

# ACP - EEC CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

SUMMARY REPORT  
OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
OF WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 1981

LUXEMBOURG



SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 1981

In the Chair: Mr MUNA

President

(The sitting opened at 9 a.m.)<sup>1</sup>

1. Speaking Time

Mr PEARCE, speaking on a point of order, suggested that, in view of the large number of Members listed to speak, each speaker should be limited to a speaking time of five minutes so that the Assembly could complete its business within the time allotted to it.

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<sup>1</sup>Election of the Bureau - Election of members of the Joint Committee:  
see Minutes

2. ACP-EEC cultural cooperation (Chasle-report, doc. ACP-EEC/27/81)

Mr ATTA-KESSON said that the introduction of a cultural dimension into ACP-EEC cooperation was not a misplacement of priorities but rather something that would enrich the life of the association. However, culture must not be seen in the narrow sense of the visible manifestations of the life of peoples, 'song and dance' culture, but rather in the broader view of the totality of man's activities - economic and social development, education, the interchange of ideas and experiences and above all respect for the values and aspirations of others.

It was important that we avoid an international culture structure which graded some cultures as superior and others as inferior. We had to get away from the ignorance and bigotry implicit in these kinds of judgement, and this could be advanced by the free exchange of ideas between the peoples of the ACP and EEC countries recommended in the motion for a resolution.

Mr Atta-Kesson commended the Joint Committee for taking up the matter of the desecration of ACP cultural artefacts, particularly those with spiritual significance. His delegation supported the idea of an international fund to recover and return such objects to their own countries and commended the Joint Committee for its constructive recommendation that the United Nations declare such cultural and spiritual artefacts to be part of the common heritage of mankind.

(Applause)

Mrs PRUVOT joined with those who had congratulated Mr Chasle on the high standard of his report and the great quality of his work.

It was urgently necessary, as the report observed, to introduce the notion of cultural cooperation into the Lomé Convention, and this had meant conquering a great amount of resistance.

It was vital to attach particular importance, first, to paragraph 9 of the resolution and to give very close attention to financing projects under the auspices of the EDF presented by the ACP countries, taking due account of individual cultural identity.

Paragraphs 12 and 13 were also fundamental in that they clearly brought out, in regard to education, the peculiar genius and aspirations of the ACP countries, with a view to their striking a harmonious balance between tradition and modernity.

The speaker was unreservedly in favour of extending the Euronet system to include the ACP States which hoped thereby to benefit from the advanced technologies of the Western countries.

The creation of a data bank centralizing the archives of the ACP countries would undoubtedly enable Europeans to have a better knowledge of the history of the ACP peoples.

The restoration of cultural property would take longer and be more difficult to implement. It had to be done in a spirit of understanding and reciprocity. It also demanded the establishment of suitable structures to receive them.

In conclusion, Mrs PRUVOT declared that her Group strongly supported the motion for a resolution as a whole. She hoped that the European Parliament would take account, in the budget, of the financial resources required for cultural cooperation. The ACP States expected their partners to show solidarity and, most of all, a sense of responsibility and to fulfil their commitments.

Mr PEDINI congratulated Mr Chasle on his report and pledged his committee's support.

In order to ensure that the work begun by the Chasle report would continue, culture should become part of the Association's overall view and scientific research should be stressed.

The view of culture expressed in the report was predominantly humanistic and focussed primarily on artistic heritage. Today, however, science was an integral part of culture. Mr Pedini asked the Commission to draw up a five year plan to put this idea in effect in the case of the associated countries. To this end the Community should decolonize its science and promote joint research between universities and research centres in areas of immediate interest to ACP countries so that cooperation would not be limited to the past but also prepare for the future.

The Chasle report called for the creation of a group of experts to monitor cultural cooperation between the ACP and the EEC. This group should deal specifically with scientific cooperation and decide which programmes should be financed by the EDF and the Community institutions themselves. Dispersal of resources and human talents should be avoided at all costs.

Cultural cooperation was an expression of the spirit which inspired those who 20 years ago sought to give economic cooperation between our peoples a human dimension.

(Applause)

### 3. Amendments to the Assembly's Rules of Procedure

(Jaquet report, Doc. ACP-EEC 28/81) (continuation)

As there were no requests to speak, the President declared the debate closed.

4. Hunger in the world (motion for a resolution by Mr KASSE and Mr FERRERO,  
Doc. ACP-EEC 30/81)

Mr DENIS requested that this important debate should not begin as many delegates would be attending a Joint Committee Meeting.

The sitting was suspended at 9.30 a.m. and resumed at 10.45 a.m.

IN THE CHAIR: Mr DENIS  
Vice-President

Mr KASSE, chairman of the Working Party on Hunger, stated that, because of the large number of deaths registered daily, urgent action was needed to ensure self-sufficiency in food.

His motion for a resolution concerned general policy and could still be improved by concrete proposals and immediate action. The Community should make available 0.7% of its resources.

The large amount of material collected so far could serve as a basis for a full report to the next Joint Committee meeting on the problem of hunger.

(Applause)

Mr MICHEL thanked Mr Ferrero for his report on the fight against hunger and malnutrition in the world.

The report contained a profound analysis of the many causes of the evils it denounced, put forward precise proposals for action, defined the role of the missions to be undertaken to the peoples affected and adopted a position on the North-South dialogue.

Mr Michel reviewed the proposals put forward in the report for aiding in particular developing countries to pay off their external debts which made it impossible for them to meet the cost of the food aid they needed.

The speaker stated that the precise proposals contained in the Ferrero report should be implemented without delay in order to ensure greater stability and security throughout the world.

Finally, Mr Michel called for the establishment of emergency programmes and the provision of the necessary funds. He assured the members of the ACP that the Members of the European Parliament would do all in their power to restore the hope of the people who stood in need of aid and help and in particular to provide lasting and valid means of development. Only a concerted effort on the part of the peoples in question would provide a medium and long-term solution, which was the only valid solution, to the problem of hunger in the world.

Mr LEZZI expressed the view that the need to define a food policy for the poorest countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, was still an essential one. It was important to increase agricultural production by means of appropriate techniques and innovations to enable these countries to cover their own needs. Agrarian reform, which was of vital importance, was a precondition for the economic development of the poorest countries and for an increase in incomes.

Food aid was, however, still a fundamental necessity. If it was to be effective, it would be necessary to increase the volume thereof and to relate it to measures to promote employment and to the implementation of agricultural projects. It was also necessary to maintain prompt, uninterrupted supplies so that the recipient countries could plan needs and organize distribution.

Another major objective was the stabilization of the prices of agricultural products on international markets. It was up to the developing countries to define the objectives and the development model they needed.

The industrialized countries must encourage technical cooperation, ensure that aid was supplied smoothly and solve the problem of raw materials supplies.

As cultural and human development was a precondition of economic development, it was important for progress to be made towards the establishment of the new international economic order.

It was also necessary for public opinion to be better informed and to be directly associated in the work of the Assembly.

Although East-West tension tended to predominate, it was essential to resume the North-South dialogue on the basis of solidarity and equality among those involved.

(Applause)

After thanking the rapporteur for his work, Mr BOUNA said that though there was increasing concern for the crucial problem of hunger, food aid was not the ideal solution. As there was no provision for it in the Convention, no means of supervising its implementation existed. Moreover, there was a danger that it might be unduly dependent on the existence of surpluses. The Common Agricultural Policy, which had been the subject of criticism within the Community, had harmful effects on the ACP countries when it took the form of disguised protectionism. Developments which had only insignificant consequences for the European countries could have drastic effects for countries practising single-crop farming.

It was necessary to make the ACP countries self-sufficient and even enable them to become exporters. The speaker therefore appealed to the Europeans to help ensure that the future development centre, on which the ACP countries were building great hopes, became genuinely operational.

(Applause)

Mr SOULAIMANA thanked the Working Party on Hunger for its work and Mr Pannella for his efforts to make European public opinion aware of the problem.

In many ACP countries hunger had reached dramatic proportions. It was closely linked with the refugee problem which was particularly severe in the Horn of Africa. Moreover, it could not be separated from the problem of drought which in some areas had destroyed most of the livestock.

The time for statements was past. What was needed now was action to increase aid to those peoples who lacked the bare necessities of life. The speaker expressed concern at the selfish trends which had begun to appear in certain member countries and quoted the words of President Mitterrand: 'To help the third world is to help ourselves'.

The situation was graver where the least developed countries were landlocked or islands since their problems were further aggravated by transport, energy and water problems. The speaker appealed for support for Mr Galland's proposals.

The Convention of Lomé II was, indeed, an important instrument, but more important still was the political will to translate good intentions into action.

(Applause)

Mrs DE MARCH first of all welcomed the fact that the Communist and Allies Group had presented practical and immediate solutions, in the framework of ACP-EEC work, to the serious problem of hunger which was depriving so many people of the right to live with complete dignity.

According to FAO statistics 24 million children die before their first birthday. Genuine cooperation could not be achieved between the EEC and the ACP states as long as hunger was afflicting one of these groups. The Assembly should therefore launch an appeal for the taking of practical measures and this would require political volition. Thus the resolutions adopted at the Paris Conference on the least developed countries must be implemented.

France, for its part, had decided to increase its aid to developing countries by 1985; other countries should follow suit.

The Community should also set an example by adopting action programmes on the basis of the needs of disadvantaged countries. It should also oppose those who exploit aid and the arms race for commercial purposes in order to avoid enormous wastage; greater resources could then be devoted to research and cooperation.

The speaker thought that the link established by the Joint Committee between hunger and world peace was a positive one. As Bertolt Brecht had said, they must have the courage to maintain peace. By doing this they would be defending humanity, closing the door to unhappiness and giving life, hope and confidence to the peoples of the world.

(Applause)

Mr FERRERO, rapporteur, welcomed the unanimous agreement on the need to follow up the proposals with practical action.

He announced that the hunger question would be a major item on the agenda of the next meeting of the Joint Committee in Zimbabwe.

Mr Kassé's motion for a resolution had three objectives: firstly, it stressed the gravity of the situation and the urgent need for solutions; secondly, it stressed the positive nature of the Italian Government's emergency plan and, thirdly, it asked the working party to submit conclusions for the next meeting.

He asked that the motion be adopted as it stood.

(Applause)

5. Situation in Southern Africa

(Motion for a resolution tabled by the Joint Committee, Doc. ACP-EEC 31/81)

Mr GLINNE announced that the Socialist Group would be voting in favour of the motion and some of the amendments that had been tabled in the hope that it would have a direct impact on the work of the European Parliament on this matter.

He drew particular attention to the importance of paragraph 3 of the proposed text (arms and oil embargo) and reminded the Assembly that the Socialist International had already made such a proposal in 1977.

Turning to the amendments, he said he was opposed to Amendment No. 2 and in favour of Amendment No. 3 and possibly also Amendment No. 1, subject to explanations being given on certain points.

(Applause)

IN THE CHAIR: Mr OTENG  
Vice-President

Mr JACKMAN commended Amendment No. 1 which was a compromise text designed to secure the support of all sides of the Assembly. On Amendment No. 2, while recognizing the good intentions of its author, Mr Pearce, the speaker said there was a danger that a visit to the tribal homelands by such a body as the Consultative Assembly might be exploited as a form of recognition of the artificial states created in that country and therefore recommended that that amendment be rejected.

Mr PENDERS supported the motion proposed by the Joint Committee which condemned, in constructive terms, the South African incursions and through which, a point that needed underlining, the Assembly was pronouncing on a political issue.

The motion for a resolution rightly called for the full application of Resolution 435. Recent developments were not encouraging. The appeal for cooperation made at the Maputo Conference was therefore of particular importance. Regional cooperation could indeed lead to greater stability, and hence a better equilibrium, and thus bring about positive changes in that part of the world. Mr PENDERS hoped that an independent Namibia would accede to the Convention of Lomé in the near future.

The speaker expressed certain reservations, however, concerning paragraph 3 of the motion for a resolution. It was true that the 'embargo' needed to be respected but UN Resolution 418 made no reference thereto. At all events, it was necessary to avoid mentioning action which might remain a dead letter, as this would inevitably be interpreted as a victory by the Pretoria regime, and to confine action to practical measures which could really be applied. The speaker requested a separate vote on paragraph 3.

Mr PENDERS also had difficulty in accepting the amendment tabled by Mr Pearce. He endorsed Mr Glinne's view that there should be no reference to 'tribal homelands' because that might amount to condoning implicitly the system.

(Applause)

Mr BOUNA welcomed the resolution adopted by the Joint Committee at Strasbourg and said that the projected fact-finding mission was essential because only one side of the story had been shown on television. The proposed delegation should depart and report on its findings by specific time limits. He therefore requested that the amendment tabled to this effect should be adopted.

Mr SY spoke of the importance which all ACP countries attached to the situation in Southern Africa. Therefore, they had adopted in Strasbourg a joint draft resolution which had been adopted almost unanimously. Nonetheless the draft resolution could be improved. The ACP countries had therefore tabled draft amendments to improve the wording of the text.

He vigorously condemned the attitude of public authorities, the multinationals and interest groups whose activities provided support and encouragement for the apartheid regime of South Africa.

Turning to Mr Pearce he asked him to withdraw his amendment and called on the European Members of Parliament to adopt the draft amendments tabled by the ACP. In conclusion, he hoped that the Assembly as a whole would adopt the revised motion for a resolution.

Mr PEARCE said that he condemned apartheid totally and without reservation and felt that the resolution expressed that condemnation and suggested things that could be done about it. He had thought that the delegation should consist of six ACP and six European members and would demonstrate the interest, involvement and political attitude of all the countries of the Lomé Convention. It would be unique as a demonstration of the united wishes of the peoples of the greater part of the world. It would enable an exchange of views to take place and be extremely newsworthy as well as bringing further pressure to bear on those whom the Assembly sought to influence. For practical reasons the timing should be just before or just after the meeting of the Joint Committee in Zimbabwe. He explained that he had included the reference to homelands because he wanted the delegation not just to have official government contacts but to go out into the country and to meet different kinds of people. However, he accepted that this would imply recognition of the homelands and asked that the phrase 'including some of the tribal homelands' should be deleted and that the amendments should only refer to a visit to South Africa. He hoped that this would be a useful initiative and a demonstration of what could be achieved by the Consultative Assembly.

(Applause)

Mr VERGES considered that the proposed text well expressed the condemnation of the only regime in the world which officially enshrined the principle of the superiority of one race; it was important that the broadest possible agreement should be reached on a common text.

The reaction of the Pretoria authorities to the criticisms levelled against them was an aggressiveness at all levels: a similar attitude on the part of a European country would already have triggered off a widespread conflict!

Numerous ACP countries were among the victims of the actions of South Africa. Enough was enough, it was time that they took action of their own especially as the recent military operations had started from the territory, illegally occupied, of Namibia

We cannot pretend to be unaware of a regime whose failure was recognized by the South African Government itself in its confession that, if elections were to take place, it would be defeated.

The speaker approved the plan to send to these countries, where all our efforts to provide aid were jeopardized by threats, a fact-finding mission whose first report the Joint Committee should be able to consider at its next meeting.

The speaker said he was against the Pearce amendment since it was liable to be interpreted as an endorsement for the intolerable regime of South Africa.

Mr ATTA-KESSON denounced the degrading system of apartheid in South Africa where black people were living virtually in slavery. As a result of South African aggression against many countries in that area, in particular Angola, the situation had now become conflagratory and there was a real threat to world peace and security. The South African regime needed to be firmly brought to heel. He felt that while the resolution did not condemn that regime strongly enough, it was redeemed by the paragraph concerning the fact-finding mission. He stressed, however, that the mission should be sent soon, if possible immediately after the meeting of the Consultative Assembly. He was sure that the findings of the mission would be such as to galvanize them to action. He expressed support on behalf of his delegation for the amendment tabled by the Socialists and that by the ACP countries.

(Applause)

Mr D'ORMESSON started by pointing out that while apartheid was to be condemned in South Africa it did exist in different forms in other countries. He supported Mr Pearce's amendment which proposed that an EP-ACP delegation should visit South Africa to study the situation there and believed that it would make substantial progress possible.

He expressed the hope that all men would soon enjoy the same rights and equality and prosperity.

6. Votes<sup>1</sup>

. INSANALLY Report (Doc. ACP-EEC 29/81)<sup>2</sup>

Explanations of Vote

Mr ROMUALDI stated that he would be voting for the Insanally Report since the main concern was the improvement of trade instruments.

Mr PRANCHERE stated that the French Communists and Allies would vote for the Insanally Report although they deplored the fact that some points which they considered essential had been rejected: these were the creation of a special fund, the convening of a special meeting of the Council of Ministers on sugar and STABEX, the implementation of the commitments entered into at the Paris Conference and the doubling of aid.

(The Assembly adopted the resolution - Applause)

. CHASLE Report (Doc. ACP-EEC 27/81)

(The Assembly adopted the resolution - Applause)

. JAUQUET Report (Doc. ACP-EEC 28/81)<sup>3</sup>

Explanation of Vote

Mrs BOSERUP considered that the amendments to the Rules of Procedure that had been proposed were contrary to the provisions of the Treaty concerning the languages and that the proposed addition to paragraph 9 would only make the situation more confused. She protested vigorously about the treatment handed out to certain 'minority' languages like Danish. She said that she would therefore be voting against the resolution.

(The Assembly adopted all the amendments to the Rules of Procedure - Applause)

. Motion for a resolution by Mr KASSE and Mr FERRERO (Doc. ACP-EEC 30/81)<sup>4</sup>

(The Assembly adopted the resolution - Applause)

<sup>1</sup>For details of vote see Minutes

<sup>2</sup>The rapporteur:

- SUPPORTED Amendments Nos. 2, 3, 5, 9, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 23  
- OPPOSED Amendments Nos. 1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15

<sup>3</sup>Mr Cohen, deputy rapporteur, supported Amendment No 1 and opposed all the others

<sup>4</sup>The rapporteur opposed all the amendments

Paragraph 2 - Amendment No 1

Mr SY spoke to ask his colleagues to excuse the confusion caused by the absence of a rapporteur. He went on to explain the reasons which had led the ACP to submit a modified text to the Assembly which differed from the printed text which they had before them. He explained that the following changes had been made to the first line of paragraph 2a: 'Public authorities' instead of 'states' and 'interest groups' instead of 'undertakings'.

Explanations of Vote

Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO stated that the Communist Group would vote for the resolution but stressed that the ambiguous vote which had just taken place was an indication of the attitude of certain groups in Parliament which refused to condemn interest groups and the multinationals.

Mr FLANAGAN said that he had not taken part in the final part of the voting on the motion for a resolution only because he could not hear the rapporteur's opinions on the amendments. He assured his African friends that he fully subscribed to the sentiments expressed in the resolution. Furthermore, changes to the original texts had been agreed upon which were in fact quite significant, and he felt that the procedure should be changed to ensure that such altered texts were made available to Members in future.

The PRESIDENT agreed that the procedures had been complicated by the need to observe certain deadlines.

Mr DESCHAMPS explained that he had voted for the resolution as a whole because the text was the result of a consensus in the Joint Committee. He had also voted for the amendments tabled by the ACP states in cases where explanations had been given and an agreement had been reached with the Members of the European Parliament.

Mr. SY addressing the Assembly in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee of Ambassadors, stated that the ACP would vote for this resolution but wished to stress that he deeply deplored the attitude of those who had tried, with their amendments, to prevent this vote in order to perpetuate apartheid in Southern Africa.

It was with great sadness that he had noted that a certain number of Europeans, whom he considered to be old friends, had refused to associate themselves with the condemnation of the States, public authorities and interest groups which continued to maintain and support the apartheid system.

The ACP had rejected the Pearce amendment on principle. He formally stated that the ACP would continue to reject amendments of this kind whenever they were tabled.

He then drew attention to the fact that, in accepting this resolution, the ACP had demonstrated great understanding and a desire for compromise since it was fundamentally different from the resolution adopted in Strasbourg.

He concluded with a vigorous condemnation of certain groups in the Assembly who condemned apartheid but were unwilling to do anything to prevent certain States from continuing to support the regime in South Africa.

Mr. GLINNE, speaking on behalf of his Socialist colleagues, thought it was unfortunate that the new version of paragraph 2a had been rejected due to the lack of a majority amongst the Members of the European Parliament. He was however on the whole satisfied with the general content of the resolution since paragraph 2b had been adopted and a majority had voted in favour of paragraph 3 thus confirming the position adopted in Freetown on the oil embargo.

Referring to Mr Pearce's amendment concerning a visit to South Africa, he stated that although the Socialists had voted for the proposal, there should be no mistake about the intended purpose of this visit: it was not a mark of sympathy but a fact-finding mission.

(The Assembly adopted the resolution - Applause)

Mrs FOCKE considered that it was extremely important that all the documents adopted by the Assembly should be distributed as quickly as possible so that action could be taken on its decisions.

The PRESIDENT assured Mrs Focke that Parliament would take immediate steps to ensure that the texts adopted received proper publicity.

7. Closure of the annual meeting

The President thanked all those who had helped to make the sittings a success and declared the annual meeting closed.

(The sitting closed at 2.05 p.m.)





