

LIBRARY

434.92

EUSO

Europe Socialiste

Press Service

Socialist Group

European Parliament

1000 Bruxelles — Bd de l'Empereur 3 — Tél. 511.95.95 / 513.40.70 — Telex: 24541 EURPAR B

TERRORISM AND TERRORISTS

by Pierre Lagorce

At its November part-session the European Parliament unanimously adopted a resolution condemning acts of terrorism and calling on the Member States of the European Community to take concerted action to try and prevent such acts.

Socialist Group Amendment

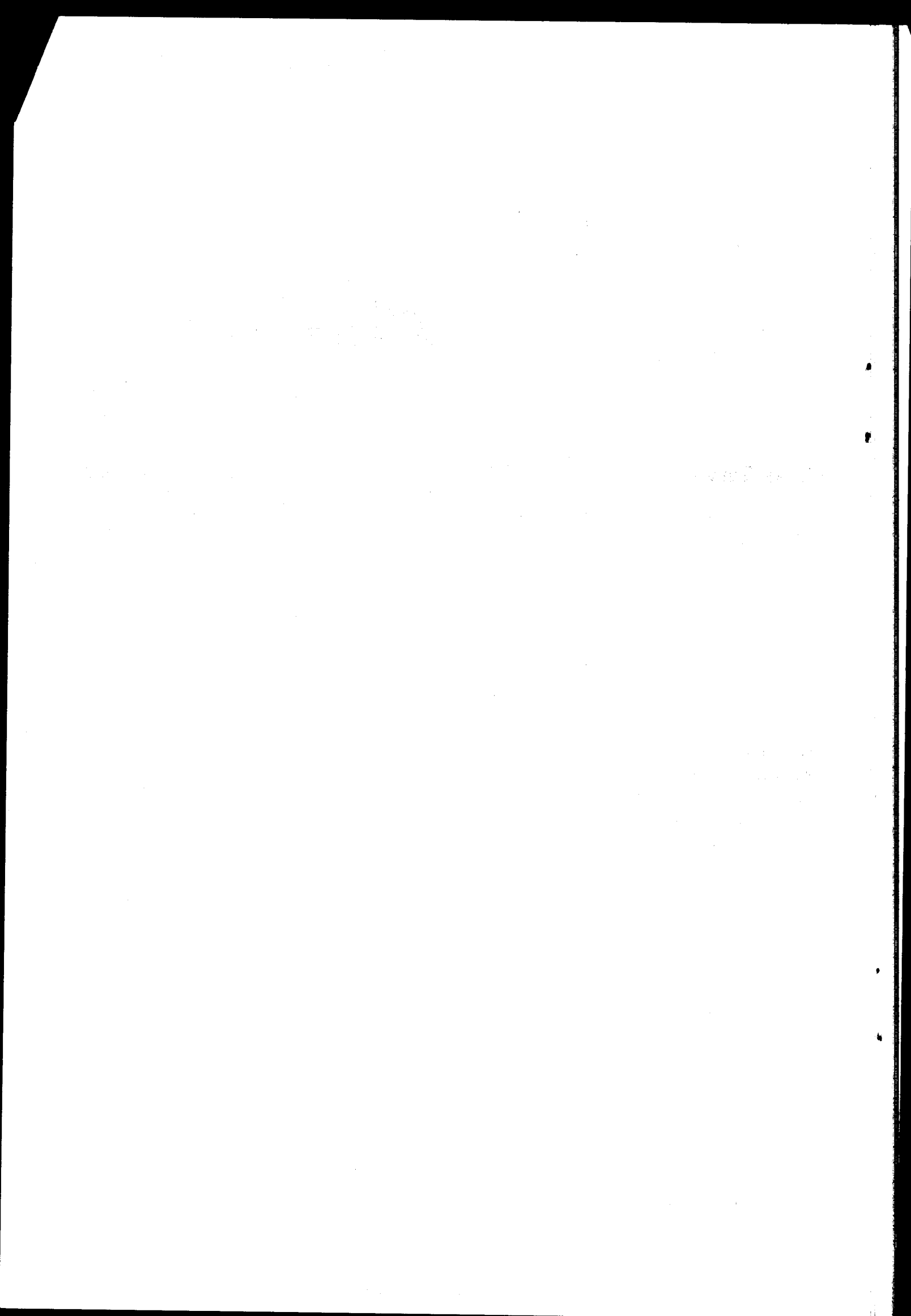
The Socialist Group was of course in agreement with this measure, while at the same time adding a reservation or, rather, a clarification, which I was asked to present in the form of an amendment to the text of the resolution.

The resolution referred to acts of terrorism perpetrated both inside and outside de Community. We proposed to encompass acts of terrorism perpetrated in the Community and originating or extending outside the Community.

A straightforward change of wording perhaps ? By no means :

First of all, there is a need to spell out what is meant by 'act of terrorism'.

Contents	no. 6/77
Pierre Lagorce : Terrorism and terrorists	1
Ernest Glinne : Meeting on problems on employment in the EEC	4
André Guerlin : The French socialists' position on the common agricultural policy	6
Ludwig Fellermaier : Butter for Christmas	8
'Special rights' and the European Parliament	9
Wilhelm Dröschner	10



Where such acts consist of aircraft hijackings involving the taking of hostages or of coldly premeditated murders, they are nothing but a particularly odious and cowardly form of banditry to be condemned without reservation. Blackmail endangering the lives of innocent people cannot be accepted by anyone for any reason whatever, least of all in the name of political causes, which, actions of this nature can only serve to discredit.

Yet in systematically condemning any act of terrorism perpetrated outside the Community, as we were asked to do by the original resolution, were we not risking the paradox of justifying the methods of merciless oppression used in certain countries, some of them in Latin America, against those opposed to dictatorial regimes? Let us not forget that the French declaration on the rights of man and on civic rights of 26 August 1791 specified 'resistance to oppression' as one of the natural and inalienable rights of man.

As for the acts of opponents, guerillas and desperados fighting with inferior weapons against bloody dictators who are enslaving their people, often resorting to bomb attacks because they have no other means at their disposal, are not these acts considered by the powers that be in their country as acts of terrorism? In other words, could not a Pinochet invoke this resolution adopted by a democratic assembly in order to continue imprisoning, torturing and killing the opponents of his regime?

Besides, our democratic countries are not deceived by this argument, particularly not France, at least until very recently - and have been generous in granting asylum, a right cherished by all democrats, to such people who are nevertheless classed as terrorists by their own government.

Many more examples could be given in this way by referring to the last war when the opponents of Nazism and Fascism in France and elsewhere were considered by those then occupying the country - and regrettably by some of their compatriots too - as terrorists, and their acts of resistance as acts of terrorism.

This is why, while being firm, we wanted to exercise prudence in restricting, the field of application of the resolution put before us, to the Community alone, i.e. to those countries where the existing political regimes, whatever form they take, in no way justify acts of terrorism.

However, experience shows that acts of this nature perpetrated in such and such a European country may have been - and often are - decided on and planned outside the Community by people who are not Community citizens and who may possibly even enjoy the more or less overt collusion of third countries.

Moreover, such acts of terrorism may extend and often, if not almost always, end outside the Community, especially in cases involving hijacked aircraft landing at airports in Asia or Africa that are ready to receive them.

Therefore the amendment we proposed, which was unanimously adopted by the European Parliament, while clarifying all the necessary points, does not exclude any acts of terrorism liable to affect the Community, and this is what is important. Moreover, even if the scope of the resolution was at the same time limited, this clear stance can only serve as an example and encourage countries outside Europe to adopt a similar position.

A possible cause of regret, however, is that Parliament has adopted a text which only attacks the effects of terrorism and not its causes. Here, however, there is clearly another problem at issue and one which could not be resolved by any piece of paper, even one unanimously adopted by men of goodwill.

FOCUS ON EMPLOYMENT AT A MEETING OF TRADE UNIONISTS,
COMMISSIONERS AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS

by Ernest Glinne

In September 1977 the Socialist Group of the European Parliament organized a meeting between European Trade Union leaders, Members of the European Parliament, and Mr. Vredeling and Mr. Giolitti, members of the Commission to discuss employment problems in the Community.

Solutions at European Level

This meeting was a new departure, as it was the first dialogue at European level between trade unions and political leaders. It was also informal, which encouraged the free exchange of views and allowed the participants to reach broad agreement on a number of subjects.

It was felt that there was little sense in attempting to reach strictly national solutions to employment problems. They had to be found at European level, and it was here that new political and social balance of power relationships had to be sought. However, it would be impractical to ask too much of the Commission, which is after all an executive body, and to blame it for failings for which the responsibility lies elsewhere.

From a socialist and trade unionist point of view, we had to pass beyond the highly liberal philosophy of the Treaty of Rome and attempt to introduce such ideas as planning.

As to the means to be employed, the participants in the meeting wished to see the Regional Fund and the Social Fund strengthened, and the agricul-

tural policy transformed into a policy of structural change instead of a system of constantly increasing prices. In the industrial sector, there should be encouragement for small and medium-sized firms, especially those which are labour-intensive.

With regard to economic matters, the causes of inflation put forward by the Right must be challenged. Wage rises were in fact only a secondary cause of inflation: the machinations of the multinationals, the raw material and energy markets, the chaos in the international monetary system, and various types of speculation all had a far more decisive effect. Moreover, the excessive profits which the capitalist machine is allowed to accumulate had not led to reinvestment for recovery. The recourse to protectionism as a long-term instrument should be avoided; on the other hand, there was a need for a change in the system of floating exchange rates, international control over the movement of capital and a coherent industrial policy.

Public investment should increase but, to have any effect on employment, it should be very selective and aimed chiefly at encouraging public and social types of consumption rather than individual consumption.

Reductions in working hours seemed essential; how this could be achieved would be discussed at later meetings.

The problem of relations with the Third World was also raised; Europe should pursue a constructive policy of cooperation, particularly in the transfer of technology. However, the European trade unions must be consulted by the Community authorities and the institutions of Lomé Convention because of the implications of cooperation and development policy for the development of the European economy.

It is clear that this meeting will not be the last. The Parliamentarians, and in a personal capacity the Trade Union leaders and the two Commissioners expressed their satisfaction at this opportunity for a completely frank exchange of ideas and at the agreement on a fundamental appraisal of the situation and a number of proposed solutions.

THE FRENCH SOCIALISTS' POSITION ON THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

by André Guerlin

In an article published in 'Le Monde' of 13-14 November 1977 concerning the vote on the budget of the Communities and, in particular, the section on agriculture, Mr. Cointat blatantly distorts the truth in three instances and makes a number of unwarranted insinuations.

He asserts that 'the Communists and the Socialists - in a surprising show of unanimity - forced through the vote imposing a ceiling on EAGGF 1) appropriations'.

He makes no mention of the fact that two amendments were tabled on this subject, one of which - No. 64, tabled by Mr. Spinelli and other Italian Communists - proposed that a 'real and not merely indicative' ceiling should be placed on the commitments of the EAGGF Guarantee Section. This amendment was adopted by Parliament without a single vote against. In other words, it also elicited the support of the French Gaullists.

The other amendment, tabled by Mr. Lange (the chairman of the Committee on Budgets), proposed that a maximum ceiling be placed on EAGGF Guarantee Section appropriations by keeping 20 % of those appropriations as a reserve, over and above those normally entered for this purpose. This amendment was not adopted by Parliament, as it was opposed by 32 Members including not only the French Gaullists but also - let it be understood - the French Socialists.

Mr. Cointat's assertion is therefore false.

Mr. Cointat also refers to the co-responsibility levy on milk producers. He does not mention the French Socialists' position on this particular issue,

1) European agriculture guidance and guarantee Fund

for the simple reason that on Monday, 13 December 1976, the French Socialists decided and voted against the introduction of this levy.

He does insinuate, however, by his earlier comments on the EAGGF, that on this matter too the Socialists have betrayed the interests of French farmers.

He makes no reference whatsoever to the fact that the Socialists began defending milk producers against this levy long before the Gaullists.

Mr. Cointat's third assertion is that Parliament refused to provide the resources for a policy aimed at directing production more effectively and improving agricultural structures - the implication being that this was the fault of the Socialists.

Yet he is fully aware that by adopting the above mentioned amendment by Mr. Spinelli, Parliament declared itself in favour of the progressive development of the EAGGF Guidance Section.

In other words, if the common agricultural policy has been whittled away, as Mr. Cointat would have us believe, the Socialists are certainly not to blame.

Distortions of the truth will not change the situation and prevent Europe from being 'strangled'. That process of strangulation began long ago - under General de Gaulle, to whom Mr. Cointat gave his unqualified support.

BUTTER FOR CHRISTMAS - A SWORD CUTTING WATER

by Ludwig Fellermaier

The butter mountain has been angering European consumers for a long time. They are not happy to learn that the only sales of cheap butter are made for the profit of the countries of Eastern Europe. That is why everyone was happy at the programme of "BUTTER FOR CHRISTMAS" to go to European consumers.

How is this working out in practice? The consumer, when he wants to buy this butter finds himself in front of empty shelves or discovers that he can only purchase a very limited quantity. Moreover, many small businesses do not even get any deliveries of this butter because the quantity foreseen for the programme is insufficient: 27 000 tons for France, 9 500 tons for Benelux. In the other member states, the same situation!

The consumers run a major risk of being disappointed. On the one hand, there is still talk of butter mountains and the enormous cost of storing it. On the other hand, popular measure like this one will have no more effect than a sword cutting water.

The Council and the Commission of the European Communities are therefore being called upon to increase the amount of "BUTTER FOR CHRISTMAS" which is so cheap. This must be done very quickly. In fact the consumers must be allowed to benefit from it in a satisfactory way and without difficulties.

It is in the interest of all the politicians of Europe not to reinforce its bad image which the C.A.P. encourages, but, on the contrary, to make sure that the citizens of Europe are aware that the Community can also be a consumer's Community.

'SPECIAL RIGHTS' AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

At the time of the adoption of the report on the special rights of citizens of the European Community, Mr. Alfons Bayerl (Socialist Group, draftsman of the opinion of the Legal Affairs Committee) and Mr. Mario Scelba (Christian-Democratic Group, rapporteur for the Political Affairs Committee) expressed their satisfaction at the fact that the European Parliament had spoken out in favour of a broad interpretation of the resolutions relating to 'special rights' adopted at the meeting of the European Council in December 1974 and July 1975.

The European Parliament wants citizens of the Community to be able to enjoy 'special rights' with respect to Community institutions and to the member country where they are established if this is not their country of origin. The European Parliament is in favour of direct intervention by the Community institutions in support of civil and political rights, in particular that of appeal to the European Court of Justice on fundamental rights.

Mr. Alfons Bayerl and Mr. Mario Scelba suggest that concret proposals should be drawn up immediately for submission to the institutions concerned, with a view to implementing 'special rights'. In addition, they propose the organization of a seminar under the aegis of the European University Institute in Florence. This seminar, which would be attended by politicians from the nine member countries assisted by highly qualified experts, could draw up a draft list of 'special rights'.

Death of Wilhelm Dröscher, Chairman of the Confederation
of Socialist Parties of the European Community

Wilhelm Dröscher, treasurer of the Social Democratic Party of Germany and Chairman of the Confederation of Socialist Parties of the European Community, died in Hamburg on Nov., 18th, 1977 at the age of 57. The SPD Party Conference, which learnt of his death from party chairman Willy Brandt, broke off its proceedings for half an hour because of the shock this news caused. The doctor called to the scene stated that, shortly after 9 a.m., Wilhelm Dröscher had suffered acute cardiac failure.

Visibly moved, Willy Brandt described the late Wilhelm Dröscher as one of the best and a good friend, "a man of the people, rather quiet, but in his actions like a candle burning at both ends". Mr. Brandt said that Wilhelm Dröscher had overtaxed himself working for the SPD, for the people of his own region, the Federal Republic and Europe, "in which he had believed so strongly". The party congress observed a minute's silence as a token of respect for the deceased.

Mr. Dröscher had taken on the office of treasurer in 1975 as successor to Alfred Nau and, together with Secretary Egon Bahr, he initiated a restructuring of the party apparatus. This politician, who won admiration well beyond the confines of his own party, was to have been confirmed in office by the conference delegates. He would certainly have received an overwhelming vote of confidence.

Wilhelm Dröscher was born on 7 October 1920 in Kirn an der Nahe where he attended secondary school. Until 1933 he was active in the German Youth Movement and then until 1936 in the Jungvolk. He completed a course of commercial studies, passed a journeyman's final examination and was then employed in a factory in Kirn. Wilhelm Dröscher served in the second world war from 1939 to 1945, was wounded three times, was awarded the Iron Cross, First Class, and the German Cross in gold and finally became first lieutenant in the reserves.

After a period as a prisoner of war, Wilhelm Dröscher worked in a saw mill from 1945 to 1948. He was a member of the Communist Party from 1946 until 1948, but in 1949 joined the SPD. From then until 1967 he was mayor and head of the administration of Kirn-Land. Within the SPD, Wilhelm Dröscher was first chairman of Kreuznach, from 1956 chairman of Nahe-Hunsrück-region and from 1967 chairman of Rheinland-Hessen-Nassau. From 1955 to 1957 he was a member of the Landtag of the Rhineland Palatinate. From 1957 to 1971 he was a member of the Bundestag and, in addition, from 1965 to 1971 a member of the European Parliament.

Wilhelm Dröscher gave so much of himself to the electors of his Bad Kreuznach constituency that he earned for himself the nickname "The good man of Kirn". In May 1970 he was elected chairman of the Rhineland-Palatinate SPD as successor to Jockel Fuchs, Oberbürgermeister of Mainz, and on 9 May 1970 he was nominated to lead the SPD list of candidates in Saarbrücken for the elections to the Landtag on 21 March 1971. The SPD did well in these elections with 40,5 % of the vote, but was unable to make an impression on the dominant position of the CDU in the Land (50 %). Wilhelm Dröscher subsequently became chairman of the SPD Group in the Landtag.

At the Hanover SPD Conference in early May 1973, Wilhelm Dröscher was elected member of the party executive and later of the praesidium. Within the executive he took on the chairmanship of the management committee with chief responsibility for all the SPD's business activities, particularly publishing and printing. At the November 1975 party conference in Mannheim, Wilhelm Dröscher was elected treasurer of the SPD receiving the largest number (410) of votes given to one candidate. He considered one of his most important tasks at that time to be the reorganization of SPD media. He belonged to the Council of the ZDF television network and from June 1976 was coeditor of the Social Democratic Weekly "Vorwärts" and the SPD press office.

Through his efforts, he contributed to developing within the Confederation of Socialist Parties in the European Community, a climate of fraternity and work where discussion, debate and even confrontation should bring the Confederation to play a more and more significant rôle in the European political life. The whole of the European socialist movement, has lost a comrade who combined his political abilities with a profound sense of humanity.

