

European Parliament

Information series

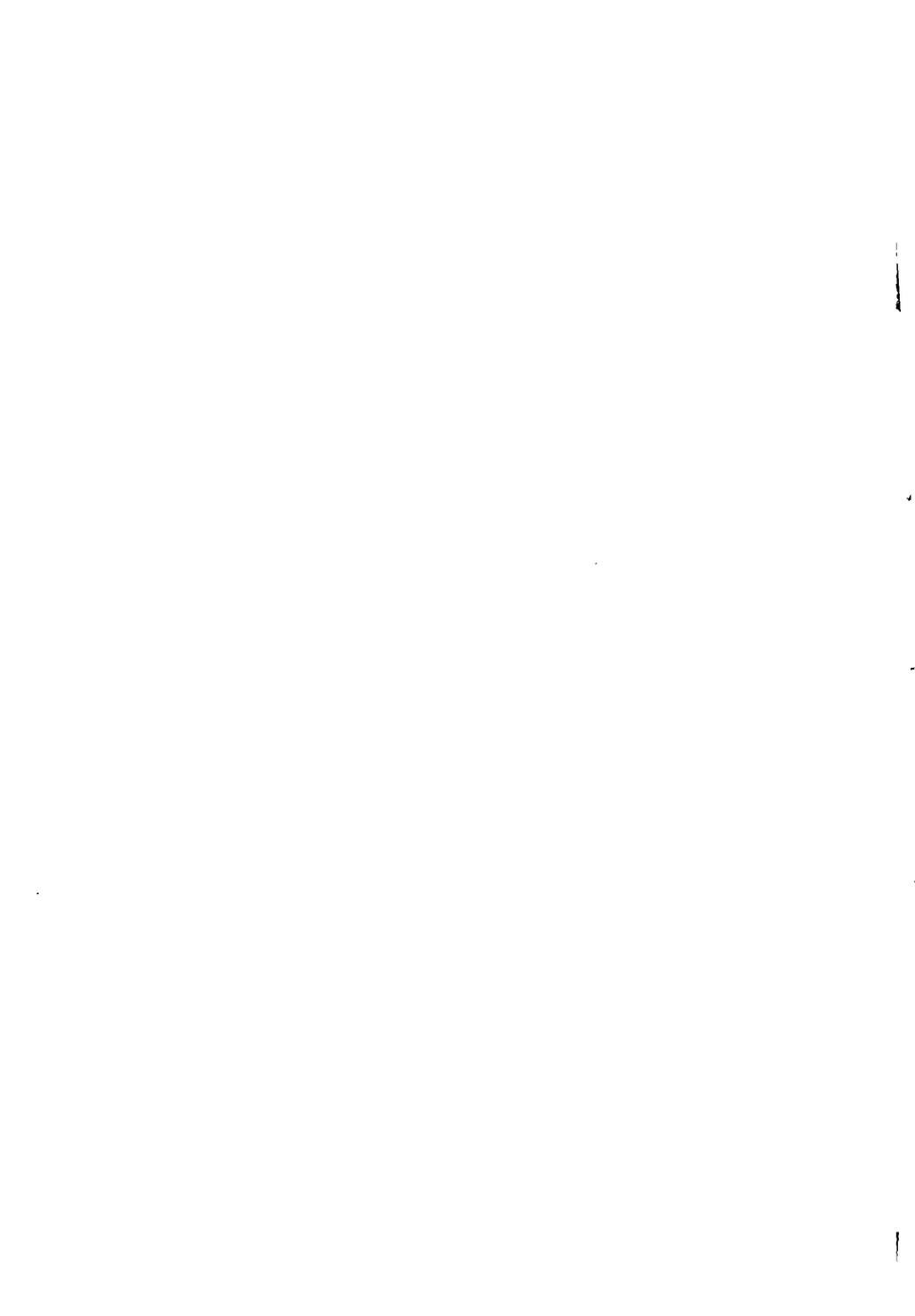
the sittings

8

september 1976

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SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1976 – 1977

Sittings held in Luxembourg

Monday 13 September to Friday 17 September 1976

The Week

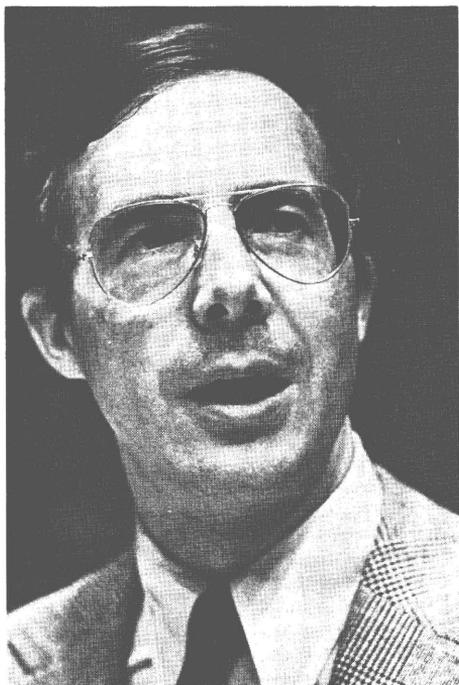
The good news this week was Laurens Jan Brinkhorst's announcement that the Nine Foreign Ministers would sign a decision (spelling out a date) and act (spelling out a commitment) on European elections at their meeting in Brussels on September 20th. This still leaves open the question of ratification (where necessary) by national parliaments and that of legislating to organize the elections themselves, hopefully for May or June 1978. But there is some optimism that all this can be done in time.

The other main issues arising this week were research, the drought and its aftermath, the proposed vegetable oils tax, competition and what can be learned from the Seveso disaster.

Green light for European elections

Laurens Jan Brinkhorst, Dutch Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and current President of the Community's decision-taking Council of Ministers, told the European Parliament on September 15th that the Council would take the final decision on European elections when it met in Brussels on September 20th.

This came as something of a surprise. The European Council (a sort of institutionalised twice yearly European summit) had given the green light in July. But the green light started to flicker when the British said they were not



*Laurens Jan Brinkhorst:
'September 20th 1976 will be a
famous day for Europe'*

sure they could get the necessary legislation through Westminster in time for European elections · 1978. Whereupon the French indicated that their constitution does not allow them to enter into any international agreement which is not fully reciprocated by the other parties to it. In other words, you either have European elections in all the Community's nine Member States in the Spring of 1978 or you have them in none.

Council President Brinkhorst was, however, reassuring. He gave to understand that a form of words has been found to cover both the British concern and the French constitutional objections.

His statement was welcomed. Turning to the nitty gritty, Parliament's leading spokesman on European elections Dutch Socialist Schelto Patijn was glad to note the big four (Britain, France, Italy and Germany), whom he referred to as the 'Puerto Rico Club' has given way on the principle of the number of seats

each country is to have being exactly proportionate to the number of its inhabitants.

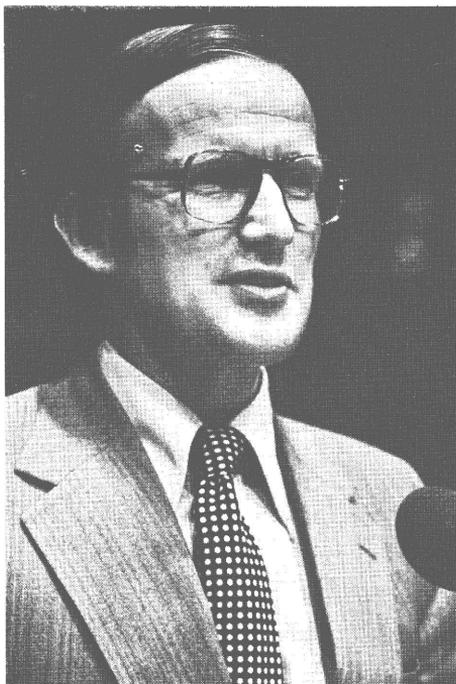
The resulting seat allocation would therefore be acceptable, if not ideal, he said.

European elections in 1978

Country	Population (thousands)	Seats in EP in 1978	Constituents per Member (thousands)
Belgium	9,772	24	407
Denmark	5,052	16	316
France	53,780	81	664
Germany	62,041	81	766
Ireland	3,086	15	206
Italy	55,361	81	683
Luxembourg	357	6	60
Netherlands	13,450	25	538
UK	56,056	81	692
<hr/>			
Nine	258,955	410	632
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Liberals have misgivings about electoral systems to used in 1978 but only Communists and a few Socialists are still clearly unhappy about the idea of European elections

Speaking for the Socialist Group, Michael Stewart (Br) welcomed Mr Brinkhorst's statement; the scheme for direct elections that had finally been agreed to could be objectionable only to those adamantly apposed to the very principle of such elections, he said. The future of a directly-elected Parliament was bright: many Members would no longer bear the burden of the dual mandate, and, being able to devote themselves to it full-time, would lend it new authority. Inevitably, he thought, Parliament would gain new powers – though at the expense of Council and Commission rather than the national parliaments. It was now up to the governments to inform the people about the European Parliament and Community in general in preparation for the elections. Although he had no mandate to speak for the British Government, Mr Stewart reminded



Schelto Patijn: 'September 20th is the end of a difficult phase. What awaits us is an even more difficult one.'

the House of the government's 'firm desire' to carry through legislation on direct elections in time for the May 1978 date. Although it had spoken of the possibility of 'practical difficulties' preventing this, there was no future in Britain for continued opposition to direct elections.

The Christian-Democrats were equally gratified at the news, the group's chairman, Alfred Bertrand (Be) told the House. The European citizen would at last have a say in how the Community should develop. The Christian-Democrat European Peoples Party was ready for the fray. But there was still much to be done. The convention would have to be ratified by all the national parliaments, which could prove to be a long draw-out procedure — here EP members had an important part to play. 410 was a good size for the new Parliament, he thought: it would make it possible for all political parties and all the Community's regions to be represented. Like other speakers, Mr Bertrand praised Schelto Patijn for his work — despite his youth, he had shown diplomacy and flexibility.

Jean Durieux (Fr), for the Liberals, stressed that Europe could now become a Europe of peoples rather than a Europe of States – and, he hoped, not too discussions about national sovereignty. Like the Christian-Democrats, the Liberals had set up a Europe-wide organization – the Federation of Liberal and Democratic parties. All European political parties would now have to develop a strategy for the elections.

Sir Peter Kirk, for the Conservatives, held his enthusiasm in check. He had ‘sufficient doubts about the workings of the Council ... that I will not be uncorking the champagne until it happens, but I have sufficient trust in the Dutch presidency to get the champagne out of the cellar and put it on ice.’

The Conservatives would do all they could to ensure the implementation of the Convention. A long chapter would end on September 20th, but a new one would begin on September 21st – the long march towards the rendezvous with the electors.

What Christian de la Malène, (Fr, EPD spokesman) wanted to know was what the Nine would be signing on September 20th – an ‘acte’, a ‘décision’ or an ‘accord’? Council President Brinkhorst simply replied that it would be an enactment of Rome Treaty article 138.

Mr Giovanni Boano (It, CD) agreed that too much enthusiasm could be premature; the signature on September 20th was a beginning, not a conclusion. And when direct elections had taken place, the Assembly would begin the long and difficult task of finding its proper place and function in a Europe moving towards greater integration.

Among the other speakers, William Hamilton (Br, S) expressed grave doubt on whether the necessary legislation can be got through Westminster in time. Gwyneth Dunwoody (Br, S) was totally opposed to the motion before the House and Gérard Bordu (Fr, CA) said the Communists would abstain. Mrs Dunwoody argued that direct elections would only confer on Europe ‘a semblance of democracy’ and Mr Bordu felt they would undermine the national sovereignty of France. Ole Espersen (Da, S) and Renato Sandri (It, CA) also had reservations.

Winnie Ewing (Br, Ind), on the other hand, made it clear the Scottish National Party is very much in favour of direct elections to the European Parliament.

The following motion was then put to the vote:

(The European Parliament)

Calls upon the Council of the Communities to finally sign the act at its meeting of 20 September 1976;

Insists that the European Council's decision on 2 December 1975 in Rome that the election will take place in May/June 1978 should be respected;

Notes the total number of seats and their distribution between the Member States decided by the European Council on 12 July 1976 and declares its agreement thereto;

Calls upon the governments and parliaments of the Member States to put the ratification procedures in hand as soon as possible after the signing of the legal act and to adopt the necessary implementing measures so that the election can take place on the agreed date;

After some debate over amendments, including a Liberal one relating to proportional representation the motion was agreed to by an overwhelming majority.

Uproar over margarine tax

The European Community at present has more than a million tons more skimmed milk powder than it knows what to do with. It has had this surplus for some time and there is no reason to believe the Community is going to be able to get rid of it in the near future.

When the European Parliament met in Luxembourg in July, Lord Walston (Br, S) suggested it would be cheaper and more honourable to give at least half of the surplus away. After all, it costs some 80 maa per annum just to store.

But this, apparently, is not to be. Instead as Farm Commissioner Petrus Lardinois announced in July, there is to be a series of measures designed to stop skimmed milk powder surpluses occurring and recurring. They include making dairy producers partly responsible for surpluses, phasing out dairy farm support measures, paying a premium for non-delivery of milk and levying a tax on vegetable fats.

The intended effect of these measures would be to reduce the Community herd, to make butter prices more attractive in comparison with margarine and to make the dairy farmer rather warier in his assessment of the market.

The measures proposed achieved instant unpopularity and were immediately opposed – both by the dairy farm lobby in one corner and the consumer lobby (anti-margarine tax) in the other.

But whereas the dairy lobby has sufficient support on the Community's decision-taking Council of Ministers to block the – to them – unacceptable part of the Commission's anti-milk powder mountain package, the consumer lobby felt no such assurance.

And it was left, first to the 'The Guardian' on July 10th (after the measures were first announced) and later to the Socialist Group in the European Parliament (on September 15th) to put the case for the consumer. The Guardian, which Willie Hamilton (Br, S) quoted when his Group demanded and got an emergency debate on the vegetable oils tax immediately after Question Time, called the proposed tax 'preposterous'. Gwyneth Dunwoody (Br, S) said it ran Alice-in-Wonderland a pretty close second.

But tough talking though this was, it did not shake Farm Commissioner Petrus Lardinois. 'I like this sort of debate' he said with some relish. And he then proceeded to state the problem and the Commission's limited scope for solving it. To cut the milk price would be one solution but the Council would never accept it. And it was because that door was closed that the Commission was proposing the present measures.

And he added – showing he could give as good as he got – that the tax proposed had first been mooted by his predecessor Sicco Mansholt, who was a Socialist.

As for the actual tax, there had been an element of exaggeration, he said. It would be less than one third of the 60 pfennigs per kilogram figure that was being quoted: more like 2 – 4 pfennigs per 250 grams (say, not more than 1p or 2p per pound).

Mr Lardinois added that the margarine tax would be offset or 'neutralized' by a tax on milk production.

Lord Reay (Br, EC) wanted to know what effect the tax was likely to have on imports of vegetable fats (coconut oil, palm oil and groundnut oil) from the developing countries. Mr Lardinois said he would let him have the figures in time for Parliament's scheduled debate in October. He did point out though that vegetable fat imports from the developing countries are declining whereas those from East Europe and especially those from the United States are increasing.

It was, incidentally, because Parliament had already planned a debate on the Commission's proposals in October that most of the political groups did not take part in the debate on September 15th. Most of them thought the debate ill-timed. But it did give the Socialists — who are tending increasingly to identify with the consumer interest — a chance to make their point.

Parliament returned to the subject the following day when an oral question put down by James Scott-Hopkins was debated.

Milk and the margarine levy

Introducing his oral question to the Commission on milk, James Scott-Hopkins (Br, EC) asked Petrus Lardinois whether the proposals for a levy on vegetable fats and oils did not run counter to GATT regulations. If they did, there was sure to be a major row, with the Americans in particular voicing objections. Moreover, he doubted the Commissioner's view that the levy would not significantly affect quantities of imports of vegetable fats.

Part of the Commission's plan to cut the structural surplus of milk involved putting a levy on liquid milk at the dairy stage. Mr Scott-Hopkins reminded the House. This levy would surely work its way through to butter, which would then cost more. However, the new levy on vegetable fats would put up the price of margarine as well — with the result that the relative price differential between butter and margarine would hardly change. Wouldn't the milk producer therefore be able to sell just as much as before?

Commissioner Lardinois thought the questioner's fears were unfounded. The vegetable fats levy was entirely compatible with GATT rules, since it applied equally to imported and domestic products. There was no discrimination. The Americans might object, but if they did that would simply be a further example of their extreme sensitivity to the CAP. Nor did he think that imports of vegetable fats would go down.

As to butter, Mr Lardinois did not think that the tax on liquid milk would be reflected in the price of butter. The levy would just be one more cost the producer would have to take into account — milk producers already had taxes to pay on grain or tractors, say. That was not so in the case of margarine producers, who so far had had duty and levy free access to the basic materials they needed. It was here that an unfair distortion had been taking place, and that was the reason for the proposed levy.

Referring to price levels, Mr Cornelis Laban (Du, S) suggested they were much higher than Petrus Lardinois or 'most Members of this House' wanted.

Albert Liogier (Fr, EPD) thought the question premature. There had so far been no proposals on the notion of shared responsibility for milk production. There had only been the outline of a programme. He did add, however; that any levy on milk producers would be 'politically inopportune'.

Lord St. Oswald (Br, EC) wanted to know what the Commission's actual intentions were. The proposed levy would penalise the dairyman for producing milk — the efficient one as much as the inefficient one. He asked Mr Lardinois if he 'wants us to get out of milk production and into beef and mutton production?' 'This, he added, is where I came in in 1973'. Shifting the emphasis to beef production had led to a surplus where selling prices were below cost of production. What, he wanted to know, is the beef deficit at the moment. And what is the mutton deficit?

Lord Castle (Br, S) thought the proposal illogical and unpopular. Jim Callaghan has called it 'daft'. But it was worse. For people unable to eat butter for health reasons it was something of a penalty. And, to boot, it would hit the developing countries. It must be withdrawn.

Georges Carpentier (Fr, S) was concerned about the balance of the market and Cornelis Laban thought it wrong to encourage people to stop producing milk.

Petrus Lardinois then replied briefly to the various speakers.

The acceptable face of competition

Another issue where opinion tends to polarise as between the Left and the Centre-Right is competition. And it is worth noting here (as Lord Ardwick pointed out in the debate) that the Treaty of Rome stands midway between them. It is quite neutral in the confrontation between advocates of state intervention on the one hand and protagonists of the free market economy on the other.

And polarise opinion it certainly did when the European Parliament came to discuss competition in September 1975. Then the Socialist Group, newly-strengthened by the arrival of British Labour Members (who had waited for the

Tom Normanton: 'The fact that the Nine have not reverted to economic nationalism is an important tribute to the European Community.'



referendum before taking up the seats to which they were entitled) challenged the report on competition drawn up by Tom Normanton (Br, EC) and, in fact, defeated it.

Mr Normanton returned to the House this year with a report on competition that was much more generally acceptable – in fact, after amendment, it was endorsed by the whole House. His report, incidentally, was not on competition as an economic abstraction but on the European Commission's actual performance in the field of competition in 1975 as set out in its fifth report on the subject, a report produced after a lot of heart-searching in the Commission itself.

But whereas the Commission's report said where the Community was at in 1975, Parliament's debate was much more about what role competition should play in today's economy.

Albert Liogier (Fr) summed up the European Progressive Democrat view: 'With help being given everywhere — to lessen the difficulties of the economic crisis and its social consequences, one has a right to ask if one should still leave it to the market to improve the efficiency of the services of society as a whole. We say 'yes' because competition helps bring supply and demand into line with our changing techniques and the changes in our likes and dislikes.'

Mr Tom Normanton, Parliament's rapporteur, put it this way: 'the policy objectives of the Community (when it comes to competition) are to get away from historic restraints on trade everywhere, but particularly, on internal trade. It is by the success in this field that I think the Community and the Commission should be judged.'

But Lord Ardwick (Br, S) disagreed: 'During the coming years, the technological and human problems of restructuring are going to be vast, and they are sometimes going to be agonizing. So competition policy is not enough, it is too narrow and it is too negative to deal with the problems. The Community needs to think more in terms of a positive industrial policy.'

Willie Hamilton agreed. On the general point he said: 'We in the Socialist Group have a basic aim of tempering private capitalistic power with public accountability.' But what concerned him most was the growing power of multinational companies. He quoted Professor Dunning's estimate that by 1985 about 300 multinational supergiants will control the world economy.

John Prescott (Br) added: 'Clearly the question before us is how to develop a new economic philosophy, a political economy that will enable us to control the tremendous concentration of economic and political power just referred to.'

Mr Prescott then referred to the practices of certain corporations, notably Hoffman La Roche and the oil companies. 'If we are to tighten our controls, he said, it may well be that this House will itself develop a kind of Senator Church Committee such as we have seen in the United States and begin to investigate charges against the oil companies and other concentrated multinationals.'

During this speech Labour Members took offence at a remark made by Elaine Kellett-Bowman (Br, EC) and asked for its withdrawal. James Scott-Hopkins, in the Chair, was in a very difficult position — both as deputy leader of the European Conservatives and as a newly-elected Vice-President in the Chair for the first time. What he did was to use a resource often used in the House of

Commons. He said the Chair had not heard – very much to the point as he was wearing earphones. After a series of interventions by Labour Members, Mrs Kellett-Bowman made a formal withdrawal and an explanation of what had moved her to make the remark complained of.

The motion tabled by Mr Normanton broadly welcoming the Commission's achievements but pressing for action in a number of fields was then put to the vote, amended slightly and agreed to. The main amendment concerned point 9 and called for a specific reference to Hoffman La Roche : '(the European Parliament) supports the Commission's efforts to prevent unfair practices such as price-fixing, as exemplified by its action against United Brands, Hoffman La Roche and others.'

Drought and the cost of living

The drought which has caused such havoc in Europe's farms this summer ought not to affect prices unduly said Farm Commissioner Petrus Lardinois in reply to question in the European Parliament on September 16th.

It would not be until the end of the winter that the full effects of the drought could be evaluated, he said, but the effects would be felt for a long time to come.

Food supplies, however, ought to remain normal for Europe's 260 million consumers with prices remaining normal in the case of most of the basic commodities.

Helping the consumer

Import duties on potatoes would stay off until December 31st, the Council had decided. And this duty waiver could go on after that if need be. Duty waivers on other vegetables would stay off until November 30th with the same possibility of a further extension. Mr Lardinois thought vegetable prices should be about the same as last winter.

Helping the farmer

Duties on imports of feeding stuffs still dutiable at present would be lifted until next April. This would not represent very much help, said Mr Lardinois. But, he



Pierre Bourdellès: 'For lack of organized markets farmers have gradually given up growing potatoes because they have ceased to be profitable.'

added, high priority would be given to applications for help for regional water schemes. In reply to Michel Cointat (Fr), EPD spokesman, he expressed doubt about putting any actual cash into the standby fund (chapter 59) in the Community's budget.

Green pound should be devalued

James Scott-Hopkins, EC spokesman on farming, told the House that the UK agricultural industry's income would be from 300 million pounds to 400 million pounds down on last year. He urged a devaluation of the green pound. This is the artificially over-valued pound used in Common Agricultural Policy calculations.

Community research has a future but no bets on JET yet

Community research does have a future now, thanks to the Commission's latest proposal. But no one seems willing to take any bets that the siting of Joint European Torus is going to be decided yet awhile. So Europe's lead in the field

of fusion – the most promising source of energy for the future – is being whittled away.

What the Commission is proposing is a rolling programme for the Joint Research Centre (comprising establishments at Ispra, Karlsruhe, Geel and Petten) to cover the years 1977-1980.

Luigi Noè (It, CD), one of the European Parliament's leading spokesmen on energy matters, explained that the programme would cover most aspects of energy research, including that into energies of the future like solar energy, hydrogen, nuclear fusion and high temperature materials. He asked Parliament to agree to the motion tabled by Mrs Hanna Walz (Ge, CD) approving the Commission proposal.

After some discussion and with reservations in some quarters, the motion was agreed to.

Agreement with Canada welcomed

On September 14th Parliament gave a warm welcome to the framework agreement for commercial and economic cooperation between Canada and the Community (which was signed on 6 July). In the presence of a delegation from the Canadian Parliament, Mr Giovanni Bersani (It, CD), rapporteur for the Committee on External Economic Relations, said that this was the EC's first such agreement with an industrialized country. It could be a model for others in the future. It went further than simply a trade agreement : it was also unmistakably political.

This was a point underlined by Lord Reay (Br) for the Conservatives, who saw the Canadian initiative partly in terms of its efforts to assert its independence vis-à-vis the USA. It was no less welcome for that: Canada had strong cultural and historical links with Europe. A real affection existed between the peoples of the two sides (96 per cent of Canada's population was of European descent). It was a stable democracy in a world increasingly hostile to democracy. And, in trade terms, Canada was an exporter of raw materials, which the EC needed but lacked, and Europe had much to offer Canada in the fields of high technology and semi-processed goods.

Manfred Schmit (Ge) speaking for the Socialist Group, felt the agreement would help to free Canada somewhat from its status as an American dependency.

Giovanni Bersani: The agreement deserves whole-hearted approval as a landmark both in relations between Canada and the Community and in the development of the Community's commercial policy.



Canada and the EC had much to offer one another. But he did feel that the question of non-discriminatory access to Canada's natural resources — particularly uranium — would have to be solved if the agreement was to be a complete success.

The Christian Democrats also welcomed the agreement. Their spokesman, Egon Klepsch (Ge), felt that it could be expanded to cover further areas of mutual interest. He saw an important part for the private sector in fulfilling the terms of the agreement.

Mr Kai Nyborg (Da, EPD) agreed that the agreement would expand — research and environmental cooperation were two aspects likely to emerge. The outstanding problem, as Mr Schmidt has pointed out, remained access to Canada's natural resources.

The framework agreement was still something of a skeleton, according to Richard Mitchell (Br, S); 'now we want to see what flesh we can put on its bones.' The European Parliament would do well to keep a close eye on how the agreement developed.

Tam Dalyell (Br, S) intervened briefly to ask Sir Christopher Soames whether the Commission was aware of the existence of a uranium-price cartel. (Sir Christopher said later that it was – and was considering the matter).

Michele Cifarelli (It, S) said that the UK's entry into the Community had meant that the Commonwealth connection had taken on an important new dimension. Now Canada was linked not only to Britain – and France – but to the EC as a whole. The question of uranium was vital – it might help to solve just such political matters as this if links between the two parliaments were institutionalized.

Canada exported more to the EC than vice-versa, John Osborn (Br, EC) said. We needed Canadian wheat, but Canada should also be willing to buy more from us. But there were other fields for cooperation – joint development of heavy water reactors, for example. The Community also had something to learn from Canadian timber research.

Replying, Sir Christopher Soames said the framework agreement was indeed more than just a trade agreement – ‘so something has been added to the currency of the Community's external relations.’ The agreement could lead, in Sir Christopher's words, to a high degree of ‘economic intimacy.’ But we were not engaged in instant diplomacy, he said, so that if flesh did not appear on the agreement's bones overnight, no matter.

Closer cooperation between both of us – directed against nobody – is of interest to both sides.’

The House agreed to the motion.

22nd Joint Meeting with Council of Europe

In contrast to the European Community with its Nine Member States (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands and the United Kingdom) the Council of Europe bring together 18 countries (the Common Market's Nine plus Austria, Cyprus, Greece, Iceland, Malta, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey). Consequently Members of the European Parliament have always welcomed the opportunity afforded to them by an annual meeting with members of the Council of Europe's assembly to seek out a wider consensus. And this year, the year of the 22nd joint meeting, was a case in



Giuseppe Vedovato: 'We have the choice between accepting the splits across Europe and working, gradually, for real unity, especially political unity.'

point. Its aim was to find a consensus about Europe's responsibilities in the world. And to this end, the meeting considered two reports, one drawn up for the Council of Europe by Mr Giuseppe Vedovato and the other drawn up for the European Parliament by Sir Geoffrey de Freitas (who was, incidentally, President of the Council of Europe's Assembly from 1966-1969).

Mr Georges Spénale, President of the European Parliament, opened the twenty-second joint meeting of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament by welcoming the delegates, noting that this was the first such meeting to be held outside Strasbourg.

He called Mr Giuseppe Vedovato, rapporteur for the Council of Europe, to open the debate on European responsibilities in the world. In his written report Mr Vedovato's main emphasis was on the North-South dialogue: it is only if the Northern States demonstrate solidarity with their Southern partners, especially in Europe, that democracy can be saved.

His report dealt in some detail with Europe's responsibilities vis-à-vis Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Malta, Portugal and Spain. He commented too on the need for Europe to be present at "non-aligned" conferences which are attended by some 100 countries. But he expressed reservations about Puerto Rico type summits from which 16 European countries were absent.

Mr Vedovato's report referred to Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky's suggestion that there should be regular meetings between the democratic states of Europe. These would provide valuable opportunities for 'dialogue, under the auspices of the Council of Europe, for the eleven European democracies that are not in the Community.

Mr Vedovato concluded the presentation of his report to loud applause and the President then called Sir Geoffrey de Freitas, rapporteur for the European Parliament.

Sir Geoffrey spoke of the need for Europe to assume an increasing share of western man's burden, particularly in view of the relative decline of the United States in the world's balance of power. (And particularly because the recent recession could be the start of a 'new economic ice age').

Turning to the Nine's responsibilities in Europe itself, he wondered whether the crucial issues of enlarging the Community had really been thought through. In the case of Greece the problems were immense.

As for the relations with East Europe, he was not as optimistic as Mr Vedovato about an East-West dialogue developing to the benefit of the South but he did feel one should resist the temptation to distrust Russia. (He quoted the British diplomat at the Congress in Vienna in 1814 who, hearing a Russian diplomat had died in the night, wondered what his motive could have been for doing so).

And Sir Geoffrey emphasized the importance of Europe's dialogue with the Arab countries. This could be the means to triangular cooperation.

He spoke then of the Community's own efforts to help the developing world: the Lomé Convention, its aid schemes, its generalized preferences (to be dramatically increased in 1977).

But Sir Geoffrey recognized this was not enough. Sweden was giving 0.8 per cent of its GNP in developing aid but only the Netherlands among the Nine had reached the aid target of 0.7 per cent of the GNP set by the United Nations. And this in itself was 'unforgivable'. He concluded by emphasizing all Europe still has to do.

Sir Geoffrey's speech was loudly applauded. President Spénale then called Sir Christopher Soames.

Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the European Commission, emphasised how Europe's approach to its responsibilities is governed by the structure of its economy. 'The ratio of our foreign trade to our gross national product is twice that of the United States and three times that of the USSR.' Coupled with this dependence on foreign trade is the diversity of Europe's trade relations: 40 per cent of our open market industrialized countries and half with the open market industrialized countries. So, from Europe's point of view, an open world economy is desirable.

To this end, Europe had a low external tariff. And, at Geneva, at the multinational trade negotiations the Community is pursuing lower tariffs to secure an expansion of trade and promote the economic expansion of the third world.



*Sir Geoffrey de Freitas:
'Europe's primary concern so far
has been internal ... but that is
no longer possible.'*

These were the factors shaping the Community's policies. The values underlying them were these of the pluralistic democracy. (Though, he said, this did not make us "the moral conscience of mankind").

These ideals are not ours alone, Sir Christopher added. That is why the Community has responded to Greece and Portugal and it will respond to Spain in the same way once it is set on the path to democracy.

Turning to East Europe, he said he was glad that after years of cold-shouldering Comecon is now moving towards normal relations with the Community. Ultimately, however, the primary responsibility for Europe does lie with the governments. And Sir Christopher spoke with regret of "too many missed opportunities." Europe's interests will only prevail when governments take them into account. Concluding, he said: "We must measure our success not by what we think we can do but by what we know we must do." Sir Christopher's speech was loudly applauded.

Developing the theme of Europe's responsibilities towards the third world, Mr Helmut Artzinger (Ge), for the Christian Democrats, said that development was the new name for freedom. And development was very much an obligation of the free economies of the world. STABEX and other aid schemes were a start, but more was needed. But, he added, it would be unfair to make today's generations bear the full responsibility for the mistakes its colonial forbears had made.

Mr Ilhan (Turkey, CE) stressed that Europe would not be able to live up to its world-wide obligations until the foreign policies of its various member countries had been brought into

line – and what was ultimately needed was political union. A common defence policy was essential, too – Europe could not forever rely on US military protection. A Europe unable to look after itself could hardly be expected to look after anyone else.

Echoing the previous speaker's concern for defence, Lord Gladwyn, speaking for the Liberal Group, lamented the inaction of Europe as a whole and the Nine in particular in adopting common policies in the face of growing Soviet military might. The one hopeful glimmer on the horizon was direct elections to the European Parliament: such a parliament would inevitably grow in strength and push towards European union. Until, then however, the Council of Europe would continue to have a role in European affairs. If Europe failed to move towards union, however, the speaker foresaw the Council's splendid new building in Strasbourg making an ideal headquarters for COMECON.

On behalf of the Socialist Group, Mr John Prescott began by emphasizing that Europe was more than just the Nine. The Council of Europe also had a part to play in identifying European responsibilities. There was no alternative to Europe sharing a part of its wealth with the third world – the economic interdependence of the modern world made a certain sacrifice on Europe's part not only a matter of morality but one of self-interest.

Despite this, Europe has been taking a generally hard line towards concessions to the third world, which was not to its credit.

Mr Radius (France, CE) agreed that cooperation should be based on more than just self-interest. Europe was vulnerable from the economic and military points of view, and history had left Europe with a legacy of obligation towards the third world. We should not always blindly follow American policy in our own approach towards the developing countries. After all, it was Europe's non-power bloc status that gave it so much prestige in the third world.

Lord Reay, for the European Conservatives, referred to the Nine's increasing ability to agree on foreign policy issues – he pointed to the record of the EC's spokesman, who last year had spoken on behalf of the Community as a whole on thirty occasions, up from four in 1973. Where the Council of Europe and the European Parliament both had a part to play was in relations with the third world. The wealth of all our countries could be seen as a provocation by the poor of the world. The speaker did not agree that Europe was showing intransigence in its attitudes to the developing countries.

Mr Mattick (Germany, CE) spoke of Europe's role in southern Africa. We could not afford to see a new Angolan situation there. Europe needed to take a united stand on what he described as the 'class conflict' represented by apartheid. But there was also more Europe could be doing at home – we had a family obligation towards Northern Ireland or Cyprus.

Mr Cornelis Berkhouwer (Netherlands, EP) thought that the third world had a higher opinion of Europe than Europe did of itself. They regarded us as a partner – so whilst we had our responsibilities, they also had theirs. He felt the USA and Japan – should conduct the dialogue with the developing countries jointly. The speaker also appealed for more cooperation in combatting air piracy.

This was a theme taken up by Mr James Spicer (UK, EP) who felt that Europe was not pressing hard enough for an international anti-terrorism treaty. We had a responsibility towards our own citizens and those of the rest of the free world to do more in this field.

Mr Aano (Norway, CE) thanked members of the European Parliament who had made a point of stressing that Europe was more than just the Community of Nine. Referring to the need for a new world economic order, the speaker said that a measure of our sincerity in wanting to help the developing countries was our willingness to accept a slower increase in our own wealth.

Mr Frangos (Greece, CE) agreed with Lord Gladwyn that direct elections to the European Parliament would be a step towards the goal of European union. Until that was achieved, Europe could never speak with one voice. One of the most urgent problems for Europe at present was the Mediterranean area, and in particular Cyprus.

It was all very well talking about European responsibility for this or that, said Mr Cifarelli (Italy, EP) but since Europe was not a political entity it could not exercise responsibility. He referred to Mao Tse Tung's desire to see a united Europe, which was necessary for both our own future and for the sake of the rest of the world. The speaker saw the role of the Council of Europe as a forum in which all European countries in difficulties could receive aid and encouragement.

Among the other speakers, Mr Hofer (Switzerland, CE) said his country's lack of enthusiasm for development aid stemmed to some extent from its distrust of the UN.

Lord Walston, referring to Southern Africa, thought Europe must make its combined voice heard to avoid a holocaust there. And its voice should be pressure on Mr Vorster to turn off the tap of Rhodesia's petrol supplies.

Mr Critchley (UK, CD) said Europe had the means to make itself secure but the USA had exempted her from the need to think seriously.

Mr Andrew Faulds (UK, CE) too thought it deplorable Europe was standing aside in Southern Africa, especially as its influence was potentially greater than Dr Kissinger's.

Mr McNamara (UK, CE) took the meeting to task for saying too little about the 'nitty gritty'. He spoke about fishing. Here he was interrupted by Sir Christopher Soames who asked: 'Am I right in supposing the honourable Member hopes the Commission will make a better job of negotiating with Iceland than H.M. Government has?' Mr McNamara urged a common line in the negotiations.

Mr Willie Hamilton (UK, CE) also referred to what Mr Faulds had called 'the citadel of racism'. Mr Hamilton called South Africa the powder keg of the world. And he was cynical about Dr Kissinger's initiative. He thought they had more to do with American elections than African peace. Looking ahead, he hoped that direct elections would see opinion polarising on the major issues. Europe will then be able to act more decisively, particularly when it comes to such questions as sanction-breaking.

Winding up, Mr Guiseppe Vedovato said one speaker had quoted Dante's quip about necessity being the spur of fortune. He felt that the need was there for Europe to act together but it wasn't spurring fortune very hard.

In conclusion Sir Geoffrey de Freitas expressed his thanks to those taking part and to Mr Karl Czernetz in the Chair. Mr Czernetz also thanked the participants and then declared the 22nd joint meeting closed.

Helping the hungry

One thousand million people in the world suffer from malnutrition while the European Community succeeds, year after year, in producing enormous food surpluses. 'To me,' said British Socialist Member Lady Fisher of Rednal, 'death by starvation on the one hand and destruction of food on the other is entirely repugnant'.

Lady Fisher was introducing an oral question to the Commission, tabled by herself and four Socialist colleagues, on the role of the common agricultural policy (CAP) in helping to combat hunger in the developing countries. She thought more could be done than simply provide food aid. The developing countries wanted to be able to help themselves, but what they needed for that was know-how. 'What better knowledge can come than from the farmers in Europe, who somehow seem to be able to produce food surpluses?' she wanted to know.

In reply, agriculture Commissioner Petrus Lardinois said that the Community currently imported agricultural products from the third world to the tune of 12,000 million dollars a year — more than from the USA, Canada, Japan, the USSR and the East European countries put together. And he agreed with another point Lady Fisher had made — while people were starving, it was irresponsible to use cereals and oil seeds as fodder for livestock when it took five kilos of cereals to produce one kilo of meat.

Lord Walston, also from the Socialist benches, thought that Europe paid too little for the food it imported. 'We must start this fight against malnutrition by raising the price of the primary commodities', he said. In the view of Jan de Koning, who spoke for the Christian Democrats, some European countries could make a positive contribution by lifting the heavy taxes they imposed on certain tropical products like coffee, cocoa and sugar. And for the European Progressive

Democrats, Albert Liogier stressed that the CAP had a role to play in reorganizing world agricultural markets. 'World agricultural potential is underutilized; Europe can and must help to improve it,' he said.

QUESTION TIME

Questions to the Council

1. *Withholding of financial aid from a Member State*

Mr Laurens Jan Brinkhorst, President of the Council, pointed out that, since the Community as such had not been represented at the Puerto Rico economic summit, he as Council President was in no position to comment on what individual Member States, acting in their own behalf, may have agreed. The question of EC participation at future meetings of this kind had been discussed by the Council, and would be discussed again if the occasion demanded.

2. *Uganda*

The Council was watching the situation in Uganda closely, Mr Brinkhorst said. In a supplementary question, Mr Tom Normanton (Br, EC) asked the Council if it agreed that, without a joint position on such matters, the Council was undermining its own effectiveness in combatting international terrorism. Mr Brinkhorst said that achieving joint positions on foreign policy issues was indeed a matter of priority for the Community.

3. *Council's rules of procedure*

There was no Treaty obligation for the Council to publish its rules of procedure, said Mr Brinkhorst. He agreed with Mr Alexander Fletcher (Br, EC), however, that secrecy is no friend of democracy; but this, surely, applied not only to the Council, but to other Community bodies as well. Honesty was a virtue, 'even in politics.'

Questions to the Commission

4. *Data-processing*

Commissioner Cesidio Guazzaroni, making his European Parliament debut, outlined various recent agreements concluded between computer firms. He said that the Commission was currently drawing up a four-year plan for data-processing in the Community, which would be submitted to Parliament in due course.

5. *Oil versus fish : Kai Nyborg asks where does Commission stand?*

Petrus Lardinois replied that if the Commission is given power in a 200 mile economic zone, it will have to weigh the oil and fishing interests carefully. The question was the occasion for

another exchange of views between Winifred Ewing (Br, Ind) and Tam Dalyell (Br, S). Should the Commission not call a spade a spade, asked Mr Dalyell, when Members (he meant Mrs Ewing) talk nonsense? Mr Lardinois said the House might always expect courteous replies from the Commission, especially when the question was put by a lady.

6. John Osborn asks about sugar negotiations

Petrus Lardinois told the House that the Commission would be looking for more satisfactory arrangements for the Community as a whole in the negotiation of a new international sugar agreement.

In reply to John Evans (Br, S) he said estimates were that beet production would be some 100 to 200,000 tons below what was needed in the Community market. Kai Nyborg (Da, EPD) pointed out sugar growers want to plant more. Mr Lardinois said it was more likely production would have to be limited.

7. Tam Dalyell asks Commission about Scots law

François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission, told Mr Dalyell the Commission is fully aware that there are three distinct legal orders in the United Kingdom. He explained in detail how the characteristics of Scots law are taken into account. But, he added, 'we have nine legal systems to consider.'

8. Michel Cointat asks about help for fish farming

Michel Cointat (Fr, EPD), who said a fish farm was very like a field of peas, welcomed Commissioner Lardinois's agreement to a debate on fish farming in the near future. Mr Lardinois said proposals could soon be forthcoming for restructuring this sector.

9. William Molloy's concern about London

Commissioner George Thomson told William Molloy that the problems of the great conurbations would have to be looked at more closely in future. Mr Molloy is concerned because London, not being classified as a development area, is not entitled to help from the Community's regional fund. He is particularly concerned about the effect on industry of this state of affairs.

10. Recruiting of new staff

In the Commission in Brussels, according to Mr Mark Hughes (Br, S), there are 844 Belgians in the A and B grades, and only 444 Britons — despite the fact that the UK's population is five times that of Belgium. President François-Xavier Ortoli pointed out that officials are recruited on the basis of qualifications, not nationality. Whilst there was something of a lack

John Evans: 'The next Regional Fund must not only be a great deal larger but coupled with a Community policy discouraging the overconcentration of wealth and investment in certain regions of this Community.'



of balance at present, he was sure it would even itself out in due course. Mr Ortolí firmly rejects the idea of a quota system.

11. Combatting poverty

Several pilot schemes to combat poverty were at present under way, Vice-President Patrick Hillery told the House, and there were adequate funds available to finance them. He utterly rejected an assertion by Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (Br, EC) that the Commission's efforts to overcome poverty were 'piffling.'

12. Concentration of wealth

Commissioner George Thomson said that the gap between rich and poor areas of the Community was still widening. He agreed that measures such as prohibiting investment in prosperous areas (a system already in use in France) deserved consideration.

13. Conviction of Mr Stanley Adams

The Commission, Vice-President Sir Christopher Soames told the House, had given Mr Adams financial and material support during the legal proceedings against him so far, and would certainly help him with any appeal he might decide to lodge. But the Commission

had no intention of suspending the Association Agreement with Switzerland which, with this one exception, had so far been of great benefit to both sides.

14. Willie Hamilton asks about vegetable oil tax

In reply to Willie Hamilton (Br, S), Petrus Lardinois said formal complaints about the imposition of a tax on vegetable oil had been received from the United States and the Dutch oil and fats producers. The dissatisfaction over the tax (which Gwyneth Dunwoody (Br, S) said 'runs Alice-in-Wonderland a close second') prompted Ludwig Fellermaier (Ge), Socialist leader, to call for an emergency debate.

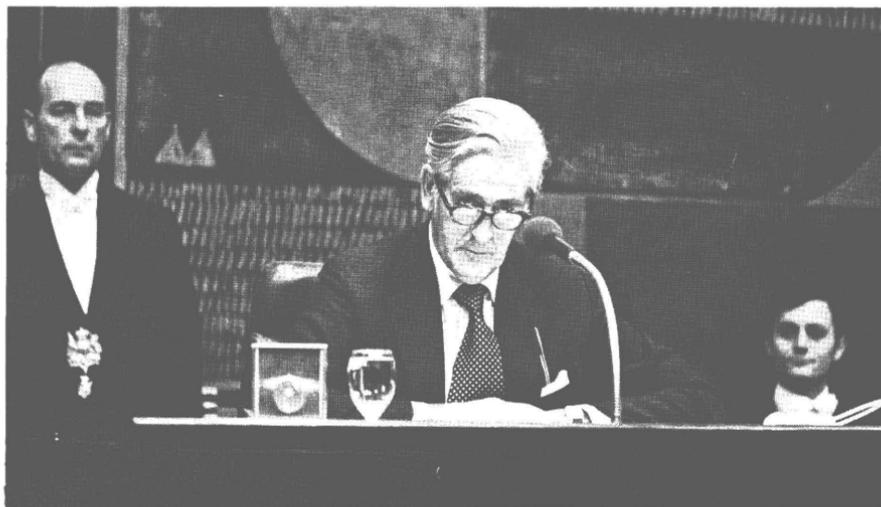
15. Lord Bethell : what is EC doing about smoking?

Dr Patrick Hillery said that although the Commission shared Lord Bethell's views on smoking and although it was following work being done by the WHO and Council of Europe, it felt that this was a matter best left to Member States. But this did not rule out the possibility of Commission action altogether. He added that the question of advertising had been referred to the Consumer Council.

Summary of the Week

Monday, September 13th 7.05 p.m. to 7.40 p.m.

- Dutch Socialist Mr Henk Waltmans to succeed Dutch Communist Mr Wessel Hartog as Member of the European Parliament.
- Cesidio Guazzaroni to succeed Altiero Spinelli and Raymond Vouel to succeed Albert Borschette as members of the Commission.
- Giacinto Bosco, Andreas Donner, Hans Kutcher and John Mackenzie Stuart to be judges and Francesco Capotorti advocate-general at the Court of Justice from 7 October 1976 to 6 October 1982.
- Order of business agreed.
- James Scott-Hopkins unanimously elected Vice-President of the European Parliament in succession to Lord Bessborough.



James Scott-Hopkins is elected Vice-President of the European Parliament

Tuesday, September 14th 10.10 a.m. to 1.20 p.m.

- 22nd. Joint Meeting with Council of Europe. Members from the two assemblies discuss Europe's responsibilities to Southern Europe, and, through trade and aid, to the developing countries, to democracy in the world and, in alliance with Canada and the US, in promoting a strategy for détente.

3.05 p.m. to 8.05 p.m.

- Sir Christopher Soames tells the House of the action the Commission has taken on Parliament's advice.
- Georges Spénale, in the Chair, welcomes George Thomas, Speaker of the House of Commons, who takes his seat in the visitors' gallery.
- Parliament approves Commission proposals for a four year research programme.
- Parliament wholeheartedly approves the Community's agreement with Canada.

- Parliament debates Commission report on social situation in 1975. Dr Patrick Hillery announces new proposals on training of young employed.
- Parliament agrees to release of 1.8 m.u.a. in payment appropriations and 4 m.u.a. in commitment appropriations for the Joint European Torus project. This pending a decision on the site. Hope is that this will be decided on October 20th.

Wednesday, September 15th 10.05 a.m. to 10.05 p.m.

- Question Time. Members put 3 questions to the Council and 12 questions to the Commission.
- Georges Spénale welcomes Cesidio Guazzaroni and Raymond Vouel, the two new Commissioners. There is an exchange of courtesies.
- Emergency debate on margarine tax Socialists protest. Commissioner Lardinois replies tax will only be 1p to 2p per pound.
- Georges Spénale, François-Xavier Ortoli and Laurens Jan Brinkhorst pay tributes to Fernand Dehousse a great European and former Belgian Socialist Member of the European Parliament who died on 11 August 1976.
- Laurens Jan Brinkhorst, Council President tells the House the Nine to sign act on direct elections on September 20th.
- Jacques Santer, in the Chair, informs the House that the Friuli region has suffered further tremors causing great damage.
- Mr Brinkhorst tells House of other points discussed by European Council, July 12th to 13th.
- Mr Brinkhorst presents 8.647 billion units of account draft budget for 1977. Lord Bruce of Donington, Parliament's rapporteur, expresses misgivings. First reading in House October 25th to 28th.
- Motion to approve 832 m.u.a. second supplementary budget for 1976.
- House approves new financial regulation to govern budget for 1977. Michel Cointat, 1976 budget rapporteur not completely happy about it.

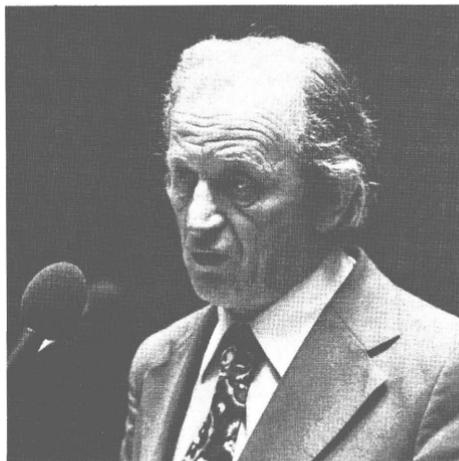
Hanna Walz: The conditions for a fresh start in direct Community research have been amply fulfilled.



Thursday, September 16th 11.05 a.m. to 9.50 p.m.

- Motion approving second supplementary budget put to vote and agreed to.
- Parliament questions Commission about the drought. Duties on feedstuff imports to be lifted and priority given to help for irrigation schemes says Commissioner Lardinois.
- Parliament questions Commission about milk production. Strong criticism of proposed new taxes designed to regulate dairy produce market.
- Parliament approves proposal for organizing European potato market.
- Parliament questions Commission about helping the hungry.
- Parliament questions Commission about the North-South dialogue. Commissioner Claude Cheysson says it is more of a West-South dialogue, as the Nairobi conference showed.

Michael Herbert: 'The new Community driving licence will be obtainable if the applicant passes a series of tests which will be common to all Member States.'



- Parliament considers competition policy. Function of competition in modern society is pivot of debate.
- Parliament debates the Seveso disaster. Concern that the right lessons be learned.

Friday, September 17th 9.30 a.m. to 11.05 a.m.

- Parliament agrees to Erwin Lange's proposal to follow same procedure for budget as last year.
- Parliament calls for amendments to Commission proposal on aligning stock exchange rules governing quotation.
- Parliament calls for amendments to Commission proposal to align laws on customs debt.
- Parliament approves new Commission proposals for an optional, European driving licence. Michael Herbert, rapporteur, disagrees only about licences for moped users. House endorses his view they should be compulsory.
- Lord Bethell's report on dumping of wastes at sea referred back to committee at his own request.

- Parliament approves without debate a series of technical Commission proposals affecting the wine sector.
- Parliament to meet next in Strasbourg from October 11th to 15th.

Summing up

At its sittings of 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 September 1976, Members put down 1 question for debate with the Council and 6 questions for debate with the Commission. At Question Time 3 questions were addressed to the Council and 12 questions were addressed to the Commission. 3 motions were put down, one on direct elections, one on the supplementary budget and one on the North-South dialogue. 12 reports were considered and Parliament delivered 15 opinions. The House sat for 35 minutes on Monday, for 5 hours 45 minutes on Tuesday, for 9 hours 50 minutes on Wednesday, for 9 hours 25 minutes on Thursday and for 1 hour 35 minutes on Friday, making a total of 27 hours 5 minutes.

References

	Comm. doc. No.	E.P. doc. No.	Date of Debate
JRC research programme 1977 – 1980 . . .	145/76	283/76	14/9
EC-Canada cooperation agreement	213/76	287/76	14/9
Social situation in EC in 1975	44/76	164/76	14/9
4 mua for research activities	273/76	292/76	14/9
Motion on direct elections	–	288/76	15/9
Draft budget for 1977	–	291/76	15/9
833 mua supplementary budget for 1976 .	261/76	293/76	15/9
Financial regulation change	245/76	296/76	15/9
Farm incomes		276/76	16/9

Effects of drought		280/76	16/9
		286/76	16/9
		282/76	16/9
Milk production		279/76	16/9
Potato market	512/76	289/76	16/9
CAP and the Third World		277/76	16/9
North/South dialogue		275/76	16/9
		297/76	
Competition Policy		243/76	16/9
Seveso disaster and pollution		281/76	16/9
		294/76	
Stock exchanges quotations	556/76	236/76	17/9
Customs debt, new rules	104/76	237/76	17/9
European driving licences	465/76	206/76	17/9
Wine	250/76	285/76	17/9
		238/76	
		234/76	
		235/76	
Question Time		284/76	15/9

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this text to denote nationality and political allegiance: CD Christian Democrat, S Socialist, LA Liberal and Allies, EC European Conservative, EPD European Progressive Democrat, CA Communist and Allies, Ind Non-attached Independent Members, Be Belgian, Br British, Da Danish, Du Dutch, Fr French, Ge German, Ir Irish, It Italian, Lu Luxembourg, EC European Community.

Postscript

The decision and the act signed by the Nine Foreign Ministers in Brussels on Monday, September 20th 1976.

DECISION

THE COUNCIL

composed of the representatives of the Member States and acting unanimously,

Having regard to Article 21(3) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community,

Having regard to Article 138(3) of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Article 108(3) of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community,

Having regard to the proposal from the Assembly,

Intending to give effect to the conclusions of the European Council in Rome on 1 and 2 December 1975, that the election of the Assembly should be held on a single date within the period May-June 1978,

has laid down the provisions annexed to this Decision which it recommends to the Member States for adoption in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.

This Decision and the provisions annexed hereto shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

The Member States shall notify the Secretary-General of the Council of the European Communities without delay of the completion of the procedures necessary in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements for the adoption of the provisions annexed to this Decision.

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

For the Council

The President

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium:

The Minister for External Economic Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark:

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany:

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the French Republic:

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland:

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Italian Republic:

Member of the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg:

The State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands:

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

ACT
concerning the election of the representatives of the Assembly by direct
universal suffrage

Article 1

The representatives in the Assembly of the peoples of the States brought together in the Community shall be elected by direct universal suffrage.

Article 2

The number of representatives elected in each Member State shall be as follows:

Belgium	24
Denmark	16
Germany	81
France	81
Ireland	15
Italy	81
Luxembourg	6
Netherlands	25
United Kingdom	81

Article 3

1. Representatives shall be elected for a term of five years.
2. This five-year period shall begin at the opening of the first session following each election.

It may be extended or curtailed pursuant to the second subparagraph of Article 10(2).

3. The term of office of each representative shall begin and end at the same time as the period referred to in paragraph 2.

Article 4

1. Representatives shall vote on an individual and personal basis. They shall not be bound by any instructions and shall not receive a binding mandate.
2. Representatives shall enjoy the privileges and immunities applicable to members of the Assembly pursuant to the Protocol on the privileges and Immunities of the European Communities annexed to the Treaty establishing a Single Council and a Single Commission of the European Communities.

Article 5

The office of representative in the Assembly shall be compatible with membership of the Parliament of a Member State.

Article 6

1. The office of representative in the Assembly shall be incompatible with that of:
 - member of the Government of a Member State;
 - member of the Commission of the European Communities;
 - Judge, Advocate-General or Registrar of the Court of Justice of the European Communities;
 - member of the Court of Auditors of the European Communities;
 - member of the Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community or member of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Economic Community and of the European Atomic Energy Community;
 - member of committees or other bodies set up pursuant to the Treaties establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community for the purpose of managing the Communities' funds or carrying out a permanent direct administrative task;
 - member of the Board of Directors, Management Committee or staff of the European Investment Bank;
 - active official or servant of the institutions of the European Communities or of the specialized bodies attached to them.
2. In addition, each Member State may, in the circumstances provided for in Article 7(2), lay down rules at national level relating to incompatibility.
3. Representatives in the Assembly to whom paragraphs 1 and 2 become applicable in the course of the five-year period referred to in Article 3 shall be replaced in accordance with Article 12.

Article 7

1. Pursuant to Article 21(3) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, Article 138(3) of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and Article 108(3) of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, the Assembly shall draw up a proposal for a uniform electoral procedure.

2. Pending the entry into force of a uniform electoral procedure and subject to the other provisions of this Act, the electoral procedure shall be governed in each Member State by its national provisions.

Article 8

No one may vote more than once in any election of representatives to the Assembly.

Article 9

1. Elections to the Assembly shall be held on the date fixed by each Member State; for all Member States this date shall fall within the same period starting on a Thursday morning and ending on the following Sunday.

2. The counting of votes may not begin until after the close of polling in the Member State whose electors are the last to vote within the period referred to in paragraph 1.

3. If a Member State adopts a double ballot system for elections to the Assembly, the first ballot must take place during the period referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 10

1. The Council, acting unanimously after consulting the Assembly, shall determine the period referred to in Article 9(1) for the first elections.

2. Subsequent elections shall take place in the corresponding period in the last year of the five-year period referred to in Article 3.

Should it prove impossible to hold the elections in the Community during that period, the Council acting unanimously shall, after consulting the Assembly, determine another period which shall be not more than one month before or one month after the period fixed pursuant to the preceding paragraph.

3. Without prejudice to Article 22 of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, Article 139 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and Article 109 of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, the Assembly shall meet, without requiring to be convened, on the first Tuesday after expiry of an interval of one month from the end of the period referred to in Article 9(1).

4. The powers of the outgoing Assembly shall cease upon the opening of the first sitting of the new Assembly.

Article 11

Pending the entry into force of the uniform electoral procedure referred to in Article 7(1), the Assembly shall verify the credentials of representatives. For this purpose it shall take

note of the results declared officially by the Member States and shall rule on any disputes which may arise out of the provisions of this Act other than those arising out of the national provisions to which the Act refers.

Article 12

1. Pending the entry into force of the uniform electoral procedure referred to in Article 7(1) and subject to the other provisions of this Act, each Member State shall lay down appropriate procedures for filling any seat which falls vacant during the five-year term of office referred to in Article 3 for the remainder of that period.

2. Where a seat falls vacant pursuant to national provisions in force in a Member State, the latter shall inform the Assembly, which shall take note of that fact.

In all other cases, the Assembly shall establish that there is a vacancy and inform the Member State thereof.

Article 13

Should it appear necessary to adopt measures to implement this Act, the Council, acting unanimously on a proposal from the Assembly after consulting the Commission, shall adopt such measures after endeavouring to reach agreement with the Assembly in a conciliation committee consisting of the Council and representatives of the Assembly.

Article 14

Article 21(1) and (2) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, Article 138(1) and (2) of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and Article 108(1) and (2) of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community shall lapse on the date of the sitting held in accordance with Article 10(3) by the first Assembly elected pursuant to this Act.

Article 15

This Act is drawn up in the Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Irish and Italian languages, all seven texts being equally authentic.

Annexes I to III shall form an integral part of this Act.

A declaration by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is attached hereto.

Article 16

The provisions of this Act shall enter into force on the first day of the month following that during which the last of the notifications referred to in the Decision is received.

Done at Brussels,

For the Kingdom of Belgium, its Representative
The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium

For the Kingdom of Denmark, its Representative
The Minister for External Economic Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark

For the Federal Republic of Germany, its Representative
The Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany

For the French Republic, its Representative
The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the French Republic

For Ireland, its Representative
The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland

For the Italian Republic, its Representative
The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Italian Republic

For the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, its Representative
Member of the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

For the Kingdom of the Netherlands, its Representative
The State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, its Representative
The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

ANNEX I

The Danish authorities may decide on the dates on which the election of members to the Assembly shall take place in Greenland.

ANNEX II

The United Kingdom will apply the provisions of this Act only in respect of the United Kingdom.

ANNEX III

Declaration on Article 13

As regards the procedure to be followed by the conciliation committee, it is agreed to have recourse to the provisions of paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of the procedure laid down in the Joint Declaration of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission of 4 March 1975(*).

(*)OJ No C 89, 22.4.1975,p.1

Declaration
by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany declares that the Act concerning the election of the members of the Assembly by direct universal suffrage shall equally apply to Land Berlin.

In consideration of the rights and responsibilities of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, the Berlin House of Deputies will elect representatives to those seats within the quota of the Federal Republic of Germany that fall to Land Berlin.

Information literature

- The European Parliament : an illustrated booklet on what the European Parliament is and does.
- Briefing : advance information for journalists.
- Diary : a twice-daily account of what is going on in the European Parliament (published during the sittings only).
- The Sittings : an account of the main issues arising in the European Parliament.
- The arc-en-ciel : a verbatim report of Parliament's proceedings with all interventions published in languages actually used.
- Debates of the European Parliament (published as an annex to the Official Journal) giving a full record in English (Danish, Dutch, French, German or Italian) of Parliament's proceedings.
- European elections : a regularly updated analysis of the issues involved in organizing European elections in 1978.

All these publications may be obtained free of charge from the Information Service of the European Parliament (P.O. Box 1601, Luxembourg) or — in the case of the Official Journal — from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (P.O. Box 1003, Luxembourg)

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