



Help me bring peace — Sadat tells MEP's

An impassioned plea for the European Community to help in bringing about peace in the Middle East and a reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians was made by the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Anwar el Sadat, when he addressed a packed chamber of Parliament on Tuesday 10 February. Referring to the Community's Luxembourg Declaration of December 1980, which he described as "a turning point which is likely to have a constructive impact on the peace process in the near future", President Sadat called for Europe's help in solving the Palestinian problem. The Palestinian people, he said, had a right to self-determination and national dignity. The eventual establishment of a Palestinian entity would in fact be the best guarantee for the security of Israel. "We should like you to participate with us in persuading both Israelis and Palestinians to accept a formula of neutral and simultaneous recognition." Having noted that "a Palestinian entity will certainly bear the responsibility of preventing acts of violence and hostility", he laid stress on inviting Europe "to take part in additional security guarantees as a European contribution to peace in the Middle East".

President Sadat spoke out against any foreign intervention in the affairs of the third world. The concept of non-interference applied particularly to Jerusalem (which he himself visited in 1977). The historical and legal rights of all believers there had to be respected. He urged the Community, through Parliament, to help in achieving this goal. After all, Arabs and Muslims had for centuries realised their obligation to keep it open to all the faithful regardless of their creed or identity.

The President's call for peace in the Middle East was set in a wider context of international relations as he told

Parliament, "Let me propose to you, the elected representatives of Europe, the establishment of a new partnership between Europe and our part of the world. I am referring here not only to the Middle East and Africa, but to the Third World at large."

Productive links

The visit of President Sadat highlighted the importance which many countries outside the Community attach to links with the European Parliament, at a time when Parliament's relations with other parliaments in the world have come under close scrutiny. The week of 23-27 February saw a meeting of the Joint Committee of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly set up by intergovernmental accord in the Lomé Convention (Zimbabwe has signed to become the sixtieth member). Members of the European Parliament and delegates from the ACP states called for improvements to ACP-EEC aid and trade links. In reviewing the Convention's progress they continued parliamentary work which has, in the past, brought about the creation of such central features of the agreement as the Stabex system to stabilise ACP agricultural export earnings which in 1980 resulted in export refunds to ACP states in the five years from 1975 of some £230m. The success of this system has led, under Lomé II, to the creation of a £170m sister scheme — Sysmin — to help mineral-producing ACP countries to maintain production capacity and hence mineral supplies to the Community. The Community's dependence for 75% of its raw materials on imports, compared with 25% for the USA and 10% for the Soviet Union, underlines the importance of maintaining such contacts with Lomé Convention and other Third World countries.

Women's rights championed

With more women (66) than any other elected parliament in the world, and a woman President in Madame Simone Veil, it was fitting that one of the first acts of the directly elected Parliament was to set up a special ad hoc committee to examine women's rights. The terms of reference of the committee, of whose 35 members eleven were men, were to examine what further measures could be taken in the interests of women under the Treaty of Rome.

On the basis of the committee's report drafted by Mrs Harja Maij-Weggen (EPP/NL) Parliament passed a firm resolution on 11 February which noted that "the historical development of civilisation in general and the advent of modern industrial societies has so far failed to eradicate the age-old subordination of women". Harsher words came from committee leader Yvette Roudy (Soc/Fr) who affirmed that it was harder to overcome prejudice against women than to split the atom. Commissioner Ivor Richard warned Parliament that there were dangers that in the 1980's, because of the impact of the economic depression, things might even slip backwards. Where the danger was greatest, he said, was unemployment, work sharing and the opening of the labour market to new entrants.

Parliament's resolution set out a wide-ranging programme of action including: boys to be taught skills like cooking and childcare which would in time help them, as adults, to share in the domestic work; easing the situation where women at work are in effect doing a second job in the home and thus working unacceptably long hours; better use of regional and social funds and possibly a European fund for women; job opportunity, better training, promotion and pay equality (the present legislation¹ is not being fully implemented); national decisions to obviate the need for clandestine abortions, or abortions in other countries (abortion itself is seen as a last resort); and European funds to help set up reception centres for women victims of sexual or other violence.

¹The principal measures so far taken by the Community have been directives covering equal pay, equality, access to jobs, working conditions and training, equality of social security benefits and freedom of movement in different jobs and professions. Since 1978 training programmes specifically designed to help women have been eligible for backing from the European Social Fund.

Work in progress

Document	SUBJECT	Main Cttee	Other Cttee
COM(80)752 fin	Communication on Community railway policy	Trans	
COM(80)790 fin	Report on additional excise duty on cigarettes in the UK	Econ	
COM(80)854 fin	Directive on insurance contracts		
COM(80)887 fin	Decision on the conclusion of an agreement on fisheries between the EEC and Canada	Agric	
COM(81) 52 fin	Proposals on which Parliament has delivered an opinion, awaiting Council decision (to 1.1.81)	All	
COM(80)784 fin	Proposal for a decision of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers on the transitional measures to be applicable until 31.3.81;	Dev	
	Recommendation for a decision on the association of the overseas countries & territories with the EEC;	Pol	
	Recommendation for a decision on import arrangements for rum, arrack and tafia from overseas countries and territories associated with the EEC;	Agric	
	Draft decision of representatives of the ECSC on tariff preferences for products from overseas countries and territories associated with the EEC	Ext	
COM(80)787 fin	Proposal on measures to adjust capacity in the fisheries sector		
COM(80)796 fin	Proposals on measures to promote the development of combined transport and to supplement the granting of aids & provisions for combined transport	Trans	
COM(80)809 fin	Proposal for an information & consultation procedure for relations and agreements with third countries on transport	Trans	
COM(80)819 fin	Report on the farm accounting data network (FADN)	Agric	Budget
COM(80)821 fin	Proposal on radiation protection for persons undergoing medical examinations or treatment	Env	
COM(80)822 fin	Proposals on tax-free allowances for international travel and for the import of goods in small consignments of a non-commercial character	Econ	
COM(80)823 fin	Proposals on the Community quota and the standardisation of rules for the authorisation of the carriage of goods by road between Member States	Trans	
COM(80)831 fin	Proposal on the surveillance and monitoring of environments affected by wastes from the titanium dioxide industry	Env	
COM(80)833 fin	Proposals on the common organisation of the market in cereals, sugar and rice	Agric	
COM(80)849 fin	Proposals on the installation, location, operation and identification of controls, tell tales and indicators on wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors	Econ	
COM(80)850 fin	Proposals on		
	i) common provisions for measuring instruments and methods of meteorological control		
	ii) laws on clinical mercury-in-glass, maximum reading thermometers		
	iii) laws on tyre pressure gauges for motor vehicles		
	iv) laws on instruments to determine the content by volume of carbon monoxide in the exhaust gases of motor vehicles with spark ignition	Econ	
COM(80)852 fin	Proposal on the tariff treatment for goods contained in travellers' personal luggage or sent in small consignments to private individuals	Econ	
COM(80)871 fin	Proposal on export refunds by the tender system in the milk and milk products sector	Agric	
COM(80)808 fin	Report on nuclear safety in the Community	Energy	Env
COM(81) 5 fin	Proposal on laws for materials and articles made of regenerated cellulose film intended for contact with foodstuffs	Env	
COM(81) 2 fin	Recommendation on the second stage of the association agreement between the EEC and Cyprus	Ext	
COM(80)920 fin	Proposals on the control and examination of animals for the presence of substances with oestrogenic, androgenic, gestagenic and thyreostatic effect; and the possession, distribution and administration to animals of certain substances with a hormonal action	Agric	Env
COM(80)922 fin			
COM(80)760 fin	Proposal amending the Financial Regulation of 21.12.77 applicable to the EEC general budget	Budget	
COM(80)722 fin	Proposal for the fixing of total allowable catches for 1981 for certain fish stocks in the Community zone and the conditions and shares available to the Community		
COM(80)881 fin	Report on statistical surveys to be carried out by the Member States on bovine livestock	Agric	

Action taken on Parliament's Opinions

Each month the European Commission reports on the action it has taken in response to the Opinions previously expressed by Parliament.

At its 12-16 January part-session Parliament voted on 7 reports dealing with Commission proposals.

1. In 4 cases Parliament adopted committee reports which were favourable to Commission proposals:

- Report by Mr Delorozoy on aid for shipbuilding industry (638/80);
- Report by Mr Carossino on international standards for transport safety of vessels (708/80);
- Report by Mrs Maij-Weggen on prevention of oil pollution of the sea (709/80);
- Report by Mr Louwes on the conclusion of a framework agreement between the EEC and Brazil (529/80).

2. In 2 cases Parliament proposed amendments which the Commission did not wish to accept:

- Report by Mr Alber on the establishment of a sectoral environment research and development programme (660/80);
- Report by Mr Combe on the laying down of maximum levels for pesticide residues in foodstuffs (729/80).

3. In one case the Commission was prepared to accept some of Parliament's amendments:

- Report by Miss Hooper on the recovery and re-use of old paper and paperboard (659/80).

4. The Commission also took note of Parliament's opinions on:

- Resolution on the Parliament's place of assembly
- Report by Mr Aigner on observations regarding discharge of the implementation of the 1977 budget (672/80);
- Report by Mr Battersby on observations made in the decision giving discharge for 1978 (671/80);
- Report by Mr Bonaccini on the European car industry (673/80);

- Resolution on the composition of the parliamentary committees (788/80);
- Resolutions on the Community's fishery policy (807/80);
- Resolution on Community cooperation with Chad (808/80);
- Report by Mrs Walz on decentralisation of energy production (696/80);
- Report by Mrs Maij-Weggen on the prevention of disasters in off-shore oil and natural gas fields (473/80);
- Report by Mrs Spaak on measures to combat disasters producing oil pollution of the sea (467/80);
- Report by Mr Schall on the EEC's information policy (596/80);
- Interim report by Mrs Pruvot on the social conditions of workers engaged in cultural occupations (558/80).

5. Following Parliament's concern over Italian frontier closure expressed in December, the Commission reported that it was taking action (under Article 169) to enforce the opening of Italian frontier-crossing points used for the customs clearance of steel products.

Replies to Members' Questions

No clotted cream ban — *Lord O'Hagan (Dem/UK) WQ 1495/80*

Following press reports to the contrary the Commission states that it has no intention whatsoever of proposing a ban on production or consumption of clotted cream, and has not made any such proposals. The Commission adds that there are certain cases where a farmer has entered into an agreement not to market milk or milk products under the non-marketing of milk or conversion of dairy herds schemes. Such contracts are entirely voluntary on the part of the farmer and have the express purpose of reducing milk production in the Community.

Multifibre arrangement — *Pierre-Bernard Cousté (EPD/Fr) WQ 1638/80*

The current Multifibre Arrangement (MFA) expires on 31 December 1981. Most of the bilateral arrangements between the Community and exporting countries expire at the end of 1982. On 18 July 1980 the Commission sent to the Council its first report on the application of the MFA in the light of textile policy defined by the Community in 1977 (see COM(80)438 final). It is now preparing for this year's negotiations on MFA renewal. When it comes to negotiating future arrangements for trade in textiles with countries covered by the bilateral agreements, the Commission will be looking inter alia at the possibility of quantitative arrangements expressed in percentages rather than in absolute value.

Fair aid deal for regions — *Giovanni Travaglini (EPP/It) WQ 1700/80*

The Commission confirms that it is doing everything possible to achieve a fair distribution of ERDF resources between regions. However, it is dependent on applications from the national governments for Fund assistance to specific projects. The areas covered by ERDF activity are at present defined by the individual States.

Monaco trade — *Victor Michel (EPP/Bel) WQ 1215/80*

The Principality of Monaco is a sovereign State which does not form part of the European Economic Community. However, in 1963 the Principality signed a Customs Convention with the French Republic as a result of which the provisions of the EEC Treaty relating to the free movement of goods in the Community apply to products originating in Monaco. The Community has no power to ask the Principality to respect the rules on competition and other provisions but if a prima facie case of distortion of competition is established in favour of undertakings in Monaco, the Commission would ask the French authorities to take steps vis-à-vis the Government of the Principality to put an end to such a situation.

PSV tachograph exemption — *Mario Sassano (EPP/It) WQ 1426/80*

The Commission has no intention of drafting any proposal to amend Article 4 of EEC Regulation 543/69 which exempts public service vehicles from tachographs. It considers that a recent Court of Justice

ruling (No 47/79) confirms the principle. The exemption from the installation of tachographs for vehicles used for public authority services is based on the Council's attitude that the establishment and maintenance of social protection rules ensuring a reasonable social situation and satisfactory standards of road safety in respect of vehicles used by public authorities does not require Community legislation.

Spectacle frames and lenses — *William Newton Dunn (Dem/UK) WQ 1336/80*

The Commission is following developments in the market in spectacle frames and lenses and will take appropriate measures if sufficient evidence of restriction of competition is established. An investigation some years ago found certain exclusive distribution agreements to be in conformity with existing Community regulations. A complaint regarding boycotting was also received at the time but the file on the matter was closed because of lack of evidence.

Organic farming — *Ernest Glinne (Soc/Bel) WQ 1181/80*

Organic farming is officially recognised in France to denote farming in which no mineral fertilisers are used. Only Belgium and Germany have rules on the use of the adjective "biological" in food advertisements. Following a 1978 Council Directive labelling, presentation and advertising the Commission hopes shortly to present a draft directive on claims referring to the "biological" or "organic" nature of goods and those claims which should be

prohibited or restricted. The Commission itself has launched three research programmes.

Common sheepmeat market costs — *André Fanton (EPD/Fr) WQ 1666/80*

The Commission estimates that EAGGF expenditure on the sheepmeat and goatmeat sector in 1981 will be as follows:

Premiums	241 million ECU
Intervention	23 million ECU
Total	264 million ECU

Euro-Arab Dialogue — *Jaak Henckens (EPP/Bel) WQ 1483/80*

The Euro-Arab Dialogue has been suspended since April 1979 for reasons beyond the control of the European side. This has meant that of 2,100,000 EUA budget credits in 1979, 745,467 EUA were committed and 78,874 EUA were spent. None of the 745,000 EUA budget credits for 1980 has been committed or spent. Following the Euro-Arab meeting at political level on 12 and 13 November 1980 in Luxembourg it was agreed that leaders of all the working groups should meet as soon as possible to enable the working groups to reach concrete results. It is hoped that 1981 will see real progress in the implementation of the actions which were set out in the communiqués issued after the third and fourth meetings of the General Committee in Brussels and Damascus.

EEC finance & public housing — *Joyce Quin (Soc/UK) QTWA 751/80*

In the supplementary measures in favour of Britain, rather than establish a limited list of categories of eligible investments, the Council considered it better to have general criteria of eligibility. These criteria, states the Council, do not exclude housing in the public sector.

Nuclear civil liability — *Anne-Marie Lizin (Soc/Bel) QTWA 682/80*

The Commission considers it unnecessary to submit to the Council specific proposals for the harmonisation of the maximum third-party liability of nuclear plant operators throughout the Community. Its first concern is to induce those Member States which have not yet ratified the OECD agreements on nuclear liability (Paris Convention of 29 July 1960 and the supplementary Brussels Convention of 31 January 1963) to do so. The minimum liability agreements are in any case now being reviewed.

French aid to farmers — *David Curry (Dem/UK) QTWA 613/80*

Following reports in the press in December of the French Government's intention to pay aids to farmers, the Commission has twice reminded the French authorities of their obligation to notify such aids in accordance with the Treaty rules. As yet we have received no reply. At the end of January a measure introducing income aids for farmers was published in the French Official Journal, and this is now being studied by the Commission.

CAP and forestry — *Alasdair Hutton (Dem/UK) QTWA 619/80*

At a time when signs of over-production are apparent in several sectors of farming, the Commission considers that the Community must certainly take a fresh look at the possible uses of marginal land, and at ways of increasing the Community's supply of wood. There are also important considerations from the point of view of the environment and land-use policy. The Commission therefore wishes to make progress in forestry policy, but a positive response is needed from the Council on the proposals which have already been submitted by the Commission.

Aid to Jamaica — *Marquess of Douro (Dem/UK) QTWA 715/80*

The Current situation in Jamaica is being taken into account is the application of the provisions of the ACP-EEC second Lomé Convention within the limits of available resources and the powers of Community institutions. The chapters on financial and technical cooperation, stabilisation of export earnings, industrial and agricultural cooperation, the new system of measures relating to mineral products and the Protocols on sugar and rum are of particular importance to that country, states the Council.

European foundation still blocked — *Sir David Nicolson (Dem/UK) and Ken Collins (Soc/UK) QTWA 669/80*

Although the general outline of the Foundation was sketched by the European Council and the objective remains as stated, it has not yet been possible to establish a system for the operation of the Foundation and more especially to lay down specific financing arrangements. At its meeting on 15 and 16 December 1980, the Council in consultation with the Commission, again discussed the matter. The Council Presidency was forced to conclude that unfortunately the positions of the delegations had not altered since 1978. Therefore the prerequisites for unanimous agreement on the detailed arrangements for setting up the Foundation have not yet been met.

Differing petrol prices — *Guy Fernandez (Com/Fr) QTWA 731/80*

4-star equivalent petrol varied in pump price in the Ten in October 1980 between £1.28 per gallon (equivalent) in Germany and £1.64 per gallon (equivalent) in Denmark. This price difference, states the Commission was largely attributable to differing levels of petrol tax rather than variations in the pre-tax price. The Commission considers the consumer price difference too great and is to take up the matter with the Council of Energy, and Economic and Finance Ministers in 1981.

Northern Ireland agriculture — *Ian Paisley (Ind/UK) QTWA 711/80*

The Commission has submitted to the Council within a general package of agricul-

ture structural measures proposals which it hopes — given a rapid Council decision — will help to solve problems in the cereals and animal feed sectors in Northern Ireland.

Control of butter mixture exports to the Soviet Union — *Martin Bangemann (Lib/Ger) 700/80*

'As soon as it became apparent that substantial quantities of butter mixtures (e.g. butter and coconut oil) were being prefixed for export, with the possibility that they might be exported to the Soviet Union, the Commission took immediate action. On 7 January, it suspended the possibility of prefixing the export refund for these products. Then, on 17 January, it withdrew the export refund for all destinations. The Commission is now preparing a measure which will permit it to differentiate the export refunds for these so-called non Annex II products according to their destination, and this will ensure adequate control in future.

Gibraltar

The House of Assembly of Gibraltar has, as an interim arrangement, agreed that six UK MEP's should indirectly represent their interests as a Gibraltar in Europe Representation Group:

- Lord Bethell (Dem)
- Brian Key (Soc)
- Ken Collins (Soc)
- Adam Fergusson (Dem)
- Gloria Hooper (Dem)
- Alf Lomas (Soc)

Committee meetings

Normally held at Parliament's Brussels offices. This list is provisional.

Legal	16 Mar — 17 Mar
Region	16 Mar — 17 Mar
Dev	16 Mar — 17 Mar
Pol	17 Mar — 18 Mar
Control	17 Mar — 19 Mar
Agric	17 Mar — 18 Mar
Ext	17 Mar — 18 Mar
Youth	18 Mar — 19 Mar
Econ	18 Mar — 19 Mar
Soc	18 Mar — 19 Mar
Env	18 Mar — 19 Mar
Budget	19 Mar — 20 Mar
Energy	19 Mar — 20 Mar
Trans	19 Mar — 20 Mar
Rules	19 Mar — 20 Mar
Budget	24 Mar
Energy	27 Mar
Legal	27 Mar
Ext	13 Apr — 14 Apr
Legal	13 Apr — 14 Apr
Soc	13 Apr — 14 Apr
Youth	13 Apr — 14 Apr
Econ	14 Apr — 15 Apr
Env	14 Apr — 15 Apr
Reg	21 Apr — 22 Apr
Pol	21 Apr — 23 Apr
Dev	22 Apr — 23 Apr
Control	22 Apr — 23 Apr
Agric	22 Apr — 23 Apr
Budget	23 Apr — 24 Apr
Energy	23 Apr — 24 Apr
Trans	23 Apr — 24 Apr
Rules	23 Apr — 24 Apr