

european parliament

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the sittings

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SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1975 – 1976

1976 – 1977

Sittings held in Strasbourg

8 – 12 MARCH 1976

Confrontation ahead?

The most interesting feature of Parliament's week in Strasbourg was the insight given by Mr Gaston Thorn into the workings of the Council. He did not say that the members of the Council were never available, or that they were not empowered to do anything, but this is something of the impression he left behind.

He certainly had one or two ideas as to how the Council could operate more efficiently. Why cannot all nine national governments meet in their respective capitals on the same day so that half the week is not 'out' before they start? Why cannot certain days of the year be set aside for the Council? All this and a few more ideas to make the Council function more efficiently. As Mr Thorn said, eight hours a month for Europe is not enough.

Parliament also had a very useful debate on Greece which cleared the air or, as Sir Christopher Soames put it, added a little economic water to the heady political wine of Greek accession.

There was no doubting Parliament's sympathy for the Greek application, but it was tempered with a good deal of realism about the problems involved.

But underlying all Parliament's business this week was a current of anxiety about what the Council is likely to decide about direct elections when it meets in Luxembourg on 1 and 2 April.

Summing up a debate in a motion calling for a final decision on direct elections, Mr Schelto Patijn said: 'We will not take 'no' for an answer', but Klaus-Peter Schulz had already spoken of 'alternatives'. Curiously enough, Mr Georges Spénale had also indicated what one 'alternative' might be. Thanking Mr Thorn for telling the House about the way the Council works, he suggested Parliament too was partly responsible. 'We have the power to sue the Council', he said, and intimated that Parliament might take this course, for example, over the Council's failure to take any decision over VAT.

To sum up, Parliament seems set for a confrontation with the Council, and it will not lack support from the Commission. Mr Lardinois, for example, made it clear how bitter he feels about the farm package the Council finally adopted. So, while Parliament does not want to tie Council's hands, it clearly feels no inclination to let the Ministers off the hook this time.

POLITICAL AFFAIRS

Direct elections: 'We will not take 'no' for an answer'

This was Mr Schelto Patijn's (Du, S) final word on direct elections at the conclusion of a debate on a motion calling on the European Council to take a final decision on direct elections at its meeting in Luxembourg on 1 and 2 April 1976.

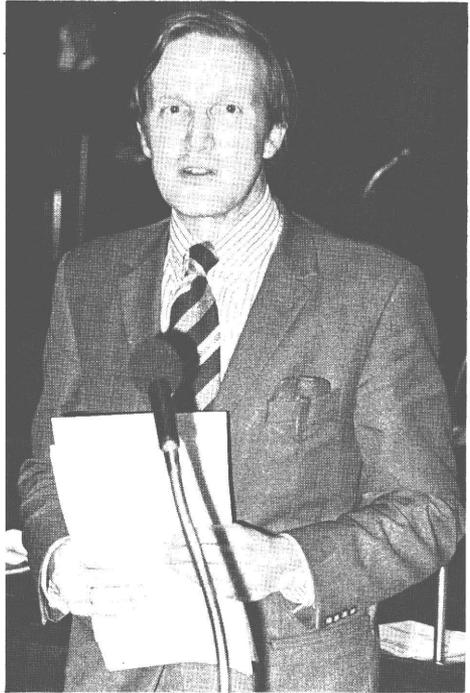
The motion had the support of most of the House, although seven British Socialist members abstained. The French members of the Group of European Progressive Democrats were not present when the vote was taken.

The French Communists made it quite clear that they think that direct elections could jeopardise national sovereignty. Indeed, at the end of a speech by Mrs Marie-Thérèse Goutmann (Fr, CA), a voice could be heard saying: 'Vive de Gaulle.'

The general run of the debate was enthusiastic support for the motion coupled with a real feeling of anxiety that the European Council may take no decision at all.

However, the debate served a valuable political purpose in that it gave a good many members an opportunity to emphasise how flexible Parliament's attitude

*Mr Schelto Patijn: "We will not
take 'no' for an answer"*



is on certain key points such as the number and distribution of seats. As Mr Patijn said, this does not matter as long as the number is as proportionate as possible; as long as each Member State retains the same minimum representation as it has at present, and as long as the Parliament elected in 1978 is able to operate efficiently.

The four groups signing the motion – the Socialists, the Christian Democrats, the Liberals and the European Conservatives – were simply asking for a decision yes or no. Many Members expressed the fear that if there is a loss of momentum now, this could have a very damaging effect on public opinion. As Mr Brian Lenihan (Ir, EPD) said: 'This Parliament and our people will not tolerate any delay in achieving that target and that objective. To withdraw from the target, which has been set by the European Council, would represent a serious psychological blow to the hopes and aspirations of all our people in this Community.'

But only one Member sounded optimistic about the possibility of a final decision at the Council meeting. That was Mr Heinrich Aigner (Ge, CD). He

Mr Brian Lenihan: "In the Convention passed by this Parliament, we have a fairly reasonable balance between national representation and democratic representation. I would advise those who push the 'one man, one vote' idea too far and those who push the national representation idea too far to look at the Convention."



argued that the governments in all the Member States are hanging on by very small majorities of around 2 per cent and are dependent on the floating vote which, he argued, is essentially pro-European.

Accession of Greece to the European Community

The official Community view of the Greek application for full EC membership was summed up by Mr Gaston Thorn at the start of the joint debate on two oral questions on the subject: negotiations should start 'as soon as possible, and be conducted in a positive spirit'.

Mr Thorn, like many subsequent speakers in the three-hour debate, did stress that Greek accession should not exact too high a price from the Community: enlargement should not be allowed to weaken the internal structure of the Nine (although that, Mr Tam Dalyell (Br, S) suspected, was what Transport House had in mind) nor should it be used as an excuse for the creation of a 'two-tier' Community (although that, Mr Dalyell suspected, was what the Elysée had in mind).

But the Council had rejected the Commission's proposal for a 'pre-membership' period, during which Greece would receive Community help without the obligations of full membership. Sir Christopher Soames accepted the Council's decision, and also denied the suggestion that the resolution of Greece's conflict with Turkey was a precondition for membership.



Sir Christopher Soames: "A clear, affirmative answer must be given to the Greek request (for membership of the Community). But we think it wise to put some economic water into the somewhat heady political wine and to point out some of the difficulties which exist and need to be pointed out."

Both points, however, were brought up by several speakers in the debate. Mr Eric Blumenfeld (Ge, S) advised caution: he felt that many Greek politicians who were calling for membership were not fully aware of the problems they would have to face. Both Lord Bethell (Br, EC) and Mr Kai Nyborg (Da, EPD) warned against excessive haste: Greece had a long way to go both industrially and agriculturally before they could meet the Nine as an equal. They shared the more pragmatic approach of the Commission's guidelines.

The Socialists, according to Mr Peter Corterier (Ge, S), were unequivocally in favour of the Greek application. Membership would help consolidate the young Greek democracy. There were problems, but they could be overcome. Parliament could help in this, and he hoped the Council would consult the House in future. Mr James Scott-Hopkins (Br, EC) agreed with him.

But again and again, it was not Greece so much as the Community, and its internal structures, that worried speakers. Could the European Community digest a new member without a severe case of heartburn? But, as Mr Brinkhorst said in winding up for the Council: you cannot blame Greece for the fact that the Nine are having trouble putting their own house in order.

Plea for more sensitive view of Turkish problems: Commissioner Guido Brunner sees last week's Council meeting as a turning point towards a better relationship

Greece's application to become the tenth member of the European Common Market must not further upset the Community's already stormy relations with Turkey, the European Parliament said.

The Parliament adopted a motion supporting Turkey's complaint that its trade advantage with the Community had been eroded by recent trade deals between the EC and other Mediterranean countries.

The motion urged the nine EC governments to offer better concessions for Turkish exports to the EC, particularly its farm produce.

EC Foreign Ministers last week promised better terms for Turkey's agricultural exports after Turkish Foreign Minister Ihsan Sabri Caglayangil complained that his country's preferential trading position, embodied in a 1963 association agreement with the EC, had been whittled away by more recent accords between the Community and Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. And, as Mr James Spicer (Br, EC) said: 'The decision to press forward with the accession of Greece has not helped our relations with Turkey.'

In reply, Commissioner Guido Brunner said the Community had assured the Turkish minister that the Greek application would not undermine Ankara's trade links with the Common Market. Consultations between the Community and Turkey on Greece will take place in due course, he added. He told Mr Pierre-Bernard Cousté (Fr, EPD) that the new financial protocol to the EEC-Turkey Association Agreement would be a generous one.

In its motion, the Parliament insisted that 'the future accession of Greece to the European Community cannot be allowed to effect the continuing positive development of the association with Turkey'. It also called for the Community to guarantee equal social security for and freedom of movement of Turkish workers employed in the EC, as set out in the association agreement.

Mr Brunner told Parliament that the Commission would soon make proposals to the Nine on safeguarding the social security of the Turkish workers.

Parliament also expressed the hope that talks between Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot leaders over Cyprus would lead to a speedy solution 'which is a

matter of urgency for the Communities affected'. The motion added that the Members were disappointed 'at the complete absence of practical results from the talks between the representatives of the two Cypriot communities'.

Defence

Lord Gladwyn (Br, L) raised the question of defence, asking what action the Conference of Foreign Ministers had taken further to Parliament's debate on 15 December. Mr Brinkhorst replied that it had not been discussed. Mr Egon Klepsch (Ge, CD) found this answer unacceptable. Both he and Mr Pierre Krieg (Fr, EPD) argued that the Gladwyn report must be taken seriously. Mr Krieg explained that his group – the European Progressive Democrats – saw defence as part of European Union. Mr Michael Stewart (Br, S), on the other hand, thought the European Parliament the wrong forum for discussing defence, and he was in serious disagreement with such colleagues as Mr James Scott-Hopkins in his assessment of the value of the Helsinki Conference. Mr Scott-Hopkins said: 'I feel completely let down following the Helsinki Conference and do not believe they are fulfilling their commitment.' Mrs Elaine Kellett Bowman (Br, EC) said 'Hear, hear.'

Resolution on the Community's African Policy

Opening the debate, Mr Gaston Thorn emphasised that he was speaking as Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Luxembourg and not as President of the Council.

He pointed out that the declaration of the Foreign Ministers of 23 February 1976 referred not to Angola specifically, but to the whole region. Angola was an African problem, and the declaration's points should be seen in that light. The Foreign Ministers had confirmed (1) that the Community should develop relations only where this was sought by the countries concerned; (2) the European Community's respect for the independence of all African states; (3) its support for the OAU; (4) its support for the independence of Rhodesia and Namibia; (5) its condemnation of apartheid.

Mr Michael Stewart (Br, S) explained his group's amendment to the resolution (adding a new paragraph reaffirming Parliament's rejection of racist policies likely to result, among other things, in outside interference). Without a

Mr Eric Blumenfeld: "We Europeans cannot expect the United States to go on resolving every conflict everywhere on its own forever."



condemnation of racism, the resolution would not only fall short of the Foreign Minister's declaration, it would carry little weight generally. There was no use crying over spilt milk – the MPLA had now been recognised and Cuban and Russian intervention had taken place. What was important was the future. The Nine should take a joint stand on Namibia and Rhodesia. He called in particular for solidarity in applying sanctions against Rhodesia.

Mr Eric Blumenfeld (Ge, CD) regretted the French action in unilaterally recognising the MPLA. The Community should act, not only react. He was opposed to the hypocrisy of condemning white supremacy but not black racism; Uganda provided an example of the latter. He felt that EC non-intervention should apply to all including South Africa, which he still considered to be a democratic republic.

Mr Pierre Deschamps (Be, CD) thought that the MPLA would now face guerilla activity in Angola. He welcomed the Foreign Minister's declaration and felt that Europe should work for the principles it had established.

Mr Ove Guldberg (Da, L) felt that Europe should cooperate with the African countries, but not tell them how to behave. He had the feeling that the Socialist

Group amendment was one-sided in condemning white supremacy but not tyranny in general.

Sir Derek Walker-Smith (Br, EC) felt that the Nine, acting jointly and severally, should press for withdrawal of foreign troops from Angola, support the US in its initiatives and resist Soviet imperialism.

Mr James Spicer (Br, EC) demanded that the Community should make aid to Angola conditional on the restoration of Zaire and Zambia's links through Angolan territory to the African coast

Mrs Tullia Caretoni Romagnoli (It, CA) referred to South African and American intervention in Angola, and to British mercenaries. The Community should confirm its commitment to the principle of non-intervention.

Mr Valerio de Sanctis (It, Ind) said the independent members would support the resolution. The European Community should try to prevent old forms of colonialism being replaced by new.

Sir Christopher Soames, for the Commission, felt that the economic, social and moral content of the European Community's relations with Africa were of prime importance. This commitment was firmly anchored in the Lomé Convention.

After Mr Stewart had explained that his Group's amendment was intended to condemn racism of all kinds, Parliament adopted the amended resolution by a large majority.

The way the Council takes its decisions

In reply to an oral question put down by Mr Jan Broeksz (Du, S), Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the Council, explained something of the way Council decisions are taken. He then set aside his official mantle and spoke personally, and had this to say about the way the Council operates.

The first difficulty is that the national cabinets meet on different days. The effect of this is that there are several days each week on which meetings cannot be convened. The Council also wasted a lot of time discussing the date of its next meeting. In an eight or nine hour session, as many as two hours can be devoted to the fixing of a date. He asked the House to consider how much



Mr Gaston Thorn: "Can we hope for an integrated Europe ... when the Council only has eight hours a month to think things over, talk about them and take decisions? I do not think it is enough."

greater the Council's power of decision would be if all the national cabinets met on the same day and if all the national governments set aside certain dates, possibly a year or two ahead, for Europe.

The second real problem follows from the first one. Lack of time means that there is also a lack of real discussion. As a rule, the Council simply adopts reports drawn up by experts which are usually referred forward to the next meeting of the Council, although, in fact, this really means referring them forward to the next meeting of experts. 'I, personally,' said Mr Thorn, 'spend more time here in the European Parliament than in Council and I spend about three times as much time on other official business.' Mr Thorn asked whether we can have a real Europe with a Council that meets only eight hours each month. With twenty-eight days each month being devoted to national business and only one and a half days to Community business, the balance surely needs restoring.

Thirdly, there was the problem of compartments within the Council. There is not one but several. 'Where,' asked Mr Thorn, 'is the Council that picks up all the threads?' It is vital, he said, to have a single Council, although he conceded that there could be working groups where appropriate.

Fourthly, he warned Mr Broeks against pressing for several COREPERs. This would mean a great deal of expertise and no real authority. Here, Mr Thorn argued that, at the moment, reports stay with national experts too long. They must be given timelimits. These national experts were too often the ones who determined the order of business for Council meetings. He agreed that it might be helpful to delegate authority to the Commission. This should be tried.

Lastly, referring to the European Council, Mr Thorn said that this could not work effectively unless all the other related bodies worked effectively too.

Earlier in the discussion, Sir Derek Walker-Smith (Br, EC) chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee, had suggested that the majority principle should apply where possible – one of the points taken up by Mr Tindemans – but he thought that, where the Treaty required unanimity, this principle should be followed.

Sir Derek disagreed with the suggestion made by Mr Broeks that where a consensus appears as COREPER level, the decision should be taken by them.

Mr Richard Mitchell (Br, S), on the other hand, took a completely opposite view. He thought it quite unrealistic to suggest that national governments should abandon their veto. 'What surprises me is how rarely it is used,' he said. He made it quite clear that he thought the veto should have been used at the meeting of farm ministers last week.

Finally, on a point of order, Mr Thorn – a former member, of course – advised the House of a note of 1962 to the effect that Council statements should not normally lead to motions being tabled in the House. Mr Broeks accordingly withdrew the motion he had put down, especially as – as Mr Thorn has pointed out – it might be interpreted as endorsing the principle of the Luxembourg Compromise, which should on no account be regarded as an agreement.

Convergence of national policies

Both Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the Council, and Mr Willem Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission, argued in reply to a question from Mr Christian de la Malène (Fr, EPD) that, although the Nine were not acting together to the extent that most people would wish, they had nonetheless achieved a real measure of convergence between their policies.

On 15 March 1976, said Mr Thorn, the Council will review the economic policy guidelines laid down originally on 18 December 1975. There was, he added, standing coordination with a view to dovetailing economic policies to ensure financial solidarity and avoiding protectionism. What was regrettable was that Member States were still too loth to let go their power over even very limited areas.

Sir Brandon-Rhys Williams (Br, EC) thought the situation worse even than two years ago. There was no policy on interest rate structures, exchange rates or movement of workers. There were no comparative statistics on employment or business trends. He thought the snake intensely devious. Where, he added, is the European fund for monetary cooperation? He asked Mr Haferkamp: 'Why don't you lock yourself to the rails of the bank in Basle until people start to listen to you?'

Zwangsadoption

Mr Egon Klepsch (Ge, CD) raised the poignant problem of parents losing their children for no better reason than their wanting to leave East Germany. This conflicts with Articles 12 and 17 of the Helsinki Convention.

In reply, Mr Brinkhorst expressed sympathy, but doubted whether a public debate would help. Mr Horst Seefeld (Ge, S) referred to five cases where the circumstances were rather special. Mr Marcel Vandewiele (Be, CD) was completely outraged by this statement. 'There are times when all Europe must stand up and say no.' Mr Gabriel Kaspereit (Fr, EPD) agreed with him.

Mr Egon Klepsch also made this point: 'Silence will not help.' He spoke with particular feeling as one having his roots in East Germany.

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Farm prices: workable deal on wine, but nothing really on milk powder

Commissioner Petrus Lardinois gave Parliament the details of the farm price agreement reached by the Council. The essence of it is that 120,000 hectares of vineyards producing poor quality wines will be uprooted and a good price will be guaranteed for quality wines. This is, of course, the proposal originally put

forward by the Commission in October 1974. All that remains now is that the Member States concerned should put it into operation.

Mr Lardinois, however, made no secret of his disappointment on the Council's failure to take effective action to deal with the milk powder surplus. He had been forced to conclude that the time was not right for the decision, but he told the House that the Commission had been instructed to prepare detailed proposals for dealing with the problem by the first of September. These would certainly be based on the principle of co-responsibility.

However, his concluding comment was to stress the difficulties of operating the Common Agricultural Policy in the present state of monetary chaos.

When the House resumed at 3.05 p.m., Mr Lardinois took questions from some dozen members on points arising out of his initial statement.

Mr James Scott-Hopkins (Br, EC) had attacked the Commission proposal to pay a grant towards the private storage of soya beans imported from the United States. 'It is idiotic to store someone else's protein when you are trying to flog your own.'

Mr Lardinois replied that this was primarily a matter of trade policy and storing soya beans costs about one third the cost of storing milk powder. Supplies in store could be disposed of in one month. The Community has a three to four week reserve at the moment, and it is not a bad idea, he said, to go to six weeks. The cost will be 7m u.a. for one year.

In reply to Mr Charles McDonald (Ir, CD), who suggested that prices be reviewed every two years, Mr Lardinois thought that this was not possible with inflation rates at their present level. He told the House that every one percent variation in the value of the pound costs the EAGGF 20m u.a. per year, and there had been a 6 per cent to 8 per cent fluctuation in the value of the pound in the past week. Similarly, one percent variation in the Lira price costs 27m u.a. per year. This was good news for the consumer but bad news for the Community budget. He reminded the House: 'The agricultural fund must not be politically unacceptable.'

In reply to Mr Ralph Howell (Br, EC) who suggested that there were too many dairy cows in the Community and that the herd could be reduced from 25 million to 24 million head or even less, Mr Lardinois said that it would be possible to keep them if they were beef producing cows.

As for disposing of the milk powder surplus, most of the amount to be used for fodder would go to the pig farmers – about 90 per cent.

In reply to Lord Walston (Br, S), who suggested that the price mechanism should not be the only factor in the common agricultural policy, he said he entirely agreed. He himself had wanted to limit intervention in the case of milk and wheat, but the Council was only partly in favour of this.

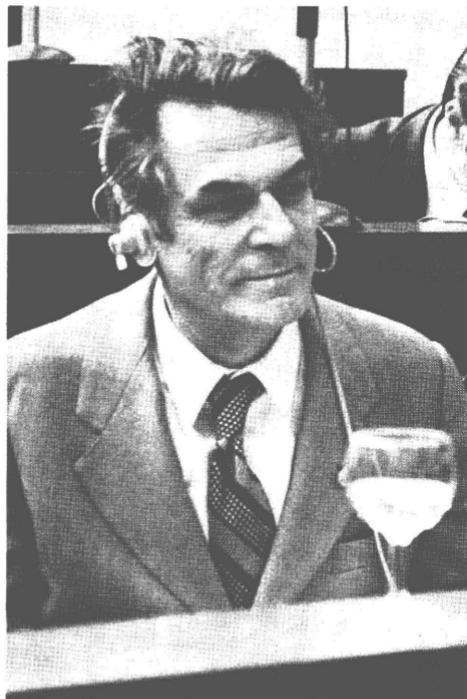
In reply to Mr William Hughes (Br, S), who had emphasised consumer interest, Mr Lardinois asked: 'Is it not a crime to give producers only one-fifth or one-sixth of what the consumer pays? In Ireland, the United Kingdom and Denmark, the excise duties on wine are six times the price paid to the wine producer.' He suggested that the excise duties in the northern Member States should be reviewed during the negotiations with applicant Member States. Not all the burden should be borne by the southern Member States of the Community.

Replying to Mr Ralph Howell (Br, EC) about the effect of large scale distillation by the manufacturers of industrial alcohol, Mr Lardinois said he had little sympathy with them. He reserved his sympathy for the producers of quality alcohol made from wine.

In reply to the point raised by Mr James Scott-Hopkins (Br, EC) as to the different arrangements for wheat used in fodder and that used in bread making, he said that the fodder wheat would attract 12 per cent to 13 per cent lower intervention prices. As for distinguishing which type of wheat it is, the onus will be on the farmer who sells his wheat into intervention as of next year.

Mr Lardinois did not really cover the financial aspect, although he did say that the extra budget needed to cover the Lira fluctuations would be around 150m u.a. Not did he really cover the question raised by Mr Tam Dalyell (Br, S) as to what was to happen to the Green Pound and he did not comment on Mr Dalyell's reaction to the rundown of the beef support scheme after 1977.

As Mr Lardinois finished his speech, Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody (Br, S) asked to intervene on a point of order, suggesting that, with the increase in consumer prices and the cut in the consumer tax on wine, people might well be so drunk that they would not know the difference. Lord Bessborough, in the chair, ruled that this was not a point of order.



Mr Libero Della Briotta: "The premium for uprooting vines is not enough. It will not have much appeal for the growers."

Grants towards uprooting vines

The Commission proposes to spend 37m u.a. in 1977, 28m in 1978 and 20m in 1979 in grants to wine producers who are prepared to uproot vines yielding poor quality grapes. The grant will not exceed 1,500 u.a. per hectare in 1975-76, 1,400 u.a. in 1976-77 or 1,200 u.a. in 1977-78. It is intended that 120,000 hectares (currently producing some 7,050 hectolitres of poor quality wine) will thus be phased out of production.

Mr Libero Della Briotta (It, S) for the Committee on Agriculture, agreed with the idea but had reservations about the actual proposal.

A motion approving the idea behind the proposal but spelling out certain reservations was agreed to.

Milk to have 3.5 per cent milk fat content

Homogenised milk as sold in most Member States will in future have to have a minimum milk fat content of 3.5 per cent. This will affect Luxembourg, for

example, where the level is 3.3 per cent, but is unlikely to worry British milk producers whose fat content will usually be higher than this.

Mr Lucien Martens (Be, CD) put down a motion approving the Commission proposal but suggesting proposals to speed up the harmonisation of other quality standards for milk. The motion also noted with satisfaction that the Commission is investigating the effects of harmonisation of the fat content of full cream milk at 3.5 per cent on prices, consumer habits and the taste and nutritional value of milk.

The motion was agreed to.

Premiums for keeping sheep and cows in upland areas

The Community pays a premium of 35.50 u.a. per live unit for animals kept in uplands areas, the idea being to protect the environment by keeping people on the land to look after it and – gradually – to create vast natural parks. The Commission proposed to extend the area coming within the scope of the directive. Mr Libero Della Briotta (It, S) asked Parliament to approve this proposal. The motion was agreed to.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

‘None of these motions will make any impact unless you back them up with pressure in your national Parliaments’ – Commissioner Haferkamp

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (Br, EC) introduced his draft motion for a resolution, pointing out that the committee had accepted Mr Peter Brugger’s (It, CD) motion as a basis, but that it extended it to some extent. The present resolution was intended to highlight the obvious inadequacies of the Commission policy on guidance. It was vital for the Commission to give a lead in the present economic crisis. Sir Brandon himself would have liked the resolution to have gone into rather more detail. He would, nevertheless, recommend its adoption.

Mr Erwin Lange (Ge, S), for the Socialists, stressed that it was the Council that had been at fault, shirking its European responsibility, rather than the Commission. It was vital that individual Member States should transfer sovereignty to the Community institutions.

Mr Brugger, for the Christian Democrats, underlined the need to attain the objective of economic and monetary union, but that there was still a long way to go. His resolution had been designed to pinpoint the shortcomings within the Community.

Mr Ove Guldberg (Da, L), for the Liberals, supported the resolution but deplored the fact that the Community had not the means at the moment to proceed to monetary union.

Mr Thomas Ellis, (Br, S), however, found that the resolution enshrined so great an economic confusion that it was politically unacceptable, and he would not support it.

Some fellow members of Mr Ellis's group voted with him against the resolution which was, however, adopted.

Mr Artzinger then outlined the main points of his resolution which, in contrast to Sir Brandon's draft motion, went into details of the current economic situation. The need now was to concentrate on the future, and he was pleased to see that recent economic forecasts envisaged an upward turn in the economic situation in 1976.

Mr John Prescott (Br, S), stressing that full employment should be the main aim of any economic system, stated that the current economic crisis could only be dealt with by a fundamental change in the economic system. The resolution did not show an awareness of this and, moreover, the philosophy embodied in it showed an archaic attachment to the principle of laissez-faire.

Mr Hermann Schwörer (Ge, CD) said his group supported the current resolution and stressed the need for cooperation between both sides of industry.

Mr Ove Guldberg also expressed his support for the resolution. He felt that certain structural changes would be necessary, especially in the industrial field where there should be more coordination on a European level.

For the European Progressive Democrats, Mr Michael Yeats (Ir) also supported the resolution and underlined that the main priority was to find a solution to the problem of unemployment.

Mr Hugh Dykes (Br, EC) rejected what he regarded as a virtual neo-Marxist argument by Mr Prescott. Unemployment was a problem but it would be best dealt with by supporting private investment.

Lord Bruce of Donington (Br, S) pointed out that, far from being neo-Marxist. Mr Prescott's arguments were based on work by the highly respectable OECD.

Lord Gordon-Walker (Br, S) mentioned that it was essential for economic recovery to get investment, both public and private, going before the next upswing in economic activity.

Commissioner Haferkamp felt the Commission's optimism of the previous autumn had been vindicated.

As the only written amendment was to paragraph 14 of the resolution, Parliament voted first on the preamble and paragraphs 1 to 13. These being rejected, however, Mr Artzinger suggested that, as there were only two paragraphs remaining, the discussion on this document should not be continued.

Establishment of a European Community Institute for economic analysis and research

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (Br, EC), rapporteur, stressed the desirability of the establishment of an Institute which would act as a Community think tank dealing with longterm research problems. He therefore welcomed the Commission proposal but stressed that there was also a need for much greater production of short-term figures also.

Lord Bruce of Donington, for the Socialists, expressed his support for the proposed Institute and with Sir Brandon's resolution in general, but said that he and Mr Lange had proposed certain amendments which they felt would free the Institute from some of the restrictions which Sir Brandon's resolution might otherwise impose.

For the Christian Democrats, Mr Helmut Artzinger (Ge, CD) endorsed the resolution as it stood, but Mr Kai Nyborg, for the European Progressive Democrats, said he could only partly agree with the Commission's goal. He felt the need could be filled by better rationalisation of the work carried out in the Commission, and, therefore, proposed an amendment stating that Parliament should not approve the proposal.

However, Mr Nyborg being the only person voting in favour of this amendment, it was not carried, although, with the voting preponderance of the Socialist

Group, the amendments proposed by Lord Bruce of Donington and Mr Lange were adopted.

Mrs Winifred Ewing's (Br, Ind) suggestion that Edinburgh would be a suitable seat for the proposed institute, while it had some support in the House, was not adopted. Lord Ardwick (Br, S) suggested that to attract the right men and women in the right conditions, 'we should put the institute in one of the capitals of Western Europe where there is the necessary mixture of commercial bustle and intellectual stimulus from their own kind'. He quoted London, Paris and Rome as examples.

The resolution as a whole, with the amendments having removed certain particularly critical points, was adopted.

ENERGY

St. George not guilty of killing the Dragon

As Mr Adolfo Battaglia told the House in December 1975, the high temperature reactor project at Winfrith in Dorset was being discontinued because the British government had reservations about the way the project was being financed. Another consideration present in the British government's decision is that there has been a switch in nuclear emphasis to gas cooled reactors.

This is a decision the European Parliament regretted. Mr Gerd Springorum (Ge, CD), chairman of the Committee on Energy and Research, put down a motion urging the Council to agree to extending the Dragon project until the end of 1976 and approve a programme (consisting essentially in evaluating the results achieved in the Dragon project) which the Commission has submitted.

Mr Gerhard Flämig (Ge, S) Socialist spokesman, pointed out that the evaluation programme would not cost very much.

Mr Tom Normanton (Br, EC), spokesman for the European Conservatives, considered the project had been terminated prematurely. He pointed out that the motion before the House was simply a request to give Dragon a decent burial after a complete post mortem for he felt that the decision had been taken for the wrong reasons. He particularly urged that, in the future, scientific decisions be taken on scientific grounds. 'To cancel the Dragon is a classic example of what we should not do if we wish to become a true Community.

Replying for the Commission, Mr Guido Brunner said: 'I do not know who killed the Dragon. This time, it certainly was not St. George.' What the Commission wanted was to further research on high temperature metals and the programme submitted for Parliament's approval would allow this work to continue to the end of the year. The cost would be 0,6m u.a. of which the Commission would pay 40 per cent. The remaining 60 per cent would be paid by Germany and the Energy Research and Development Agency in the United States. The programme for evaluating the results of Dragon would cost 2.79m u.a. of which the Commission would pay 90 per cent. It was possible that Austria, Sweden and Switzerland would also contribute.

The motion was agreed to.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Community feeling its way towards a cultural policy: a question of identity

In reply to a motion put down by Mr Jan Broeksz (Du, S), for the Committee on Cultural Affairs and Youth, which has now been axed, Commissioner Guido Brunner indicated that all the Community could do at the moment with its very limited funds and extremely hardworking staff was to feel its way towards a common policy on European culture.

Mr Brunner had come in for considerable criticism from Mrs Elaine Kellett-Bowman (Br, EC) on the very limited scope of the Commission document on European Community action in the cultural field. She was particularly surprised at the banality with which our common cultural heritage was described. 'We do not need a document to tell us that one plus one equals two.' She thought that the Commission proposal that there should be a series of uniform meetings between wellknown cultural personalities as the first step towards establishing guidelines for a European cultural policy was a very roundabout way of doing things. Mrs Kellett-Bowman thought the Commission should come down from its academic heights if the European message was to be got across in time for direct elections.

Mr Tom Ellis (Br, S) who said it was not often he had the pleasure of agreeing with Mrs Kellett-Bowman, thought that the Community could do a lot more to foster the cultures of Europe's different regions. He was particularly concerned about the erosive effect of the Anglo-American mass monoculture pitched, as he

put it, to the level of the least discriminating. He could not agree with Mr Pierre Deschamps (Be, CD) who described the plurality of the Community cultures as being a question of respect and freedom. 'We have no freedom,' he said. In the case of Wales, for example, the British government was very helpful but it was not doing one-tenth of what it could do. (Here, Mr Ellis quoted Lloyd George's comment: 'Welsh was the language of princes when the English were still swinging by their tails in the Balkans.')

Mr Ellis thought, on the other hand, that at least now there was a document on the subject available and he urged that attention be focused on what could be done to help those in search of a cultural identity.

In reply, Mr Brunner said that the Commission was concentrating on practical things, not only on the idea of a youth orchestra and a Community exhibition of paintings, but facilitating the freedom of movement of such cultural workers as theatrical companies and orchestras and so on. 'A cultural policy must begin where we have a Community substructure. It is for this reason that we have concentrated on these things.'

He agreed with Mr Broeks who had referred to the passage in the Tindemans report calling for an adequate cultural run-up to European Union, but he thought it would be quite wrong to operate on the sprinkling principle, duplicating what Member States were already doing. 'The Community,' he said, 'must feel its way.'

Mr Kai Nyborg (Da, EPD), Mr Pierre Deschamps (Be, CD), Mrs Elaine Kellett-Bowman (Br, EC) and Mr Tom Ellis (Br, S) all agreed with Mr Broeks in regretting that the Committee on Cultural Affairs and Youth is now being discontinued.

Community finance for language courses: youth forum will now be set up: second programme for exchange of workers under Rome Treaty Article 50 will be announced during the summer so that it can come into operation in 1977

These were the main points made by Commissioner Guido Brunner in reply to a debate on teaching young working people about the Community. The basis for the debate was a report by Mr Cornelis Laban (Du, S) calling for a much greater effort to help young workers to understand what is going on in the Community. As his colleague Mr Karl-Heinz Walkhoff (Ge, S) said, telling people what the

Lady Fisher of Rednal: "The International Festival of Youth Orchestras Foundation should be congratulated on its initiative in starting what might be one of the finest youth orchestras in the world."



Community is all about is a precondition for European Union. Both he and his colleague Mr Klaus-Peter Schulz (Ge, CD) were concerned about the kind of information courses being envisaged. Mr Kai Nyborg (Da, EPD), who pointed out that young people should not be taught to regard Europe as a bureaucrat's paradise, emphasised that the real point of organising the courses was to develop the political sense of the working community.

Mrs Elaine Kellett-Bowman (Br, EC) on the other hand, was concerned that the debate should focus so narrowly on just one section of the public. She was concerned about the whole field of adult education.

European Youth Orchestra to be formed

A European Youth Orchestra could be formed and giving concerts within a year. An initiative from the British-based International Festival of Youth Orchestras Foundation requesting non-financial sponsorship met with warm approval from the Parliament when Cultural Affairs and Youth Committee members Lady Fisher of Rednal (Br, S) and Mrs Elaine Kellett-Bowman (Br, EC) set out proposals before the House. For the Commission, Mr Guido Brunner promised

'complete support' from the Community and the Commission in particular. The current plans for the orchestra are for the Member States to submit annually the names of twenty-five promising young musicians between the ages of fifteen and twenty. A European auditioning panel will then select twelve of these from each Member State to form the 108-strong orchestra. After a two-week induction course at Aberdeen University, the young musicians will then rehearse together before giving concerts in London and Dublin. Later concerts in Rome and two other Community capitals will be followed by concerts in the other Member States. The series will culminate in 1978 with a grand concert during a European Parliament session in Luxembourg or Strasbourg.

This, the final submission from the now disbanded Cultural Affairs and Youth Committee, provided a fitting end to the committee's work. The chairman of the committee, Mr Jan Broeksz (Du, S) paid tribute to the secretariat staff and the President of the European Parliament, Mr Georges Spénale, added his thanks also to Mr Broeksz.

REGIONAL POLICY

Summer Time

The Community is proposing to introduce summer time as on a single date:

1977	3 April to 16 October
1978	2 April to 15 October
1979	1 April to 14 October.

The Commission proposed that clocks be changed at the same time of the day, too.

Mr Horst Seefeld (Ge, S) for the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport, asked Parliament to approve the proposal. The motion he put down deplored the intention of France, Belgium, Italy, the United Kingdom and Ireland to introduce summer time on different dates with complete disregard for the circumstances in other Member States.

Mrs Winifred Ewing (Br, Ind) said: 'In my opinion, the present arrangements suit Britain, but I am all in favour of compromising to find the same date on which to introduce whatever summer time arrangements we all have.'

Mr Wolfgang Schwabe (Ge, S) warned that the present system spells chaos for tourists. People were going to miss their trains and get stranded and the result will be a great deal of inconvenience and sheer exasperation.

Mr Tom Normanton (Br, EC) said: 'We must find some solution to a common problem.'

The motion was agreed to.

Channel Tunnel

Very late in the evening, the European Parliament discussed the question put down by Mr Cornelis Berkhouwer (Du, L) calling on the Council to look into the possibilities of building a tunnel under the English Channel, either as a Community project or through EC aid for work on the tunnel to be resumed. He argued that it was financially justified, although the real problem was infrastructure, especially in South-East England. The fact that the area was somewhat congested should be a good argument for helping people to travel in and out faster.

Mr Berkhouwer argued that, if the Community could build a bridge over the Bosphorous linking Europe and Asia, it could surely afford to build a bridge across the English Channel. Mr Tam Dalyell (Br, S) interjected that the Channel was the busiest shipping lane in the world. 'So how ...?' 'It depends on the height of the bridge,' said Mr Berkhouwer, anticipating the question.

Replying for the Council, Mr Brinkhorst suggested, however, that it was a matter that the Council of Science Ministers might profitably take up.

For the Commission, Mr Guido Brunner said the Community should not neglect this matter, but he pointed out that any help provided by the Community would have to be complementary to the initiative of the two countries concerned, and the British had decided not to go ahead.

Mr John Prescott (Br, S) pointed out that the cost escalation had been phenomenal and the real cost was unacceptable. Lord Gladwyn, on the other hand, suggested a bridge going down into a tunnel and coming out again to a bridge, leaving a six-mile channel in the middle. Mr Richard Mitchell (Br, S) thought the money could be better employed elsewhere, but 'let us keep the

idea on the books,' he said adding his doubts that it would become a reality in the next twenty years.

Mr Mitchell's Socialist colleague, Mr Horst Seefeld, (Ge), suggested as a compromise that the matter might be referred to the appropriate committee.

Mr John Osborn (Br, EC) and Mr Tam Dalyell (Br, S) then defended the case for and against, Mr Osborn relating his experience crossing a comparable bridge in the United States in twenty minutes, and Mr Dalyell asking Mr Berkhouwer how he would explain the shipping consequences to the people of Rotterdam and Amsterdam.

Mr Michael Yeats (Ir, EPD) praised the idea, arguing that the money would be much better spent on a channel tunnel than on a useless machine called Concorde. He reminded the House that the idea of a bridge was not really so eccentric because there are bridges over the river as you go into New York by sea, for example.

The vote on Mr Berkhouwer's motion was deferred.

OTHER MATTERS

Arrangements with Malta

Mr James Spicer (Br, EC) asked Parliament to approve an agreement extending the provisions governing the first stage of the association agreement between the Community and Malta. This agreement was agreed on 5 December 1970 and came into operation on 1 April 1971. It consists in two stages. The first involved lowering customs duties and Community aid for Malta's industrial development. Negotiations on the second stage have not been completed, hence an agreement was signed in Brussels on 27 January 1976 extending the first stage until 30 June 1977.

A motion approving the arrangements was agreed to.

Colouring agents in foodstuffs

Lady Fisher of Rednal (Br, S) asked Parliament to approve a Commission proposal to ban some of the colouring agents at present used in foodstuffs. Lady

Fisher urged, however, that the ban become effective as soon as the Commission's proposal for a directive has been adopted by the Council.

The motion before the House insisted that colouring agents should only be used if scientific research has shown them to present no risk to health and if their use is essential on technological and commercial grounds.

Lady Fisher's motion, calling for appropriate amendments to the Commission proposal, was agreed to.

What is and what is not mayonnaise

Speaking for Mr James Spicer (Br, EC), who is not happy about the Commission's proposal concerning mayonnaise, sauces derived from mayonnaise and other emulsified condiment sauces, Lord Bethell (Br, EC) asked Parliament to support him in calling on the Commission to amend its proposal. His main concern is to ensure the consumer knows exactly what he or she is getting. He also feels it is a bit over-fussy to stipulate that the aqueous phase of all the sauces 'is made up by a solution of alimentary acids, generally fermented vinegar'. He wants the last three words deleted.

A motion embodying these various points was agreed to.

ACP and OCT agricultural and processed products

Mr Adrien Zeller (Fr, CD) asked Parliament to approve a regulation finalising arrangements for imports of ACP agricultural and processed products. A motion to this effect was agreed to.

Simplifying warehousing procedure

Mr Herman Schwörer (Ge, CD) asked Parliament to approve a simplification of customs warehousing procedure. A motion to this effect was agreed to.

QUESTION TIME

Question to the Conference of Foreign Ministers

Common EC position on the Angola question

The procedural niceties surrounding Parliament's relations with the Conference of Foreign Ministers very nearly provoked a serious incident this morning when Mr Gaston Thorn told the House that he was unable to reply to the question put down to him as President of the Conference of Foreign Ministers concerning Angola. After hurried consultations between the Chairmen of the political groups, the sitting was adjourned as soon as Question Time ended so that the Bureau could meet to discuss the situation. Mr Thorn attended the meeting. The upshot was that an emergency debate on Angola was held at 3.00 p.m. that afternoon.

Mr Michael Shaw (Br, EC) had asked for emergency debate on the milk powder problem because his question on this subject was not taken at Question Time, but withdrew his request when Commissioner Petrus Lardinois said that he would be making a statement on the results of the Council meeting on farm prices when he appeared before the House the following day.

Mr Shaw had suggested that the Commission seemed to have taken leave of its senses in its failure to deal with the milk powder surplus, to which Mr Lardinois replied that this was also true of the Council.

Questions to the Council

Weights and measures of road vehicles

Mr Thorn told Mr John Osborn (Br, EC) that he was not very optimistic about an early solution to the problem of harmonising the weights and measures of road vehicles. The problem is already thirteen years old.

Agreement with Canada

Mr Thorn told the House that on 10 February 1976, the Council had decided to open negotiations with Canada. He told Mr Pierre-Bernard Cousté (Fr, EPD) that such questions as access to resources and security of supplies would not be ignored.

European passport

In reply to a question from Mr Horst Seefeld (Ge, S), Mr Thorn said that he hoped that an agreement would harden in the near future. There were still a lot of technical points to be settled, such as the number of languages to be used, and the special relationship between the name of the Member State and the words 'European Community'.

Speaking personally, Mr Thorn thought that the European Community should come first, but that the linguistic rules of the Community should not make the passport unaesthetic or unreadable. One possibility under discussion was whether the passport should be written out in the original language and have French and English texts as well.

European Development Fund

Mr Thorn replied to a question by Sir Geoffrey de Freitas (Br, S), Mr Shaw (Br, EC) and Lord Bruce of Donington (Br, S) about the uncooperative attitude of the European Development Fund towards the Audit Boards. He stressed the difference between making information public and releasing information requested for specific audit purposes. On this latter point, he reassured the House.

Eurocontrol

Mr Gaston Thorn said that this was not a matter for the Community, but that the Commission had submitted a memo on a European aeronautical policy and the Council had requested Parliament's opinion. Until this was forthcoming, the Council could not comment. But he agreed with Mr Tom Normanton (Br, EC), who underlined the need to integrate the air operation companies, that this was a point to be looked into. As to widening the scope of Eurocontrol, it was something he personally favoured but he could not speak for the Council as a whole.

Council decisions

Mr Thorn made it quite clear that the Community is not run by officials of COREPER but by the Council of Ministers. The Committee of Permanent

Representatives does submit a list of decisions (called the 'A' List) which is adopted without further ado as long as no-one objects.

As for the objections raised by Mr Alexander Fletcher (Br, EC) that the Council is the only legislative body to meet in secret, Mr Thorn said that, after decisions are taken, they have to undergo certain linguistic control in the six Community languages to ensure that they reflect the spirit of the decisions taken.

Mr Hugh Dykes (Br, EC) referred to the time Mr Thorn spent in consultation with officials before answering questions, to which Mr Thorn commented: 'It is easier to question than to answer. I have to be informed.'

Relations with the Soviet Union

Mr Thorn expressed sympathy with the views expressed by Mr Hugh Dykes (Br, EC), Lord Bethell (Br, EC) and Mr Jens Maigaard (Da, CA) about the Soviet Union's way of interpreting the Helsinki Agreement. There were two groups making day by day checks on the way the Helsinki Agreement was being put into effect, but he thinks it is too early to evaluate these results as yet.

Transport policy

Mr Thorn told Mr Heinz Mursch (Ge, CD) that he had nothing to add to the statement he made in February because the Council of Transport Ministers had not met since, but he hastened to assure him that Parliament's views would be taken into account.

Benguela Railway

Mr Thorn told Mr James Spicer (Br, EC) that no request had been made by Angola for assistance towards the Benguela Railway. Mr Spicer said this is very disappointing as this railroad is vital to Zambia and Zaire, to which Mr Thorn commented that the Council was indeed trying to think ahead on this.

Site of the Jet Project

Mr Thorn told Mr Silvio Leonardi (It, CA) that the Council had failed to reach a decision on the siting of the Jet Project when it met on 24 February. He agreed

with Mr Tam Dalyell (Br, S) that failure to take any decision was the worst possible solution.

In reply to Mr James Spicer (Br, EC) who suggested that the abrupt closure of the Dragon Project at Winfrith had soured the atmosphere at the Council, he said he only hoped that the Jet Project would not suffer the same fate.

Lord Bessborough (Br, EC) suggested that, as this was now a political matter, it was desirable that the Heads of State should deal with it. Mr Thorn said that the Foreign Ministers discussed it last week and will do so again on 1 May. He added that he was personally opposed to any bilateral or trilateral arrangement for Jet.

Questions to the Commission

Information Offices in the Member States

Commissioner Albert Borschette told Mr Michel Cointat (Fr, EPD) that the Council had agreed to two 'antennes' being set up in London and it was constantly trying to improve its information services. Mr Thomas Ellis (Br, S) suggested formal direct contacts between the local authorities and the Commission without going via the national bureaucracies. Mr Borschette replied that the Commission had no need to make proposals to the Council on this point. It could enter into any contacts permitted by the Treaty.

Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody (Br, S) suggested that if there was a real transfer of money from the Agricultural Fund to the Regional Fund, there would be no need for information offices. Mr Borschette sympathised. 'I am amazed,' he said, 'by the ignorance of the Community that you find in the regions. Many matters that are not of headline interest nationally are of headline interest locally.'

Mrs Winifred Ewing (Br, Ind) suggested that there was a great gulf between the Community and the public and suggested that press officers be employed in the Community's local offices.

Emphatic 'No' to two-tier Community

President François-Xavier Ortoli confirmed the stance he had adopted on 8 January and 11 February that there can be no question of two groups of

Member States progressing economically at different speeds. He fully agreed with Lord Bethell (Br, EC) that it would be a tragedy if Europe were to be divided, especially now that the future of Europe is at the grand design stage. Mr Hugh Dykes (Br, EC) asked whether Spain would be in the faster or slower group, to which Mr Ortoli replied that surely the question did not arise.

110 Commission officials come to Strasbourg for the sittings at a cost of 700,000 Bf a time

This was Commissioner Albert Borschette's reply to a question by Mr Tam Dalyell (Br, S) about the numbers of Commission officials involved in Parliament's session and the amount of money it costs. Mr Dalyell spoke of the mental and physical strain on some of the busiest men in Europe and said that the last time Europe operated like this was under Charlemagne.

Italy's sugar quota may rise

This would comprise A and B sugar taken together with the proviso that there would be no national subsidies. Commissioner Petrus Lardinois reminded Mr Luigi Marras (It, CA) that it was only fifteen months since the sugar quota had been set for a five-year period. When Mr Marras asked if the Italian Minister had raised this in Council, which meeting went on for four days and two nights, Mr Lardinois said that the question may have come up. 'We had a lot of trouble with the Italian Minister and his sugar.'

Mr Kai Nyborg (Da, EPD) asked whether there should not be a linear increase in sugar quotas, pointing out that in Italy, sugar yields are three tons per hectare as against ten tons in the Benelux countries. Mr Lardinois said it was not a good idea to increase the quota because otherwise there would be surpluses of between one-and-a-half and two million tons.

Action against multinational companies

Commissioner Albert Borschette told Mr Kurt Härzschel (Ge, CD) that the Commission had acted against thirty multinational companies, that it was cooperating with the OECD on working out a code for these companies and that it was involved in studying proposals made by the seventy-seven countries of a special United Nations committee now meeting in Lima.

Unemployment

Mr John Evans (Br, S) thanked Mr Haferkamp for a long and complex reply on what the Commission intended to propose to the Council to reflate the economies of the Member States. The main emphasis of his reply was on the importance of discipline and avoiding any further inflationary spiral.

Twelve-mile fishing limits

Mr Kai Nyborg (Da, EPD) was very upset by the fact that he put down a question about fishing limits for the February sittings on 10 February and had been promised a reply by 12 February. Unfortunately, Mr Lardinois had not been present in the House at that time. On 18 February, on the other hand, the Commission had intimated its findings to the Press.

Commissioner Petrus Lardinois replied that the Commission had communicated its decision to the Council on 20 February approximately after reaching its decision on 19 February, but preparation for this decision had begun some six months ago. A twelve-mile limit was the maximum that the Commission could propose without entering into a revision of the Treaty of Accession.

Mrs Winifred Ewing (Br, Ind) raised the question of people living off inshore fishing in coastal towns and villages – and here Mrs Ewing had the sympathy of Mr Michael Shaw (Br, EC). Mr Lardinois said that, if the Community had two-hundred-mile limits and this was agreed by the New York Law of the Sea Conference, then this would be an internal matter and regulations would be needed for every type of fishing. There would have to be very strict control and quotas, and the Community would have to do its best to protect its fishing in distant waters.

Trade with Japan

Sir Christopher Soames told Mr James Scott-Hopkins (Br, EC) that, although the Community had always had a slight trade deficit with Japan, it was not until 1972 that it became a matter for concern. In that year, the deficit was \$50m., and from then on it had deteriorated seriously – \$1.3bn in 1973, nearly \$2bn in 1974 and a projected \$3bn in 1975.

In a year when total trade declined from \$8.5bn to \$8.2bn, Mr Tam Dalyell (Br, S) raised the question of import restrictions imposed by Japan, suggesting that

these were gratuitous and unfair. Sir Christopher spoke of the representations that had been made to the Japanese authorities on this point. He had tried to get it over to exporters and the authorities that this state of affairs was inimical to our common interest. He quoted the figure for motor vehicles – 370,000 vehicles exported to the Community and only 26,000 vehicles going in the other direction.

Action taken on Parliament's advice

Commissioner Guido Brunner advised the House that the Commission had endorsed the view put forward in the report by Mr Jan de Koning (Du, CD) on the mixing of cereals for fodder. It had also accepted the amendments called for in the reports by Mr Georges Pianta (Fr, LA) on freedom of movement of lawyers, and had changed its proposals for directives on lead in petrol, water for drinking purposes and lead in the atmosphere, further to the reports of Mr Willi Müller (Ge, S), Lord Bethell (Br, EC) and Mr Luigi Noè (It, CD).

NOTES

Mr Georges Spénale was re-elected President

The following were elected Vice Presidents by acclamation:

Mr Giovanni Bersani (It, CD), Mr Cornelis Berkhouwer (Du, L), Lord Bessborough (Br, EC), Mr Michael Yeats (Ir, EPD), Mr Gérard Bordu (Fr, CA), Mr Walter Behrendt (Ge, S), Mr Hans-August Lückner (Ge, CD), Mr Ove Guldberg (Da, L), Mr Lucien Martens (Be, CD), Mr Achille Corona (It, S), Mr Jacques Santer (Lu, CD) and Sir Geoffrey de Freitas (Br, S).

Mr Linus Memmel (Ge, CD) signified that he personally was not voting for any Communist Vice-President. President Georges Spénale took note of his comment.

The following were elected chairmen of the committees:

Political Affairs Committee:	Mr Giovanni Boano (It, CE)
Legal Affairs Committee:	Sir Derek Walker-Smith (Br, EC)
Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs:	Mr Arie van der Hek (Du, S)
Committee on Budgets:	Mr Erwin Lange (Ge, S)
Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and Education:	Mr Frans van der Gun (Du, CD)



Mr Georges Spénale is re-elected President

Committee on Agriculture:

Mr Roger Houdet (Fr, L)

Committee on Regional Policy, Regional
Planning and Transport:

Mr John Evans (Br, S)

Committee on the Environment, Public
Health and Consumer Protection:

Mr Libero Della Briotta (It, S)

Committee on Energy and Research:

Mr Gerd Springorum (Ge, CD)

Committee on External Economic Relations:

Mr Gabriel Kaspereit (Fr, EPD)

Committee on Development and Cooperation:

Miss Colette Flesch (Lu, L)

Committee on the Rules of Procedure
and Petitions:

Mr William Hamilton (Br, S)

Mr Michael Stewart (Br, S) has been elected first Vice-President of the Socialist Group.

Request for urgent procedure

When the House resumed, Mr Francescopaolo d'Angelosante (It, CA) requested that the motion he had put down on the threat of the lives of Corvalan and other Chilean political prisoners be treated as urgent. Mr Ludwig Fellermaier, for the Socialists, Mr Alfred Bertrand, for the Christian Democrats and Mr Jean Durieux, for the Liberals, expressed sympathy but did not feel inclined to support his request. The motion was referred to the Political Affairs Committee.

Appointment of members of the European Parliament

The President announced that the President of the First and Second Chambers of the States General of the Netherlands had informed him that Mr van der Mei had been appointed member of the European Parliament to replace Mr Willem Scholten who had been appointed a member of the Netherlands State Council.

On behalf of the European Parliament, the President congratulated Mr Scholten and welcomed Mr van der Mei.

The President also announced that, on 16 December 1975, the Senate of the French Republic had renewed its delegation to the European Parliament with effect from 13 March 1976. The following had been appointed: Mr Amedee Bouquerel, Mr Marcel Brégégère, Mr Henri Caillavet, Mr André Colin, Mr Emile Didier, Mr Charles Durand, Mr Pierre Giraud, Mrs Marie-Thérèse Goutmann, Mr Roger Houdet, Mr Léon Jozeau-Marigné, Mr Jean-François Pintat and Mr Alain Poher.

The President congratulated the members whose appointment had been renewed and welcomed Mr Bouquerel.

Correction : In the December 1975 edition of *The Sitings* Lord Gladwyn is quoted as saying that if we were able to pool our research and development on defence we might make an annual saving of 3 million pounds. This should have read 3 billion pounds. Attention should also be drawn to his suggestion that 'any serious effort to rationalise the production of conventional armaments in the Community might well be the best way to start off on some common industrial policy.'

Petition received

The President announced that he had received from Mr Gerus, Mr Sergent and 23 other signatories a petition on Europe and young people.

SUMMING UP

At its sittings of 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 March 1976, Members put down 2 questions for debate with the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Communities, 3 questions for debate with the Council and 5 questions for debate with the Commission. At Question Time, 1 question was addressed to the Conference of Foreign Ministers, 9 questions were addressed to the Council and 10 questions were addressed to the Commission. 16 reports were considered and Parliament delivered 20 opinions. The House sat for 2 hours 25 minutes on Monday, for 50 minutes on Tuesday, for 10 hours 20 minutes on Wednesday, for 8 hours 20 minutes on Thursday and for 2 hours on Friday, making a total of 23 hours 55 minutes.

REFERENCES

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Eur. Parl. Doc. No.</i>	<i>Comm. Doc. No.</i>	<i>Date of debate</i>
Community action in the cultural sector	542/75	—	8/3
Education on European affairs for young workers	538/75	—	8/3
European Community youth orchestra	537/75	—	8/3
Recommendations of the EEC-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee	272/75 504/75	—	8/3
Question Time	1/76	—	10/3
Decision-making procedure of the Council	494/75	—	10/3
Outstanding Council decisions on African policy	511/75 10/76	— —	10/3 10/3
Convergence of national policies	543/75 544/75	—	10/3
Negotiating mandate for Greek accession	554/75		10/3
Commission's position on Greek accession	555/75	—	10/3
Role of defence in the context of a European foreign policy	545/75	—	10/3
Denial of parental rights by the German Democratic Republic	490/75	—	10/3
Tunnel under the English Channel	546/75 547/75	—	10/3
Direct elections to the European Parliament . .	11/76	—	11/3
Community of stability and growth	381/75 534/75	—	11/3
Economic situation in the Community	557/75	—	11/3
Institute for economic analysis and research . .	560/75	325/75	11/3

Dragon project	558/75	—	12/3
Conversion premium in the wine sector	540/75	333/75	12/3
Fat content of full cream milk	541/75	413/75	12/3
Community list of less-favoured farming areas .	549/75	523/75 498/75	12/3
Common organisation of the market in fruit and vegetables	551/75	483/75	12/3
Summer Time	559/75	530/75	12/3
Legislation concerning mayonnaise	532/75	411/75	12/3
ACP and OCT agricultural products	536/75	528/75	12/3
Simplifying warehousing procedure	553/75	409/75	12/3
EC-Malta Association Agreement	12/76	564/75	12/3
Colouring matters for use in foodstuffs	533/75	479/75	12/3

ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used in this text to denote nationality and political allegiance: CD Christian Democrat, S Socialist, L Liberal and Allies, EC European Conservative, EPD European Progressive Democrat, CA Communist and Allies, Ind Non-Attached Independent Members, Be Belgian, Br British, Da Danish, Du Dutch, Fr French, Ge German, Ir Irish, It Italian, Lu Luxembourg, EC European Community.

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