

cd-europe

bulletin

No. 3

MARCH 1975

424.91

Contents:

	<u>Page</u>
- PART-SESSION 10-14 MARCH	1
- NEW PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES	4
- POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF THE CD PARTY	7
- ECDU STATEMENT ON EVENTS IN PORTUGAL	8
- RECORD OF THE CDU VOTE IN THE PALATINATE by E. KLEPSCH	9
- POLITICAL ASPECTS OF BERLIN ELECTIONS by P. SCHULZ	11

Publisher: Alfredo DE POI, Secretary-General of the CD-Group of the European Parliament

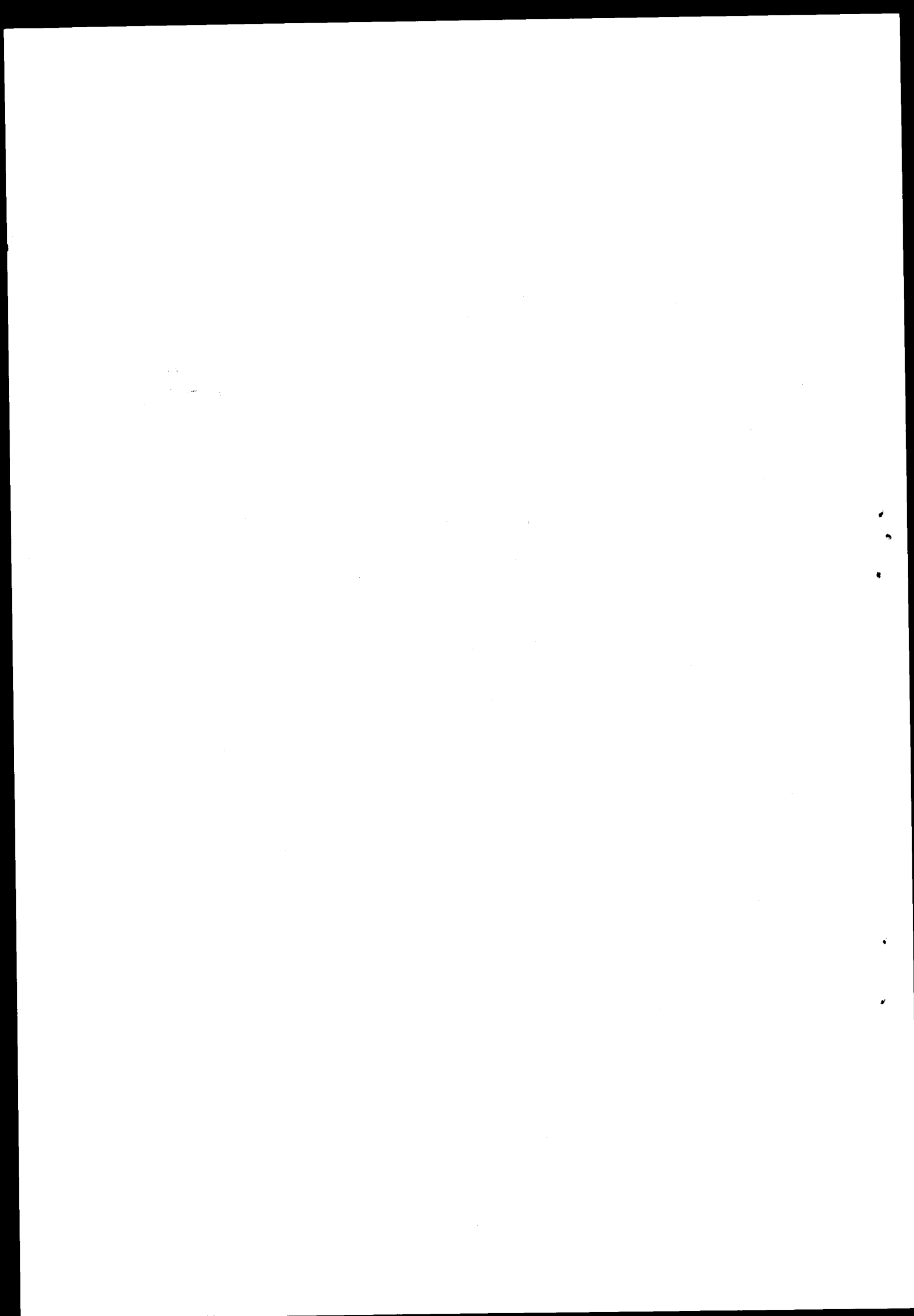
Editor: Giampaolo Bettamio

Address: 3 boulevard de l'Empereur - Bruxelles / Tel. 13.40.70

Annual subscription: FB 100

Bank: Caisse d'Epargne de l'Etat, Luxembourg, No.: 1002/9903-8

Published twice a month - Articles from this bulletin may be freely used with or without indication of source (copies of such articles would be required)



PART-SESSION 10-14 MARCH

CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATE IN DUBLIN

Already in the course of the February plenary debate the Christian-Democratic Group had expressed the desire and the hope that the European Council, an institution envisaged by the Treaties, might give a new impetus to Community construction (see CD Europa No 2/75). In the March debate Senator GIRAUDO expressed his satisfaction 'not only because of the role the Commission itself has assumed and will continue to assume in the European Council, but also because the European Council has, from the very start, shown its true character based on the criteria given at the Paris Summit.' Mr JAHN also considered it a positive development that the Summit had taken the form of the European Council, not outside but within the institutions set up by the EEC Treaty. 'We were pleased to hear it said here', he declared, 'that this European Council will in future deal with all problems on a continuous basis and at the highest level. This institutionalization is something we have been awaiting for a long time'.

As to the principal subject of the Dublin meeting, Mr JAHN welcomed the fact that basic conditions for the United Kingdom to remain within the Community had been established. 'Now that the wishes of London have been met as far as possible by the partner states, we must expect our British friends to make their due contribution towards the political and economic union of the European Community and to become involved in the process of integration with a full acceptance of their rights, and of their duties, too'.

'Unfortunately' Mr JAHN went on, 'no concrete progress was made at the Conference with regard to economic and monetary union. This we still regard, together with the political cooperation of the countries of the European Community, which is the objective of European Union, as a matter of particular urgency. Above all, it implies a joint struggle against inflation and unemployment within a stable European Community.'

ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY

Mr Helmut ARTZINGER

The aggravation of the economic crisis was causing the Member countries gradually to drift apart and might in the future result in the disruption of the Community. Since it was not possible yet to speak of a common or, even uniform, economic policy, neither was it possible to plan uniform economic policies for all the Member States. The cure for countries with balance of payment deficits and high inflation rates was different from what was needed by those with balance of payment surpluses and relatively low inflation rates.

Clearly, for both, there remained the problems of combating unemployment and inflation. Certainly any attempt to eradicate unemployment by means of a flood of new money was not a satisfactory remedy. Recycling of petrodollars alone would not solve the economic problems nor those relating to the balance of payments. The only possible solution was a reduction of consumption, but the sacrifices that involved should be equitably shared. To ensure this, the social partners must be brought into consultation.

We have always been of the opinion that a short-term aim for the Community should consist in achieving a Community economic policy which, we believe, can only be initiated and directed by a single decision-making centre for economic matters; and this is what we need.

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

The fact that the CD Group accepts the Commission's proposals on the European Regional Development Fund does not mean - emphasized Mr MITTERDORFER - that the Group considers the debate on the form and content of a Community Regional Policy closed. On the contrary, this first step, and the experiment that is now beginning should, in our view, be helpful in drawing up such a policy for the Community.

The non-utilization of financial resources and the absence of a Community concept in the matter are causes for serious criticism, because they mean that the Fund will have no integrative effect.

In addition, the representation of the regions is not in accordance with Parliament's ideas; it should be evident that a regional policy without the active participation of the regions is inconceivable, for regional policy cannot be merely a policy for the regions but should to some extent facilitate the conduct of a regional policy with the Community's aid.

In connection with the European Regional Development Policy the European Parliament has, for the first time, been invited by the Community's Council of Ministers to join it in discussing a legislative act. Mr AIGNER underlined this fact, stressing that within the European Community Parliament represented that driving force which could help towards the final attainment of a regional policy. We had been close to disruption on account of regional policy during last year's budgetary debate and we want, he said, 'in the budget consultations next year, to see to it that the continuity of these European activities in the sphere of regional policy is preserved.'

Referring to the financial aspects of the problem, Mr AIGNER gave special attention to the allocation of a contribution from the EAGGF to the Regional Fund and the classification of the expenditure.

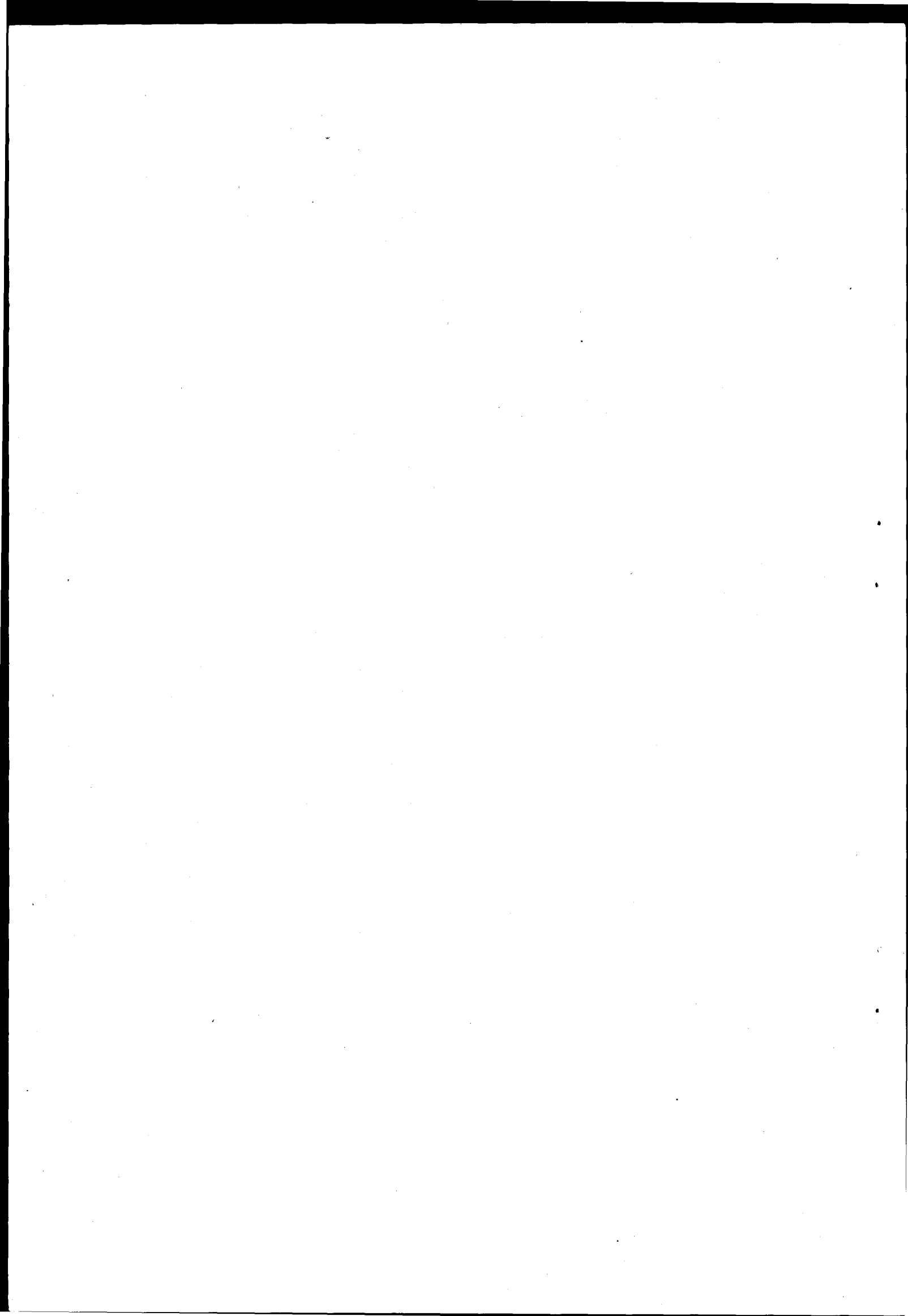
Not an additional dollar, he said, has been allocated to regional policy for 1975, because the funds that have been made available come from the EAGGF: Parliament cannot assent to such an operation. Apart from anything else, the Paris Summit in its final communiqué had decided that financial resources for regional policy would be created.

As to the classification of expenditure under the Regional Fund, these were part of the supplementary budget. Undoubtedly, said Mr Aigner, this was compulsory expenditure and Parliament, and not the Council, should have the last word on it: 'This we shall not give up' he said.

The principle was reaffirmed, on behalf of the CD Group by Mr NOTEMBOOM, who declared:

'My group fully supports the view that expenditure from the Regional Fund is non-compulsory expenditure, which is also the opinion of the Commission. We believe this, firstly, because of the nature of this expenditure. This is not expenditure which must be used for a specific purpose on account of a particular regulation, but expenditure which, up to a certain ceiling, may be used as desired; it is thus non-compulsory expenditure. Secondly, we support the proposals (...) regarding the latitude of Parliament which we consider essential.

The CD Group finds it unacceptable (...) that the Council should consider this expenditure as compulsory expenditure. This would be a serious contravention of the budgetary rights which our Parliament has gradually and painstakingly acquired and which are provided for in Art. 203 of the Treaty!



NEW PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Thirteen Parliamentary Committees were set up at the March plenary part-session: there is an additional Committee on Associations, comprised of the two former delegations to the Joint Parliamentary Committees of the EEC-Greece and the EEC-Turkey Associations, which will be responsible for all aspects of relations with all Associated countries that are potential Member States.

The following members of committees belong to the Christian-Democratic Group:

Political Affairs Committee:

Mr Andreotti, Mr A. Bertrand,
Mr Blumenfeld, Mr Colin, Mr Giraud,
Mr Jahn, Mr Lücker, Mr McDonald,
Mr Scelba

Legal Affairs Committee:

Mr Brugger, Mr De Keersmaeker,
Mr Memmel, Mr Santer, Mr Scelba,
Mr Schuijt, Mr Schwörer,
Mr Springorum, Mr Vernaschi

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs:

Mr Artzinger, Mr Burgbacher,
Mr De Keersmaeker, Mr Mitterdorfer,
Mr Notemboom, Mr Scholten,
Mr Schwörer, Mr Starke, Mr Vetrone

Committee on Budgets:

Mr Aigner, Mr Artzinger, Mr Brugger,
Mr Früh, Mr Galli, Mr Notemboom,
Mr Pêtre, Mr Scholten, Mr Vernaschi

Committee on Social Affairs and Employment:

Mr Bertrand, Mr Girardin, Mr Van der
Gun, Mr Härtzschel, Mr Pêtre,
Mr Pisoni, Mr Santer, Mr Rosati

Committee on Agriculture:

Mr Boano, Mr Früh, Mr De Koning,
Mr Ligios, Mr Lücker, Mr Martens,
Mr Ney, Mr Vetrone, Mr Zeller

Committee on Regional Policy and Transport:

Mr Antoniozzi, Mr Colin, Mr McDonald,
Mr Mitterdorfer, Mr Mursch, Mr Nôé,
Mr Pêtre, Mr Scholten, Mr Starke

Committee on Public Health
and the Environment:

Mr Antoniozzi, Mr Creed, Mr Jahn,
Mr Martens, Mr Ney, Mr Noé, Mr Rosati,
Mr Springorum

Committee on Energy, Research
and Technology:

Mr Andreotti, Mr Burgbacher,
Mr Van der Gun, Mr Martens, Mr Memmel,
Mr Noé, Mr Springorum, Mr Vandewiele,
Mrs Walz

Committee on Cultural Affairs
and Youth:

Mr Creed, Mr Deschamps, Mr Giraudo,
Mr Klepsch, Mr Pisoni, Mr Schuijt,
Mr Schulz

Committee on External Economic
Relations:

Mr Bersani, Mr Boano, Mr Dunne,
Mr Jahn, Mr Klepsch, Mr Schuijt,
Mr Schulz, Mr Vandewiele, Mr Vetrone

Committee on Development and
Cooperation:

Mr Aigner, Mr Bersani, Mr Deschamps,
Mr Galli, Mr Härzschel, Mr Ligios,
Mr Mursch, Mr Schuijt, Mr Schwörer,
Mr Zeller

Committee on Associations:

Mr Boano, Mr Dunne, Mr Girardin,
Mr Giraudo, Mr Jahn, Mr Klepsch,
Mr Poher, Mr Schuijt, Mr Schulz,
Mr Vandewiele, Mr Vetrone.

Five committee chairmen are members of the CD Group:

- Political Affairs Committee: Senator Giovanni GIRAUDO. Senator Giraudo was born in Roccavione (Cuneo, Italy) in 1912. He was Secretary of the Cabinet office, and Under-Secretary of State for the Reform of Public Administration and Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of the Interior. He was a member of the Chamber of Deputies from 1953 to 1958 and has been a Senator since. A member of the European Parliament since 1969.
- Committee on Social Affairs and Employment: Mr Alfred BERTRAND. Mr Bertrand was born in 1913 in Bilzen (Belgium). He has been a member of the Chamber of Representatives since 1946. He was Minister of Transport (1961-1972) and of Health (1965-1966) and Chairman of the CVP (CD, Flemish wing). A member of the European Parliament from 1959 to 1961, and again since February 1972, having previously been a member of the Common Assembly of the ECSC.

- Committee on Regional Policy and Transport: Mr Charles McDONALD.
Mr McDonald was born in 1935 in Ballyroan, Co. Laois (Ireland). He is his party's (Fine Gael) agricultural expert and was a Senator from 1961 to 1973, becoming thereafter a Member of the Dail. Since 1957 he has been a member of the Urban Council of his town and has also been its chairman. A member of the European Parliament since 1973.

- Committee on Energy: Mr Gerd SPRINGORUM. Mr Springorum was born in 1911 in Halberstadt (Germany). He is a member of the Council of the CDU, Bochum section, and a member of the Bureau of the Economic Committee of the CDU for Westphalia. He has been a member of the Bundestag since 1965 and of the European Parliament since 1966.

- Committee on Associations: Mr Willem SCHUIJT. Mr Schuijt was born in 1909 in Amsterdam. He was Assistant Secretary-General of 'Nouvelles Equipes Internationales' and alternate member of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe and of the WEU Assembly. He was a member of the Second Chamber of the Estates General from 1965 to 1971, and then of the Fourth Chamber, where he is chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee. He has been a member of the European Parliament since 1958.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF THE CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC PARTY

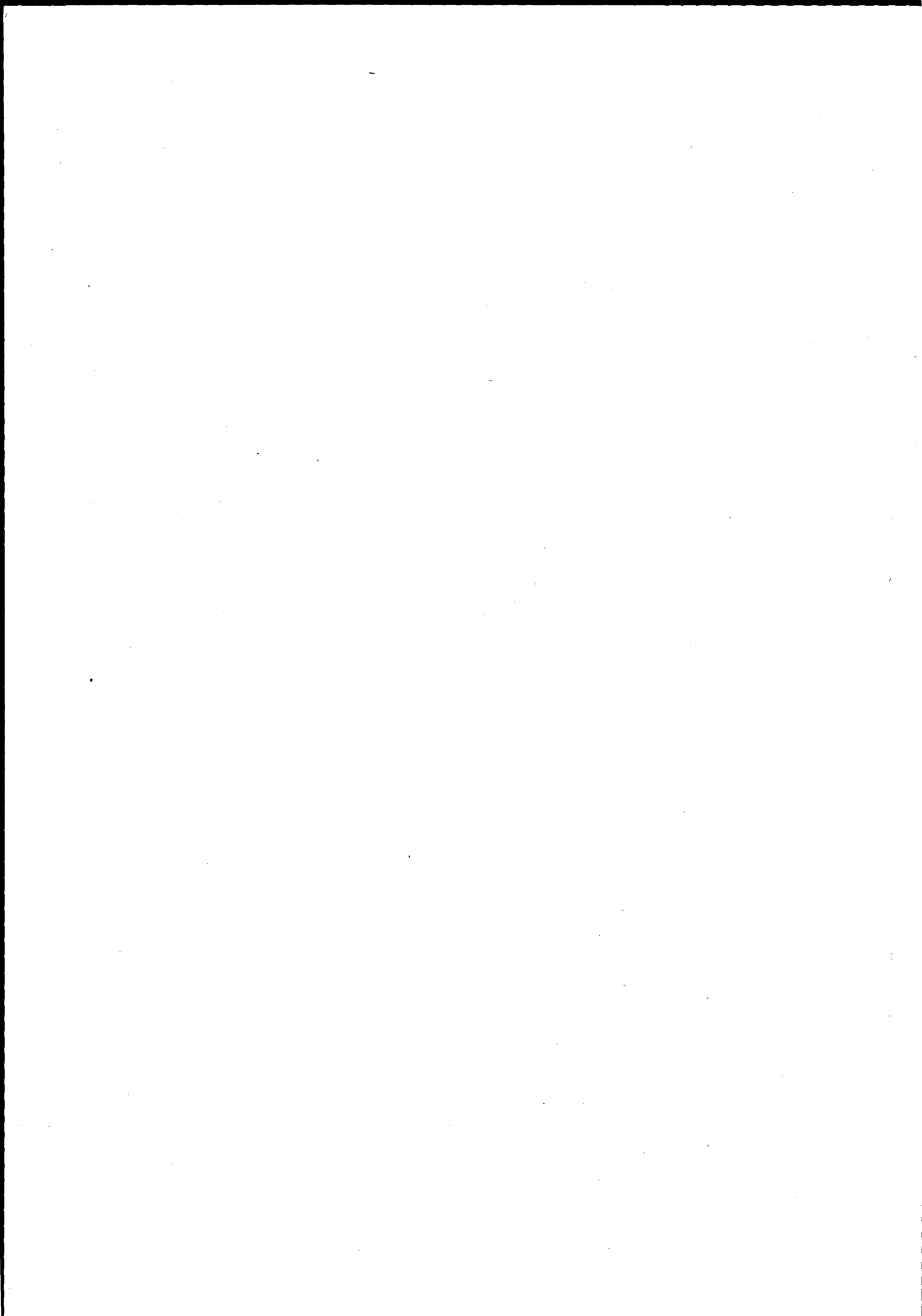
The Political Committee of the Christian-Democratic Party of European Community Member States met on Friday, 7 March, in Brussels under the chairmanship of Mr K. U. Von HASSEL, President of the ECDU, and of Mr H. A. LÜCKER, Chairman of the European Parliament's CD Group. The Belgian Prime Minister, Mr Leo TINDEMANS, received the Committee.

The committee examined the implications of the decisions taken at the December 1974 Paris Summit, in the light of the forthcoming European Council in Dublin. The leaders of the European CD parties consider, first of all, that the European Council, as a body within the ambit of the provisions of the Treaty, could become a driving force in the achievement of a European political union. The Political Committee reaffirmed, therefore, its own undertaking to draw up a programme for the approaching direct elections to the European Parliament, in expectation of which the Christian Democratic parties are engaged in forming themselves into a Christian-Democratic Party of the European Community.

On the subject of political union, the Political Committee reaffirmed its support for the views expressed in the report drawn up by Mr Alfred BERTRAND for the Political Affairs Committee of the European Parliament.

The Political Committee has also re-emphasized its readiness to cooperate with the political forces of the Centre: it is of the opinion that the forthcoming election of the President of the European Parliament will prove a highly significant test on this point.

Finally, the Political Committee has decided to celebrate in a manner befitting the occasion the 25th anniversary of Robert Schuman's declaration on 9 May.



ECDU STATEMENT ON EVENTS IN PORTUGAL

The General Secretariat of the European Christian Democratic Union has published the following statement on the latest developments in Portugal.

'Recent events in Portugal give serious cause for concern. The prospects for democratic progress in Portugal are threatened by a long series of manifestations of violence and intolerance. It is obvious that the ambiguous and confused attempt at insurrection by a group of the military can now be used as a pretext to strike down the democratic forces whose only concern was to take part in free elections. European Christian Democrats earnestly appeal to the Head of State and the Government of Portugal to guarantee the conditions for a civilized and free contest between all the democratic forces. All the democratic parties must be guaranteed full freedom and effective protection against violence and intimidation.'

RECORD OF THE CDU VOTE IN THE PALATINATE

by E. KLEPSCH

Elections to the Landtag were held on 9 March in the Palatinate.
The tables below show the percentage vote and the distribution of seats.

(1) Percentage vote

	Bundes- tag 1965	Landtag 1967	Bundes- tag 1969	Landtag 1971	Bundes- tag 1972	Landtag 1975
CDU	49.3	46.7	47.8	50.0	45.8	53.9
SPD	36.7	36.8	40.1	40.5	44.9	38.5
FBP	10.2	8.3	6.3	5.9	8.1	5.6
Comm.	---	---	0.6	0.9	0.3	0.6
Others	3.8	8.2	5.2	2.7	0.8	1.3

(2) Distribution of seats

	Landtag Elections 1971	Landtag Elections 1975
CDU	52	55
SPD	42	40
FDP	6	5
Others	--	--

These results have already been extensively commented on in the Press, but I believe the following additional general observations may be useful.

- (1) - In the March 1975 Palatinate elections the CDU obtained the highest vote ever recorded in the country's history. Even in the federal parliamentary elections in the Adenauer era, in 1957, the CDU reached at most 53.7 per cent of the vote.

Compared with the last Bundestag elections of 1972, the Palatinate vote of 9 March gave the CDU the highest increase, of 8.1 per cent. This shows that the Social-Democratic Chancellor Schmidt has not been able to stop the decline of his government's influence, the two coalition parties recording the following losses: SPD - 5.6 per cent, FDP - 2.6 per cent.

- (2) - The CDU has had a considerable success in urban areas, and particularly in large cities, consolidating its position among the working classes.
- (3) - The four small parties contesting the elections failed to make any impression.
- (4) - Startling results were obtained in the Land capital, Mayence, which had been a socialist stronghold: the CDU polled very nearly 50 per cent of the vote.

POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE BERLIN ELECTIONS

by Klaus-Peter SCHULZ¹

The elections of 2 March to the Berlin Chamber of Deputies, while undoubtedly a magnificent moral victory for the CDU, have also been a blow to democracy. If we are to assess the true implications of the electors' choice we must be realistic in our examination of these two factors.

In polling 43.8% of the vote, the Christian-Democratic opposition has not only made a gain of nearly 6% compared with the last, 1971, elections in the former German capital, but has also, for the first time since the war, taken the electoral lead. This, in a secular city, where many electors are instinctively averse to voting for a Christian-oriented party, probably represents the limit of expectations that can be reached in the foreseeable future.

It is, in fact, unlikely that the shock of the kidnapping of the Berlin CDU's chairman, Peter Lorenz, a few days before the voting, significantly affected the outcome. A reliable and objective forecast dating before that act of terrorism correctly predicted the results actually obtained on 2 March.

The Social Democrats, who for nearly 30 years had called the political tune in the free part of Berlin, suffered a serious setback. With a 7.7% drop in the vote, they have, for the first time since 1958, lost their absolute majority. Their discomfiture becomes even more pronounced against the background of the SPD's steady losses since 1963, amounting to 20%.

The voting reflects not only the electors' contempt for the 'jobs for the boys' system of political patronage in public administration, but also the deep disillusionment of many Berliners with the policy of détente towards the East to which high hopes attached for many years.

The Liberals (FDP) had a modest and unexpected success, thanks to which it will be possible, though with difficulty, to set up a ruling coalition on the Bonn model. After 2 March, in fact the SPD+FDP coalition will have 0.5% less votes than the SPD alone had commanded until now (50.4%). However, given the distribution of power between the two allies, even the Social-Democratic - Liberal coalition does not truly reflect the political situation in Berlin.

¹ CDU Deputy, Berlin

The Berlin FDP has always had leftish leanings and even in the SPD, in its new configuration, there are many members given to ideological adventurism and political radicalism.

This is why, for all the satisfaction with the CDU's considerable moral victory, there is reason to say that the cause of democracy has suffered a blow.

One proof of this is the fact that 13 out of every 100 electors did not go to the polls, obviously because they failed to understand the importance of the present political juncture.

Normally an 87% turnout is considered satisfactory; in Berlin since 1946, over 90% of the citizens regularly turned out to vote in crucial elections. The abstention of a large number of Berliners is partly due to the appearance of a new generation of voters, a phenomenon the obvious consequences of which merit serious consideration from all those who have the future freedom and security of Berlin at heart.

