

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTION (0-165/79)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure by Prince zu SAYN-WITTGENSTEIN, Mr KLEPSCH, Mr GONELLA, Mr JANSSEN van RAAY, Mr DE KEERSMAEKER, Mr RYAN, Mr von BISMARCK, Mr van AERSEN, Mr HOFFMANN, Mr LUSTER and Mr POTTERING

on behalf of the Group of the European People's Party (Christian-Democratic Group)

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject : Negotiating position at the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea

- in view of the significance within the European Community of the customary law being evolved during negotiations for a convention on international law which has not yet reached the stage of ratification,
- acknowledging the Commission's efforts to promote freedom of establishment in the Community's continental shelf and economic zones,
- aware of the fundamentally different geographical areas of interest of the Member States of the Community,
- concerned about the implications for European unity of the precedents, unacceptable from the point of view

of their effect on orderly relationships, that might be set on the basis of the draft text of the convention at present on the negotiating table,

the Commission is requested to answer the following questions:

1. What areas will each Member State gain from the extension of coastal waters, the establishment of an economic zone and the current plans for an extension of the continental shelf?
2. Is there at present adequately quantified information, and if so of what type, on the raw materials resources explored within Community waters? How are these to be distributed between the Member States?
3. Does the Commission regard Community exploitation of the benefits accruing to individual Member States as a possible way of compensating Community states with a short coastline for the curtailment of their rights under the present version of the convention?
4. What, in the Commission's view, are the prospects for a fundamental recognition of freedom of establishment in Community waters?