

# **EUSSO**

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## ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA?

The Socialist Group has just lost one of its most active members, Mr Cees Laban. A committed European and dedicated socialist, he was deeply concerned not only with agricultural problems but with all aspects of external relations and, in particular, the situation in developing countries. Deeply aware of the economic and human problems facing the third world, he repeatedly called on the governments of the industrialized countries to devote greater efforts to the promotion of effective cooperation and equality.

The following article, written shortly before his death, shows the commitments and principles which were the constant inspiration of his work in the European Parliament:

Will the European Community adopt economic and political sanctions against South Africa and, if so, what form will they take?

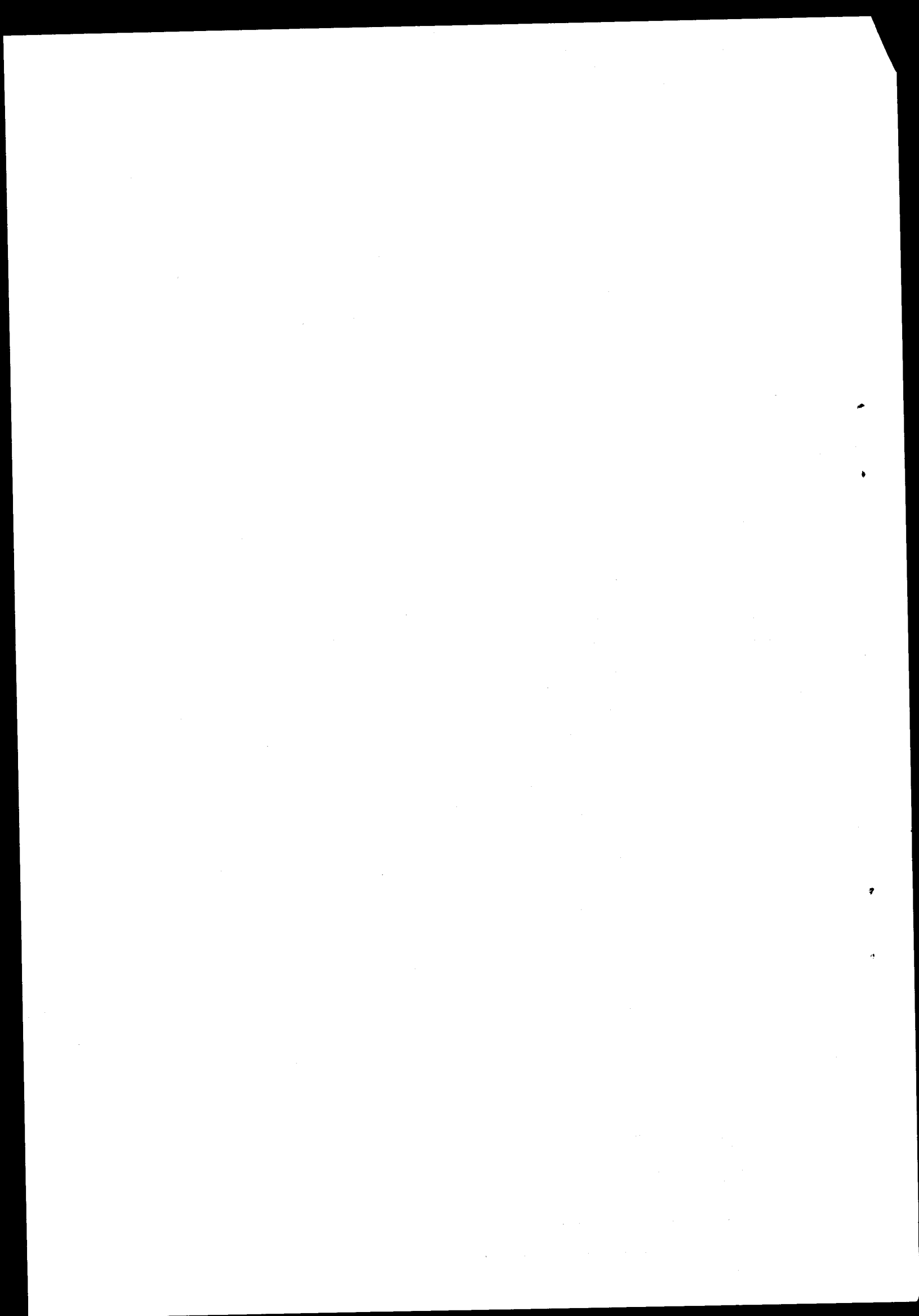
The policy to be adopted on South Africa was one topic discussed by the Foreign Affairs Ministers on 25/26 July 1977.

Agreement was reached on a joint declaration condemning apartheid which was subsequently issued during the conference organised in Lagos by the United Nations from 22 to 26 August 1977. The author of this article has not seen the text of the declaration. According to the widely divergent rumours circulating it could either have been a severe condemnation or simply a general statement. It is also possible that the Member States spoke on their own behalf.

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It was not an important declaration since the policy of apartheid has already been condemned on numerous occasions.

It would be more interesting to know if the European Community intends to translate this condemnation into economic and political sanctions.

A group of experts is studying the matter. However, the Member States have not succeeded in reaching agreement on a code of conduct for European companies in South Africa, aimed at encouraging these companies to adopt the system of equal pay for equal work for black and white workers, to offer identical promotion possibilities and to eliminate apartheid within their undertakings.

The experts should also consider the possibility of a joint agreement terminating all participation by public authorities in investments in South Africa.

I believe that it would be possible to reach a common position on this matter.

Business circles have a flair for sensing political developments and a falling off in investments has already been noted. Sooner or later there will be black majority government in South Africa even if this means - although one hopes that it can be avoided - bloody civil war. However the Vorster government is prepared to run this risk.

Until now the European Community has adopted a somewhat passive stance on economic and political sanctions against South Africa. Of course, the European Community still enjoys a certain prestige in Africa. However it should, in response to the constant political promptings from developing countries and from the United Nations, take a clear stand and use its economic and political influence to help to set up in South Africa, Rhodesia and Namibia a political regime founded on the same principles of freedom and equality which guide both the European Economic Community and its development policy.

South Africa will become increasingly isolated and will be forced either to put an end to racial discrimination or, to take part in a bloody struggle which could escalate into an international conflict if countries like China and the Soviet Union intervene and make permanent peaceful co-existence between whites and blacks definitively impossible.

Therefore the western nations, and in particular the EEC should take immediate steps to resolve the problem, otherwise the EEC will lose its credibility in the eyes of developing (and Arab) countries.

Until now there was little hope that the EEC would take decisive action.

Certain measures could be effective:

- (a) Total economic boycott of South Africa and Rhodesia;
- (b) Withdrawal of Member-States' investments in South Africa;
- (c) Total suspension of European investments in South Africa;
- (d) Obligatory embargo on arms sales to South Africa;
- (e) Suspension or substantial reduction in deliveries of oil to South Africa;
- (f) Full application of sanctions adopted by the United Nations against Rhodesia.

I call on the Socialist Group of the European Parliament to take steps - both here and in the National Parliaments - to have these measures applied. Verbal condemnations of the South African regime achieve nothing. What is needed is an energetic attitude even if we have to suffer the consequences. The Labour Party is adamant on this point and will take vigorous action once it returns to power.

Cees Laban

August 1977

THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE CONCERNS ALL COUNTRIES

The eleventh inter-parliamentary meeting was held in London from 11 to 14 July 1977. Two important questions: a code of conduct for multinationals and human rights. A commentary by Mario Zagari, leader of the European delegation.

The London meeting is of especial importance because it is the first of its kind since the election of President Carter. The American Congress has shown a new interest in Europe, but there is no doubt that Europe must find itself again if it wishes to be rediscovered by others. The vacuum created during the Nixon-Kissinger years is sensed by the Americans themselves.

We must avoid a return to forms of cold war that would work against the defence of human rights

Human rights are a very grave issue, for repression is practised all over the world, as Amnesty International bears witness. The problem concerns not just the USSR but all countries, especially those of the Third World.

In London the parliamentarians adopted a number of decisions, the most important bearing on a permanent exchange of information, the adoption of common investigation procedures and joint action for examining the most urgent individual cases. This is the first time joint procedures have been introduced. The delegation of European parliamentarians pointed out, however, that these measures to defend human rights must be accompanied by other cooperation and security policies.

Détente is an essential condition for human rights. Europe cannot abandon this policy of détente (implemented for a good many years now through the scientific, technical and economic cooperation agreements with the Eastern European countries) by putting the sole emphasis on human rights. The Americans - among whom the most active Democrats have been Fraser, Gibbons and Ryan - have shown great perspicacity and have confirmed the flexibility of the Carter policy.

Against a 'law of the jungle'

U.S. Democrat Gibbons and Comrade Lange have submitted a code of conduct for the multinational companies containing a series of norms which all Western countries should use as a guide in holding this serious development in check. Experience has shown, however, that individual states cannot on their own effectively combat the abuses of the multinationals. The idea conceived in London is to set up an international secretariat, a supranational body which would coordinate control operations. At the European level it is important to arrive at the same situation as in the iron and steel industry for which precise norms are in force in all the Community Member States. The Gibbons-Lange 'code' is aimed at checking 'law of the jungle' moves by various multinationals which can affect the political stability of a state. It also stipulates that it is forbidden to grant funds to government officials and political groups. Governments must impose severe penalties and encourage exchanges of information about multinationals.

On the energy question the discussions mainly reflected American concern at the European technological drive to find new energy sources: at issue were the fast breeder reactors. Europe, however, has undertaken to develop this technology for purely peaceful purposes. It is up to all democrats to see that this commitment is upheld.

Mario Zagari

## SOCIALIST GROUP ACTIVITIES

### SOCIALIST' GROUP ACTION ON ENERGY POLICY

In the weeks before the summer break, Socialist Parliamentarians specialising in energy policy were principally occupied with three things - security of fissile materials, the siting of power stations, and drawing up an energy policy for the Socialist Group.

#### The "Plumbat Affair"

The revelation in May that a ship carrying 200 tons of uranium had disappeared back in 1968 caused great consternation in the Socialist Group as to the current effectiveness of Euratom controls over fissile materials. Group Chairman Ludwig Fellermaier and two British members in particular, John Prescott and Tam Dalyell, subjected the Commission to sharp questioning at both the May and June sessions of European Parliament. The Group did not find the answers sufficient.

Then, in response to an oral question posed by Ron Brown, Commissioner Brunner brought two Euratom inspectors to the Energy and Research Committee on June 20. As a result of this, Gerhard Flämig, on behalf of his Socialist colleagues, proposed that the Committee request permission to draw up an "own initiative" report on the whole question of the monitoring and security of fissile materials in the Community. Parliament's Bureau has given the go-ahead.

#### Siting of Power Stations

During the July part-session, Parliament approved the report of Mrs. Walz (C.D.) on the Commission's proposal for a Community consultation procedure on the siting of power stations likely to effect the territory of another Member State.

Speaking for the Socialist Group, Gerhard Flämig approved the proposal but with reservations. First, he was unsure whether present predictions as to the number of power stations needed by the end of the century

were not exaggerated, saying that the question of growth and the relationship between economic growth and energy demand must be carefully examined. In future there must be long-term programming of site planning for power stations on the basis of agreed guidelines.

Secondly, while welcoming the extension of consultation procedure to non-nuclear power stations, he believed the proposed regulation was defective in that the procedure lacked any binding force.

Thirdly, the consultation should not be limited to frontiers between Member States, but should also encompass the Community's external frontiers.

#### Socialist Group energy policy

Since March, a small working party of the Group has been discussing what main themes should be incorporated in an energy policy for the Socialist Group. They presented an Interim Report which the Group discussed in Brussels on June 29.

Members of the Working Party are Gerhard Flämig and Willi Müller (S.P.D.) and Tom Ellis, Ron Brown and Bob Edwards (Labour Party). Wim Albers (P.P.R.), Henk Waltmans (P.P.R.) and Hajo Hoffmann (S.P.D.) have also assisted. It is hoped that a final report will be ready by the end of this year.



Mediterranean Policy at Centre of European Socialist Debate

The Socialist Group of the European Parliament met from 1 to 3 September 1977 in Sorrento, under the chairmanship of Ludwig Fellermaier.

During its meeting the Socialist Group having examined the political situation in Italy, discussed Mediterranean Policy and Regional Policy.

At the end of the discussion of Mediterranean Policy, the Group adopted the following Resolution :

"The Socialist Group emphasized that the applications for accession testified to the attractive power of Community Europe.

Requests for accession from Greece, Portugal and Spain should be granted by the Community institutions and the Member States in order to consolidate democracy in these countries, ensure a harmonious development of their economies, and prevent their isolation or dependence on one of the two superpowers. Peace, security and balanced development of the Mediterranean countries were an essential condition for the Community's progress and success.

The Socialist Group was aware of the difficulties in the area of agriculture, which would have to be resolved through structural reforms during a transitional period to be determined, in the course of which new forms of political and economic cooperation with these countries would have to be found.

The Group recognized that the problem of Mediterranean Europe could only be solved through an overall effort, principally in the industrial sector, to develop this region's economy, actuated by the solidarity of the Member States, which was fundamental to the concept of the Community."

Today :

The Socialist Group presents  
four new members :

DANMARK

Mrs. Karen Dahlerup Andersen  
Mr. Erik Andersen  
Mr. Erling Dienesen

BELGIUM

Mr. Louis Vanvelthoven

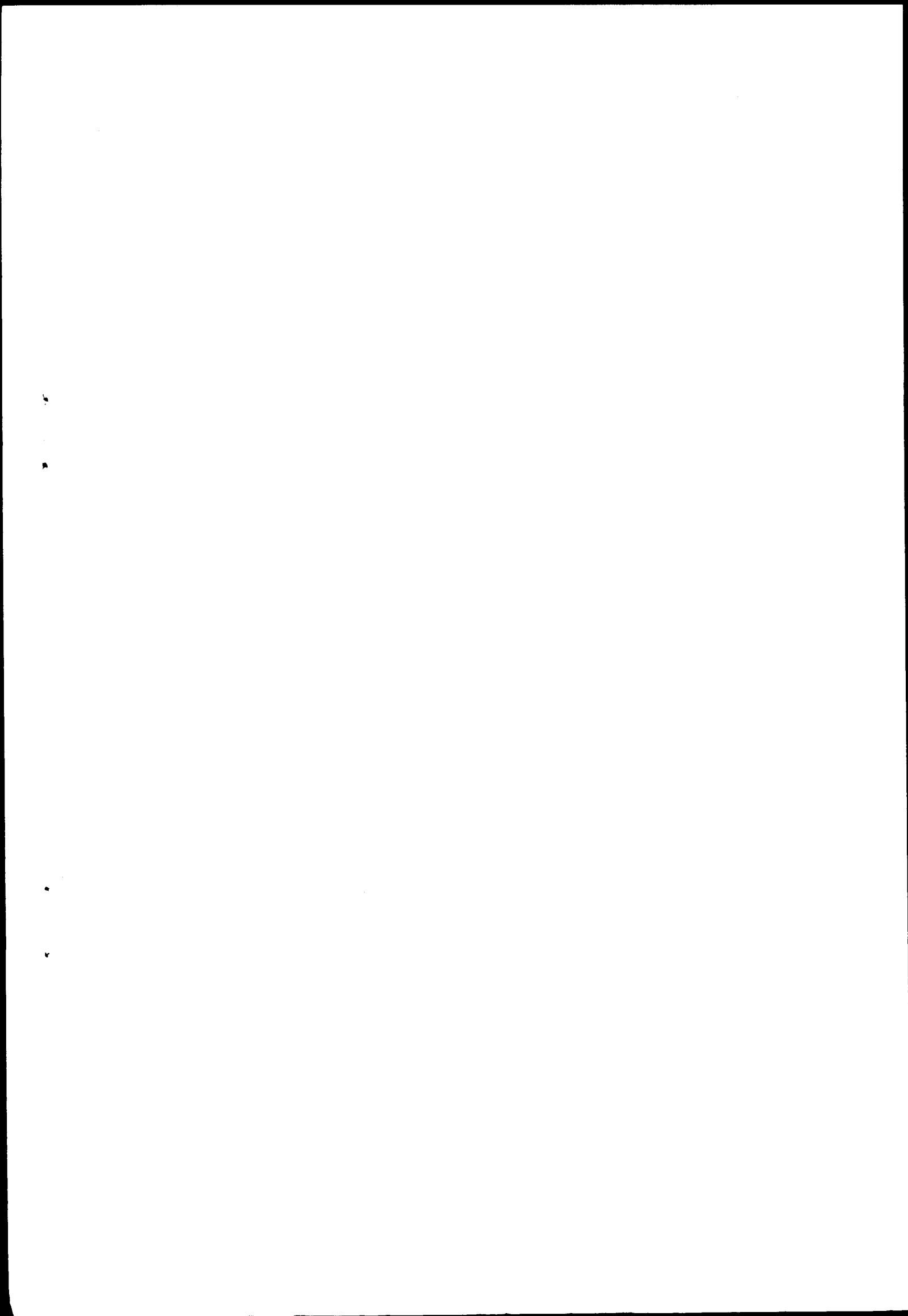
Calender :

Part sessions of the European  
Parliament :

10 - 14 October in Luxembourg  
24 - 26 October in Luxembourg

Group meetings :

during the part-sessions and  
5 - 6 October in Brussels



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