

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

## DELEGATION FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

for the relations with the

### UNITED STATES CONGRESS

New York and Washington

31 October - 4 November 1977

#### Notice to Members

Members will find attached for their information a brief note describing relations between the European Community and the organs of the United Nations (Source: Bulletin of the European Communities - Commission No. 10/74).

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMITTEES  
AND INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

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## INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Organization (UNO) was created by the Charter of San Francisco signed on 25 June 1945, after initial steps had been taken with the agreements of the London Declaration of 12 June 1941, the 'UN Declaration' of 1 January 1942 and the communiqué following the Dumbarton Oaks Conference of 9 October 1944.

Fifty one states were originally members of the UNO when the Charter was brought into effect in October 1945. Current membership is over 150 states.

### Aims of the United Nations

Briefly, the United Nations was set up:

- to maintain international peace and security;
- to develop friendly relations among nations 'based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self determination of peoples ...';
- to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, 'and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion';
- to be a centre of harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends<sup>1</sup>.

### Structure of the United Nations

Six principal organs of the United Nations are established according to Article 7 of the Charter:

- the General Assembly;
- the Security Council;
- the Economic and Social Council;
- the Trusteeship Council;
- the International Court of Justice;
- the Secretariat.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations.

General Assembly is the 'democratic' organ. All members of the United Nations are equally members of the General Assembly. It has one session of about four months every year. It is based in New York. It is served by seven subject committees (Political and Security; Special Political, Economic and Financial; Social, Humanitarian and Cultural; Trust and Non-Self Governing Territories; Administration and Budgetary; and Legal) and a number of sessional committees (eg. Disarmament Commission, Special Committee against Apartheid).

The General Assembly may make recommendations to the members of the United Nations or to the Security Council or to both on any of the matters within the scope of the Charter. These recommendations require a two-thirds majority of the members present and with the vote.

The General Assembly is also the budgetary authority of the United Nations Organization, and votes for the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of the Economic and Social Council<sup>1</sup>.

The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security. Of the fifteen members of the Security Council, five are permanent; the Republic of China, France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States. The remaining ten are elected by the General Assembly every two years<sup>2</sup>.

The Economic and Social Council consists of fifty-four members elected for three year terms by the General Assembly. Its brief encompasses questions of international economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related matters. It may make recommendations to the General Assembly, to United Nations members and to the specialized agencies<sup>3</sup>. It is served by seven functional commissions, including the Commission on Human Rights. Nine committees, such as that on non-governmental organizations, or on science and technology for development, oversee studies for consideration by ECOSOC. The five Regional Economic Commissions (Europe, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, Africa and Western Asia) conduct detailed economic work, and are responsible to ECOSOC.

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<sup>1</sup> Articles 9-22 of the United Nations Charter.

<sup>2</sup> Articles 23-60 of the United Nations Charter.

<sup>3</sup> Articles 61-74 of the United Nations Charter.

The Trusteeship Council is entrusted with the administrative supervision of territories which were held under mandate, or which are given over by the States formerly responsible. The Council is required to encourage the development of such states until they are able to govern themselves<sup>1</sup>.

The International Court of Justice at the Hague is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. Its statute is based on that of the Permanent Court of International Justice created in 1920. Its powers are not limited to issues described in the United Nations Charter. It cannot consider matters unless the states concerned agree.

It can be consulted on the functioning of the United Nations and its specialized organs.

Fifteen independent judges are elected on a multinational basis for a renewable term of nine years, by the General Assembly and the Security Council voting independently of each other<sup>2</sup>.

The Secretariat is the administrative organ of the United Nations staffed by international civil servants independent of the Member States. The Secretary-General, Kurt WALDHEIM, is nominated for a five year term by the Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council<sup>3</sup>.

Besides these principal organs there are a number of specialized organs set up by the General Assembly, the Security Council or the Economic and Social Council. The UNCTAD, for instance, is a specialized agency set up by the General Assembly.

#### EC/UN Relations

The Commission of the European Community is charged with maintaining contacts with the organs of the United Nations, of its specialized agencies, and of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trades (GATT)<sup>4</sup>.

Since 1958 the Commission has attended the UN Economic Commission for Europe as guest of the Secretariat. In 1959 an agreement concerning mutual consultation on questions of employment policy was made between the EC and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

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<sup>1</sup> Articles 75-91 of the United Nations Charter.

<sup>2</sup> Articles 92-96 of the United Nations Charter.

<sup>3</sup> Articles 97-105 of the United Nations Charter.

<sup>4</sup> Note Article 229 of the EEC Treaty, Article 93 of the ECSC Treaty and Article 199 of the EAEC Treaty.

A number of cooperation agreements with other organizations have been concluded since 1961, for example with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNICEF, the IBRD (World Bank), and since 1964 with UNESCO.

The EC was accorded permanent observer status at UNCTAD in 1964 and observer status at the Economic and Social Council in 1967. In July 1973 the European Parliament asked the Commission to take the necessary action 'to make appropriate arrangements for Community representation in matters relating to its sphere vis-à-vis the United Nations'<sup>1</sup>.

A resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations passed by consensus on 11 October 1974 invited the EC to participate as observer in the meetings and proceedings of the General Assembly<sup>2</sup>.

### The Objectives of the United Nations and of the Community

The UN resolution on the status of the EC marked an important stage in strengthening cooperation between the UN and the Community. Cooperation of this nature finds expression in the convergent objectives set respectively for both bodies by the Charter of San Francisco and the Treaty of Rome. This was highlighted by the French delegate to the United Nations, as representative of the President-in-Office of the Council, in a statement on behalf of the Community on 11 October 1974, before the General Assembly adopted its position.

Although the fundamental principle of the San Francisco Charter is to preserve international peace and security, by means of an intricate mechanism for the peaceful settlement of disputes, one of the basic tools designed with this in mind consists of international cooperation on the economic and social side, which, since San Francisco, has for the most part materialized through the creation of specialized agencies or new bodies.

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<sup>1</sup> See OJ C 62 of 31.7.1973.

<sup>2</sup> See Resolution 3208 (XXIX) adopted during the 29th session of the General Assembly (17.9.74-18.12.74). UN official document: supplement no. 31 (A/9631) New York 1975. Annex II contains the text of the resolution. On the same day the General Assembly accorded the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON) the same status. On 14.10.1974 the General Assembly invited the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) to participate in the deliberations of the General Assembly on the question of Palestine in plenary.

For their part, the signatories to the Treaty of Rome have set themselves 'to lay the foundations of ever closer union among the peoples of Europe' and 'to ensure the economic and social progress of their countries by common action to eliminate the barriers which divide Europe'. The statement read out on behalf of the Community before the United Nations General Assembly declared that in the fields of trade, and of common policies, especially agricultural policy and development, the Community already had substantial achievements to its credit, and that establishing sustained cooperation between the Assembly and the Community therefore seemed likely to yield many advantages for each of them. The statement then went on to highlight the fact that Europe's economic unity, inspired by the desire to put an end to war in Europe once and for all, can but serve to preserve peace and international equilibrium. The statement concluded by emphasizing the resolve to cooperate on the part of the Community, which is essentially open to the outside world.

#### United Nations and Regional Organizations

A list of the organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies appears in Annex III.

Although the Charter, in principle, recognizes only States, Article 52 does stipulate that none of the Charter's provisions 'precludes the existence of regional arrangements or agencies dealing with such matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, as are appropriate for regional action'.

Neither the Charter nor the rules of the General Assembly, of course, establish the conditions enabling such 'regional organizations' to take part in the work of the United Nations, but, over the years, several international bodies have been granted the status of observer in the UN ambience. Thus the Council of Europe, the OECD and Comecon are now observers in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). But with regard to the General Assembly itself, this status had been accorded to no more than three inter-governmental bodies before 1974, namely the Organization of American States, in 1948, the League of Arab States, in 1950 and the Organization of African Unity in 1965.



Text of Resolution adopted during the 29th session of the General Assembly

3208 (XXIX). STATUS OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY IN THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations  
and the European Economic Community.

Requests the Secretary-General to invite the European  
Economic Community to participate in the sessions and work of  
the General Assembly in the capacity of observer.

2266th plenary meeting  
11 October 1974.

United Nations and Regional Organizations**The United Nations**

Secretariat  
 Permanent Missions  
 Information Centres

*Main Organs*

General Assembly  
 Security Council  
 Economic and Social Council—ECOSOC  
 Trusteeship Council  
 International Court of Justice  
*Regional Economic Commissions*  
 Economic Commission for Europe—ECE  
 Economic Commission for Western Asia—ECWA  
 Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific—ESCAP  
 Economic Commission for Latin America—ECLA  
 Economic Commission for Africa—ECA  
 Membership of UN Organizations

*Specialized Agencies*

Food and Agriculture Organization—FAO  
 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade—GATT  
 Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization—IMCO  
 International Bank for Reconstruction and Development—IBRD (World Bank)  
 International Civil Aviation Organization—ICAO  
 International Development Association—IDA  
 International Finance Corporation—IFC  
 International Fund for Agricultural Development  
 International Labour Organisation—ILO  
 International Monetary Fund—IMF  
 International Telecommunications Union—ITU  
 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization—UNESCO  
 International Institute for Educational Planning—IIEP  
 International Bureau of Education—IBE  
 Universal Postal Union—UPU  
 World Health Organization—WHO  
 World Intellectual Property Organization—WIPO  
 World Meteorological Organization—WMO

*Other Bodies*

United Nations Children's Fund—UNICEF  
 United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East—UNRWA  
 United Nations Peace-Keeping Missions in the Middle East  
 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—UNHCR  
 International Atomic Energy Agency—IAEA  
 World Food Programme—WFP  
 World Food Council—WFC  
 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development—UNCTAD  
 United Nations Research Institute for Social Development—UNRISD  
 United Nations Institute for Training and Research—UNITAR  
 United Nations Development Programme—UNDP  
 United Nations Capital Development Fund  
 United Nations Industrial Development Organization—UNIDO  
 United Nations Fund for Population Activities—UNFPA  
 United Nations Disaster Relief Office—UNDRO  
 United Nations Environment Programme—UNEP



