

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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Report

drawn up on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee

on the relations between the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs M.F. BADUEL GLORIOSO

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On 25 March 1980 the European Parliament authorized the Political Affairs Committee to draw up an own initiative report on relations between the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.

On 31 January 1980, Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO was appointed rapporteur on this subject.

The draft report was to be drawn up initially within the Subcommittee on Institutional Problems where it was adopted on 17 February 1981.

The Political Affairs Committee considered this draft report at its meetings of 17 and 18 March and 21 to 23 April 1981.

It adopted the report at this last meeting by 23 votes to 3.

Present: Mr Rumor, chairman; Lord Bethell and Mr Haagerup, vice-chairmen; Mrs Baduel Glorioso, rapporteur; Mr Antoniozzi, Mr Berkhouwer, Mrs Cassanmagnago Cerretti, Lord Douro, Mr B. Friedrich, Mr Forth (deputizing for Mr J.M. Taylor), Mrs Fourcade (deputizing for Mr de la Malène), Mrs Gredel, Mr Habsburg, Mrs Hammerich, Mr von Hassel, Mr Israel (deputizing for Mr Lalor), Mr C. Jackson (deputizing for Lady Elles), Mr Klepsch, Mrs Lenz (deputizing for Mr Tindemans), Mr Macario (deputizing for Mr Diligent), Mr Normanton, Mr Penders, Mr Pintat (deputizing for Mr Bettiza), Mr Schall (deputizing for Mr Blumenfeld), Mr Schieler, Mr Segre, Mr Seitzlinger, Sir John Stewart-Clark (deputizing for Sir James Scott-Hopkins).

The explanatory statement will be given orally in the plenary sitting.



The Political Affairs Committee hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on relations between the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee

The European Parliament,

- being anxious to take even greater account than in the past of the positions adopted within the Economic and Social Committee during the on-going debate held by the social partners on all the policies and activities of the European Community,
- whereas Article 4 of the EEC Treaty provides that the Council and the Commission shall be assisted by the Economic and Social Committee, whose activities and structures are fully described in Articles 193 and 198 of the said Treaty,
- whereas the Committee consists of 'representatives of the various categories of economic and social activity, in particular, representatives of producers, farmers, carriers, workers, dealers, craftsmen, professional occupations and representatives of the general public',
- whereas in the final declaration of the Conference of the Heads of State or Government of the Member States of the European Community and of the acceding States, meeting in Paris in October 1972, the Community Institutions were called upon to acknowledge the Economic and Social Committee's right to deliver in future 'own-initiative' opinions on all matters relating to the work of the Community,
- whereas since 1972 the Committee has, of its own initiative, considered the more important aspects of events that have figured prominently in the external and internal affairs of the Community,
- whereas this development has been generally accepted and, in particular, was approved by the Three Wise Men, whose report took account and stressed the importance of the Economic and Social Committee, especially by affirming that 'as a Treaty institution, it should hold a central place' among the Community's advisory bodies on socio-economic matters,
- having regard to the Report of the Three Wise Men which states that the 'ESC should make a special effort for cooperation with the Parliament, not just at the general policy level but in the detailed consultative work,'

- whereas over the past two years the Economic and Social Committee has adapted and interpreted its rules of procedure to take account of the progressive extension of its responsibilities and the greater transparency its work has also acquired through the delivery of minority opinions,
 - whereas since 1975 the briefing of Parliament on the Economic and Social Committee's work has gradually improved, especially as a result of the increasing frequency with which Committee rapporteurs are heard on a wide variety of topics,
 - whereas the Economic and Social Committee contributes to the work of the ACP-EEC Joint Committee,
 - whereas the Economic and Social Committee holds periodic meetings with all the national economic and social councils of the Community,
 - whereas the Economic and Social Committee organizes, in agreement with the Commission, ad hoc conferences on specific topics of current importance to the Community (for example, the conference on the enlargement of the Community of 26 and 27 June 1980 and the conference on the problems associated with the European building industry of 11 and 12 September 1980),
 - whereas the Economic and Social Committee holds an annual meeting with the Consultative Committee of EFTA,
 - having regard to the close relations between the ESC and the Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community on matters concerning this sector of activities,
 - whereas on the occasion of her first visit to the Economic and Social Committee on 3 July 1980, the President of the European Parliament, Mrs Simone Veil, called for greater cooperation between Parliament and the Committee, with the aim of expediting and improving the quality of Community work, having due regard to the independence of both bodies,
 - having regard to the report of the Political Affairs Committee (Doc. 1-226/81),
1. Proposes that, as far as problems falling within their specific terms of reference are concerned, Members of Parliament should be kept systematically informed of the opinions delivered and the studies carried out by the Economic and Social Committee;
 2. Proposes that hearings with the rapporteurs should be held more frequently (taking into account the specific problem of work schedules) on matters relating to the terms of reference of the Sections of the Economic and Social Committee and the committees of the European Parliament, in agreement with their chairmen;

3. Proposes that in future, Members of the European Parliament should be invited to play an active part in the special events organized by the Economic and Social Committee, so that they are better able to take account in the course of their own work of the relations between the social partners, their preoccupations and the positions adopted by them;
4. Proposes that the Presidents of the two institutions should agree on an annual programme of contacts and consultation to underline their mutual collaboration;
5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Council of the European Community, and to the Economic and Social Committee.

