

3.30 p.m. and 9.00 p.m.:

- report by Mr Spénale on the establishment of a concertation procedure;
- joint debate on:
 - the report by Mr Radoux on the results of the Paris summit conference, and
 - the eighth general report and the programme of work of the Commission;
- oral question with debate on the political situation in Portugal.

The sitting was closed at 9.10 p.m.

H. R. NORD
Secretary-General

Cornelis BERKHOUWER
President

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 1975

IN THE CHAIR: MR C. BERKHOUWER
President

Presentation and inclusion in the agenda of a motion for a resolution

The sitting was opened at 11.35 a.m.

The President announced that he had received a motion for a resolution, tabled by Mr de la Malène, Mr Yeats, Mr Cousté, Mr Cointat, Mr Duval, Mr Kaspereit, Mr Laudrin, Mr Liogier, Mr Nolan and Mr Terrenoire, with request for debate by urgent procedure pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure, on the European Regional Development Fund (Doc. 505/74).

Approval of minutes

The minutes of proceedings of the previous day's sitting were approved.

Parliament decided to adopt urgent procedure in respect of this document.

Statement concerning Petition No 9/74

The President reminded members that Petition No 9/74, submitted by Mr Fabre and 31 other signatories had been referred to the Legal Affairs Committee on 15 November 1974.

On a proposal from the enlarged Bureau, it was decided that the motion for a resolution should be dealt with that same day during the joint debate on the report by Mr Radoux and the eighth general report.

He announced that after examining this petition, the committee had come to the conclusion that its subject matter did not fall within the sphere of activities of the European Communities.

Congratulations

The petition had therefore been filed without further action, pursuant to Rule 48 (3) of the Rules of Procedure.

On behalf of Parliament, the President congratulated Mr Nørgaard and Mr Dalsager, former Vice-Presidents of the European Parliament, on their appointment as members of the Danish Government.

Question Time

Parliament considered next the following questions put to the Council and Commission of the European Communities (Doc. 492/74).

Questions to the Council of the European Communities:

The President announced that Question No 1 by Mr Radoux and Question No 2 by Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker were not admissible since they related to points on the agenda of the current part-session.

Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker, Mr Radoux and Mr Hill spoke.

No 3 by Mr Fellermaier: Cyprus

Mr Fitzgerald, *President-in-Office of the Council of the European Communities*, answered the question and supplementary questions put by Mr Fellermaier, Mr Johnston, Mr Kirk, Mr Patijn, Mr Jahn and Mr Corterier.

No 4 by Mr Patijn: Humanitarian aid for Kurdish refugees

Mr Fitzgerald, *President-in-Office of the Council of the European Communities*, answered the question and supplementary questions put by Mr Patijn, Mr Johnston, Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker, Mr Noè and Mr Broeksz.

Questions to the Commission of the European Communities:**No 5 by Mr Blumenfeld: Rising administrative costs in the customs services**

Mr Gundelach, *Member of the Commission of the European Communities*, answered the question and supplementary questions put by Mr Blumenfeld, Mr Dykes, Mr Jahn, Mr Giraud, Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker, Mr Broeksz and Mr Schwörer.

No 6 by Mr Herbert: Cross-border cooperation

Mr Ortoli, *President of the Commission of the European Communities*, answered the question and a supplementary question put by Mr Herbert.

No 7 Mr Cousté: Completion of the Rhine-Rhone-Mediterranean link

Mr Scarascia-Mugnozza, *Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities*, answered the question and supplementary questions put by Mr Cousté and Mr Fellermaier.

No 8 by Mr Hougardy: Information on the takeover of the Marine-Firminy iron and steel and nuclear group

Mr Borschette, *Member of the Commission of the European Communities*, answered the question and supplementary questions put by Mr Hougardy and Mr Normanton.

No 9 by Mr Härzschel: Destruction of foodstuffs in the Community

Mr Hillery, *Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities*, answered the question and supplementary questions put by Mr Härzschel, Mr Jahn, Mr Scott-Hopkins and Mr Liogier.

No 10 by Mr Noè: Discharge of polluting effluents

Mr Scarascia Mugnozza, *Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities*, answered the question and a supplementary question put by Mr Noè.

No 11 by Mr Scott-Hopkins: Trade deficit between Britain and the other Member States

Mr Gundelach, *Member of the Commission of the European Communities*, answered the question and supplementary questions put by Mr Scott-Hopkins, Mr Dykes, Sir Brandon Rhys Williams, Mr Kirk and Lord O'Hagan.

No 12 by Mr Kirk: Cost of animal feedingstuffs in Northern Ireland

Mr Scarascia Mugnozza, *Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities*, answered the question and a supplementary question put by Mr Kirk.

No 13 by Mr Brewis: Proposed extension of Norwegian territorial waters

Sir Christopher Soames, *Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities*, answered the question and supplementary questions put by Mr Brewis, Mr Johnston and Mr Normanton.

No 14 by Mr Johnston: Re-negotiations between the UK and the remainder of the Community

Mr Ortoli, *President of the Commission of the European Communities*, answered the question and a supplementary question put by Mr Johnston.

No 15 by Mr Hansen: Cyprus

Sir Christopher Soames, *Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities*, answered the question and supplementary questions put by Mr Hansen and Mr Fellermaier.

No 16 by Mr Laban: Costs of sugar imports subsidy scheme

Mr Scarascia Mugnozza, *Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities*, answered the question and supplementary questions put by Mr Laban, Mr Scott-Hopkins, Mr Albers and Mr Broeksz.

The President declared Question Time closed.

Economic situation in the Community

Mr Haferkamp, *Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities*, delivered a statement on the economic situation in the Community.

IN THE CHAIR: MR C. BERKHOUWER

Vice-President

The President announced that Mr Haferkamp's statement would be referred to the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs.

The sitting was suspended at 1.15 p.m. and resumed at 3.50 p.m.

IN THE CHAIR: MR C. BERKHOUWER

President

Questions of procedure

The following spoke on a question of procedure: Sir Brandon Rhys Williams, Mr Lange, *Chairman of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs*, and Mr Burgbacher.

At the request of Mr Lücker, *Chairman of the Christian-Democratic Group*, Parliament decided to deal with the oral question with debate put by five political groups to the Commission of the European Communities on the political situation in Portugal (Doc 490/74) as part of the joint debate scheduled for that afternoon.

Declaration by the Parliament, the Council and the Commission on the establishment of a concertation procedure

The President read out a letter from the Council of the European Communities, informing him that the Council had examined the text proposed by the Committee on Budgets for the third recital of the draft joint declaration on the establishment of a concertation procedure and was prepared to amend this recital to read as follows:

'whereas the increase in the budgetary powers of the European Parliament must be accompanied by effective participation by the latter in the procedure for preparing and adopting decisions which give rise to important expenditure or revenue to be charged or credited to the budget of the European Communities.'

In the same letter, the Council stated that it could not agree to the suggestion that the reference to the budget of the European Communities be omitted from the recital, since, pursuant to the Treaties, all Community revenue and expenditure must be entered in the budget.

Mr Georges Spénale introduced his report, drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Budgets, on the letter from the Council of the European Communities (Doc. 431/74) on the draft joint declaration by the Parliament, the Council and the Commission on the establishment of a concertation procedure (Doc. 483/74).

The following spoke: Mr Kirk on behalf of the European Conservative Group, Mr Notenboom on behalf of the Christian-Democratic Group, Mr Fabrini on behalf of the Communist and Allies Group, Mr Fitzgerald, *President-in-Office of the Council*, and Mr Ortoli, *President of the Commission of the European Communities*.

Parliament considered next the motion for a resolution; the preamble and paragraphs 1 to 3 were adopted.

On paragraphs 4 and 5, Mr Spénale had tabled Amendment No 1, which he now moved.

This amendment was adopted.

Paragraphs 6 to 15 were adopted.

Parliament adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

on the letter from the Council of the European Communities on the draft joint declaration by Parliament, the Council and the Commission on the establishment of a concertation procedure

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 5 October 1973⁽¹⁾,
- having regard to the final proposal from the Commission on the strengthening of Parliament's budgetary powers (Doc. COM(73) 1000 fin.),
- having regard to the joint guidelines established by the Council on the strengthening of the budgetary powers of the European Parliament (Doc. 135/74) and the considerations which guided the Council in the establishment of these guidelines (Doc. 213/74),
- having regard to the outcome of the meetings between its delegation and the Council on 25 June and 14 October 1974,
- having regard to the draft joint declaration on the concertation procedure and to the letter from the Council of 19 December 1974 (Doc. 431/74),
- having regard to the letter from its President to the President of the Council of 16 January 1975,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 483/74),

Initiation of the concertation procedure

1. Welcomes the willingness to confer and cooperate shown by the three institutions concerned, which has resulted in a definite reconciliation of their original positions;
2. Appreciates the Council's agreement to the introduction of a concertation procedure before the present revision of the Treaties is completed;
3. Points out nevertheless that the strengthening of Parliament's budgetary powers, which was acknowledged to be essential even before the implementation of the own-resources system, has been regrettably delayed since 1 January 1975 and that the formalities for improving the budgetary procedures must be initiated;

Procedural machinery

4. Welcomes the overall plan proposed by the Council, which seems likely to allow Parliament to play a genuine part in the procedure for preparing and adopting important Community decisions which give rise to Community expenditure or revenue, such expenditure or revenue to be entered in the budget;
5. Is also of the opinion that the value of this procedure will in practice largely depend on its interpretation by the institutions directly concerned particularly in the light of the explanatory statement attached hereto;

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 87, 17. 10. 1973, p. 6.

End of the procedure

6. Considers that the degree of influence that it will be able to exercise over the Council's decision at the end of the procedure is accurately reflected by the different types of majority required in the Council depending on whether it acts in accordance with or contrary to Parliament's Opinion;
7. Notes that pursuant to Article 149 of the EEC Treaty unanimity is required for Council amendments to any proposal from the Commission;
8. Feels, therefore, that it should not be possible for the Council to depart from the resolution adopted by Parliament at the end of the concertation procedure unless its members decide to do so unanimously, and in this respect expresses categorically its reservations on the draft submitted by the Council;

Provisional introduction of the procedure

9. Points out, however, that it is in the interests of the Communities for better cooperation to be established as soon as possible between the Council and Parliament and therefore for a procedure for active parliamentary participation in all major decisions, particularly when they have appreciable financial implications, to be introduced;
10. Recognizes in this connection the quality of concertation between Parliament's delegation and the Council in 1974 both as regards the adoption of the 1975 budget and the strengthening of Parliament's budgetary powers;
11. Therefore considers it advisable to see in what spirit the institutions concerned apply this theoretically inadequate procedure and assess what goodwill they show;
12. Approves, therefore, the initiation, on a provisional and experimental basis, of the concertation procedure proposed by the Council, due amount being taken of the remarks contained in this resolution and particularly paragraph 5;
13. States, however, that the provisional introduction of this procedure will be pointless unless the following conditions, which Parliament has already put forward on several occasions, are at the same time fulfilled by the Council:
 - application of Article 149 of the EEC Treaty, which implies in particular that if the Commission alters its original proposal to take account of Parliament's Opinion, the Council must — expressly and within time limits to be agreed — state its position on the text as altered and cannot adopt any act constituting an amendment to this text unless it does so unanimously,
 - communication to Parliament of the majority by which the Council has acted,
 - uniform interpretation by the three institutions of Article 2 of the draft joint declaration to avoid any disputes;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

Results of the Paris summit conference of December 1974 — Eighth general report on the activities of the Communities in 1974 and programme of work of the Commission for 1975 — European Regional Fund — Oral question with debate: Political situation in Portugal

The next item on the agenda was the joint debate on the results of the last summit conference in Paris, the

eighth general report and the programme of work of the Commission, the motion for a resolution on the European Regional Fund and the oral question on the political situation in Portugal.

Mr Lucien Radoux introduced his report, drawn up on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee, on the results of the conference of Heads of Government of the Member States held in Paris on 9 and 10 December 1974 (Doc. 436/74).

IN THE CHAIR: MR W. BEHRENDT

Vice-President

Mr Fitzgerald, *President-in-Office of the Council of the European Communities*, spoke.

Mr Alfred Bertrand spoke on the oral question with debate on the political situation in Portugal (Doc. 490/74), put by Mr Lücker on behalf of the Christian-Democratic Group, Mr Spénale on behalf of the Socialist Group, Mr Durieux on behalf of the Liberal and Allies Group, Mr Kirk on behalf of the European Conservative Group, Mr de la Malène on behalf of the Group of European Progressive Democrats, to the Commission of the European Communities.

Sir Christopher Soames, *Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities*, answered the question.

Mr Herbert spoke on the motion for a resolution on the European Regional Development Fund (Doc. 505/74), tabled by Mr de la Malène, Mr Yeats, Mr Cousté, Mr Cointat, Mr Duval, Mr Kaspereit, Mr Laudrin, Mr Liogier, Mr Nolan and Mr Terrenoire.

In the subsequent general debate the following spoke: Mr Giraudo on behalf of the Christian Democratic Group, Mr Patijn, Mr Delmotte and Mr Della Briotta, all three on behalf of the Socialist

Group, and Lord Gladwyn on behalf of the Liberal and Allies Group.

The sitting was suspended at 7 p.m. and resumed at 9 p.m.

IN THE CHAIR: MR A. BORDU

Vice-President

Resuming the debate, the following spoke: Mr Kirk on behalf of the European Conservative Group, Mr Yeats on behalf of the Group of European Progressive Democrats, Mr Ansart on behalf of the Communist and Allies Group, Mr Lücker, Mrs Iotti, Mr De Sanctis, Mr Scelba, Mr Petersen, Sir Brandon Rhys Williams, Mr Blumenfeld, Mr Brewis, Mrs Goutmann, Mr Normanton, Mr Dykes, Mrs Fenner, Mr McDonald, Mr Radoux, *Rapporteur*, and Mr Ortoli, *President of the Commission of the European Communities*.

The President declared the debate closed. He announced that the motion for a resolution contained in Mr Radoux's report had been withdrawn and that Parliament would therefore now vote on the motion for a resolution on the European Regional Development Fund (Doc. 505/74).

Mr Fellermaier delivered a brief statement on behalf of the Socialist Group.

Parliament adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

on the European Regional Development Fund

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the decision taken on 10 December 1974 at the Paris summit conference to set up a Regional Fund with 300 million units of account in payment appropriations for the financial year 1974, with effect from 1 January 1975,
- considering that a fund of 300 million units of account for the financial year 1975 constitutes a minimum for implementation of a credible Community regional policy,
- noting with alarm the Council's inability to implement this decision.

1. Notes that the absence of such a decision constitutes a failure to fulfill the solemn decision taken on 10 December 1974 at the conference of Heads of Government in Paris;
2. Requests that the Regional Fund be set up without delay in accordance with the undertakings given;
3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

Agenda for next sitting

The President announced the following agenda for the next sitting on Thursday, 20 February 1975:

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.:

— joint debate on:

- the oral question by the Socialist Group to the Council on the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,
- the oral question by the Socialist Group to the Commission on the same subject, and
- the oral question by Mr Cousté to the Commission on the same subject;

- motion for a resolution on the present position as regards the Community energy policy;
- report by Mr Vandewiele on the Commission communication concerning the energy sector;
- statement by Mr Lardinois on the results of the last meeting of the Council of Ministers of Agriculture;
- report by Mr Liogier on the allocation of EAGGF appropriations;
- oral question with debate on a sheep meat Regulation;
- report by Mr Cipolla on the common organization of the market in rice;
- report by Mr Sandri on the eleventh annual meeting of the parliamentary conference of the EEC/AASM Association.

The sitting was closed at 12.45 a.m.

H. R. NORD

Secretary-General

Cornelis BERKHOUWER

President

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE SITTING OF THURSDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 1975

IN THE CHAIR: MR C. BERKHOUWER

President

The sitting was opened at 10.15 a.m.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of proceedings of the previous day's sitting were approved

Oral questions with debate: UN vote on the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States

The next item on the agenda was a joint debate on three oral questions.

Mr Glinne spoke on the oral question with debate put by himself and Mr Dondelinger, Mr Cifarelli, Mr Broeksz, Mr Seefeld and Mr Leenhardt on behalf of the Socialist Group to the Council of the European

Communities on the deplorable failure of the Community to adopt a common position at the UN vote on the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (Doc. 443/74) and on the oral question with debate put by the same authors on behalf of the Socialist Group to the Commission of the European Communities on the same subject (Doc. 444/74).

The oral question with debate put by Mr Cousté on behalf of the Group of European Progressive Democrats to the Commission of the European Communities on the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (Doc. 476/74) was also dealt with during this debate.

Mr Fitzgerald, *President-in-Office of the Council of the European Communities*, answered the question put to the Council, and Sir Christopher Soames, *Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities*, the two questions put to the Commission.