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(Information)

PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION
BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
AND THE ASSOCIATED AFRICAN AND MALAGASY STATES

MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 30 JANUARY 1974

IN THE CHAIR: MR PHILIPPE YACÉ

Retiring President

of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association

The constituent sitting was opened at 4.40 p.m.

Opening of the annual meeting of the Conference

The President declared the annual meeting of the Conference open.

Composition of the Conference

Pursuant to Rule 4 (2) of the Rules of Procedure, the President informed the Conference of its composition.

The list of members of the Conference will be appended to the minutes: (Annex 1)

Admission of observers to the proceedings of the Conference

Pursuant to Rule 2 of its Rules of Procedure and on a proposal from the retiring bureau, the Conference decided to admit the representatives of the Member States of the East African Community (Annex II) and representatives from the associable states (Annex III) to its proceedings as observers.

Election of the President

Mr Cornelis Berkhouwer was unanimously elected President.

IN THE CHAIR: MR CORNELIS BERKHOUWER

Election of the vice-presidents

The Conference unanimously ratified the following appointments:

First Vice-President:

Mr Philippe Yacé

Vice-presidents:

Mr Giovanni Bersani
Mr Georges Damas-Aleka
Mr Ludwig Fellermaier
Mr Dieudonné Miakassissa
Lord Reay
Mr Satcam Boolell
Mr Yvon Bourges
Mr Ahmed Ould Die

The sitting was suspended at 4.50 p.m. and resumed at 5.10 p.m. as a formal sitting.

IN THE CHAIR: MR CORNELIS BERKHOUWER

President

The following spoke during the formal sitting:

Mr Berkhouwer, *President of the Conference*

Mr Pertini, *President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies*

Mr Mohamed Warsama Ali, *President-in-Office of the Association Council*

Mr Pedini, *Italian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs*

Mr Yacé, *First Vice-President of the Conference*

The sitting was suspended at 6.10 p.m.

ANNEX I

MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION

European Parliament Representatives

Mr	Achenbach	Sir Douglas	Dodds-Parker	Mr	Ligos
Mr	Adams	Mr	Durieux	Mr	McDonald
Mr	Aigner	Mr	Fellermaier	Mr	Maigaard
Mr	Antoniozzi	Miss	Flesch	Mr	Martens
Mr	Ariosto	Mr	Galli	Mr	Memmel
Mr	Armengaud	Mr	Gerlach	Mr	Nolan
Mr	Artzinger	Mr	Girardin	Mr	Normanton
Mr	Baas	Mr	Harmegnies	Mr	Pounder
Mr	Behrendt	Mr	Härzschel	Lord	Reay
Mr	Berkhouwer	Mr	Van der Hek	Lord	St. Oswald
Mr	Bersani	Mr	James Hill	Mr	Sandri
Mr	Bordu	Mrs	Iotti	Mr	Schuijt
Mr	Bourdellès	Mr	Jahn	Mr	Schwörer
Mr	Bourges	Mr	Jozeau-Marigné	Mr	Seefeld
Mr	Broeksz	Mr	Kaspereit	Mr	Spénale
Mr	Colin	Mr	Kollwelter	Mr	Thornley
Mr	Corona	Mr	Lagorce	Mr	Vals
Mr	Dalsager	Mr	Laudrin	Mr	Wohlfart
Mr	Dewulf	Mr	Lautenschlager	Mr	Yeats

Representatives of the Associated African States and Madagascar

<i>Country</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>Delegates</i>
BURUNDI		Nzeyimana Laurent Mapango Balthazar
CAMEROON	Tandeng Muna Salomon Ekwabi-Ewane Jean Nsakwa Ngi Peter	
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC		Sevot Clément Makela Jean-Pierre Ngambika Bebe Bernard
CHAD		
CONGO (People's Republic)	Miakassissa Dieudonné Adouki Lambert Mounthault Hilaire	
DAHOMEY		Pognon Gratien Sranon Gérard
GABON	Damas-Aleka Georges Sambhat Albert Martin Ickamba Joseph	
IVORY COAST	Yacé Philippe Coulibaly Gon Ebagnitchie Edouard	
MADAGASCAR		Zafera Maxime
MALI		Sissoko Alioune

MAURITANIA	Ahmed Ould Die Mohamed Fall Babaha Moulaye Mohamed	
MAURITIUS	Boolell Satcam Marchand Guy L'Homme Jean	
NIGER	Gaoh Amadou Perret François	
RWANDA		Bonyumutwa Jean-Marie Vianney Karuhije Ignace Kamali Sylvestre
SENEGAL	Gueye Amadou Bouta Guillabert André Ba Ousmane Mamour	
SOMALIA (République populaire de)		Ali Mattan Hachi
TOGO		Dagadou Victor Emmanuel
UPPER VOLTA		
ZAIRE	Bweta Sombo Isealina Kasongo Mukundji Muhima Amri N'Tsibiro	

ANNEX II

OBSERVERS

East African Community

Sarwatt Herman
Ayah Ndolo
Nchai P. P.

KENYA

UGANDA

Kyamuhangiri S.
Nyeko S. Y.
Ochwo E. T. A.

TANZANIA

Rulegura

ANNEX III

LIST OF ASSOCIABLE COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE

FIJI

GAMBIA

GHANA

JAMAICA

SWAZILAND

MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THURSDAY, 31 JANUARY 1974

IN THE CHAIR: MR CORNELIS BERKHOUWER

The sitting was opened at 9.40 a.m.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the previous sitting were approved.

Documents received

The President stated that he had received the following documents since the last meeting of the Conference:

(a) from the Association Council:

the Ninth Annual Report on the activities of the Association Council to the Parliamentary Conference of the Association (30 September 1972 — 30 June 1973) (Doc. 48—I/II and Doc. 48—III)

(b) from the Joint Committee:

- Report by Mr Fall Babaha on the management accounts of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association for the 1972 financial year and the draft estimates for the 1974 financial year (Doc. 49);
- Report and Supplementary Report by Mr Bersani on the Ninth Annual Report on the activities of the Association Council to the Parliamentary Conference of the Association (30 September 1972 — 30 June 1973) (Doc. 50 and Doc. 51).

Order of business

The conference adopted the following order of business on a proposal from the Bureau:

Morning:

- Report by Mr Fall Babaha on the management accounts for the 1972 financial year and the estimates for the 1974 financial year.
- Report by Mr Bersani on the Ninth Annual Report on the activities of the Association Council.

Afternoon — 3.30 p.m.:

- Continuation of the discussion on Mr Bersani's report.

Friday, 1 February 1974:

9.30 a.m.:

- Completion of the discussion on Mr Bersani's report.

3.30 p.m.:

- Meeting of the Bureau.

4 p.m.:

- Nomination of the Members of the Joint Committee and appointment of its Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Management Accounts of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association for the 1972 financial year and draft estimates for the 1974 financial year

Mr Mohamed Fall Babaha presented his report (Doc. 49).

The Conference adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION

on the management accounts of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association for the 1972 financial year and the estimates for the 1974 financial year

The Parliamentary Conference of the Association,

- having regard to its Financial Regulation ⁽¹⁾ and in particular Articles 6 and 11 thereof;
- having regard to the Joint Committee's Report (Doc. 49);
- having regard to the level of expenditure incurred or still likely to be incurred for the 1973 financial year;
- having regard to the foreseeable effects of the current international situation on expenditure for the 1974 financial year;
- considering that, given the present level of reserves, it seems possible to meet this additional expenditure, as regards the Associated States as a whole, without raising contributions,

⁽¹⁾ OJ No 220, 24. 12. 1965, p. 3232/65.

1. endorses the considerations contained in the report;
2. notes that the expenditure of the Conference chargeable to the Associated States as a whole, in pursuance of Article 2 (3) of Protocol No 10 annexed to the Association Convention amounts to FF 112 295·4 for the financial year 1972;
3. gives a discharge to the Secretary-General of the European Parliament in respect of the revenue and expenditure account for the financial year 1972 as submitted;
4. notes the draft estimates for the financial year 1974 of expenditure chargeable to the European Parliament in pursuance of Article 2 (3) of Protocol No 10, totalling FF 450 000;
5. approves the estimates for the financial year 1974 of expenditure chargeable to the Associated States as a whole in pursuance of Article 2 (3) of Protocol No 10, totalling FF 355 000;
6. resolves to maintain the contribution of each Associated State for the year 1974 at 600 000 CFA francs;
7. instructs its President to forward this Resolution and the report of the Joint Committee to the President of the Parliaments of the Associated States and of the European Parliament, and also to the Council of the Association.

Mr Miakassissa, *President of the People's National Assembly of the People's Republic of the Congo.*

Ninth Annual Report on the activities of the Association Council

Mr Bersani presented his report (Doc. 50) and supplementary report (Doc. 51).

Mr Cheysson, *Member of the Commission of the European Communities*, made a statement.

IN THE CHAIR: MR PHILIPPE YACÉ

First Vice-President

Statements were made by Mr Bourges, Mr Salomon Tandeng Muna, Mr Spénale, Mr Satcam Boolell, Mr James Hill and Mr Bordu.

The sitting was suspended at 12.55 p.m. and resumed at 3 p.m.

IN THE CHAIR: MR GIOVANNI BERSANI

Vice-President

Ninth Annual Report on the activities of the Association Council (continued)

In the further course of the debate a statement was made by Mr Mohamed Warsama Ali, *President-in-Office of the Association Council.*

IN THE CHAIR: MR CORNELIS BERKHOUWER

Statements were made by Mr Scheel, *President-in-Office of the Council of the European Communities* and by Mr Georges Damas-Aleka.

IN THE CHAIR: MR YVON BOURGES

Vice-President

Statements were made by Mr Bweta Sombo, Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker and Mr Bouda Gueye.

IN THE CHAIR: MR GEORGES DAMAS-ALEKA

Vice-President

Statements were made by Lord Reay, Mr Gerlach, and Mr Sissoko.

IN THE CHAIR: LORD REAY

Vice-President

Statements were made by Mr Normanton, Mr Della Briotta, Mr Mohamed Said Samantar and Mr Bersani, *rapporteur.*

Agenda for the next sitting

The next sitting was scheduled for Friday, 1 February 1974 at 9.30 a.m. and 4 p.m. with the following agenda:

— Vote on the motion for a resolution contained in Mr Bersani's Supplementary Report.

— Appointment of the Joint Committee.

The sitting was suspended at 7.10 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF FRIDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 1974

IN THE CHAIR: MR CORNELIS BERKHOUWER

The sitting was opened at 9.40 a.m.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the previous sitting were approved.

Statement by Mr Kasongo, Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee

Mr Kasongo, *Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee*, made a short statement.

Ninth Annual Report on the activities of the Association Council (vote)

The Conference considered the motion for a resolution contained in the Supplementary Report by Mr Bersani (Doc. 51).

An explanation of vote was given by Mr Sandri and Mr Bonyumutwa, who submitted an oral amendment to paragraph 28.

The Conference adopted the preamble and paragraphs 1 to 10.

Mr Bersani presented amendment No 2 to paragraph 11 and proposed that it be completed as follows 'to allay the prejudice which this country has suffered and to cope with those which it continues to suffer'.

The Conference adopted amendment No 2 subject to the above addition.

The Conference adopted paragraph 11 so amended and paragraphs 12 to 27.

Mr Bersani presented an amendment No 1 to paragraph 28 modifying the fifth indent, together with Mr Bonyumutwa's oral amendment for an addition to the fourth indent, reading as follows 'in allocating this aid, account should be taken of the level of development and the specific situation of each of the beneficiary countries'.

The Conference adopted Mr Bersani's amendment No 1 and Mr Bonyumutwa's oral amendment.

The Conference adopted paragraph 28 so amended and paragraphs 29 to 32.

The Conference adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION

on the Ninth Annual Report on the activities of the Association Council

The Parliamentary Conference of the Association,

- meeting in Rome from 30 January to 1 February 1974, pursuant to Article 52 of the Convention of Association between the EEC and the African countries and Madagascar, signed in Yaoundé on 29 July 1969;
- having regard to the Ninth Annual Report on the activities of the Association Council (Doc. 48/I-II) and the report from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council on the management of financial and technical cooperation in the financial year 1972 (Doc. 48/III);
- noting the statements made by the President of the Association Council, the President of the Council of the European Communities and the representative of the Commission of the European Communities;
- having regard to the report and supplementary report, submitted by Mr Bersani on behalf of the Joint Committee (Docs 50 and 51);

I. Problems of the present Association

(a) Activities of the institutions

1. Notes with satisfaction the activity engaged in by the joint institutions of the Association, which is called upon to give rapid proof of its effectiveness and capacity for change in the face of new international realities and the needs of its present and future partners;

2. Is gratified by the participation in the work of the Parliamentary Conference and the Joint Committee of representatives of the associable countries;
3. Notes that the institutions of the European Community are seeking to lay down an initial series of guidelines for the progressive implementation of a policy of development cooperation on a world-wide basis;

(b) *Trade*

4. Notes that in 1972, largely as the result of increases in raw material prices, the trading position of some Associated States *vis-à-vis* the EEC improved, parallel with a further substantial increase in European trade with other developing countries;
5. Notes that the traditional rules of free trade prevailing in the relations between industrialized and developing countries, which ensured that the former obtained primary products at optimum prices, have received a severe setback in recent months.
6. Deplores the fact that the extension of the EEC's system of generalized preferences has so far meant that the AASM have not received in rightful return for the loss of their exclusive access, the guarantee of free access to the markets of other industrialized countries and notably that of the United States;
7. Underlines the urgent need for an improvement of the present procedures for consultation and information on trade policy;
8. Deplores the fact that certain suggestions made by the AASM to promote their exports to Europe have not been adopted by the Community;
9. Insists on the need for measures to facilitate the sale within the EEC, through harmonization of legislation on health and plant health protection and the safeguarding of natural products, of certain agricultural products of particular importance to the Associated States;
10. Once again draws attention to the negative repercussions of the prolonged closure of the Suez canal on the economies of certain Associated States and again expresses the hope that a peaceful solution to the problem will lead as soon as possible to the reopening of this internationally important waterway;
11. Notes with keen concern, in this connection, the serious effects which this situation has long had on exports of bananas from Somalia to the European market, stresses the urgent need for special measures, also outside the EDF, to resolve the problem and regrets that none have so far been taken to allay the prejudice which this country has suffered and to cope with those which it continues to suffer.

(c) *Worldwide cooperation between the partners*

12. Notes with satisfaction the entry into force of the international cocoa agreement and urges the EEC to make a positive contribution to current international initiatives for the conclusion of other world agreements on primary commodities (sugar, coffee);
13. Expresses its deep concern at the present international economic difficulties and hopes that close cooperation between the Association partners will contribute to the definition of new policies aimed at a more equitable and balanced organization of world trade;
14. Notes the commitment of the industrialized countries to take into account the interests of the developing countries during the next round of multilateral talks in GATT and recommends that special consideration be given to the situation of the least advanced countries;

(d) *Financial and technical cooperation*

15. Notes that effective measures have been taken by the European Development Fund in accordance with the guidelines provided by the developing countries, to provide greater backing for immediately productive activities and inter-African regional projects and hopes that its activities will be developed in even closer accord with its nature and objectives;

16. Hopes that more intense measures will be undertaken to foster the development of industry and crafts in the Associated States by making use of all types of finance available under the resources of the Fund and of all forms of private investment and of existing or future guarantees designed to promote such investment;

17. Notes with satisfaction the new training and instruction policies now being followed, to allow the implementation of multi-annual programmes;

(e) *Aid to the drought-stricken countries of the Sahel*

18. Is deeply concerned at the extremely serious situation which continues to affect the drought-stricken countries of the Sahel region, where the period before the new harvest in 1974 seem likely in many cases to be still more difficult than last year;

19. Expresses its keen appreciation for the help given by the EEC and its Members, by the associated and associable states and by non-governmental organizations to these countries, both in the form of urgent financial assistance and the supply and transportation of food aid;

20. Is gratified by the recent EEC decision to allocate to the 1974 Community budget a supplementary appropriation of 35 million units of account for structural measures and of 5 million units of account for supplementary food aid in the countries affected by drought, including Ethiopia;

21. Strongly hopes that consideration will also be given to preventive measures to help the areas bordering on the Sahel region which are especially threatened.

22. Addresses an urgent appeal to the international community and public opinion to fully understand the gravity of the problem and to give all possible support to efforts aimed at alleviating the consequences of the present tragedy and preventing the repetition of similar catastrophes;

II. The future of the Association

23. Notes that, after strenuous and fruitful preparations, the negotiations for the renewal and enlargement of the Association have opened in accordance with the deadlines laid down in the Yaoundé Convention and the Act of Accession;

24. Recommends that the talks be rapidly concluded so that the ratification procedure may be completed in time for the new Association arrangement to enter into force on 1 February 1975, as envisaged in the Yaoundé Convention and Arusha Agreement, and, in the case of the Commonwealth countries, in Article 115 of the Act of Accession;

25. Warmly welcomes the fact that almost all the African countries whose economic structure and production resemble those of the Associated States are taking part in the negotiations and have adopted a common stand, pursuant to the recommendations of the Organization of African Unity;

26. Draws attention to the exceptional importance of these major negotiations for an overall agreement of cooperation between a large group of developing countries and the Europe of Nine, given that the latter is the

Third World's principal trading partner, the main international importer of primary commodities and, both on a Community and bilateral level, the main source of aid to development, particularly since they follow the recent changes in the international economic situation and come on the eve of the new international negotiations in GATT;

27. Considers that the process of change now taking place in the world's economy calls for a fairer organization of international trade and monetary relations and the establishment of economic cooperation between the importers and exporters of primary commodities that takes greater account of the problems of the developing areas and especially of the difficult position of the less advanced countries.

28. In regard to the revision and improvement of the Association policy, recalls the position adopted in its Resolutions of 13 January 1972 and 31 March 1973, pointing out in particular that

- the Association's trade arrangements must rest on a stable contractual basis which cannot be attacked by third parties, particularly in relation to GATT;
- the options for trading preferences between the future partners must be carefully considered so that all the legal, economic and commercial implications for the countries concerned may be evaluated;
- substantial quantities of products which are particularly important to the economy of some associated and associable countries must enjoy permanent access to the Community market at profitable prices; special means of safeguarding the interests of countries whose economies are crucially dependent on sugar exports must be found;
- EEC financial and technical aid should guarantee at least the present value of that received by the Associated states, so that the new Associated states will be assured of equivalent advantages; in allocating this aid, account should be taken of the level of development and the specific situation of each of the beneficiary countries;
- as from 1975, EEC aid should be financed out of the Community's own resources, thus ensuring that aid always remains in proportion to Community resources.

29. Urges the Community to take a prompt decision on the terms of reference for negotiation on the still outstanding problem of the Associated States' export revenue.

30. On the basis of past experience, expresses its conviction that the Association's institutions, and the Parliamentary Conference in particular, provide a forum for a highly useful dialogue and should be maintained;

31. Stressed the decisive importance in the present international context of a balanced, stable and lasting overall cooperation agreement between the Europe of the Nine, the present Associated States and the 'associable' States that wish to participate.

32. Instructs its President to forward this Resolution and the accompanying explanatory statement to the Association Council, the European Parliament and the parliaments of the Associated States, the Council and Commission of the European Communities and, for information, to the governments of the countries taking part in the negotiations for the renewal and enlargement of the Association.

Statement on behalf of the associable States

Mr Francis, the Jamaican representative, made a short statement on behalf of the associable States.

Appointment of the Members of the Joint Committee

On a proposal from the Bureau, the Conference appointed the Members of the Joint Committee.

The list of full and alternate members will be appended to these minutes.

Appointment of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee

The Conference appointed by acclamation Mr Kasongo as Chairman and Mr Dewulf as Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee.

Change in the agenda:

On a proposal from the President, the Conference decided to complete its proceedings that morning.

The President informed the Conference that the constituent meeting of the Joint Committee would be held following the sitting and that the press conference would take place, as planned, at 4.30 p.m.

Tribute to Mr Achenbach

The President paid tribute to Mr Achenbach, retiring Chairman of the Joint Committee, for his many years service to the Association.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of this sitting were approved.

Date and place of the next meeting of the Conference

The President informed the Conference that the date and place of the next meeting would be decided on a proposal from the Joint Committee.

Closure of the Annual Meeting

The President declared the 10th Annual Meeting of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association closed.

The sitting was closed at 10.30 a.m.

ANNEX

MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE

Representatives of the European Parliament ⁽¹⁾

Mr	Achenbach	Mr	Harmegnies
Mr	Aigner	Mr	van der Hek
Mr	Bersani	Mrs	Iotti
Mr	Colin	Mr	Kollwelter
Mr	Corona	Mr	Laudrin
Mr	Dewulf	Mr	Nolan
Sir Douglas	Dodds-Parker	Lord	Reay
Mr	Fellermaier	Mr	Schuijt
Miss	Flesch	Mr	Seefeld
		Mr	Spénale

Representatives of the Associated States

<i>Country</i>	<i>Full Members</i>	<i>Alternate Members</i>
BURUNDI	Nzeymana Laurent	Mapango Balthazar
CAMEROON	Ekwabi-Ewane Jean	Nsakwa Ngi Peter
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	Sevot Clément	Makela Jean-Pierre
CHAD		
CONGO (People's Republic)	Mounthault Hilaire	Adouki Lambert
DAHOMEY	Pognon Gratien	Sranon Gérard
GABON	Sambhat Albert Martin	Ickamba Joseph
IVORY COAST	Ebagnitchie Edouard	Coulibaly Gon
MADAGASCAR		
MALI	Sissoko Alioune	
MAURITANIA	Fall Babaha Mohamed	Moulaye Mohamed
MAURITIUS	Boolell Satcam	Marchand Guy
NIGER	Gaoh Amadou	Perret François
RWANDA	Bonyumutwa Jean-Marie Vianney	Karuhije Ignace
SENEGAL	Guillabert André	Gueye Amadou Bouta
SOMALIA	Ali Matan Hachi	
TOGO	Dagadou Victor Emanuel	
UPPER VOLTA		
ZAIRE	Kasongo Mukundji	Muhima Amri N'Tsibiro

⁽¹⁾ The European Parliament representatives on the Joint Committee are full members of the Development and Cooperation Committee.