

# European Communities

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## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1973-1974

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2 July 1973

DOCUMENT 119/73

## Report

drawn up on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee

on the motion for a resolution

tabled by

Mr LÜCKER, on behalf of the Christian Democratic Group

Mr KIRK, on behalf of the European Conservative Group

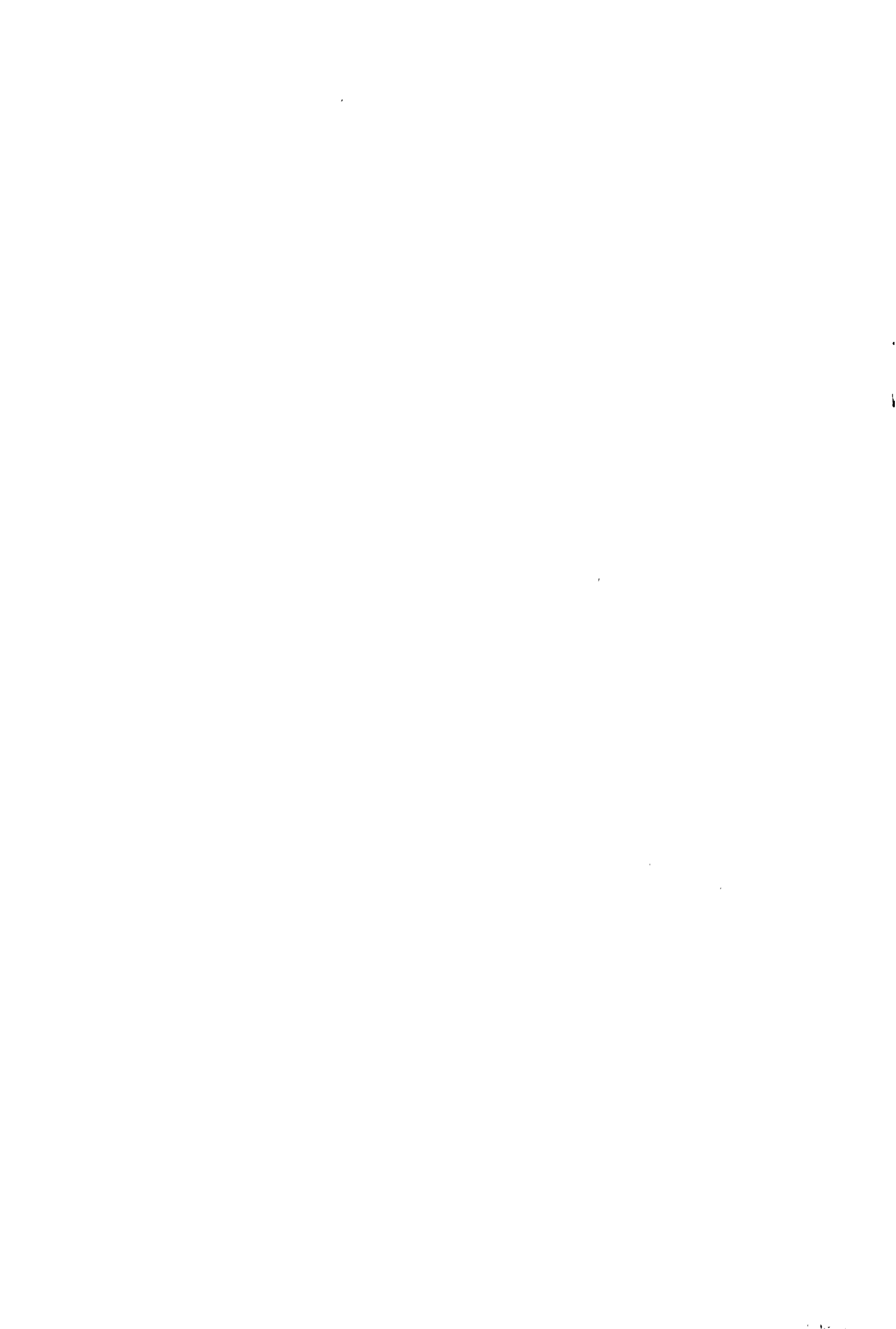
Mr ACHENBACH, on behalf of the Liberal and Allies Group

(Doc. 99/73)

on the visit of the President of the United States of America to Europe

Rapporteur: Mr L. FELLERMAIER

PE 33.445/fin.



At its sitting of 7 June 1973, the European Parliament referred the following motion for a resolution, tabled by Mr Lückner on behalf of the Christian-Democratic Group, Mr Kirk on behalf of the European Conservative Group and Mr Achenbach on behalf of the Liberal and Allies Group, on the visit of the President of the United States of America to Europe (Doc. 99/73) to the Political Affairs Committee:

The European Parliament,

- in the spirit of the declaration of the Paris Summit Conference of October 1972 on the need for a reorganization of relations between Europe, and in particular the European Community on the one hand, and the United States of America on the other;
  - having regard to the statement made by Dr Kissinger, Mr Nixon's special adviser, with the President's authorization;
  - convinced of the need to adapt relations between the European Community and the United States of America to past developments and future prospects;
  - believing that the reorganization of these relations in a spirit of true partnership requires that agreed solutions be found which take due account of the worldwide responsibilities of the European Community;
1. Calls upon the Institutions of the Community and the Governments of the Member States to conduct the dialogue with the President of the United States of America during his visit in the autumn through the Council of the European Communities, meeting at the highest political level, and with the participation of the Commission of the European Communities;
  2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities and to the Governments of the Member States.

The Political Affairs Committee appointed Mr Fellermaier rapporteur on 14 June.

It discussed the draft report at its meeting of 14 June 1973 and adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement unanimously, with three abstentions, at its meeting of 21 June 1973.

The following were present: Mr Giraud, chairman; Mr Radoux and Lord Gladwyn, vice-chairmen; Mr Fellermaier, rapporteur; Mr Achenbach, Sir Tufton Beamish, Mr Behrendt, Mr Berthoin, Mr Bertrand, Mr Dalsager, Sir Anthony Esmonde, Mr Jahn, Mr Kirk, Mr Leonardi (deputizing for Mr Amendola), Mr Lücker, Mr Patijn, Mr Scelba, Mr Thomsen, and Mr Thornley (deputizing for Mr Vals).

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The Political Affairs Committee hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the visit of the President of the United States of America to Europe

The European Parliament

- in the spirit of the communiqué issued at the Paris Summit Conference in October 1972, which attaches particular importance to relations between the European Community and the United States of America;
  - believing that the reorganization of these relations in a spirit of true partnership requires that agreed solutions be found which take due account of the worldwide responsibilities of the European Community;
  - having regard to the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Lückner on behalf of the Christian-Democratic Group, Mr Kirk on behalf of the European Conservative Group and Mr Achenbach on behalf of the Liberal and Allies Group (Doc. 99/73);
  - having regard to the report of the Political Affairs Committee (Doc. 119/73);
1. Urgently requests the Council and the Commission of the European Communities as well as the governments of the Member States so to prepare for the consultations with the American President during his autumn visit that the Community is enabled to speak with one voice and that these consultations are conducted by the Community organs;
  2. Believes that the people of the Community have a legitimate right to be informed directly of the political intentions of the American President, and will therefore consider whether a statement by the President at an open sitting of the European Parliament, in the presence of the Commission and the Council, would be an appropriate means to this end;
  3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities and to the governments of the Member States and to make the necessary contacts to ensure its implementation.



EXPLANATORY STATEMENTI. Procedure

1. On 6 June 1973 Mr LÜCKER, on behalf of the Christian Democratic Group, Mr KIRK, on behalf of the European Conservative Group and Mr ACHENBACH, on behalf of the Liberal and Allies Group, tabled a motion for a resolution on the visit of the President of the United States of America to Europe, with a request that it be dealt with by urgent procedure pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure (Doc.99/73). At its sitting of 7 June, Parliament resolved to refer this motion to the Political Affairs Committee.

At its sitting of 14 June 1973 the Political Affairs Committee requested its rapporteur to draw up an interim report on that motion for a resolution for Parliament's July part-session.

2. The Committee's action on this matter was based on the assumption that the working out of a common standpoint with regard to the forthcoming visit of the American President to Europe was of particular urgency, whereas the actual debate would require thorough preparation following submission of the opinions from the committees consulted and could take place after the summer recess.

3. It should be recalled in this connection that the Political Affairs Committee was asked by the European Parliament at its sitting of 10 May 1973 to submit a report on the joint communiqué issued by the delegations from the European Parliament and the United States Congress on 10 May 1973 in Strasbourg (PE 33.164) and on the motion for a resolution tabled by the five political groups of the European Parliament (Doc. 53/73) on relations between the Community and the United States. The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Committee on External Economic Relations will be submitting opinions on this report.

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4. The motion for a resolution adopts no particular position with regard to the content of the necessary discussions now due between the European Community and the United States on a variety of topics. What it does is to concentrate on a single point; this, at first glance, may seem to be a minor one and basically procedural in nature, but a closer examination shows it to be of outstanding political significance.

5. The question at issue is simply whether the Community can succeed in speaking with one voice during the forthcoming consultations with the USA, i.e. whether it can agree on the content of those questions for which it is responsible under the Treaties and at the same time present them institutionally as a single body.

This is by no means as self-evident as it might appear, and such a position must be fought for politically. The danger that the governments of the Member States may fail to achieve a united front as the result of misunderstood national interests should not be underestimated.

6. Your rapporteur does not consider it necessary to go into the individual dangers attendant on such a failure to achieve unity. They are all too obvious: faced with its first serious challenge in the field of foreign policy, the Community, having resolved at the last Summit Conference to develop a stronger political identity than ever before, would degenerate into a collection of national States with no binding links.

The preparatory talks in Helsinki for the European Security Conference saw a partial harmonization of the foreign policies of the Member States; but despite this promising start, even this minimum of harmonization during preparations for these important negotiations with our most main Western partner would not then be achieved. The resolve of the Summit Conference to achieve a greater measure of political cooperation would thus not only not be fulfilled but would indeed be stood on its head.

The resulting situation could then only be described as absurd.

7. What can Parliament do in this situation?

First of all, those responsible - in particular the governments of the Member States and the Council of Ministers of the Community - must be made aware of their responsibilities. The debate in Parliament can contribute to this.

Parliament is convinced that an open discussion of the existing difficulties can only be of advantage. Whatever happens, failure to reach agreement in the Council behind locked doors can do nothing to conceal, let alone overcome, the Community's obvious weaknesses.

8. In addition to the appeal to the institutions of the Community and to the governments of the Member States, the motion for a resolution expresses the view that the people of the Community have a legitimate right to be informed directly of the political intentions of the American President.



Your rapporteur suggests that Parliament has its President examine how far a statement by the American President at an open sitting of Parliament would be a suitable means of accomplishing this. It appears obvious to him that such a statement, which would be certain of a warm reception by the public, would be made in the presence of the Commission and the Council.

