

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1974-1975

13 January 1975

DOCUMENT 429/74

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee

on the effects of a European foreign policy on defence questions

Rapporteur: Lord GLADWYN

PE 35.322/fin.

By letter of 10 May 1973, the President of the European Parliament instructed the Political Affairs Committee to draw up a report on the effects of a European foreign policy on defence questions.

At its meeting of 17-18 May 1973, the Political Affairs Committee appointed Lord Gladwyn rapporteur.

At its meetings of 24 May and 29-30 November 1973, 21-22 February, 5 June, 3-4 July, 30 September/1 October, 19/20 November, 3/4 December and 19/20 December 1974, the Committee considered the text drawn up by the rapporteur.

At the last meeting the motion for a resolution was adopted with 12 votes in favour, 5 against and 1 abstention.

The following were present:

Mr Giraud, Chairman; Mr Radoux, Vice-Chairman; Lord Gladwyn, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur; Mr Achenbach, Mr Amendola, Mr Antonozzi (deputizing for Mr Andreotti), Mr Ariosto, Mr Artzinger (deputizing for Mr Blumenfeld), Mr Behrendt, Mr Alfred Bertrand, Mr Corona, Mr De Clercq (deputizing for Mr Berthoin), Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker, Mr Durieux, Mr Klepsch, (deputizing for Mr Lücker), Mr McDonald, Mr Scelba and Mr Schwörer (deputizing for Mr Jahn).

The explanatory statement will be given orally by the rapporteur.

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

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

The European Parliament,

- recalling
 - (a) its Resolution of 6 April 1973¹ in which it expressed its view "that cooperation in the foreign policy sphere must eventually take into account defence and security policy";
 - (b) its Report on the Sixth General Report of the Commission of the European Communities in which it expressed its view: "that a veritable 'European Union' (as foreseen in Paragraph 16 of the Paris Declaration) which should achieve the transformation into a European identity of all relations between its Member States cannot be restricted solely to the economic and social fields but must include measures of political cooperation and cannot leave out of account measures of defence cooperation";
 - (c) the statement in the European Identity Paper agreed at the Copenhagen Summit meeting of 14 December 1973 that: "The Nine, one of whose essential aims is to maintain peace, will never succeed in doing so if they neglect their own security";
 - (d) the Declaration on Atlantic Relations approved by the North Atlantic Council at Ottawa on 19 June 1974 which stated: "The further progress towards unity which the Member States of the European Community are determined to make should, in due course, have a beneficial effect on the contribution to the common defence of the Alliance of those of them who belong to it";
- observing nevertheless that while some welcome progress has been made during the last 18 months in harmonising the foreign policies of all the Members of the Enlarged Community, there has been no corresponding progress towards the harmonisation of the defence policies of the Nine;
- stressing the need to avoid a strategic imbalance capable of prejudicing both European security and the prospect of a genuine East/West détente;

¹OJ No. C26, 30.4.1973, p.25

- drawing attention to the consequent need for Members of the Community to strengthen the North Atlantic Alliance by developing their own specifically European effort;
 - believing, especially in view of the human and social aspects of defence problems, in the need to make the optimum use of the manpower resources available for defence purposes;
 - convinced, therefore, of the evident and urgent need to achieve the most effective form of defence by rationalizing both the production of armaments, and logistics and infrastructure in the Community, thus permitting great economies in the individual expenditure on defence of the states concerned, and, also, of the need to demonstrate that Community Members are making an appropriate contribution to the common defence;
 - persuaded that, if such action resulted, as it might well, in the better deployment of available resources in Western Europe it could have no unfavourable effect on current or future East/West negotiations;
1. Urges those Governments of the Nine which may wish to take part in such a programme:
 - (a) to initiate immediately, as part of the existing procedure for harmonising the foreign policy of Member States, a technical study of the best means of achieving the objectives set out above;
 - (b) to set up, as a result of the study, an Armaments Procurement Agency in order to achieve the highest possible degree of armament standardisation;
 - (c) to draw up and adopt as soon as possible a general plan embodying the above proposals; and
 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and Council of the European Communities and to the Parliaments and Governments of the Member States of the Community.

Luxembourg
P.O.B. 1601