

European Communities

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Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 1-57/84/A

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee

on the European Community's relations with the
countries of Northern Europe

PART A

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

Rapporteur: Mr G. WALTER

PE 88.971/A/fin.

Or. EN/DE

At its sitting of 16 November 1983 the European Parliament referred to the Political Affairs Committee, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure, the motion for a resolution tabled by Mrs Tove Nielsen on relations with the Nordic countries (Doc. 1-963/83).

At its meeting of 23/24 November 1983, the Political Affairs Committee decided to draw up a report on this subject and appointed Mr WALTER rapporteur.

The committee considered this draft report at its meetings of 28/29 February, 1 March and 20-22 March 1984.

It adopted the motion for a resolution as a whole at the latter meeting by 9 votes for, 0 against and 4 abstentions.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Fergusson, acting chairman and third vice-president; Mr Walter, rapporteur; Mr Bournias, Mr Deschamps, Lady Elles, Mr von Hassel, Mrs van den Heuvel, Mrs Lenz, Mr Lomas, Mr d'Ormesson, Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (deputizing for Lord Bethell), Sir James Scott Hopkins, Mr J.M. Taylor (deputizing for Mr Newton Dunn).

This report was tabled on 23 March 1984.

The deadline for the tabling of amendments to this report appears in the draft agenda for the part-session at which it will be debated.

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

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the European Community's relations with the countries of Northern Europe

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the motion for a resolution tabled by Mrs Nielsen (Doc. 1-963/83) on the political aspects of relations with the Nordic countries,
- B. having regard to Document 184/77 and to the resolution of 5 July 1977 (1)
- C. having regard to the Council's declaration of 20 July 1982 on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the signing of the free trade agreements between the EC and EFTA and the completion of the free trade area since 1 January 1984,
- D. having regard to its resolution of 11 February 1983 on the free trade agreements between the EC and EFTA,
- E. having regard to the gratifying outcome of the contacts between the European Parliament's delegation for relations with the countries of Northern Europe and the parliaments of Finland, Sweden, Norway and Iceland,
- F. having regard to the first meeting between EFTA and Community Ministers in Luxembourg in April 1984,
- G. having regard to the different foreign policy alignments of the Northern European states, of which three are members of NATO, namely Denmark, Norway and Iceland and two neutral, Finland and Sweden,
- H. aware of the stable and balanced nature of the political situation in Northern Europe which reflects the successful foreign policy of the Northern European states,
- I. having regard to the successful conclusion of the negotiations on future relations between Greenland and the European Community,

(1) -----
OJ No. C 183, 1.8.1977, p. 30

- J. having regard to the fact that only Denmark is a member of the Community and that the other Northern European states differ in their attitude to the Community because of their different foreign policies,
- K. having regard to the report of the Committee on Transport of 13 February 1984 (1)
- L. having regard to the report of the Political Affairs Committee (Doc. 1-57/84)

Foreign policy

- 1. Stresses the shared political and economic interests which make close cooperation between the Community and the Nordic states desirable;
- 2. Emphasizes that the foreign policy goals of the Community as formulated in the EPC and the foreign policy goals of the Nordic states coincide in many respects, such as, for example, East-West relations, the North-South dialogue, Middle East policy;
- 3. Notes in particular that the Northern European countries are signatories to the CSCE Final Act of Helsinki, as are the member states of the European Community and the European Community;
- 4. Stresses in this context the importance of cooperation between the Community and the Nordic states for furthering the CSCE process and particularly the success of the Stockholm Conference;
- 5. Welcomes in this context the special agreement to inform Norway of the outcome of the EPC;
- 6. Reaffirms that the European Community is as open to new members from the North as from the South;

Trade Relations

- 7. Draws attention to the extraordinarily successful development of trade relations between the EC and the Nordic countries on the basis of the free trade agreements with Finland, Norway, Iceland and Sweden which have been in existence for more than ten years;

(1) OJ C , report KLINKENBORG, doc. 1-1347/83

8. Emphasizes the importance of maintaining free trade relations for the countries of Northern Europe, which are highly dependent on foreign trade;
9. Points out that the countries of Northern Europe are among the European Community's main trading partners;
10. Stresses therefore the dangers which could arise if these trade relations were affected by technical barriers to trade, state subsidies, and so on;
11. Notes with satisfaction that, in the framework of the free trade agreements, cooperation has developed between the Community and the individual countries of Northern Europe in fields which include research, technology, meteorology, environmental protection and so on, irrespective of whether development clauses have been included in the free trade agreements (as in the case of Norway, Iceland and Sweden);
12. Emphasizes the interest of both sides in a further development of such cooperation, since the growth in trade also increases transfrontier problems relating to social, environmental and consumer policy;
13. Acknowledges therefore, in particular, the interest of the Scandinavian countries with their relatively well-developed labour market, social and environmental policies, in further progress in these fields within the European Community;

Nordic cooperation and the role of Denmark

14. Draws attention to the importance of cooperation between the five Nordic countries which is particularly close because of their cultural and historical roots;
15. Recalls the remarkable successes of this cooperation which, as in the case of the passport union or the common labour market, can set an example to the Member States of the EC;
16. Emphasizes its conviction that further progress in the development of the European Community (e.g. passport union) must not be allowed to adversely affect Nordic cooperation;
17. Draws attention to the special role of Denmark which, as a member of the European Community, has not abandoned its active participation in Nordic cooperation and pays tribute, in this connection, to the achievements of Denmark as a bridge between the Nordic countries and the European Community;

Future development

18. Calls for a Community policy towards the Nordic countries which takes account of the degree of similarity in foreign policy and economic interests, which respects the fundamental foreign policy decisions of the Nordic countries and which counteracts a one-sided attitude of the Community towards other regions of Europe and the world;
19. Calls on the Foreign Ministers meeting in the EPC to maintain the closest links with the Nordic countries on matters of common interest to all Western European countries such as the work of international organizations and conferences, East-West relations and the North-South dialogue;
20. Urges that every opportunity for cooperation in the field of development policy should be exploited;
21. Calls for the closest possible cooperation at the Stockholm Conference;
22. Believes that the Community should be prepared to work towards the inclusion of Norway in European Political Cooperation in line with Norway's wishes;
23. Takes the view that the Community's approach to economic and trade relations with Japan and the U.S.A. in future should in no way impair the traditionally good and important trade relations it enjoys with the Nordic countries;
24. Calls for efforts to counteract protectionist tendencies and to overcome the economic crisis in a spirit of open trade relations; this applies in particular to
 - work on the new Community trade instrument
 - work on the improvement of the rules of origin
 - work on improved Community rules on standardization, which should also lead in the framework of CEN and CENELEC, to common rules for the EC and EFTA
 - the dismantling by both parties of existing state aids and the prevention of new subsidies which distort competition;

25. Believes that the Community research programmes (COST, ESPRIT) should also be open in future to cooperation with the Nordic countries;
26. Urges that cooperation should be developed in areas of common interest, such as environmental protection, transport policy, social policy, controls on the activities of international undertakings, tourism and trademark law;
27. Urges that the Community's transport policy should not end at its frontiers, but should include close cooperation with the Scandinavian countries to develop the routes for the large volume of traffic between continental Europe and Scandinavia; their expansion is the best guarantee that the gap between the Community and EFTA countries will be closed and should include:
 - the permanent expansion of the railways, particularly through Lübeck and Fehmarn towards Scandinavia,
 - the building of combined bridge and tunnel links from southern Sweden through Fünen and Zealand to Jutland,
 - a fixed crossing of the Fehmarn sands,
 - the infrastructure for ferry links of various sorts, across the Baltic Sea;
28. Urges that new East-West links between the USSR and Europe should be included in the development of transport in the North;
29. Urges that the principles of the free movement of goods should not be abused to undermine the progressive legislation on environmental protection, consumer protection, security of employment, and so on which exists either in the Community or in the Nordic countries;
30. Calls in particular for early and decisive action by the European Community to combat the causes of acid rain, in order to counteract the effects of air pollution in the Community on nature in the Nordic countries;
31. Urges that, in addition to Community efforts to restore and preserve the ecological balance of the North Sea and to prevent its pollution in future, a similar plan be drawn up for the inland Baltic Sea;
32. Urges the Community to take precautions to ensure that the countries outside the Community- neutral Sweden and Finland and the Eastern Bloc countries bordering the Baltic Sea - recognize the all-important principles now accepted in relation to the North Sea and take appropriate measures to counter the grave threat to the Baltic Sea;
33. Calls for the conclusion of fisheries agreements which take due account of the interest of the Community fishing industry in long-term cooperation;

34. Urges that fisheries agreements should ensure that the traditional fishing grounds for Baltic coast fishermen are made accessible to them again;
35. Requests the Council and Commission to continue with their commendable policy of improving cooperation with the Nordic countries; welcomes in particular, in this context, the high-level consultations between the Commission and members of the Governments of the Nordic countries;
36. Takes the view that the European Monetary System should be open for other Nordic countries to join;
37. Calls for information offices to be opened in the capitals of those Nordic countries which are not members of the Community;
38. Calls for the 'European Communities Visitors Programme' to be extended to include the Nordic states;
39. Instructs its delegation for relations with the countries of Northern Europe to maintain and develop its links on the basis of this resolution;
40. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation, and also to the parliaments of the Nordic countries.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983-1984

27 October 1983

DOCUMENT 1-963/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs Tove NIELSEN

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure
on the political aspects of relations with the
Nordic countries

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to Doc. 184/77 and its resolution of 5.7.1977¹,
 - B. having regard to the Council's declaration of 20 July 1982 on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the signing of the free trade agreements between the EC and EFTA,
 - C. having regard to its resolution of 11 February 1983 on the free trade agreements between the EC and EFTA,
 - D. noting with satisfaction the Nordic interest in political cooperation,
 - E. having regard to the negotiations with Spain and Portugal on accession to the European Communities,
 - F. whereas one Member State, Denmark, is a partner in both Nordic and European cooperation,
 - G. delighted at the increasingly frequent and close contacts between Members of Parliament from the Nordic countries and the European Parliament,
 - H. noting with satisfaction the significance which both the Council and the Commission attach to developing cooperation with the Nordic countries over and above the free trade accords,
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- 1. Urges the Council to take a favourable view of the Nordic countries' desire for increased cooperation in spheres going beyond the free trade accords;
 - 2. Expresses its full support for the work being done by the delegation for relations with the Nordic countries;
 - 3. Requests the relevant committee of Parliament to draw up a report on the results of ten years of cooperation with the Nordic countries of Sweden, Norway, Iceland and Finland and on the prospects for the future and plans for the next ten years;
 - 4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission, the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation and the Parliaments of the Nordic countries.

¹ OJ No. C 183, 1.8.1977, p. 30