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**ACTION TAKEN
ON PARLIAMENT'S OWN
INITIATIVE RESOLUTIONS
(JULY 1984-DECEMBER 1986)**

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STUDY OF ACTION TAKEN ON PARLIAMENT'S OWN INITIATIVE RESOLUTIONS,
based on the half-yearly Reports of the Commission of the European Communities
over the period July 1984 to December 1986.

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INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Qualification of Commission Reports:

'The Commission considers that its reports should be read in the light of the arrangements agreed with the President of Parliament and the Chairmen of Parliament's Committees in Strasbourg on 11 April 1983, the statements made by the Commission in the House during the debates and the information already supplied to Parliament's Committees.'¹

Qualifying statement:

Over the period reviewed an approximate total of 269 own initiative Resolutions were commented on by the Commission in its half yearly reports.

The fact that all Resolutions are not referred to in this paper does not necessarily mean that they were devoid of all effect. The Commission's reports must be read in the light of their qualifying statement quoted above.

However unless the subject dealt with by the Resolution arose in an urgency debate, the non inclusion of Resolutions may imply that the Commission's comments fail to furnish proof that the Resolution has achieved any purpose outside that of supplying information to Parliament on the Commission's activity in the field.

¹ So far the Commission has published the following half-yearly or yearly reports: (1) SEC(83) 1282 (October 1982 - April 1983); (2) SEC(84) 390 (May - December 1983); (3) SEC(85) 284 (January - December 1984); (4) SEC(85) 1405 (January - June 1985); (5) SP(86) 1284 (July - December 1985); (6) SP(86) 3626/2 (January - June 1986); (7) SP(87) 1940 (June - December 1986).

PART I

**A COMMENTARY ON THE DIFFERENT EFFECTS OF PARLIAMENT'S OWN INITIATIVE
RESOLUTIONS**

The variety of effects that Parliament's Resolutions may have on the Community Institutions or other bodies to whom they are addressed have, for the purposes of analysis, been divided into eight categories. These are:

- I - Requests for supplementary information
- II - Delayed reactions to Resolutions and their combined effect
- III - Resolutions used as a means of pressure by the Commission or Parliament
- IV - Resolutions used by the Commission as a source of ideas
- V - Resolutions as a tool for modifying policy or its orientation
- VI - Resolutions instigating new actions or policies by the Executive
- VII - Own initiative reports and resolutions having a direct effect on legislation
- VIII - Resolutions having effect on Commission non-legislative activity.

I. RESOLUTIONS TREATED BY THE COMMISSION AS REQUESTS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Since one of the major functions of own-initiative Resolutions must be to obtain up-to-date information concerning Commission activity, so as to enable Parliament to exercise effective control over it, the Commission reacts to a large number of Parliament's texts as if they were requests for information. A typical Resolution of this class is that adopted on **Compensated Exchanges (Ford Report) Doc. A2-117/86, OJ C 297, p.08, Minutes 20 October 1986.**

, but many others could be referred to.

Problems may arise however when the Commission tends to apply this approach to cases where Parliament's Resolution calls for specific action, drawing parallels between what is requested and what it is in fact doing. In general, however, concurrence between what Parliament considers desirable and actual Community policy or activity is evidence in itself that the executive takes into account public opinion as expressed through its elected representatives. However two remarks may be made concerning this manner of dealing with Parliament's texts.

- In the first instance, the Commission's reports, published six months after the period they purport to cover, supply information which is often out-of-date.

- Secondly, the eclectic approach adopted by the Commission enables it to emphasise the points where executive action coincides with Parliament's Resolution while often ignoring specific requests for action.

The Commission's comments on the Resolution adopted on the Vandemeulebroucke Report on the importance of water resources for the growth and development of certain regions of the Community (Doc. A2-69/85, OJ C 229, p. 124, Minutes 12 July 1985).

serve to illustrate this technique, for while relatively detailed attention was paid to points 1,5,9,10,13,15 and 17 of the Resolution, no mention was made at all of points 2,7,8,14 and 16, all of which required specific action to be taken.

II. DELAYED REACTIONS TO RESOLUTIONS AND THEIR COMBINED EFFECT

Commission reaction to propositions made by Parliament may not be immediate. Obviously, even where the Commission may think that an idea initiated by Parliament is worth following, continual modification of Community policy or a lack of consistency in its execution would be contrary to the interests of all.

On occasion therefore, whilst purporting to comment on action taken on a specific Resolution, the Commission's text refers to a previous Resolution on the same subject. The reasons for this referral may vary, but the method does allow Parliament to note reactions to its texts which may not have been initially apparent. Again, although no single Resolution may appear to have effect when commented on in the Commission's reports, the insistence of Parliament, manifested by its adoption of many Resolutions treating the same or similar topics, may force the Commission into action. This type of effect is exemplified by the Commission's comments dealing with the Resolution on a European Social Area (Chanterie Report, Doc. A2-141/86 OJ C 322 p. 26, Minutes 11.11.1986) where the Commission pointed out that its action had been and is being built round a number of Parliament's Resolutions. In particular

- A Resolution concerning a programme of action to increase employment
- The Resolutions concerning a middle term programme for the equality of opportunity for women.

In this example it would appear that whilst no specific recommendation contained in the basic Resolution has been identified as requiring particular comment, the combined effect of this, and all the other Resolutions dealing with the same or similar problems has not only forced Community action in the field, but also the taking into account of particular problems raised and solutions suggested by Parliament.

Another example where insistence by Parliament paid dividends was in the field of new technologies. The many Resolutions adopted by Parliament in this field, culminated not only in the inclusion of a specific provision in the modification of the Treaty of Rome agreed to by the European Council, but also some important recommendations contained in its reports.

The following Resolutions were cited by the Commission as being responsible for this result: **Europe's response to the modern technological challenge (Poniatowski Report, Doc. A2-109/85, OJ C 288, p. 23, Minutes 8.10.1985.)** The consequences of the new technologies for European Society, (Ciancaglini Report, Doc. A2-110/85, OJ C 288 p. 23, Minutes 8.10.1985), the differences in technological development between the Member States of the Community (Longuet Report, Doc. A2-106/85, OJ C 288 p. 53, Minutes 9.10.1985). The creation of a European Research Area (Münch Report, Doc. A2-89/85, OJ C 288 p. 53, Minutes 9.10.1985) The role and the use of advanced and new technologies in the field of transport (Wijsenbeek Doc A2-104/85 OJ C 288, p. 54, Minutes 9.10.1985). Two Resolutions on the EUREKA project and the European Technological Community (Poniatowski/Veil, Doc. B2-1337/85, C 352 p. 79, Minutes 12.December 1985.); (Linkhohr & Others, Doc. B2-1338/85, C 352 p. 79, Minutes 12.12.1985).

III. RESOLUTIONS USED AS A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

Although specific measures to implement Parliament's Resolutions may not be immediately possible, or even required by Parliament, the expression by Parliament of its ideas affords the Commission food for thought and assists it to develop a fresh approach to problems.

Resolutions dealing with Community external relations, whilst not alone in having this effect, afford good examples of where Parliament's texts have been a source of inspiration to the Commission. Thus commenting on the **Zarges Report on the possibility of commercial relations between the Community and**

Hungary (Doc. A2-28/86, OJ C 176 p. 163, Minutes 13.6.85), the Commission pointed out that it had used this Resolution as a source of ideas during the exploratory talks held in July 1986 with a delegation of Hungarian experts.

IV. RESOLUTIONS USED AS A MEANS OF PRESSURE BY THE COMMISSION AND THE PARLIAMENT

Parliament, as the political voice of European public opinion, often uses Resolutions to exert pressure on the Council or external bodies. This role of own initiative Resolutions may be very effective, but it is extremely difficult, if not impossible to measure the precise effects of this type of action.

In cases of intra-institutional pressure, the results may be more obvious. For example, **Mrs Boot's Resolution on the Council's failure to reach a decision to introduce the 'single document' and the rules on the deferred payment of VAT:** (Doc. 2-485/84, OJ C 274, p.41 Minutes 13 September, 1984), probably encouraged the Council to adopt the Commission's proposal as to the single document, although it failed to obtain a reaction concerning the deferred payment of VAT.

However, where the target of the Resolution is an extra-Community body, assessment of its effects is impossible. Parliamentary pressure exerted on the American Administration following adoption of a Resolution on measures under discussion to rectify the US foreign trade deficit, (**Prag & Others, Doc. 2-1395/84, OJ C 46 p. 51, Minutes 17 January 1985,**) was certainly a useful tool for the Commission, but its overall effect is unknown.

V. OWN INITIATIVE RESOLUTIONS AS A TOOL FOR MODIFYING POLICY OR ITS ORIENTATION

The prime example of Resolutions having this type of effect during the period under review must be that adopted on the **Anastassopoulos Report on the judgment of the Court of Justice on the common transport policy and the guidelines for that policy** (Doc. A2-84/85, OJ C 262 p. 80, Minutes 12.09.1985).

However other own-initiative Resolutions have undoubtedly played a similar role, although often a characteristic of the procedure required is the repeated adoption by Parliament of Resolutions hammering at the same points.

The Resolutions adopted by Parliament on forest fires in the Community (Veil/Flesch, Doc. B2-815/85; Müsso & Others, Doc. B2-842/85, OJ C 262 p. 79; Romeos, Doc. B2-846/85 OJ C 262 p. 79; Squarcialupi, Doc. B2-849/85, OJ C 262 p. 79, Minutes 12 September 1986) and the Resolution on Community activity in the forestry sector (Romeos Report, Doc. A2-116/86, OJ C 297 p. 74, Minutes 23.10.1986) demonstrate this.

VI. RESOLUTIONS INSTIGATING NEW ACTIONS OR POLICIES BY THE EXECUTIVE

Prime examples of this type of effect of Parliament's own-initiative Resolutions are to be found in the Resolutions adopted during the present legislature. Among them are:

- the Resolutions dealing with the European Technological Community and the Resolution on the creation of a European Foundation studying Eastern Europe (Pelikan Report, Doc. A2-50/86, OJ C283 p.11 Minutes 6.10.1986,II)

In both of these two cases the results obtained by Parliament could be qualified as spectacular.

The reaction of all institutions and the European Council to the former was very favourable and the European Council agreed in principle to incorporate a specific section in the Treaty of Rome giving the Community clear responsibility in the field of research and technological development.

Although the ambitions of the latter mentioned Resolution were perhaps lower, the result obtained was no less satisfying. Both the Commission and the Council attended the first preparatory meeting held in Strasbourg on 10 December 1986 to discuss the ways and means of creating the structure required by Parliament and the Commission undertook to attend the meeting planned to be held during the March 1987 Part Session. The programme for this second meeting included studying the possibilities of setting up the working party foreseen by Article 2 of the Resolution.

VII. OWN INITIATIVE REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS HAVING A DIRECT EFFECT ON LEGISLATION

Many of the own initiative texts adopted by Parliament influence the contents of Community legislation. Although on occasion the Commission's comments enumerate the points which have been initiated by Parliament's suggestions, the Commission's half-yearly reports are often insufficiently detailed to permit the identification of precise measures contained in Commission proposals corresponding to Parliament's recommendations. Thus the Commission's comments on the resolution adopted on the Nordmann Report on the eventual renewal of the multifibre arrangement (Doc. A2-210/85, OJ C 68 p. 157, Minutes 21.2.1986) listed the elements of Parliament's Resolution figuring in the relevant Commission proposal, on the other hand its comments on the Resolution on structural policy in the fishing sector and perspectives for the future (Battersby Report, Doc. A2-40/86, OJ C 148 p. 121, Minutes 16.5.1986 II) merely stated that the proposal concerned took account of Parliament's observations and suggestions as expressed.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS HAVING EFFECT ON COMMISSION NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

Whilst neither seeking to initiate new policies or actions nor to modify policy, certain Resolutions do have an effect on the execution of Commission activities without necessitating changes in legislation. Many of the actions engendered by this class of Resolution consist in the setting up of working parties, as the Commission did in response to the Resolution on the frequency of cancer near the Windscale - Sellafield Nuclear Plant (Bloch von Blottnitz Doc. A2-80/85, OJ C 262, p. 31, Minutes 8.7.1986) or the undertaking of studies such as those instigated following Parliament's request in its Resolution on the Linkohr Report on ethenol derived from renewable raw materials (Doc. A2-64/86, OJ C 227 p. 21, Minutes 8.7.1986).

PART II

EXTRACTS FROM COMMISSION COMMENTS ON PARLIAMENT'S RESOLUTIONS ARRANGED
ACCORDING TO THE NATURE OF THE EFFECT PRODUCED

I. A RESOLUTION TREATED AS A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. Resolution (Vandemeulebroucke Report) on the importance of water for the growth and development of certain regions of the Community (Doc. A2-69/85, OJ C 229, p. 124, Minutes 12.7.1985)

Reaction of the Commission

The following comments can be made on the various points in the Resolution: The Commission is currently preparing a data base on the state of the environment in the Community (Corrine project). The operations of gathering and collating coherent data on water resources and the quality of water in the Community's southern regions have already been defined and a feasibility study constituting the first stage, is now under way. The second stage, that of implementing the programme itself, will be carried out in 1985-1988. Moreover, as part of the programme for protecting the Mediterranean, which was adopted by the Commission in April 1984 but could not be implemented until only a few months ago, it was decided to set up in advance of any operational activity a project bank covering all the operations planned or under way at local, regional, national, or international level. An initial stage of the survey to collect the necessary data should be completed in September 1986.

As was stated during the debate, the Commission can see no point in taking action on the requests made under points 5 and 9. On point 10, it would point out that the existing directives make it possible for many of the sources of pollution of the aquatic environment to be monitored and reduced. Other Directives are being considered or prepared; they cover other types of operation, relating notably to pollution from farming activities or the definition of a minimal quality for surface waters.

The problems of water shortage in the Mediterranean regions (point 13) will justify financing under the IMPS, provided the measures in question are included in the programmes and meet the specific objectives of the IMPS.

With regard to the problem of hydraulic energy (point 15) the ERDF is already operating in this area in the form of Community support for regional policy measures adopted by the Member States and in a specific measure under the old non-quota section in certain regions of Italy and Greece. The Commission recently sent the Council a proposal for strengthening this measure and extending it to other less-favoured regions (Valoren programme).

Since it became operational in 1975 the ERDF has always made a major contribution to the financing of projects related to the utilisation and management of water reserves, in conjunction with operations by other funds - EAGGF Guidance Section; EIB loans (point 17). Since the entry into force of the new ERDF Regulation in January 1985, the Commission has been devising a method of ex-ante assessment of Community interest in ERDF operations which will make for more effective use of available resources (points 2 and 18)'.

II. DELAYED REACTIONS TO RESOLUTIONS AND THEIR COMBINED EFFECT

No further examples

III. RESOLUTIONS USED BY THE COMMISSION AND PARLIAMENT AS A MEANS OF PRESSURE ON THE COUNCIL OR OTHER ADMINISTRATIONS OR ORGANISATIONS

1. Resolution by Mrs Boot (urgent debate) on the Council's failure to reach a decision to introduce the 'single document' and the rules on the deferred payment of VAT. (Doc. 2-485/84, OJ C 274, p.41 Minutes 13.9.1984)

Reaction of the Commission

The Commission informed Parliament that following this Resolution, the proposal as to the single document was adopted by the Council on 18 December 1984.

As to the deferred payment of VAT the proposal had not as yet appeared on the Council's agenda and the Benelux countries were the only ones now (1984) to use the system.

2. Resolution by Mr Walter on the international North Sea Conference in Bremen (Doc. 2-830/84, OJ C 315 p. 91 Minutes 25.10.1984)

Reaction of the Commission

In response to Parliament's request the Commission presented the various Resolutions on the North Sea adopted in 1984 to Delegates to the Bremen Conference.

3. Resolution (Ippolito Report) on mineral resources of the Community (Doc. A2-32/86, OJ C 176 p. 15, Minutes 9.6.1986)

Reaction of the Commission

The text of the Resolution as well as the Minutes which accompanied its adoption were distributed by the Commission to the Member States' representatives during the meeting of the working group on 'The supply of raw materials'.

4. Resolution (urgent debate) on measures under discussion to rectify the US foreign trade deficit. (Prag and Others, Doc. 2-1395/85, OJ C 46, p. 51, Minutes 17.1,1985).

Reaction of the Commission

The Head of the Commission delegation in Washington sent the text to all members of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate and of the House of Representatives, the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives and the Senate Finance Committee.

During the visits of both President Delors and Mr De Clercq the Commission warned its American partners against introducing an import surtax and emphasised the position already adopted by Parliament.

5. Resolution on the removal of obstacles to traffic at the Community's internal borders (Marck and Others, Doc. B2-415/85, OJ C 175, p. 263, Minutes, 14.6.1985)
6. Resolution on the removal of obstacles at the Community's internal borders (Mallot and Others, Doc. B2-428/85, OJ C 175, p. 263, Minutes 14.6.1985).

Reaction of the Commission

'The Commission is continuing to press the Council to adopt its proposal for a Directive on the easing of controls at intra-Community borders, in accordance with the wishes of Parliament. It is now up to the Council to act on these two Resolutions.'

IV. OWN INITIATIVE RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS USED AS A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION BY THE COMMISSION

1. **Resolution (Zarges Report) on the possibility of commercial relations between the Community and Hungary (Doc. A2-28/86, OJ C 176, p. 163, Minutes 13.6.86).**

Reaction of the Commission

The services of the Commission held exploratory talks with a delegation of Hungarian experts on 21 July 1986 and used this Resolution as a source of ideas during those talks.

2. **Resolutions B2-84/86 (Bonaccini and Others), B2-85/86 (Marques Mendes), B2-86/86 (Seeler and Others) and B2-92/86 (Moorhouse and Others) of the World Economic Summit of 4-6 May 1986, OJ C 120, p. 131, Minutes 18.4.1986.**

Resolutions B2-246/86 (Bonaccini and Others), B2-251/86 (Veil), B2-252/86 (Malène and Others), B2-253/86 (Besse and Others) and B2-264/86 (Beumer and Others) on the results of the World Economic Summit, OJ C 148, p. 58, Minutes 14.5.1986.

Reaction of the Commission

All aspects of Parliament's Resolutions dealing with this subject, were taken into account by the Commission. President Delors used them as a source of ideas when he explained to Parliament how he hoped that the Summit would approach the various subjects that were to be dealt with (Monetary Affairs, Finance, Commerce, Energy).

3. **Resolution (Larive-Groenendaal Report) on education and training in new technologies (Doc. A2-142/86, OJ C 322, p. 32, Minutes 11.11.1986).**

Reaction of the Commission

'As it is, the programmes put into operation by the Commission are largely inspired by Parliament's Resolution. Thus the programme "New Technologies in Education" puts the emphasis on teachers and in the context of EUROTECNET specific importance is attached to demonstration projects concerning the training of women and/or the handicapped.'

V. OWN INITIATIVE RESOLUTIONS AS A TOOL FOR MODIFYING POLICY OR ITS ORIENTATION

1. Four Resolutions on forest fires in the Community

B2-815/85 Veil-Flesch; B2-842/85, Musso and Others, OJ C 262, p. 79; B2-846/85, Romeos, OJ C 262, p. 79; B2-849/85, Squarcialupi, OJ C 262, p. 79, Minutes 12.9.1985).

Reaction of the Commission

In response to the concerns expressed in point 6c of the Resolution the Commission adopted a Memorandum on Community action in the forestry sector (COM(85)792) which it transmitted to the Council following wide consultations with the interest groups involved.

As to the idea of setting up a European Forestry Centre, whilst not rejecting it, the Commission considered it preferable in the short term to develop the forestry potential of the Member States.

2. Resolution (Romeos Report) on Community activity in the forestry sector (Doc. A2-116/86, OJ C 297, p. 74, Minutes 23.10.1986)

Reaction of the Commission

Following the adoption of the Memorandum on Community action in the forestry sector the Commission obtained a positive decision from the Council on its proposals for the protection of forests in the Community against fire and acid rain (Regulations (EEC No. 3528/86 and 3529/86, 17.11.1986)

The Commission's services were preparing in April 1987 the programme of action outlined in its memorandum. To this end the Commission's services have prepared a document which will detail the orientation for future legislative propositions. This document is largely inspired by the recommendations of Parliament in this Resolution and its Resolution of 21.10.1986.

3. Resolution (Hahn Report) on a framework for a European media policy based on the Commission's Green Paper (A2-75/85, OJ C 288, p. 90, Minutes 10.10.1985).

Reaction of the Commission

'In line with Parliament's requests the Commission is planning to send the Council a proposal for a Directive coordinating certain provisions on broadcasting laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in the Member States as soon as possible.'

4. **Resolution (Patterson Report) on consolidation of the internal market (Doc. A2-50/85, OJ C 175, p. 133, Minutes 13.6.1985)**

Reaction of the Commission

The Commission noted the various comments made by Parliament and will take them into account when implementing the programme laid down in the White Paper.

5. **Resolution (Anastassopoulos Report) on the judgment of the Court of Justice on the common transport policy and the guidelines for that policy (Doc. A2-84/85, OJ C 262, p. 80, Minutes 12.9.1985)**

Reaction of the Commission

'Adoption of this Resolution, which covers virtually all aspects of the common transport policy, was a major political event and played an undeniable part in shaping the recent development of this policy following the Court of Justice's judgment in the proceedings brought against the Council for failure to act.' (Case 13/83)

Following the decision of the Court the Council adopted conclusions concerning a general programme defining the framework of a common transport policy. The principal objectives of the common transport policy should be realised by 31 December 1992 thus contributing to the realisation of the internal market of which the common transport policy is an essential part. The Community framework programme is built round four main areas corresponding to the central problems of the common transport policy, namely,

- The construction of the infrastructure by which the bulk of intra-community traffic passes.

- The crossing of frontiers and goods in transit and in particular the measures and procedures necessary to gradually eliminate the controls and formalities at frontiers.

- The organisation of the transport market concerning land transport in general, railways air transport and maritime transport.

- The security of internal transport.

VI. RESOLUTIONS INSTIGATING NEW ACTIONS OR POLICIES BY THE EXECUTIVE

1. **Resolution (Pelikan Report) on the creation of a European Foundation studying Eastern Europe (Doc. A2-50/86, OJ C 283, p. 11, Minutes 6.10.1986, II)**

Reaction of the Commission

A preparatory meeting to discuss the ways of creating such a foundation was held in Strasbourg on 10 December 1986. A second meeting was programmed to be held during the March 1987 Part Session. As before, the Commission undertook to attend the meeting, whose purpose was to study the possibilities of setting up the working group foreseen by Article 2 of the Resolution

2. Resolution (Poniatowski Report) on Europe's response to the modern technological challenge (Doc. A2-109/85, OJ C 288, p. 23, Minutes 8.10.1985)
3. Resolution (Ciancaglini Report) on the consequences of the new technologies for European Society (Doc. A2-110/85, OJ C 288, p. 23, Minutes 8.10.1985)
4. Resolutions (Longuet Report) on the differences in technological development between the Member States of the Community (Doc. A2-106/85, OJ C 288, p. 53, Minutes 9.10.1985)
5. Resolution (Munch Report) on the creation of a European research area (Doc. A2-89/85, OJ C 288, p. 53, Minutes 9.10.1985)
6. Resolution (Wijsenbeek Report) on the role and the use of advanced and new technologies in the field of transport (Doc. A2-104/85, OJ C 288, p. 54, Minutes 9.10.1985).
7. Two Resolutions on the EUREKA project and the European Technological Community (Poniatowski/Veil, Doc. B2-1337/85, OJ 352 p. 79; Linkohr and Others, Doc. B2-1338/85, OJ C 352 p. 79, Minutes 12.12.1985).

Reaction of the Commission

'The impact produced by Parliament's Resolutions is quite apparent from the way in which the Community institutions handled the three major tasks at the end of 1985 and the beginning of 1986 regarding Community policy on research and technology, viz: the reform of the Treaty of Rome; the definition of broad guidelines for the 1987-1991 framework programme and the preparation of specific future programmes, and the harmonisation of Community action in the field of research and technology and the EUREKA initiative.'

In line with Parliament's wishes, the European Council agreed in principle to incorporate a specific section in the Treaty giving the Community clear responsibility in the field of research and technological development. This includes a provision reaffirming the principle of a multiannual framework programme (Article 4) as well as the principle of implementing the framework programme through specific programmes adopted by majority

vote (Article 5). In terms consonant with the call made in the **Barbarella Resolution**, the establishment of flexible operational structures such as supplementary programmes (Article 6) is authorised. Equally the possibility of minority programmes and joint undertakings is foreseen.

Other parallels between the various Resolutions and Community activity are drawn, and the Commission's attitude to the EUREKA project is described.

8. **Resolution on the problem of drugs (Van Hemeldonck) (Doc. B2-887/86, OJ C 283, p. 58; (Squarcialupi) Doc. B2-884/86, OJ C 283, p. 58, Minutes 9.10.1986)**

Reaction of the Commission

The Commission awaited the outcome of Parliament's enquiry into the drug problem before finishing its communication to the Council and Parliament concerning Community actions to fight drug abuse (**COM(86)601 final**). The choice and definition of these preparatory actions take account of the priorities fixed by Parliament and its Enquiry Committee.

9. **Resolution (Faith Report) on Community measures to combat road accidents (Doc. A2-202/85, OJ C 68, p. 29, Minutes 18.2.1986)**

Reaction of the Commission

Regarding the Faith Report the Commission has, together with national experts, commenced the examination of the long list of actions recommended by Parliament, in order to establish priorities. The result should be known before the end of 1986.

VII. OWN INITIATIVE REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS HAVING A DIRECT EFFECT ON LEGISLATION

1. Resolution (Nordmann Report) on the eventual renewal of the multifibre arrangement (Doc. A2-210/85, OJ C 68, p. 157, Minutes 21.2.1986)

Reaction of the Commission

'The negotiation directives given by the Council were based on the Commission's proposals, which in a general way, largely subscribe to the ideas in the Resolution adopted by Parliament. In particular, the following elements of Parliament's Resolution figure in the Commission's proposal.

- Necessity to maintain an adequate multilateral framework and reaffirmation of the final objective of liberalisation and application of GATT rules to textiles (point 4 of the Resolution).
- Undertaking by participating nations to open up their markets, to act so as to ensure the respect of trade marks, designs and models so as to combat fraud.
- more favourable treatment of less developed nations, small exporters, newcomers and cotton producers. Reaffirmation of the aim of the MFA, namely to favour the economic and social development of developing countries.
- Link between the rate of growth and the consumption of textiles and clothes and the disorganised state of the market.
- putting into action of the disposition as to automatic flexibility between the various regions of the Community with a view to the completion of the internal market.
- simplification of categories.'

2. **Resolution (Battersby Report) on structural policy in the fishing sector and perspectives for the future (Doc. A2-40/86, OJ C 148, p. 121, Minutes 16.5.1986, II)**

Reaction of the Commission

The Commission sent Parliament a proposal concerning Community action to improve and adapt structures in the fishing and aquaculture sectors. (COM(86)446 final). As stated to the Fisheries Sub-Committee this proposal takes account of the observations and suggestions made in this Resolution.

3. **Resolution (Hahn Report) on a framework for a European media policy based on the Commission's Green Paper (Doc. A2-75/85, OJ C 288, p. 90, Minutes 10.10 .1985)**
4. **Resolution (De Vries Report) on the economic aspects of the Common Market for Broadcasting (Doc. A2-102/85, C 288, p. 19, Minutes 10.10.1985)**

Reaction of the Commission

'In line with Parliament's requests the Commission is planning to send the Council a proposal for a directive coordinating certain provisions on broadcasting laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in the Member States as soon as possible.'

5. **Resolution (Musso Report) on the Commission's 10th Annual Report on the activity of the regional development fund. (Doc. A2-76/86, OJ C 255, p. 17, Minutes 9.9.1986)**

Reaction of the Commission

The Commission underlines the fact that in the context of the proposals it will present in application of Article 130D of the Single European Act, it will take Parliament's suggestions as to the strengthening and efficiency of the regional development fund interventions into consideration.

6. Resolution (Lienemann Report) on the creation of a Community Marine Research Institute. (Doc. A2-93/86, OJ C 283, p. 99, Minutes 10.10.1986)

Reaction of the Commission

On condition that the 1987-1991 programme is adopted, the Commission, with the help of the CREST ad hoc Working Group, will prepare a proposal for a programme which will be submitted to Parliament and the Council.

Furthermore the Commission has asked a company of French consultants to undertake a feasibility study into a European centre of technology, research and marine science.

On conclusion of their study, the consultants will prepare a publication which will be sent to Parliament.

7. Resolution on anti-dumping (Thomé-Patenôtre) (Doc. A2-73/86, OJ C 283, p. 12, Minutes 6.10.1986)

Reaction of the Commission

Following this Resolution, the Commission sent a proposal to the Council modifying legislation concerning anti-dumping, in order to stop the avoidance of anti-dumping taxes on finished products. The proposed modification permits the collection of anti-dumping taxes on products which have been assembled in the Community.

Furthermore in order to ensure the transparency of procedures in this field, the Commission published a notice concerning the reclaiming of anti-dumping taxes.

Finally the Commission took measures to ensure that as far as possible, staff in this sector would be reinforced.

8. Resolution (Hoon Report) on unfair contract terms. (Doc. A2-194/85, OJ C 68, p. 164, Minutes 21.2.1986)

Reaction of the Commission

Following Parliament's Resolutions, the Commission has commenced work on the preparation of a directive concerning this subject. Three meetings with national experts have been held. In view of the complexity of the measures required by Parliament it is probable that lengthy discussions will be necessary.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON COMMISSION NON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

1. Resolution (Chanterie Report) on a European social area (Doc. A2-141/86, OJ C 322, p. 26, Minutes 11.11.1986)

Reaction of the Commission

Commission action has been and is being built round the following themes:

- A Resolution concerning a programme of action to increase employment (11.12.1986), describing actions
 - to create employment and new enterprises;
 - to increase efficiency in the labour market;
 - to create education programmes and training programmes for the most disfavoured categories, in particular the young and the long term unemployed.
- measures concerning the health and security of workers on the basis of Article 118A of the Single European Act.
- The Resolutions concerning a middle term programme for the equality of opportunity for women (June 1986).

2. **Resolution (urgent debate) on environmental issues of current relevance the transport of radioactive substances - dioxin residues in waste incineration plants - formaldehyde, (Schleicher and Others, Doc. 2-484/84, OJ C274 p.37 Minutes 13.9.1984)**

Reaction of the Commission

The Commission pointed out that a permanent working party had been set up following Parliament's Resolution of 22 January 1982 and that the first report by this working party had been transmitted to Parliament. (COM(84)223 final).

It also undertook to conduct the enquiry requested by Parliament into the traces of the pollutants referred to in the Resolution in the course of 1985.

3. **Resolution on the problems posed by the transport of nuclear fuels (Bloch von Blottnitz, Doc. 2-504/84, OJ C 274, p. 36, Minutes 13.9.1984).**

Reaction of the Commission

The Commission agreed to undertake a critical examination of existing rules on the carriage of dangerous and radioactive products. To this end it set up an interdepartmental working party to check whether existing rules were adequate, to assess the possibility of improving them and, where necessary, to draw up proposals.

4. **Resolution (Amadei Report) on interinstitutional cooperation to examine petitions (Doc. A2-74/86, OJ C 283, p. 59, Minutes, 9 October 1986)**

Reaction of the Commission

The Commission is examining the different possibilities existing under Article 235 of the Treaty to create the legal instrument required by Parliament.

5. Resolution on the Nairobi World Conference (July 1985) (Gadioux Report, Doc. A2-47/86, OJ C 176, p. 49, Minutes 11.6.1986)

Reaction of the Commission

The greater coordination of approaches called for by Parliament to establish a Community position for the conference was achieved.

The examination and evaluation requested by Parliament are contained in a Commission communication to the Council (COM(85)256 final), which clearly states that the Community and its Member States must act together to prevent the theme of peace from monopolising the debates and to take the measures necessary to achieve this aim.

6. Resolution (urgent debate) on Mafia frauds (Provan, Doc. 2-1596/85, OJ C 72, p. 74, Minutes 14 February 1985).

Reaction of the Commission

Despite numerous difficulties invoked some positive action was taken in particular:

An EAGGF fact finding mission went to Rome in July 1985,

- the Italian authorities undertook to reply as promptly as possible to a questionnaire sent to them in September 1985 and would provide assistance with an on-the-spot investigation.
- joint visits would be made in October and November 1985 to the regional authorities responsible for all checks on recipients,
- joint random checks would be made on the main recipients of EAGGF aid in November and December 1985,

The report concerning the missions carried out by the Commission's services was forwarded to Parliament by letter dated 18 December 1985.

7. **Two Resolutions on the right of nationals of other Member States to vote and stand in local government and European Parliament elections in their country of residence (Marinero & Others, Doc. B2-1165/85, OJ C 345, p. 64; Fuillet & Anende, Doc. B2-1167/85, OJ C 345 p. 64, Minutes 14.11.1985)**

Reaction of the Commission

In the Light of these Resolutions the Commission undertook in the House to present a report on the subject which has now been presented to Parliament (COM(86)487 final)

8. **Resolution (urgent debate) on airline and railway safety (Carossino & Others, Doc. B2-835/85, OJ C 262, p. 78, Minutes 12.9.1985)**

Reaction of the Commission

'The Commission has written to Member States for information on measures taken to ensure that the checks on aircraft airworthiness are up to standard.

Once the replies are received, the Commission will call a meeting with senior air safety officials in the Member States to decide what action, if any, should be taken.'

9. **Resolution (Barrett Report) on a regional incentive scheme for the development of less-favoured regions of the Community (Doc. A2-79/85, OJ C262, p. 113, Minutes 13.9.1985)**

Reaction of the Commission

'The departments concerned have scrutinised this Resolution and in response to points 8 and 15 have produced a proposal for a study, the details of which are under consideration'.

10. **Resolution (Lenz Report) on the political situation in South America (Doc. A2-187/85, OJ C 36, p. 190, Minutes 17.1.1986)**

Reaction of the Commission

The Commission raised the problem of the role of this region in illicit drug production and trafficking with the GRULA in June 1986 as well as with a visiting delegation from the ANDEAN Parliament.

11. **Four Resolutions on the Windscale-Sellafield Nuclear Plant (Maher, Doc. B2-1619/85, OJ C 68, p. 95; Bloch von Blottnitz, Doc. B2-1589/85, OJ C 68, p. 95; Banotti and Others, Doc. B2-1599/85, OJ C 68, p. 95; Lalor & Others, B2-1620/85, OJ C 68, p. 96, Minutes 20.2.1986).**

These four Resolutions complete and restate the requests contained in Parliament's Resolutions of 10 September 1985 **on the increased occurrence of cancer in the area near this factory (Doc. A2-80/85, Bloch von Blottnitz OJ C 262 p. 31, Minutes 10.9.1985)**. The Commission has consulted the group of experts mentioned in point 31 of the Resolution as to the necessity of revising basic standards. The Commission also held a meeting with national experts to study the desirability of creating a Community inspection unit responsible for protection against radio activity.

The reports established by these two working groups have been forwarded to Parliament.

Furthermore, following Mrs Bloch Von Blottnitz' report, agreement was reached with the UK authorities that all civil nuclear material would be subject to Euratom inspection. These inspections commenced at the end of March 1986.

12. **Resolution (Linkohr Report on ethenol derived from renewable raw materials (Doc. A2-64/86, OJ C 227, p. 21, Minutes 8.7.1986)**

Reaction of the Commission

Point 8. The Commission ordered an in-depth study on all the aspects of the use of bio-ethanol as a fuel additive. The study should be completed in 1987 and will be forwarded to Parliament.

13. **Resolution (Fitzsimons' Report) on measures to be taken in research and energy policy to combat the increasing concentration of Co2 in the atmosphere (Doc. A2-68/86, OJ C 255, p. 225, Minutes 12.9.1986)**

Points 3,4 and 5. The Commission organised a symposium dedicated to this subject, in Brussels from 3-5 November 1986.

The Commission's programme in this field is due to be reviewed at the end of 1987. This re-examination will put the emphasis on those questions of interest to Parliament.

14. **Resolution (Schrieber Report) on the efficiency of national instruments of regional policy (Doc. A2-66/86, OJ C 227, p. 148, Minutes 11.7.1986)**

Reaction of the Commission

Points 8 & 9. As the Commission stated to the House, Parliament's request for a study on this subject following Parliament's guidelines is being undertaken and the first results should be known at the beginning of 1988.

Point 10. The Commission will in future publish more detailed information as to the projects financed by the Regional Fund in the Official Journal of the Communities. However no publication will be made concerning investment and national aid given to projects.

Point 11. The Commission is of the opinion that it would be premature to undertake a study into the effects of competition policy on Community Regional Policy.

However, conscious of the problems in this area, the Commission has formed a 'task force' whose responsibilities are to draw up a list of all state aids. Furthermore the Commission is looking into the relationship existing between the two policies.

Point 12. In the context of Article 130D of the Single European Act, the Commission will soon submit a proposal aimed at modifying the structure and rules so as to realise the objectives of Articles 130 and 130C of the Act. Particular importance will be given to the reinforcement of the role of regional development programmes so as to define the intervention priorities of the Regional Fund.

CONCLUSION

This analysis of the effects of Parliament's own initiative Resolutions as described in the Commission's reports on Action Taken, permits the following conclusions to be drawn:

1. Approximately 20% of the texts concerning Parliament's Resolutions indicate that concrete action has been taken by the executive. However concurrence between the demands of Parliament and actual Commission activity together with action taken on own initiative reports which have not been described in the Commission's reports must be taken into account to mitigate this low figure.
2. The Commission often chooses to emphasise the points of the Resolution which coincide most with its current activity, avoiding comment on points which diverge from its plans. Parliament should counter this by insisting that the Commission covers each of the points raised in its Resolutions systematically.
3. Where the Commission's comments promise further action or where policy development in accordance with Parliament's Resolution is foreseen a further follow-up report should be supplied three to four months after the initial report or as soon as the foreseen action has been taken.
4. Commission reports should identify the Resolutions referred to by indicating the session document number of the Resolution concerned, the title of the Resolution, the reference of the Minutes of the session.
5. Whilst it may be encouraging to note that on occasion the Commission refers to other Resolutions (without however identifying them clearly), it may be noticed that there is a certain lack of consistency in the Commission's approach. The effect of the technique used is rather to avoid the concrete implementation of, or action on, Parliament's suggestions, than to give

Parliament information as to what has happened to its Resolutions. In particular it is to be noted that once a comment has been made on a Resolution the text is never the subject of a further review.

6. The half-yearly report system, may be considered an adequate way of dealing with most own initiative Resolutions and reports provided copies of the reports are made available to the Members in time for them to react to the comments made. However the system is inadequate in cases where Parliament attaches great importance to the issues raised and the recommendations it formulates. In such cases other methods of monitoring Commission activity and pressing home Parliament's view should be sought.