

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1979 - 1980

25 SEPTEMBER 1979

DOCUMENT 1-340/79

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by

Mr DRUON, Mr DEBRE, Mr MESSMER, Mr LALOR,

Mr NYBORG and Mrs EWING

on behalf of the Group of European Progressive
Democrats

with request for an early vote

pursuant to Rule 47(5) of the Rules of Procedure

to wind up the debate on Oral Question 1-300/79

on Community armaments procurement programmes
within the framework of industrial policy

The Assembly of the European Communities,

- whereas none of the provisions of the Treaty of Rome gives any of the Community bodies competence in matters of defence,
- whereas not all the Community Member States, in particular the Republic of Ireland, belong to NATO or to the Western European Union,
- whereas within the institutional structure established more than thirty years ago as a basis for European union, the European governments expressly called for a strict allocation of responsibilities among the various organizations, above all in the security sector; recalling in this connection that Article 1, paragraph D of the Statute of the Council of Europe, adopted in London on 5 May 1949, states that matters relating to national defence do not fall within the competence of the Council of Europe,
- whereas, furthermore, it is clear from the Treaty of Brussels of 17 March 1948 and from the Protocol amending and supplementing this Treaty, signed in Paris on 23 October 1954, that the Western European Union, to which seven Member States of the Economic Community belong, is at present the only European organization within the European institutional structure whose mandate covers matters of defence and collective security in Europe,
- whereas any attempt by the Assembly of the European Communities to concern itself with defence questions can only provoke insuperable difficulties between the Governments of the Member States and undermine the necessary spirit of solidarity among the people of Europe,
- whereas matters relating to armaments, even when considered from the point of view of the common industrial or commercial policy provided for in the Community Treaties, are by their very nature closely linked to defence policy options, which do not concern the Assembly of the Communities,
 1. Feels that the Commission has no authority to establish contacts either with NATO or with the responsible services of the Member States with a view to preparing Community armaments procurement programmes;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and Council and to the Governments of the Member States.