as in Peru, still a member of EC/Andean Pact Cooperation? What is the material and political value of such cooperation with regard to Colombia and Peru?
2. Should not anti-drug measures, which have not stopped the flow of drugs to the United States, be dissociated from the 'generalized and violent' totalitarianism (according to the writer Antonio Caballero in the periodical *Semana*) practised by the authorities? Should not a third force such as the PU be preserved as an alternative?
3. Should there not be strong condemnation, as expressed recently by a group of artists and intellectuals, including the Nobel Prize winner Gabriel García Márquez, also of the guerrillas who have carried out extortion, abduction and other abominations?
4. Will the EC and/or the Member States take the initiative to refer the case of Colombia to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights? Under what circumstances?

*Answer:*¹

As the honourable Member is aware, the European Community and its Member States re-affirmed, with the countries of the Andean Pact, their commitment to democratic values and respect for human rights in the new framework Cooperation Agreement which was signed by the two parties in April 1993 during the ministerial conference between the countries of the EC and of the Rio Group in Copenhagen. All the contracting parties (including Colombia) to this agreement, which defines their cooperation relations, have the obligation to respect these commitments.

It should next be pointed out that the aid granted by the EC to Colombia essentially concerns the fight against drugs. This aid is justified primarily as a concrete gesture of the EC's solidarity with the unquestionable efforts made by the authorities and people of that country in this fight, the cost of which in terms of human lives is unfortunately very high. It is for this reason also that the Community and its Member States have publicly expressed their solidarity with the Colombian

Government and people engaged in the struggle against drug-related terrorism. The honourable Member will also agree that this aid is helping to curb the traffic in drugs intended for Europe.

As regards the human rights policy followed by the Colombian authorities, it cannot be described as 'generalized and violent totalitarianism', despite the concerns existing about the matter. It should be noted that for some years now, the Colombian Government has been following a strategy aimed at creating a climate favourable to pacification and respect for human rights. Official agencies have been set up or strengthened for this purpose, such as the Procurator for the Nation, the Defender of the People and the Presidential Advisor for Human Rights. Fundamental guarantees were strengthened by the 1991 constitution, the adoption of which represented an unquestionable step forward for democracy. The judicial apparatus has also been reformed.

Despite these efforts, the fact that the number of political assassinations in Colombia continues to be so high must continue to be deplored. However, the phenomenon of violence in Colombia cannot be separated from its historical context. Its vehemence has further increased over the last three decades. The great complexity of the situation also has to be acknowledged. The violent confrontations between guerrilla movements, military movements, drug traffickers, common law criminals and the authorities have created a pattern of behaviour in which human rights are too often the loser.

Nevertheless this situation does not dispense the Colombian State from its obligation to respect human rights in general, or from its duty to punish those of its agents who are responsible for violations and to prevent para-military groups from going unpunished.

The acts of extortion and infringements of human rights committed by guerrilla groups must also be condemned.

The European Community and its Member states have repeatedly condemned every form of terrorism. They have also expressed their concern about the links between certain guerrilla groups and drug traffickers in the region.

The thematic rapporteurs of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and more specifically those responsible for investigating torture, extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary executions and forced or involuntary disappearances, are already examining the situation in Colombia, *inter alia* under their terms of reference and are reporting back to that Commission. At its 49th meeting, the Commission on Human Rights also approved a resolution (1993/48) calling upon the Commission's special rapporteurs and working parties to examine the harmful consequences for the exercise of human rights of acts of violence committed by armed groups spreading terror amongst the population and by drug traffickers in the countries in which such acts occur.

¹ This reply has been provided by the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation within whose province the question came.

93/404. Statement on Burundi

Date of issue: 21 October 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States strongly condemn the attempted *coup* in Burundi, which aimed to put an end to recently established democracy in that country.

The Community and its Member States reaffirm their support for President Ndadaye and the Government of Burundi which resulted from the free and democratic elections last June. They urge all active forces in the nation to ensure that constitutional order is re-established and democracy respected.

93/405. Statement on a Council meeting (extracts only)

Date of issue: 25/26 October 1993
Place of issue: Luxembourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

[...]

Preparation for the European Council Meeting on 29 October 1993

The Council prepared the likely topics for discussion at the extraordinary European Council meeting on Friday of that week, viz.:

- implementation of the Treaty on the Union;
 - enlargement of the Community;
 - growth and employment in the Community.
- (It should be noted that the preparation of the European Council's discussion of the question of the seats to be established for certain Community bodies and agencies – in particular for the EMI – is being dealt with by the President of the European Council).

Implementation of the Treaty on the Union

For its discussion of this first topic, the Council had before it a report summarizing the progress to date in preparing the necessary or desirable provisions for implementing the Maastricht Treaty.

The proceedings covered in particular the following chapters:

- Democracy, transparency and subsidiarity (in this context see in particular the outcome of the Inter-institutional Conference on 25 October, as set out in this press release: on page 3 and pages 8 and 9 of the Annex);
- Citizenship (political agreement was reached on 4 October on the provisions regarding the right to vote and to stand as a candidate in elections to the European Parliament);
- Economic and monetary union (see the outcome of the ECO/FIN Council on 25 October in press release 9281/93 presse 170, pages 3-5);
- From Political Cooperation to the CFSP – On this subject, the Presidency document highlights six aspects of particular importance in the pursuit of the objectives of the Union as set out in the Treaty on European Union, viz.:
 - i) the development of an active policy in the pursuit of the interest of the Union;
 - ii) unity and consistency in its external action;
 - iii) inclusion of all matters related to the security of the Union;
 - iv) decisions of the Union committing Member States;
 - v) unity in the presentation of the Union's policy to the outside world and prominence of the Union as an actor on the international scene;
 - vi) efficiency in the decision-making procedure.

The document stresses that two elements are essential in the pursuit of these objectives:

- the ‘single institutional framework’;
- the effective mobilization of the resources of the Member States and the Community in a joint effort to promote the objectives of the Union.

Four annexes to the Presidency document also contain a number of practical measures which will be implemented as from the entry into force of the Union Treaty with respect to CFSP instruments and bodies, its relations with the European Parliament and with the WEU.

As regards one of the most significant innovations under the CFSP: joint action – the Council recommended that, on 29 October, the European Council signify a number of areas which should be the subject of priority joint action.

[...]

Following its discussions, the Council endorsed the Presidency document and agreed to forward it to the European Council.

[...]

Former Yugoslavia

Lord Owen reported to the Ministers on his information tour of the capitals. The Ministers exchanged views on the situation in the former Yugoslavia and the prospects for negotiation. They firmly condemned the attacks on humanitarian convoys and deplored the ensuing loss of life. They took note of the decision of the United Nations authorities to suspend humanitarian aid supplies to central Bosnia. They agreed to return to this question at the extraordinary European Council meeting on 29 October.

Peace Process in the Middle East

The President of the Council reported on his recent visit to Tunis and his talks with Mr Arafat. The Ministers prepared for the meeting they would be holding with Mr Arafat on 8 November. They agreed to stress at that meeting the efforts the Community and its Member States had made to support the peace process and to highlight the need for effective and speedy aid for the Palestinian institutions to be set up in the Occupied Territories.

[...]

93/406. Statement on the development of the internal situation in Algeria

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

The Community and its Member States express their deep concern at the increase in violence in Algeria and vigorously condemn all acts of terrorism.

They consider that the kidnapping of three French employees of the French Consulat Général in Algiers on 24 October, following other terrorist acts resulting in the death of foreign nationals, is a further escalation of the violence and hope that everything will be done to bring about their immediate release.

Following these acts of terrorism, the European Community and its Member States voice their anxiety for the security of their nationals and call upon the Algerian authorities to take every possible measure for a rapid return to a climate that will ensure their safety.

The Community and its Member States continue to follow developments in the internal situation, and in particular the safety of their nationals, in a coordinated manner.

93/407. Statement on the implementation of the Maastricht Treaty

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Statement in the European Parliament

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of the Council: Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, following the deposit of the last instrument of ratification by the Federal Republic of Germany, the Treaty on European Union will enter into force on 1 November 1993.

The Belgian Presidency has decided that this event ought to be marked by an extraordinary meeting of the European Council, to give fresh momentum to the construction of Europe and generate a new mood of confidence to help us tackle the monetary problems that have arisen, the weakening of economic growth and the employment crisis.

In addition, the Maastricht Treaty enhances the means at our disposal for promoting European integration. The main purpose of this extraordinary meeting will therefore be to give a positive political signal.

The Foreign Ministers, meeting yesterday in the General Affairs Council, drew up the agenda for the European Council meeting, details of which I propose to give you now. First, the European Council will adopt a declaration on implementation of the Treaty on European Union. This declaration will lay particular emphasis on the main innovations in the Maastricht Treaty: economic and monetary union, the common foreign and security policy, and cooperation in the fields of justice and home affairs.

The European Council will also consider the report adopted by the Council yesterday on the legal and practical arrangements for implementing the Treaty. This report takes account of the matters agreed at the previous day's inter-institutional conference, which approved, subject to completion of each institution's own internal procedures, the following four documents: first, an inter-institutional declaration on democracy, transparency and subsidiarity; secondly, a draft inter-institutional agreement on the procedures for applying the subsidiarity principle; thirdly, a draft European Parliament decision on the regulations and general conditions governing the ombudsman's duties; and lastly, a text on the arrangements for deliberations of the Conciliation Committee for which provision is made in Article 189b of the Treaty, under the co-decision procedure.

This report also mentions the decisions on changing the number of Members of the European Parliament, setting up the Committee of the Regions, adoption of a directive on the right to vote and stand in elections to the European Parliament, and the rules on diplomatic protection in third countries.

Regarding monetary union, the practical steps that need to be taken for the effective entry into force of stage two on 1 January 1994 have to do with adoption of secondary legislation, which is ready and can be adopted before the end of our Presidency.

As regards implementation of the common foreign and security policy, the Council document highlights the aspects that are of particular importance to attainment of the aims of the Union set

forth in the Treaty on European Union. It stresses two factors of key importance to the pursuit of these aims, the first being the single institutional framework and the other effective mobilization of Member States' and Community resources in a combined effort to promote the aims of the Union.

The Presidency's document also includes a number of practical measures to be taken once the Treaty enters into force; these concern the instruments and organs of the CFSP, its relations with the European Parliament and with the WEU.

On one of the most important innovations in the CFSP, joint action, the Council is proposing that an indication of priority areas for joint action should be given by the European Council at the meeting on 29 October.

On the last point, justice and home affairs, the Council proposes building on the achievements to date under major programmes – I am thinking here of Palma 1989, Trevi 1990, the anti-drugs campaign 1990, the right of asylum and immigration, Maastricht 1991 – to integrate the Union into the single institutional system and generally improve the effectiveness, transparency and democratic control of cooperation. On this subject also, the Council suggests that the European Council might make a start on this new systematic cooperation by proposing a few areas for priority action.

The second topic on the agenda for the European Council's consideration is the state of the negotiations with the four candidates for accession: Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway. It will examine ways and means of accelerating these negotiations so as to be able to meet the date of 1 January 1995 set for the first accessions following on from the Copenhagen conclusions.

For its third and last theme, the European Council must, in view of the current situation, address the problem of economic growth, competitiveness and employment. Although this subject is in principle entirely reserved for the December European Council meeting in Brussels, as stated in the conclusions of the Copenhagen meeting, the extraordinary meeting on 29 October will be considering it. The President of the Commission, Mr Delors, is to give a progress report on the drafting of the White Paper to be adopted in December. The European Council will also be briefed on the status of implementation of the recovery policy decided upon in December last year in Edinburgh.

Finally, I should make it clear that it is not the Presidency's intention to put the Uruguay Round negotiations on the agenda, although it seems impossible not to refer to them in the conclusions, since the date for their completion is so near.

In view of the necessarily consensual nature of this extraordinary European Council meeting, the Presidency will be seeking only a confirmation of the Community's known positions on this matter. On the other hand, for the record, the inter-institutional agreement on the financial perspective and budgetary discipline to which you have given your assent ought to be formally concluded by the three institutions to coincide with Friday's European Council meeting.

93/408. Questions No H-916/93 by Ms Ewing on the persecution of Baha'is in Iran and H-1037/93 by Mr Rowe on Baha'is in the European Community

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-916/93:

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights has published a confidential Iranian Government document which, in effect, provides a blueprint for destroying the Baha'i community. A clear objective in the document states that Baha'i 'progress and development' must be 'blocked'. It also states that Baha'is must be expelled from schools and universities and denied employment 'if they identify themselves as Baha'i'.

In the light of these fiercely repressive actions will the Foreign Ministers lodge the strongest protest to the Iranian authorities and demand an immediate cessation of this religious persecution?

Question No H-1037/93:

Regardless of the past pressure placed on the Iranian Government by the European Community, oppressive persecution of the Baha'i people continues.

In light of this fact, what measures is the European Community taking to ensure that substantial efforts are made to restore full human rights to this particular group of people in Iran?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States share the honourable Member's concern at the fate of the Baha'i community in Iran.

The Community and its Member States have made several representations to the Iranian authorities and stressed the need to respect the Baha'is' freedom of religion and civil rights.

In this connection, the troika made representations to a representative of the IRI on 12 August 1993 in Geneva. The troika of ambassadors in Teheran made similar representations to the Iranian Government on 23 August 1993 in Teheran.

The concern felt by the Community and its Member States with regard to the behaviour of the Iranian Government was set out in a special declaration on Iran published after the European Council meeting in Edinburgh on 12 December 1992.¹ The 'critical dialogue' referred to in that statement enabled the Presidency to express unequivocally the position adopted by the Community and its Member States.

The Iranian authorities are well aware of the importance attached by the Community and its Member States to scrupulous respect for human rights in the development of their relations with third countries.

The honourable Member may also refer to the reply to Question No H-2796/93 by Ms Ewing,² Question No H-2691/93 by Mr Ford,³ Question No H-1366/93 by Mr Kostopoulos⁴ and Question No H-2232 by Mr Nicholson.⁵

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/449.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/524.

³ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/491.

⁴ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/209.

⁵ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/444.

93/409. Questions No H-928/93 by Mr Saridakis on vandalism at the Christian cemetery of Neochorio in Istanbul on 25 August 1993 and H-934/93 by Mr Kostopoulos on attacks on Christian institutions in Istanbul

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-928/93:

Will EPC ask the Government of Turkey – a country linked to the EC by an Association Agreement which has also applied for EC membership – to condemn the vandalism which took place at the Christian cemetery in the district of Neochorio in Istanbul on 25 August 1993, to discover and exact exemplary punishment on those who desecrated the Christian graves, scattered bones and remains and committed unimaginable atrocities, to investigate the causes of the vandalism which recalls the great wave of persecution, pillaging and murder of Christians in 1955 and to endeavour to prevent similar barbarities in the future?

Question No H-934/93:

In recent weeks there have been more than ten attacks on Christian social institutions in Istanbul. Amongst other things, tombs have been destroyed in Christian cemeteries and places of worship have been damaged by Molotov cocktails. Following this wave of attacks protests have already been lodged with the Turkish authorities both by the Greek orthodox Patriarch Bartholomeos and the Armenian Patriarch Karekin Kazatzian. In view of the above, will EPC put pressure on the Turkish Government to ensure that those who carried out these attacks on Christian institutions and all those who are behind these attacks are arrested and committed to trial?

Answer:

I will reply jointly to the honourable Members' questions since they relate to the same subject.

The honourable Members will be aware that relations between the Community and its Member States and Turkey are characterized by a regular dialogue, based on mutual attachment to democracy, respect for human rights and the constitutional state. The Turkish authorities are well aware of the importance the Community and its Member States attach to a constitutional state, strict respect for human rights and the commitments to which Turkey has subscribed in the framework of the CSCE, the Council of Europe and the United Nations conventions.

The events and acts of aggression to which the honourable Members refer are the subject of an inquiry by the Turkish authorities.

93/410. Question No H-929/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru on the conclusions of the Vienna Conference

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Have the Ministers meeting in European political cooperation studied the conclusions of the Vienna Conference on Human Rights? Have they themselves reached any practical conclusion, even if only provisional?

Answer:

Respect for human rights is now a cornerstone of cooperation and relations between the European Community and its Member States and other countries.

With that in mind, the European Community and its Member States welcomed the fact that the International Conference on Human Rights was held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993. They spared no efforts both within the preparatory committees and during the actual conference to ensure that it was a success. Real progress was made thanks to the large number of participants, the positive attitude of many countries and the presence of non-governmental organizations and the international media. The conference issued a final document oriented towards concrete action. The main challenge that arises following this International Conference is to maintain the drive towards action.

The European Community and its Member States will make resolute efforts during the 48th General Assembly of the United Nations to ensure the effective application of the recommendations made by the International Conference, especially those relating to the appointment of a high commissioner for human rights, increasing the percentage of the UN's ordinary budget allocated to human rights and building up the UN Centre for Human Rights. They hope the positive climate that prevailed in Vienna will also govern the activities of the General Assembly and of the 50th Session of the Human Rights Commission.

93/411. Question No H-930/93 by Mr Robles Piquer on excessive expenditure by the United Nations

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

At a time when the United Nations organization is experiencing financial difficulties, partly because some member States have fallen behind in the payment of their contributions, is the Council taking coordinated action in response to the news of wastefulness and extravagance in the use of the funds of this world organization? Have the Ministers confirmed that the report by the consultancy firm McKinsey & Co. was kept secret and that most of the information published by the *Sunday Times* is accurate, all of which seems to have prompted the UN Secretary-General himself to propose the creation of an anti-corruption unit? Finally, did the Twelve approve of the conversion of six World Bank buildings in Washington costing 21% more than the budget adopted in 1990?

Answer:

The European Community and its Member States are perfectly aware of the financial and budgetary difficulties the UN is experiencing. Let me first point out to the honourable Member that the Community and its Member States have never failed to fulfil their obligations as regards payment by the due date of the total amount of their contributions to the United Nations' budget.

The European Community and its Member States are examining these matters very carefully within the 5th Commission of the UN General Assembly and considering the reform proposals contained in various documents such as the Volcker-Ogata Report.

As regards greater control over the management and efficiency of the Secretariat, the Member States consider that the UN must be given means and procedures that are adapted to the constant

increase in the tasks with which it is entrusted. To that end, they will continue to play a constructive part in the consultations on the creation of an inspector general's office.

As regards the World Bank buildings, EPC has not been consulted on that matter, which does not come under the UN budget.

93/412. Question No H-932/93 by Mr Pierros on a Community observer to the intercommunal talks on Cyprus

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

In view of the request by the Government of Cyprus for the appointment of a Community observer to the intercommunal talks on Cyprus, and the reassessment of the future of EC/Cyprus relations, which the Commission provides for in its opinion, with a view to the accession of Cyprus to the EC, what does EPC propose to do in response to the Cypriot request to ensure that active Community participation through a representative at the talks contributes to a more rapid solution of the Cyprus question, which has been a sore point for the European family of nations for the last twenty years?

Answer:

The Cypriot Government has indeed asked the Community to appoint an observer to the inter-community negotiations on the Cypriot question.

The Community and its Member States are currently considering this request.

The Community and its Member States continue to support the endeavours of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to seek a just and viable solution to the Cypriot question. They remain convinced that any solution must be based on respect for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the country, in line with the United Nations Security Council resolutions on the subject.

93/413. Question No H-951/93 by Mr Bandrés Molet on human rights violations in Equatorial Guinea

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

The news received from Equatorial Guinea in recent months has been alarming. There have been irregular expulsions of Community citizens, serious, unfounded accusations from the government of this country against the Spanish Government, uncertainty about the forthcoming elections, political persecution, arrests, beatings and the imprisonment of opposition figures, bloody military repression in Annobon, the death in police custody of Pedro Motu, a former lieutenant of the Guinean army, etc.

The Council of Elders of Annobon has sent a message to friendly countries asking the international community to take urgent action.

What steps has European political cooperation considered taking to assist the Guinean people in their current plight?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are monitoring the situation in Equatorial Guinea closely.

They have condemned the constant violation of human rights in that country on several occasions.

The wave of arrests in August 1993 and the resulting deaths of two detainees to which the honourable Member refers are a cause of great concern. Some partners have once again warned the Equatorial Guinean authorities about committing any infringement of human rights.

The Community and its Member States consider that the only way to improve respect for human rights in that country is to ensure that the electoral process on which it has embarked proceeds correctly. They deplore the interruption of the conciliation procedure between the government and the democratic opposition parties, which began with the negotiation and signature of the national pact last March, and the fact that the main opposition parties are not so far willing to take part in the elections on 21 November this year.

According to these parties, the necessary guarantees of impartiality on the part of the ruling power and of the safety of members of the opposition do not exist.

The Community and its Member States will examine on a continuous basis whether the electoral process is being conducted under sound conditions and progress is being made in the implementation of human rights.

93/414. Question No H-983/93 by Mr Papayannakis on the closing of Greek schools in Albania

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Immediately after the beginning of the school term (15 September 1993), the Albanian Government decided to ban the Greek schools in the minority areas of Gjirokaster, Sarande and Delvine. Parents and pupils who gathered outside the Delvine school complex to protest were beaten by security forces sent in by the government to enforce its orders. The adoption by Albania, on 31 March 1993, of a constitutional law on human rights, Article 26 of which refers to the rights of minorities, had been welcomed as an encouraging development by the Member States. However, such actions compromise Albania in the eyes of the international community and do nothing to encourage friendship and cooperation with Greece or the European Community. In view of this, will the Commission call on the Albanian authorities to respect all principles, democratic precepts and human rights deriving from the CSCE?

Answer:

I would refer the honourable Member to my answer to his question H-753/93¹ which also concerned Albanian policy towards the Greek minority in Albania.

As regards possible specific cases of infringements of human rights, the Community and its Member States will collect the data and examine the circumstances leading to these infringements. In the light of the findings of that inquiry, the Community and its Member States will consider whether it is necessary to take appropriate measures.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/319.

93/415. Question No H-995/93/rev. by Mr Ribeiro on arms sales to Indonesia

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

It has been reported in the media that the British Company, Rolls Royce, has sold 24 bomber engines to Indonesia. However, it should be pointed out that Indonesia is violating human rights and fundamental freedoms in East Timor, is continuing its policy of terror and intimidation – as a party of Swedish MPs established on a recent visit to the country – and is still refusing the Maubere people the right to self-determination and independence.

Will EPC say whether it intends to take specific measures to impose an arms embargo on Indonesia in the light of the resolutions adopted by the UN's Commission on Human Rights and Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the recent law adopted by the US Senate and the position adopted on this matter by the European Parliament?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are closely monitoring whether the Indonesian authorities are respecting human rights and have on several occasions expressed their concern about violations of human rights in East Timor.

The question of an embargo on supplies of arms and weapons to Indonesia has not been discussed in European political cooperation.

93/416. Question No H-1001/93 by Mr Ramírez Heredia on the meeting between the troika and six countries of Central and Eastern Europe

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

In the recent meeting between the Community troika and the Foreign Ministers of Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Romania, the Community's negotiators encountered 'divergent evaluations', regarding, in particular, the question of minorities.

Does European political cooperation consider that these 'divergences' in so important an area, and that satisfactory solutions can be found at the Council of Europe meeting to be held on 9 and 10 October 1993?

Answer:

The ministerial meeting between the troika and the other six associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe held in Brussels on 21 September 1993 gave rise to an in-depth exchange of views on a number of questions of interest to both sides, including the question of minorities in Central and Eastern Europe.

The discussion showed that these six Central and Eastern European countries took different approaches, especially to the definition of minorities and the nature of the rights and obligations of those minorities.

The Community and its Member States have encouraged the six Central and Eastern European countries to persevere in their attempts to intensify regional cooperation and bilateral contacts with a view to enforcing stability in the region. The proposal for a stability pact in Europe should also be looked at from this point of view.

The Community and its Member States welcome the results obtained by consensus in the final declaration of the Council of Europe summit on 8 and 9 October 1993 in Vienna. They regarded the joint declaration on national minorities as a step forward in the difficult question of the treatment of minorities. It was supported by the 6 countries concerned, which form part of the Council of Europe.

93/417. Question No H-1007/93/rev. by Mr Gawronski on Kashmir

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Despite international political pressure exerted for years in an effort to instigate a peaceful solution in the region, Kashmir remains a land where human rights are continually violated. Before the conflict deteriorates even further and becomes quite uncontrollable, what measures does EPC intend to take to encourage dialogue between the Indian authorities and the moderate separatist forces?

What is EPC's position on the sale of arms by the Member States to India which could be used by the Indian armed forces to suppress the Kashmiri people?

Finally, is there regular consultation between the ambassadors of the Member States in New Delhi on the position to be taken on Kashmir?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States attach great importance to their friendly relations with India and Pakistan. They are very concerned about the absence of progress in the bilateral discussions seeking to improve relations between India and Pakistan and call on both countries to settle their differences, especially with regard to Kashmir. Moreover, the Community and its Member States have expressed their anxiety about the continued violence in Kashmir.

In this respect the Community and its Member States have urged the Indian Government to allow humanitarian organizations and international organizations concerned with human rights free access to the region so that they can evaluate the situation independently.

Lastly, there have been regular consultations between the ambassadors of the Member States for a long time, both in New Delhi and elsewhere, on all questions relating to European political cooperation.

The question of arms sales to India has not been raised within European political cooperation.

93/418. Question No H-1012/93 by Mr Titley on the plight of the Arhuacos people of Colombia

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

On 28 November 1990 three leading Arhuacos were kidnapped, tortured and murdered, on 13 April 1993 another Arhuaco was assassinated. Following an investigation carried out by the Colombian Attorney General certain members of the Colombian army were found guilty.

The military penal authorities, however, have refused to recognize the responsibility of these individuals.

What action does European political cooperation intend to take in order to pressurize the Colombian Government into putting a stop to the unacceptable persecution of its minority peoples?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have on a number of occasions demonstrated the importance they attach to respect for human rights and, in particular, the protection of indigenous peoples.

At the third ministerial meeting between the Community and its Member States and the Rio Group in Copenhagen on 23 and 24 April 1993,¹ the Ministers emphasized the close links between democracy, respect for human rights and sustainable development which are in turn of crucial importance for strengthening international cooperation and confidence. The Ministers noted with interest that 1993 had been proclaimed the Year of Indigenous Peoples and took the view that it was a welcome occasion to increase their efforts towards protecting the rights of indigenous communities and their cultural heritage.

The subject of human rights was discussed at the meeting of Community Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Rio Group at the time of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York on 30 September 1993, and there was a frank exchange of views in which Colombia participated.

The first point to be made about the situation of indigenous peoples in Colombia is that the new 1990 constitution represents major progress towards defence of their rights, and that in recent years the Colombian Government has made undeniable efforts – legal, social, economic and cultural – in favour of indigenous peoples. The specific form these positive measures take varies, however, depending on local circumstances and has been the subject of numerous demands by the National Organization for Indigenous Peoples in Colombia. The human rights infringements which the indigenous peoples continue to suffer can be attributed to the different factions involved in violence in Colombia. It is regrettable that the bloody clashes between guerillas, drug-dealers, paramilitary units and the regular army have led to a situation in which human rights suffer. Mention should be made in this context of the determined action taken by the 'Fiscalia General de la

Nacion', the body created by the constitution to respect human rights and combat arbitrary acts on the part of the authorities.

With regard to the murder of the Arhuacos, to which the honourable Member refers, the soldiers suspected of this crime were detained but then released through lack of evidence. However, both the Attorney-General and the Chief of Police have stated that inquiries will continue. The three members of the Colombian parliament representing indigenous peoples are monitoring this case and they will continue to ask questions of the government. President Gaviria has assured them that the police will do everything in their power to discover who is responsible. The Community and its Member States are closely monitoring the plight of indigenous peoples in Latin America and, in particular, the police inquiries into the murder of the Arhuacos.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/180.

93/419. Questions No H-1014/93 by Ms Oddy and H-1016/93 by Mr Smith on voter registration in El Salvador

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-1014/93:

What steps will the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation take to ensure that the voter registration process taking place now in El Salvador is efficient?

Will they give financial and technical assistance to assist?

Question No H-1016/93:

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation aware that it is estimated that approximately 700,000 Salvadoreans are without voting cards for the elections in March 1994?

Answer:

The problems relating to voter registration in El Salvador have been the subject of a lengthy discussion in European political cooperation.

The Community and its Member States attach particular importance to the presidential, parliamentary and local elections scheduled for March 1994 which should furnish irrefutable proof of progress achieved in the peace process. The questions raised by the honourable Members were the subject of a recent approach by the troika to the *Tribunal Supremo Electoral* (TSE) and Government of El Salvador to encourage them to pursue their efforts aimed at ensuring that voters are registered.

The Community and its Member States have made a substantial financial contribution to the process leading up to the elections.

The Community is also considering granting a financial contribution towards the training of officials responsible for supervising the elections in March 1994. This would be in addition to the total of ECU 990,000 already approved for aid towards the electoral process in El Salvador.

93/420. Question No H-1023/93/rev. by Ms von Alemann on humanitarian aid measures in Romania

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

There are many organizations still working in Romania, running orphanages and aiming to guarantee children a better life in the future. Holidays and treatment abroad are a natural part of the aid effort.

There is growing evidence that the Romanian authorities are obstructing these holiday projects by constantly changing their requirements, as regards the permission to be obtained and, generally creating difficulties.

Can EPC point out to the Romanians that the orphans are being invited to stay with Western European families for entirely honourable reasons and the intention is not to smuggle children out of the country? Can it also impress upon the Romanian authorities that, within certain limits, adoption offers the chance of a better future to children who would otherwise be doomed to a life of poverty?

Answer:

The questions put by the honourable Member do not come within the terms of reference of European political cooperation.

93/421. Question No H-1045/93 by Ms Sandbæk on the Turkish minority in Greece

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Is EPC aware of how the Turkish minority in parts of Greece is being discriminated against?

In Komotini, a town with 50,000 inhabitants, 24,000 of whom are Turks, the situation is as follows:

There is not a single Turk at the town's university which has 6,000 students. No Turkish newspapers or books can be bought in Komotini although English, German and other books and newspapers are on sale. Turkish radio and TV cannot be received but CNN reception is good. Turkish place names are forbidden. The 40,000 Turks live in isolation in prohibited areas which they require permission to leave. Finally, the Turks are not allowed to call themselves Turks but merely Greek Muslims.

What is EPC's reaction to these human rights infringements?

Answer:

The question raised by the honourable Member does not come within the terms of reference of European political cooperation.

93/422. Questions No H-1053/93 by Mr Lane on the political situation in Russia, H-1056/93 by Mr Fitzsimons on Russian elections and H-1092/93 by Mr Ephremidis on anti-democratic measures taken by President Yeltsin

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-1053/93:

Having regard to the continuing political difficulties in Russia, will EPC outline what diplomatic contacts it is maintaining and at what level with the Russian leadership in Moscow and the leaders in the regions, and what role does the Council consider it can best play to ensure a democratic and peaceful outcome to the present events in Russia? Is the Council encouraged by Russia's payment of MECU 122 in interest and capital on a loan of MECU 500 granted in March 1992 for delivery of food and medicines?

Question No H-1056/93:

Has Russia's Foreign Minister, Andrei Kozyrev, indicated any intention to EPC to invite observers from the European Community to Russia for December's legislative elections?

Question No H-1092/93:

After using extreme violence to crush the opposition, dissolving the Constitutional Court and abandoning even the veneer of bourgeois parliamentary democracy – parliamentary institutions have been practically abolished and basic policies and the social rights of citizens suspended –, the President of Russia is now seeking to postpone the elections scheduled for next December, and is thus extending the state of emergency and the crisis for which he is himself responsible; this is grist for the mill for those who maintain that Russia is now a *de facto* presidential dictatorship.

Does EPC agree that these measures must be condemned and are totally incompatible with official statements about democratic reforms and respect for basic human rights, and with the principles of constitutional law which the Community says it wishes to promote and protect?

Answer:

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: As you have suggested, Mr President, I will give a joint reply to the three questions from the honourable Members concerning the situation in Russia, which the Community and its Member States are following closely.

The Community and its Member States, in declarations of 22 September and 4 October 1993,¹ restated their support for the endeavours of elected President, Mr Yeltsin, to pursue the democratic process in Russia. They are gratified by the announcement that elections are to be held in December. The Community and its Member States will continue to support pursuit of the reform process, while remaining attentive to continued respect of fundamental freedoms and principles of the rule of law.

The Community and its Member States continue to believe that rapid preparation of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement continues to be one of the best instruments at the disposal of the Community and its Member States for supporting pursuit of the democratic and economic reform process in Russia.

The Community and its Member States have been engaged for a long time past in regular political dialogue with Russia. This dialogue is maintained both at ministerial level and between senior civil servants. The last meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers was held on 29 September 1993, in New York, coinciding with the United Nations General Assembly.

Subsequent to the decisions taken during the Copenhagen European Council on 21 and 22 June 1993,² concerning increased contacts between Russia and the Community and its Member States, a European Community/Russia Summit is likely to be held in the near future.

Regarding the question of inviting European observers to Russia for the legislative elections which are to be held on 11 and 12 December 1993, I can confirm that the Russian authorities have submitted official requests to this effect. The national Parliaments of Member States and the Community are engaged in preparations to send MPs to participate. The European Parliament also has an important role to play on that occasion. The Presidency will endeavour to mobilize a sufficient number of observers to cover these elections in several regions and republics of Russia. It will also provide for close cooperation within the Community and its Member States and with participating organizations, such as the CSCE and the Council of Europe.

Mr Lane (RDE): I welcome the statement by the President. The situation in Russia has of course [...] improved tremendously since I tabled the question. I would hope that the Community will continue its support for the Russian republics and I also welcome the fact that observers will be sent. I am sure the Parliament here will have a number of people who will be observers at the elections. We hope the situation will continue to improve as it has for the last two weeks.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Docs 93/379 and 93/388.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/248.

93/423. Question No H-1059/93 by Mr Fitzgerald on Somalia and Sudan

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Does EPC have any plans to undertake a visit to Somalia and Sudan to assess the most up-to-date position regarding food needs and self-sufficiency measures in these countries and will it also report on what contacts it is maintaining in Somalia and Sudan with aid workers and aid organizations from the Community including Ireland?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have made a sustained effort to aid the people of Sudan and Somalia. In the case of Sudan, the Community and its Member States have no plans to undertake a mission at present. The honourable Member will no doubt remember that the troika of Development Cooperation Ministers visited Sudan under the previous Presidency.

In undertaking this visit to Sudan (18 to 23 June 1993) the Community and its Member States wished to stress both their concern at the development of the crisis in Sudan and the urgent need for all parties to the conflict to resolve the problems which had led to the hostilities.

As a follow-up to this visit the Community approached the Sudanese authorities in Khartoum and the SPLA factions based in Nairobi on several occasions. On each occasion it expressed its wish to help the Sudanese people as well as its hope that the Sudanese Government would discharge its responsibilities to the civilian population and allow free passage for the international aid agencies and national and international NGOs.

At the same time the Community and its Member States expressed their deep concern at the deterioration of the situation in southern Sudan where there had been renewed bombing of civilians. They stressed the need for the Sudanese authorities to ensure that emergency humanitarian aid could be brought unhindered to the centres where refugees fleeing the war have gathered.

The efforts of the Community and its Member States to assist the Sudanese people are coordinated by 'Operation Lifeline Sudan' under the auspices of the United Nations.

At a special meeting on Somalia in March 1993 it was agreed to prepare for the sending of a joint identification mission from the Community and its Member States. The mission would visit, before the end of the year, a number of regions in which peace had been restored thanks to the efforts of the UN and UNOSOM.

The Mission will carry out an on-the-spot study of the needs of the regions and the opportunities for rehabilitation and reconstruction. On the basis of information thus gathered about the effectiveness of aid activities already being carried out, the mission will consider how our activities can be stepped up and how best to make our response fit in with the reconstruction and rehabilitation work already begun by the UN and the World Bank.

The Mission will contact all other interested parties, and in particular NGOs on the spot which are potential partners and which could supply the information it needs for the proper implementation of its terms of reference.

93/424. Question No H-1065/93 by Mr Iversen on the systematic destruction of the capital of Tibet by the Chinese authorities

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

In recent months the Chinese authorities have systematically destroyed large parts of Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, and started building Chinese houses there.

What action does EPC intend to take *vis-à-vis* the Chinese authorities?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are following the development of the situation in Tibet closely. They have on several occasions expressed their concern to the Chinese authorities about questions of human rights in Tibet and the protection of the cultural heritage and cultural identity of the Tibetans, and will continue to do so. The heads of mission posted to Beijing visited Lhasa last May to look at the situation on the spot. EPC is examining reports on the evident destruction of Tibetan houses in Lhasa and Shigatse. This subject, and the general human rights situation in Tibet, remains a matter of priority for the Community and its Member States in their relations with the People's Republic of China.

At the last ministerial-level meeting of the troika and the Chinese Foreign Minister on the sidelines of the 48th General Assembly, the Community and its Member States reiterated their points of view.

93/425. Questions No H-1068/93 by Mr Andrews on the Yugoslav crisis and H-1034/93 by Mr Oostlander on the resignation of Professor F. Karlshoven from the chairmanship of the UN special committee of inquiry into war crimes in the former Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-1068/93:

Given the urgent need to explore every avenue that could help to resolve the Yugoslav crisis, especially at the onset of autumn and winter, will EPC indicate how the Community proposes to administer the city of Mostar and how quickly it can put in place an EC team to carry out immediate and urgent tasks in Mostar?

Question No H-1034/93/rev.:

Is EPC aware that Professor F. Karlshoven has resigned from the chairmanship of the UN special committee of inquiry into war crimes in the former Yugoslavia, and has commented publicly on his reasons for doing so (*NRC* of 30 September 1993)?

Is EPC prepared to urge those Member States which, according to Professor Karlshoven, are not cooperating with the committee in the exercise of its mandate to give their full support to collection of the information which the committee requires?

Is EPC prepared to investigate Professor Karlshoven's references to obstruction by the UN Secretariat and put a stop to it?

Answer:

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of European political cooperation: I share the honourable Member's opinion that it is essential that an acceptable solution be found to the conflict in Yugoslavia. On the subject of Mostar, the Community and its Member States have declared their readiness in principle to take over administrative functions in the Mostar district, and to nominate an administrator for the town in accordance with the relevant stipulations of the draft agreement. The prior condition for implementing the stipulations on Mostar is that the draft agreement as a whole be approved by the parties involved.

In order to be able to act rapidly when this occurs and to send a signal of encouragement to the Muslims, the Community and its Member States are tirelessly engaged in preparations for contributing to implementation of a peace plan, both for Mostar and as regards all the other aspects of this plan, in close liaison with the other institutions involved. In this context, the WEU has been invited to look at what support it could contribute regarding organization of the police force and improving certain vital logistical functions, particularly in the medical sphere.

Mr Andrews (RDE): I thank the President-in-Office of the Council for his reply. Would he not agree that President Clinton was right when he pointed his finger at Europe for doing nothing about the genocide taking place in Yugoslavia? Would the President-in-Office of the Council not consider at this stage of his Presidency setting up a war crimes tribunal to prosecute those people responsible for the massacres and horrors that are continuing to take place in the former Yugoslavia and particularly in Mostar and Sarejevo? Would the Minister not consider it proper that Europe play a more pro-active role in the former Yugoslavia because there is unquestionably great shame on us in this Community for not taking a more positive role. Could I suggest that the Belgian Presidency might take some initiative in this field?

Mr Urbain: Mr President, I might link the answer to this question to the question asked by Mr Oostlander, regarding Professor Fritz Karlshoven's resignation from his position at the head of the special UN committee of inquiry into war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. Mr Andrews' question was not addressed to this aspect of the situation, but let us kill two birds with one stone.

The Community and its Member States regret that Professor Fritz Karlshoven has resigned from his chairmanship from the Committee of Experts set up in accordance with Resolution 780 of the Security Council. They respect Professor Karlshoven's decision which he states to have been taken for health reasons.

The committee chaired by Professor Karlshoven was responsible for examining and analyzing all information with a view to reaching conclusions on a series of violations of international humanitarian law committed within the former Yugoslavia. The Community and its Member States actively contributed to creating this committee and gave it their full support. Certain Member States, in particular, provided the committee with detailed evidence, gathered from victims of human rights violations. This task falls within the framework of the principles emphasised on several occasions by the Community and its Member States that those responsible for massacres and other serious violations of international humanitarian law should be personally answerable for their actions. As regards the attitude of the UN Secretariat in this regard, the Community and its Member States are not in a position to confirm the statement made by the honourable Member, in this case Mr Oostlander. It should be mentioned in this regard that the Secretary-General of the United Nations has nominated Professor Shierif Basiudi as successor to Professor Karlshoven.

Mr Oostlander (PPE): My thanks for the answer that I received from European political cooperation. I should like to know whether the EPC still truly attaches credence to the possibilities for the committee concerned to bring its investigations to a successful conclusion; and in good time – at any rate for Yugoslavia – to do something as regards putting the Court of Justice into operation. Or is that hope actually still alive only in a formal sense for a distant future and has it in practice already been abandoned in respect of Yugoslavia?

Mr Urbain: I will answer Mr Oostlander but allow me to return for a moment to the question concerning Mostar. Basically, the text states that the European Community will appoint an administrator for the district of Mostar for a maximum period of two years. It is not a question of the Community sending a proconsul or magistrate, but merely an administrator to work together with the local authorities and the international institutions involved in implementing the peace plan: UN, possibly NATO, Red Cross, the High Commission for Refugees, etc...

In addition, I would like to mention the fact that yesterday, the 26th, Lord Owen reported to the Council on his tour of the capitals. The Ministers exchanged views on the situation in the former Yugoslavia and on prospects for negotiations. They firmly condemned aggressions against the humanitarian convoys and deplored the resultant loss of human lives. They noted the United Nations decision to suspend delivery of humanitarian aid in Central Bosnia and agreed to return to this issue during the extraordinary European Council on 29 October, that is next Friday. Finally, I

will end by speaking briefly on the results of the work of the committee examining the possibility of creating an international tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. The initial conclusions by the committee led the UN Security Council to conclude that it is necessary to set up an international court to try people responsible for serious violations of humanitarian law committed since 1991 in the territories of the former Yugoslavia. Through Resolution 808, adopted on 22 February 1993, the Security Council asked the Secretary-General to draw up a report on all aspects of the issue, including concrete proposals for setting up such a court.

Following submission of the report, which also contained a draft statute, the Security Council approved the Secretary-General's recommendation, adopting Resolution 827 on 25 May 1993. I mentioned previously, in responding to Mr Escobar, that an administrator would be appointed for 2 years. He has just been appointed through Resolution 877. This demonstrates that the tribunal that I mentioned in my reply is more than a vain promise.

Mr Andrews (RDE): Mr President, just a very brief supplementary to Mr Oostlander's question because we are taking the two in parallel. I should like to say that you have given a very comprehensive reply. But you know what it says to me? The European Community has done nothing. It has done nothing to prosecute the atrocities that are taking place. What you really ought to do as President-in-Office of the Council is bring it forcefully to the meeting in Belgium over the weekend. Something needs to be done. Something visible needs to be done because these horrors are just next door to us. You have an opportunity. Do not miss the opportunity to do something about it. What you have really said is that we have done nothing. In a long, roundabout way you have said: we have done nothing. And we have done nothing. Shame on us!

Mr Oostlander (PPE): I have not really understood whether the Minister has also answered my question as to whether he is taking measures to remedy the obstruction or the lack of cooperation on the part of certain Member States towards the Commission, as also the UN Secretariat's lack of cooperation. Those are indeed two important points that the Minister in his present capacity could very well deal with.

Mr Urbain: Mr Oostlander, regarding the attitude shown by the United Nations Secretariat in this regard, I already stated that the Community and its Member States are not in a position to confirm the statements that you suggested in this regard.

93/426. Question No H-1071/93 by Mr Killilea on the UN meeting of EPC

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Will EPC outline the main conclusions of its meetings held in New York in September during the UN General Assembly meeting, particularly as regards Israel, Palestinian authority and meetings with US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev?

Answer:

As the honourable Member is aware, the Community and its Member States have for several years used the opportunity provided by the opening of the session of the United Nations General As-

sembly to meet the Foreign Ministers of some of the countries with which the Community and its Member States maintain an ongoing political dialogue.

The Community and its Member States and their partners use these meetings to discuss topical political issues, including those on the agenda of the General Assembly session, and bilateral issues and developments in their respective regions and countries.

As regards Israel and Palestinian autonomy, at their meeting with US Secretary of State, Mr Christopher, the Community and its Member States placed particular emphasis on:

- the need to do everything possible to support, financially and politically, the process launched by the agreement between Israel and the PLO and to continue to seek a comprehensive and balanced agreement. In this context, the countries of the regions must be persuaded to support the process and make positive gestures. The Presidency also informed our American partner of its efforts in this area, undertaken during a tour of the Gulf States by the troika;
- in the shorter term, preparations for the meeting of donor countries to be held in Washington on 1 October.

The Ministers of the Community and its Member States also met their counterparts from the Gulf States (Gulf Cooperation Council). Views on the peace process in the Middle East had converged to a large extent.

Both sides felt that an essential first step had been taken. The Gulf Cooperation Council welcomed the role played by Europe. It intended to pursue existing close cooperation with the Community and to coordinate action with it to encourage the peace process.

The EC troika spoke with the Israeli Foreign Minister, Mr Shimon Peres. He stressed the importance of prompt implementation of the Israeli/Palestinian Agreement, taking the view that time was short and that the Arab countries should adopt a more positive attitude to Israel.

In New York, the Presidency held talks with the Foreign Ministers of several Arab countries and Mr Farouk Qaddumi of the PLO. On these occasions, the Presidency drew attention to the short and medium-term financial assistance planned by the Twelve and to the political support accorded by the Community and its Member States to the Israeli/Palestinian Agreement and the continuation of the peace process.

The Community and its Member States indicated their willingness to take on both financial and organizational responsibilities. They will continue to work with all the parties concerned to foster further progress with the peace process, until a comprehensive and balanced settlement can be achieved.

The issues of the implementation of the Maastricht Treaty, GATT, the former Yugoslavia and Iran were also raised during talks with the US Secretary of State, Mr Christopher. The Ministers and Mr Christopher welcomed the exchanges of views which took place on Iran and acknowledged the importance of pursuing the exercise. The Ministers also detailed the outcome of the critical dialogue maintained by the Community and its Member States with Iran.

The main topics of the discussion with Mr Kozyrev were relations between the EC and Russia, UN peace-keeping operations and the Yugoslav conflict.

It was agreed to hold an EC/Russian Summit in the near future. Mr Kozyrev stressed the need to expedite negotiations on the Partnership Agreement. He defended his idea of setting up a special fund for Russian peace-keeping missions in the countries of the former USSR. As regards the Yugoslav conflict, the Ministers reviewed with Mr Kozyrev, the policy to be pursued in order to continue joint efforts, with a view to encouraging the parties to the conflict to progress towards a political solution.

93/427. Question No H-1075/93 by Mr Balfe on Cameroon

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Has EPC considered recent events in Cameroon and can it make a statement?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States follow closely developments in African countries, including Cameroon. They take a particular interest in the process of democratization and respect for human rights in that country. They do not, however, take the view that these developments call for a declaration on Cameroon by the Community and its Member States at the moment.

93/428. Question No H-1088/93 by Mr Cushnahan on the situation in Somalia

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Has EPC discussed the worsening situation in Somalia?

What action will EPC take to assist in achieving a resolution of the conflict there?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States share the honourable Member's concern about the situation in Somalia.

The Copenhagen European Council¹ applauded the UN's efforts to restore peace and security in Somalia. The European Community and its Member States have appealed to all parties, movements, and factions in Somalia to implement the Addis Ababa Accords concluded in March 1993 and cooperate with UNSOM II.

The European Council has condemned the attacks on UN forces and expressed regret at the loss of civilian lives.

In addition, the international community, gravely alarmed at the premeditated attacks which certain forces have mounted against UNSOM II personnel, has condemned them by adopting Security Council Resolution 837. This resolution reiterates that the United Nations Secretary-General is empowered to take all necessary action against the perpetrators of armed attacks, including persons guilty of open incitement to those attacks.

The Community and its Member States wish to point out, however, that the serious situation in the south of Mogadishu should not obscure the fact that calm has been restored to much of Somalia and life is returning to normal. The United Nations has managed to re-establish peace, and the time is now ripe to undertake political reorganization and rehabilitation. That being the case, the Community and its Member States will be sending a joint fact-finding mission with a view to determining how they can assist in the work of rehabilitation.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/249.

93/429. Question No H-1090/93 by Ms van Putten on extra judicial executions in the Irian Jaya province of Indonesia

Date of issue: 27 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Is EPC aware of the death of Hans Soaf, of Irian Jaya, who Amnesty International fear has been executed extrajudicially by members of the Indonesian security forces following his arrest on 23 July 1993 in West Sarmi? Does EPC share Amnesty's fear that the Indonesian military are continuing to violate human rights and that they can act with impunity? What measures is EPC considering? Is EPC prepared to draw the attention of the Government of Indonesia to the need for its armed forces to respect human rights and to guarantee the safety and welfare of the people of Irian Jaya?

Answer:

The specific question put by the honourable Member has not been discussed in European political cooperation. As he knows, the Community and its Member States are carefully observing the development of the political situation in Indonesia, with special reference to respect for human rights. That issue has become one of the cornerstones of cooperation and the European Community's relations with third countries and has been raised on a regular basis in our dialogue with the Indonesian authorities. In the same spirit, we will certainly draw their attention to the fact that the armed forces must carry out their duties on a basis of absolute respect for the dignity and rights of the people of Irian Jaya and elsewhere in the country.

93/430. Statement on the political violence in El Salvador

Date of issue: 28 October 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

The European Community and its Member States express their deep concern at the recrudescence of political violence in El Salvador. In this respect they recall the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations concerning the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth Commission.

An end must be put to this violence so as not to prejudice the peace process on the eve of the campaign for the March 1994 elections. The European Community and its Member States urge President Cristiani to continue his efforts in favour of the peace process and to see to it that those responsible for acts of violence, such as the murder of Francisco Velis, member of the Political Commission of the FMLN, will be prosecuted and punished.

93/431. Question No E-1821/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (PSE) on prisoners in Yemen

Date of issue: 28 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 13 July 1993)

Have the Ministers meeting in EPC looked at the results of the parliamentary committee appointed to investigate the massacre of December 1992? Have they taken any interest in the plight of those still in prison?

Answer:

This subject has not been discussed in the EPC framework.

The Community and its Member States have repeatedly called on the Yemen authorities to respect human rights. They welcomed the first free and fair multi-party elections held in April 1993 as a first step in establishing fully representative institutions, a precondition for bringing the process of democratization to fruition.

93/432. Question No E-1824/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (PSE) on shootings in Sierra Leone

Date of issue: 28 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 13 July 1993)

Are the Ministers meeting in EPC following carefully the events in Sierra Leone? Have they protested and expressed their revulsion at the extra-judicial shootings, after secret trials with no safeguards, of dozens of people? Have they called for impartial trials to be held in public?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have been following closely the development in Sierra Leone. They have repeatedly stated their attachment to the respect of human rights and the rule of law. The Community and its Member States have made it clear to the Government of Sierra Leone that they considered that extra-judicial killings of prisoners and executions without a public trial to constitute a severe breach of fundamental human rights.

93/433. Question No E-2172/93 by Ms Oddy (PSE) on Saharawi self-determination

Date of issue: 28 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 28 June 1993)

What steps is EPC taking to ensure compliance with UN Resolutions 658 (1990) and 690 (1991)?

What steps is EPC taking to express concern to the Moroccan Government at the continuing human rights abuses in the Moroccan occupied Western Sahara?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States fully support the UN settlement plan, as endorsed by UN-SCRs 690 and 725 and the work of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara. They have repeatedly called on all the parties to cooperate with the UN Secretary-General and his Spe-

cial Representative and to avoid doing anything which could hinder the rapid implementation of the plan.

As noted in the Lisbon European Council declaration on Euro/Maghreb relations,¹ the Community and its Member States consider that their relations with the Maghreb countries must be based on such principles as respect for international law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. Morocco is aware of the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to such principles in their bilateral relations with third countries.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/256.

93/434. Question No E-2319/93 by Mr Ramírez Heredia (PSE) on the Pact on Stability of Europe

Date of issue: 28 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 1 September 1993)

Paragraph 8 of the conclusion of the Copenhagen Council of 21 and 22 June 1993¹ refers to the French proposal for an initiative to be taken by the European Union in favour of a pact on stability in Europe.

Bearing in mind that one of the principal areas covered by such a pact would be minorities, will EPC take into account recommendation 1201 (1993) by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on an additional protocol on minority rights to the European Convention on Human Rights?

Answer:

The honourable Member will be aware that the General Affairs Council, at its 19 July meeting,² decided to create an *ad hoc* high level working group with the mandate to lay the ground for the report which Ministers of Foreign Affairs have to present to the Brussels European Council in December. In its activities the *ad hoc* high level working group is duly taking into account relevant principles elaborated in the context of the United Nations, the CSCE and the Council of Europe, including those related to minorities. In the light of the Council of Europe summit meeting due to be held in Vienna (8 to 9 October 1993), a possible framework convention on minority rights is under examination. These preparatory activities within the Council of Europe are indeed followed closely by European political cooperation, in particular in the context of the Pact on Stability in Europe.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/248.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/323.

93/435. Question No E-2577/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (PSE) on the press in Turkey

Date of issue: 28 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 1 September 1993)

The Ankara Government has pledged that it will lift restrictions on the press. However, it continues to harass journalists and obstruct the free circulation of newspapers.

The International Press Institute, for example, claims that on 31 May 1993 the Turkish authorities arrested Mahmut Dogan, the Diyarbakir correspondent of the Istanbul newspaper, *Ozgür Gunden* [*Ozgür Gündem*], and held him in custody for eight days. The newspaper itself has been seized on numerous occasions and the editor-in-chief, Ahmet Akaya, was arrested on 26 May.

In view of the International Press Institute's allegation, how will European political cooperation express the Community's concern in this matter?

Answer:

According to the information available to European political cooperation, Mr Mahmut Dogan was taken into custody and released after being held for 8 days, whereupon he resumed work on the daily *Ozgür Gündem*.

That newspaper has indeed been banned from being published on a number of occasions and also appears to be threatened with closure. Its editor-in-chief would appear to have been imprisoned since 15 July.

The issue of human rights is an element of the dialogue which European political cooperation pursues with Turkey. This subject, along with the fate of journalists, was raised during recent talks. The Turkish side confirmed that the law on the press was part of legislation due to be amended.

93/436. Question No E-2614/93 by Mr Torres Couto (PSE) on the peace process in Mozambique

Date of issue: 28 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 1 September 1993)

What action has the Community taken to monitor the peace process in Mozambique, which, according to information obtained both in Mozambique itself and via various news agencies, is not operating smoothly and is not consistently respecting the text and timetable of the relevant agreement?

Answer:

The peace process in Mozambique is closely monitored by European political cooperation. At the European Council meeting in Copenhagen,¹ the Heads of State and Government regretted the delays in the peace process, but were heartened that the cease-fire was holding. It may be noted that, since then, conditions have improved, particularly with the resumption of the work of the various commissions. The Community and its Member States note with satisfaction that the recent meeting between President Chissano and Mr Dhlakama was a constructive one. They hope that a decisive impetus will emerge, helping to overcome the delays which have occurred since the signing of the peace agreements. They remain ready to contribute to the rehabilitation and social and economic development of the country.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/249.

93/437. Question No E-2626/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (PSE) on statements by the President of the Commission on the failure of Cyprus' bid for EC membership and the recognition of northern and southern Cyprus

Date of issue: 28 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 1 September 1993)

Statements made by Jacques Delors, the President of the Commission, at the recent summit conference on the failure of Cyprus' bid for EC membership and the recognition of northern and southern Cyprus have raised a number of questions about the EC's position on this matter. It is emphasized that on the same day that Mr Delors made this statement Mr Denktash called for northern Cyprus to become an independent state: this creates the impression that Mr Delors agrees with Mr Denktash, which militates in favour of international recognition of this pseudo-state. Mr Delors' statements seem to support Turkey's obstructionist policies which seek to block a peaceful solution to the Cyprus problem at a time when Mr Denktash and the Turkish authorities are abandoning the UN negotiating process.

Can EPC confirm the validity of the summit meeting resolutions recognizing the Turkish military occupation of a UN member country and does it recognize the Republic of Cyprus as an independent state?

Does the Community intend to continue showing solidarity towards a Member State – Greece – or does it intend to make it a hostage of Turkish intransigence?

Answer:

The honourable Member may rest assured that the well known position of the Community and its Member States concerning Cyprus has kept all its validity (see answer to the honourable Member's Oral Question H-805/93).¹ Furthermore, it has to be recalled that the Council is examining the opinion delivered by the Commission on Cyprus' application for EC membership, which duly takes into account the position of the Community and its Member States on the Cyprus problem.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/366.

93/438. Question No E-2651/93 by Mr Vertemati (PSE) on European military forces in the world

Date of issue: 28 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 1 September 1993)

Given that peace is in danger in many parts of the world; given that the UN does not have the necessary structures to intervene directly; in view of the European military presence in various countries; in view of the need to prevent violent clashes and conflicts;

will European political cooperation state:

whether there are European proposals to reform the UN in order to bring it into line with its role as guarantor of peace and security; the exact number of European soldiers involved in peace missions or the protection of world security, and in which countries; what has been the outcome so far of these decisions to send military forces to the different areas?

Answer:

The European Community and its Member States have actively contributed to the implementation of the report of the Secretary-General 'An agenda for peace' which has contributed over the last year to enhance the United Nations' concrete contribution to peace and security, particularly in the field of peace-making, peace-keeping and peace-building. This report contains, notably, a number of proposals aiming at a more systematic use of preventive diplomacy, a concept whose importance had been consistently stressed by the Member States of the European Community.

As the UN does not have its own armed forces, the Secretary-General has to request Member States to contribute troops whenever the Security Council decides to launch a peace-keeping operation. By monitoring cease-fires and preventing new outbursts of violence, the peace-keepers are paving the way to negotiated settlements among parties in conflict. In a number of recent situations, the role of the UN peace-keeping operations has included also humanitarian assistance, economic rehabilitation and the organization of general elections. While the UN authority has been challenged by local factions in a number of situations, other operations have succeeded in restoring normality after long years of civil war: Namibia, Salvador and Cambodia are examples of such achievements.

The Community and its Member States have cooperated actively and closely with the United Nations, at political level as well as in the field, by providing humanitarian assistance or monitoring the observance of human rights. Examples of such a fruitful cooperation are many: cooperation within the International Conference on Yugoslavia and between UNPROFOR and the EC monitoring missions in the former Yugoslavia; cooperation in South Africa between observers deployed by the European Community and its Member States (ECOMSA) and the United Nations Observer Mission (UNOMSA); cooperation with ONUSAL in El Salvador; cooperation in Somalia (ONUSOM).

As the honourable Member will be aware, the European Community does not dispose of military forces of its own; the decision to commit soldiers to specific missions in third countries, both individually or in the context of an international effort remains within the national competence of Member States.

93/439. Question No E-2693/93 by Mr Ford (PSE) on the conditions of imprisonment of South Korean human rights activist Noh Tae-Hun

Date of issue: 28 October 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 3 September 1993)

What discussions has EPC had in the case of human rights activist Noh Tae-Hun, currently imprisoned in South Korea, in respect of the nature of the charges against him and the conditions of his imprisonment?

Answer:

The specific matter raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation. The Community and its Member States are, however, closely monitoring the development of the political reform process in South Korea, paying particular attention to the question of abuses in the field of human rights and are ready to take appropriate actions for the protection of these basic principles of democratic societies.

93/440. Conclusions of the extraordinary European Council meeting in Brussels, held on 29 October 1993 (extracts only)

Date of issue: 29 October 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Conclusions of the European Council

Implementation of the Treaty on European Union

With a view to the Treaty's entry into force on 1 November, we have today approved the Council's conclusions adopted on 26 October 1993 on the legal and practical procedures for implementing the Treaty.

We call upon the Council, in its various compositions, to follow the guide-lines set out below for the rapid implementation of the measures which we regard as priorities under the new Treaty.

[...]

Common foreign and security policy

Common foreign and security policy is the framework which must enable the Union to fulfil the hopes born at the end of the cold war and the new challenges generated by the upheavals on the international scene, with the resultant instability in areas bordering the Union. The aim of the common foreign and security policy is to enable the Union to speak with a single voice and to act effectively in the service of its interests and those of the international community in general.

Foreign and security policy covers all aspects of security. European security will in particular, be directed at reducing risks and uncertainties which might endanger the territorial integrity and political independence of the Union and its Member States, their democratic character, their economic stability and the stability of neighbouring regions. In this context the Western European Union (WEU) will shortly implement the various provisions embodied in the Treaty and the statement on the WEU.

The CFSP will be developed gradually and pragmatically according to the importance of the interests common to all Member States, the European Council asks the Council, as a matter of priority, to define the conditions and procedures for joint action to be undertaken in the following areas:

Promotion of stability and peace in Europe

Stability, reinforcement of the democratic process and development of regional cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe. A stability pact to resolve the problem of minorities and to strengthen the inviolability of frontiers will be a staple component of these measures.

Middle East

Accompanying the Middle East peace process by use of the political, economic and financial means provided by the Union in support of a comprehensive peace plan.

South Africa

Support for the transition towards multiracial democracy in South Africa through a coordinated programme of assistance in preparing for the elections and monitoring them, and through the cre-

ation of an appropriate cooperation framework to consolidate the economic and social foundations of this transition.

Former Yugoslavia

Search for a negotiated and durable solution to the conflict: contribution to the implementation of a peace plan and support for humanitarian action.

Russia

Support for the democratic process initiated in Russia: in accordance with the wishes of the Russian authorities, dispatch of a team of observers for the parliamentary elections on 19 December. This action will be coordinated with the European Parliament and the international organizations that will also be involved.

The European Council also adopted the declaration on the situation in former Yugoslavia and on humanitarian aid for Bosnia-Herzegovina set out in the annex.¹

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/441.

93/441. Statement on the situation in former Yugoslavia and on the conveying of humanitarian aid in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Date of issue: 29 October 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Conclusions of the European Council

The European Council notes with concern the stagnation of the negotiating process in former Yugoslavia. It appeals once more to the parties to resume the negotiations without delay in order to reach a fair and durable agreement and asks them to refrain from any act of hostility and halt the violence. The European Council condemns the atrocities recently perpetrated by the Croatian forces in Stupni Do.

The European Council expresses its great anxiety at the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It condemns in the strongest possible terms the acts of deliberate aggression perpetrated on humanitarian-aid convoys in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in particular the most recent attack which left a number of casualties amongst humanitarian-aid personnel and led to the United Nations suspending humanitarian aid to central Bosnia.

The international community has deployed considerable efforts to reduce the misery and suffering of the civilian population. A number of people of remarkable courage and devotion have been killed or wounded in carrying out their international-solidarity mission. We must act to remove all obstacles to free access for humanitarian aid so that that aid can continue.

The European Council holds the parties to the conflict directly responsible for establishing the conditions essential for any continuation of humanitarian aid, particularly as winter approaches. In this connection it demands firm and credible guarantees, which must be given effect, and requests Lord Owen to communicate those demands with urgency and insistence to the leaders of the three parties, who are responsible for passing on the necessary orders to local leadership.

The European Council agrees to support the conveying of humanitarian aid in Bosnia-Herzegovina on the basis of the following guide-lines:

- a greater financial effort to help the population under pressure combined with intervention with non-member countries to contribute;
- the identification and restoration of priority routes, in particular to Sarajevo;
- obtaining the agreement of all parties to the preservation of those humanitarian routes;
- the use of all appropriate means to support the conveying of humanitarian aid;
- reinforcing UNPROFOR so that more troops are available to protect the aid routes.

The European Council consequently invites the Council to adopt detailed provisions for joint action on the basis of the above, while maintaining close coordination with the United Nations.

93/442. Question No 1385/93 by Ms Reding (PPE) on the Guatemalan street children

Date of issue: 3 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 8 June 1993)

To Question H-1018/92¹ by Mr David reading:

Because of lawsuits which have been presented to sue national policemen and military for the torture and murder of street children in Guatemala, staff of 'Casa Alianza', a refuge for more than 500 abandoned street children, have been the target of reprisals which have included armed attacks, kidnappings and death threats. Since Casa Alianza is financed by the EC, will the Commission request the Guatemalan Government to provide adequate security for the Casa Alianza staff so that they may continue their struggle to protect the street children from those who are supposed to protect them?

the Commission answered:

The Commission has received reports of violent attacks against a number of NGOs including Casa Alianza, but it has not been asked to intervene. If it were to receive such a request, it would consult the representatives of the Member States on the spot to establish the best approach.

Could EPC accept a formal request to intervene concretely in this matter?

Answer:

The subject and specific case referred to by the honourable Member is followed closely within the framework of the EPC, i.e. by capitals as well as by Heads of Mission in Guatemala City. A continued concern is expressed with the Guatemalan authorities. The Community and its Member States express the hope that with the election of a new president whose positive action towards the respect for human rights is well known, the plight of street children and NGOs active to protect them will improve as soon as possible.

¹ Debates of the European Parliament No 3-423 (October 1992).

93/443. Question No E-1922/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on human rights in South Africa

Date of issue: 3 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 15 July 1993)

Twenty-two political prisoners in the Leeuw Kop prison in the Transvaal in South Africa began a hunger strike to the death on 1 May to force the Government of Mr De Klerk to free them and to hold elections in which all citizens would be entitled to vote.

All the 22 had heavy sentences imposed on them because, as union activists, officials and members of the African National Congress (ANC) they organized strikes to stop racist killings by the police, fascist executions and Buthelezi's henchmen.

The campaign of murderous attacks on blacks and coloureds has cost 10,000 lives in South Africa over the last five years alone.

In view of the above, will EPC inform the Government of Mr De Klerk that the Community and its Member States support the immediate release of all political prisoners and the holding of free and democratic elections, without conditions and restrictions, in which blacks and coloureds would be entitled to vote?

Answer:

As the honourable Member will be aware, the Community and its Member States have made a number of representations to the South African Government, demanding the immediate release of all political prisoners.

The Community and its Member States note that the new situation obtaining in South Africa, however, allows the government and the ANC to settle their differences on such matters through the direct dialogue established between them. The Community and its Member States hope that this dialogue might prove constructive and contribute to the objectives advocated by the honourable Member.

Moreover, the Community and its Member States have constantly voiced, both to the South African Government and to all political forces in the country, their serious concern regarding the violence of all kinds prevalent in South Africa, which is particularly damaging to the democratic process under way.

Lastly, the Community and its Member States have constantly expressed their willingness to help with the holding of free and fair elections, which should take place in April 1994. This has been reiterated on a variety of occasions to Mr De Klerk's Government and to the different parties involved in the democratic process.

93/444. Question No E-2232/93 by Mr Nicholson (PPE) on Baha'is in the European Community

Date of issue: 3 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 30 July 1993)

A recent report (UN Doc. E/CN.4/1993/41) to the UN Commission on Human Rights contains an allegedly confidential Iranian Government document outlining an official policy of discrimination against, and the suppression of the Baha'i community there. It also refers to a plan to destroy the Baha'is cultural roots outside Iran.

In light of this last objective, what action has European political cooperation taken to allay the fears of the Baha'i community in EC Member States?

*Answer:*¹

The Community and its Member States share the concerns expressed by the honourable parliamentarian about the Baha'i community both in and outside Iran. They have repeatedly raised these concerns with the Iranian authorities and stressed the need to respect the religious and political freedoms of the Baha'is and their distinctive culture.

The Iranians are well aware that any attempt to interfere in the religious, political and cultural freedoms, which the Baha'i communities enjoy as a matter of course in EC Member States, would constitute a gross interference in the internal affairs of the Member States.

The Baha'i communities in EC Member States are for the most part fully aware of the actions which have been taken.

The Community and its Member States will continue to follow the situation closely and to draw to the attention of the Iranian authorities violations of human rights.

¹ This reply has been provided by the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation, within whose province the question came.

93/445. Question No E-2268/93 by Mr Pierros (PPE) on the EC reaction to the US missile attack on Baghdad

Date of issue: 3 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 1 September 1993)

President Bill Clinton has said the US missile attack against Iraq in late June was justified by an Iraqi plot to assassinate former President George Bush in April.

In view, however, of the legal and moral questions raised by the action, is EPC concerned that the attack might provoke anti-western terrorist actions in the Mediterranean region, further complicate Europe's efforts to end the war in ex-Yugoslavia, and set back peace efforts in the Middle East? And if so, what has EPC done to limit the likelihood of such developments?

Answer:

I would refer the honourable Member to the answer given to Questions No 779/93 by Mr Cushnahan and No 787/93 by Mr Geraghty¹ on the same subject.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/321.

93/446. Statement on the extension of the ECOMSA mandate

Date of issue: 8 November 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

The mission by 18 European observers of the political violence in South Africa (ECOMSA) has started a third six-month tour of duty (from 1 November 1993 to 28 April 1994). The recudes-

cence of political violence is certainly the greatest threat to the process of non-racial democratization and the holding of fair and free elections for all in South Africa. The European observers, together with their colleagues from the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the Commonwealth, have an extremely important role to play in preparing the elections and during the election campaign, in order to support South-African efforts to control and check any political violence as far as possible.

In May 1992 the convention for a democratic South Africa (CODESA) collapsed, putting a temporary end to the talks on the democratization process. As was to be feared, the effect of that failure was a flare-up of political violence. The United Nations Secretary-General dispatched to the spot his special envoy, Cyrus Vance, who proposed that the Security Council send observers to South Africa to halt the violence and ease the way to resumption of the constitutional negotiations (Resolution 772). The troika of EC Foreign Ministers proposed in September 1992 not only to send a team of European observers (ECOMSA) but also to attach five legal experts from the EC to the Judge Goldstone Commission, which is investigating political violence and making recommendations on the matter.

For more than a year ECOMSA has been operating under the structures of the national peace agreement (14 September 1991) in close coordination with the observer missions of the United Nations and other international organizations. There is universal praise for the devotion and professionalism of the European specialists and experts. They are cooperating with the local branches and regional bodies of the peace secretariat with a view to undertaking preventive action and to facilitate dialogue. The observers' expertise is of assistance to those responsible for maintaining order in South Africa. Their knowledge of the terrain and of difficult or dangerous situations will be of inestimable use to the European observers of the first non-racial and democratic elections on 27 April 1994.

The dispatch of observers by the international community has helped to create the conditions that enabled the dialogue between political parties to be resumed in late 1992 and to hold the Kempton Park multi-party negotiations.

The renewal of ECOMSA's tour of duty must be seen in the light of the decision by the European Council to make democratization in South Africa a joint action of the common foreign and security policy under the Treaty on the European Union.

93/447. Statement on a Council meeting (extracts only)

Date of issue: 8/9 November 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

Title of the Council following the entry into force of the Treaty on European Union

The Council adopted the following decision:

The Council shall henceforth be called 'Council of the European Union' and shall be so designated in particular in all the acts it adopts, including those under Titles V and VI of the TEU; the political statements which the Council adopts under the CFSP shall accordingly be made in the name of the 'European Union'.

Follow-Up to the European Council on 29 October 1993

The Council noted the work programme prepared by the Presidency for the coming months, both as regards the implementation of the Treaty on European Union in the various sectors EMU,

CFSP, home affairs and justice and democracy and transparency – and as regards growth and employment and the enlargement negotiations.

Commercial Policy

Uruguay Round – Council conclusions

The Council adopted the following conclusions on the Uruguay Round:

1. The Council heard a statement by Sir Leon Brittan on the discussions he had held with the United States and on the progress of the bilateral and multilateral talks in Geneva.

2. Referring to the conclusions of the Brussels European Council on 29 October 1993, the Council reaffirmed that it was now more necessary than ever that every effort should be made to reach an overall, lasting and balanced agreement in the Uruguay Round negotiations by the scheduled deadline of 15 December 1993, in accordance with the conclusions and guide-lines laid down by the Council on 20 September and 4 October 1993.¹

3. In this connection, the Council voiced its concern at the slow progress of the negotiations and at certain recent blockages, particularly on the part of the Community's major trading partners. It considered that, if the negotiations were to succeed in the few weeks which remained, the politicians of all parties to the negotiations must make a sustained effort and it was essential to return to the concept of globality of the negotiations by advancing simultaneously on all fronts where there were still problems in the various areas of negotiation. It appeals urgently to the main partners to engage more actively in the negotiations. It is desirable that the broad outlines of the final general agreement emerge by the end of November.

4. The Council examined the problems outstanding on the basis of the written report submitted to it by the Commission. The Council generally endorsed the assessments and guide-lines in the report, subject to delegations' comments or additions.

The Council noted that the Commission would shortly be submitting a document on the basis of which it could decide on the best approach for safeguarding and promoting European cultural identities within the audio-visual sector.

5. The Council recalled that one of the central objectives to be achieved by concluding the Uruguay Round and setting up a Multilateral Trade Organization (MTO) was the provision of a single, coherent framework for monitoring compliance with the commitments given in all areas of the negotiations. It was essential to achieve complete equality of treatment among all partners with the same level of development as regards the compliance of national legislation with agreed multilateral rules and disciplines, and the implementation of a multilateral integrated system for disputes.

6. In this final, crucial phase of the negotiations, the Council stressed the need for Community cohesion and solidarity. The Presidency, in contact with the Member States and the Commission, will ensure that the necessary coordination procedures are established, including the convening of a special Council meeting.

[...]

Monitoring of the elections in Russia – Joint Action

In line with the general guide-lines set by the European Council on 29 October 1993, the Council decided on the joint action concerning the dispatch of a team of observers for the parliamentary elections in the Russian Federation [...].

[...]

Accession Negotiations

The Council prepared the ministerial negotiating meetings with Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway, which were held on the morning of Tuesday, 9 November 1993.

The aim of the meetings was in particular to:

- take stock of progress in the negotiations;
- record that the negotiations were now formally for the accession of the applicant States to the European Union and would therefore be conducted under Article O of the Maastricht Treaty;
- extend the work programme to the new chapters of the Treaty on European Union, namely EMU, CFSP, home affairs and justice;
- confirm together with the applicant states the objectives which the European Council had defined for the accession date, 1 January 1995, the date for the completion of the negotiations, 1 March 1994, which in particular implied that a significant breakthrough should be made before the end of the year.

[...]

Former Yugoslavia

On the basis of the general guide-lines given by the European Council on 29 October 1993, the Council decided on the joint action on support for the convoying of humanitarian aid in Bosnia-Herzegovina [...].

The Council also held an exchange of views on the situation in the former Yugoslavia and on the various aspects of the negotiations. It agreed to return to the question as a whole at an extraordinary meeting on 22 November 1993 in Luxembourg.

Lastly, the Council heard a report by Ambassador Napolitano, the sanctions coordinator, on the application of the sanctions against Serbia/Montenegro and on their implications for neighbouring countries. It will likewise return to this question at the aforementioned extraordinary Council meeting.

[...]

South Africa – Council Conclusions

1. It will be recalled that, at its meeting on 29 October 1993, the European Council instructed the Council, as a matter of priority, to define the conditions and procedures for joint action with regard to South Africa, aimed at support for the transition towards multi-racial democracy in South Africa through a coordinated programme of assistance in preparing for the elections and monitoring them, and through the creation of an appropriate cooperation framework to consolidate the economic and social foundations of that transition.

2. The Council agreed to implement a coordinated programme of assistance in preparing for the elections and monitoring them, the detailed arrangements for which will be defined by the end of November.

3. As regards the creation of an appropriate cooperation framework to consolidate the economic and social foundations of transition, the Council:

- took note of the proceedings in Coreper on the Commission communication, the purpose of which is the gradual normalization of relations between the Community and South Africa based on South Africa's progress towards democracy. It confirmed its agreement on the phased approach advocated by the Commission and on the general content of the guide-lines proposed for a policy to support the transition to democracy in South Africa;
- invited Coreper to study certain aspects of the Commission communication in greater detail. The outcome of Coreper's proceedings will serve as a basis for the contacts which the Commission will initiate at the appropriate time with the Transitional Executive Council (TEC), in close cooperation with the Member States;
- agreed on the need at the same time to continue internal discussions on the longer-term future of relations between the Community and a democratic South Africa.

4. A new working party on South Africa will continue discussions on the implementation of the joint action.

5. The Council decided that, once the TEC was in place, it would lift the two sanctions prohibiting any further cooperation in the nuclear sector and stopping exports of sensitive equipment intended for the police and armed forces.

Future Relations Between the European Community and Switzerland – Council Conclusions

The Council held an exchange of views on the Commission communication regarding the Community's future relations with Switzerland.

The Council noted the approach to future European policy set out by the Swiss Federal Council, which is based on the desire to keep all options open in order to secure active cooperation with the Community, founded on a community of interests, including, depending on how the situation develops, participation in the EEA and accession to the European Union. The Council also noted that in the present circumstances the Swiss authorities wished to develop bilateral relations with the Community in the immediate future.

The Council drew attention to the close and mutually beneficial ties traditionally linking the Community to Switzerland, which is one of its major partners. The Council confirmed the importance which it too attached to developing cooperation with Switzerland in the interests and to the benefit of both parties. While pleased that the options of participation in the EEA and accession to the European Union remained open, the Council expressed the Community's willingness to negotiate new sectoral agreements with Switzerland on the basis of an overall balance of mutual advantages and, at the same time, to develop the Free-Trade Agreement.

The Council felt that relations with Switzerland might be developed in the following areas in particular: transport, free movement of persons, research, access to the market for agricultural products, technical barriers to trade, access to public contracts, veterinary and plant-health legislation, intellectual property, geographical designations and designations of origin.

The Council trusts that negotiations can be started soon, initially in the areas of transport, free movement of persons, research and access to the market for agricultural products, and as far as possible also in the areas of technical barriers to trade and access to public contracts.

In this connection the Council notes that it already has before it draft negotiating directives for transport and calls on the Commission shortly to submit draft negotiating directives for the other areas concerned.

The Council also hopes that a solution can soon be found, under the Free-Trade Agreement, to the rules of origin problem resulting from the forthcoming entry into force of the EEA without Swiss participation.

The Council intends to make sure that, where necessary, there is appropriate linkage between the various sectoral agreements concerned.

[...]

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/389.

93/448. Statement on Nagorno-Karabagh

Date of issue: 9 November 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

The European Union condemns the breach of the cease-fire agreement reached on 24 October 1993 in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] and calls upon all forces to withdraw from the recently occupied territories. The European Union reiterates the importance it attaches to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in accordance with the principles of the CSCE.

The European Union is particularly concerned at the fate of tens of thousands of civilians who are fleeing the fighting. Receiving and protecting these refugees must be a priority for the international community. Moreover, the presence of these refugees increases the risk of the conflict becoming an international one and threatens the stability of the whole region.

The European Union will continue its humanitarian aid to the affected population and would call upon all states in the region to facilitate the conveying of the aid.

The European Union reaffirms its total support for the efforts undertaken by the CSCE Minsk Group in order to find a lasting political solution to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh]. It prevails upon the parties to the conflict to restore the cease-fire broken on 24 October 1993.

93/449. Statement on the extraordinary European Council meeting in Brussels, held on 29 October, and negotiations with Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway (extracts only)

Date of issue: 17 November 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Report on European Council to the European Parliament

Mr Claes, President-in-Office of the Council: Madam President, ladies and gentlemen, I think I can be quite brief, seeing that the Commission President, Mr Delors, went over, before midday, most of the points discussed during the extraordinary European Council. I wish first of all to apologize for my late arrival here, but certain political duties connected with the Belgian Government prevented me from getting here on time.

May I perhaps recall to mind why this extraordinary summit was organized? We wanted to make use of the eventual ratification of the Maastricht Treaty to give public opinion a clear signal that, despite the setbacks we had suffered in the ratification process, despite the doubts and the criticism that had been voiced – even about the European idea – the leaders were more determined

than ever to go through with the process of giving Europe a deeper content in the framework of the Maastricht Treaty.

So, first of all, a clear message had to be sent to public opinion. However, the Belgian Presidency has always added the rider that we were prepared to organize that kind of extraordinary summit only if we had some guarantee in advance that concrete results would be possible. I believe I may, together with Commission President Delors, emphasize that on that point the summit came up to our expectations, although – as I have also previously stated, together with Mr Delors, at a press conference – I am well aware that that summit did not put any extra food on the table for the 20 million unemployed by which the Community is today confronted.

What have been the results? Firstly, the implementation of the Treaty. Let us just go through the three pillars in telegram fashion. Economic and Monetary Union: the secondary legislation, with which you are now dealing here, has proved acceptable to the European leaders. The European Monetary Institute, for which a seat has meanwhile also been fixed, can start work on 1 January 1994 as planned in the Treaty. If Parliament delivers a favourable opinion on the subject, the chairman of that institute will also be available to start work on 1 January. I should therefore say that, as far as the first pillar is concerned, the second phase of Monetary Union can begin on 1 January.

The second pillar: the common foreign and security policy. A series of concrete and practical measures have been taken so that the whole range of instruments can be reorganized before 1 January and can start working right away. Additionally, in what I find to be much rather a pragmatic approach, the European Council has adopted five subjects as common actions. Mr Delors has already mentioned them so I do not think I need to go over them again. None the less, I do wish to emphasize that these common actions – save for the most urgent ones, which relate to humanitarian aid in Yugoslavia and supportive aid for the democratization process in Russia – are now being prepared with all necessary care.

I would also emphasize that, as regards this policy, the Council is at Parliament's disposal and I hope that, on 23 November during the colloquy with your Committee on Foreign Affairs and Security, we shall have a fruitful debate on the major options.

Regarding the third pillar, justice and home affairs, we did not, perhaps, advance so far during the Brussels summit as we did with the second pillar. Nevertheless, I believe the proper courses to be taken were duly plotted out. Above all there was insistence on practical proposals that it will be possible to discuss on 10 and 11 December in particular as regards the start of Europol, efficient measures in the fight against drugs, measures concerning the right of asylum, the list of third countries regarding which a common position will be adopted as to the granting of visas, and illegal immigrants. I would also add that the Presidency took pains to ensure that a clear paragraph on the Community's social dimension was inserted; also that the summit showed itself to be especially pleased about the Inter-institutional Agreement that Parliament, Commission and Council have managed to conclude on various points.

[...]

This brings me to the fourth item considered at this extraordinary summit, namely enlargement of the European Union as decided on at the Lisbon summit¹ and in further detail at the Copenhagen summit.² The extraordinary European Council of 29 October and the four ministerial sessions with the applicant states held on 9 November mark a significant speeding up of the accession talks.

[...]

Regarding the involvement of the applicant countries in activities under the common foreign and security policy, an agreement was reached when the negotiations began on ways of intensify-

ing dialogue with these countries on these matters. These measures include, at foreign minister level, exchanges of views on matters relating to the common foreign and security policy within the framework of the enlargement negotiations. At political director level they provide, in addition to the usual meetings between the Presidency and each EFTA country, for at least one meeting per Presidency of the troika of political directors with those of the applicant countries speaking as a group. At working party level, one meeting per Presidency between the troika of experts from certain working parties and their opposite numbers from the applicant countries speaking as a group. In addition, within the international organizations – United Nations, CSCE – there will be regular consultations between the troika of the Community and its Member States and the missions of the applicant countries as a group, on matters of common interest. The applicant countries will be given continuous, general briefings on current issues dealt with as matters of common foreign and security policy. The objectives we have set ourselves for the current accession process are, as you will agree, particularly ambitious and require an exceptional level of commitment from us all.

The Belgian Presidency is aware of the scale of the task which awaits us and intends to sustain fully the pace which has thus been set for the negotiations. It is gratified by the support given by all the parties concerned to its suggestion that the style and method of the negotiations should be modified. The objective henceforth is that meetings at deputy and ministerial level should culminate in mediated settlements, which means that the delegations on both sides will have margins of flexibility which allow a suitable compromise to be reached.

These are my comments on enlargement, by way of a reply to an oral question put by Mr Baron Crespo.

I ought not to end without bringing to your attention a programme which will be a very full one over the next few weeks. We are preparing for the European Council meeting which, as I said before, will focus essentially on the essential and fundamental challenges, namely competitiveness of the European economy and all the structural aspects of employment.

Just before this summit we should be receiving the Russian President Mr Yeltsin, provided we succeed, and there is every indication that we shall, in finalizing the negotiations which will lead to the signing of a Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Russia.

On 22 November we are holding a special Council on the tragic issue of former Yugoslavia, at which we shall deal not only with the extremely urgent question of humanitarian aid but also the political question, that is to say the resumption of talks. On 2 December we hope to have the elements we need to formulate our strategy in the final negotiations prior to the conclusion of a global agreement under the Uruguay Round by 15 December.

And the enlargement negotiations will also be continuing. We are prepared to hold additional formal Councils and in any case a Council is already scheduled for 20 and 21 December. And as under every Presidency, we shall, together with the Commission, be holding meetings with the USA and Canada, probably on 21 and 22 December.

But we shall be discussing these things again later. We have agreed on 15 December, Madam President, as the date on which we shall endeavour to review the Belgian Presidency. As for the extraordinary summit in Brussels, I think that the objectives which the Presidency had set itself have largely been achieved and there is now a certain basis from which we can get off to a good start in our work to further the building of Europe.

[After the following debate Mr Claes stated:] Mr President, Mr De Clercq is not present at the moment, but I nevertheless wish to reply first to his speech. It is true that the special summit in Brussels was not a celebration, that was not what we wanted; with 20 million jobless in the Union, there is no cause for celebration. I should like to add that, in the light of the discussions at the

submit the letter from the Prime Minister and Council President must in no way be seen as being the expression of the Council's will to put pressure in an undesirable manner on Parliament. It is above all, I think, an expression of the Belgian Government's wish to observe the spirit and the letter of the agreements that have been concluded with, among others, the French Government. For the rest, I have every understanding for the autonomy that this estimable institution demands and indeed fully deserves. I feel too that one ought not to exaggerate in criticizing openness and transparency. The Council meetings, in accordance with the criteria laid down in Edinburgh, are still open and are even shown on television.

Since the adoption of the rules on making known how votes are cast, the details of all votes have meanwhile, at the request of several Member States, been published and I can tell you that the Presidency has in the meantime begun establishing bilateral contacts with a view to examining whether it might be possible to come back on the rules that were adopted so as to take a further step during the Belgian Presidency and to try and implement what you know as the B option in the course of December. For the rest, I believe that, with the Inter-institutional Agreement that has been reached, and for which I would thank you once again, we have undoubtedly taken a number of steps in the right direction. Let us go further. I had further undertaken to subject to a thorough discussion with you the right of inquiry. Well now, I have received authorization from the November Council meeting and we shall in the coming days sit down again at the table with the committee, with you, in order to try and achieve this important element in the framework of transparency and openness.

In reply to Mr Planas and Mr Sälzer I must say that certainly every effort will be made in the negotiations on enlargement to safeguard the *acquis communautaire* and what has been established under the Maastricht Treaty too. We are fully aware of the challenge thrown down by the Copenhagen and Brussels summits.³ I continue to believe that we shall succeed in meeting that challenge.

Yes, there is the problem of the institutions. You spoke of that and I fully appreciate the difficulty of the choices we have to make. But I shall not change my mind. I will repeat what I have said here before. It is not, I think, realistic to believe that we can finalize the process of enlargement, as the Lisbon, Copenhagen and Brussels summits confirmed, and to finalize the fundamental debate on the institutions. I do not think that is possible. We have to choose. The summits made a choice. You may think that choice was wrong. I respect your opinion, Mr Herman, but you must appreciate that the Presidency has a remit. It has to adhere to that remit and do its best to combine the two objectives. I will not deny, and I say in all honesty, respecting the thrust of your resolution, that we must at all costs try to avoid a confrontation in this fundamental debate on the institutional future of the Community and the Union between the 'big' countries and the little ones. And I am not actually sure that your solution will prevent that. In any event, as Mr Sälzer says, we shall in due course need a pragmatic approach so that we can move forward and give priority to the efficacy which we surely require. Anyway, I have taken note not only of this resolution but also of the suggestions made and at the Council meeting on the 6th and 7th, since one of the first items is always resolutions by the European Parliament, I shall, as is fitting, get the Council to give particular attention to this resolution which your two committees have put forward.

I must not end this brief reply without saying to Mr Lannoye, Mr Miranda da Silva and Mr Puerta that everyone, naturally, agrees that the main challenge now facing the Union is our lack of competitiveness, a degree of structural backwardness in our economy, unemployment. I hope that the House will agree that there is no miracle cure and that we are in any case resolved, the Commission, the Council and I imagine Parliament too, to seek structural solutions to these challenges. It is a question of credibility for the European institutions, but above all it is a matter of interest to the European citizen. Together, if we are prepared to make the necessary efforts and sacrifices, I think we can meet this challenge effectively and constructively. It will take time, but I am convinced that with enough courage and mutual understanding we shall come up with the an-

swers and the results we want, thus guaranteeing a role for Europe and the citizens who deserve no less.

- 1 EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/253.
- 2 EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/248.
- 3 EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/440.

93/450. Question No H-994/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru on human rights in the Baltic states

Date of issue: 17 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

During his recent visit to the Baltic states Pope John Paul II stressed the need for reconciliation and forgiveness between the various nationalities, particularly between the majority in each country and the Russian minority. What attitude has the Council taken until now towards the laws adopted by Latvia one year ago restricting the civil rights of the Russian minority, including its voting rights?

Answer:

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of the Council: Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, the European Union and its Member States were pleased that the Latvian parliamentary elections took place on 5 and 6 June 1993, and especially that the turnout was very high – 90% – and 27% of the voters, as well as 7% of the members of parliament elected, were of non-Latvian nationality.

The European Union and its Member States support the efforts made by the Council of Europe and the CSCE including the High Commissioner for National Minorities, aimed at contributing to the solution of outstanding problems linked to work in progress on citizenship legislation. The European Union has already expressed this point of view to the Latvian authorities.

The European Union and its Member States are delighted with the decision taken on 24 September 1993 seeking to establish the presence of a CSCE mission in Latvia, with a mandate to examine citizenship issues, while monitoring the full achievement of the principles, norms and commitments of the CSCE.

Mr Arbeloa Muru (PSE): Mr President-in-Office of the Council, may I repeat on the question. I recently attended a CSCE meeting on human rights and minorities in Warsaw, and I realized that, from the point of view of citizens of the European Union, basic human rights continue to be violated. I know that in the past Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania were filled through Russian invasions and migrations, but there were also thousands of unfortunates who were previously victims and continue to [be the] victims of obvious discrimination.

I would simply like to insist, – I don't know whether this is a question or a recommendation – that the European Union, perhaps through the CSCE or the Council of Europe, or any other organization, take a more serious attitude regarding current discriminations against minorities which are not Latvian, Estonian or Lithuanian and, more particularly, of Russian origin.

Mr Urbain: Those comments in fact allow me, Mr President, to expand in a way that the speaker will probably find positive. Actually the law that the Member alludes to is a temporary law which will be replaced by another law, currently in gestation at government level.

The present government has asked the advice of several international bodies specializing in the matter. This advice is currently being studied. The speed at which Latvia acts will probably depend on three factors. First, actual withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia; secondly, the way the Russian population uses the argument of citizenship in the current economic crisis in Latvia; and thirdly, the progress of talks between Latvia and Russia on troop withdrawals, and reciprocal social guarantees for citizens abroad.

In reply to the last part of your speech, I can tell you that Latvia has applied to join the Council of Europe. It has already made a formal application. This act implies the amendment of several laws. The Latvians know that and have agreed to come into line with the norms and standards of the CSCE and the Council of Europe.

93/451. Question No H-1095/93 by Mr Langer on the Israel/Palestine peace process

Date of issue: 17 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

In view of the promising peace process between Israel and the Palestinians and the need for the EC to lose no time in taking the most appropriate action to promote it, what political and economic measures does the Community intend to take to support the peace process, and in particular the weaker side? How will the Community ensure its active and constant presence in the peace process, and what policy directives does the Council intend to give?

Answer:

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of the Council: May I remind the honourable Member that the Presidency made a statement on the Middle East peace process at the last plenary of the European Parliament immediately following the signature of the accord between Israel and the PLO, an occasion when both the Presidency and the Commission were present.¹ In that statement, the President of the Council described the political and financial involvement of the European Union in the current process. I do not think it is necessary to repeat everything that was said at that time; the speech was sent to the appropriate parliamentary department and I would suggest the honourable Member contact that department for a copy.

Let me add, however, that the European Union participated fully in the business of the Madrid Conference and chaired the working group on regional economic development. The European Union is also a member of the *ad hoc* liaison committee, which was created by the multilateral co-ordination group after the conference of donors in Washington on 1st October last. The principal mandate of this committee will be to coordinate and promote aid from individual donors to the Palestinian people.

May I also assure the honourable Member that the Council, and particularly the Presidency, is seizing every opportunity at bilateral or multilateral meetings, like the European Community/Russia Summit a week ago, and through specific action or missions, like the Gulf States action or the Tunis mission, to obtain agreement from third countries to do everything in their power

to contribute to a global and permanent settlement. I would also mention that the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the European Union had a fringe meeting with Mr Arafat at the 'General Affairs' Council of 8 November. The Presidency spoke of the European Union's aims in the Middle East and the commitments made in Washington on short and medium term aid.

Mr Langer (V): Thank you President-in-Office for trying to answer my question. But I must admit that I do not really understand what that means. You referred me to the minutes of an earlier meeting and I know very well what the President-in-Office of the Council has said before. But unfortunately I was unable to discover in your reply any political commitment because you have not explained what the European Community or European Union specifically intends to do to encourage the peace process. I welcome the fact that you have received Mr Arafat and that the Council of Ministers in this way gave a positive signal. I believe we are to meet with Simon Peres shortly and I have the impression that Norway has done a great deal more in real terms than the European Union and I am rather sad about that.

Mr Urbain: Perhaps I might add a word specifically about the contacts that took place during President Arafat's working visit to Brussels, especially about the lunch given by the Ministers of the Twelve on the occasion of that visit. Certain points in the European Union approach to this problem were clarified. Let me stress that the Presidency restated the objectives of the Union in the Middle East and the commitments undertaken in Washington on short and medium term aid.

The European side pressed Mr Arafat for details of the nature and powers of the transitional institutions established or to be established in the territories. I have to tell you that Mr Arafat's response failed to provide the maximum of clarification. He confined himself to a political approach without ever really getting into the technical or operational aspects, whereas for aid, especially short term aid, these technical aspects are not unimportant. Without seeking to deny the crucial character of short and medium term economic aid for infrastructure and economic development – I am thinking, for example, of the bridges needed in Gaza or on the Jordan canal – I would say it was essential for Mr Arafat to arrange funding for the Palestinian institutions as soon as possible so that they are in a position to ensure effective administration in Gaza and Jericho, and to take responsibility for the territory as a whole.

Finally, at that meeting, Mr Arafat called on the European countries and the Union to participate on the ground in the international security guarantees provided for in the September 13 accord. After showing reticence towards the UN in the past, Israel now seems to be inclined towards this kind of guarantee. As for the Palestinians, they would certainly welcome greater participation by the Europeans.

Mr Arbeloa Muru (PSE): I would like to ask the President-in-Office of the Council whether, during this lengthy classification process upon which we are now embarking, the Commission will continue to adhere to the traditional doctrine of the Commission and of the European Parliament, which is to deem that the eastern sector of the city of Jerusalem is part of the Occupied Territories, and to consider all settlements and settlers totally illegal, since their presence directly contravenes the Conventions of Geneva and numerous United Nations resolutions.

Mr Urbain: This is a highly political question and still extremely controversial unfortunately, and it continues to have the full attention of the Presidency of the Council. It has been discussed in the meetings with Mr Arafat, who has been anxious to involve the Council without however taking any final position as yet on a problem which is part of an overall challenge open to moments of tension as the last few days have demonstrated. We will be paying special attention to this problem.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/360.

93/452. Question No H-1097/93 by Mr Nianias on the continued embargo imposed against the former Republic of Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 17 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Long sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) were imposed because it was held to be directly involved in the Bosnian war, though for some others they were intended to push FRY into further trouble, as was openly stated by Mr McCurry, US State Department spokesman, and this against a country whose efforts for peace have already been officially and internationally acknowledged.

Apart from the lack of constructive Western policies and the violation of international law, the prolongation of these sanctions against the innocent people of FRY has been proven cruel and inhuman, the whole population having been left in dramatic suffering from a lack of medicines and medical supplies, and mortality having reached already alarming rates, especially among children.

In view of these circumstances, does the Council envisage the lifting of the embargo, and will the Community urgently enlarge its medical assistance to the citizens of FRY?

Answer:

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of the Council: Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, the European Union has repeatedly confirmed that the sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro will not be lifted by the United Nations Organization until the stated conditions are fulfilled.

The Council will meet in extraordinary session on 22 November. On that occasion it will examine any factors which might contribute to providing a new impetus to the negotiations for a peace settlement on the basis of the progress made at Geneva. The whole question of sanctions will be discussed.

As regards the part of the question that relates to medical aid, I would like to refer, Mr President, to the reply I shall be giving in a moment to Mr Simpson's question. But I must stress that the sanctions do not cover medical supplies.

Mr Nianias (RDE): Mr President, in the first place I did not gather whether the sanctions are in fact to be lifted, and secondly, whether aid is to be given to the populations of the Yugoslavian dominion.

It is true that we must hurry, especially since this Community is responsible for the wretchedness and the war in the Balkans. And as if it was not enough that this Community's powers are at war among themselves, the Americans have come along and added their own voice to the chaos!

Consequently, it is urgently necessary to hasten to the aid of those populations, because there cannot be another winter under these conditions. Mr Milosevic, the President of Yugoslavia, has repeatedly stated that he is for peace and for a settlement. I am amazed that the processes which can bring peace to Yugoslavia are still dragging. I am waiting for an answer. How quickly can humanitarian aid to be sent to Yugoslavia?

Mr Urbain: If I may briefly recap, Mr President, Resolution 752 was adopted on 15 May last year by the Security Council and calls for respect of a cease-fire in Bosnia-Herzegovina, cooperation between the three Bosnian communities for the establishment of a peace plan and an end to external interference in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It further demanded the retreat or the placing under the authority of the Bosnian Government of the units of the Yugoslav People's Army and the elements of the Croatian army, as well as the disarmament and disbandment of the Bosnian irregulars.

Provision 3 of Resolution 757, adopted by the Security Council on 18 June 1992, imposes economic sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. These sanctions will apply until the Security Council concludes that both the Yugoslav authorities and the commanders of the Yugoslav People's Army have taken effective action to fulfil the requirements of Resolution 752.

The European Council held in Brussels on 29 October issued a statement on the situation in former Yugoslavia and on the delivery of humanitarian aid to Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Council drew up guide-lines which should permit more rapid and effective delivery of aid while seeking to provide better protection for the journeys taken by the humanitarian convoys. These guide-lines define the joint action to be pursued in close cooperation with the United Nations Organization.

Finally, I would remind you that on 22 November, next Monday, at the meeting of the WEU in Luxembourg, there will be a special ministerial fringe meeting devoted to Yugoslavia. This meeting of 22 November has several purposes and I think it is of interest as additional information for the honourable Member. There are three purposes. First, to set up joint humanitarian aid; secondly, to follow up the Franco/German initiative; and thirdly, to redefine, where necessary, our policy with regard to former Yugoslavia in the hope of finding solutions to this conflict, even if these are only partial.

Mr Habsburg (PPE): Mr President of the Council, do you recognize that a formal promise was made to Croatia by which, on the withdrawal of Serb forces, the country would be established within its natural borders? There has also been condemnation of Serb aggression in Bosnia. Consequently, if sanctions were to be lifted now it would be interpreted as a reward for aggression. Do you not therefore agree that it would be unthinkable to lift the sanctions at the moment, with Serbian aggression still continuing?

Also, is the Council prepared to take effective measures against countries, including a member of our Community, which violate the embargo against Serbia?

Mr Urbain: Mr President, I do not think there is any question of lifting the sanctions. I think it might be helpful to look at this in the light of the Council meeting of the 22nd and, on the eve of that meeting, I think the main lines of the current discussion can be sketched out under four headings. First, the Geneva package which was last discussed on 20 September should be given another chance. We regard this package, which nearly succeeded, as a possible solution still to the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina. And a solution in Bosnia-Herzegovina is an essential and urgent factor in bringing peace to Yugoslavia.

Secondly, we should at all cost prevent hostilities breaking out in Krajina. That is why the European Community will contribute to finding a *modus vivendi* for the Croatia territories under the UNPROFOR mandate.

Thirdly, we must re-examine the way in which the suspension, and perhaps raising, of the sanctions can be arranged in the hope of encouraging negotiated solutions.

Fourthly, we must continue to seek maximum security for the delivery of humanitarian aid, so as to guarantee supply to civilian populations this winter.

Mr Ephremidis (CG): Mr President, I note that both times the Council's representative has spoken, he has mentioned that at its next meeting on 22 November 1993 the Council will also consider the subject of the embargo against Serbia.

For that reason I put the following supplementary: in light of the fact that about three years of strict embargo have not led to normalization, to peace, but on the contrary to escalation, and have fuelled extremist elements on both sides so that we have today's dangerous situation, might it not be that the opposite reasoning, namely relaxing or lifting the embargo, would help the calmer, more moderate elements to prevail and bring about a peaceful normalization?

The second part of my supplementary is: the embargos cost is reckoned not only in drugs and health, but also in the lives of millions of Yugoslavians who are deprived of everything. Furthermore, Mr President, trade and economic losses have been sustained by neighbouring countries to the tune of over 5 billion drachmas by Greece alone due to this embargo. So on 22 November, in view of the above, will you consider the need to lift the embargo so that we may progress towards peace?

Mr Urbain: Mr President, I would like to reply to the last speech by reading an extract from the joint letter addressed by the German and French Ministers to Mr Claes' Belgian Presidency.

The Serbian side will not display the territorial flexibility that is indispensable in this context unless it obtains the certainty that the United Nations embargo will be progressively lifted in exchange for effective progress in applying the peace plan in Bosnia. Serbia needs an assurance that United Nations sanctions will be lifted if Serbia implements an agreed package on Bosnia and a *modus vivendi* in the Croatian territories. That could be achieved gradually, as proposed by Italy, and the more rapidly if Serbia fulfils its commitments speedily. This would also have the urgently-needed advantage of lightening the burden on the states bordering on Serbia-Montenegro.

93/453. Question No H-1099/93 by Mr Brian Simpson on medical aid and supplies to the former Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 17 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Is the Council aware that in what remains of Yugoslavia medicine and medical supplies are in short supply, mortalities due to infection have doubled, tuberculosis, AIDS and other epidemiological diseases are spreading because of the lack of preventive measures?

Is it also aware that, despite the fact that the UN embargo does not cover medical supplies, bandages, gauze, cotton wool, surgical thread, drugs and medicine have now run out and medical equipment and apparatus have been shut down?

Will the Council consider supplying all such medical equipment on the grounds of humanitarian aid to what remains of Yugoslavia, including the evacuation of the most urgent cases?

Answer:

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of the Council: Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, the European Union is very conscious of the sufferings of the people of former Yugoslavia because of the conflict raging in the region and the serious deterioration resulting from it at the humanitarian level.

The Union has demonstrated its deep solidarity with the victims by providing large amounts of humanitarian aid. In fact, the European Union is the largest donor. Its contribution represents more than two-thirds of the international community's total effort.

The health situation is particularly grave. That is why 23% of the Community's resources have been directed to medical aid. These resources have been distributed without discrimination, to respond to emergencies in former Yugoslavia. The Union will maintain that medical aid to the fullest possible extent, in certain cases providing medical treatment in the Member States themselves.

Finally, the European Council of 29 October¹ last set out guide-lines to permit more rapid and effective delivery of aid while seeking better protection for the routes taken by humanitarian con-

voys. These guide-lines were crystallized in the joint action agreed by the Council on 8 November,² which will be carried out in close cooperation with the United Nations Organization, and in particular with the High Commission for Refugees.

Mr Brian Simpson (PSE): I am grateful to the President-in-Office of the Council for his reply. I want to assure him that I do not wish in any way to compromise the issue of sanctions here and mix up the issue of sanctions with the issue of medical aid. As he said in a previous reply, medical supplies are not covered by United Nations sanctions. But there is an argument that says – particularly from within Serbia – that the application of sanctions is somewhat arbitrary in the sense that they apply to Serbia and yet nothing seems to have been done with regard to the actions of Croatia, in particular in Bosnia-Herzegovina. But as I said, I do not want to get involved directly with that argument. I am merely concerned with the situation in Serbia at the moment and the great shortage of medical supplies and indeed basic medical supplies. I am not on about specific high-technology medicine. I am on about simple things like bandages, antibiotics and so on, and the detrimental effect that the shortages are having in that area. Whilst I appreciate that the efforts of the European Community and European Union in the past have been good, I am really looking for something a little bit extra to ensure that within Serbia-Montenegro – the new Yugoslavia, if you like – we do not see epidemics breaking out because of our intransigence.

Mr Urbain: It is true, Mr President, that one of the obstacles frequently encountered in the provision of humanitarian aid to former Yugoslavia is the time taken to apply the procedures of the committee of the Security Council in charge of implementing the embargo. Every request for delivery of humanitarian goods to the zones covered by the sanctions has to be dealt with by the sanctions committee and it takes about five weeks for the export permit to reach the aid supplier. The United Nations Organization is currently looking at ways of accelerating this procedure considerably. The sanctions committee may shortly be able to reduce the large backlog that has been accumulated, and then provide the export permits more rapidly.

Medical aid is the top priority, together with food, sanitation, the supply of clothing and the design of shelters for people who have lost their homes. I would remind you that the Brussels European Council of 22 October issued a statement bearing notably on the delivery of humanitarian aid to Bosnia-Herzegovina. On that occasion, the Council set guide-lines to permit more rapid and effective aid delivery, while seeking better protection for the routes taken by the humanitarian convoys. These guide-lines were crystallized in the Council's joint action agreement of 8 November, to be carried out in close cooperation with the UN and in particular the HCR. Also, as I indicated just now in my reply to an earlier question, this item will be on the agenda and certainly at the heart of the Council's concerns at its next meeting on 22 November.

Mr Oostlander (PPE): I would like to ask the Minister whether he couldn't take Mr Brain Simpson's remark from a slightly different angle, with the emphasis still obviously remaining, as was obvious in his previous information, on the issue of the relative luxury of the criminal robber state being constructed as Greater Serbia, which has brought this condition upon itself by its aggression. The problems elsewhere, particularly in the areas threatened and besieged by this state, are much greater, particularly where there is not even electricity, oxygen or water available to get the medical apparatus going anyway. Is the Minister in a position to state that such areas will receive absolute priority, particularly in supply of products which are far more essential and which people need just to survive?

Mr Urbain: It goes without saying that the points raised by the honourable Member fit quite naturally into the context of what is indispensable to humanitarian aid. I said just now that the contribution of the European Union was by far the largest in terms of international aid. The aid provided by the Union amounted in 1991 and 1992 respectively to MECU 13 and 227. For the budgetary year 1993, the Union has spent a total of some MECU 400.

Maximum efficiency in delivering the priority food aid I alluded to is obviously not possible unless a certain number of other factors are present, like those I have mentioned.

Ms Ernst de la Graete (V): The President-in-Office of the Council has pointed out that the Council is doing everything in its power to try to mitigate the sufferings of the civilian population in Bosnia-Herzegovina. I would like to know how he reconciles this affirmation with the fact that the States of the European Union require the presentation of a visa to allow people from Bosnia-Herzegovina to enter Community territory.

Mr Urbain: In reply to the last question, I would specifically say that an agreement exists, more than just an agreement actually, because it is in application between the twelve countries of the Community, to the effect that all refugees from that part of the world are given special treatment and made particularly welcome in view of the situation they are facing in their country of origin.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/441.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/447.

93/454. Question No H-1103/93 by Ms Crawley on help to refugees and victims of rape in former Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 17 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

In December 1992 the European Council at Edinburgh¹ made a statement on the rape of Muslim women in ex-Yugoslavia and committed itself to humanitarian aid from the Community and its Member States for the victims of war and the refugees in Bosnia.

On 11 March 1993² the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the rape of women in former Yugoslavia calling for a number of measures to be taken.

To what extent have these measures been implemented and what funds have the European Community and its Member States reserved for the remaining period of 1993 and for 1994 to finance these actions?

Answer:

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of the Council: Mr President, it is surely unnecessary to repeat that the European Union firmly condemns the detention and systematic rape of Muslim women, which is part of a deliberate strategy aimed at terrorizing the Muslim community of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Union clearly stated on 1 February 1993³ that it intended to implement the recommendations of the Warburton report on aid to Bosnian Muslim women who have been victims of rape and other atrocities. Consequently MECU 2.8 have been mobilized in 1993, initially for psychological aid projects, but also for other social rehabilitation projects. The amount available for next year will depend on the budget for 1994. The recommendations of the European Parliament have been duly taken into account.

However, as the European Parliament stated in its resolution of 11 March last, atrocities perpetrated against women in former Yugoslavia, and indeed against the whole population, will not be

resolved without a political settlement to this conflict. Sadly, that is as true as ever. That is why the European Union is keeping a close watch on the situation and hopes that the perpetrators of these rapes can be arraigned as soon as possible before the International Court set up to try those presumed responsible for the grave violations of international humanitarian law committed on the territory of former Yugoslavia since 1991.

Ms Crawley (PSE): I thank the President-in-Office for his very succinct answer, and particularly for underlining the systematic nature of this rape and torture against women in the former Yugoslavia, particularly against Muslim women. I would ask the President-in-Office as a supplementary: does he have details of how many women have been assisted by the European Union's programme so far? What are the plans for the future of these excellent programmes? Because of the nature of the problem they are dealing with, the workers in those programmes helping women who have been victims of rape and torture will have evidence that will be of great help to the war crimes tribunal that the President-in-Office referred to, which has been set up in The Hague this week. Will the Council ensure that any assistance that workers in those programmes can give to that war crimes tribunal will be forthcoming, as those workers will probably be the most important witnesses in a lot of evidence-gathering?

Mr Urbain: Mr President, although I would like to give a full reply, I cannot answer the honourable Member's questions as precisely as she would like.

This is the case, for example, as regards the number of women who have been victims of these crimes. What I can tell you is that the aid programme is directed towards all women war victims without distinction, be it ethnic, geographic or religious. But in addition the European Union, and the Council in particular, continues to devote the greatest attention to this issue. In this connection, you will be aware that until 17 November a Commission assessment team was working in the field and so, up to a point, some of the questions raised here need to be put to the Commission for a reply.

Furthermore, I would like to remind you that the international court is sitting in The Hague this very day. Its composition was mentioned here at the last Question Time: 15 judges and a procurator general. So that body starts its work today. It must establish its rules of procedure and evidence before it is effectively operational. These rules were not in fact specified in the Commission's report. I think we can put a great deal of hope in the work of this International Court.

Ms Rawlings (PPE): Help for refugees, not only from the former Yugoslavia, but also from Eastern and Central Europe, is a vitally important issue. The Council has once again blocked the Bulgarian interim agreement, voting nine to three, led by the French with the Spanish and Portuguese. This is outrageous for many reasons. Bulgaria is suffering from sanctions against the former Yugoslavia. Bulgaria is suffering as ex-communists – renamed socialists – come back, blocking progressive legislation. Bulgaria is losing faith in the European Union because it is trade, not aid, which will help to deter its citizens from leaving. Because of the delay with the Bulgarian interim agreement the Europe Agreements with Hungary and Poland are being delayed. There will be more refugees from there too. There must be some way the distinguished Belgian Minister, Mr Urbain, can put pressure on the French Government. I should like to ask through the President-in-Office what the Council will do to solve this very serious problem?

Mr Urbain: I would like to inform the honourable Member that the problem will return to the Council's agenda at its next scheduled meeting, that is, 6 December. In this connection and in the light of a detailed examination of this problem, the Belgian Prime Minister, Mr Dehaene, has written to his colleagues to draw their attention to the importance that the Belgian Presidency attaches to this point, which will be re-examined in exactly two weeks' time.

Mr Langer (V): You said yourself that the international war criminals tribunal began its work today. But until any of the defendants appear before it and until such time as evidence has been produced it is simply a phantom tribunal. Can you assure us that in its common external policy the European Union has set itself the goal of actively supporting the work of tribunal which means collecting evidence and presenting information particularly relating to rape so that the tribunal carries real weight?

Mr Urbain: I do find it somewhat excessive to use the term 'puppet' to describe a court which was established by the Commission and which only began its work today. Give it time to get on with the job before you judge it! I do not feel the court will come up to expectations unless those who have been specifically accused of playing a role in the tragic matter we have raised today are caused to appear before it.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/453.

² OJ C 115, 26.04.1993.

³ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/035.

93/455. Question No H-1108/93 by Mr Oostlander on prison sentences passed on conscientious objectors in Cyprus

Date of issue: 17 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Is the Council aware that conscientious objectors in Cyprus are sentenced to terms of imprisonment on grounds of their convictions and that some have already served several years in prison?

Will the Council urge the Cypriot authorities to ensure that human rights are respected in Cyprus, with particular reference to conscientious objection, and amend legislation accordingly?

Answer:

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of the Council: Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, the Council is aware of the problem raised by the honourable Member and of the European Parliament's constant concern about the problems of conscientious objectors.

The problems associated with conscientious objection raise various issues which are sometimes contradictory. On the one hand, there is individual freedom of expression, conscience and conviction, sometimes religious conviction. In this context, it should be noted that the United Nations Commission on Human Rights has recognized conscientious objection to military service as a legitimate exercise of the right to freedom of opinion, conscience and religion.

But on the other hand there are the obligations imposed by the state and what is regarded as the collective interest. It is of course incumbent on the states to find the right balance between such factors and adequate legislation to respect human rights.

On 9 June 1992, the Cypriot House of Representatives adopted a law which governs the status of conscientious objector in the Republic of Cyprus. Instead of 26 months of armed military service, objectors may opt for 34 months of unarmed military service or 42 months service in the civil defence forces or in a social sector. This legislation shows that the Cypriot authorities are conscious of the complexity of the problem, and also of the European sensitivity that attaches to it.

Mr Oostlander (PPE): I thank the President-in-Office for that clear answer. But we have received complaints concerning conscientious objectors who have been imprisoned for several years in Cyprus. Is the President-in-Office of the Council willing, in the talks which of course take place from time to time with Cyprus, to put this item on the agenda and to see if this legislation has in fact been put into practice so that due respect can be paid to human rights and freedom of conscience?

Mr Urbain: I am grateful to the honourable Member for his appreciation. The subject has never been discussed in Political Cooperation, but according to Amnesty International there are at least 15 prisoners held in Cyprus for refusing military service or recall exercises on grounds of conscientious objection. But as I have just told you, the House of Deputies has a draft bill before it which we hope will soon be adopted and implemented. Actually I shall be in Cyprus in just over a week in the context of cooperation between the European Community and that republic. I shall be chairing a mixed committee, and I can assure you that I will convey the concern of the European Parliament on this matter.

Mr Nianias (RDE): Mr President, I would like to ask the President-in-Office whether in fact he knows the number of people held as conscientious objectors, and I gave him the figure: there are 15 of them.

I wonder whether this case should be brought before Parliament. I too am against the internment of conscientious objectors. Even if there is only one conscientious objector we ought to support his rights. But I wonder how this question about 15 people came to be put before your Parliament, when there are countries in which the imprisonment and persecution of conscientious objectors is rife.

I am certain that the matter was raised here only to create a bad impression against Cyprus, a martyr island in whose favour there are ten decisions which are never carried out, an occupied island, martyred and in chains. I do not want to sound melodramatic about the matter, but I suspect that behind the tabling of this question before today's Plenary sitting, there are more interests than there might seem at first sight.

Mr Urbain: Mr President, I do not know what motivates the people who are challenging me. I can only reply to the question put to me to the extent that I am able and it is quite impossible, for example, for me to say how many prisoners are in Cypriot prisons on this count. I have given a figure of 15 prisoners which comes from Amnesty International reports.

93/456. Question No H-1112/93 by Llorca Vilaplana on juvenile delinquency and street children

Date of issue: 17 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

The concern recently expressed by Ms Clinton, speaking on CNN, at children dying after being shot from cars only a few blocks away from the White House and repeated instances of children being used to commit crimes on Florida's beaches have turned the spotlight on a widespread problem, the scale of which can be judged from the fact that more people are killed in shooting incidents than in car accidents. To what extent does the Council consider that the EC might be able to cooperate and help reduce this serious problem?

Answer:

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of the Council: Since this question relates to crime in the United States it is obviously not covered by the common foreign and security policy.

As regards firearms, everyone will be aware of the recent adoption by the House of Representatives of a law called the Brady Law which can be regarded as a step in the direction of control of firearms sales in the United States.

As regards the fate of street children more generally, the European Union is following this distressing problem closely. It has already reacted in the appropriate way in various international forums where the matter has been raised, including the United Nations.

Amongst others, the World Conference on Human Rights has urgently called on all states to come to the aid of children in particularly difficult situations by appealing to international cooperation. It has also recommended that the issues relating to the position of children be regularly examined and followed up by all the relevant bodies and mechanisms in the United Nations' system and by the monitoring units of specialised institutions, in line with their mandates.

Ms Llorca Vilaplana: May I thank the President-in-Office of the Council for his reply but, nonetheless, I think that there is another aspect of this issue which affects us very directly, but not exactly in all the ways mentioned by the President-in-Office of the Council. Every month, in sessions devoted to human rights, we are faced with denunciations of the murder of children on the streets of the great cities of Brazil, Columbia, Venezuela, Guatemala, and on the situation of children, as a result of the war in the former Yugoslavia, who have been abandoned and freely wander Europe. And, so tragically, with denunciations of the over 60,000 children murdered in Iraq. All this represents a mass of problems which, I feel, require a specially tailored flexibility and sensitivity. There seems to be a sort of madness spreading through the world and it has to be dealt with in a special way. Ms Clinton herself, in honestly denouncing what is happening in her country, says 'I am horrified' and I think we are all neglecting the major problems, despite the fact that we have an obligation to find a solution for them. I think that the voices that are now being raised all over the globe should coordinate, because these problems must be solved.

Mr Urbain: I share Ms Llorca Vilaplana's concern and agree with her conclusion. However, I wish to emphasize that the European Union cannot be reproached for not giving this issue the necessary impetus every time it has the chance. It was on the initiative of the European Union that the 47th Session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution specifically devoted to the fate of street children.

At the 49th Session of the Committee on Human Rights, a new resolution bearing on this point was introduced by the European Union and co-sponsored by all the Member States. Lastly, the final statement of the World Conference on Human Rights which was adopted in Vienna last June puts the accent on strengthening and promoting the rights of the child, and the European Union played a preponderant role in its drafting.

93/457. Question No H-1148/93 by Mr Ford, taken over by Ms Pollack, on Jammu-Kashmir

Date of issue: 17 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Is the Council aware of the problems of human rights violations on the Indian side of the demonstration line in Jammu-Kashmir?

Is the Council planning to discuss this matter with Mr Amamllah Khan, the leader of the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front, while he is in Belgium?

Answer:

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of the Council: Mr President, the European Union deplores the violence which continues to rage in Kashmir. It is convinced of the importance of opposing terrorist violence resolutely, while respecting the rule of law. In this connection, the European Union has urged the Indian Government to permit humanitarian organizations and international organizations concerned with human rights to have free access to the region.

The European Union will continue to follow the situation in Kashmir closely, exerting its influence with the Indian and Pakistani Governments so that they pursue their efforts towards resolving their differences on this issue. The Council does not contemplate any meeting with Mr Amamllah Khan to discuss these matters.

Ms Pollack (PSE): I am delighted to take over this question from Mr Ford, who is unable to be here, because I am chair of the South Asia delegation of Parliament and was instrumental in inviting Mr Amamllah Khan to Belgium. There are two questions I would like to ask the President-in-Office on this. First of all, he has just said that he has had a guarantee from the Indian Government that it will allow free access to the humanitarian organizations such as Amnesty. This is new because in the past it has not allowed this. I would be most grateful if the President-in-Office could tell us on what date this information was given to him, because it is particularly 'new' news – if it is in fact accurate.

Secondly, I would ask the President-in-Office if he could kindly avail himself or his government's self of the opportunity of talking to Mr Amamllah Khan, whom that government has very brutally arrested: he is resting in a Belgian prison at this very moment. I must object to the way he was abducted – for that is what happened – by your government, Mr President-in-Office, and ask when you are going to see fit to release him, because he is being held in your jails under most peculiar circumstances, and at the moment is being described in your jails as an Indian national, which he is not. He is a Pakistan national. I would be most grateful if you could tell us when your government is going to talk to him and sort things out.

Mr Urbain: First of all, as regards Community initiatives, my meaning was that the European Union has urged the Indian Government to allow the humanitarian organizations and international organizations concerned with human rights to have free access to the region in order to make an independent assessment. It is impossible for me to tell you how the Indian Government will react and when it will do so, but the Union applauds the recent visit of an international committee of jurists. It hopes that support for militant organizations operating from outside can be ended and it is delighted with the positive reports that have been received on this point. All these concerns are explicitly taken up in the memorandum of the Twelve¹ published on the occasion of the opening of the 48th General Assembly, in September 1993, in New York.

As regards the fate of Mr Amamllah Khan, I must emphasize that the Indian authorities have requested extradition. The person concerned is in fact under an international arrest warrant, issued on 26 April 1990 by the legal authorities of Indian Kashmir for the murder of several Indian notables, and he was wanted by Interpol for political crimes, acts of terrorism and murder. Mr Khan was previously arrested in 1985, in Great Britain, and expelled for illegal possession of arms.

I am obviously not going to discuss a case which, in Belgium, is strictly the responsibility of the Minister of Justice. The opportunity you have today, with the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs present here, is surely to put questions of a more precisely political nature.

Ms Balfe (PSE): I wonder if the President-in-Office is aware of the fact that the British Foreign Secretary, recently visiting India, said that we could not judge the fate of Kashmir by the rights or wrongs of 1947-1949, and that we have to look at the matter afresh. I would like him to check with the British Foreign Secretary the right of free access, because I know that the Foreign Secretary raised this matter, and my understanding is that the Indian Government said it would not be opportune to give free access to anything other than government delegations, in other words not to Amnesty International.

Finally, I wonder whether the President-in-Office could inquire of the Ministry in Belgium as to whether or not the European Parliament or any of the people therein were informed well before Mr Amamllah Khan arrived in Belgium that in the event of him arriving the international arrest warrant would probably be put into effect. In other words, does the failure not lie within this Parliament?

Mr Urbain: I repeat, Mr President, that Belgium faces an extradition demand for a Pakistani, as I am told, or an Indian national. This is obviously a problem quite outside the competence of the Presidency of the Council. It is the responsibility, and I emphasize this, of the Belgian courts.

I can only repeat what I have said: the European Union has urged the Indian Government to allow free access to the region to humanitarian organizations and international organizations concerned with human rights. I do not know if the Indian Government will respond favourably and if it does, when and under what conditions.

Mr Seal (PSE): Is the President-in-Office of the Council aware that Mr Kahn is a man who has never actually been to India, that he is a Pakistani and has a Pakistani passport, and that when he was on trial in the United Kingdom he was actually acquitted of the charges which had been brought against him by the Indian Government? Even so, the British Government asked him to leave the country. But he was acquitted. He was found not guilty. Is the President-in-Office of the Council aware of this?

Mr Urbain: I stand by the information I have given.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/383.

93/458. Statement on the Congo

Date of issue: 18 November 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

The European Union is following with great concern recent developments in the situation in the Congo. It particularly deplores the violence and disorder which have caused numerous innocent victims in the capital of the country and have resulted in a climate of insecurity.

The European Union appeals to all parties and authorities concerned to show moderation and pursue a constructive dialogue in the spirit of conciliation which marked the Libreville Agreement and with respect for democratic institutions.

The European Union reiterates its support for the Libreville Agreement, which it is helping to follow up together with other members of the international community. In this context it is more than ever essential that the international arbitration board deal[...] with the electoral dispute and carry out its task in complete independence and tranquillity.

The European Union considers that all Congolese must make every conceivable effort to ensure that the electoral process is finally brought to a conclusion without disturbance.

93/459. Statement of the European Union at the occasion of the conclusion of the multi-party negotiations at Kempton Park

Date of issue: 18 November 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

The European Union warmly welcomes the successful conclusion of the multi-party negotiating process in South Africa, and the agreements reached on the establishment of an interim constitution and an electoral bill as well as on the bills approved earlier on the transitional executive council, the independent electoral commission, the independent media commission and the independent broadcasting authority. This represents a historic milestone on the road to true democracy in South Africa.

The European Union now looks forward to the holding of democratic elections on 27 April 1994, and urges all parties in South Africa, including those who were not lately represented at Kempton Park, to contest them. All South Africans should be able to express their views on the country's future by means of the ballot box.

The European Union urges all South Africans to recommit themselves to democratic principles, in particular by:

- ensuring that all agreements reached in the negotiating process are adhered to,
- resolving outstanding disputes by peaceful means only,
- ensuring free political activity during the election campaign by rejecting violence and intimidation,
- respecting the result of free and fair elections,
- continuing to work for the establishing of a democratic culture after the elections.

The European Union will continue to normalize its relations with South Africa. So as to further support the developments towards democracy and majority rule in that country, the European Union has started preparations to assist with the elections.

Furthermore, the European Union recognizes that South Africa's transition to democracy must be underpinned by economic reconstruction and development. The EU reiterates its readiness to help in an appropriate way.

93/460. Statement on Nigeria

Date of issue: 19 November 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

The European Union condemns the fact that the democratic process in Nigeria has been interrupted through the resumption of power by a military dictatorship, which constitutes a serious setback for both Nigeria and the whole of Africa.

It strongly urges the Nigerian military authorities to re-establish democratic institutions with all speed.

The European Union has decided to examine without delay the consequences of this regression in the democratic process in Nigeria.

93/461. Statement on a Council meeting (extracts only)

Date of issue: 22 November 1993

Place of issue: Luxembourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

Former Yugoslavia

The Council meeting was also attended by Lord Owen, General Cot and General Briquemont.

The Council held a detailed discussion of the situation in former Yugoslavia and the prospects for negotiation. The Presidency reported on implementation of the joint action on conveying humanitarian aid in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Council noted with satisfaction the undertakings given by the parties at the 18 November meeting chaired by Ms Ogata, not to obstruct humanitarian-aid convoys. It will remain vigilant as to whether those commitments are being duly honoured on the ground. The Ministers agreed to return to this question at the meeting with the parties scheduled for 29 November in Geneva.

General Cot and General Briquemont presented UNPROFOR's viewpoint on the protection of priority routes. The Council stressed the need to find additional contributions of troops or logistical support to UNPROFOR. The Council will return to the matter of funding humanitarian aid at its December meeting.

As part of the effort to revive the negotiating process and in view of the European Union's resolve to play a dynamic role in that context, the Council decided to invite, in close liaison with the co-chairmen, the parties to the conflict and the military chiefs to a meeting in Geneva on 29 November, to be attended by the twelve Foreign Ministers and the Commission on the Union side and also by the co-chairmen. The UNPROFOR military leaders will also be invited. The aim will be on the one hand to propose to the parties a new peace effort based on an improvement, to the advantage of the Muslims, of the territorial terms agreed earlier in Geneva. On the other hand it will be pointed out that such concessions as the Serbian side might make could lead to the progressive suspension of sanctions and that the efforts that the European Union is prepared to make to rebuild the former Yugoslavia are dependent on a swift return to peace and a constructive attitude on all sides.

Humanitarian Aid

1. The Presidency reported to Ministers following its talks with the UNHCR and UNPROFOR on an initial assessment of the situation as regards the choice of priority routes (see Annex). The Council also heard a report by the UNPROFOR commanders on the subject. The choice of route will be left to the organizations responsible for conveying aid in consultation with UNPROFOR, depending on the military situation, agreements reached on the ground, weather conditions and the state of the roads.

The Council stressed the need to find additional contributions of troops or logistical support to UNPROFOR once the relevant requirements had been clearly identified. The Member States will give shape to that commitment before the Geneva meeting. The Council agreed on the need for Member States of the European Union to put together, if appropriate under the ECMM, the fifty

specialists that are essential for the operation of Tuzia airport as well as the corresponding logistical and back-up facilities.

In connection with the agreements reached between the parties on 18 November to allow the conveying of humanitarian aid to proceed, the Council wanted to see the UNPROFOR command able to make, against uncontrolled elements obstructing aid convoys, the swiftest and most effective possible use of all appropriate means, including air cover, as provided for by the relevant Security Council resolutions.

2. The Council noted with satisfaction the undertakings regarding the unobstructed conveying of humanitarian aid which were given by the various parties on 18 November at the meeting of the ICFY working party on humanitarian questions, chaired by Ms Ogata. In order to consolidate and amplify those results, the European Union will invite civilian and military representatives to attend the planned meeting in Geneva. On that occasion the European Union, together with Lord Owen, will endeavour to obtain from the parties the reconfirmation of their commitments, holding good at all levels, on keeping priority routes open, on the opening and protection by UNPROFOR of Tuzla airport and on the opening of air corridors, on restoring energy supplies and on the use of force against uncontrolled elements. As soon as conditions permit, the European Union will work for the reconstruction and reopening of Mostar airport.

At the meeting which the Presidency is to organize in Geneva, it will be making the following points in particular:

- the parties will be held responsible, in the eyes of their own population and of the international community, for any obstacles or impediments placed in the way of the conveying of humanitarian aid. The extortion of levies will not be tolerated;
- the international community cannot remain indifferent to the fate of refugees, displaced persons and vulnerable population groups in Serbia and Montenegro. In compliance with Security Council resolutions, the European Union practises no discrimination in the distribution of humanitarian aid. In that spirit it will take steps to achieve accelerated and simplified processing of notifications and requests concerning humanitarian aid for Serbia and Montenegro.

3. Restoring fuel supplies will be given the highest priority. The ECMM and ECTF are requested to look into the problem and put forward proposals, which might entail their reinforcement or adjustment. Particular attention will be paid to safeguarding access routes to coal mines and gas supplies.

4. With regard to determining the needs arising from the above decisions and their financial implications, the Presidency and the Commission will draw up the report called for by the end of the month, so that decisions can be taken on budgetary funding at the December Council meeting. The ECTF and IMG will be involved in that exercise.

Annex

List of routes

The following routes could be used:

- Coast – Metkovic – Jablanica – Sarajevo – Tuzla ('Gannet'): once the agreement of all parties, at all levels, has been obtained, this road will return to being an important access route, owing to its capacity, low altitude and commercial potential. However, the road has been blocked and several of the bridges it crosses destroyed. It will take at least three months before it can be reopened. Obtaining such agreement and repairing and maintaining the road are top priorities.

- Split – Duvno – Prozor – Gornivakuf – Vitez ('Diamond')
- Zagreb – Banja Luka – Doboj – Tuzla
- Zagreb – Banja Luka – Zenica – Sarajevo
- Belgrade – Valljevo – Titovo – Eastern Bosnia
- Bar – Uzice – Eastern Bosnia (railway as far as Uzice)
- Bar – Podgorica – Niksic – Foca
- Ploce – Metkovic – Stolac – Foca.

[...]

93/462. Statement on the judicial procedures in Tiraspol

Date of issue: 25 November 1993
 Place of issue: Brussels
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Status of document: Press statement

The European Union supports the efforts made by the CSCE mission in Moldavia to ensure that the members of the Ilascu group are given a fair trial by a lawful court. It expresses its concern at the call by the state prosecutor in Tiraspol for the death penalty for three of the accused. It is of the opinion that the death penalty would have an adverse effect on the chances of reaching a political settlement to the dispute concerning Transdnistria.

The European Union welcomes the undertaking given by the Moldavian Government to carry through the Ilascu trial in Chisinau and to clarify the circumstances surrounding the outrages perpetrated in Transdnistria in spring 1992. It reiterates its call to all parties concerned to bring their influence to bear on the self-appointed authorities in Transdnistria to ensure that the prisoners are handed over to the lawful Moldavian authorities.

93/463. Statement on Yemen

Date of issue: 25 November 1993
 Place of issue: Brussels
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Status of document: Press statement

The European Union appeals to all political forces to contribute to strengthening the political stability and unity of Yemen, in a spirit of cooperation and within the framework of the democratic institutions chosen by the Yemeni people.

93/464. Statement on the peace process in the Philippines

Date of issue: 26 November 1993
 Place of issue: Brussels
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Status of document: Press statement

The European Union welcomes the conclusion of the interim cease-fire agreement on 5 November 1993 in Jakarta between the Philippine governmental panel and the Moro National Liberation Front. The European Union hopes that the cessation of hostilities in Mindanao for the duration of

the formal peace talks, which will begin on 14 February 1994, will be a step towards a comprehensive, durable and mutually accepted solution to the country's long-standing internal conflict.

The European Union supports the initiatives of the government of President Fidel V. Ramos to bring about a comprehensive peace process and it calls upon all parties involved to pursue national reconciliation.

The European Union will continue to monitor the developments in the Philippine peace process, which is an essential element for the economic and social development that will enable the Filipino people to create the prosperity and stability to which they genuinely aspire.

93/465. Statement on Georgia

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

The European Union welcomes the fact that negotiations have started under the auspices of the UN on the situation in Georgia with particular reference to the Abkhaz region. These negotiations should initiate the gradual re-establishing of peace in Abkhazia. Moves towards a peaceful resolution of the situation in Abkhazia will certainly have positive repercussions for the whole of Georgia.

The European Union reaffirms the importance it attaches to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia. It confirms that it is essential for all parties to respect the principles of the CSCE and humanitarian law.

The European Union calls on the parties to commit themselves seriously to this negotiating process and to refrain from any resumption of hostilities. A political solution to the conflict must be found within the framework of existing international frontiers and by means of dialogue.

The European Union is concerned at the alarming situation of thousands of refugees from Abkhazia and has recently considerably increased its humanitarian efforts in the region. It strongly urges the parties to the conflict not to impede the work of those assisting the troubled population.

93/466. Statement on the political dialogue between India and Pakistan

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

The European Union welcomes the decision of the Governments of India and Pakistan to resume consultations at foreign secretaries level in Islamabad from 1 to 3 January 1994. The European Union particularly welcomes the inclusion in the agenda of a discussion of the question of Kashmir in all its aspects. This constitutes an important first step towards re-establishing a substantial political dialogue between both countries.

The European Union expresses the hope that this dialogue might lead to a significant decrease of tension in the region.

93/467. Statement at the CSCE Council of Ministers meeting

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Rome

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Statement in international forum

M. Claes: Permettez-moi d'abord de rendre hommage à Madame Margaretha Af Ugglas qui a présidé ce Conseil depuis notre dernière réunion à Stockholm. Elle a accompli sa tâche avec une rare compétence et une détermination sans failles, dans une période de défis pour l'Europe et pour la CSCE. Le brillant exposé qu'elle vient de nous présenter constitue assurément la meilleure introduction possible pour nos travaux.

Permettez-moi aussi de féliciter notre nouveau Président et de l'assurer du plein soutien de l'Union Européenne dans l'exercice du mandat difficile que l'Italie a accepté de prendre en charge.

C'est au nom de l'Union Européenne que j'ai l'honneur d'intervenir aujourd'hui. Le Traité de Maastricht sur l'Union Européenne constitue assurément une étape importante de la construction européenne. Dans le domaine des relations extérieures, la coopération politique entre ses Etats membres a désormais cédé la place à une politique étrangère et de sécurité commune.

Je puis vous assurer de la volonté de l'Union Européenne d'utiliser les instruments dont elle s'est dotée pour promouvoir les principes et les valeurs de la CSCE.

L'Union Européenne n'entend pas se replier sur elle-même. Les négociations en vue de son élargissement se poursuivent de manière constructive et rapide.

Le Conseil Européen de Copenhague a par ailleurs convenu que les pays associés de l'Europe centrale et orientale qui le souhaitent pourront, si les conditions qu'il a définies sont remplies, devenir membres de l'Union Européenne.

L'Union Européenne poursuivra également dans le domaine économique les vastes programmes de coopération développés dans le cadre des accords européens. Ces programmes renforceront des liens essentiels et contribueront à promouvoir la paix et la stabilité en Europe.

Je souhaiterais évoquer à présent le projet de Pacte de Stabilité en Europe dont le Conseil Européen des 11 et 12 décembre se propose de prendre l'initiative.

Le projet s'adresse à la stabilité en Europe en prévenant les tensions et conflits potentiels. Il vise à favoriser des relations de bon voisinage et à inciter les pays à régler entre eux leurs problèmes de frontières et de minorités nationales. Il met en oeuvre, dans ce but, une diplomatie préventive où l'Union Européenne aura un rôle actif de catalyseur à jouer. Il s'attache en outre à rapprocher de l'Union Européenne les pays ayant ou négociant avec elle des accords d'association.

Au printemps 1993 une Conférence de lancement serait convoquée. Elle aurait pour tâche de mettre en place des tables rondes destinées à accompagner les discussions bilatérales. Elle serait préparée par des consultations formelles menées par l'Union Européenne. Le processus ainsi mis en place devrait aboutir à la conclusion d'accords qui couvriraient en particulier les problèmes de minorités nationales et les problèmes de frontières et qui, avec les arrangements complémentaires, constitueraient le Pacte. Ce dernier, une fois approuvé par les participants, est destiné à être inséré dans la CSCE qui en sera la gardienne.

Le Pacte entend développer des liens étroits avec la CSCE: il s'appuie en particulier sur ses engagements et ses instruments. Il se propose de les valoriser, en évitant tout double emploi et en

établissant avec elle des contacts tout au long du processus d'élaboration et de mise en oeuvre. Il ne comporte ni création d'institutions nouvelles, ni élaboration de règles particulières.

Le projet a un caractère ouvert géographiquement et évolutif. Il se concentre cependant, dans un stade initial, sur les pays de l'Europe centrale et orientale appelés à devenir membres de l'Union Européenne. C'est avec ceux-là, notamment les six PECO et les pays baltes, que l'Union peut le mieux faire valoir son influence. Cette action pourrait être étendue à d'autres régions ou pays.

Le Pacte s'inscrit donc dans la ligne des objectifs de la CSCE. Il entend développer avec elle une coopération fructueuse. Aussi, le propos de mon intervention est de demander à votre Assemblée de l'accueillir favorablement et de manifester sa disponibilité à coopérer.

On m'a demandé d'intervenir plus particulièrement sur l'évolution de la situation dans l'aire géographique de la CSCE.

Je voudrais pour commencer vous rendre compte du résultat de la réunion organisée à Genève hier par l'Union Européenne en liaison avec les co-présidents du Comité Directeur de la Conférence Internationale sur l'ex-Yougoslavie.

Les parties ont confirmé et renforcé le document sur la libre circulation des convois humanitaires et les chefs militaires y ont apposé leur signature. En outre, les parties ont accepté de revenir à la table des négociations en se basant sur les propositions de l'Union Européenne d'une part et sur l'acquis du HMS Invincible d'autre part.

Les élections qui se tiendront prochainement en Fédération de Russie et l'adoption possible d'une nouvelle constitution russe qui romprait avec les institutions du passé sont d'un intérêt primordial. C'est pourquoi, le Conseil européen extraordinaire du 29 octobre¹ a tenu à définir une action commune de l'Union pour observer le déroulement des élections en coordination avec la CSCE et le Conseil de l'Europe.

Des progrès ont également été réalisés, en application du paragraphe 15 de la déclaration de Helsinki, en ce qui concerne le retrait des forces armées étrangères stationnées dans les Etats baltes. L'Union Européenne attache cependant de l'importance à une mise en oeuvre complète de ce paragraphe et engage donc les parties concernées à poursuivre leurs efforts pour que ce retrait puisse être rapidement achevé.

En dépit des efforts ininterrompus du groupe de Minsk, le conflit du Haut Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] s'est non seulement poursuivi mais s'est également étendu de manière inadmissible à d'autres parties de la république d'Azerbaïdjan.

L'Union Européenne engage les forces arméniennes du Haut Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] à se retirer immédiatement des territoires récemment occupés et à respecter les résolutions du Conseil des Nations Unies.

Le sort des dizaines de milliers de civils fuyant les combats est particulièrement préoccupant. Outre l'immense détresse humaine qu'elle révèle, la présence de ces réfugiés augmente le risque d'internationalisation du conflit et menace la stabilité de l'ensemble de la région. L'accueil et la protection de ces réfugiés doit constituer une priorité pour la communauté internationale.

L'Union européenne réitère son soutien aux efforts entrepris par le groupe de Minsk et souhaite que des efforts concrets soient entrepris afin d'apporter une solution politique durable au conflit.

La Géorgie, aussi, demeure le théâtre de conflits internes en Abkhazie, en Ossétie et dans la partie occidentale du pays. Ces conflits ont provoqué des violations massives des droits de l'homme, la mort de milliers de personnes et l'exode massif de réfugiés.

La violation par les Abkhazes de l'accord de cessez-le-feu conclu à Sochi le 27 juillet dernier a conduit à d'immenses souffrances pour la population géorgienne qui a dû fuir devant les atrocités commises par les milices abkhazes.

La réconciliation en Ossétie apparaît comme essentielle si l'on ne veut pas aggraver la guerre civile. La spirale de la violence est telle que d'autres régions pourraient s'embraser.

L'Union Européenne tient ici à rappeler son attachement à l'intégrité territoriale et à la souveraineté de la Géorgie. Elle souhaite que les actions menées par les Nations unies et par la CSCE puissent rapidement mettre fin à ces conflits. Elle engage les parties à renoncer au recours à la force et à rechercher une solution pacifique et durable qui doit se fonder sur les principes de la CSCE.

Les combats se poursuivent également au Tadjikistan avec le risque d'une internationalisation du conflit.

L'Union Européenne rappelle l'importance qu'elle attache au respect par toutes les parties des principes fondamentaux de la CSCE. A plusieurs reprises elle a condamné l'interdiction des principaux partis d'opposition. Elle considère en effet que seul un dialogue entre toutes les parties peut permettre une réconciliation nationale.

En ce qui concerne la région du Trans-Dniestr, l'Union Européenne demande aux parties concernées de permettre à la mission CSCE de pouvoir suivre de près les négociations en cours et de participer activement aux réunions de la Commission Conjointe de Contrôle.

Renforcer la stabilité dans la zone de la CSCE constitue ainsi le défi majeur auquel nous devons faire face aujourd'hui.

La CSCE, qui a déclaré à Helsinki qu'elle constituait un accord régional visé au Chapitre VIII de la Charte des Nations unies, devrait pouvoir assumer un rôle majeur dans cette perspective. La CSCE a déjà diversifié ses moyens d'action et développé des initiatives pour prévenir mais aussi pour gérer les conflits.

Pour répondre plus adéquatement à sa vocation, la CSCE devrait toutefois être aussi apte à réagir, en collaboration avec d'autres organisations, avec plus d'efficacité aux stades ultérieurs des conflits.

La présente réunion du Conseil devrait nous permettre d'examiner le rôle de la CSCE dans le domaine du maintien de la paix.

Le Document de Helsinki dispose que des activités de maintien de la paix peuvent être entreprises par la CSCE en cas de conflit dans un Etat ou entre Etats participants. Il prévoit également que la CSCE peut, dans cette perspective, solliciter au cas par cas le soutien d'institutions et d'organisations internationales.

La CSCE devrait toutefois aussi, à la demande d'un Etat ou d'un groupe d'Etats participants qui déploient ou reçoivent des opérations de maintien de la paix, décider au cas par cas de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour garantir que ces interventions sont menées conformément au chapitre 3 du Document de Helsinki.

La CSCE demeure un forum indispensable de consultations politiques. Elle est toutefois davantage: elle oeuvre pour prévenir l'extension de conflits et contribue à la recherche de solutions pacifiques.

Des missions de longue durée ont été déployées dans plusieurs régions d'Europe afin de prévenir l'émergence ou l'extension de conflits et de contribuer à la recherche de solutions pacifiques aux différends.

A cet égard, l'Union Européenne déplore vivement que les missions CSCE de longue durée au Kosovo, dans le Sandjak et en Voïvodine aient été contraintes de se retirer suite au refus inadmissible des autorités de Belgrade de prolonger le protocole d'accord qui en autorisait le déploiement.

Les missions de la CSCE ont mis en relief le lien étroit qui existe entre la diplomatie préventive et le respect des droits de l'homme.

L'action du Haut Commissaire aux Minorités Nationales en est une autre illustration. L'Union Européenne se félicite des actions que ce dernier a entreprises depuis sa nomination et invite les Etats à tenir compte de ses recommandations.

La relation entre la prévention des conflits et la dimension humaine a encore été soulignée lors de la réunion de Varsovie sur la mise en oeuvre des engagements concernant la dimension humaine de la CSCE.

L'Union Européenne approuve ainsi pleinement les décisions qui visent à intégrer davantage la dimension humaine, et par conséquent le respect des droits de l'homme, dans la stratégie de diplomatie préventive de la CSCE.

Le Forum de Sécurité de la CSCE a entrepris la négociation d'un Code de Conduite régissant les relations entre Etats participants en matière de sécurité. Ce Code, qui devrait régir non seulement les relations entre nos différents pays mais également les relations de chacun de nos Etats avec ses citoyens et ses minorités, est essentiel. Si les Principes de l'Acte Final d'Helsinki gardent toute leur valeur, il convient de les adapter aux profonds bouleversements qu'a connus notre continent. Il importe que ce Code puisse être adopté lors du Sommet CSCE qui se tiendra à Budapest en 1994.

Pour répondre plus efficacement à sa vocation, la CSCE devait aussi adapter ses structures.

La nomination d'un secrétaire général de la CSCE a constitué une première étape dans ce processus.

Le présent Conseil devrait prendre d'autres décisions de nature institutionnelle dans un même souci d'accroître la capacité d'action de la CSCE. Ainsi, un Comité permanent, destiné à mener des consultations politiques et capable de prendre des décisions, doit être créé à Vienne. Dans cette même ville, un nouveau secrétariat chargé de tâches extensives doit être mis en place.

Il faut aussi doter la CSCE de moyens suffisants tant en ce qui concerne le statut de ses institutions qu'en ce qui concerne son personnel ou son budget pour pouvoir agir efficacement.

Un effort devrait enfin être accompli par les Etats participants pour que les missions de la CSCE soient pourvues du personnel et de l'équipement nécessaires à la réalisation de leur mandat.

Je voudrais à présent saluer les représentants de l'Egypte, du Maroc, de la Tunisie et de l'Algérie, dont la présence témoigne de la volonté de renforcer les liens entre les Etats Méditerranéens non participants et la CSCE.

La CSCE a été conçue dès l'origine comme un processus continu. Il nous appartiendra de donner aussi des orientations afin que la Conférence d'Examen de Budapest puisse compléter les décisions qui auront été prises lors du Conseil.

Déjà, le Portugal s'est porté candidat pour organiser, à Lisbonne, la Conférence d'Examen et le Sommet de la CSCE qui devraient se tenir en 1996. Nous soutenons vivement cette candidature qui, évidemment, est la candidature de l'Union Européenne.

La CSCE a, ces dernières années, dû adapter ses objectifs et ses structures à de nouveaux défis.

D'un forum de consultations diplomatiques, elle devait se transformer en un instrument régional de sécurité collective. L'entreprise n'était pas aisée. Elle a toutefois été menée avec détermination. La CSCE assure désormais un rôle important dans la prévention et la gestion des conflits.

Le présent Conseil et la Conférence d'Examen de Budapest devraient encore renforcer l'autorité et les capacités d'action de la CSCE. La CSCE dispose incontestablement d'atouts: sa composition d'abord, ses principes et ses engagements ensuite, sa conception globale de la sécurité enfin.

L'Union Européenne entend poursuivre ses efforts pour que ses atouts puissent être mis pleinement à profit pour assurer la stabilité et la paix en Europe.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/440.

93/468. Question No 1363/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on the smuggling of nuclear materials and weapons in Croatia

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 4 June 1993)

A Republican group in the US Congress led by Mr Bill McCollum has drawn up a confidential report disclosing that Croatia has become a centre for the smuggling of nuclear materials in exchange for weapons and money. The report states that the Croatian Government is involved in such smuggling and that a German woman, Rita Draxler, is acting as a go-between, using secret bank accounts in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and other countries. The report states that the main suppliers are the former 'socialist' states and that the Middle East and South Africa are the main customers. Lastly, the report stresses that, since mid-1992, the Zagreb authorities have facilitated the storage and trafficking of chemical and biological weapons.

Can the Ministers meeting in EPC confirm this report by the US Congress and state what measures they intend to take to combat such smuggling by the Croatian Government to ensure that there is no breach of the arms embargo in the territory of the former Yugoslavia and, more importantly, that Croatia ceases to be a centre for the smuggling of nuclear materials and weapons?

Answer:

The question raised by the honourable Member can be answered by referring to the answer to Written Question No 1549/93¹ by Mr Alex Smith on disappearance of radioactive material.

The Community and its Member States are concerned with reports about the trafficking of illicit nuclear materials from the former Soviet Union, and the illegal trade in this highly sensitive area. Member States on whose territory such trade is alleged to have occurred or whose nationals have been involved investigate all such incidents. As such a problem is of a European nature, the Council Atomic Questions Group is, in addition to bilateral cooperation, presently discussing a number of proposals forwarded by the Commission to ensure coordinated action and follow-up to this kind of event. Fortunately thus far, materials recovered in incidents which have come to light have been of no proliferation concern. But the Community and its Member States are not complacent and will continue to treat this matter with the seriousness it deserves.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/523.

93/469. Question No 1415/93 by Ms Ewing (ARC) on Bosnian refugees

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 9 June 1993)

In the light of the increasingly tragic plight of refugees in Bosnia will European political cooperation take action to facilitate the reception by EC Member States of those refugees who can and wish to seek refuge in another country?

Answer:

The comprehensive humanitarian strategy of the UNHCR includes the principle to provide assistance to the victims of the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina as close to the place of origin as possible. The European Union, as the largest donor, have considerably contributed to the implementation of UNHCR's strategy and continue their humanitarian assistance to the distressed victims of the conflict. The European Council in Birmingham decided to speed up EC assistance and to immediately provide further staff and resources in order to strengthen UNHCR's capacity.

EC Member States, in close cooperation with UNHCR and ICRC, have contributed substantially to the humanitarian effort by providing finance and material aid and by offering place of temporary refuge for a very significant number of refugees and ex-detainees from former Yugoslavia.

The European Union will continue to respond appropriately to the urgent humanitarian requirements.

93/470. Question No 1462/93 by Mr Chabert (PPE) on the serious dangers presented by nuclear arms proliferation

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 9 June 1993)

On 12 March 1993 North Korea announced it was withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which it joined in 1985.

In view of ever-increasing instability of the situation in the former Soviet Union the acknowledged risks of hundreds if not thousands of nuclear technicians from the USSR offering their expertise and services to certain other states are putting mankind in serious danger.

The five traditional nuclear powers, all permanent members of the UN Security Council have now been joined by South Africa, India, Israel and Pakistan, to which before the end of the century will probably be added Brazil, Argentina, Algeria, Libya, Syria, Iraq, Iran, both Koreas and Taiwan, with three new nuclear powers emerging after the break-up of the former USSR.

The [planet] is being seriously endangered not only by the proliferation of nations possessing nuclear weapons but also by galloping population growth, a surge of religious fanaticism and general impoverishment of the Third World.

Does EPC not think that the Twelve should, as a matter of priority, embark on a large-scale initiative with a view to reducing in the medium term, the dangers of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, without waiting for implementation of the Maastricht Treaty?

Does it not think it essential to make the many forms of aid given to the countries of the former USSR clearly conditional on an assurance of tighter control by these countries over the final destinations of their nuclear weapons – and above all components – and over professional commitments entered into by their researchers and scientists?

Does EPC consider such a requirement appropriate and necessarily to be taken into consideration in any new international agreements concluded with any third countries, particularly when they are signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are well aware of the threat posed to international relations by uncontrolled proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The regular meetings of specialist EPC working parties on non-proliferation and arms-exports issues are organized around priorities set by both current events and the need for longer-term consideration, thereby acting as a kind of European political watchdog with regard to the proliferation of dangerous weapons.

The Community and its Member States have constantly voiced in public their concern at the reluctance of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to apply in full the safeguards agreement which it signed with the IAEA in January 1992. They have likewise made repeated representations to the states of the former Soviet Union, welcoming the accession to the NPT of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Uzbekistan. They are continuing to encourage non-signatory states, in particular Ukraine and Kazakhstan, to become members of the NPT at the earliest opportunity and to apply the Lisbon Protocol.

Full ratification of the Maastricht Treaty will make possible the implementation of genuine joint action, but the Community and its Member States are already accustomed to adopting a concerted approach in negotiations on the reduction of nuclear arsenals or in joint representations such as those made to North Korea or the CIS countries.

In addition, the Commission of the European Communities is playing a substantial role in connection with the programme of action for the development and implementation of a proper system of safeguards, as initiated by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

93/471. Question No 1647/93 by Mr Smith (S) on nuclear non-proliferation policy

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 28 June 1993)

What discussions have taken place in EPC about the implications for nuclear non-proliferation policy on the Community and attendant export controls of the production of military-grade plutonium by North Korea in a magnox reactor copied from United Kingdom military production reactors; and of North Korea's withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty?

Answer:

There have been frequent discussions in EPC about the policies of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Community and its Member States have repeatedly made clear their concern at the DPRK's continued refusal to affirm its commitment to the Non-Proliferation Treaty perma-

nently, and at the DPRK's failure to comply with its safeguards agreement, and have supported resolutions at the IAEA Board of Governors and in the Security Council which have condemned these actions.

On 16 June 1993, the Community and its Member States took note with satisfaction of the unilateral decision of the DPRK to suspend the effectuation of its withdrawal from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The Community and its Member States hope that the DPRK will very soon take all steps required to meet its safeguards obligations and reaffirm its commitment to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

As they stand firm behind their position as mentioned above, the Community and its Member States remain actively seized of this important and urgent matter and will take it up at the 37th regular session of the General Conference of the IAEA (27 September to 1 October 1993). They will also continue consultations in the working group on nuclear non-proliferation on a regular basis.

93/472. Question No E-1801/93 by Ms Crawley (PSE) on the rape of women in former Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 12 July 1993)

The delegation constituted by the European Council meeting in Edinburgh in December 1992 has now visited Bosnia-Herzegovina and has produced a preliminary report.

What steps does EPC intend to take to put into effect the recommendations set out in the report, in particular:

- the need to provide health care and counselling for the victims and their families;
- the provision of financial assistance to the various bodies working with the victims;
- the need to expedite visa procedures for Bosnian refugees, especially those who have suffered rape?

What steps does the EPC intend to take in response to the increasing calls for systematic rape to be recognized internationally as a war crime?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States in their declaration on 1 February,¹ welcomed the report submitted by the Warburton Mission in its findings during visits on 20 to 24 December 1992 and 19 to 26 January 1993 to the territory of the former Yugoslavia. The report confirmed that rapes were widespread and part of a recognizable and deliberate pattern of abuse, usually perpetrated with the conscious intention of demoralizing and terrorizing communities. The great majority of the many thousands of victims have been Muslims.

The European Community and its Member States are appalled by these crimes and the inhumanity which marks the present conflict. In the declaration of 1 February they declared their intention to implement the recommendations in the report on assistance to the Bosnian Muslim women victims of rape and other atrocities.

Accordingly, an amount of approximately MECU 1.8 has been allocated from the Community budget for projects in the framework of the Warburton report. Member States have also contributed, individually and in the form of co-financing with the Community, to rehabilitation projects.

The Community and its Member States will continue to meet within their possibilities urgent humanitarian needs of refugees by *inter alia* extending protection on a temporary basis to certain vulnerable categories of the population of the former Yugoslavia.

As to the call for recognizing systematic rape as a war crime it should be noted that abuse and humiliating treatment of individuals is already considered a war crime in the terms of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. In this regard, the Community and its Member States attach great importance to the quick establishment of the *ad hoc* international tribunal for former Yugoslavia, which can prosecute such cases.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/035.

93/473. Question No E-1848/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on stockpiling of weapons smuggled into occupied Cyprus

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 15 July 1993)

According to the newspaper *Pondiki* of 8 April 1993, large quantities of weapons from the former USSR, in particular from the autonomous Muslim Chechen area, whose leaders maintain very good relations with the Denktash regime, are being stockpiled in occupied Cyprus. These weapons are being used to arm the Turkish Cypriots principally, and Islamic forces in the Middle East and possibly Africa.

Will EPC take steps to break up the arms trafficking from the Chechen region to and from Cyprus and, if so, what action will it take?

Answer:

The matter raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation.

93/474. Question No E-1953/93 by Mr Ford (PSE) on the slaughter of seals in Namibia

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 19 July 1993)

A report from the International Fund for Animal Welfare shows that in 1992 20,000 seal pups were clubbed to death in Namibia.

In the light of the European Community ban on the importation of products made from seal skins, has the issue of this cull been raised with the Namibian authorities?

If not, will EPC please undertake to address this issue in the course of their dialogue with the Namibian Government?

Answer:

The question raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed in European political cooperation. The ban on the importation of products made from seal skins, to which the honourable Member refers, is a matter of Community competence.

93/475. Question No E-1967/93 by Mr Glinne (PSE) on the need to activate the Military Staff Committee set up under Articles 26, 46 and 47 of the UN Charter

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 19 July 1993)

So far the Military Staff Committee set up under Articles 26, 46 and 47 of the UN Charter has been an empty shell.

Considering that it is not a good thing to entrust the role of world's policeman to a single major power, what is EPC's reaction to the calls made by Mr Boutros Ghali, UN Secretary-General, and several governments for an armed branch to be set up under the Military Staff Committee?

Is it not for instance regrettable that the North American forces sent to Somalia were removed from UN control and that air exclusion zones were imposed on Iraq without UN authorization?

Answer:

In its statement of 30 June 1992¹ the European Union approved the publication of the report by the Secretary-General of the United Nations entitled 'An Agenda for Peace'. That report contains proposals which meet the concerns of the honourable Member, in so far as they cover *inter alia* numerous aspects of the question of peace-keeping operations.

Amongst those proposals, attention should be drawn to the one for the Member States of the UN to make military contingents available on stand-by. Initially, the Member States of the European Union replied individually to the Secretary-General's proposals.

Another proposal concerns strengthening the services of the Secretariat responsible for managing peace-keeping operations. The Member States of the European Union support this restructuring and take part in it, for example through the temporary secondment of military personnel.

All these proposals will be examined again during the 48th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

It should also be noted that Western European Union has already taken an active part in implementing UN resolutions and should strengthen its capacity for action in this regard in the future.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 92/259.

93/476. Question No E-1990/93 by Mr Pierros (PPE) on sanctions against Croatia

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 19 July 1993)

An end to the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina will require a willingness to compromise by all three warring parties, including the Croats. In view of Croatia's recent assaults against Muslims in central Bosnia, its ambitious rearmament programme, and the hope of many of its leaders for a Greater Croatia, does EPC not believe sanctions against Croatia are warranted?

Answer:

The European Community and its Member States never ruled out further sanctions or restrictive measures if actions from parties involved in the conflict in former Yugoslavia so warranted. They specifically insisted that all parties protect the lives and safety of relief personnel and let relief convoys pass unimpeded. In this context, the Community and its Member States continue to monitor closely all relevant developments within and outside of Bosnia.

93/477. Question No E-2022/93 by Mr Pierros (PPE) on politically motivated murders in Turkey

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 23 July 1993)

According to evidence submitted by Amnesty International and Helsinki Watch to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in April 1993, the number of politically motivated murders and 'disappearances' in Turkey has not only failed to diminish, but it has increased alarmingly, particularly in 1992 and the first few months of 1993. At the same time, according to the annual report by the Committee to protect Journalists which has its headquarters in the USA, 11 journalists were murdered in 1992 in Turkey, while this year the number of murder victims employed by the press has reached 14.

Will EPC bring pressure to bear on Turkey finally to put and end to this unacceptable situation?

Answer:

The honourable Member will be aware that the relationship of the Community and its Member States with Turkey is conducted through a regular dialogue bearing in mind our common attachment to democracy, respect for human rights and international law. Hence, the Turkish authorities are well aware of the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to the rule of law, the full respect of human rights and the commitments to which Turkey has subscribed in CSCE, Council of Europe and UN conventions. On the occasion of the 15 September troika meeting with Turkey at the level of political directors, the human rights situation in Turkey has been addressed.

93/478. Question No E-2118/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (PSE) on UNITA attack on train

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 26 July 1993)

On 27 May at least 355 people died in the UNITA attack on a passenger train in southern Angola. As this organization, which is defiantly ignoring the outcome of last year's elections, although they were recognized by the international community, is basically controlled by Zaire, which recently, moreover, moved six divisions up to the frontier with Cabinda, does European political co-operation intend to undertake a new initiative to bring peace to this region?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States are following developments in the situation in Angola very closely. They fully support the efforts made under the auspices of the United Nations and have appealed to all the parties, in particular UNITA, to respect the peace agreement, the outcome of the elections held in September 1992, the UN Security Council resolutions and the Abidjan Agreement.

The Community and its Member States would point out that one Member State is a member of the troika of 'Acordos de Paz' observers. The European Council in Copenhagen¹ moreover expressed its full support for Security Council Resolution 834 of June 1993 which condemned UNITA's actions and called upon it to accept the United Nations humanitarian aid plan. They supported the latest attempt by the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to achieve a cease-fire and will implement the sanctions against UNITA provided for in Security Council Resolution 864.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/249.

93/479. Question No E-2119/93 by Mr Heredia (PSE) on the reactions of the Trevi Group in Copenhagen and Kolding to racist violence

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 26 July 1993)

At the meeting of the Trevi Group in Copenhagen and Kolding, the Ministers of Justice and the Interior expressed their horror and revulsion at the violence directed against immigrants and asylum-seekers in various Member States, decided to conduct an inquiry into racism and xenophobia in the EC and acknowledged the need for a common policy regulating flows of immigrants.

Have the Ministers meeting in EPC considered including measures in that overall policy to encourage the integration and defence of human rights?

What specific steps do they intend to take against the perpetrators of racist and xenophobic acts of violence?

Answer:

At the Copenhagen summit on 21 and 22 June 1993 the European Council¹ strongly condemned recent attacks on immigrants and refugees in the Member States. It reiterated its strong resolve to fight by all available means intolerance and racism in all its forms and stressed that such intolerance and racism is unacceptable in our present day societies.

The European Council confirmed the commitment to protect everybody, including immigrants and refugees, against violations of fundamental rights and freedoms as embodied in the national laws of the Member States and the international instruments on human rights, notably the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination.

The European Council decided to intensify efforts to identify and root out the causes of racism and xenophobia. It also pledged that the Member States would do their utmost to protect immigrants, refugees and others against expressions and manifestations of racism and intolerance.

The Commission on Human Rights decided in March 1993 to appoint a Special Rapporteur to look into contemporary forms of racism, racial-discrimination and xenophobia and the intolerance which goes with them.

One outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, in which the European Community and its Member States took an active part, was an urgent plea to all governments to prepare vigorous policies to prevent and combat all forms and manifestations of racism, xenophobia and intolerance, if necessary, by adopting appropriate laws laying down punitive sanctions and creating national institutions to combat those phenomena.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/248.

93/480. Question No E-2157/93 by Ms de Lage (PSE) on the reintroduction of the death penalty in Peru

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 26 July 1993)

The Peruvian Constitutional Congress has decided that the death penalty will be reintroduced in the new constitution.

The Andean Pact Agreement, to which Peru is a signatory, contains a clause invoking democratic conditionality.

Does European political cooperation consider the decision of the Peruvian Constitutional Congress to be compatible with this condition concerning the protection of human rights?

If it considers it incompatible, does European political cooperation intend to take the necessary steps to exclude Peru from the benefits of the third-generation agreement, the Generalized System of Preferences and all development aid other than strictly humanitarian assistance?

Answer:

1. On 27 August the Peruvian Constitutional Congress adopted the text of a new constitution which will be submitted as a whole to a referendum of the people on 31 October. An article in the

new constitution states that the death penalty may only be applied for the crime of treason against one's country and terrorism in accordance with national laws and the international treaties to which Peru is party. Before it can apply this article – assuming that the new constitution is approved by the referendum – the Peruvian Government will have to obtain parliamentary approval to denounce the San José Convention on Human Rights and give one year's notice of such denunciation to the Secretary-General of the OAS. Only then will it be possible to apply the death penalty to persons on whom sentence is passed in future.

2. This issue has been discussed in detail within European political cooperation. The Member States which so wished have had an opportunity to state both to the Constitutional Congress and to the authorities that this measure might have a negative effect on Peru's image in the outside world.

93/481. Question No E-2194/93 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (PSE) on the Middle Eastern peace process

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 29 July 1993)

In its answer to the author's earlier Oral Question (No H-141/93)¹ the Commission gave the impression, especially in the fourth paragraph, that the Community was maintaining a neutral stance towards the conflict between the Palestinians and Israel in the Occupied Territories.

Can the Commission² state whether it is still aware of the Geneva Conventions and of the numerous resolutions of both the UN and the European Parliament, as well as its own declarations on the matter? Can it also state its position on who is actually occupying these territories, and in what manner, and whether the Jewish settlements on the West Bank and in East Jerusalem are legal?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States believe that it is vital for the EC to continue to play a balanced and constructive role in the peace process. Otherwise it would fail to win the confidence [of] any of the parties to the dispute. This does not mean ignoring violations of UN resolutions or Conventions where they occur. The EC has spoken out against such violations at the very highest levels.

The Community and its Member States have often stated that it is for the parties themselves to the Arab/Israeli dispute to establish the terms of a settlement, which, to be effective, must be freely negotiated and agreed among them. Nevertheless they have also reiterated time and again their belief that for an agreement to prove just, lasting and comprehensive it should be based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which enshrine the principle of land for peace. It should provide for the security of all states in the region, including Israel, within recognized and guaranteed borders, and for the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination.

The Community and its Member States have repeatedly stressed the importance of assuring respect for human rights and of implementing confidence-building measures as a means of increasing the level of trust between the parties and taking the negotiations forward. In this regard they have called for a halt to the building and expansion of Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories, including East Jerusalem, which are illegal under international law, and for full application of the provisions of the 4th Geneva Convention.

The Community and its Member States welcomed the latest historic agreement, reached on 13 September 1993,³ and have paid tribute to the vision and courage of the Israeli and Palestinian leaders who made this possible.

The European Community and its Member States will pursue their efforts and reiterate their commitment to a comprehensive peace. They hope that progress will be accomplished in other bilateral negotiations and in the multilateral talks on future cooperation.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/155.

² The question was addressed to European political cooperation.

³ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/358.

93/482. Question No E-2209/93 by Mr Glinne (PSE) on the need to outlaw the practice of excision or infibulation of persons of the female sex within the territory of the Community

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 29 July 1993)

The practice of excision or infibulation of women or girls exists in certain countries. Although it is unknown in our culture, there is a risk of it occurring in the Community as a result of the movement of populations.

The UK decided to react in 1985, adopting the Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act, which at least exists, despite serious inadequacies. All the Member States have, unless the present author is mistaken, adopted the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 20 November 1989. Belgium has ratified this Convention, by the law of 20 November 1989 and by decrees of its component communities. Article 2(3) of the convention stipulates that 'States Parties shall take all effective and appropriate measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children'.

The European Parliament, in its proposals on '1993: the new treaties', has affirmed that 'human dignity is inviolable' (p. 79). The Trevi Group may, once ratification of the Treaty of Maastricht is complete, extend its field of operation. Certain authoritative figures in Africa itself, such as Mr Awa Thain, in *La parole aux negresses* ('Black women speak'), have denounced the practices concerned, whose continuation – despite the inadequately enforced bans existing in some countries – is an increasing source of embarrassment to many of the participants in the Joint Assembly of the Lomé Convention. In Belgium, traditional mutilations are prohibited under Article 398 of the Criminal Code, which outlaws the infliction of bodily harm.

Is it not, despite all the above, vital to add to the criminal legislation of all the Member States a specific provision outlawing the practices concerned – even when, on the pretext of preventing infection, they are carried out, extraordinarily, in a hospital environment – and providing for more severe penalties where the victim is a minor?

Is it not thus essential to adapt the relevant legislation of the Member States so as specifically to condemn excision and infibulation and all violations of the physical integrity of the victims, to raise the consciousness of health professionals in the context of a policy of prevention, and to promote and ensure moral and financial participation in information campaigns, especially in the partner States of the Fourth Lomé Convention, under Article 4 of the Convention itself?

Answer:

The practices to which the honourable Member is referring are being discussed in detail within the United Nations.

The Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities has designated a Special Rapporteur who has been instructed to submit to it a plan of action for the abolition of traditional practices harmful to the health of women and children.

In the Action Programme which was adopted at the close of the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in June 1993, the Conference emphasized how much work needed to be done to overcome the contradiction which may exist between the rights of women and the harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices, cultural prejudices and religious extremism. The World Conference also urged states to combat violence against women.

At its 48th Session the United Nations General Assembly will consider, with a view to adopting it, a draft declaration on the abolition of violence against women. In the declaration, violence against women encompasses *inter alia* genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women.

The large number of states which have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child have committed themselves to taking the necessary measures to ensure that the provisions of the Convention are implemented on a national level. An international monitoring mechanism in this sphere has been established through the creation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child which ensures that all the commitments entered into by states are honoured and implemented.

The questions raised by the honourable Member have not been discussed in the context of Political Cooperation.

93/483. Question No E-2226/93 by Mr Capucho (LDR) and Mr Bertens (LDR) on Middle East peace negotiations

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 30 July 1993)

In view of the need to make rapid progress with the peace negotiations in the Middle East so as to prevent total disillusionment among the Palestinian population with the peace process, can EPC give the assurance that it is using its influence to the maximum to ensure that all the parties to the negotiations appreciate the importance the EC and its Member States attach to the fulfilment of Resolutions 242 and 338 of the Security Council?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have repeatedly stated that it is for the parties themselves to the Arab/Israeli dispute to establish the terms of a settlement, which, to be effective, must be freely negotiated and agreed among them. Nevertheless they have also reiterated their belief that for an agreement to prove just, lasting and comprehensive it should be based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which enshrine the principle of land for peace. It should provide

for the security of all states in the region, including Israel, within recognized and guaranteed borders, and for the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination.

The Community and its Member States welcomed the historic agreement reached on 13 September 1993¹ and have paid tribute to the vision and courage of the Israeli and Palestinian leaders who made this possible.

The Community is firmly committed to support the process, firstly, by providing immediate aid of MECU 20 as short term aid, secondly by substantially boosting financial assistance on medium term, and thirdly by increasing political and economic cooperation with all the states of the region involved in the success of this breakthrough.

The Community and its Member States reiterate their hope that progress will be accomplished in other bilateral negotiations and in the multilateral talks on future cooperation.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/358.

93/484. Question No E-2235/93 by Mr Morris (PSE) on nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 30 July 1993)

Nuclear safety is a focal sector for cooperation in the technical assistance that the EC is providing to the Commonwealth of Independent States and Georgia (the former Soviet Union).

Can EPC now report on the condition of the nuclear weapons arsenal in those countries, with particular reference to the frequency of scientific inspection, the number of warheads that cannot be accounted for and the market in technical information about the component parts of nuclear weapons?

Answer:

The nuclear safety of military nuclear installations does not fall within the competence of European political cooperation.

Nuclear assistance to Central and Eastern European countries and the countries of the former Soviet Union takes the form of projects coordinated by the European Community in the framework of its PHARE and TACIS programmes. These programmes are, in their turn, part of the nuclear safety activities of the G24 [G-24]. In addition, the G7 [G-7] has decided to establish a multi-lateral fund for nuclear safety in the above countries. This fund, managed by the EBRD, will receive contributions from the European Community (MECU 20) and the Member States of the Community which are members of the G7 [G-7].

Since European political cooperation has no competence in the matter of technical questions on inspection and the nuclear arsenal of the CIS, and has no relevant official sources on these questions, it is unable to reply to them.

93/485. Question No E-2261/93 by Mr Pierros (PPE) on the release by Iran of an Israeli prisoner

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 1 September 1993)

Since 1986 Ron Arad, an Israeli pilot, has been held as a prisoner of war initially by the Shi'ite organization, Amal, then by Dirani, a pro-Iranian organization which broke away from Amal, and finally by Iran itself. Despite all the efforts both by the State of Israel and the UN Secretary-General's special envoy, Giandomenico Picco, it has been impossible to secure his release. In view also of the recent resolution adopted by the European Parliament calling for the immediate release of Ron Arad, will the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC say what specific measures they intend to take to secure his release?

Answer:

Representations to the Iranian authorities about Ron Arad have not been made within the EPC framework. The European Community and its Member States are unaware of his current whereabouts, but they support the efforts of the UN and of Israel to obtain his release.

The Community and its Member States have repeatedly called on Iran to respect the various international human rights instruments and covenants. They maintain a 'critical dialogue' with the Iranian Government in which they frankly reflect EC concerns about Iranian behaviour in a number of areas, including human rights. They will continue to raise violations of those rights where they occur.

93/486. Question No E-2378/93 by Mr Hughes (PSE) on export of land mines

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 1 September 1993)

Has EPC taken any action in response to the call by the European Parliament in December 1992 for all Member States to impose a five-year moratorium on the export of land mines?

Answer:

The problem of limiting and banning mines has been discussed at meetings of the relevant EPC working parties.

The Member States of the Community have all signed the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons and those Member States which have not yet ratified the Convention are examining the question of ratification as a matter of urgency.

Under the circumstances, the Community and its Member States intend to make an active contribution to the deliberations of the 48th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, in particular as regards the preparatory work for a conference to examine the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons.

The Community and its Member States will be looking into the modifications to be made to the Convention and, in particular, its second Protocol which makes provision for 'prohibitions of or restrictions on the use of mines, booby traps and other devices'.

In the same context, the Community and its Member States are preparing a draft resolution on assistance in mine disposal which is to be the subject of a Community initiative at the next United Nations General Assembly.

Attention should also be drawn to the fact that the Community and its Member States are contributing to several major programmes in the field of assistance in mine disposal, in particular in Asia (Cambodia) and Central America (Nicaragua).

93/487. Question No E-2389/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (PSE) on the violation of Greek companies (Evroil Abee and Mamidol-Jetoil) of the UN embargo on Bosnia

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 1 September 1993)

Allegations have been made in the Greek Parliament by MPs Mr D. Vrettos, Mr D. Georgakopoulos, Mr P. Poundidis and Mr V. Yeranidis that the Greek companies Evroil Abee and Mamidol-Jetoil have violated the UN embargo on Yugoslavia by supplying oil to Bosnia. Will EPC investigate to clarify this matter?

Answer:

The European Community and its Member States attach the greatest importance to the strict application of the sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and have set aside considerable resources for that purpose.

They have given their full backing to Resolution 787 of the United Nations Security Council, which stepped up sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) while making it possible to apply them, and to Resolution 820, which imposed further sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and in respect of Serb-controlled zones in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Community and its Member States are committed to ensuring that this resolution is implemented comprehensively.

It is, however, for national authorities to see to it that the embargo is enforced where this directly concerns them.

93/488. Question No E-2481/93 by Mr Vertemati (PSE) on the growth of terrorism

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 1 September 1993)

The resurgence of terrorism in various parts of Europe (Spain, Italy, Germany) and in the world (Turkey, Egypt, United States, etc.) is claiming a heavy toll of victims and correspondingly fuelling tension in the countries concerned.

Does information exist about the re-emergence of terrorist groups such as the Red Brigades, the Red Army Fraction, and other, non-European, groups?

Are there European bodies capable of coordinating the operations undertaken by individual countries?

Will steps be taken to combat the criminal destabilization being fomented by terrorist groups? If so, what specific action is envisaged?

Answer:

As the honourable Member will be aware, the Community and its Member States have reaffirmed their unstinting support for Resolution 46/51 of the United Nations General Assembly of 9 December 1991, in which the General Assembly unequivocally condemns, as criminal and unjustifiable all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, wherever and by whomever committed and regardless of their motivation.

In this connection, the Community and its Member States are examining situations involving terrorism most attentively within bodies set up for that purpose, with particular regard to the protection of their citizens.

Several cooperation bodies have been set up for the purpose of coordinating initiatives by the various states.

First of all, in the sphere of judicial and police cooperation, I would invite the honourable Member to address his questions about this major area of cooperation, concerning which the Trevi Group is the best known body, to our colleagues responsible for justice and home affairs.

Next, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States, meeting in Political Cooperation, decided in 1986 to set up a standing EPC Working Party to examine the political and legal aspects of international terrorism. This Working Party meets whenever necessary for the purpose of recommending common positions to be adopted in respect of specific instances of terrorism for coordinating the position of the Community and its Member States in international bodies such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the CSCE and for dealing with cooperation by the Community and its Member States with third countries with regard to terrorism. It undertakes liaison and information exchange with the Trevi Group.

With regard to the steps to be taken to counter the actions of terrorist groups, I would invite the honourable Member to refer to all the public declarations by the Community and its Member States in which they have condemned the use of terrorism, as well as to the decisions of the Trevi Group.

93/489. Question No E-2506/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (PSE) on radiation from missiles used to attack Iraq

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 1 September 1993)

Missiles emitting radiation were used in the recent attack by the USA on Iraq and throughout the duration of the Gulf War. In view of this, will the EPC show support for measures to:

1. Prevent further contamination from the remains of the missiles in the areas affected?
2. Prohibit (or at least restrict) in the immediate future the production and use of such weapons producing radiation?

Answer:

The question raised in point 1 by the honourable Member refers to the fact that depleted uranium anti-tank ammunition was used during the Gulf War. Depleted uranium seems to have been selected on account of its hardness which enables it to pierce practically all types of armour-plating

and not on account of its possible radioactivity. Such radioactivity has always been presented as being negligible and therefore harmless to humans.

Although this question was not actually discussed within European political cooperation, there is no indication that areas have been contaminated by radiation. Combat was moreover practically confined to desert areas.

With regard to the American attack on Iraq, I would refer to the replies to Oral Questions Nos H-779/93 and H-787/93.¹

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/321.

93/490. Question No E-2655/93 by Ms Muscardini (NI) on a European mediator for Somalia

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 1 September 1993)

Given that the UN mission to Somalia is developing from a humanitarian operation into what looks increasingly like an armed intervention without the support of local communities, partly because it is based on unclear political motives which may well lead to a further tragedy;

given that the armed forces of Community countries are involved in this mission and that the Community as such must assume the responsibilities which a genuine peace-seeking political role entails;

does European political cooperation not consider it necessary to send a European mediator responsible for reducing tension between the various Somali factions, as well as between them and the international institutions involved in the Somali question?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States share the concern of the honourable Member that a durable political solution should be actively pursued in Somalia. They have communicated this concern to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who for his part is committed to bring forward the political and humanitarian goals of the United Nations operations in Somalia. They understand that some of these goals are gradually being attained in most of the regions of Somalia, and that the situation in south Mogadiscio should not be construed as being prevalent in the rest of the country. The Community and its Member States fully and actively support the efforts of the United Nations to bring peace to Somalia. They have not considered to send a European mediator at present.

93/491. Question No E-2691/93 by Mr Ford (PSE) on the violation of human rights of the Baha'i community in Iran

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 3 September 1993)

Has EPC made representations to the Government of Iran with regard to the codifying and systematizing of various types of repressive actions against Baha'is in Iran contained in the document

issued by the Supreme Revolutionary Cultural Council of the Iranian Government on 25 February 1991, and in respect of the growing body of evidence of the confiscation of Baha'i properties in Yazd, Saysan and Ilkhchi?

Answer:

The then Presidency made representations to the Iranian authorities both in Teheran and Geneva in June and October 1992 about the situation of the Baha'is in Iran. They raised the reportedly unfair trials of two Baha'is sentenced to death for spying and report about the confiscation of houses and properties belonging to Baha'is in Yazd, Isfahan and Teheran. Following the representations the trials of the two Baha'is were reviewed and the death sentences commuted.

The Community and its Member States have recently raised concerns about reports of the desecration of a Baha'i cemetery in Teheran.

The Community and its Member States will continue to follow the situation closely and to draw to the attention of the Iranian authorities violations of human rights.

93/492. Question No E-2746/93 by Mr Alavanos (CG) on the release of the leader of the Albanian Socialist Party

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 16 September 1993)

Mr F. Nano, the leader of the Albanian Socialist Party which won 54% of the votes in the recent local elections, has been imprisoned by the Berisna regime. There are a number of factors that suggest that this prosecution is politically-motivated:

- the public prosecutors of Tirana, A. Dotsi and S. Kokonas have refused to undertake the criminal prosecution and have resigned;
- although Mr Nano is accused of misappropriating USD 8 million of foreign aid, according to his wife who has protested about this issue to international bodies his family consisting of eight persons lives in a rented, four-roomed flat in Tirana;
- Mr Nano's imprisonment comes at a time when the Greek minority is being persecuted, the president of the National Unity Party, Mr Bequiri, has been sentenced to a six-month term of imprisonment and demonstrators have been arrested en mass.

In view of the above will the EPC say:

1. whether it has asked the Albanian Government to explain why the leader of the main opposition party has been arrested;
2. whether it intends to call for the immediate release of Mr Nano until the courts issue a judgement on the charges brought against him;
3. whether it intends to warn the Albanian authorities that the Community will implement the conditions for democratic principles and will suspend the economic agreements concluded with Albania, if the president and the government continue to push the country towards a dictatorship?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States share the concern expressed by the honourable Member over the latest developments in Albania.

The Albanian authorities are well aware of the importance the Community and its Member States attach to the scrupulous respect for human rights and the rule of law. The Community and its Member States have repeatedly reminded the Albanian Government of its solemn commitment to abide strictly with all relevant CSCE provisions.

Furthermore, the respect for the democratic principles and the human rights constitute an essential element for the Cooperation and Economic Agreement that has been signed between the EC and Albania on 1 December 1992. They form also the basis for the structural relationship that has been set up between Albania and the Council of Europe.

As regards the specific case raised by the honourable Member, the Community and its Member States have currently initiated a thorough examination of the circumstances which led to the arrest of the opposition leader. In the light of the outcome of this examination the Community and its Member States will consider appropriate measures to be taken consequently.

93/493. Question No E-2795/93 by Ms Ewing (ARC) on Israeli prisoner of war Ron Arad

Date of issue: 30 November 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 4 October 1993)

Will the Foreign Ministers give their full support to the campaign for the release of Israeli Air Force Captain Ron Arad who has been held captive by Hizbollah since 1986? His family has not heard from him since 1987 as he is not allowed visits from the Red Cross, contrary to international law.

Answer:

The European Union makes the observance, safeguarding and promoting of human rights a corner-stone of its common foreign and security policy.

The case of Ron Arad is shortly to be discussed in the course of its activities. For the moment, the honourable Member may refer to the reply to Written Question E-2261/93 put by Mr F. Pierros.¹

The European Union is anxious to see the release of all those unlawful held prisoner in the region.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/485.

93/494. Joint debate on oral questions on the European Council on 10 and 11 December (extracts only)

Date of issue: 1 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Statement in the European Parliament

Mr Claes, President-in-Office of the Council: Mr President, Members of the House, it would seem useful for me to begin by saying for the benefit of Mr Wijzenbeek that a European Council has no agenda and has never had one. It is the President of the Council who sends out a letter to all his colleagues and proposes certain topics, but there is nothing to prevent other topics being raised in the course of the Council meeting itself. That is the reality of the matter and I would ask you to take that into account.

I am here to listen attentively to what you and your colleagues have to say. I believe that the President of the Commission will be here in your midst tomorrow. He will come here not to rest, but to listen to you. It goes without saying that we are prepared to take account of the advice and views presented by Parliament. If you lack confidence in those members of the Council or of the Commission who have contact with Parliament, then I would like to remind you that for some time now each European Council meeting has begun with a statement by the President of the European Parliament. If you are of the opinion that we are airing your opinions to an insufficient extent, then perhaps you have a more reliable element, consisting of burdening your President with the task of bringing across your views to the European Council where he is always the first person to take the floor, and I can assure you that his words are most attentively listened to. I think that you have presented things rather one-sidedly and needlessly expressed your concern about the manner in which the Commission and Council supposedly neglect to take account of the advice and suggestions made by the European Parliament.

[...]

With regard to the former Yugoslavia, I would like to take this opportunity to say to Ms Dury that, as you know, we took up the initiative again in Geneva the day before yesterday. I am not going to shout victory. After all the failures we have experienced it would be imprudent of me to talk to you so soon of a success.

All that I can say to you for the moment is that firstly, as far as humanitarian aid is concerned, we have succeeded in convincing the generals to sign the agreement drawn up by Ms Ogata. These signatures ought ultimately to enable us to intensify this humanitarian aid, which is as necessary as it is urgent. However, so often have such signatures not been respected that I would prefer to await their application on the ground before making a statement.

Secondly, we have succeeded in convincing the various parties concerned to stay in Geneva and resume negotiations on the basis of the proposals made by the European Union and taking account of the so-called 'invincible' acquis. I would not risk making an optimistic prognosis. Some comments made by the actors in this tragedy have, in my opinion, been too negative to hazard doing so. I think it was our duty to create an element enabling the co-chairmen, Mr Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, to resume the talks. That much we have done. The 12 Foreign Affairs Ministers are not ruling out the possibility of a further meeting before the end of December to give a fresh boost to the negotiations. Unfortunately, for the moment I can say nothing further on the subject of the former Yugoslavia.

Regarding the elections in Russia, or rather our efforts aimed at consolidating this regime, which is still looking to establish democracy, and at helping the economy which, as you know, is growing weaker every day, we have decided, first of all, to send observers. A coordination centre has been set up in Moscow in conjunction with the Council of Europe and the CSCE. In conjunction with the national parliaments we are now assured of the presence of some 300 observers, which nonetheless means that even now there will be no observer in around 30 Russian electoral constituencies. Consequently, we should further intensify our efforts during the final days. More importantly, it would seem that we are hoping to finalize a Partnership Agreement with Russia before the European Council meeting on 10 and 11 December. That is why we have invited President Yeltsin. The Commission experts are negotiating in Moscow at this very moment. We will have the chance to discuss a final text with Mr Kozyrev the day after tomorrow in Brussels, at the

COCOMA meeting. I believe that all this indicates the Community's readiness to assume its responsibilities with a view to promoting stability in Eastern Europe. Certainly, like you, I am asking myself several questions regarding presidential intervention in certain electoral broadcasts on television. Russia, which has never known democracy, is in its apprenticeship in that respect, and I would say that it is our duty to help things move along in the right direction.

Finally, an allusion was made to your meeting with the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Rabin, who was in turn received by the Council today. In this context, I can tell you that we have taken on our responsibilities regarding the Palestinians, i.e. *vis-à-vis* the PLO. The European Union is ready to commit itself – in an extremely wide-ranging programme – to the tune of MECU 500. The PLO is making good progress. A page has been turned and institutions must now be created that guarantee sufficient transparency as well as efficiency in the implementation of projects. On the other hand, we are ready to aid all those who are now seeking to stimulate the peace process by associating other countries of key importance, e.g. Syria. Moreover – and this is a matter of honour for the Belgian Presidency – the Palestinians must be aided but so must the State of Israel. It is with this in mind that a proposal for a mandate to negotiate for the Commission figures on the agenda of the General Affairs Council scheduled to be held on 6 December. The aim of this mandate would be to thoroughly review the Cooperation Agreement negotiated in the 1970s. There, too, I hope that we will very soon be able to send out a positive signal to the Israeli people, thereby showing in an impartial manner that the European Union is ready to assume its responsibilities in an attempt to stimulate and consolidate the peace process which, without the slightest doubt, is in something of a jam for the moment.

Mr President, I would like to reiterate to all those who have spoken how convinced I am that, in the few days remaining for it, the Belgian Presidency will make every possible effort to create the conditions which ought to permit the European Council to take measures of a structural nature with a view to strengthening the competitiveness of the European economy, improving our instruments for combating unemployment – both of young people and the long-term unemployed – and enabling us at last to present public opinion with a bundle of measures in which the plans for short term run entirely along the same lines as the structural medium term, i.e. the White Paper.

[After the following debate Mr Claes stated:] Mr President, I shall limit myself to a short reply for those who are still here. I agree with Mr Hänsch that now that the Maastricht [Treaty] has been ratified we must at last start implementing it, and that now, of all times, public opinion has a need for clear orientation and specific priorities, including the fight against unemployment. I would like to say to him that after ratification, the first thing that had to be done, of course, was to adopt a series of measures enabling the establishment of the instruments permitting us to implement the Treaty. In my opinion, that was the merit of the extraordinary summit held in recent weeks, whereby as regards the first, second and third pillars, the inevitable measures – if I may put it like that – were taken, although I am very well aware that public opinion was not very much affected by all those measures, even if to my mind they do meet a need. Otherwise I can subscribe fully to your speech. There seems to be a need to stimulate a policy of investment by adopting specific measures *vis-à-vis* risk capital, which should be enticed more into the investment sector, and hence the employment sector. As I already said in my introduction, I share your opinion when you call for an enlightened reduction of labour costs. Let there be no doubt about that whatsoever.

I would not want to let myself be led into an approach, Mr Boissiere, which is far too negative. Please allow me to say that, setting aside our convictions, we have nothing to gain by denying the merits of European integration. I do not see any reason to ridicule the decisions made concerning the seats of our institutions. Europe deserves a more positive approach. This is the Europe, which above all in the West – has brought stability and peace, which has been at the root of much of the social and economic progress made over the last few decades. We should ask ourselves this question: what would the situation in Europe have been today if it had not been for the European insti-

tutions? That is a much more positive approach, and one that people should adopt. I repeat, setting aside our convictions, especially during these difficult times, let us try to develop a more positive approach to Europe. We are all called upon to play our role. I will gladly admit that there are reasons to criticize certain gaps, certain weaknesses, the absence of certain things, but apart from that I believe that there are many arguments in favour of Europe.

[...]

In conclusion, a final word to the last speaker about the situation in the Ukraine. Let me say that the European Union is by no means refusing to cooperate with that country. On the contrary, we are saying explicitly that just like with Russia – we are prepared to sit down tomorrow around a table and negotiate and sign a Partnership Agreement so as to develop cooperation in the various domains. However, there is one condition attached, which I do not feel to be exaggerated: the Ukraine, and hence also the Ukraine's parliament, is expected to accept the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to implement the Salt I Treaty. We can no longer tolerate there being countries favouring a policy of proliferation, and let me say this: it has little to do with internal security. I really do not believe that a country like the Ukraine needs ballistic nuclear equipment to defend itself against a theoretical danger emanating from Moscow. So I can confirm – and President Kravchuk knows this full well – that Europe is open to immediate negotiations, but on condition that guarantees regarding the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and other weapons are forthcoming.

So much, Mr President, for a few considerations in reply to the speeches given here. Regardless of whether or not we shared the same opinion, I would very much like to thank the various speakers for their speeches, and I can assure you that we will do our utmost to take Parliament's contributions into account during the decision-making process at the forthcoming European summit.

93/495. Oral questions with debate on racism and xenophobia

Date of issue: 1 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Statement in the European Parliament; Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Mr Derycke, President-in-Office of the Council : Madam President, as Parliament knows, the Council has attached tremendous importance to the fight against racism and xenophobia, the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this connection, the Council would remind the House of three important declarations and resolutions: first and foremost, the joint declaration made in 1977 by the European Parliament, Council and Commission regarding respect for basic rights. Secondly, the joint declaration adopted on 11 June 1986 together with the European Parliament and the Commission, in which all expressions of intolerance associated with racism and xenophobia were strongly condemned. Thirdly, the resolution by the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States within the framework of the Council meeting of 29 May 1990 regarding the fight against racism and xenophobia, in which the Member States were called upon to consider a number of legal and institutional measures aimed at combating these phenomena.

As Mr Flynn has said, initially it seemed natural for the Member States to adopt such legal measures with a view to taking the action required to improve the situation. However, this does not alter the fact that whenever the Member States study the possibilities for harmonizing the policy on asylum and immigration, they constantly remind themselves that the main thing is to resist the danger of racism and xenophobia, primarily with regard to the subjects of third countries who are legally resident in the Community.

In this respect, the Ministers for Justice and the Interior building on the European Council meeting of December 1992 in Edinburgh and the declaration on the principles governing the external aspects of immigration policy, which emphasizes, among other things, that there is a need to combat racism and xenophobia more resolutely took the initiative to which you referred in your question.

For, during a meeting held in Kolding in May 1993, the Ministers decided to hold an inquiry into the forms in which racism and xenophobia were expressed in the twelve Member States as well as to commission a study into the way in which acts of violence against foreigners might be the work of organized groups.

In June of this year, in Copenhagen, the European Council reiterated that it is determined to combat all expressions of intolerance and racism with every available means. The European Council strongly condemned the recent attacks on immigrants and refugees in the Member States and decided to apply itself more to detecting and eliminating the causes of this scourge.

Now that the Treaty on European Union has come into effect, these areas are – and I quote: ‘areas of common interest’. The Belgian Presidency is closely following this dossier with a view to coming up with concrete proposals before these six months are up.

The Council of Justice and Internal Affairs held yesterday and the day before took note of the results of the inquiry decided upon in Kolding. The Council, which was convened for the first time in the context of the single institutional framework of the new treaty, once again expressed its horror and concern in connection with the attacks on immigrants that have taken place in many Member States of the Community and condemned the increasing right-wing extremism in Europe as a whole. It also pointed out the important work done by the European Parliament and initiatives which the Council of Europe took at the summit held on 8 and 9 October 1993, including in particular the action programme for combating racism and xenophobia.

On the basis of the results of the inquiry, as a first step towards promoting better cooperation between the Member States regarding the prevention of racism and xenophobia, the Council approved a number of practical measures of which I shall give a few examples, without going into details.

Firstly, Member States which are not yet following the multi-institutional approach in the fight against racism and xenophobia, in which schools, social services and the police are involved, should consider the scope offered by this approach. Secondly, a suitable training programme within the various bodies for handling legislation at national level must enable them to become more aware of expressions of racism and xenophobia. Thirdly, the Member States should examine the extent to which the collation and publication of statistical data can be improved with a view to recognizing the situation better and also being able to control it better.

The Council instructed the committee of permanent representatives to publish a report on the progress made by the end of 1994 at the latest.

Madam President, ladies and gentlemen, we are convinced that a coordinated action at European level against racism and xenophobia is getting under way, and I thank Parliament for its enduring commitment with regard to this extremely important problem.

[After the following debate Mr Derycke stated:] Since I have to leave the sitting, I would like to speak at this point. Tomorrow I will be in the Development Council, but I will ask my colleagues to take note of further comments in this debate, which I – for one – find very interesting, so that I can report on it to my colleagues responsible for the Interior and Justice, Messrs Tobback and Wathelet respectively.

I wanted to speak on two important points, since the questions were put directly to the Council. First and foremost, it seemed to me that there was still some doubt surrounding the question of

whether the Council would be prepared to inform the relevant committees – and therefore the Commission in this case – of the further progress made regarding the study reports that it intends to commission. I think that the Council has not only expressly undertaken to have these results by the end of 1994, but that within the framework of the agreement already concluded on information and consultation of the appropriate committee – at least orally – it is also prepared to inform the Commission of progress made with regard to this matter. By the way, if my information is correct, Messrs Tobback and Wathelet have suggested to the chairmen of the committees concerned that reports on the results achieved should be brought out before the end of the year. So I think that the Council has no problem whatsoever in saying in this open manner what results have been achieved and where the Council is headed.

There is a second important point in connection with the speech by Mr Beazley. He asked what the Council is doing and whether the Council is succeeding in establishing unified European criminal law regarding the fight against racism and xenophobia. While the Treaty on European Union does provide for such steps, naturally this depends on the will of each Member State. In Belgium, as in the United Kingdom, we have such legislation. So it comes down to each Member State in the first instance creating a body of legislation under which these acts are punished in accordance with criminal justice meted out by national criminal court judges. Since there is now room for manoeuvre, and to the extent that the Member States are prepared to harmonize their criminal law, the possibility must be examined, and I would ask Mr Beazley – and any other Members of the European Parliament who are concerned about the pressing problem of racism and xenophobia – to ask their respective national parliaments to intervene in this area and urge them to proceed with this unification. So in this respect I am in full agreement with the speaker. This would indeed represent a very great step forwards with a view to being able to move on to a coherent policy regarding criminal law.

93/496. Statement on a Council meeting (extracts only)

Date of issue: 2 December 1993
 Place of issue: Brussels
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Status of document: Press statement

Uruguay Round – Presidency Conclusions

1. The Council held an in-depth discussion on the progress of negotiations, working on the basis of a written Commission report supplemented by oral briefings from Sir Leon Brittan and Mr René Steichen on their negotiations with the United States delegation on 1 and 2 December 1993.
2. The Council confirmed its conclusions of 20 September, 4 October and 8 November,¹ in particular the need to do everything possible to bring the Uruguay Round to a satisfactory conclusion by 15 December 1993.
3. The Council reaffirmed that the overall balance of the outcome of the Uruguay Round remained the *sine qua non* for its success.
4. The Council expressed its confidence in and support for the Commission's efforts, over the next few days and in the light of the views expressed by delegations, to obtain the improvements needed to safeguard the Community's essential interests and to make headway on the major problems still to be overcome. The Council emphasized that in this final phase of the negotiations the Commission could rely on the Member States to pull together in the common interest.

5. A number of delegations stressed the importance they attached to the problem of commercial policy instruments. The Presidency said it would try to make progress on this question at the same time as the Uruguay Round issue. With this objective clearly in view, it called on all the delegations to give thought to the flexibility necessary if a reasonable, comprehensive and balanced decision was to be reached on this matter.

6. The Council agreed to continue its discussions at its meeting on 6 and 7 December 1993 on the basis of a fresh Commission report on all the questions raised today. The Council would meet subsequently in the light of the progress of the negotiations.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Docs 93/389 and 93/447.

93/497. Statement on a Council meeting (extracts only)

Date of issue: 6/7 December 1993
 Place of issue: Brussels
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Status of document: Press statement

[...]

Preparation for the European Council Meeting on 10 and 11 December 1993

In accordance with the information already given at the Special European Council meeting in October,¹ the European Council's discussions will be focused on economic and social questions, and in particular on the fight against unemployment.

[...]

Finally, the European Council will take stock of the situation in the former Yugoslavia.

Former Yugoslavia

In the presence of Lord Owen, the Council took stock of the situation in the former Yugoslavia and, in particular, heard a report from him on the prospects of the negotiations relaunched the previous week in Geneva.

The Council took note of the report requested from the Commission on the estimates of requirements for the implementation of the joint action on forwarding humanitarian aid. It will shortly adopt the necessary provisions concerning the financing of the total appropriation estimated at MECU 48, both as regards the Community share (50%) and that of the Member States.

South Africa: Joint Action

On the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on EU, the Council adopted the decision on a joint action concerning support for the transition towards a democratic and multiracial South Africa, the text of which is given in the annex [...].

Relations with Russia

The Council agreed on the draft joint statement to be signed during President Yeltsin's visit to Brussels on 9 December.

[...]

Uruguay Round

The Council heard a progress report from Sir Leon Brittan and Mr René Steichen on the negotiations conducted on 6 and 7 December 1993 with the American delegation. It noted that these negotiations were to continue further.

The Council held a detailed discussion on the main information currently available. During the discussion, delegations expressed comments on the external equilibrium of the reciprocal concessions envisaged, on the internal equilibrium and the consequences for the economies of certain Member States. In this regard, the Council took note of delegations' reactions and the positions they adopted.

The Commission will continue bilateral and multilateral negotiations in Geneva on the basis of the conclusions of the Council meeting on 20 September, 4 October, 8 November and 2 December,² and of the comments made by delegations.

The Council will hold another special meeting in the next few days on a date to be fixed by the Presidency, which will depend on how negotiations develop.

[...]

Middle East: Joint Action

The Council noted the progress made on the joint action decided on by the European Council on 29 October to support the peace process in the Middle East.

Agreement with Israel – Council Conclusions

The Council noted with satisfaction the progress already made on the Commission recommendation of 28 September 1993 for the negotiation of a new agreement with Israel. It approves the principle of such an agreement and the main aspects of the negotiating directives and hopes that negotiations will start at the beginning of 1994 and be concluded as soon as possible.

The Council intends to make every effort to help in settling the few points outstanding and has instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to bring this matter to a successful conclusion so that the negotiating directives can be adopted in their entirety at the Council meeting on 20 and 21 December 1993.

[...]

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/440.

² EPC Bulletin, Docs 93/389, 93/447 and 93/496.

93/498. Question No E-2021/93 by Mr Pierros (PPE) on torture in Turkish prisons

Date of issue: 8 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 23 July 1993)

Despite promises by the Turkish Government to modernize its penal system and put an end to torture, the latter continues to be standard practice in Turkish prisons. In April 1993 representatives of Amnesty International and Helsinki Watch submitted irrefutable evidence to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe concerning the methods of torture which continue to be used in Turkish prisons: beatings on the soles of the feet (*falaka*) and other forms of assault, hanging by the wrists and electric shocks to toes, fingers and sexual organs.

What steps will EPC take in response to these flagrant violations of human rights in Turkey?

Answer:

The honourable Member is referred to the answer given to his Question No 2022/93.¹

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/477.

93/499. Questions No E-2741/93 and E-2742/93 by Ms Oddy (PSE) on human rights in the Occupied Territories and on Palestinians and the Occupied Territories

Date of issue: 8 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written questions in the European Parliament (from 16 September 1993)

Question No E-2741/93:

What measures is European political cooperation undertaking on the monitoring of the human rights situation in the Occupied Territories?

Question No E-2742/93:

Will European political cooperation renew pressure on Israel to:

- immediately end repressive measures in the Occupied Territories;
- immediately halt the killing of Palestinians by Israel soldiers and undercover units;
- unseal the Occupied Territories and immediately remove restrictions on the ability of Palestinians to work in Israel?

Answer:

The Community and its Member States have repeatedly called on Israel to meet fully its obligations towards the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, to assure respect for human rights and to abide by the provisions of the 4th Geneva Convention. They have stressed the importance of implementing confidence-building measures as a means of increasing the level of trust between the parties. Consuls-General in Jerusalem provide regular reports on the situation in the Occupied Territories as do various non-governmental organizations, which are drawn on in contacts with the Israeli authorities.

The Community and its Member States have also made repeated representations to the Israeli authorities to encourage them to adopt measures to foster economic activity and employment in the Occupied Territories, such as easing restrictions on the Palestinian private sector and removing obstacles to trade. They expressed concern about the economic and social consequences of the closure of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank at the end of March, noting that the separation of the

West Bank from East Jerusalem had caused particular hardship. They acknowledged the consequent reduction in violence on the Israeli side of the Green Line but were concerned about the continuing death toll in the Occupied Territories.

On the subject of the Palestinian prisoners in Israel, Mr Rabin has informed Mr Arafat during their meeting in Cairo at the beginning of October that their case would be discussed as soon as the negotiations start.

The Community and its Member States warmly welcomed the historic agreement reached between the Palestinians and the Israelis on 13 September. The establishment of an Israeli-Palestinian Economic Cooperation Committee within the terms of the agreement to foster cooperation in the fields of water, electricity, energy, the financial sector, trade, industry, the environment and human resources development is a particularly encouraging sign.

The Community and its Member States will continue to support these efforts both politically and financially. They have provided MECU 20 of immediate aid in support of emergency needs in the Occupied Territories. A package of MECU 500 is under consideration over the medium term (1994 - 1998). Significant financial support was also pledged by the international donor community as a whole at the conference hosted by the US [in] October in Washington to support Middle East peace.

93/500. Question No E-2813/93 by Mr Robles Piquer (PPE) on the worrying barter trade between the Ukraine and Iran

Date of issue: 8 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 4 October 1993)

Are the Ministers meeting in European political cooperation adequately informed about the recent barter trade between the Ukraine and Iran involving Ukrainian war material? According to confidential information, last May the Ukraine delivered eight cruise missiles, several extremely modern MIG-29s, more than 200 T-72 tanks and other air defence equipment in exchange for Iranian oil.

Answer:

The European Union fully shares the concern expressed by the honourable Member. It would recall its concern for transparency and restraint in the field of conventional arms transfer, which led it to propose together with Japan a draft resolution in this respect at the 46th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in December 1991. This resolution was adopted almost unanimously by the member States of the United Nations. Resolution 46/36L provides for the establishment of a Register of Conventional Arms by the United Nations Secretary-General, open to all states. National data on imports and exports of seven categories of conventional arms over the previous year must be provided before 30 April of each year. The Register became operational on 1 January 1992.

To date 77 countries have provided the Secretary-General with the required data. However, neither the Ukraine nor Iran have contributed to the Register. Further to steps taken by the European Union, the Ukrainian authorities have confirmed their unreserved support for the Register and have undertaken to do their utmost to provide the required data as soon as possible. The Iranian authorities stated that they had no objections in principle but wished to submit the question to political discussion.

The European Union will continue with its endeavours to convince those countries who have not yet contributed to the Register (including the Ukraine and Iran) to comply with the undertakings given in Resolution 46/36L. It should, however, be pointed out that, if the transfers mentioned by the honourable Member did in fact take place in 1993, they ought to be included in the data to be provided by these two states before 30 April 1994 for publication in the Secretary-General's report at the end of 1994.

93/501. Question No E-2850/93 by Mr Smith (PSE) on the transport of plutonium

Date of issue: 8 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 4 October 1993)

Has [E]PC received any report from the International Atomic Energy Agency's Standing Advisory Group on the safe transport of radioactive materials (SAGSTRAM) in regard to new measures for the physical protection of plutonium in transport against terrorist attack?

Answer:

The problem raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed within the framework of EPC.

93/502. Question No E-1943/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (NI) on refugees in Africa

Date of issue: 9 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 19 July 1993)

The number of refugees in Africa has reached 6 million (15 million if displaced populations within the same state are included), and the problem there can therefore no longer be ignored.

Will EPC express the concern of the Community and its Member States and call on the African states concerned to take measures to ensure that the human rights of the refugees are respected?

Answer:

The European Union shares the concern of the honourable Member at the plight of the great number of refugees in Africa. It has expressed its concern on numerous occasions in contacts with the governments of the countries concerned. Respect for basic human rights has become one of the corner-stones of relations between the European Union and other countries, also in Africa.

93/503. Question No E-2625/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (PSE) on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean and the Middle East

Date of issue: 9 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 1 September 1993)

European security depends on stability in neighbouring regions, particularly in the Mediterranean and the Middle East. The most satisfactory way of ensuring security would be to hold a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean and the Middle East which could draw on the previous experience of the CSCE and of the UN and would include all the states in the region. Will the Council, therefore, take (or even support) steps in the near future to bring about this conference?

Answer:

The European Community and its Member States have always attached key importance to stability and prosperity in the Mediterranean as a precondition for security in Europe. It is against this background that one should see both the declaration of the Lisbon European Council on 25 June 1992 on relations between Europe and the Maghreb¹ and the EC's involvement in the Middle East peace process.

The issue has been discussed in particular within the framework of the CSCE. At the close of the 1992 Helsinki Summit, the Heads of State or Government stated as follows:

We reaffirm our conviction that strengthening security and cooperation in the Mediterranean is important for stability in the CSCE region. We recognize that the changes which have taken place in Europe are relevant to the Mediterranean region and that, conversely, economic, social, political and security developments in that region have a direct bearing on Europe. We will therefore widen our cooperation and enlarge our dialogue with the non-participating Mediterranean states as a means to promote social and economic development, thereby enhancing stability in the region, in order to narrow the prosperity gap between Europe and its Mediterranean neighbours and protect the Mediterranean ecosystems. We stress the importance of intra-Mediterranean relations and the need for increased cooperation within the region. We welcome and encourage the continuation of initiatives and negotiations aimed at finding just, lasting and viable solutions, through peaceful means, to the outstanding crucial problems of the Mediterranean region.

Thus the Helsinki Declaration of 10 July 1992 established the framework within which the CSCE, and through it the Community and its Member States, plan to widen cooperation and enlarge dialogue which, in terms of security, will include Mediterranean countries not participating in the Conference.

To implement this approach, the chairman-in-office of the CSO was encouraged to promote contacts with these countries in order to institute an effective exchange of information.

Accordingly, the recent CSCE seminar on the Mediterranean at La Vallette (17 to 21 May 1993), to which non-CSCE Mediterranean countries had been invited, discussed ways of enlarging the dialogue with them, particularly on security problems in the region.

On that occasion, the Community and its Member States proposed that representatives of non-participating Mediterranean countries be invited to meetings of the CSCE Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

In so doing, the European Community and its Member States are showing both drive and a constructive spirit in the debate on the framing of such a security system within the CSCE.

It should also be noted that the Community and its Member States are preparing a joint reply to the United Nations Secretary-General concerning UN Resolution 47/58 entitled 'Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region'. The reply will be presented in New York at the 48th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Moreover, European policy in the Middle East is guided by the same concern to promote regional stability by seeking a just and lasting peace as a prerequisite for regional economic cooperation.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 92/256.

93/504. Question No E-2791/93 by Mr Saridakis (PPE) on vandalism at the Christian cemetery at Neochorio in Istanbul on 25 August 1993

Date of issue: 9 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 28 September 1993)

Will EPC call on the Government of Turkey – a country linked to the EEC by an Association Agreement, which has also applied for membership of the EEC:

1. to condemn the vandalism which took place at the Christian cemetery in the district of Neochorio in Istanbul on 25 August 1993,
2. to discover and exact exemplary punishment on those who desecrated the Christian graves, scattered the bones and remains of corpses and committed unimaginable atrocities,
3. to investigate the causes of the vandalism which recalls the great wave of persecution, pillaging and murder of Christians in 1955 and endeavour to prevent similar barbarities in future?

Answer:

I would refer the honourable Member to the reply given to Oral Questions Nos 928/93 and 934/93.¹

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/409.

93/505. Question No E-2794/93 by Ms Ewing (ARC) on conscientious objectors in Greece

Date of issue: 9 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 4 October 1993)

In March 1993 there were as many as 390 imprisoned religious conscientious objectors in Greece. Given the widespread opposition to such harsh punishment will the Foreign Ministers request that the Greek authorities review their position on the matter and henceforth show greater leniency to all conscientious objectors?

Answer:

The issue raised by the honourable Member does not fall within the province of the common foreign and security policy.

It should be added however that while Greece does have compulsory military service, it has introduced unarmed service. There is no alternative service outside the military structures and the abandonment of compulsory military service would require an amendment to the Greek constitution.

93/506. Conclusions of the European Council meeting in Brussels, held on 10 and 11 December 1993 (extracts only)

Date of issue: 10/11 December 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Conclusions of the European Council

Stability Pact

In the CFSP framework, the draft Pact on Stability in Europe is intended to promote preventive diplomacy and therefore is not concerned with countries in conflict. Initially, it will be directed at those countries of Central and Eastern Europe which have the prospect of becoming members of the European Union and with which the Union has concluded or negotiated agreements. The aim of the initiative is to contribute to stability by averting tension and potential conflicts in Europe, fostering neighbourly relations and encouraging countries to consolidate their borders and to resolve problems of national minorities.

The European Council took note of the Council's report spelling out the objectives of and procedures for the planned initiative (see Annex I). It decided to launch the diplomatic process which should result in the conclusion of a pact for stability in Europe. It called upon the Council to implement this initiative as a joint action in accordance with the Treaty on European Union.

The European Union will convene an inaugural conference in Paris in April 1994, to which will be invited to attend, as participants, the countries mainly concerned by the initiative, the countries immediately bordering on the countries principally concerned, the states able to make a particular contribution to the initiative, countries with an interest in stability in Europe by virtue of their defence commitments and countries having Association Agreements with the Union (Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, the Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, and the USA) and representatives of international organizations concerned by the initiative (CSCE, Council of Europe, WEU, NATO and the United Nations). Those countries and organizations would be prepared to support the idea of and arrangements for the conference as decided on by the Union following its formal consultations. Other CSCE participating States agreeing to that idea and those arrangements would also be invited as observers. The conference will be preceded by consultations with all the countries concerned by way of preparation.

Former Yugoslavia

The European Council adopted the declaration set out in the Annex.¹

Middle East peace process – Framework for joint action

The European Union will continue to support the Middle East peace process with a view to achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region. The PLO/Israeli mutual recognition and declaration of principles constitute a first important step.

To this end, the Union confirms its intention, announced at the extraordinary European Council of 29 October,² to support the peace process by mobilizing political, economic and financial means of the Union through joint action and examination of relevant Commission proposals in this context. The European Council identified the following areas as suitable for initiatives to be implemented according to appropriate procedures:

- participating in international arrangements in support of a peace settlement in the framework of the process initiated in Madrid;
- strengthening the democratic process, including through assistance, if requested, with the preparation and monitoring of the elections to be held in the autonomous Palestinian Territories;
- consolidating peace through building regional cooperation. The Union's efforts will be channelled in particular through the multilateral working groups on regional economic development and arms control and regional security with a view to contributing to economic development and regional security in the Middle East;

- supporting the Palestinian interim self-government authority to be established under the Israeli/PLO Agreement through the rapid, efficient and transparent implementation of European Union aid programmes for the development of the Occupied Territories, in close consultation with the Palestinians. As the largest donor of aid to the Occupied Territories, the European Union will play an important role in the *Ad Hoc* Liaison Committee in order to coordinate its aid programmes as closely as possible with the programmes of other donors active in the region;
- providing aid in the framework of existing guide-lines to the other parties to the bilateral negotiations as they progress substantially towards peace;
- assuring follow-up to action under way on confidence-building measures submitted to the regional parties;
- using the European Union's influence to encourage full support on all sides for the peace process.

The European Council supports the proposal for the holding of an international businessmen's conference regarding infrastructure projects for the Middle East region.

Relations with Israel

The conclusion of a new agreement with Israel is one of the key elements of the development of cooperation between the European Union and the Middle East region.

The European Council noted with satisfaction the progress already made on the Commission's recommendation of 28 September 1993 for the negotiation of that agreement. It approves the main components of the negotiating directives and wishes the negotiations to begin early in 1994 and to be completed as soon as possible.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/507.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/440.

93/507. Statement on the former Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 10/11 December 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Conclusions of the European Council; Press statement

A humanitarian disaster is threatening Bosnia-Herzegovina this winter. The war and the atrocities must end. That is why the European Union has put forward an action plan to ensure the conveying of aid and the resumption of negotiations. The plan has been accepted by all parties as the basis for negotiation. There is now a real possibility of achieving peace, provided the parties concerned really wish it. In order to achieve peace, all parties must demonstrate the necessary flexibility and negotiate in good faith without wasting any more time.

The European Union is providing the major part of the humanitarian effort. Its joint action is currently being implemented. The European Union continues to insist that Tuzla airport be re-opened. Although the humanitarian convoys are subject to less obstruction, the parties concerned are still far from fulfilling the obligations entered into on 29 November in Geneva. They must adhere strictly to them.

At political level, enormous obstacles have still to be overcome. The Serbian side has still not agreed to the necessary territorial adjustments. The Bosnians are entitled to a viable territory in-

cluding access to the sea, and an appeal is made to the Croatian side on this point. The arrangement on Sarajevo, as agreed on board HMS Invincible, will have to guarantee, under United Nations supervision, free access and free movement for all its citizens throughout the city. The claim by the Bosnian side to a third of the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina is legitimate and must be met.

The Serbs must be aware of the responsibility which they take upon themselves should they continue adopting an inflexible attitude. They must realize that only real territorial concessions by them in Bosnia-Herzegovina and acceptance of the *modus vivendi* in Croatia will induce the European Union to work, as it promised to do in Geneva, for the progressive and conditional suspension of sanctions in line with implementation. In the meantime, the European Union will endeavour to promote a more rigorous application of sanctions.

The European Council requires all parties to act in a constructive spirit and expects third states to dissuade the parties involved from resorting to the military option. The European Union again confirms that it is ready to play its role in implementing the peace plan. As regards the Bosnian side, the European Union will endeavour to obtain credible assurances regarding the effective implementation of a peace settlement. In this context, it will endeavour to ensure that the necessary facilities are established under the authority of the United Nations Security Council using, *inter alia*, the resources of NATO. The Member States of the European Union will make their contribution to these arrangements and appeal to the other states concerned to provide their support as well.

The European Council confirmed its confidence in the negotiators, who are concentrating their efforts to push through the action plan, which constitutes the basis for negotiations. It invites the Serb, Bosnian and Croat leaders to meet the Council in Brussels on 22 December.

93/508. Statement on human rights

Date of issue: 11 December 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

On the 45th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Union solemnly reaffirms its attachment to observance of those rights. That declaration reflects the common view held by peoples throughout the world of the inalienable inherent rights of mankind. It thus forms the basis for the legitimate, ongoing action undertaken by the international community for the protection and promotion of all such rights, observance of which also helps to establish conditions conducive to peace, security and lasting development.

The European Union is playing a full part in such action. It recalls the European Council Declaration on Human Rights of 29 June 1991¹ and [...] the Development Council Resolutions of 28 November 1991 and 18 November 1992. The observance and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, together with the development and strengthening of democracy and the rule of law, form an integral part of its common foreign and security policy.

The European Union played an active part in the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna this year, which set out in a final document the principles and guide-lines for the action which the international community in its entirety intends to engage in over the years ahead in the human rights field.

In accordance with that final document, the European Union affirms that human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and closely interrelated. Observance of human rights constitutes

a legitimate concern of the international community and it is the duty of states, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to protect and promote them.

The Vienna final document highlights the interdependence between democracy, development and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Every human being must be able to be the central subject and beneficiary of the right to development. While development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not, however, be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights. The European Union is resolved to make the link between human rights, democracy and development a keynote of its common policy on cooperation with non-member states.

The European Union welcomes the fact that the Vienna World Conference attached crucial importance to bolstering observance of women's rights and took extensive account of the need to step up protection for and integration of vulnerable or underprivileged groups.

The European Union is committed to playing an active role in the implementation of all the recommendations included in the final document of the World Conference on Human Rights. The European Union attaches particular importance to the comprehensive reinforcement of United Nations programmes and protection and monitoring facilities in this field and to the creation of a post of High Commissioner for Human Rights.

It takes the view that, 45 years on from the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the international community must set itself the goal of putting an end to the numerous human-rights violations committed in the world and bringing about conditions in which everyone everywhere can benefit from the protection and enjoyment of those rights.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 91/194.

93/509. Statement on the European Council meeting in Brussels, held on 10 and 11 December 1993, and on the term in office of the Belgian Presidency (extracts only)

Date of issue: 15 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Report on European Council to the European Parliament; Statement in the European Parliament

Mr Dehaene, President-in-Office of the Council: Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, it is a sound tradition for the President of the European Council to be able to report direct to the European Parliament, but I wish to point out that on this occasion it is happening for the first time in the shape of a report on the Council of the Union and it is also happening for the first time in implementation of the Treaty itself.

We embarked on the Belgian Presidency under the motto: not less but more Europe. For, from the very beginning, we maintained that the answer to both the economic and the political crisis in Europe would be forthcoming only through more European cooperation. At the start of the Belgian Presidency the mood in Europe was downright pessimistic. What ought to have been a high point, namely the 1 January 1993, the start of the Single Market and of the Maastricht Treaty, became in fact a low point seeing that the Single Market had not led to growth. There had indeed been growth in the previous years but, at the start of the Single Market, Europe found itself in a deep economic crisis and the new step towards the Union could not be taken because the Treaty had not been ratified. On top of that, at the start of the Belgian Presidency, the crisis in the European monetary system occurred. From the very start, the Belgian Presidency has nurtured the am-

bition rapidly to implement the Maastricht Treaty, to implement it properly and completely, so that Europe could take that important qualitative step from Community to Union. We further had the ambition for Europe to get to grips with the economic crisis and to give a fresh outlook to the citizens of Europe who had lost hope of emerging from the crisis. The first objective was the theme of the summit on 29 October while the second was the theme of the summit on 10 and 11 December.

The entire discussion about the Maastricht Treaty in various countries had a kind of paralyzing effect which caused many to have doubts. That was why, from the moment the ratification was complete, we convened a special summit to make it quite clear that Europe was making a new start. It was our wish to lay the foundations at that special summit for the entry into operation of the new European Union, with the Maastricht Treaty coming into full effect. It is now clear, and in the coming years it will become even clearer, that, with the Maastricht Treaty, Europe has indeed again taken a qualitatively important step forward. True, not a perfect one nor one above all criticism, but an important step forward none the less. Instead of cavilling about its shortcomings, I believe we must direct all our efforts to extracting the maximum from this Treaty.

At the summit the Heads of State and of Government sought, in a short and sharp statement to the citizens, to highlight the ambition of the European Union, the ambition to guarantee its citizens greater economic prosperity, to allow them to take united action as Europe *vis-à-vis* the rest of the world, to combat more efficiently a number of social evils, more particularly transfrontier criminality, and within Europe to bring in more democratic decision-making. As regards the implementation of the Treaty, attention was focused at the summit of 29 October on the complete execution of the three pillars of the Treaty.

In the first place the second phase of the European Monetary Union was made operational by the designation of a chairman and the fixing of the seat of the European Monetary Institute. As regards the common foreign and security policy and the justice and home affairs sector, endeavours were made not only to put the institutional framework in order but also to establish priorities for the actions to be taken: this was done, for the common foreign and security policy, at the summit of 29 October and, for the plan of priority actions, at the summit of 10 and 11 December.

The Belgian Presidency also found it important to come to an agreement with Parliament, within the framework of institutional conciliation, on the issues of democracy, transparency and subsidiarity. It also proved possible to reach agreement on the question of cooperation between Parliament and Council and the matter of the ombudsman. With an eye to these latter points, the Belgian Presidency has multiplied its relations with your institution. In this connection I wish again to thank Parliament for the contribution it has so far made and to thank more particularly our Minister for Home Affairs, who has devoted much energy to this.

Belgium is convinced that, in the Europe of tomorrow, the European Parliament will have to play an ever greater role. It is indeed here that the democratic control of the further enlargement of Europe will have to take place and not through other institutions. I also consider of the greatest importance the fact that the problems connected with suffrage for the coming European elections could be settled in time. The European elections in 1994 will indeed be of exceptional importance. There is in various countries a tendency to turn in on oneself, indeed it is not inconceivable that certain parties will take part in the elections with anti-European programmes, but it will also be of tremendous importance that use is made of precisely this campaign, which will be the first within the European Union and with a Parliament that has greater powers, to again bring Europe home to its citizens and to make it clear to them that, particularly in this economic crisis, the countries of Europe will come through only if they are united and that, in this, the institutions of the European Union and more especially the European Parliament have a crucial role to play.

In connection with the summit of 29 October and with determining the seat of the European Monetary Institute, we also managed to bring about an overall agreement on the seats of all the

other institutions and agencies whose location had not yet been fixed. This is more than an agreement on a geographical distribution, it is at once the liberation of quite a number of institutions and agencies that are of fundamental importance for Europe's action in various spheres and whereby, thanks also to this agreement on seat locations, Europe's dimension in the field of highly crucial problems will be able to acquire greater impact.

Besides making the European Union operational, the Belgian Presidency's second main objective has been to give Europe prospects for extricating itself from the crisis.

[...]

Civilization, and all healthy forms of social life, are in danger of disappearing under the threat of increasing crime. The summit had no difficulty in approving the plan of action proposed by the Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs. The role assigned to Europol is particularly meaningful here. Nevertheless the Council stressed that tangible results are needed, and quickly. In order to emphasize the importance of this subject still further, the Council asked the Council of Justice and Home Affairs Ministers to prepare an annual report, the first one to appear in December 1994, on achievements to date.

This first summit of the Union also addressed the second pillar of common foreign and security policy. An important fact, and one with wide repercussions, was that just prior to the summit the Council entertained the Russian President, Mr Yeltsin, and made decisive progress on that occasion towards a Partnership Agreement with Russia. The Council also reiterated its support for the process of reform and democratization in Russia instituted by President Yeltsin in his constitution. I think that this step, whereby we have sought to place relations with Russia on the same footing as relations with the USA and Japan, is an essential part of the role which the European Union may play. We also reminded President Yeltsin that the European Union is Russia's main trading partner, importing far more Russian products than the USA or Japan and providing 65% of all financial aid to Russia.

The Council also decided that the opening conference on the Stability Pact, also known as the Balladur initiative, will take place in Paris next spring. The first phase will concentrate especially on the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet bloc.

Basing themselves on the outcome of the recent Geneva meeting on former Yugoslavia, the Foreign Ministers looked, together with Lord Owen, at the problems of supplying civilian populations in the areas of fighting. In a move to intensify efforts towards peace the Serb, Bosnian and Croat leaders were invited to come to Brussels on 22 December. Following the spectacular breakthrough of recent months on the Middle Eastern peace process, the European Council reiterated its full support for that process. Its support will find concrete expression in political, economic and financial resources deployed in the form of a common measure. In order for the process to have a chance of success, signs of encouragement need to be given both to the PLO and to Israel.

The Council also examined the further implementation of the Union Treaty. So doing, it appointed, after receiving the European Parliament's positive opinion, Mr Lamfalussy chairman of the European Monetary Institute. Nothing now stands in the way of a timely start to the second phase of the Economic and Monetary Union. It is my wish and indeed the Council's wish that the expansion of the European Monetary Institute should go ahead at an accelerated pace and that the Institute should be able fully to perform the task assigned to it by the Treaty.

The Council also carefully examined the Commission's report on subsidiarity. It is my belief that the Commission has here fulfilled the task entrusted to it by the Council in Edinburgh, but also that it was in fact a very difficult task, since the Commission has found itself between various fires, various objectives. The Council has resolved to follow very closely in the coming months the implementation of this report by the Commission.

An important objective for the Belgian Presidency was also to make good progress in negotiations with the applicant countries. There will in actual fact be special Council meetings on 20 and 21 December so as to allow the dossier to be passed on in good time to the European Parliament. In order to make a break-through possible, it was also necessary for a solution to be found to the institutional problems connected with enlargement. I know that this is an important point of discussion within this Parliament and that several of you hold the view that an in-depth institutional debate ought to have been held before proceeding to enlargement. However, the Council opted at the Lisbon summit for enlargement within the existing institutions, with the institutional debate being scheduled to take place within the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference.

[...]

The Belgian Presidency thus concentrated on the two main objectives which were to make the Union operational following ratification of the Treaty and to show Europe a way out of recession.

The Belgian Presidency also worked hard in the other Councils to achieve progress on the various dossiers.

It worked, for example, on getting the social dimension of building the Union operational. Existing measures to combat unemployment were complemented by a series of proposals from the Standing Committee on Employment: flexibility, reduction of wage costs, alternative ways of funding social security, etc. Important directives on social matters, on e.g. working hours and the employment of young people, were adopted. But regrettably, quite a few other proposals under the Social Charter made no progress, for example the proposal to set up European works councils. In order to break this particular logjam, however, the Commission and the Presidency have taken the initiative of invoking the Treaty of European Union's protocol on social policy.

On the environment, we can most certainly claim that the last six months have been fruitful. The Council has given its assent to no less than nine dossiers. An important directive on packaging was approved by a qualified majority. An order allowing the Union to take very progressive measures to defend the ozone layer was approved unanimously. And the Council has approved the list of hazardous waste and a directive aimed at protecting wild bird species.

In an attempt to continue the policy of revitalization, the Presidency made every effort to finalize the fourth framework programme for research and development between 1994 and 1998. The summit of 10 and 11 December stated that total funding of a framework programme could not be less than 12 billion, plus a further reserve of one billion.

Further moves to build the single market were also discussed and discussion of the strategic programme of accompanying measures was reopened. The Council of Industry Ministers will probably reach agreement this week on aids to the coal and steel industry. The Council of Energy Ministers is also likely to decide in favour of a directive on drilling.

Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, I think I may then conclude that the Belgian Presidency has managed in large measure to achieve the objectives it set itself at the beginning. We wanted to get the European Union started. We wanted to give Europe an economic perspective. I believe that this is today the case more than it was at the start of the Belgian Presidency. In this area it has been gratifying for us to enjoy optimum cooperation with the Commission, which I wish here expressly to thank for that cooperation, without which we would not have been able to achieve those results. We have also been happy to enjoy optimum cooperation with Parliament and have, I believe, demonstrated that Europe can make progress only if optimum cooperation can be achieved between Presidency, Commission and Parliament.

The work is certainly not yet finished. But we hope that, at the end of this Belgian Presidency, some of Europe's pessimism can be turned into a new European optimism; that we can again present Europe to our citizens not as a bogey-man but as a positive prospect for the future, for the

21st century. As I have said, the work is not finished. In the coming years too, the Presidency, Commission and Parliament will have to go on working energetically to achieve practical results. But I think that a number of things have now been unblocked, that Europe now has definite prospects, and we must now convince our citizens that only a European solution can point the way forward.

[After the following debate Mr Dehaene stated:] Madam President, I wish first and foremost to thank those who have made positive comments about the Belgian Presidency, though I can also understand to some extent the critical observations made. For it is certainly true that not all the problems were resolved at the summit, though a perspective was indeed opened up; and, unlike one of the speakers, I do believe that the Commission's White Paper will in the coming years prove an important reference and framework with which to tackle thoroughly the problems of unemployment. I should like now to examine three points.

[...]

Finally, I believe that the Union, in the framework of its international role, ought to be able to take effective joint action in the new structure, both *vis-à-vis* Russia, where, in connection with the elections, an important common supportive action took place and *vis-à-vis* the Middle East, where, through our genuine involvement via an association agreement with Israel and via an important financial and technical measure benefiting the PLO, we have in practice to ensure observance of the agreement; and also *vis-à-vis* ex-Yugoslavia, where we must pursue our efforts, though without, in my opinion, seeking to play an excessively European role. It must be clear also to ex-Yugoslavia that no solution can be forthcoming if the people there do not want a solution.

93/510. Question No H-1175/93 by Mr Alavanos and taken over by Mr Dessylas on the sending of a Community observer to the talks on Cyprus

Date of issue: 15 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

In its resolution of 28 October 1993, the European Parliament 'calls on the Council to decide in the affirmative and to take immediately the necessary steps to send an observer of appropriate standing to the intercommunal talks under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General'. At its meeting of 8 November 1993¹ on the subject, the Council 'decided' to give the matter further favourable consideration at its regular meeting in December 1993.

Why did the Council delay taking a decision on the request from the UN Secretary-General for a Community observer to be sent to Cyprus, despite the resolution on the subject adopted by the European Parliament?

Answer:

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of the Council: The European Union is aware of and informed about the resolutions of the European Parliament and the joint European Community/Cyprus parliamentary committee on the possibility of sending a European observer to the intercommunal talks under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Cypriot Government has in fact asked the European Union to nominate an observer to the intercommunal talks on the Cyprus question, but the Presidency has not received an official request from the Secretary-General of the United Nations as yet.

The Council did not have time to consider the matter in detail at the 8 November meeting, and it has agreed to return to it during December. The item will be on the agenda of the General Affairs Council for next Monday and Tuesday, on 20 and 21 December and obviously I can say no more at this time.

However, referring to last October's answer to Mr Pierros' Oral Question 932/93,² I repeat that the European Union will continue to support the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the quest for a just and viable solution to the Cyprus question.

It also maintains the position that such a solution should respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and unity of countries, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. It will consider the request the honourable Member refers to in that spirit.

Mr Dessylas (CG): Madam President, the President-in-Office of the Council did not answer my colleague's question, which asked why you are delaying sending the Community's observer to the inter-community talks on Cyprus. Why are you delaying? And besides, not only do you not answer, but you speak to us of the possible sending of an observer.

I want to ask you: do you not think that the Council's dilatoriness, for almost two months now, in sending a Community observer to the inter-community talks on Cyprus, which is called for by the UN Secretary-General and by a resolution of the European Parliament, can be seen as tolerance, approval and reward on your part for the illegal occupation of half Cyprus by Turkey for 20 years? As a reward for the contravention of UNO decisions on Cyprus? And as a reward for Turkey's general intransigence over the Cyprus issue? And what gives you the right, anyway, to ignore both the UN Secretary-General and the European Parliament and its resolutions? I want a specific answer, not an answer in terms of what might possibly happen.

Mr Urbain: The honourable Member has suggested that the Commission may be putting off sending an observer. If something has not yet been decided it cannot be put off. That stage has not yet been reached. He talks about the delay in sending the observer. Similarly, there can be no delay when no date has been fixed. The only valid question is why the decision was not taken on 8 November. After experiencing the intense work rate of the Presidency of the Union for more than five months my answer is that the agenda has been particularly full. We have had to hold many more Council meetings, mainly on the issue that was resolved this morning, the Uruguay Round negotiations. Besides, I do not think the talks are being held up by the absence of an observer because they have been suspended.

So the fact that the Council is going to deal with this issue at next Monday's meeting is not delaying the negotiation process on the difficult problem we know exists in Cyprus, and which we debated at length at the recent joint parliamentary committee where I had the opportunity to speak. I repeat, the Council still has to take a view on this problem. It will do so at next Monday's meeting.

Ms Green (PSE): President-in-Office, I very much understand your position. You outlined it very clearly when you were in Cyprus with the Joint Committee. We are all politicians. We know that one way of dealing with an issue is not to deal with it and to keep on and on not dealing with it. Clearly, although the Council agenda is busy, what you are saying is that Cyprus was not a priority issue. It was not high on the agenda. Now we need to have Cyprus high on the agenda. The talks in New York were postponed until such time as there had been so-called elections in the occupied areas of Northern Cyprus. This happened last Sunday. The results of those so-called elections were very interesting and we are likely to see movement in the United Nations talks as a result. We want the Union observer to be there when they start, not in three months when the Council finds they have space on the agenda to deal with it.

So we would like you, President-in-Office, to take to the Council meeting on Monday our absolute determination, which I hope you share, that an observer will be agreed next week and that he or she will be nominated urgently to be at the very first meeting when the talks start up again in New York. I would like to know, as my colleague said, while recognizing that you have to get consensus in the Council, what is the Presidency position? Can we be sure that you will be arguing with us for an observer on Monday?

Mr Urbain: Ms Green and I had occasion to cross swords, very courteously of course, on this subject in Cyprus. I think she is a little carried away to criticize the Belgian Presidency for refusing to deal with problems. When the balance sheet for the Belgian Presidency is drawn up in a few weeks time, I think it will compare more than honourably with many previous Presidencies and I hope that the Presidencies to come will maintain a work rate comparable to ours.

Having said that, no-one can do everything at once, so I repeat that the problem you are so deeply committed to, with great conviction and sometimes a touch of passion, will be dealt with next week. In fact, the Presidency I am privileged to represent here will take soundings of all the delegations before leading the discussion and I hope the decision will be taken before the second day of this General Affairs Council, next Monday.

Mr Papoutsis (PSE): President-in-Office, I thank you for your answers so far, but would like you to be more specific and I will therefore restate the question in a very few words.

First, next Monday when the Council of Foreign Ministers is due to meet, will the Belgian Presidency support the request to appoint an observer in Cyprus?

Second, do you believe that having regard to the skill the Belgian Presidency has shown up till now in moving matters along, you will be able to change the reaction of Mr Hurd, who disagrees with this proposal to this day? Are you aware that such is the British Government's reaction? Do you believe that the Belgian Presidency can change Mr Hurd's reaction and move ahead with the appointment of an observer? And in particular, what is the Belgian Presidency's attitude? What will your position be, Mr President-in-Office?

Mr Urbain: The question is precise, the reply will be less so. Actually I do not know the Belgian attitude. It will be decided as usual the night before, at the briefing traditionally held at Val Duchesse starting at 6 pm. When we run through the various items on the agenda on Sunday evening, we will examine the issue, take stock of the situation and the known factors and decide on our position.

You know as well as I do that the various points of view are not necessarily convergent. That was the case for the GATT problem too. Nevertheless we reached unanimity today. As for getting things moving – and as a Greek Member of Parliament you are about to experience the anguish of the Presidency, starting in January – you will find that a Presidency, just like the most beautiful woman in the world, can only give what it has, and that is what the Member States give it. So I hope a solution will emerge from the various points of view expressed next Monday.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/447.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/412.

93/511. Question No H-1181/93 by Ms Llorca Vilaplana on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

Date of issue: 15 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Has the Council given consideration to the possible consequences for, and impact on, the European Union of the adoption and implementation of the free trade agreement between the United States, Canada and Mexico?

Has it thought about the new type of relations which might be created in this new situation, not only at economic but also at political and cultural level?

Answer:

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of the Council: The Council would inform the honourable Member that, like the European Parliament, it received the results of the Commission's analysis of the North American Free Trade Agreement on 2 June. The Council's officers have examined this document, aware of its interim nature and the fact that the Commission is continuing its assessment, which will also cover the implementation of NAFTA.

As regards the second part of her question, the honourable Member should kindly note that the Council has made no statement on the possibility of setting up any new kind of relationship with NAFTA at the political or cultural level. The Council points out that NAFTA is a free trade agreement which does not extend to cultural and political areas. These areas are covered by the transatlantic declarations which the Community signed in November 1990 with two of the three NAFTA partners, Canada and the United States.

As regards relations with Mexico, political cooperation already exists within the ministerial meetings held on the fringe of the Rio Group meetings, and the European Community/Mexico co-operation agreement expressly mentions culture as one of the areas targeted by cooperation. That is in Article 35 of the agreement.

Ms Llorca Vilaplana (PPE): Madam President, I am grateful to the President of the Council for that information, but I have to say that the reverberations resulting from the signature of GATT seem to have eclipsed those produced only a month ago by the signature of NAFTA.

But NAFTA and GATT are intimately related. There is no need to dwell on President Clinton's apprehension before the NAFTA Treaty was approved, but I will mention that afterwards, in the euphoria of triumph, he said that they were ready to fight together and win, to redesign the world for the 21st century. This 'together' refers to the signatories of NAFTA and that does not include Europe.

That is why I put down this question, to alert the Union and make it see that we must adopt a new treaty with Latin America, say for an Atlantic common market where we all work together to create that new 21st century.

93/512. Question No H-1193/93 by Mr Langer on European Union support for the International Tribunal for War Crimes in the former Yugoslavia

Date of issue: 15 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

On 17 November 1993 the International Tribunal on Infringements of Human Rights in the former Yugoslavia was set up in The Hague at the instance of the United Nations. It is already clear that the tribunal will be able to function and thus be effective (both as a model and a deterrent) only if it receives adequate political support, financial resources, documents and evidence and can actu-

ally summon defendants and witnesses. How does the European Union intend actively to support the tribunal? Would it not be a good idea to include such support in foreign policy 'joint action'?

Answer:

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of the Council: The European Union has always taken the view that people guilty of infringements of human rights in the conflict in former Yugoslavia must be held personally responsible and brought to justice. The European Union supports the work of the International Law Commission which is drawing up a statute for the International Criminal Court and pressed for an international war crimes tribunal on crimes in former Yugoslavia to be set up in The Hague, within the framework of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council. So I do not think joint action is justified at present. In fact it is worth remembering that the tribunal was set up by the United Nations and is placed under the aegis of the United Nations Organization. Given the importance the European Union attaches to the International War Crimes Tribunal, the European Union naturally believes adequate financial resources and other support must be made available to that tribunal.

Mr Langer (V): Thank you for your answer, President-in-Office, but essentially you have explained the background without answering my question. This tribunal has been in existence since 17 November and my question was tabled the very next day. The tribunal runs the risk of not being able to fulfil its role unless it receives adequate documentation, is properly funded and especially unless persons accused and the witnesses appear before it.

So let me follow up my question by asking whether the European Union, as part of its concerted action towards the former Yugoslavia, does not feel it would be appropriate to give the tribunal financial support, ensure the presence of defendants and witnesses and provide the necessary documentation. That is surely not too much to ask of a concerted action.

Mr Urbain: I think we must bear in mind what the European Union has already done to set up the tribunal, especially financially. First of all, the Member States of the European Union made an appreciable voluntary contribution to funding the work of the Commission, both in currency, 25% of the total, and in kind, notably staff and equipment. Secondly, the President of the Commission was a national of a Member State of the Union (the Netherlands).

Thirdly, the statute of the International War Crimes Tribunal on former Yugoslavia was drawn up by groups of lawyers who came from France and Italy, or were acting under the aegis of the Swedish Presidency of the CSCE. The statute of the tribunal was the subject of lengthy consultation within the Twelve and in the *ad hoc* working group. Fourthly, I would recall that the tribunal has its seat in the territory of the European Union – at The Hague, in the Netherlands, to be precise.

Fifthly, two of the eleven judges are nationals of member countries of the European Union: France and Italy. This shows that both financially and in various other ways, the European Union has played a substantial role in setting up the tribunal.

93/513. Question No H-1214/93 by Mr Karellis on drugs and weapons trafficking in Kosovo

Date of issue: 15 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Greek newspapers have carried reports of recent trafficking in drugs and weapons, destined for countries in Western Europe, in the region of Kosovo.

Is the Council aware of this problem and what steps does it intend to take?

Answer:

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of the Council: The honourable Member's question is seriously lacking in geographic precision. First of all, what is actually meant by 'the Kosovo plain (Skopje)'?

Secondly, all I can say is that the European Union is fighting the illegal traffic in the goods mentioned everywhere in the world, but it is impossible to tell whether the drugs and arms traffic he mentions is transit traffic, or incoming or outgoing traffic. Which country is it coming from? Is Kosovo the final destination? There is no precision on these points, and I can hardly reply with any accuracy to such an imprecise question.

Mr Karellis (PSE): Minister, the point of my question was to convey more or less accurate information published in the Greek press and referring to the creation of another route by which hard drugs and illegal arms enter the European area. It is not the first time, and I fear it will not be the last, that we hear of similar illegal activities in Central and Eastern European countries that belonged to the former eastern alliance. For example, a press report in Germany today publishes the news that a very large shipment of 212 kilogrammes of heroin, produced in Czechia, was seized at the Czech/German border.

What I want to do is to draw the Council's attention to the problem, and also to stress that the work of Europe's police forces, which is being debated very seriously, should include dealing with such movements that affect Europe and particularly the future of its young people.

Mr Urbain: The honourable Member asks if the Council is informed of this problem and how it plans to react. But I have to say that if the Council had been informed other than by rumours in the press, it would have reacted, as it always does, on a strictly legal basis. So if arms and drugs trafficking from or through the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, was taking place and was brought to our attention, this would come under the system of national and international arrangements in the countries of the European Union governing this type of illegal trade or traffic, notably involving customs controls, police work and possible legal action.

In the absence of sufficient information on the exact nature of the exports the honourable Member mentions, and on the precise circumstances of the case, it is obviously impossible to reply in the abstract in view of the number and complexity of the national and international legal and administrative systems governing the prevention, detection and suppression of the illegal activities referred to by the honourable Member.

The political situation in former Yugoslavia has certainly led to a reduction in the transit traffic of drugs through its territory. Prior to the current events Yugoslavia was a transit country. But now the traffickers have massively diverted the transit traffic through other Central and Eastern European countries.

What measures is the European Union taking to combat drugs? Everywhere in the world, the European Union and its Member States are combating illegal drug trafficking. This was confirmed by the fact that the European Council was invited to approve an action plan on justice and home affairs at its meeting last Friday and Saturday. At the express request of the European Council, this plan covers specific measures aimed at strengthening the fight against drug trafficking still further.

I could say a lot more about the European Union's practical and concrete action because these are precisely known facts. As far as I know, that is not the case with the rumours, reports and in-

formation that the honourable Member has mentioned, and he himself mentioned them with a certain amount of caution.

Mr Balfe (PSE): In the course of your reply you have mentioned rumours, absence of normal channels, absence of precise details. Do you not feel that the Presidency would be much better informed and strengthened in its ability to combat drugs if it were to give a positive response to the desires, particularly of Germany and Britain, to establish diplomatic relations without delay in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia?

93/514. Question No H-1227/93 by Mr Papoutsis on the situation in Georgia

Date of issue: 15 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Events are taking a dramatic turn for the worse each day in Georgia and the scenes portrayed by the international media are inhuman. Civilians are being massacred in droves every day, including many Pontic Greeks living in the Abkhazia region.

What immediate steps does the Council intend to take to put an end to the massacre and solve the tragic situation in Georgia?

Answer:

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of the Council: The European Union fully shares the concern expressed by the honourable Member about the position of people in Georgia. Faced with this alarming human rights situation, the European Union has considerably increased its humanitarian aid to the region recently. It has launched urgent appeals to the parties in the conflict not to hinder the work of those seeking to assist the suffering people. The European Union has expressed its satisfaction at the fact that negotiations have started under the auspices of the UN on the situation in Georgia, and particularly in the Abkhazia region. These negotiations should constitute the starting point for progress towards a peaceful settlement in Abkhazia, which will certainly have positive repercussions on Georgia as a whole. The European Union has frequently declared its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia. It has insisted on respect for the principles of the CSCE and human rights by all the parties.

Mr Papoutsis (PSE): First of all I want to thank the Minister for his detailed answer, and of course to congratulate the Council on the attention with which it is following developments in Abkhazia. However, my question also related to a more particular subject, the Pontian Greeks in Abkhazia, in Georgia, who are indeed being persecuted and are beset by problems, not just because of the civil war but mainly because of suppressive organizations that actively oppress the Greek minority in that region.

At the same time, owing to the war in Georgia or to being expelled from there, a large number of Pontian Greeks are making their way to Greece. That number is enormous. For that reason, I would like to ask the Council's representative whether the Council could agree to special support measures for the Pontian Greeks coming to Greece, so that they may be housed and fed, but also measures for professional training so that they can adapt to the needs of the labour market.

Mr Urbain: While it is difficult for me to reply to a question on refugees arriving in Greece, I want to stress the importance of humanitarian aid from the Twelve. It has only been humanitarian.

May I remind you that the recent CSCE meeting in Rome was intended to bring the Russian military presence in line with respect for the concept of neutrality. But in addition to political action of this kind, I would remind you that the Twelve have specifically demonstrated their awareness of the urgency and dramatic nature of the humanitarian situation.

You have emphasized the large numbers of refugees fleeing Abkhazia. Humanitarian aid from the European Community, exclusive of bilateral programmes, amounted to MECU 7.78 in 1993. At the end of November the Commission also unblocked MECU 6 – this is the TACIS budget – intended for supplying heating oil to the population.

Mr Kostopoulos (PSE): Minister, I would like to ask you: does the tolerance of the Twelve for the way Russia is handling the crisis in Georgia imply an analogous handling of the crisis by Turkey in Azerbaijan, in other words in Nagorny-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh], in its dispute with Armenia?

Mr Urbain: The honourable Member's supplementary was more a speech than a question, and when he invites me to make comparison with the conflict in Nagorny-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh], I can only reply that similarities and differences can be found with all the conflicts taking place to the east of the Europe of the Twelve. One could expand at length on the comparative analysis of these problems, but as the representative of the Presidency of the Council, that is not a path I would personally want to go down.

93/515. Question No H-1238/93 by Ms Oddy on the peace process in Sri Lanka

Date of issue: 15 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

Given the recent failure of the Sri Lankan Parliament Committee to propose an acceptable constitutional solution to the civil war in Sri Lanka and the recent Tamil Tiger attack in Pooneryn in which it is claimed 1000 Sri Lankan soldiers were killed, what steps will the Council take to assist peace in Sri Lanka?

Answer:

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of the Council: The European Union remains very concerned about the information it is continually receiving about the tragic consequences of the civil war in Sri Lanka and particularly the high losses in human lives. This civil war has an ethnic origin, and the honourable Member knows how very difficult it is to resolve this type of conflict. At all events the European Union has regularly drawn the attention of the Sri Lankan Government to the violations of human rights committed by the authorities and taken appropriate steps. It has stated its intention of reviewing its future aid to that government, with reference, *inter alia*, to its attitude to human rights. Nor has it failed to condemn the use of violence by the Tamil Tigers. The European Union does have some means of putting pressure on the Sri Lankan Government. The new Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and that country notably reaffirms the importance attached to respect for the principles of democracy and human rights, but it must be recognized that its ability to influence the attitude of the Tamil Tigers is minimal and cannot be exercised in the shape of an appeal to reason and moderation.

Ms Oddy (PSE): Madam President, I am very glad to hear the stance that the European Union has taken on human rights. I understand from a recent visit that the situation in some ways is worse

than a few years ago though the new President, Mr Wijetunga, is saying this is a terrorist question only and not an ethnic question. What assistance could the European Union give to help towards a solution in this very beautiful but troubled island?

Mr Urbain: Actually I have different information, at least slightly different, on the number of violations recorded recently. I repeat what I just said, that we strongly condemn the use of violence by the Tamil Tigers and at the same time we are putting political pressure on the Sri Lankan Government to see that an end is put to these violations. However both the Union and the Member States have noted that the number of cases of violations seem to have diminished considerably and this development is most welcome.

At all events, we are delighted with the various measures the Government of Sri Lanka has introduced to reduce violations of human rights and its invitation to international organizations to visit the country. The European Union and its Member States are sensitive to the fact that Sri Lanka has accepted the recommendations made by the working group on forced or involuntary disappearances, but believe that more effort is needed to implement these recommendations.

Finally, I would emphasize that the European Union has frequently expressed its conviction to the Sri Lankan Government that a negotiated solution to this conflict must be found.

93/516. Question No H-1239/93 by Mr Alex Smith on the lack of progress on investigation of disappearances in Sri Lanka

Date of issue: 15 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

What steps will the Council take to urge the Sri Lankan Presidential Committee on Disappearances to speed up the investigation of disappearances since January 1991?

Is the Council aware that no one has yet been prosecuted and punished following an investigation by the Presidential Committee?

Answer:

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of the Council: Still on Sri Lanka, it is true, as the honourable Member suggests, that the survey carried out by the Presidential Committee was inconclusive, but according to information we have received recently, cases of disappearance have definitely decreased. We think this is a step towards respect for human rights and democratic principles. Nevertheless, the European Union is fully aware that the Sri Lankan authorities need to increase their efforts in this field. The European Union will continue to keep a close eye on the human rights situation in Sri Lanka, especially the cases of disappearance. It will look at any measures that could contribute to a solution to this problem.

Mr Alex Smith (PSE): Madam President, I am grateful for that answer but I wonder if the Council would agree with me that fundamental to the progression of human rights and a diminution in the amount of abuses is the clear and sure knowledge by the population as a whole that those guilty of perpetrating human rights abuses will be brought to justice. It seems to me that in this case that is something which is completely lacking. Would the Council be prepared to express to the Sri Lankan Government in the most serious possible terms their concern that no judicial process has been followed? No one has been tried and arraigned because of violations of human rights.

Mr Urbain: Madam President, ladies and gentlemen, funding pressure has been brought to bear on the Sri Lankan Government leading it to set up a series of commissions, including the task force responsible for investigating the abuses committed by the forces of law and order and ensuring an effective policy on human rights. Stung by the international criticism, the authorities have engaged in dialogue with the international organizations and have agreed to investigations being carried out by Amnesty International or by the United Nations Committee on Disappearances.

While there has been real progress at several levels, it is often too limited in spite of undeniable efforts by the authorities. Some observers, without going as far as to claim that the situation has deteriorated further, certainly have the impression that the effort to improve things has marked time over the past year, while the Tamil Tigers persist in their determination to destabilize the country by the most violent methods. The latest political assassinations, including that of President Premadasa, last May, are further proof. The new president, Mr Gie Wijetunge, has shown signs of openness which raise hopes of a certain revitalization of democratic principles and respect for human rights in Sri Lanka.

Ms Oddy: Thank you, President-in-Office, for that reply. The Sri Lankan Government has also set up a human rights task force under a judge. This is a distinct improvement because families can go to the human rights task force for details of where their families may be held.

However, the term of office of the human rights task force judge expires next year. Will the European Union persuade the Sri Lankan Government to extend the term of office for another three years?

Mr Urbain: It would naturally be inconsistent if we did not keep up the pressure on this and encourage the Sri Lankan Government to appoint a successor next year to the current judge mentioned by the speaker.

93/517. Questions No H-1240/93 by Mr Collins and taken over by Ms Oddy on the arbitrary arrest of Tamil youths in Colombo, Sri Lanka and H-1241/93 by Mr Wynn on conditions in detention camps in Sri Lanka

Date of issue: 15 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral questions in the European Parliament

Question No H-1240/93:

Is the Council aware that there are reports of widespread arbitrary arrests of Tamil people, especially youths in Sri Lanka and that a number are reported to be held in unreported detention?

What steps will the Council take to express its condemnation of this?

Question No H-1241/93:

Is the Council aware that there are no legally binding minimum conditions in detention camps in Sri Lanka?

Is the Council further aware that conditions are so bad in detention camps that the human rights task force has been giving humanitarian aid in the form of disinfectant, insect killer, buckets, pyjama sarongs and artificial limbs?

What steps will the Council take to urge the Sri Lanka Government to improve conditions in detention camps?

Answer:

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of the Council: Madam President, I would like to take the two questions from Mr Collins and Mr Wynn together as they deal with virtually the same subject: the arbitrary arrest of Tamil youths in Colombo and the conditions in detention camps in Sri Lanka.

The heads of the European Union's mission to Colombo have already made representations to the Sri Lankan Government about the detention of Tamils. We think our intervention has been effective in that it has reminded the Sri Lankan Government that it has an obligation to treat all detainees in accordance with the existing laws and full respect for human rights.

Furthermore, the new Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and Sri Lanka to be signed shortly, reaffirms the importance that the parties attach to the principle of the United Nations Charter and to respect for democratic principles and human rights. This is mentioned in the first article of the agreement, which lays down that this respect constitutes one of its essential elements. The European Union will monitor the honouring of the commitments made in the context of this agreement, which also apply to conditions of arrest and detention.

Ms Oddy (PSE): Amnesty International has recently started an urgent action for Tamils in Colombo. There have been a number of recent arrests by mixed groups of police and army and by men in civilian dress. This is quite disturbing because it is returning to the very bad period of 1990 and I would like the assurances of the European Union that they will continue to press this matter very hard.

Mr Urbain: I think the best and most positive answer to that question is the fact that we are shortly going to sign a Cooperation Agreement with Sri Lanka and that we will definitely make sure that we [do] link this aid to stronger and still more convincing action by the Sri Lankan authorities on this distressing problem.

Mr Alex Smith, (PSE): Would the Council tell me if they think it is wise, really, to be contemplating signing a Cooperation Agreement given what we have heard here tonight? Should we not be saying to the Sri Lankan Government that it is doubtful that we will sign the Cooperation Agreement unless we see some positive steps towards a resolution of these problems?

Mr Urbain: Mr Smith's suggestion is obviously very tempting but on the other hand I would say that if we do not sign the agreement, there is no source of pressure. So it is always a difficult and delicate choice. We think we would have to use specific threats if we had the feeling that the local authorities were not behind us in our concern for greater respect for human rights, especially as regards the conditions of detention. On the other hand, I repeat, if we did not renew a Cooperation Agreement, we would no longer have a means of exerting pressure. Having said that, it is possible to make the importance we attach to the way things develop, felt for example by slightly deferring a Cooperation Agreement. In other words, this is one means of pressure amongst others. There are very few to be had by doing without what seems to me essential.

93/518. Question No H-1242/93 by Mr Newens on adhesion to the Convention on Torture by Sri Lanka

Date of issue: 15 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to oral question in the European Parliament

As the Sri Lankan Government has promised to sign the UN Convention on Torture, what assistance will the Council give to the Sri Lankan Government?

Answer:

Mr Urbain, President-in-Office of the Council: The European Union hopes that the Sri Lankan Government will ratify the United Nations Convention on Torture in the near future. The United Nations will not fail to ensure that the commitments arising from that are kept.

Mr Newens (PSE): As the Minister has already commented, the conditions produced by a bitter armed struggle in Sri Lanka led to appalling infringements of human rights by the LTE as well as by the government. I had the opportunity of discussing some of those with members of the government on a recent visit. The issue of torture is one on which we might hope for some progress but there will be a need continually to remind the Sri Lankan authorities that it is not enough merely to sign. They must ensure that the convention is reflected in practice, which is a very much more difficult achievement. I should like to ask if the Minister will ensure that all reports of incidents of torture are, in fact, monitored and that representations will continue to be made whenever it is thought to be appropriate? This is the only way in the long run that this development is likely to be effective. It is in the interests of the Sri Lankan authorities and the Sri Lankan people as well as our good relations.

Mr Urbain: It is quite true that signing a convention is not enough to ensure that criminal and illegal acts of torture do not continue. But on the other hand, I would say that the signature of the convention is, first of all, a demonstration of the will to act in a given direction. For a group like the European Union, or other members of the United Nations, the act of signing a convention sets in motion a series of mechanisms, relating particularly to fulfilment and control of measures. So it is after the convention is signed that its real importance undeniably develops.

[...]

93/519. Statement on the elections in Russia

Date of issue: 16 December 1993
Place of issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Status of document: Press statement

The European Union welcomes the adoption by the Russian electorate of the draft constitution submitted to it on 12 December, which now offers Russia the legal framework essential for the pursuit of political and economic reforms.

The European Union is also pleased that preliminary reports by its observers confirm that the voting procedures in the first Russian general elections held on the basis of a multi-party system and universal suffrage took place by and large in accordance with democratic principles.

The joint action on observing the Russian elections decided on by the special European Council meeting on 29 October¹ demonstrated the extent of the importance which the European Union attaches to progress of democracy and the rule of law in Russia.

The European Union will continue its efforts to contribute to the success of these reforms in Russia, not only in the context of the future Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the

Union and Russia but also through the technical assistance programmes (TACIS) and assistance for the new democratic Russian institutions.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/440.

93/520. Question No E-2810/93 by Mr Robles Piquer (PPE) on Asiatom

Date of issue: 18 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 4 October 1993)

According to recent reports (Foreign Report, 2265, 29 July 1993) the Japanese Science and Technology Agency is planning to establish Asiatom, an organization for the peaceful use of atomic energy whose membership would consist of Japan and any of its neighbours who wished to join.

The new institution has a very similar name to Euratom and, it appears, very similar aims.

Does the EPC have any further relevant information? If the organization becomes a reality, could the Ministers express a collective opinion as to the positive or negative aspects of this organization?

Answer:

The question raised by the honourable Member has not been discussed within the EPC framework. As Euratom issues fall within the Council's competence, the honourable Member is asked to address himself to the Council for further information on the Asian initiative to which he refers.

93/521. European Union/India political statement

Date of issue: 20 December 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

Following the signature of the Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of India on Partnership and Development and keeping in view the steadily improving relations between the European Union and India and the improvement of these relations in range and content, the European Union and India (hereinafter referred to as 'the parties') express their resolution to reinforce and intensify their mutual relations in the political, economic, technological and cultural fields.

Accordingly, the parties reaffirm their commitment to a political dialogue contributing to the establishment of lasting links of solidarity and new forms of cooperation.

The political dialogue, based on shared values and aspirations, will aim to:

- Underline the parties' common attachment to democracy and respect for human rights, and their common commitment to safeguarding peace and establishing a just and stable international order in accordance with the UN Charter,
- Reinforce the parties' common interest in closer cooperation to promote prosperity, the commitment to economic reforms and liberalisation of the economy, free trade and the enhancement of economic stability, social progress and the development of cultural ties,

- Enable each party to consider the position and interests of the other party in their respective decision-making processes,
- Bring about mutual understanding, increase cooperation and work towards defining areas of agreement on international issues, particularly those of concern like non-proliferation and disarmament, combating terrorism, drug trafficking and money laundering, and other matters relating to peace and international stability.

The political dialogue between the parties will take place through contacts, exchanges and consultations, particularly in the following forms:

- Meetings at ministerial level between India on the one hand and the EU troika on the other, with the purpose of promoting the relationship.
- Providing mutual information on foreign policy decisions, taking full advantage of diplomatic channels, including contacts in the bilateral as well as the multilateral field, such as the UN and elsewhere.
- Development of contacts at parliamentary levels.
- Any other means which would contribute to consolidating and developing the political dialogue between the parties.

If and when appropriate, the parties agree to review the proposed arrangements laid out in this joint statement.

93/522. Statement on a Council meeting (extracts only)

Date of issue: 20 December 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

Follow-Up to the European Council

The Council noted a statement by the Presidency outlining the work to be done in the different areas in response to the conclusions of the European Council meeting in Brussels on 10 and 11 December.¹

Follow-Up to the General Affairs Council Meeting on 15 December 1993 – Uruguay Round

The Council welcomed the fact that the draft Final Act concluding the Uruguay Round negotiations had been adopted in the GATT Trade Negotiations Committee on 15 December within the agreed time limits.

It noted the intention of the Community negotiators, in close cooperation with the Member States, to complete, on satisfactory terms, the market-access negotiations still pending and the final verification of texts.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to monitor the dossier in close cooperation with the Commission.

Accession Negotiations

The Council prepared for the accession negotiation sessions at ministerial level to be held with Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway on Tuesday 21 December.

[...]

Former Yugoslavia

Meeting on 22 December 1993

The Council prepared for the meeting to be held in Brussels on 22 December with the parties to the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

It heard a report from the President on the meeting that had taken place between the Presidency and the Commission and the Bosnian Government in Vienna on 17 December.

Humanitarian aid in Bosnia-Herzegovina

The Council approved the priority measures to be taken under the joint action adopted on 8 November on support for the conveying of humanitarian aid in Bosnia-Herzegovina, i.e.:

	MECU
(a) logistic reinforcements (47 lorries adapted to the terrain) for use by UNHCR and ECTF	4
(b) fuel (15,000 tonnes) for use by the UNHCR, to cover the purchase of fuel for operating convoys, electricity generators, water-pumps, etc. needed to provide people with vital goods and services	4
(c) delivery of approximately 250 electricity generators for use by the UNHCR to operate public centres, hospitals, bakeries, water-pumps, etc.	4.15
(d) restoration of coal mines (emergency work) for use by the IMG (International Management Group)	2
(e) support for carrying out emergency minimum repairs for electricity, gas, water and shelters, for use by the IMG	10
TOTAL	24.15

It also approved the arrangements for financing this amount from the Community budget.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to submit a proposal for its next meeting in February 1994 concerning the allocation among Member States of the other half of the overall budget of MECU 48.30 adopted on 6 December.

It asked the Committee to submit at the same time a proposal on the horizontal issue of financing CFSP joint actions in the future.

[...]

Stability Pact: Joint Action

The Council adopted the Decision setting out the joint action on the Inaugural Conference on the Stability Pact [...].

Appointment of a European Observer for the Cyprus Problem

The Council agreed to send an EU observer to the intra-community talks on Cyprus being held under the aegis of the United Nations Secretary-General. It asked the President of the Commission to propose the appointment of an official from the Commission and asked the Political Committee to define the duties he would have to carry out.

[...]

Joint Irish/United Kingdom declaration – Council Statement

The Council heard a report from the Irish and United Kingdom delegations, outlining the joint declaration issued by the two governments on 15 December 1993.

The Council welcomed the joint declaration and expressed the profound hope that it would provide a basis for a permanent end to violence and a lasting political settlement in Northern Ireland. The Council expressed the hope that organizations which have used or supported violence would respond positively to the joint declaration by committing themselves henceforth to using only democratic and constitutional means to advance their aspirations.

The Council agrees that, as the joint declaration says, the development of Europe will, of itself, require new approaches to serve interests common to both parts of the island of Ireland, and to Ireland and the United Kingdom as partners in the European Union.

The ending of the painful and bitter conflict in Northern Ireland would bring many social and economic benefits to the region, the Member States concerned and the European Union as a whole.

The Council notes the statement issued by President Delors in this matter, in which he said that the 'Commission wishes to give practical support to the peace process, and is willing to discuss with the two Member States most directly concerned how best this can be done'.

[...]

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/506.

93/523. Question No 1549/93 by Mr Smith (S) on the disappearance of radioactive material

Date of issue: 21 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 15 June 1993)

Will EPC undertake to investigate the reports in the *Daily Telegraph* of 13 April 1993, published in the United Kingdom, of the disappearance of hundreds of kilograms of radioactive materials, including strontium and weapon-usable uranium from Lithuania;

what protective measures are taken to halt the trafficking of illicit nuclear materials from the CIS and Eastern European states into the European Community;

and what role is played by EPC in support of Euratom inspection measures on nuclear imports?

Answer:

The verification of the Lithuanian inventory of nuclear material including possible changes is in principle incumbent on the [IAEA] in cooperation with Lithuania.

The Community and its Member States are concerned over reports about illegal trade in nuclear materials. Member States on whose territory such trade is alleged to have occurred or whose nationals have been involved investigate all such incidents. The Community and its Member States discuss this issue both bilaterally and in European political cooperation. Fortunately thus far, materials recovered in incidents which have come to light have been of no proliferation con-

cern. But the Community and its Member States are not complacent and will continue to treat this matter with the seriousness it deserves.

The safeguards of nuclear material imported to Member States is not of the competence of European political cooperation.

93/524. Question No E-2796/93 by Ms Ewing (ARC) on the desecration of Baha'i graves in Iran

Date of issue: 21 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 4 October 1993)

Will the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation make an immediate protest to the Iranian Government about the desecration of graves at the Baha'i cemetery in Teheran? Bodies of Baha'is have been callously dug up and loaded into trucks and transported to unknown destinations. This latest outrage now adds to the catalogue of repressive actions by the Iranian Government against the Baha'i population.

Answer:

The European Union shares the honourable Member's concern at the treatment of the Baha'i community in Iran.

The European Union has made a number of representations to the Iranian authorities in this connection, highlighting the need to respect the freedom of religion and the civil rights of Baha'is.

Following those representations, the Iranian authorities arranged for a visit by the troika to the site of the Baha'i cemetery referred to by the honourable Member.

They pointed out that the Iranian Government was applying in practice a law allowing building on land containing graves after a 30-year period.

In more general terms, the European Union's points of concern with regard to Iran were set out in a special statement issued following the European Council meeting in Edinburgh on 12 December 1992.¹

That statement reaffirms that a critical dialogue should be maintained which reflects concern about Iranian behaviour and calls for improvements in a number of areas, particularly human rights.

For years now, the European Union has been active in the drafting of resolutions on human rights in Iran adopted in the relevant international forums at the United Nations particularly in the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva and at the General Assembly in New York.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 93/449.

93/525. Question No E-2844/93 by Mr Smith (PSE) on nuclear safeguards

Date of issue: 21 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 4 October 1993)

What progress has been made following the agreement at the EPC meeting of 4 September 1992 that joint Euratom/International Atomic Agency safeguards on nuclear facilities and materials had to be strengthened?

Answer:

The matter raised by the honourable Member has been discussed and regularly monitored within the Working Party on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The Commission and the IAEA have begun technical talks on implementing the Partnership Agreement between the IAEA and Euratom. These talks culminated in an initial technical agreement reached at the meeting in Vienna on 29 and 30 July 1993 regarding light-water reactors and low-enriched uranium fuel manufacturing plants.

The trial phase for those agreements is at present under way. Discussions on other types of plant are continuing between the two organizations. It is hoped that the Partnership Agreement can be implemented in full in 1994.

93/526. Question No E-2899/93 by Mr Chabert (PPE) on European security and the situation in the Caucasus

Date of issue: 21 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 11 October 1993)

For many months now, a fierce, one-sided battle has been pitting the 200,000 Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] against several million Azeris who, by placing a blockade on food, oil and transport have been trying for some time to gain a stranglehold over the region.

Furthermore, the Armenian economy has now been reduced to working at only 35% of its capacity, while in the space of a few months the standard of living has fallen to a third of its previous level. The fact that recent clashes in the region have gone in favour of the troops from Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] cannot conceal the underlying strategic situation.

Does EPC not feel it appropriate and, at last, possible, for steps to be taken to meet the wishes of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh] in respect of the right of nations to self-determination?

At the European Council meeting in Copenhagen on 21 and 22 June 1993,¹ a proposal was put forward by French Prime Minister, Edouard Balladur, for an initiative by the European Union in favour of a pact on stability in Europe, directed towards assuring in practice the application of the principles agreed by European countries with regard to respect for borders and minority rights.

The European Council agreed that recent events in Europe had shown that action in these areas was timely and appropriate.

With a view to the European Council meeting to be held in December 1993 and the proposed convening of a preparatory conference on such a European pact, does EPC not feel that the approach set out in the French Government's proposal should be extended to the Caucasus region?

This region, which has long been a focal point for conflict, is the point of convergence of the principal Western and Middle Eastern civilizations. Should it not therefore also be included in a

global approach involving joint action in respect of security in Europe and the extension of the area of stability to the boundaries of Europe?

Answer:

From the outset of this crisis, the Community and its Member States have taken a clear stance in favour of a negotiated political settlement in accordance with UN and CSCE principles. They condemned the recent offensives by local Armenian forces from Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh], pushing further and further into Azerbaijani territory. They noted with regret that the latest operations extended the armed-conflict zone to ever-increasing areas of Azerbaijani territory, giving rise to a very serious refugee problem in Azerbaijan, which is already affecting neighbouring countries and is accompanied by growing threats to the security of the region.

The European Union has repeatedly reaffirmed its support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the states of the region.

The European Union shares the honourable Member's concern at the continuation of a conflict which has already entailed the death of thousands of civilians and which has caused hundreds of thousands of refugees to take to the roads. The European Union will continue to provide humanitarian aid for all civilian population groups affected. It calls on the states of the region to allow this free passage.

In line with a recent decision by the CSCE Committee of Senior Officials and with Security Council Resolution 884 of 12 November, the European Union continues to recognize the central role of the CSCE Minsk process in the context of negotiations for a peaceful solution to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabagh].

While urging the parties directly concerned to step up their efforts for a peaceful solution to the crisis, the European Union also points to the importance of integrating the Russian peace initiatives in the region within the Minsk process.

As regards the geographical coverage of any pact on stability in Europe, the working document on the matter approved by the General Affairs Council on 4 October 1993 points out that, being an initiative in the field of preventive diplomacy, the pact will not address existing conflicts.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 93/248.

93/527. Question No E-2953/93 by Mr Kostopoulos (PSE) on human rights of ethnic Greeks in northern Epirus

Date of issue: 21 December 1993

Place of issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Answer to written question in the European Parliament (from 20 October 1993)

Human rights violations are taking place in Albania and ethnic Greeks in northern Epirus are particularly affected. In view of this, Greece recently instructed its representative at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to call on the Albanian leadership to respect human rights and to abolish the minority regions. Greece has stressed that it considers the Albanian Government's decision to set up minority regions indefensible, since this restricts the ability of Albanians of Greek extraction to

enjoy the rights provided by international agreements when they are outside these regions. Does EPC intend to make representations to the Albanian leadership to put an end to human rights violations, in particular of ethnic Greeks in northern Epirus?

Answer:

The European Union has long been monitoring developments in the human rights situation in Albania. It has repeatedly voiced its concern at the measures taken by the Albanian Government with regard to human rights. In this connection it has on a number of occasions called on the Albanian Government solemnly to honour all CSCE commitments. The European Union regarded as an encouraging development the adoption on 31 March 1993 of a constitutional law on human rights, Article 26 of which deals with minority rights. However, it realizes that putting those principles into practice will require further effort, as recommended by the High Commissioner for National Minorities and accepted by the Albanian Government.

The European Union has signed an agreement on trade and cooperation with Albania, which came into force on 1 December 1992. Full observance of democratic principles and human rights forms a key component of that agreement.

A structured relationship between Albania and the Council of Europe has been introduced through the setting-up of an Albania task force, Albania's accession to the Cultural Convention and Albania's participation with special guest status in the activities of the Parliamentary Assembly. The commitment to observe all democratic principles and standards as well as human rights forms the basis for that structured relationship.

The European Union seizes every opportunity to call on the Albanian authorities to take the necessary steps. It will continue to keep a very close watch on the human rights situation.

93/528. Statement on Kazakhstan

Date of issue: 22 December 1993

Place of issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Status of document: Press statement

The European Union welcomes the decision taken by the Parliament of Kazakhstan to fulfil the commitments given by that country under the Lisbon Protocol, in particular regarding accession to the NPT as a state not possessing nuclear weapons.

The European Union wishes to stress the importance of this decision and urges the other countries which have subscribed to the Lisbon Protocol to also fulfil all the commitments contained therein.

The European Union hopes that Kazakhstan will rapidly deposit its instrument of accession to the NPT and embark as soon as possible on negotiation of an agreement on generalized guarantees with the IAEA.

UN voting

This section contains:

- (i) voting charts of resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly for the years 1991 to 1993
- (ii) lists of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly without having resort to voting for the years 1991 to 1993
- (iii) the voting chart of resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council for the year 1993.

For resolutions adopted by resort to voting, the charts report the overall result of the vote, the votes of the Member States of the Community and the votes cast by the United States and the Soviet Union.

The letters Y, N, A, indicate respectively a positive vote, a negative vote and an abstention. The asterisk (*) means that no vote has been recorded for a particular country. The dash (–) indicates the absence of a particular country.

Voting chart of resolutions adopted during the 46th Session of the UN General Assembly¹

A/RES/46	Subject	Date 1991	Total vote Yes No Ab	B	D K	D	G R	E	F	I R L	I	L	N L	P	U K	U S	R S F S R
9	Comorian Island of Majotte	16.10	115 1 34	A	A	A	A	A	N	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y
10	Return of cultural property – country of origin	22.10	134 0 23	A	A	A	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y
16	International Atomic Energy Agency – report	13.11	141 0 9	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
19	South Atlantic– zone of peace	25.11	141 1 0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
24	Cooperation – UN/League of Arab States	05.12	140 2 0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
28	Nuclear Weapons Test Ban Treaty – amendment	06.12	110 2 35	A	A	A	A	A	–	A	A	A	A	A	N	N	Y
29	Nuclear Test Ban Treaty		147 2 4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N	Y
31	South Asia – nuclear-weapon-free zone		121 3 26	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
32	Assurance against nuclear weapons		152 0 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y
33	Prevention of arms race in outer space		155 0 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A

¹ Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the General Assembly during the first part of its 46th Session from 17 September to 20 December 1991, press release, 21 January 1992.

A/RES/46	Subject	Date 1991	Total vote Yes No Ab	B	D K	D	G	E	F	I R L	I	L	N	P	U K	U S	R
34 [A]	Denuclearization of Africa	06.12	108 1 47	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
36	General and complete disarmament																
36 [D]	– fissionable materials		152 2 3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N	Y
36 [I]	– regional disarmament		154 0 4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
36 [J]	– bilateral nuclear-arms negotiations		130 0 26	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y
36 [L]	– transparency in armament		150 0 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
37	Concluding document (12th Special Session of the GA)																
37 [C]	– nuclear arms freeze		119 18 23	N	A	N	A	N	N	A	N	N	N	A	N	N	A
37 [D]	– prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons		122 16 22	N	N	N	A	N	N	A	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
37 [F]	– UN regional centres		160 1 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N	Y
38	Recommendations and decisions (10th Special Session of the GA)																
38 [B]	– comprehensive programme of disarmament		123 6 32	N	A	N	A	A	N	A	A	A	N	A	N	N	A
38 [C]	– Conference on Disarmament		131 8 23	N	A	N	A	A	N	Y	N	N	N	A	N	N	Y
39	Israeli nuclear armaments		76 3 75	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A

A/RES/46	Subject	Date 1991	Total vote Yes No Ab	B	D K	D	G R	E	F	I R L	I	L	N L	P	U K	U S A	R S S
41 [A]	Antarctica	06.12	101 0 7	*	*	*	*	*	*	A	*	*	*	A	*	*	*
41 [B]			107 0 6	*	*	*	*	*	*	N	*	*	*	N	*	*	*
46	UNRWA (Palestine refugees)	09.12															
46 [A]	– assistance		137 0 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
46 [D]	– higher education		147 0 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
46 [E]	– Occupied Territories		143 2 0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
46 [F]	– ration distribution		115 21 13	N	N	N	A	A	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
46 [G]	– return of population		115 2 32	A	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
46 [H]	– revenues from properties		114 2 33	A	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
46 [I]	– protection		147 2 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	A
46 [J]	– ‘Al-Quds’ University		146 2 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	A
46 [K]	– protection of students and security of facilities		151 2 0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
47 [A]	Human rights of the Palestine people		96 5 52	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
47 [B]			153 1 3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A

A/RES/46	Subject	Date 1991	Total vote Yes No Ab	B	D K	D	G	E	F	I R L	I	L	N L	P	U K	U S	R S F S R
47 [C]	International law – new international economic order	09.12	153 1 3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A
47 [D]			153 2 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	A
47 [E]			153 1 3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A
47 [F]			152 1 4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A
47 [G]			150 2 4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	A
52	International law – new international economic order	11.12	117 20 17	N	N	N	N	A	A	A	A	N	N	A	N	N	A
63	Non-self-governing territories		157 0 3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y
64	Granting of independence – foreign economic and other interests		109 34 16	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	A
65	Granting of independence– specialised agencies		115 28 17	N	N	N	A	A	N	A	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
71	Implementation of the Declaration on the granting of independence		137 2 22	A	Y	A	Y	Y	A	Y	A	A	A	Y	N	N	A
72	Information on decolonization	74 [A]	143 2 16	A	Y	A	Y	Y	A	Y	A	A	A	Y	N	N	Y
74 [A]	Palestine		121 2 28	A	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y

A/RES/46	Subject	Date 1991	Total vote Yes No Ab	B	D K	D	G R	E	F	I R L	I	L	N	P	U K	U S	R S	F S	R
74 [B]	International Peace Conference on the Middle East	11.12	121 2 28	A	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y		
74 [C]			125 2 23	A	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y		
75			104 2 43	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A		
76			142 2 5	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	A		
78		12.12	140 1 7	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y		
79	Policies of apartheid	13.12																	
79 [B]	– Special Committee		143 0 16	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y		
79 [C]	– military collaboration		121 2 34	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A		
79 [D]	– relations between South Africa and Israel		93 31 30	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	A		
79 [E]	– oil embargo		127 3 28	A	Y	A	A	A	A	Y	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y		
82 [A]	Situation in the Middle East	16.12	93 27 37	N	N	N	A	A	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	A		
82 [B]	International Convention on the Suppression of Apartheid		152 1 4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
84			118 1 39	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A		
86	Elimination of racism and racial discrimination		111 25 13	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		

A/RES/46	Subject	Date 1991	Total vote Yes No Ab	B	D K	D	G R	E	F	I R L	I	L	N L	P	U K	U S A	R S F S R
87	Self-determination	16.12	113 22 24	N	N	N	A	A	N	A	N	N	N	A	N	N	A
89	Use of mercenaries		122 11 28	N	A	N	A	A	N	A	N	N	N	N	N	N	A
95	World social situation		157 1 5	A	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N	Y
117	Human rights and fundamental freedoms – alternative approaches	17.12															
130	National sovereignty – electoral processes		123 2 34	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y
134	Iraq– human rights		102 40 13	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
135	Kuwait – human rights under Iraqi occupation		129 1 17	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
137	Elections		155 1 0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
153	African Institute for the Prevention of Crime	18.12	108 0 37	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
162	Living conditions of Palestine people	19.12	135 2 5	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	A
199	Occupied Territories – adverse economic effects of Israeli settlements	20.12	125 2 9	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	A	N
201	Assistance to the Palestine people		137 2 0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y

A/RES/46	Subject	Date 1991	Total vote Yes No Ab	B	D K	D	G R	E	F	I R L	I	L	N L	P	U K	U S A	R S F S R
210	Political and economic coercion	20.12	97 30 9	N	N	N	A	A	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	A
216	Environmental consequences on Kuwait		135 0 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y

Resolutions adopted without resort to voting – 1991¹

A/RES/46	Date	Subject
1	17.09.91	Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Republic of Korea – UN membership
2		Micronesia – UN membership
3		Marshall Islands – UN membership
4		Estonia – UN membership
5		Latvia – UN membership
6		Lithuania – UN membership
7	11.10.91	Haiti – democracy and human rights
8	16.10.91	Observer status – Caribbean Community
11	24.10.91	University of Peace – 10th anniversary
12	28.10.91	Cooperation – UN/Latin American Economic System
13		Cooperation – UN/Islamic Conference
14	31.10.91	Programmes – peace in the world
15		Institute of East-West Dynamics
17	18.11.91	International Forum of Health
18	20.11.91	Cambodia – situation
20	26.11.91	Cooperation – UN/Organization of African Unity
21	03.12.91	Appointment of the UN Secretary-General
22	05.12.91	World Food Programme
23		Afghanistan – situation
25	06.12.91	Transparency of military expenditures
26		Compliance with arms limitations and disarmament agreements
27		Education and information for disarmament
30		Middle East – nuclear-weapon-free-zone
34 [B]	09.12.91	Declaration on the denuclearization of Africa
35 [A]	06.12.91	Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons
35 [B]		
35 [C]		
36 [A]		General and complete disarmament – Conference on Environmental Modifications Techniques
36 [B]		– resources to protect the environment
36 [C]		– disarmament and development
36 [E]		– radiological weapons
36 [F]		– regional disarmament
36 [G]		– conventional disarmament in Europe
36 [H]		– international arms transfers
36 [K]		– dumping of radioactive waste
37 [A]		Concluding document (12th Special Session of the GA)
		– world disarmament campaign
37 [B]		– regional confidence-building measures
37 [E]		– UN disarmament programme

¹ Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the General Assembly during the first part of its 46th Session from 17 September to 20 December 1991, press release, 21 January 1992.

UN voting

A/RES/46	Date	Subject
38 [A]	06.12.91	Recommendations and decisions (10th Special Session of the GA)
		– Disarmament Commission
38 [D]		– technology transfer
40		Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons
42		Security and cooperation in the Mediterranean
43	09.12.91	Protection and security of small states
44		Effects of atomic radiation
45		Peaceful uses of outer space
46 [B]		UNRWA – financing
46 [C]		– displaced persons
48		Peace-keeping operations
49		Declaration on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace
50		International law
51		International terrorism
53		UN Decade of International Law
54		Report of the International Law Commission
55		Jurisdictional immunity of states
56		UN Commission on International Trade Law
57		Status of diplomatic couriers
58		Special Committee on the Charter of the UN
59		Declaration on fact-finding by the UN in the field of international peace and security
60		Relations with the host country
61		Consular functions
62		Good-neighbourliness between states
66	11.12.91	Non-self-governing territories – study and training facilities
67		Western Sahara
68		Granting of independence
69		New Caledonia
70		UN assistance to non-self-governing territories
73		Information
77	12.12.91	Revitalization of the work of the GA
79 [A]	13.12.91	Eradication of apartheid in South Africa – international efforts
79 [F]		UN Trust Fund for South Africa
80		UN Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa
81	16.12.91	International Covenants on Human Rights – 25th anniversary
83		Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
85		Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination
88		Right of people to self-determination
90		Social development
91		International Plan of Action on Ageing
92		International Year of the Family
93		International Literacy Year
94		International Plan of Action on Ageing – integration of the elderly
96		World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons
97		UN Development Fund for Women

A/RES/46	Date	Subject
98	16.12.91	Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women
99		International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
100		Status of women in the Secretariat
101		Drug abuse and illicit trafficking
102		Global Programme of Action against Narcotic Drugs
103		International action against drug abuse and illicit trafficking
104		UN International Drug Control Programme
105		UN High Commissioner for Refugees – Executive Committee
106		UN High Commissioner for Refugees – office
107		International Conference on Central American Refugees
108		Refugees and displaced persons in Africa – assistance
109	17.12.91	Situation in Central America – threats to international peace and security
110		UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
111		International instruments on human rights
112		Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
113		International Covenants on Human Rights
114		International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers
115		Non-discrimination and protection of minorities
116		World Conference on Human Rights
118		Centre for Human Rights
119		Protection of persons with mental illness
120		Human rights in the administration of justice
121		Human rights and extreme poverty
122		UN Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery
123		Right to development
124		National institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights
125		Enforced or involuntary disappearances
126		Human rights and scientific and technological progress
127		Human rights and mass exoduses
128		International Year for the World's indigenous people
129		UN action in the human rights field
131		Elimination of religious intolerance
132		Myanmar – situation
133		El Salvador – human rights and fundamental freedoms
136		Afghanistan – human rights
138		Haiti – human rights
139		Social development
140		Third Committee – rationalisation of work
141		Eradication of poverty in developing countries
142		Angola – economic rehabilitation
143		Human resources for development
144		Declaration on international economic cooperation
145		Developing countries – regional economic integration

A/RES/46	Date	Subject
146	17.12.91	Developing countries – industrial development cooperation
147		Liberia – rehabilitation and reconstruction
148	18.12.91	International debt crisis and development
149		International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
150		Chernobyl disaster
151		UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development
152		UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme
154	19.12.91	Developing countries – economic stabilization
155		Report of the South Commission
156		Least developed countries – Programme of Action
157		World Decade for Cultural Development
158		World Commission for Culture and Development
159		Developing countries – technical cooperation
160		Cooperation – UN/Southern African Development Coordination Conference
161		Desertification and drought
163		Global strategy for shelter to the year 2000
164		UN Conference on Human Settlements
165		Science and technology for development
166		Entrepreneurship
167		Women, environment, population and sustainable development
168		UN Conference on Environment and Development
169		Protection of global climate
170		Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America
171		Chad – special economic assistance
172		Front-line states – special assistance
173		Lebanon – assistance for reconstruction and development
174		Yemen – special assistance
175		Djibouti – assistance for reconstruction and development
176		Somalia – emergency assistance
177		Philippines – emergency assistance
178		Sudan – emergency assistance
179		Yemen – emergency assistance
180		UN Institute for Training and Research
181		International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism
182		UN humanitarian emergency assistance
183	20.12.91	Financial reports and audited financial statements
184		Programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991
185		Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1991-1992
186		Programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993
187		Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses 1992-1993
188		Working Capital Fund for the biennium 1992-1993
189		Programme planning
190		Pattern of conferences
191		UN common system
192		UN pension system

A/RES/46	Date	Subject
193	20.12.91	UN Disengagement Observer Force – financing
194		UN Interim Force in Lebanon – financing
195		UN Angola Verification Mission – financing
196		UN Observer Group in Central America – financing
197		UN Iraq/Kuwait Observation Mission – financing
198		UN Advance Mission in Cambodia – financing
200		World Food Programme
202		Growth of the world economy
203		Prevention and control of AIDS
204		Namibia – special assistance
205		Financing and development – international conference
206		Committee for Development Planning – criteria for identifying the least developed countries
207		Multilateral trade – international organizations
208		Environment and international trade
209		Trade and Development Board
211		Trade Control Measures Information System
212		Land-locked developing countries
213		Draft Convention on Maritime Liens and Mortgages
214		International code of conduct on the transfer of technology
215		Drift net fishing
217		Environmental emergency
218		UN Development Programme – Human Development Report
219		UN system – operational activities
220		Fifth Committee – rationalization of work
221		Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the UN

Voting chart of resolutions adopted during the 47th Session of the UN General Assembly¹

A/RES/47	Subject	Date 1992	Total vote Yes No Ab	B	D K	D	G R	E	F	I R L	I	L	N L	P	U K	U S	R S F S R
1	Recommendation of the Security Council (19.09.1992)	22.09	127 6 26	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
8	International Atomic Energy Agency – report	22.10	146 0 5	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
9	Comorian Island of Mayotte	27.10	126 1 40	A	A	A	A	A	N	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y
12	Cooperation – UN/League of Arab States	29.10	119 2 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
14	Non-self-governing territories	16.11	142 0 3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y
15	Granting of independence – foreign economic and other interests		95 34 12	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
16	Implementation of the Declaration on the granting of independence		100 30 19	N	N	N	A	A	N	A	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
19	Cuba – ending of US embargo	24.11	59 3 71	A	A	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
23	Implementation of the Declaration on the granting of independence	25.11	127 2 22	A	Y	A	Y	Y	A	Y	A	A	A	Y	N	N	A

¹ Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the General Assembly during the first part of its 47th Session from 15 September to 23 December 1992, press release, 1 February 1993.

A/RES/47	Subject	Date 1992	Total vote Yes No Ab	B	D K	D	G R	E	F	I R L	I	L	N	P	U K	U S	R
24	Information on decolonization	25.11	132 2 17	A	Y	A	Y	Y	A	Y	A	A	A	Y	N	N	Y
29	Observer status of national liberal movements		100 9 34	N	A	N	A	A	N	A	N	N	N	A	N	N	A
43	Scientific and technological developments: impact on security		128 3 30	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y	A	A	A	A	N	N	Y
46	Nuclear Weapons Test Ban Treaty		118 2 41	A	A	A	A	A	-	A	A	A	A	A	N	N	Y
47	Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty	09.12	159 1 4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N	Y
49	South Asia – nuclear-weapon-free zone		144 3 13	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
50	Assurance against nuclear weapons		162 0 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y
51	Prevention of arms race in outer space		164 0 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
52 [A]	1995 Conference on the Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty		168 0 0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
52 [C]	Prohibition of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes		164 0 3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
52 [J]	Regional disarmament		168 0 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
53 [C]	Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons		126 21 21	N	N	N	A	N	A	N	A	N	N	N	N	N	Y

A/RES/47	Subject	Date 1992	Total vote Yes No Ab	B	D K	D	G R	E	F	I R L	I	L	N L	P	U K	U S A	R S F S R
53 [E]	Nuclear-arms freeze	09.12	121 19 27	N	A	N	A	N	N	A	N	N	A	N	N	A	A
53 [F]	Regional confidence-building measures		159 1 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N	Y
54 [F]	UN Institute for Disarmament Research		166 0 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y
55	Israeli nuclear armaments		64 3 90	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
57	Antarctica		96 1 9	*	*	*	*	*	*	A	*	*	*	A	*	*	*
59	Implementation of the Declaration on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace		129 3 35	A	A	A	A	N	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	N	Y
60 [A]	Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the strengthening of international security		122 1 43	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
60 [B]	Maintenance of international security		79 0 84	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
63 [A]	Situation in the Middle East	11.12	72 3 70	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
63 [B]			140 1 5	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
64 [A]	Palestine		115 3 40	A	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
64 [B]			119 2 37	A	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y
64 [C]			152 2 3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y

A/RES/47	Subject	Date 1992	Total vote Yes No Ab	B	D K	D	G R	E	F	I R L	I	L	N L	P	U K	U S A	R S F S R
64 [D]		11.12	93 4 60	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
64 [E]			146 3 10	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	A
65	Law of the sea		135 1 9	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y
69	UNRWA (Palestine refugees)	14.12															
69 [A]	– assistance		136 0 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
69 [D]	– higher education		139 0 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
69 [E]	– Occupied Territories		138 2 0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
69 [F]	– ration distribution		103 24 14	N	N	N	A	A	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
69 [G]	– return of population		103 2 37	A	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
69 [H]	– revenues from properties		100 2 39	A	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
69 [I]	– protection and security		138 2 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	A
69 [J]	– ‘Al-Quds’ University		139 2 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	A
69 [K]	– protection of students and security of facilities		141 2 0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
70 [A]	Human rights in the Occupied Territories		83 5 55	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A

A/RES/47	Subject	Date 1992	Total vote Yes No Ab	B	D K	D	G R	E	F	I R L	I	L	N L	P	U K	U S A	R S F S R
70 [B]	South Atlantic – zone of peace International Convention on the Suppression of Apartheid Self-determination Use of mercenaries African Institute for the Prevention of Crime Policies of apartheid – oil embargo – military collaboration	14.12	141 1 4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
70 [C]			143 1 3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
70 [D]			142 2 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	A
70 [E]			143 1 3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A
70 [F]			142 1 4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A
70 [G]			143 2 4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	A
74			144 1 0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
81			113 2 44	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
82			107 22 33	N	N	N	A	A	N	A	N	N	N	A	N	N	N
84			118 10 36	N	A	N	A	A	N	A	N	N	N	N	N	N	A
89		16.12	121 1 45	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
116		18.12															
116 [D]			111 1 44	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
116 [E]			106 2 47	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A

A/RES/47	Subject	Date 1992	Total vote Yes No Ab	B	D K	D	G R	E	F	I R L	I	L	N L	P	U K	U S A	R S F S R
116 [F]	– relations between South Africa and Israel	18.12	93 39 23	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
116 [G]	– apartheid in sports		121 0 39	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
121	Situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina		102 0 57	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
130	Elections		99 45 16	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
137	Human rights and fundamental freedoms – alternative approaches		115 0 48	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
138	Elections		141 0 20	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
139	Cuba – human rights		69 18 64	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
142	Sudan		104 8 33	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
145	Iraq – human rights		126 2 26	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
146	Iran – human rights		86 16 38	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
151	Environmental consequences on Kuwait		159 0 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
170	Assistance to the Palestinian people	22.12	155 2 3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
172	Occupied Territories – adverse economic effects of Israeli settlements		150 3 5	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A

A/RES/47	Subject	Date 1992	Total vote Yes No Ab	B	D K	D	G R	E	F	I R L	I	L	N L	P	U K	U S A	R S F S R
198	Debt problems of developing countries	22.12	158 1 0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y

Resolutions adopted without resort to voting – 1992¹

A/RES/47	Date	Subject
2	07.10.92	Pakistan – emergency assistance
3	14.10.92	International Day of Disabled Persons
4	16.10.92	Observer status – International Organization for Migration
5		Proclamation on ageing
6	21.10.92	Cooperation – UN/Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee
7		Philippines – emergency assistance
10	28.10.92	Cooperation – UN/Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe
11	29.10.92	Cooperation – UN/Organization of American States
13		Cooperation – UN/Latin American Economic System
17	16.11.92	Non-self-governing territories – study and training facilities
18	23.11.92	Cooperation – UN/Organization of the Islamic Conference
20	24.11.92	Haiti – democracy and human rights
21	25.11.92	Withdrawal of foreign military forces from the territories of the Baltic states
22		Assistance to non-self-governing territories – coordination of international institutions
25		Western Sahara
26		New Caledonia
27		American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Monserrat, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and US Virgin Islands
27 [A]		– general
27 [B]		– individual territories
28		Officials of the UN and the related organizations
30		Additional Protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions – protection of victims of armed conflicts
31		Protection and security of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives
32		UN Decade of International Law
33		Work of the 44th Session of the International Law Commission
34		Work of the 25th Session of the UN Commission on International Trade Law
35		Committee on Relations with the Host Country
36		Additional Protocol to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations – consular functions
37		Protection of the environment in times of armed conflict
38		UN Charter and role of the organization – report of the Special Committee
39	30.11.92	Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
40	01.12.92	Prevention and control of AIDS
41		UN Operation in Somalia – financing
42	09.12.92	Mozambique – assistance

¹ Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the General Assembly during the first part of its 47th Session from 15 September to 23 December 1992, press release, 1 February 1993.

A/RES/47	Date	Subject
44	09.12.92	Security and disarmament – role of science and technology
45		Verification
48		Middle East – nuclear-weapon-free zone
52		General and complete disarmament
52 [B]		– radiological weapons
52 [D]		– dumping of radioactive waste
52 [E]		– Convention on the Prohibition of Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques
52 [F]		– disarmament and development
52 [G]		– regional disarmament
52 [H]		– defensive security policies
52 [I]		– confidence- and security-building measures and conventional disarmament in Europe
52 [K]		– nuclear disarmament
52 [L]		– transparency in armaments
53 [A]		Implementation of the Concluding Document (12th Special Session of the GA)
		– UN disarmament programme
53 [B]	11.12.92	– Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South-East Asia
53 [D]		– world disarmament campaign
54 [A]		Recommendations and decisions (10th Special Session of the GA)
		– Disarmament Commission
54 [B]		– information on military matters
54 [C]		– disarmament week
54 [D]		– confidence-building measures
54 [E]		– Conference on Disarmament
56		Convention on Conventional Weapons
58		Security and cooperation in the Mediterranean
61		Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
62		Security Council – representation and membership
66	14.12.92	Effects of atomic radiation
67		Peaceful uses of outer space
68	16.12.92	Use of nuclear power sources in outer space
69		UNRWA (Palestine refugees)
69 [B]		– financing
69 [C]		– displaced persons
71		Peace-keeping operations
72		Protection of peace-keeping personnel
73		Information
75		International Year of the World's Indigenous People
76		Implementation of the declaration on the denuclearization of Africa
77		Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination
78	16.12.92	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
79		Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

A/RES/47	Date	Subject
80	16.12.92	'Ethnic cleansing' and racial hatred
83		Right of peoples to self-determination
85		Policies and programmes involving youth
86		Plan of Action on Ageing – integration of older persons in development
87		Organized crime
88		Disabled persons
89		UN African Institute for the Prevention of Crime
90		Role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends
91		Crime prevention and criminal justice
92		Social development
93		Status of women in the Secretariat
94		Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
95		Advancement of women
96		Migrant women workers
97		UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances
98		Drug abuse and illicit trafficking
99		International cooperation against narcotic drugs
100		Global Programme of Action against Narcotic Drugs and Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control
101		UN International Drug Control Programme
102		International action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking
103		International Conference on Central American Refugees
104		UN High Commissioner for Refugees – office
105		UN High Commissioner for Refugees – office
106		New international humanitarian order
107		Assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Africa
108		Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
109		UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
110		International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers
111		International instruments on human rights
112		Convention on the Rights of the Child
113		Committee and Convention against Torture
114		UN Observer Mission in Eritrea – establishment
115		Estonia and Latvia – human rights
116 [A]	18.12.92	South Africa – policies of apartheid
116 [B]		
116 [C]		
117		UN Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa
118		Peace, democracy and development in Central America – procedures
119		Afghanistan – emergency assistance

A/RES/47	Date	Subject
120	18.12.92	An Agenda for Peace – preventive diplomacy
122		World Conference on Human Rights
123		Right to development
124		UN Year for Tolerance
125		Human rights – regional arrangements
126		Street children
127		Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat
128		Human rights – public information activities
129		Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance
131		Human rights – international cooperation
132		Enforced or involuntary disappearances
133		Declaration on the protection of all persons from enforced disappearances
134		Human rights and extreme poverty
135		Declaration on the rights of minorities
136		Summary or arbitrary executions
140		El Salvador – human rights and fundamental freedoms
143		Haiti – human rights
144		Myanmar – situation
147		Former Yugoslavia – human rights
148		Cooperation – UN/Organization of African Unity
149		Food and agricultural development
150		UN response to world food and hunger problems
152		International cooperation for economic growth and development
153		Industrial development cooperation
154		Liberia – assistance for rehabilitation and reconstruction
155		Lebanon – assistance for reconstruction and development
156		Chad – special economic assistance
157		Djibuti – assistance for reconstruction and development
158		El Salvador – assistance for reconstruction and development
159		Benin, Central African Republic and Madagascar – assistance
160		Somalia – emergency humanitarian assistance
161		Vanuatu – economic assistance
162		Sudan – emergency assistance
163		Front-line States – special assistance
164		Angola – international assistance
165		Chernobyl disaster
166		War in Croatia
167		Convening of an international conference on Somalia
168	22.12.92	UN humanitarian emergency assistance
169		Nicaragua – international assistance
171		Privatization and economic restructuring, economic growth and sustainable development
173		Least developed countries – programme of action for the 1990s
174		Summit on the economic advancement of rural women
175		Growth of the world economy
176		International Conference on Population and Development

A/RES/47	Date	Subject
177	22.12.92	Africa – Second Industrial Development Decade (1991-2000)
178		Transfer of resources between developing countries and developed countries
179		Yemen – assistance
180		UN Conference on Human Settlements
181		An Agenda for Development
182		International code of conduct on the transfer of technology
183		UN Conference on Trade and Development
184		Multilateral trade
185		Commodities
186		Measures in favour of island developing countries
187		Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy
188		Desertification and drought
189		Sustainable development of small island developing states
190		Un Conference on Environment and Development – report
191		Un Conference on Environment and Development – institutional arrangements
192		Conference on Fish Stocks
193		World Day for Water
194		Capacity-building for Agenda 21
195		Protection of global climate
196		International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
197		International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries
199	23.12.92	UN development system – policy review
200		UN University
201		Joint Inspection Unit
202		Pattern of conferences
203		UN pension system
204		UN Disengagement Observer Force – financing
205		UN Interim Force in Lebanon – financing
206		UN Iran/Iraq Military Observer Group – financing
207		UN Transition Assistance Group – financing
208		UN Iraq/Kuwait Observer Mission – financing
209		UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia – financing
210		UN Protection Force – financing
211		Financial reports, audited financial statements and reports of the Board of Auditors
212		UN administrative and financial functioning and programme budget for 1992-1993
213		Proposed programme budget outline for 1994-1995
214		Programme planning
215		UN financial situation
216		UN common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission
217		Establishment of a peace-keeping reserve fund
218		Financing of UN peace-keeping operations

UN voting

A/RES/47	Date	Subject
219	23.12.92	Programme budget for 1992-1993
220 [A]		Programme budget for 1992-1993
220 [B]		
220 [C]		

Voting chart of resolutions adopted during the 48th Session of the UN General Assembly¹

UN voting

A/RES/48	Subject	Date 1993	Total vote Yes No Ab	B	D K	D	G	E	F	I R L	I	L	N	P	U K	U S	R
14	Atomic Energy Agency – report	01.11	140 1 9	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
15	Return of cultural property to the countries of origin	02.11	106 0 25	A	A	A	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
16	Cuba – ending of US embargo	03.11	88 4 57	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
23	South Atlantic – zone of peace	24.11	103 1 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
28	Law of the sea	09.12	144 1 11	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y
40	UNRWA (Palestine refugees)	10.12															
40 [A]	– assistance		159 0 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
40 [D]	– higher education		161 0 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
40 [E]	– Occupied Territories		157 2 0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
40 [F]	– return of population		152 2 5	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	A
40 [G]	– revenues from properties		114 2 44	A	A	A	Y	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A

¹ Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the General Assembly during the first part of its 48th Session from 21 September to 23 December 1993, press release, 20 January 1994.

A/RES/48	Subject	Date 1993	Total vote Yes No Ab	B	D K	D	G R	E	F	I R L	I	L	N L	P	U K	U	R
40 [H]	– protection	10.12	153 2 6	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	A
40 [I]	– ‘Al-Quds’ University		156 2 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	A
40 [J]	– protection of students and security of facilities		159 2 0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
41 [A]	Human rights in the Occupied Territories		93 2 65	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
41 [B]			152 1 6	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A
41 [C]			106 2 48	A	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
41 [D]			85 1 68	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
45	Non-self-governing territories		159 0 3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y
46	Granting of independence																
	– foreign economic and other interests		111 43 3	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
47	Implementation of the declaration on the granting of independence		113 5 43	A	A	A	A	A	N	A	A	A	N	A	N	N	N
52	Implementation of the declaration on the granting of independence		139 2 19	A	Y	A	Y	Y	A	Y	A	A	A	Y	N	N	Y
53	Information on decolonization		141 2 18	A	Y	A	Y	Y	A	Y	A	A	A	Y	N	N	Y

A/RES/48	Subject	Date 1993	Total vote Yes No Ab	B	D K	D	G R	E	F	I R L	I	L	N L	P	U K	U S	R S
56	Comorian Island of Mayotte	13.12	91 2 36	A	A	A	A	A	N	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
58	Middle East peace process	14.12	155 3 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
59 [A]	Situation in the Middle East		141 1 11	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
59 [B]			65 2 83	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
66	Scientific and technological developments: impact on security	16.12	126 4 35	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y	A	A	A	A	N	N	A
67	Role of science and technology in the context of security and disarmament		161 0 5	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y
68	Verification		145 0 22	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y
69	Nuclear Weapons Test Ban Treaty – amendments		118 3 45	A	A	A	A	A	–	A	A	A	A	A	N	N	A
72	South-Asia – nuclear-weapon-free zone		153 3 12	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
73	Assurance against nuclear weapons		166 0 4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y
74 [A]	Prevention of arms race in outer space		169 0 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
75 [C]	General and complete disarmament		114 6 45	A	A	A	A	A	N	A	A	A	A	A	N	N	N
75 [H]	Measures against the illicit use of conventional arms		146 0 22	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

A/RES/48	Subject	Date 1993	Total vote Yes No Ab	B	D K	D	G R	E F	I R L	I	L	N L	P	U K	U S A	R S F S R
75 [I]	Regional disarmament	16.12	170 0 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
75 [J]	Conventional arms control		156 0 11	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
76	Concluding document (12th Special Session of the GA)															
76 [A]	– regional confidence-building measures		168 1 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N
76 [B]	– prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons		120 23 24	N	N	N	A	N	N	A	N	N	N	N	N	A
78	Israeli nuclear armaments		53 45 65	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	A
79	Prohibition of the use of certain conventional weapons		162 0 3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
80	Antarctica		96 0 7	*	*	*	*	*	A	*	*	*	A	*	*	*
82	Indian Ocean – zone of peace		130 4 36	A	A	A	A	N	A	A	A	A	A	N	N	Y
83	Declaration on the strengthening of international security		122 1 45	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
84 [A]	Maintenance of international security		84 0 83	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
88	Situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina	20.12	109 0 57	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y	A
89	Convention on the Suppression of Apartheid		119 1 48	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A

A/RES/48	Subject	Date 1993	Total vote Yes No Ab	B	D K	D	G R	E	F	I R L	I	L	N L	P	U K	U S A	R S F S R
92	Use of mercenaries	20.12	108 14 39	N	A	N	A	A	N	A	N	N	N	N	N	N	A
94	Right to self-determination and granting of independence		101 26 36	N	N	N	A	A	N	A	N	N	N	A	N	N	N
101	UN African Institute for the Prevention of Crime		119 1 49	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
123	Human rights and fundamental freedoms – alternative approaches		115 34 21	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	A
124	National sovereignty – electoral processes		101 51 17	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
131	Elections		153 0 13	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
142	Cuba – human rights		74 20 61	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
144	Iraq – human rights		116 2 43	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
145	Iran – human rights		74 23 51	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
147	Sudan – human rights		111 13 30	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
158 [A]	Palestine		106 3 40	A	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
158 [B]			107 2 41	A	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
158 [C]			147 2 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	A

A/RES/48	Subject	Date 1993	Total vote Yes No Ab	B	D K	D	G R	E	F	I R L	I	L	N L	P	U K	U S A	R S F S R
158 [D]		20.12	92 5 51	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A
168	Political and economic coercion		116 32 16	N	Y	N	A	A	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	A
182	Debt problems of developing countries		164 1 0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
212	Occupied Territories – adverse economic effects of Israeli settlements		143 3 13	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	A

Resolutions adopted without resort to voting – 1993¹

A/RES/48	Date	Subject
1	08.10.93	South Africa – lifting of sanctions
2	13.10.93	Observer status – Economic Cooperation Organization
3		Observer status – Permanent Court of Arbitration
4		Observer status – Latin American Parliament
5		Observer status – Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe
6	19.10.93	5th Anniversary of the Declaration of the Four Nations on General Security
7		Assistance in mine clearance
8	22.10.93	Nicaragua – international assistance
9	25.10.93	University for Peace
10		International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal
11		Observance of the Olympic Truce
12	28.10.93	International cooperation against drug abuse and illicit trafficking
13 [A]	29.10.93	48th Session of the GA – credentials of representatives
13 [B]	21.12.93	
17	03.11.93	Burundi – situation
18	15.11.93	Baltic states – withdrawal of foreign military forces
19	16.11.93	Cooperation – UN/Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe
20	19.11.93	Locust infestation in Africa – emergency action
21	22.11.93	Cooperation – UN/League of Arab States
22		Cooperation – UN/Latin American Economic System
24	24.11.93	Cooperation – UN/Organization of the Islamic Conference
25	29.12.93	Cooperation – UN/Organization of African Unity
26	03.12.93	Security Council – representation and membership
27	06.12.93	Haiti – democracy and human rights
29	09.12.93	UN Programme of Assistance on International Law
30		UN Decade of International Law
31		Report of the International Law Commission
32		Report of the UN Commission on International Trade Law
33		Model Law on Procurement of Goods and Construction of the UN International Trade Law
34		UN Convention on the Carriage of Goods by Sea
35		Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
36		Report of the Special Committee on the UN Charter
37		Attacks on UN and associated personnel
38	10.12.93	Effects of atomic radiation
39		Peaceful uses of outer space – international cooperation
40 [B]		UNRWA (Palestine refugees) – financing
40 [C]		– assistance to displaced persons
42		Peace-keeping operations

¹ Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the General Assembly during the first part of its 48th Session from 21 September to 23 December 1993, press release, 20 January 1994.

UN voting

A/RES/48	Date	Subject
43	10.12.93	UN command and control capabilities
44		Information
48		Non-self-governing territories – study and training facilities
49		Western Sahara
50		New Caledonia
51		American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Monserrat, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and US Virgin Islands
54		Multilateral trade
55		International trade and development
57	14.12.93	UN humanitarian emergency assistance
60		UN initiative on opportunity and participation
61	16.12.93	Prohibition of new types of weapons of mass destruction
62		Reduction of military budgets
63		Arms limitation and disarmament agreements
64		Education and information for disarmament
65		Convention on the Prohibition of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons
70		Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty
71		Middle East – nuclear-weapon-free zone
74 [B]		Prevention of an arms race in outer space
75		General and complete disarmament
75 [A]		– disarmament and development
75 [B]		– nuclear-arms negotiations and nuclear disarmament
75 [D]		– prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes
75 [E]		– transparency in armaments
75 [F]		– international arms transfers
75 [G]		– regional disarmament
75 [K]		– export of anti-personnel land-mines
75 [L]		– production of fissile material for nuclear weapons
76		Concluding Document (12th Special Session of the GA)
76 [C]		– UN disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme
76 [D]		– UN disarmament information programme
76 [E]		– UN Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean
77 [A]		Recommendations and decisions (10th Special Session of the GA)
		– Disarmament Commission
77 [B]		– Conference on Disarmament
81		Security and cooperation in the Mediterranean
84 [B]		International security – relations among Balkan states
85		Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
86		Africa – nuclear-weapon-free zone
87		Disarmament and International Security Committee
90	20.12.93	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

A/RES/48	Date	Subject
91	20.12.93	Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination
93		Right of peoples to self-determination
94		Disabled persons
96		Equalization of opportunities for disabled persons
97		International Day of Disabled Persons
98		International Plan of Action on Ageing
99		Integration of disabled persons in society
100		World Summit for Social Development
102		Prevention of alien smuggling
103		Crime prevention and criminal justice
104		Declaration on the elimination of violence against women
105		International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
106		Status of women in the Secretariat
107		UN Development Fund for Women
108		Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women
109		Situation of women in rural areas
110		Violence against women migrant workers
111		Merger of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the UN Development Fund for Women
112		Drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking
113		Refugees and displaced persons – convening of conference
114		Refugees and displaced persons in Azerbaijan – emergency assistance
115		UN High Commissioner for Refugees – Executive Committee
116		UN High Commissioner for Refugees – office
117		International Conference on Central American Refugees
118		Refugees and displaced persons in Africa – assistance
119		International Covenants on Human Rights
120		International instruments on human rights
121		World Conference on Human Rights
122		Human rights and terrorism
125		UN action in the human rights field
126		UN Year for Tolerance
127		Human Rights Education Decade
128		Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance
129		Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat
130		Right to development
132		Strengthening of the rule of law
133		International Year of the World's Indigenous People
134		National institutions for human rights
135		Internally displaced persons
136		Street children
137		Human rights in the administration of justice
138		Declaration on the rights of minorities

UN voting

A/RES/48	Date	Subject
139	20.12.93	Human rights and mass exoduses
140		Human rights and scientific and technological progress
141		High Commissioner for the Promotion and Protection of all Human Rights
143		Former Yugoslavia – rape and abuse of women
146		Somalia – situation of human rights
148		International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers
149		El Salvador – human rights
150		Myanmar – human rights
151		Haiti – human rights
152		Afghanistan – human rights
153		Former Yugoslavia – human rights
154		Cambodia – human rights
155		Estonia and Latvia – human rights
156		International measures against the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
157		Protection of children affected by armed conflicts
159 [A]		South Africa – elimination of apartheid
159 [B]		
159 [C]		
159 [D]		
160	21.12.93	UN Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa
161		Peace, democracy and development in Central America – procedures
162		Restructuring of the UN in economic, social and related fields
163		International Decade of the World's Indigenous People
164		Follow-up to the report of the South Commission
165		International economic cooperation for development through partnership
166		An Agenda for Development
167		International code of conduct on the transfer of technology
169		Land-locked developing countries
170		Land-locked states in Central Asia – assistance
171		Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s
172		Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries
173		Cooperation – UN/Southern African Development Community
174		UN Environment Programme
175		Drought and desertification
176		Human settlements
177		Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific
178		Global strategy for shelter to the year 2000
179		Science and technology for development
180		Economic growth and sustainable development
181		Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy
183		International Year for the Eradication of Poverty

A/RES/48	Date	Subject
184	21.12.93	Eradication of poverty in developing countries – international cooperation
185		Declaration on international economic cooperation
186		International Conference on Population and Development
187		International Conference on the Financing of Development
188		International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
189		UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
190		Dissemination of the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
191		Elaboration of a convention to combat desertification
192		Environmental problems – international cooperation
193		Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
193		Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
194		UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks
195		Yemen – assistance
196		Sierra Leone – international assistance
197		Liberia – assistance
198		Djibouti
199		Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America
200		Sudan – emergency assistance
201		Somalia – assistance
202		Angola – international assistance
203		El Salvador – assistance
206		Chernobyl disaster – international cooperation
207		UN Institute for Training and Research
208		Afghanistan – emergency international assistance
209		UN development system
210		Economic assistance to states affected by sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro
211		Rwanda – emergency assistance
213		Assistance to the Palestinian people
214	23.12.93	UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s
215		Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the UN
216		Financial reports and audited financial statements
217		Managing works of art in the UN
218		Administrative and financial functioning of the UN
219		Programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993
220		Financial situation of the UN
221		Joint Inspection Unit
222		Pattern of conferences
223		Apportionment of the expenses of the UN
224		UN common system
225		UN pension system
226		Support account for peace-keeping operations

UN voting

A/RES/48	Date	Subject
227	23.12.93	UN peace-keeping operations – budgetary aspects
228		Proposed programme budget for 1994 – 1995
229		Extraordinary expenses for 1994 – 1995
230		Questions related to the proposed programme budget for 1994 – 1995
231 [A]		Programme budget for 1994 – 1995
231 [B]		
231 [C]		
232		Working Capital Fund for 1994 – 1995

Resolutions of the Security Council – 1993¹

S/RES/93	Subject	Date	Total vote Yes No Ab	E	F	UK	U S A	R S F S R
800	Slovak Republic – UN membership	08.01.93	no vote	Y				
801	Czech Republic – UN membership	25.01.93	no vote	Y			Y	Y
802	UN Protected Areas in Croatia – situation	28.01.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
803	Middle East – situation	29.01.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
804	Angola – situation	04.02.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
805	International Court of Justice	05.02.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
806	Iraq and Kuwait – situation	19.02.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
807	UN Protection Force	22.02.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
808	Former Yugoslavia – establishment of an international tribunal	02.03.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
809	Western Sahara – situation	08.03.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
810	Cambodia – situation	12.03.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
811	Angola – situation		unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
812	Rwanda – situation		unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
813	Liberia – situation	26.03.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
814	Somalia – situation		unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
815	Report of the Secretary-General – Resolution 807	30.03.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
816	Bosnia-Herzegovina – situation	31.03.93	14 0 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
817	Document S/25147 – UN membership	07.04.93	no vote					
818	Mozambique – situation	14.04.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
819	Bosnia-Herzegovina – situation	16.04.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
820	Bosnia-Herzegovina – situation	17.04.93	13 0 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
821	Serbia and Montenegro – participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council	28.04.93	13 0 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	A

¹ Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council 1993, Security Council Official Records: 48th year, United Nations, New York 1994 (S/INF/49).

S/RES/93	Subject	Date	Total vote Yes No Ab	E	F	UK	U S A	R S F S R
822	Nagorno-Karabagh – situation	30.04.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
823	Angola – situation		unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
824	Bosnia-Herzegovina – situation	06.05.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
825	North Korea – withdrawal from the Non-Proliferation Treaty	11.05.93	13 0 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
826	Cambodia – situation	20.05.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
827	Former Yugoslavia – establishment of an international tribunal	25.05.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
828	Eritrea – UN membership	26.05.93	no vote					
829	Monaco – UN membership		no vote					
830	Middle East – situation		unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
831	Cyprus – situation	27.05.93	14 0 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
832	Central America – efforts towards peace		unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
833	Iraq and Kuwait – situation	27.05.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
834	Angola – situation	01.06.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
835	Cambodia – situation	02.06.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
836	Bosnia-Herzegovina – situation	04.06.93	13 0 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
837	Somalia – situation	06.06.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
838	Bosnia-Herzegovina – situation	10.06.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
839	Cyprus – situation	11.06.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
840	Cambodia – situation	15.06.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
841	Haiti	16.06.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
842	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – situation	18.06.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
843	UN Charter – measures against the former Yugoslavia		unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
844	Bosnia-Herzegovina – situation		unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
845	Follow up to Resolution 817 – measures against the former Yugoslavia		unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
846	Rwanda – situation	22.06.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
847	UN Protection Force	30.06.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

S/RES/93	Subject	Date	Total vote Yes No Ab	E	F	UK	U S A	R S F S R
848	Andorra – UN membership	08.07.93	no vote	Y				Y
849	Georgia – situation	09.07.93	unanimous	Y			Y	Y
850	Mozambique – situation		unanimous	Y			Y	Y
851	Angola – situation	15.07.93	unanimous	Y			Y	Y
852	Middle East – situation	28.07.93	unanimous	Y			Y	Y
853	Nagorno-Karabagh – situation	29.07.93	unanimous	Y			Y	Y
854	Georgia – situation	06.08.93	unanimous	Y			Y	Y
855	Serbia and Montenegro – CSCE missions	09.08.93	14 0 1	Y			Y	Y
856	Liberia – situation	10.08.93	unanimous	Y			Y	Y
857	Former Yugoslavia – establishment of an international tribunal	20.08.93	unanimous	Y			Y	Y
858	Georgia – situation	24.08.93	unanimous	Y			Y	Y
859	Bosnia-Herzegovina – situation		unanimous	Y			Y	Y
860	Cambodia – situation		unanimous	Y			Y	Y
861	Haiti	27.08.93	unanimous	Y			Y	Y
862	Haiti		unanimous	Y			Y	Y
863	Mozambique – situation	31.08.93	unanimous	Y			Y	Y
864	Angola – situation	13.09.93	unanimous	Y			Y	Y
865	Somalia – situation	15.09.93	unanimous	Y			Y	Y
866	Liberia – situation	22.09.93	unanimous	Y			Y	Y
867	Haiti		unanimous	Y			Y	Y
868	UN operations – security	23.09.93	unanimous	Y			Y	Y
869	UN Protection Force	29.09.93	unanimous	Y			Y	Y
870	UN Protection Force	30.09.93	unanimous	Y			Y	Y
871	UN Protection Force	01.10.93	unanimous	Y			Y	Y
872	Rwanda – situation	04.10.93	unanimous	Y			Y	Y
873	Haiti	05.10.93	unanimous	Y			Y	Y
874	Nagorno-Karabagh – situation	13.10.93	unanimous	Y			Y	Y
		14.10.93	unanimous	Y			Y	Y

S/RES/93	Subject	Date	Total vote Yes No Ab	E	F	UK	U S A	R S F S R
875	Haiti	16.10.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
876	Georgia – situation	19.10.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
877	Former Yugoslavia – establishment of an international tribunal	21.10.93	no vote					
878	Somalia – situation	29.10.93	unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
879	Mozambique – situation		unanimous	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
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European Communities — European University Institute

European Political Cooperation Documentation Bulletin — 1993 (Vol. 9)

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

1996 — 739 pp. — 17.6 x 25 cm

ISBN 92-827-6440-0

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ISBN 92-827-6440-0



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