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the sittings

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SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1976 – 1977

Sittings held in Luxembourg

Monday, 15th November to Friday, 19th November 1976

The Week

It was a thin week for decisions – meaning the December agenda will be one of the longest ever – but there were a host of prophets of gloom, even doom.

EC Commission Vice-President Willy Haferkamp told the House than an increase in Opec oil prices, expected to jump 10-15 per cent by the end of this year, 'would signal doom for us all.' Fellow Commissioner Finn Gundelach, standing in for the ailing Sir Christopher Soames, warned that the EC executive was ready to take further anti-dumping proceedings against the Japanese unless they voluntarily cut back their exports to the Nine.

And there was little cheer from Mr Haferkamp for the unemployed. Even without another price hike, there would still be 4-5 million people out of work next year, including a growing number of young people, he said.

Regional Affairs Commissioner George Thomson was not very optimistic, either, when it came to the Gerlach report on setting up a European authorities to manage EC border regions. Half apologising for being a 'reluctant opponent', Mr Thomson explained the Council was unlikely to take the proposals on board in their present form, and even if it did, the proposals would require the approval of all nine national legislatures. One ray of hope: Mr Thomson promised to take the Gerlach report as the basis for the Commission's own proposals to boost the wealth of frontier areas.

The chief item of decision : doubling question time by holding it on Tuesday as well as Wednesday morning, and accepting the Martens report on procedural reforms.

There was one other glimmer of hope. Farm Commissioner Petrus Lardinois indicated that progress was expected when Mr Finn Gundelach returns to Reykjavik to start negotiations with the Icelanders on an EEC-Iceland fishing pact to replace existing – and fast expiring – bilateral deals between Reykjavik and Britain, West Germany and Belgium.

Borders are scars of history, says Horst Gerlach

Major own-initiative report on setting up trans-frontier European Joint Authorities described as visionary, but Commission says it stands no chance of being implemented.

Horst Gerlach (Ge, S), introducing the Regional Policy Committee's own-initiative report on the Community's internal frontiers, began by pointing out to the House that it is at the border that the average citizen sees how much – or little – progress the Community is making. And, by and large, the situation in the frontier regions left much to be desired. Educational and medical facilities, water supplies, roads and railways were usually poorer than in the central regions. The Community had 150,000 people who crossed the borders twice daily to work in the neighbouring country – whose economic situations fluctuated as parity changes occurred, whose jobs were the first to be sacrificed in economically difficult times, who had to contend with frontier posts which often closed at night.

There were often ridiculous anomalies in border areas, too. The victim of a traffic accident couldn't cross the border to the nearest hospital, but had to be taken to one much farther away because it was in his own country. Sewage works were constructed on both sides of a border when one would have been sufficient. A lead factory was set up on one side of a border despite the existence of vineyards on the other. The list was endless, Mr Gerlach said.

So what was needed was more cooperation, more consultation. The Euregio on the German/Dutch border was the right approach – but it was not legally binding.

Horst Gerlach: 'I am not saying we should remove national frontiers. I am saying we should simply try to heal the scars of history and try to make it easier for people in the border regions to live together and work together.'



At the moment cooperation between local authorities on two sides of a border inevitably counted as foreign policy, and was subject to the Foreign Affairs Ministries of the countries concerned.

The solution, the report suggested, was the setting up of 'European Joint Authorities', whose tasks would be the coordination of trans-frontier planning in all areas – transport, culture, power supplies, etc. Details of their activities would be left 'fully and entirely to an individual initiative of the voluntary affiliation of local authorities'.

Commissioner George Thomson, replying, was lavish in his praise of the Regional Committee's report – he described it as far-seeing, far-reaching, and a 'monument' to Mr Gerlach, who would soon be leaving the European Parliament.

But here his enthusiasm faltered. He could not see how the European Joint Authorities could be set up. Mr Gerlach was suggesting Treaty Article 235 as a legal basis – but Art. 235 could only be invoked to carry out aims specified in the Treaty, and the Treaty did not mention trans-frontier problems. Moreover, setting up such Authorities would call for national parliamentary legislation. There were practical problems, too: Could anyone imagine such a system functioning between Ulster and the Republic of Ireland, say?

So, although he regarded Parliament's proposals as 'visionary', he saw no way for the Commission to present them in their present form to the Council. But that did not mean that the Commission was not sympathetic to the idea of improving trans-frontier cooperation — it was already looking at the question of trans-frontier pollution, and had commissioned cross-border studies in Ireland. The whole problem was one that the new Regional Policy Committee would be paying considerable attention to.

Socialist Group spokesman Henk Waltmans (Du) agreed that the problem was a complex one. There was still a strong tendency for people on both sides of a border to want their own airports, their own refineries, their own hospitals. It was the purpose of a Community regional policy to share things out fairly in the regions.

He was disappointed in what Commissioner Thomson had said about the European Joint Authorities not being feasible. Why Should Art. 235 not form the legal basis? After all, he argued, while the Treaty might not mention trans-frontier problems in so many words, a Treaty objective was involved nevertheless — the social policy, which, after all, was what cross-border cooperation was really all about.

Much of the discussion about Mr Gerlach's bid to solve the problem of Europe's 'out in the cold' border regions centred on whether or not Art. 235 of the Rome Treaty provides the necessary authority. Commissioner George Thomson thought not and was therefore a 'reluctant opponent' of the Gerlach proposal. In reply Mr Gerlach suggested that there were three conditions to justify invoking this Article: (i) there was the need to achieve Community aims, (ii) there was the need to activate the EC and (iii) the powers to this end were not to be found in the Treaty. George Thomson suggested that it was a matter for the constitutional authorities of the Member States. Which provoked Tom Ellis to say he was thunderstruck by what he regarded as 'the authentic voice of classical 19th century nationalism'. What impressed Mr Ellis about the Gerlach proposal was its 'immediate practicability'. And this enthusiasm was shared by spokesmen for all the groups and by the spokesman for the Committees concerned. The CD spokesman, Peter Brugger, emphasized that most borders result from arbitrary decisions and what was being suggested was a way of enabling local authorities to side-step the red tape of national authority interference. Here was perhaps work for the Council of Europe.

Liberal spokesman Paul de Clercq (Be) described the Gerlach report as a milestone and he was one of the many speakers to express regret that Horst

Gerlach will now be leaving the European Parliament, as Mrs Kellett-Bowman (Br, EC), 'I am sorry that he will no longer be here to lead the troops'.

On another note, Michael Herbert (Ir, EPD), highlighted the political effects of neglect by the national authorities: 'All we have in the trans-frontier region of Ireland is the joint study of communications between Derry and Donegal and — in a reference to attempts of the Faulkner Executive — he said it was tragic that Ulster should have been disenfranchised since the last Westminster elections. He appealed for a restoration of basic rights to the people of Northern Ireland.

Mrs Kellett-Bowman took up the point of how the border regions have suffered most by virtue of the fact that people tend to cross the border to more prosperous regions. Mr Willem Albers (Du, S) said that the unemployment count was the highest in these areas. And Mr Jahn (Ge, CD) for the Political Committee said that the national authorities were neglecting these regions. This was the general view.

A motion embodying Mr Gerlach's proposal that European Joint Authorities be set up to deal with cross border problems was then put to the vote and agreed to unanimously.

In an interview after the two-and-a-half hour debate, rapporteur Horst Gerlach said Commissioner George Thomson's rejection of the proposals — on legal and practical grounds — did not dishearten him. 'I do not believe that the Commission's attitude means the end of the scheme'. He pointed out that Parliament's resolution was being sent to the parliaments of the Member States and to the Council of Europe. And he intimated that some countries — the Netherlands and Germany in particular — were favourable to the idea.

Sir Peter Kirk (Br, EC) and Tam DALyell (Br, S) said later — on a point of order — that efforts had been made to find a successor to Mr Rafton Pounder to represent the one and a half million people of Ulster in the European Parliament. Brian Lenihan (Ir, EPD) said he appreciated Sir Peter's bona fides but there had not been any Northern Ireland representative in Parliament since June 1974. 'We representatives of the Republic of Ireland feel we have a very deep commitment and concerned interest to represent the views of our fellow countrymen in Northern Ireland here in this Parliament in the absence of Northern Ireland representatives. And that commitment will be a continuing commitment for the future,' he said.

Fishing continues to arouse strong feelings

50 per cent of catches are made in coastal waters, Lardinois tells House. Not 50 per cent of the cod, whiting or haddock though replies Michael Shaw Br, EC).

Opening Parliament's debate on fishing, Alex Fletcher (Br, EC) voiced a question which might have been on the lips of many a Member: Why another debate on fishing? Quite simply, he said, because fishing was a vital and vexing problem for almost all Member States. No-one was disputing the need for a common fisheries policy, but it would be judged on how well it succeeded in managing stocks – there were fears that the reality would be a free-for-all inside the Community pond.

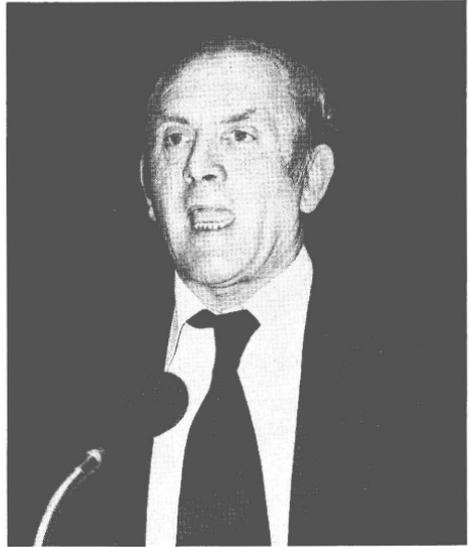
John Prescott (Br, S), who had also tabled a question to the Council, pointed out that negotiations were now under way with non-EC countries. And, apparently to his own surprise, Mr Prescott praised the Commission for its efforts to date, and said that a common Community approach was the only way to reach agreement with Iceland. If the external fishing policy was important, so was the Community's own internal policy. Here the key points were conservation, and policing of exclusive zones – best left in the hands of individual Member States, the speaker felt.

Replying for the Council, President Max van der Stoep said that agreement in principle had now been reached in a 200-mile Community limit to be enforced from 1 January 1977 – but it applied only to the North Sea and the Atlantic; other seas – such as the Mediterranean – were not yet included.

For the Commission, Petrus Lardinois pointed out that 50 per cent of all fish were caught within the 12-mile limits – and it was in these zones too that most breeding took place. This, he thought, helped to put the demands for 35, 50 or 100-mile exclusive zones into perspective. And it was here that policing would be most necessary. Referring to negotiations with Iceland, the Commissioner pointed out that Iceland itself had an interest in conservation measures – and not only off its own coasts: fish, after all, are mobile.

Like other speakers in the ensuing debate, Marcel Vandewiele (Be, CD), stressed the importance of the EC's internal fisheries policy now that agreement on the 200-mile limit had been reached. Niels Anker Kofoed (Da, L) said that he felt policing should be in the hands of the Community, not individual Member States.

Donal Creed: 'The conservation of our fishing stock and the future development of our fishing industry cannot be secured by such means as the proposed non-exclusive 12 mile coastal band and a system of quotas largely based on historic performance and thus favouring those who have been overfishing as against those whose fishing industries are underdeveloped.'



Winifred Ewing (Br, Ind) asked the Commission, on behalf of the Herring Industry Board, whether it was going to draw a distinction between fish for human consumption and fish for industrial purposes when it drew up its quotas, and wanted to know how the Commission intended to define 'coastal vessels'. The British industry could not accept a definition of 18 metre maximum waterline length and a two-day maximum voyage duration. And she emphasized just how important an equitable solution was for Scotland by pointing out that 80,000 Scots earned their livings from fishing.

There was pretty general support for the idea of a 50-mile exclusive coastal band but some of the doubts expressed centred on the difficulties of policing the 200-mile area. Mr James Scott-Hopkins said 'There just aren't enough vessels' and Mr James Spicer (Br, EC) pointed out that 4 fishery patrol vessels with a top speed of 15 knots are all that are under construction in the UK at the moment. Another point emphasized by most speakers was the problem of conservation. Donal Creed (Ir, CD) felt so strongly about this as to suggest that it was in the Community's own interest to have the 50-mile economic zones to make sure that stocks were not decimated. Mr Charles MacDonald (Ir, CD) indeed deplored the irresponsible fishing practices of the past and looked on the exclusive coastal band as the only answer. These views were shared by Mr James Gibbons (Ir, EPD) who, in common with many other speakers, rejected the idea of quotas

except possibly as an adjunct to fishing policy. The two Danish speakers, on the other hand, seemed more optimistic but Mr Erhard Jakobsen warned that fishermen must not get the impression that Brussels was trying to impose a deal on them. Mr Knud Nielsen, for his part, wanted the limits imposed to be as few as possible.

Elaine Kellett-Bowman (Br, EC) said that some species of fish had already ceased to exist as commercial species – herring was endangered, and cod, haddock and whiting were being overfished for industrial purposes. She felt that a 50-mile naturally-controlled zone was essential, that quotas were unenforceable and vessel licensing the only solution. And if Iceland were to prove unwilling to extend the fishing agreement beyond 1 December, the Community should react by suspending its brief concessions on Iceland's fish exports.

Michael Shaw (Br, EC) replied to Mr Lardinois' assertion that 50 per cent of catches were made within 12 miles of coasts by quoting a Commission expert as saying that, whilst 90 per cent of mollusc and crustacean catches, and herring, came from this zone, only 20 per cent of the vitally important cod, haddock and whiting catches did.

Liam Kavanagh (Ir, S) repeated an earlier call for a 50-mile exclusive limit, a demand echoed by fellow-Irishman Brian Lenihan (Ir, EPD), who added that the Community could trust the coastal states to make suitable arrangements within the zone as regards policing and licensing. But quotas, he felt, had no place at all in a Community policy.

Replying for the Council, President Max van der Stoep said that the key point remained conservation: you had to have fish there to catch before you could share them out. And he expressed concern at Soviet fleets fishing off Community coasts.

Petrus Lardinois, replying to the debate in English, went into points raised by individual speakers. On the subject of quotas, he insisted that we needed both quotas and licensing – the latter for vessels on the high seas, the former at the ports. He did not share Russell Johnston's scepticism on control: if Iceland could effectively police its waters, of course the UK could do the same. And on the subject of Iceland, he revealed that preliminary talks had now opened in Reykjavik, and Commissioner Finn Gundelach would be travelling to Iceland next week to pursue them. And he remained firmly opposed to the concept of 50-mile exclusive zones. Besides anything else, he said, they would conflict with



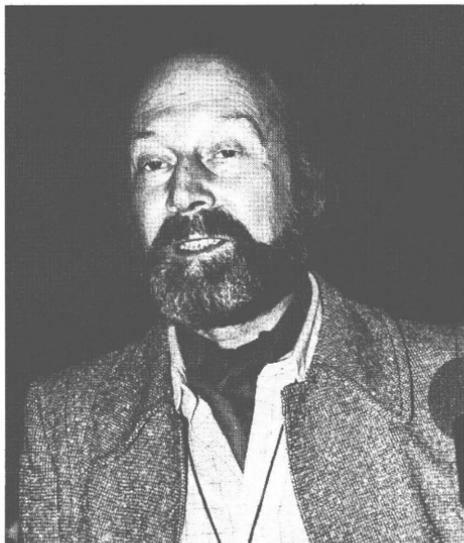
Liam Kavanagh: 'Our task now is to devise a common fishery policy which will safeguard the interests of the Member States individually and collectively.'

UN agreements – coast states could even find themselves in the position of having to allow third countries to fish within 50 miles while excluding their own Community partners. He concluded, like Max van der Stoel, with a word of warning: we must have conservation now, or within a few years there would be nothing left to fish.

Money for modernising farms going begging says Lardinois

Replying to Parliament's debate on the time the Nine are taking to implement the Council's April 1972 directives on farm modernisation, Commissioner Petrus Lardinois told the House that the EC will pay 65 per cent of the costs of any structural improvements effected pursuant to directive 160. 'Send in your applications for aid now' he advised farmers because the credits budgeted for this purpose have by no means been used up. Indeed only France has really taken full advantage of the farm modernisation scheme, he said. Farmers wanting further details should apply to their local agricultural information service.

Cornelis Laban: 'Small farmers are still lagging behind those in other sectors when it comes to how much they earn.'



Introducing his report on the directives, Cornelis Laban (Du, S) began by saying that prices policy without structural policy could never solve the problems of agriculture in Europe – a point echoed later in the debate by more than one speaker. But the Community's structural policy – based in the main on three Directives adopted in 1972 – was only gradually being implemented. Indeed, the Commission's report on the application of these directives was merely a report on the state of play rather an assessment of the directives' effect – because the Member States had either only just implemented them or, in some cases, not done so at all.

Returning to the question of the need for a structural policy, Mr Laban said he – and the Agricultural Committee – saw it as an essential factor in implementing an effective social policy for farmers. If money was a problem he wanted to know why the 530 mua in the Mansholt reserve was not being used, and instead lay there being eroded by inflation. And he advocated a system of 'land banks' to help in financing structural projects for farmers – a system that already existed in the Netherlands.

Socialist Group spokesman André Guerlin (Fr), gave his full support to Mr Laban's report. The CAP was, he said, based on a prices system with the basic idea of enabling the small farmer to make a living – but it had become apparent

Charles McDonald: 'There must be some tie up between the Common Agricultural Policy, the Social Fund and, indeed, the Regional Fund ... they should work together so as to have the greatest possible effect on the Community they are designed to serve.'



that, on its own, it was not working: it was the bigger farmers that were doing best out of the system. That was why measures to rationalize and modernize farming were essential – and why small farmers should be given the backing they needed to give up farming altogether.

Charles McDonald (Ir), for the Christian Democrats, lent his group's support to the Laban resolution. The 1972 directives (on farm modernization, re-allocation of farming land and measures to encourage cessation of farming, and re-training) had so far been implemented by only six of the Member States. But the CAP was the cornerstone of the Community and a common structural policy was essential. In particular, Mr McDonald wanted to see more stress placed on cooperative farming, the stipulation of a minimum acreage criterion before EC aid could be granted, and closer coordination between the EAGGF and the Regional and Social Funds. And he wanted more encouragement of product specialization – the EC could produce much of the cereals itself that it was currently importing.

Niels Anker Kofoed (Da), for the Liberals, returned to the key point that prices policy without structural policy was a non-starter. But structural policy couldn't solve every problem. Too much rationalisation in farming could lead to unemployment, for example, and it would be necessary to continue to give

financial support to hill farmers, say, unless you wanted mountain areas to become depopulated.

European Progressive Democrat spokesman Albert Liogier (Fr) felt that the delays in implementing the directives were depriving farmers of what they were entitled to. In the case of the farm modernization directive, the Commission had budgeted 3.25 maa in 1975, 29 maa in 1976, and only 18.8 maa for 1977 – a thirty per cent drop. Why? Because the Commission had seen that the Member States were still behind schedule in implementing this and the other structural directives. Why the Member States' reluctance to implement them? Because, in Mr Liogier's view, they were not attractive enough for farmers to claim the money they were entitled to.

James Scott-Hopkins (Br), for the Conservatives, pointed out that, although the directives had been adopted in 1972, this was the first time the Commission was reporting on them. The reason, as other speakers had made clear, was Member States' tardiness in implementing them.

Turning to specific issues, Mr Scott-Hopkins said there was a reluctance on the part of many farmers – in the UK, at any rate – to apply to the Commission for aid: they preferred national schemes. And as regards the directive encouraging farmers to leave the land, the speaker thought the inducements offered were simply not sufficient to get small holders to give up their way of life. He also referred to Mr Laban's proposal for land banks – and wondered whether the first thing to do wasn't to make use of the Mansholt reserve, money there for the asking.

Italy, said Ferruccio Pisoni (It, CD), has only recently implemented the directives and it was not really the ideal time to be doing so, either – in a period of high unemployment it was not easy to encourage smallholders to give up the land for an uncertain future off it. At any rate, it was too early to assess the effects of the directives in Italy. But however important structural measures were, the speaker argued, prices policy still had a vital role to play.

Giovanni Bersani (It, CD) put the emphasis on the social aspects of farm modernization – such as the need to keep young people from leaving rural areas on masse for the cities. Modernization called for new thinking and new initiatives – and they would come from young people.

Commissioner Lardinois then replied to points raised by individual speakers.

The motion, deploring the time being taken by the Nine to give effect to the modernisation directives, was then put to the vote. But first an amendment had to be dealt with. Rapporteur Laban said the difference was mainly one of wording. But the Christian Democrats, Liberals, European Progressive Democrats and European Conservatives voted against a straightforward allusion to the fact that markets and prices policies 'are not enough of themselves'. They wanted it made clear these two policies must be coupled with an adequate structures policy – a view spelled out in countless European Parliament motions. And this indeed was the concept finally agreed on, the amendment being defeated. Also defeated was a bid to include a reference to an 'intervention system creating surpluses in certain sectors.' The motion as it stood was then agreed to.

Decision lag on JET

Under Rome Treaty Article 175, the European Parliament can take the Council to Court if it fails to take the decisions needed to keep the Common Market moving. And Commissioner Guido Brunner's advice is that Parliament should do so if the Council fails to decide on where the Joint European Torus project



Gerd Springorum: 'It is a real scandal that the Council cannot decide on where the JET project – which should one day make us independent – should be carried out.'

(better known as JET) should be carried out. But Parliament is as reluctant to advise as to where JET should go as the Council is to decide.

Gerd Springorum (Ge, CD) chairman of the Energy Committee, put down a motion urging a decision on the siting of JET and possible sites were suggested: John Osborn (Br, EC) said either Culham in Oxfordshire or Garching in Germany would do although he preferred Culham, a view shared by Lord Bessborough (Br, EC). But an amendment tabled by Dutch Socialists Cornelis Laban, Schelto Patijn and Willem Albers, which would have had Parliament endorse the Commission's preference for Ispra, was defeated.

The general view – expressed by Silvio Leonardi (It, CA), Luigi Noè (It, CD) and Marcel Vandewiele (Be, CD) – is that nationalism should not stand in the way of a decision, as it has done now for twelve months.

Meanwhile the funds are budgeted, the staff is there and work is ready to commence on a programme which has the ultimate aim of utilising a new source of energy: the energy released by the fusion of the nuclei of light atoms, the energy source of the sun.

With the prospect of increasing independence of imports that JET holds out, the present decision-lag is an expense the Nine could do without, especially with a 10-15 per cent oil price hike round the corner.

Community now 7 billion dollars in the red

Commissioner Willy Haferkamp told Parliament the Community is now much worse off than in 1973, the year of the oil crisis. The EC surplus then was nearly 2 billion dollars. Today the deficit was 7bn. The number out of work had soared from 2 million to 5 million. And the cause, said Mr Haferkamp, was the cost of energy.

He warned the OPEC countries not to undermine the chances of economic recovery by increasing oil prices again now. To do so could trigger off protectionist measures and leave those developing countries which have no raw materials in an even worse predicament than they are in now. Oil producing countries and oil consuming countries are dependent on each other: 'for the world's economy to collapse would affect every one,' he said.

Nine acting as one more often

'The common foreign policy side of the Community is in extremely good health and improving day by day' said Sir Peter Kirk in Parliament's debate on how the Nine are shaping up in acting as one. Council President Max van der Stoel had told the House of the Nine's achievements in working together at Helsinki, at the UN, in trade negotiations and in the Euro-Arab dialogue.

What no one questions now is that the Nine should act as one. What many Members did criticise, however, was the Nine's failure to go even further. Renato Sandri criticised the Community's performance at Nairobi, Pierre Deschamps and Lucien Radoux asked whether the EC was making the most of its opportunities to 'use its good offices' and Lord Bethell was worried as to whether the implementation of the Helsinki agreement was being properly monitored. But these criticisms apart, the drift of the debate was that foreign policy cooperation is one of the Common Market's minor success stories. As Sir Peter said: 'Congratulations are in order to the ministers and I for one, though I spend most of my time attacking them, will never grudge congratulations when they are in order.'

QUESTION TIME

Questions to the Council

Max van der Stoel, Dutch Minister for Foreign Affairs and President of the Council, replied.

Incompatibilities rule in act on direct elections applies to first election only

Schelto Patijn (Du, S) was somewhat surprised to hear Mr van der Stoel tell Willi Dondelinger (Lu, S) that Article 6 (on incompatibilities) will apply to the first election only – Mr Dondelinger had expressed concern about differences between the incompatibility rules as between different Member States. Mr Patijn's surprise is occasioned by the fact that the act contains no date and so could apply ad infinitum. Pressed on this point, the Council President spoke somewhat vaguely of Parliament making proposals in the light of its experience. But he definitely suggested that the rules for 1978 are to be regarded as provisional only.

The reference to incompatibilities provoked Alain Terrenoire (Fr, EPD) to ask whether political personalities involved in the purchase of American equipment would be disbarred, bearing in mind the corrupt practices of some US firms in EC Member States. Mr van der Stoel assumed the question was rhetorical.

Little progress in multilateral negotiations in Geneva except regarding tropical products

This was virtually all Mr van der Stoel has to say in reply to a question from Pierre-Bernard Cousté (Fr, EPD) on progress on the Tokyo Round.

Council not at all unwilling to help UK but awaits outcome of negotiations with IMF first

Mr van der Stoel, who was replying to questions from Michel Cointat (Fr, EPD) and Hugh Dykes (Br, EC), made it perfectly clear that the Council is not at all unwilling to look into possibilities of helping Britain but that he felt it better to await the outcome of the UK's negotiations with the IMF first.

Council members are individually accountable to their national parliaments and collectively accountable, through their President, to the European Parliament

This was the substance of Mr van der Stoel's reply to Alex Fletcher (Br, EC). It did not go down very well. Ludwig Fellermaier (Ge, S) said: 'If you were to come back to Parliament as a Member you would not find the answers which you and other Council Presidents keep trotting out to us very satisfactory. The 260 million people of Europe have a right to more information than the meagre fare of Council press releases.'

Council's information policy not so obscure, says Max van der Stoel

Denying that the Council was unduly obscure in its information policy, Mr van der Stoel admitted that the need for confidentiality sometimes made things difficult. He also pointed out that Members could always ask their own ministers in their national parliaments about aspects of the Council's work. But Parliament's President Georges Spénale refused to let that pass without comment: different ministers had a habit of interpreting the same issues differently, he said. And what would the situation be in a directly elected European Parliament, where members might not have the right to quiz ministers in their own parliaments?

Questions to the Commission

Community's aid to refugees impartial

Claude Cheysson told the House that the Commission had made 10mua in aid available to Angola refugees in the past year. Answering supplementary questions, he insisted that Community help was based on humanitarian and not political considerations.

Italy expected to comply after Court judgement

Italy was the only Member State which was still not observing EEC Directive 71/305 on coordinating procedures for awarding public works contracts, Commissioner Finn Gundelach told Parliament. But on 22 December the Court of Justice would be handling down a judgement on the matter, after which the Commission was confident that Italy

would implement the directive. He thought that non-observance had caused a 'considerable' loss to the Italian economy.

Unemployment down Community-wide

Unemployment had dropped to around 5 million, Commissioner George Thomson said, and the number on short-time working was also down. Answering supplementary questions, he agreed that youth unemployment and redundancies were of key importance, and thought the tripartite conference had a role to play here. Referring to a question from André Guerlin (Fr, S), he admitted that unemployment was up in France, but repeated that, Community-wide, the trend was positive.

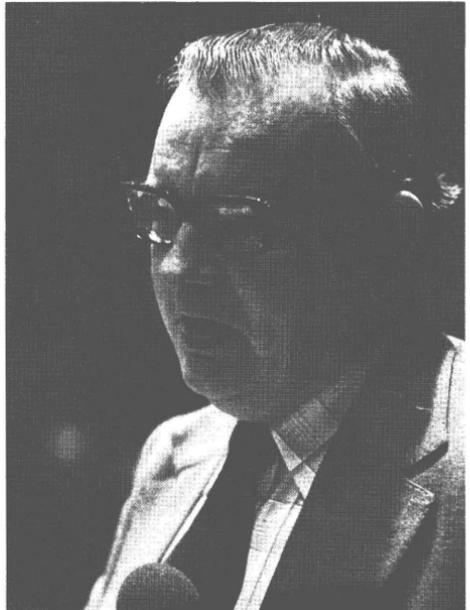
Anti-dumping complaint lodged

Finn Gundelach told the House that the Commission had formally lodged an anti-dumping complaint in respect of Japanese ball-bearings on 5 October 1976. To a supplementary question from Tom Normanton (Br, EC), who said a textile industry delegation was present in the official gallery, the Commissioner replied that similar measures would be taken in respect of any sector – including textiles – where the need arose.

Export credits policy must be based on consensus

The replies received from the four Member States invited to comment on their conclusion of gentlemen's agreements with the US and Japan on export credits did not change the legal situation, Finn Gundelach said. But he regretted **having to pursue infringement procedures**

Thomas Nolan: 'Does the Commissioner think it fair that while the production of sugar from sugarbeet is controlled by the Community, the production of sugar or fructose from maize is not controlled at all.'



in view of the considerable measure of agreement reached with the third countries involved. We needed a sound legal basis for our commercial policy, and it had to be found on the basis of consensus.

Did the Commission intend to control the production of artificial sugar?

'Yes,' said Commissioner Petrus Lardinois.

Keeping the ozone layer intact

Vice-President Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza told the House that the Commission was financing studies on the effects of fluorocarbons on the atmosphere's ozone layer in the framework of the multi-annual research programme. It would make appropriate proposals in the light of the results.

Dioxin was the result of a chance chemical reaction at Seveso. It was not being produced there.

Replying to John Osborn (Br, EC), Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza agreed that the EC Environmental Chemicals Data Information Network is valuable and confirmed it will be further developed.

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK

Monday 15th November to Friday 19th November 1976

MONDAY

- Three petitions received: on Euratom, on EC – Chile relations and on security screening of EC officials
- Order paper agreed – virtually unchanged

TUESDAY

- Commission agrees to sum up on its' experience on the last 4 years. Debate in December
- Parliament agrees to motion repeating that CAP aims can only be achieved if the prices and markets policy is backed up by adequate structures policy

Delay of Nine in implementing farm modernization directives deplored. Lardinois urges farmers to send in aid applications now
- Parliament approves new olive oil regulations (mainly affecting imports from Greece)
- Parliament calls Hertz to account for undercutting wages in Denmark. Motion protests at abuse of the principle of the free movement of workers
- EP should sue Council if it fails to agree on a site for JET at its meeting on 18 November
- House deplores EC's continuing dependency on imported energy, especially with a huge increase in oil bill in prospect for 1977
- House approves proposal for 4-year training programme for young scientists
- Parliament approves proposed changes in energy research and development programme

- Parliament calls on Commission to align Nine's laws on third-party insurance so as to facilitate cross frontier claim settlements
- Aart Geurtsen raises copyright problem involved in photocopying

WEDNESDAY

- Ovation for Ireland's President-elect
- Commission Vice-President Dr Patrick Hillery was congratulated by the European Parliament on his election as President of Ireland, an office he will assume on December 3rd

– QUESTION TIME

Max van der Stoel, Dutch Minister for Foreign Affairs and President of the Council answers six questions from the House. Questions to the Commission were answered by: Claude Cheysson (1), Finn Gundelach (3), George Thomson (1), Petrus Lardinois (1), Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza (2)

- House debates political cooperation between the Nine on basis of a report from Council President Max van der Stoel. This is one of the EC's minor success stories but Parliament feels more could be done, especially by making better use of the Davignon procedure.
- House agrees to Rules changes proposed by Willie Hamilton's procedure committee. There will be two 'Question Times' in future.
- House debates fishing but motion setting out what could be an EC compromise is referred to the Committee on Agriculture. Emphasis on 50-mile limit in interests of conservation, on the problems of policing the new 200-mile zone as of 1 January and on the inadequacy of quotas as a means of controlling who catches what. Neither Max van der Stoel nor Petrus Lardinois contribute anything new except perhaps for the intelligence that half the Community's fish are caught within twelve miles of the coasts.
- House approval for timid first steps towards catching the artful tax dodgers.

THURSDAY

- Unanimous praise for Horst Gerlach's bid to help solve border regions' out-in-the-cold problem. George Thomson's 'reluctant opposition'.
- House gives cautious welcome to Commission's comparative analysis of Nine's social services and security systems.
- Parliament expresses guarded optimism about economic situation but warns lack of solidarity could bring upswing to a halt. Willie Haferkamp warns OPEC countries about consequences of an oil price hike
- Parliament welcomes Commission's recommendation on helping to combat youth unemployment through vocational training, but feels that some of the details need looking at again.
- Parliament agrees to three motions on transport policy.
- Kai Nyborg's interim report on aid for transport infrastructure projects approved.

FRIDAY

- House agreed without debate to motion on frozen beef and veal.
- House underlines Community's absolute dependence on third countries for the bulk of its non-energy raw materials.
- Six Commission officials to look after consumer affairs too, few says Lord Bruce. Speakers call for greater Commission role in consumer affairs, propose separate portfolio.
- House agrees to Lord Bethell's comments endorsing Commission proposal concerning dumping of wastes at sea.
- EP and Commission continue to disagree about the proposed common laws on the manufacture and sale of jams, jellies and marmalades – mainly for technical reasons.

- The House agreed to Willi Müller’s motion on protecting the Rhine against chemical pollution. Hans-Edgar Jahn (Ge, CD) took the opportunity to express his regret that such important matters were always dealt with by Parliament in such summary fashion on Friday mornings.
- Camille Ney (Lu, CD) expressed reservations about the Commission’s proposals, which he found somewhat limited in scope – he wanted serums, vaccines and medicated feeding-stuffs included. Vice-President Henri Simonet replied that the Commission had every intention of further developing its programme.

The House agreed to the motion.

- Willi Müller introduced Andre Guerlin’s report on chilled poultry meat, and agreed to a Conservative amendment putting back to 1 January 1978 (the date proposed by the Commission) the deadline for banning the ‘spinchiller’ process.

The House agreed to the amendment and to the motion as a whole.

- Lord Walston (Br, S) introduced Betty Boothroyd’s report on Community imports of ACP beef and veal, stressing that the costs to the Community – between 12 and 19 million – were insignificant compared with the help the proposal would give to the countries involved – notably Botswana, but also Madagascar, Kenya and Swaziland.

The House agreed to the motion.

- The House approved Brondlund Nielsen’s (Da, L) motion approving the Commission’s 3-year food aid programme after Lord Bruce (Br, S) had taken the opportunity to repeat his past calls for the Community stock of skimmed milk powder (costing around 80 million per year) to be given to countries in need of food aid.

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