

ANNEX

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10 March 1981

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

FIFTH EUROPEAN COMMUNITY - LATIN AMERICA

INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

BOGOTA

25-28 January 1981

F I N A L A C T

1. Delegations of the Latin American and the European Parliaments met for their Fifth Conference in Bogotá from 25 to 28 January 1981, the other conferences having taken place in Bogotá (July 1974), Luxembourg (November 1975), Mexico City (July 1977) and Rome (February 1979). This was the first conference since direct elections to the European Parliament in July 1979.

2. The Latin American Parliament was represented by delegations from the following countries¹:

Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela.

3. The Delegation of the European Parliament included members from all the political groups within the institution and nine Member States of the European Community¹.

4. The ceremonial opening session was attended by Dr Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, President of the Republic of Colombia.

The conference was addressed by the two Co-Presidents of the Conference, Mr Gilberto Avila Bottia, President of the Latin American Parliament, and Mrs Simone Veil, President of the European Parliament, and formally opened by Dr Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala.

5. The ceremonial opening session was also attended by the President and Vice-President of the Congress of Colombia, as well as by representatives of the diplomatic corps.

6. Representatives from the General Cortes of Spain, the Portuguese Parliament, and the Assembly of Panama attended the conference as observers.

7. Members of the dissolved Parliament of Bolivia also attended the conference as observers.

8. The Council and Commission of the European Communities took an active part in the meeting. Mr D.F. van der MEI, President-in-Office of the Council of the European Communities was invited to address the conference; Mr Eduardo VOLPI, representing the Commission of the European Communities, read a message from Mr Gaston THORN, President of the Commission.

9. The European Parliament and the Latin American Parliament expressed their gratitude to the people and Government of the Republic of Colombia and to the other Colombian and Latin American authorities for their hospitality and for their support in the holding of the conference.

¹ The list of members of the delegations, special guests and observers who attended the proceedings is annexed to the Final Act.

ORGANIZATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS

10. The Fifth Conference was presided over by Mr Gilberto Avila Bottia, President of the Latin American Parliament and Mrs Simone Veil, President of the European Parliament.

11. The proceedings were chaired by the Co-Presidents, Dr Gilberto Avila Bottia and Mr Mariano Rumor, Chairman of the European Parliament Delegation. Dr Humberto Celli and Dr Geraldo Azevedo Guedes were appointed Vice-Presidents of the Conference for the Latin American Parliament and Mr William Hopper and Mr Giorgio Ruffolo for the European Parliament.

12. Mr Andres Townsend Ezcurra, Secretary General of the Latin American Parliament, and Mr Théo Junker, acting Secretary General of the European Parliament, were Secretaries General of the Conference.

13. By agreement between the Bureaux of the Latin American and the European Parliaments, three topics were included in the agenda and these were assigned to the three Working Committees made up of participants from all the delegations.

14. The Political Committee was chaired jointly by Dr Raul Baca Carbo and Mr Noel Davern with Dr Rafael Valera and Mr Johan van Minnen acting as draftsmen.

15. This committee considered:

- parliamentary democracy and human rights, on the basis of reports by Dr Gilberto Avila Bottia¹, Mr Johann van Minnen² and Dr Andres Townsend Ezcurra³.

16. The Committee on EC-Latin American Cooperation was chaired jointly by Mr Morelos Canseco and Mr Felice Ippolito, while Mr Nestor Hernando Parra and Dame Shelagh Roberts were committee draftsmen.

¹ PE 70.625

² PE 69.588

³ PE 70.646

17. The discussions of this committee concerned the following points:
- economic, commercial, financial and technical cooperation between the European Community and Latin America on the basis of reports by Dame Shelagh Roberts¹, by INCOMEX², the National Federation of Coffee Producers³, and PROEXPO⁴.
18. The Committee concerned with World Economic and Humanitarian Cooperation was chaired by Mr Orlando Gomez Cisneros and Mrs Marie-Jane Pruvot. This committee's draftsmen were Dr Pedro Bislip and Mr Gero Pfennig.
19. It examined four working documents:
- the protection of the environment on the basis of a report by Mr Geraldo Azevedo Guedes⁵,
 - world economic and humanitarian problems on the basis of a report by Mr Gero Pfennig⁶,
 - the New International Economic Order on the basis of a report by Mr Enrique Barrios Barrios⁷,
 - cooperation between Europe and Latin America in the field of the environment and development by Mr Arthur Simon⁸.
20. The conference requested the Presidents of the European and Latin American Parliaments to take the necessary steps to comply with the provisions of this Final Act.

¹ PE 69.594/rev.

² PLA 010

³ PLA 080

⁴ PE 70.859

⁵ PE 70.624

⁶ PE 69.595

⁷ PE 70.689

⁸ PLA 060

21. The conference also requested both Presidents to take all action they might deem appropriate to strengthen the ties between the two Parliaments. The European Parliament extended a cordial invitation to hold the Sixth European Parliament-Latin American Parliament Interparliamentary Conference in the European Community at a date and place to be decided in due course by the appropriate authorities of the two Parliaments. The conference requested both Presidents, with the approval of the respective Bureaux to carry out the preliminary work for this.

CONCLUSIONS

22. The Fifth European Parliament-Latin American Parliament Interparliamentary Conference approved:

- a joint declaration
- recommendations.

JOINT DECLARATION

23. The Vth European Parliament - Latin American Parliament Interparliamentary Conference:

1. - Recalling the Final Acts of the Conferences of 18 July 1974, 21 November 1975, 27 July 1977 and 21 February 1979;
2. - Welcoming the direct elections on 7-10 June 1979 to the European Parliament which represented a decisive step towards the establishment of European Union;
3. - Welcoming the holding of the first session, on 30 August 1980, of the Andean Parliament, an expression of the desire to establish in Latin America a community of free peoples recognizing democratic and parliamentary institutions;
4. - Welcoming the enlargement of the Community with the accession of Greece on 1 January 1981;
5. - Welcoming the presence at the Conference of observers from the Spanish and Portuguese Parliaments and looking forward to the prospect of the entry of Spain and Portugal into the European Community;
6. - Reaffirming its attachment to parliamentary institutions which constitute an essential basis for democracy, the defence of the constitutional state and the protection of individual and collective freedoms;
7. - Reaffirming the political importance of regular contacts between the European Parliament and the Latin American Parliament to examine the main problems facing the peoples of Latin America and Europe and to propose joint measures to solve them;
8. - Welcoming the attendance at the meeting of members of Latin American Parliaments dissolved by authoritarian and anti-democratic means;
9. - Repeating its condemnation of the military regimes in Uruguay, Chile and Argentina, where dictators are using oppression to maintain their illegitimate power;

10. - Expressing its solidarity with the oppressed peoples in the countries where the most elementary human rights and freedoms are violated;
11. - Convinced that the defence of democracy and the development of parliamentary institutions require a greater effort by the active elements in each country to adapt the institutions to the constantly and rapidly changing needs of our societies;
12. - Aware of the European Community's responsibility at world level in the economic and political fields, of the growing interdependence between Latin America and Europe and of Latin America's expectations for greater cooperation with the European Community with a view to intensifying its economic and cultural development;
13. - Stressing its attachment to the practice and development of free international trade;
14. - Reaffirming the need for a more equitable distribution of wealth between the peoples of the world and for the implementation, to this end, of a new world economic order;
15. - Aware of the new challenges facing our societies as a result of increases in energy costs and disorder in the international monetary system;
16. - Aware of the links between economic and social development on the one hand and the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms on the other, particularly in Latin America;
17. - Concerned at the growing tension on the international scene which is affecting the balance of power in the world and which constitutes a threat to peace;
18. - Welcoming the re-establishment of a democratic and constitutional government in Ecuador;
19. - Welcoming the holding of the free election of a Constituent Assembly in Peru, the general elections and the restoration of a democratic civilian government;

20. - Welcoming the election of a constituent assembly in Honduras and the announcement that in the near future free general elections will be held to establish a constitutional government;
21. - Welcoming the fall of the Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua and supporting the present efforts by the government and the political parties in that country to build a democracy, while at the same time hoping that the foundations of democracy will be completed by the holding of free elections on a pluralist basis;
22. - Welcoming the results of the referendum of 30 November 1980 in Uruguay, which rejected the draft anti-democratic constitution;
23. - Noting the tendencies towards more democratic policies in Brazil;
24. - Strongly condemning the military coup in Bolivia which has abolished free democratic institutions and established a repressive military dictatorship, and approving the present diplomatic isolation of the regime;
25. - Condemning the coup d'état which caused the fall of the constitutional government in Surinam;
26. - Expressing its grave concern at the serious violence in El Salvador and hoping that all the democratic forces in the country will act together to facilitate a return to pluralist democracy;
27. - Condemning throughout the world all forms of political or military interference by third parties, including arms sales;

The Conference makes the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATIONS

- on parliamentary democracy and human rights

The Conference:

24. Reaffirms the sovereign nature of the popular will expressed and embodied in parliamentary institutions, without which freedom and civil, political and social progress cannot exist;
25. Stresses the need to give greater vitality to parliamentary institutions,
 - to increase the involvement and participation of all citizens and all social classes in the management of public affairs and to perfect the ways of expressing the will of the people;
 - to hold free, pluralist and democratic elections regularly;
 - to ensure the independence of the constitutional powers;
 - to promote reforms to abolish economic, social and cultural inequalities between the various social classes;
26. Calls for the restoration of parliaments in countries where they have been dissolved in an anti-democratic manner and the fixing of precise timetables for the return to normal democratic life and free institutions;
27. Expresses its profound indignation at the continual and flagrant violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms perpetrated upon the citizens of states which lack constitutional and legal guarantees of the most elementary rights, as is demonstrated by the methods practised in those countries such as systematic intimidation, kidnappings and disappearances of individuals as a result of their political beliefs, arbitrary arrest and detention, deportation, banishment, torture and even murder and calls for an end to this state of affairs;

28. Calls for social rights and freedoms to be guaranteed and respected in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the international conventions in force which most of the member states of the UN have signed;
29. Calls upon the governments of the Member States of the European Community and of Latin America represented at the Conference:
 - to respect human rights in their own countries;
 - to bring every form of direct democratic pressure to bear upon the governments of countries where fundamental freedoms and the most elementary human rights are violated, to bring them to desist from such practices and from using the principles of international law as an illegitimate pretext for refusing to acccept the requests of humanitarian organizations;
30. Requests in the same way all those states who have not already done so to ratify the international legal instruments guaranteeing and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, thus making it possible for individuals to have the right to bring legal actions as provided, for example, in the European Convention of Human Rights;
31. Calls upon the Latin American Parliament and the European Parliament to intervene in international organizations and at interparliamentary meetings to denounce the behaviour of dictatorial regimes and all violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms which come to their attention, and to promote parallel and joint measures and emergency action on humanitarian grounds.

- concerning the

Cooperation between Latin America and the European Community

The Conference

32. Acknowledges that in general relations between the European Community and Latin America have been superficial and have taken too little account of the specific situation in certain Latin American countries or subregions, and that only recently both sides have begun to realise that a more intensive and selective approach would increase the chances of achieving real results, and consequently establish a more privileged form of cooperation between the two sides.

33. Emphasizes the need for a framework understanding between the European Community and SELA which expresses the cooperation between both sides and defines fields of interest which, among other things, relate to questions of trade and finance, of investment, of technical assistance, of transfer of technology and the adaption of economic structures; moreover, considers that such an agreement should pursue the coordination of different forms of economic cooperation.

34. Believes that the preparation of such a framework understanding could be assisted by the appointment of a joint committee which would examine the existing agreements.

35. Stresses that financial mechanisms should be established which could reduce the foreign debt of Latin America by involving the European Investment Bank and, possibly, lead to the eventual establishment of a Euro-Latin American Bank; recognizes that the European Community should show more interest in the least-developed countries and areas of Latin America, if possible by injections of funds for projects.

36. Agrees that the application of the European Community's system of generalised preferences (GSP) should be adapted in line with the level of industrial development in the beneficiary countries and on a product-by-product basis.

37. Considers that with regard to the industrialization of the Latin American countries and to the lack of energy and raw materials in the European Community, the development of a closer cooperation in the field of energy and the exploitation of raw materials between the two sides is essential, in particular with the Latin American Energy Organisation (OLADE).

38. Is of the opinion that encouragement should be given to the development of Joint European Community-Latin American projects for

- i) The exploration and prospecting in Latin America of sources of raw materials;
- ii) The exploitation of mineral resources, and
- iii) The processing and refining of metals in Latin America making the most economic use of the sources of low cost energy which exist on that continent.

39. Hopes that the countries of the Community and of Latin America will be associated in the imminent exploration and exploitation of the mineral resources of the ocean bed, beyond the exclusive economic zone. This is to ensure that exploitation should not be left only to the large mining multinationals, without any control. The Community and the Latin American countries should set up a working group of experts to study the problems and to make concrete proposals.

40. Invites the European Community to take more practical measures and establish mechanisms with a view to transferring technology to the Latin American countries, for instance by encouraging more Latin American academics and technologists to further their knowledge of certain sectors (energy, industry, agriculture) in the Community; holds that the transfer of technology from the European Community to Latin America should provide the possibility for Latin American countries to develop their own industries so that it will be the Latin American people themselves who will benefit in the first instance.

41. Conscious of the fact that the environment is increasingly threatened due to growing industrialization, suggests that codes of conduct be set up with a view to protecting the environment; this especially would improve the prospects for expanding tourism particularly in areas with few other resources.

42. Underlines the need for further improvement of the climate for investment in the Latin American countries including sufficient guarantees for investors from the Community, the promotion of joint ventures and the easing of movements of capital and services to and from undertakings in the Community.

43. Recognizes that an effort should be made to promote free international trade and points out that a successful implementation of the Multinational Trade Negotiations in the framework of the GATT (the so-called Tokyo Round) is of great importance for its development.

44. Stresses the necessity of restructuring the Latin American export trade in order that a shift from the exportation of agricultural products and raw materials towards the exportation of manufactured goods will take place.

45. Also stresses that during the negotiations for the renewal of the Multifibre Agreement, account should be taken of the special significance of the textile industry both in Latin America and in the European Community.

46. Notes that efforts are needed to conclude cooperation agreements with all Latin American sub-regions, regional organisations and/or countries, such as the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), the Andean Group and the Central American Common Market, provided there are no political obstacles; such agreements should be the starting point for more practical measures; expresses the wish that an early conclusion be reached on the negotiations between the European Community and the countries of the Andean Pact, and that measures agreed within the framework agreement between the European Community and Brazil should be put into effect soon.

47. Considers that careful examination should be given to the Joint Declaration of Costa Rica, made between the Presidents of Mexico and Venezuela in August 1980, by which oil is supplied under special conditions to countries of Central America and the Caribbean; this could provide a useful precedent for similar agreements between both parties.

48. Believes that in order to assist the implementation of the above proposals, more permanent Commission offices should be set up in Latin America.

- On multilateral and humanitarian problems

The Conference:

49. Expresses its deep concern at the chronic undernourishment which prevails in most of the developing countries particularly as an adequate supply of food is the most fundamental human right;

50. Believes that self-supply of foodstuffs should be the essential objective for remedying mass undernourishment;

51. Considers therefore that there is an urgent need for greater transfers of financial and technical resources, destined principally to contribute to the agricultural development of the developing countries through the implementation of strategies on food, agronomic research and the improvement of harvesting and storage techniques;

52. Calls upon the industrialized countries who are major exporters of agricultural products to conduct their trade policy in this sector in such a way that it does not conflict with the interests of the developing countries;

53. Believes that the North-South dialogue should be reactivated as soon as possible and that it is also important that the OPEC countries should be invited to participate in the global North-South negotiations; considers that the North-South dialogue should deal above all with the following questions:

- energy,
- raw materials,
- trade,
- manufactured products and machines,
- monetary and financial problems, including the indebtedness of the developing countries and the reform of the International Monetary Fund (IMF),
- increased aid to the poorest developing countries;

54. Hopes that a larger number of countries will be able to obtain greater benefits from the Community's generalized system of preferences and hopes that the new implementing provisions will achieve better results, particularly for the poorest developing countries;

55. Considers that it is particularly important that the developing countries should have access to new, and above all less costly energy sources and calls upon the industrialized countries to take an active part in the research and development of these sources of energy on the financial and technological level;

56. Recognizes that the energy problem affects all countries and that for this reason work on the drafting of world energy plans must be intensified;

57. Believes that practical proposals should be drawn up without delay to establish cooperation in the field of energy; in particular a fund should be set up, financed jointly by OPEC and the EEC, for programmes for rationalization, energy savings, substitution and development of energy resources principally in the countries of the Third World;

58. Considers that studies should be initiated within the framework of the North-South dialogue to seek a basis for concluding trilateral contracts between the oil-producing countries (OPEC), including countries producing petroleum by-products, the industrialized countries and the developing countries, taking account of the interests of all the parties concerned, until new and above all more economically acceptable energy sources are developed;

59. Believes that in view of the great cultural and economic importance of Latin America for the rest of the world, and particularly for Europe, cultural cooperation between Latin America and the Community should be strengthened at all levels and particularly in education; because of demographic factors it is important to facilitate access for all to primary and technical education; to promote an efficient system of exchanges of young people of Latin America and of the European Community, both in universities and in vocational training establishments, and to extend the granting of study and residential scholarships in Latin American countries:

60. Stresses that the problem of the environment is a worldwide problem, aggravated by poverty in the countries of the Third World; therefore requests the Latin American and European Parliaments to cooperate in setting up a joint committee

- to study these problems and introduce a consistent policy on the protection of the environment and the quality of life; and
- to introduce an effective international law on natural resources.



