

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1978 - 1979

4 July 1978

DOCUMENT 221/78

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Political Affairs
Committee

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament
on the Council's proposal that the election of
representatives to the European Parliament by
direct universal suffrage should be held from
7 to 10 June 1979 (Doc. 219/78)

Rapporteur: Mr PATIJN

PE 54.198/fin.

By letter of 1 July 1978 the Council informed the European Parliament that, on 23 June 1979, all the Member States of the Community had given notification of the completion of the procedures set out in the Act of 20 September 1976 on the election of representatives to the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage and that the Act had consequently entered into force, pursuant to Article 16, on 1 July 1978.

In its letter the Council also expressed its intention to fix, pursuant to Article 10 of the abovementioned Act, the period 7 to 10 June 1979 for the first direct elections to the European Parliament. Pursuant to the same article, the Council officially consulted the European Parliament on this proposal (Doc. 219/78).

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Political Affairs Committee as the committee responsible.

On 3 July 1978 the Political Affairs Committee appointed as rapporteur Mr PATIJN who had been instructed to follow the question of direct elections to the European Parliament.

At the same meeting, the committee discussed and unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution.

Present: Mr BERTRAND, Chairman; Mr BRUGHA, Vice-Chairman, Mr PATIJN, rapporteur; Mr BERKHOUWER, Mr FLETCHER-COOKE, Mr JAHN, Mr KLEPSCH, Mr MITCHELL, Lord REAY, Mr SIEGLERSCHMIDT, and Mr YEATS (deputizing for Mr de la MALÈNE).

The explanatory statement will be presented orally.

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

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the Council's proposal that the election of representatives to the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage should be held from 7 to 10 June 1979

The European Parliament,

- whereas the provisions of the Act of 20 September 1976¹ on the election of representatives to the Assembly by direct universal suffrage came into effect, after completion of the procedures provided for, on 1 July 1978;
- whereas Article 10 of this Act requires the Council, acting unanimously after consulting the European Parliament to determine the date of the first direct elections;
- having been consulted by the Council, pursuant to the abovementioned article, on the proposal that the first election of representatives to the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage should be held from 7 to 10 June 1979 ;
- stressing that this first direct election of the European Parliament, in application of the provisions of the Treaties establishing the Community, fulfills a deep-felt desire of the peoples of the Member States to take an active part in the construction of Europe, and represents the achievement of the aim constantly pursued by the European Parliament for over twenty years to hold such direct elections;
- conscious of the new responsibility which will devolve upon the directly elected Parliament, representing the peoples of the States united in the Community, to give a new, democratic impulse to Community activity;
- recalling its previous resolutions of 14 January 1975 (Doc. 368/74)², 11 March 1976 (Doc. 11/76)³, 7 April 1976 (Doc. 45/76)⁴, 16 June 1976 (Doc. 174/76)⁵, 15 September 1976 (Doc. 288/76)⁶, 15 November 1977 (Doc. 386/77)⁷, 16 December 1977 (Doc. 449/77)⁸, 16 February 1978 (Doc. 537/77)⁹ and 11 May 1978 (Doc. 65/78)¹⁰,
- having regard to the report of its Political Affairs Committee (Doc. 221/78),

¹ OJ No. L 278, 8.10.76

² OJ No. C 32, 11.2.1975, p.15

³ OJ No. C 79, 5.4.1976, p.27

⁴ OJ No. C 100, 3.5.1976, p.24

⁵ OJ No. C 159, 12.7.1976, p.23

⁶ OJ No. C 238, 11.10.1976, p.25

⁷ OJ No. C 299, 12.12.1977, p.23

⁸ OJ No. C 6, 9.1.1978, p.145

⁹ OJ No. C 63, 13.3.1978, p. 35

¹⁰ OJ No. C 131, 5.6.1978, p. 55

1. Approves the Council's proposal that the first election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage should be held from 7 to 10 June 1979;
2. Welcomes the fact that the formal fixing of a date by the Council, following this consultation, will enable the peoples of the States united in the Community to elect their representatives directly to the European Parliament;
3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the Community and to the parliaments and governments of the Member States.