

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

3 October 1980

DOCUMENT 1-462/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr VAN AERSEN, Mr JONKER, Mr KLEPSCH, Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI, Mr VERGEER, Mr TINDEMANS, Mr LUCKER, Mr BLUMENFELD, Mr DILIGENT, Mr FISCHBACH, Mr PFENNIG, Mr PENDERS, Mrs BOOT, Mr RUMOR, Mr GONELLA, Mr RYAN and Mr VANDEWIELE

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

with request for urgent debate pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules
of Procedure¹

on the appointment of the new Commission

¹ The request for urgent debate was signed by Mr FRUH, Mr Konrad SCHON, Mr GOPPEL, Mr SIMONNET, Mr HERMAN, Mr ESTGEN, Mr KLEPSCH, Mrs SCHLEICHER, Mr FISCHBACH, Mr MALANGRE, Mr LUSTER, Mr VERROKEN, Mr JONKER, Mr DALSAAS, Mr VERHAEGEN, Mr GHERGO, Mr van der GUN, Mrs LENTZ-CORNETTE, Mrs MAIJ-WEGGEN, Mr MERTENS and Mr ALBER

The European Parliament,

1. Regrets that the governments of the Member States represented in the Council have not respected the decision taken by the European Council in Luxembourg on 27 and 28 April 1980 in which:
'the European Council agreed that the President of the Commission should continue to be selected by the European Council itself at least six months before the commencement of his term of office';
2. Refers to the Resolution adopted on 16 April 1980¹ on the relations between the European Parliament and the Commission of the European Communities with a view to the forthcoming appointment of a new Commission;
3. Takes the view that the appointment should be made as soon as possible, in particular so as to give the European Parliament an opportunity to hold an exchange of views with the President-designate of the Commission at its November part-session;
4. Decides that its discussions with the President-designate of the Commission will cover, inter alia:
 - = the political guidelines for his presidency,
 - = his views on the contacts to be established with the governments of the Member States which should result in a political balance in the composition of the Commission that takes account of the political balance of power in the Community and in the separate countries of the EC,
 - = his plans for reorganizing the institutions to take account of the report of the Three Wise Men and to make provision for the requirements of the future enlarged Community;
5. Calls on the Commission, once it has been appointed, to submit its programme to the European Parliament, in accordance with paragraph 8 of its Resolution of 16 April 1980, so that Parliament may debate it in public before approving it;
6. Requests the Commission to incorporate the amendments adopted by the European Parliament into its programme which must then be ratified by Parliament;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution, together with a reference to its urgent nature, to the governments and Parliaments of the Member States and to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

¹ OJ No. C 117, 12.5.1980

REASONS SUPPORTING THE REQUEST FOR URGENT DEBATE

The request for urgent debate is justified because the Resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 16 April 1980 on the relations between the European Parliament and the Commission in the light of the appointment of a new Commission assumes that the President of the Commission will be appointed in sufficient time for a number of matters listed in the Resolutions to be discussed before he takes office.

In addition, the chairman of the Group of the European People's Party wrote the following letter to Mr Gaston Thorn, President-in-Office of the Council, who is the candidate for the office of President of the Commission:

Dear Mr Thorn,

My Group is concerned that there has still been no official confirmation of your appointment from 1 January 1981 as President of the Commission of the European Communities. It has therefore tabled the attached motion for a resolution with request for urgent debate.

My Group also believes that great attention must be paid to relations between the new Commission and Parliament. We believe that cooperation between the two bodies must be improved and that positive progress can be made without amending the Treaties. To this end we would submit the following proposals:

The Commission is requested:

- (1) not to submit proposals to the Council until the European Parliament has delivered its opinion on their substance (modification of the consultation procedure);
- (2) to incorporate amendments adopted by Parliament in its draft legislation and to submit them to the Council in that form;
- (3) when dealing with petitions, to make every conceivable item of information available to the appropriate parliamentary committee, at its request, and to notify Parliament of the action taken on petitions after they have been forwarded to the Commission;
- (4) to notify Parliament whenever it institutes proceedings before the Court of Justice against a Member State alleging violation of the Treaty (Article 169). It shall institute proceedings when requested to do so by Parliament (second paragraph of Article 169);
- (5) to submit to the Council all initiatives taken by the European Parliament in the field of legislation.

My Group would be most grateful if you would ensure that the President-designate of the Commission enters into a discussion on these proposals with the European Parliament at an early date.