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Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on External Economic Relations

on the results of the first European Community/Latin America

Inter-Parliamentary Conference held in Bogota from 15 to 18 July 1974

Rapporteur: Mr G. BOANO

PE 38.472/fin.

By letter of 11 October 1974, the President of the European Parliament referred the recommendations adopted by the delegation Parliament and the Latin-American Parliament to the first European Community/Latin-America Inter-Parliamentary Conference held in Bogotá from 15 to 18 July 1974 to the Committee on External Economic Relations as the committee responsible and to the Political Affairs Committee and the Committee on Development and Cooperation for their opinions.

On 2 October 1974, the Committee on External Economic Relations appointed Mr Boano rapporteur.

It considered the draft report at its meeting of 22 October 1974, and unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement at its meeting of 5 November 1974.

Present: Mr de la Malène, chairman; Mr Thomsen, vice-chairman; Mr Boano, rapporteur; Mr Baas, Mr Brégégère, Mr d'Angelosante, Mr de Clercq, Mr Dunne, Mr Kaspereit, Mr de Koning, Mr Lange, Mr Maigaard, Mr Pintat, Mr Radoux, Mr Rivierez, Lord St. Oswald.

The opinions of the Political Affairs Committee and the Committee on Development and Cooperation are attached.

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The Committee on External Economic Relations hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the results of the first European Community/Latin America Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held in Bogota from 15 to 18 July 1974.

The European Parliament,

- emphasizing the interest it has demonstrated for many years¹ in establishing closer relations between Europe and Latin America;
- recalling its resolution of 14 November 1972² in which it expressed the desire to continue and intensify contacts with representatives of Latin America and instructed its Bureau to take the necessary steps to this end;
- having learned from its delegation of the progress of the First European Community/Latin America Inter-Parliamentary Conference held in Bogota from 15 to 18 July 1974;
- having taken note of the Final Act of the Conference³;
- having regard to the report of the Committee on External Economic Relations and the opinions of the Political Affairs Committee and the Committee on Development and Cooperation (Doc. 351/74)

¹See particularly the resolutions of:

Martino report, Doc. 48/63
Martino report, Doc. 98/64
de Winter report, Doc. 139/69
de Winter report, Doc. 27/71

²Resolution based on Mr Boano's report (Doc. 179/72)

³PE 37.862/rev.

1. Notes with satisfaction the positive results of this first inter-parliamentary meeting attended by a large number of Latin-American delegations at the Latin-American Parliament¹;
2. Is glad to note that delegates from Mexico attended the conference as observers, thus demonstrating their interest in relations with the European Community;
3. Welcomes also the presence at the Conference of members of the now dissolved Chilean Parliament who were freely elected and today are unable to take their seats in Parliament;
4. Notes with great interest the conclusions contained in the Final Act of the Conference and commends them to the attention of its appropriate committees as well as of the Commission and Council of the European Communities;
5. Underlines the particular interest of the recommendations concerning economic relations, specific cooperation programmes, and the encouragement of economic development, and hopes that before long these will find expression in practical acts;
6. In this spirit supports the proposal to establish within the framework of inter-parliamentary relations a programme of scholarships for young people from Latin America, beginning in 1975;
7. Welcomes the determination with which the Conference proclaimed its commitment to the parliamentary institution and to democratic rule, and denounced those governments which strike at civic and political rights, and approves the Conference's decision to re-examine at its next meeting representative democracy on both continents;
8. Invites a delegation of the Latin-American Parliament to a second European Community/Latin America Inter-Parliamentary Conference, to take place in one of the European Community countries in the second half of 1975;
9. With this in view, instructs its appropriate committees to pay close attention to the development of economic relations between the European Community and Latin America;

¹The Latin-American Parliament was represented by delegations from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Surinam and Venezuela.

10. Instructs its President to issue the necessary instructions to enable the appropriate departments in the Secretariats of the two Parliaments to make suitable preparations for the Second Conference along the lines already established in the Final Act, in collaboration with other Community institutions and, if necessary, with the help of experts;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Council and the Commission of the European Communities.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This motion for a resolution refers principally to the political and formal significance of the fact that in Bogota, from 15 to 18 July 1974, the first official meeting between a delegation from the European Parliament and delegations from the Latin American Parliament took place within the framework of an inter-parliamentary conference.

It therefore confirms some statements and declarations of principle which had been discussed during the conference in a friendly spirit although they did not always meet with full agreement.

It also recalls the main headings of the Final Act of the Conference, both to underline their interest and to encourage further study of the content of this document which reflects the many, sometimes differing, contributions to its drafting.

In particular your rapporteur wishes to stress the new features of the Final Act of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference, especially on the general level where it is stressed that present and possible future bilateral agreements between the European Economic Community and Latin-American countries or groups of countries must be drawn up with a view to a cooperation agreement between the two regions, in a multilateral and global framework, in a spirit of complete equality and reciprocal interest.

On the practical level note should be taken of the commitment in the Final Act of the Conference to regular and systematic meetings between delegations from the European Parliament and from the Latin-American Parliament, and of the proposal to implement programmes for exchanges of students, teachers and technical experts. Both of these proposals have been presented in a formal manner in this motion for a resolution.

In conclusion, your rapporteur believes that the inter-parliamentary conference at Bogotá made a useful contribution to establishing a varied and complex framework for relations between the Community and the Latin-American countries.

He also feels it necessary that constant attention and study should be paid by the European Parliament to all such relations, particularly by the committees concerned, on an increasingly detailed and specific basis, to permit a useful continuation of dialogue between the two Parliaments and further development of cooperation between the two areas.

OPINION

of the Political Affairs Committee

Draftsman: Mr W. Behrendt

On 7 November 1974, the Political Affairs Committee appointed Mr Behrendt draftsman.

It considered the draft opinion at the same meeting and adopted it unanimously.

Present: Mr Giraudo chairman; Mr Radoux and Lord Gladwyn, vice-chairmen; Mr Behrendt, draftsman; Mr Ariosto, Mr Alfred Bertrand, Sir Arthur Douglas Dodds-Parker, Mr Faure, Mr Kirk, Mr Klepsch (deputizing for Mr Andreotti), Mr Lücker, Mr McDonald, Mr Sandri (deputizing for Mr Amendola), Mr Schelba, Mr Scott-Hopkins and Mr Vandewiele (deputizing for Mr Colin).

1. The first Inter-Parliamentary Conference between delegations from the European Parliament and the Latin American Parliament was held in Bogota on 15-18 July 1974¹.

This fact alone merits consideration and is of political importance. The Latin American Parliament was represented by delegations from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Surinam and Venezuela. A parliamentary delegation from Mexico, which does not normally take part in the work of the Latin-American Parliament, attended the conference with observer status, thereby emphasizing the importance attached by Mexico to the development of parliamentary contacts with the European Communities.

2. It should be noted in particular that several representatives of the Chilean Parliament were also able to attend the Conference as observers.

The delegation from the European Parliament had made it a condition for its participation that the freely elected representatives of that Parliament, which has now been dissolved, should be invited to the conference.

3. As to the final communiqué of the conference, it must be said that inevitably no concrete results could be achieved. The Bogotá Conference was an initial contact, and it remains to be seen how far it will be possible in future to detach parliamentary relations with the Latin American continent from vague and general political rhetoric and to hold precise and factual debates.

One must therefore reckon with a process of development which was already envisaged in the Bogota declaration. The second Inter-Parliamentary Conference, to be held in Europe in 1975, is, for example, to be carefully prepared with the aid of expert reports. Such efforts alone will make it possible to avoid these regular meetings leading to general frustration and to achieve tangible results.

4. In this context it is particularly gratifying that the members of the European delegation have taken the initiative of tabling an amendment to the 1975 budget of the Communities with a view to inviting a number of young Latin American citizens to the Community.

¹ Previous visits by delegations from the European Parliament to Latin America took place in 1964 with President Gaetano MARTINO and in July and November/December 1971 with the draftsman of this opinion. A delegation from the Latin American Parliament came to Strasbourg in November 1973.

With this initiative, the European Parliament has shown - admittedly in a limited sector but one in which it is autonomous - that it is prepared to work towards tangible results in the context of parliamentary cooperation.

5. The Political Affairs Committee especially supports the decision of the Bogotà Inter-Parliamentary Conference to continue studying the state of parliamentary democracy in both continents at future meetings.

6. In this sense, the Political Affairs Committee can therefore endorse the conclusions of the Conference.

OPINION

of the Committee on Development and Cooperation

Draftsman: Mr R. Sandri

On 9 October 1974, the Committee on Development and Cooperation appointed Mr Sandri draftsman.

It considered the draft opinion at its meeting of 6 November 1974 and adopted it unanimously.

Present: Mr Deschamps, acting chairman; Mr Sandri, vice-chairman and draftsman, Mr Broeksz, Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker (deputizing for Mr James Hill), Mr Dondelinger, Mr Durieux, Mrs Fenner, Mr Härzschel, Lord Reay, Mr Premoli (deputizing for Mr Jozeau-Marigné), Mr Romualdi, Mr Seefeld.

The Committee on Development and Cooperation wishes first of all to stress the political importance of the first European Community/Latin-American Inter-Parliamentary Conference.

Using as its basis the working document prepared by Mr Ernest GLINNE, the Conference stated that, in its view, parliament was the true expression of representative democracy, the guarantor of human rights and the indispensable instrument for ensuring the greatest measure of genuine popular representation in government.

On the basis of this principle, three members of the now dissolved Chilean Parliament who have taken refuge in Colombia attended the Conference as observers and were welcomed by the European Parliament delegation.

Your committee particularly welcomes the adoption of such a position; it raised the level of the Conference above the routine considerations that are all too often characteristic of such parliamentary gatherings.

It should also be noted that the Conference will give further consideration to the political situation in both continents at its next meeting.

In its final statement, the Conference adopted several conclusions and recommendations on specific cooperation programmes, the financing of economic development, technical assistance and the transfer of technology, and training programmes.

The paragraph dealing with this subject in the final statement is of particular relevance to your committee, and merits closer examination.

The European Community will gradually implement an overall policy of development cooperation, in other words, a policy embodying a complete range of instruments of cooperation.

For historical reasons - and economic ones, since several associated African countries are among the poorest countries in the world - Africa alone has for a very long time been the privileged partner of the European Community. It is therefore natural that Latin America, a continent with which the Community also has numerous historical links, should, in its turn, benefit from a coherent approach under the development aid policy, taking account of the specific situation of that continent.

The relatively high level of development of the Latin-American countries (it should be noted that only one Latin-American country appears on the UNCTAD list of least developed countries) makes this sub-continent the ideal area for certain types of development aid, particularly industrial cooperation - a field in which the EIB could intervene - technical assistance and training programmes.

Your committee therefore welcomes the happy choice made by the Conference in this respect.

Your committee intends to work towards this goal and to consider in greater detail the various forms such cooperation might take.

Luxembourg
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