

EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION

STATEMENTS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

1974

Press statement after the 14 th EPC Ministerial, Bonn	11 June 1974
Communiqué on the situation in Cyprus	17 July 1974
Report on the EPC Ministerial, Paris	16 September 1974

The Heads of State and Government issued other statements. See the conclusions of the Paris summit meeting of 9-10 December 1974.

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10. Press Statement by Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, after the 14th EPC Ministerial Meeting (Bonn, 11 June 1974)

As you know, our meeting here within the framework of the European Political Co-operation was scheduled to last two days, but we were able to complete our discussions yesterday. The fact that we concluded our business so quickly shows that there exists a large measure of agreement among the nine Governments in an extremely difficult period in the development of European relations, and above all that we have adopted a very pragmatic and realistic approach.

On this basis it was possible to agree in particular on the two main items on our agenda, the Euro-Arab dialogue and the consultations with allied and friendly States. We can therefore say that the Presidency passes to our French friends at a time when we can be hopeful about Europe.

Allow me first of all to report on the results of our talks on the Euro-Arab dialogue. The ministers have decided to embark on the Euro-Arab dialogue, which has been in the offing for some time. The ministers had decided in favour of the dialogue in principle in Brussels on 4 March under the Presidency of my predecessor in this office at the 12th Ministerial Conference. The actual commencement of the dialogue had to be delayed because difficulties had arisen in some countries and also in consultations with the United States. Those difficulties have now been overcome and in the next few days our representatives in 20 Arab capitals will hand over an aide-mémoire and offer these countries long-term co-operation, particularly in the economic, technological and cultural fields.

We shall ask the Arab States to designate one or several representatives for a first meeting with the Presidency of

the Nine. We have proposed that this first meeting should be used to discuss the procedure for further talks within the framework of the dialogue and to conduct an exchange of views on the content and priorities of Euro-Arab co-operation.

In a second phase of the dialogue European and Arab experts would form working committees and explore ways and means of further co-operation. If the results of this extensive work justify it, a conference of foreign ministers will be held to make the necessary decisions.

It must therefore be emphasized that this is the introductory phase of a very long-term undertaking which in the general view of the Europeans—a view which we feel is also shared by the Arabs—will not affect the current efforts to work out a peace settlement in the Middle East.

As indicated by my predecessor after the EPC meeting of 4 March, the European governments also intend to have consultations with Israel. This is consistent with the balanced Middle East policy pursued by the Nine. In due course, therefore, there will be a meeting between the Presidency and a representative of Israel.

In assessing the agreement reached on this point, I wish to express our mutual satisfaction that, following our common line at the CSCE, we have managed to forge a common position in yet another important area of foreign policy, so that it is not merely a co-ordinated policy. This was emphasized in particular by my French colleague yesterday when he gave a résumé of our talks on this point after the meeting, and the others emphatically agreed with him.

The second point is the question of consultations. The ministers were agreed that in elaborating common positions on foreign policy there arises the question of consultations with allied or friendly countries. Such consultations are a matter of course in any modern foreign policy. We decided on a pragmatic approach in each individual

case, which means that the country holding the Presidency will be authorized by the other eight partners to hold consultations on behalf of the Nine.

In practice, therefore, if any member of the EC raises within the framework of EPC the question of informing and consulting an ally or a friendly State, the Nine will discuss the matter and, upon reaching agreement, authorize the Presidency to proceed on that basis.

The ministers trust that this gentleman's agreement will also lead to smooth and pragmatic consultations with the United States which will take into account the interests of both sides.

The next item concerned relations between Europe and Canada. As you know, the Canadians presented us with an aide-mémoire on 22 April 1974. The ministers have noted its contents with interest and welcomed the Canadian proposals for intensifying relations between Canada and the European Community which were made in response to a European note on this subject which was communicated to the Canadian Government last November. The Europeans will study the Canadian aide-mémoire carefully. As you can see from the brevity of my remarks on this matter, this point, because developments are still in the early stage, has not yet featured prominently in our discussions; we have dealt more with the procedural aspect.

The Foreign Ministers of the Nine have also discussed the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe which is now in its second phase in Geneva.

They have re-affirmed their intention to continue the policy of détente and co-operation in Europe. They hold the view that the completion of the whole programme adopted by the ministers of participating States at the Helsinki Conference would represent considerable progress along this road.

They recall that that programme includes not only the precise formulation of principles governing relations between States but also agreement on measures for the development of co-operation, especially in the economic sphere, as well as for free contacts and links between peoples and individuals. In view of this, they have tabled proposals at the Conference which have for the most part had a favourable response and have the active support of many other governments and public opinion. Results are available in certain areas and the ministers recall in this connection the special efforts of the Nine to accommodate other participating States; this applies in particular to the declaration of principles.

However, the ministers wish to express their disappointment at the but slight progress in Geneva, especially on such major questions as measures to improve human contacts, the dissemination of information, access to the cultural works of participating States, as well as confidence-building measures in the field of security.

They also deplore the fact that no agreement has yet been reached on essential elements of the declaration of principles.

The ministers have reiterated their determination to continue to make a constructive contribution to the conference. They hope as before that in their efforts to secure a balance of interests and progress they will be assisted by all concerned and that the work in Geneva will lead to such substantial results in all areas covered by the Helsinki mandate that it will be possible to convene the final phase of the Conference.

I might add that when we began discussing this item of the agenda I expressed my appreciation of the consonance of views among member States in negotiations within the framework of CSCE, which had a very favourable influence. Seen from this point of view, the Euro-Arab

dialogue is in fact the second major complex, not the first. First in point of time was, and still is, the CSCE.

You will not be surprised to learn that the Conference also considered the question of Portugal. I would outline the points which emerged as follows. The member States of the European Community, in their discussion of matters of current political importance, have considered events since the change of government in Portugal. They have followed them with sympathy and see them as having great importance for Europe and Africa. They welcome the political process that has started for it opens up the way to a democratic development in Portugal and makes it possible to pursue a policy which will lead to the termination of the years-long conflicts in Africa. They place their confidence in the outcome of the negotiations between those concerned aimed at the exercise of self-determination with all its consequences, and are willing to support such steps.

They are conscious of the importance of strengthening relations between the Nine and Portugal and express their hope that the current political development will further economic and social progress in Portugal and enable that country to develop its relations with the European Community.

In conclusion I wish to state that co-operation at this meeting has been positive; it has been co-operation conducted in a constructive spirit by all of my colleagues. This, as we noted yesterday, has been an encouragement to us all, and I hope that my successor to the Presidency will be guided by the same lucky star.

11. Communiqué by the Nine Governments on the Situation in Cyprus (16 July 1974)

The nine Governments of the Member States of the Community have held consultations on the situation in Cyprus. They desire to make known their grave concern over events which are dangerously affecting the stability in the Eastern Mediterranean; they reaffirm their support for the independence and territorial integrity of Cyprus and their opposition to any intervention or interference tending to put it in question. They have instructed the French Presidency to make known their common position to the Governments concerned.

Source: European Political Co-operation (EPC), Third Edition, Press and Information Office, Federal Republic of Germany, Bonn, 1978.

5. Institutional questions— European policy

European policy

Private dinner for Heads of State or Government

2501. At the invitation of the French President, Mr *Giscard d'Estaing*, the Heads of State or Government and Mr *Ortoli*, the President of the Commission, met in Paris on 14 September. They discussed the Community's current problems during a private dinner. No communiqué was issued.

Political Cooperation

2502. Prepared by the Political Committee at its meeting of 10 September, a ministerial conference was held in Paris on 16 September. Discussion centred mainly on events in Greece, Cyprus and Portugal, the Euro-Arab dialogue and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The following statement was adopted concerning recent developments in Greece:

'The Nine applaud the restoration in Greece of personal and political freedom and most heartily welcome the efforts in this direction by the Government of Mr *Karamanlis*.

The clearly affirmed resolve by the Greek Government to lose no time in completing the process of democratization, the initial action taken to this end and especially the restoration of the democratic Constitution of 1952 are seen by the Nine as enabling Greece to regain her place in democratic Europe and particularly within the Council of Europe.

As far as the Nine themselves are concerned, they ask the appropriate authorities of the Council of Europe to take the action required to attain this objective.'

The following communiqué was issued on the situation in Cyprus:

'The situation in Cyprus, still politically dangerous and full of human suffering, continues to

be a source of grave concern to the member countries of the EEC and their associates, Cyprus, Greece and Turkey.

Feeling keenly for the refugees, the Nine wish to show their compassion by promptly providing financial assistance and food aid. The action already under way, both bilaterally and at Community level, is being coordinated with that of international bodies (the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees) responsible for helping the thousands of displaced persons.

The member countries of the Community express their intense anxiety over a problem which, apart from the hardship it is causing, constitutes another barrier in the quest for a negotiated settlement. They attach the utmost value to any move which might help to initiate a solution to this problem which must be settled by negotiation and not by force.

The Nine reaffirm that negotiation is the only way to restore peace and reach a fair solution for all those concerned. They feel that the contacts made between the island's two communities are the prelude to a climate of mutual understanding and agreement and, with the support of the others involved, to the restoration of peace in Cyprus. The Nine set great store by the independence and territorial integrity of Cyprus.'