

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTION (0-173/82)

with debate pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr SIEGLERSCHMIDT and Mr GLINNE

on behalf of the Socialist Group

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Drawing up of a Community directive on the protection of the rights of the individual in the face of technical developments in data processing

- a) On 29 July 1981 the Commission addressed a recommendation to the Member States calling upon them to sign, during the course of 1981, the Council of Europe convention for the protection of individuals with regard to automatic processing of personal data, and to ratify it before the end of 1982. In the recommendation it announced that 'if all the Member States did not within a reasonable time sign and ratify the convention', the Commission reserved the right to propose that the Council adopt an instrument on the basis of the EEC Treaty to create a uniform level of data protection within the European Community.

In view of the deadline set in Section II of the recommendation, it must be assumed that the 'reasonable time' allowed by the Commission for ratification has now elapsed.

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However, only six Member States had signed the Council of Europe convention by the end of 1982. No Member State had ratified the convention by the end of 1982 and this had in fact been done by only one of the 21 Member States of the Council of Europe.

- b) The European Parliament, in its resolution of 9 March 1982 on the protection of the rights of the individual in the face of technical developments in data processing, considered that 'rules on the protection of personal data are also feasible and necessary for the Community' and that the adoption of a Community directive should be envisaged.
- c) In the light of the above, we would ask the Commission:
1. Now that we are at the beginning of 1983, has the Commission begun to draft a proposal for a directive to ensure a uniform level of data protection within the European Community?
 2. When does the Commission intend to start work in this area, if it has not already done so, and when can we expect the proposal to be submitted?
 3. Can the Commission outline the provisions of such a directive and to what extent do these reflect the proposals made in the relevant resolutions of the European Parliament and the associated reports drawn up by its Legal Affairs Committee?