

Thursday 17 December 1998

MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER 1998

(1999/C 98/04)

PART I

Proceedings of the sitting

IN THE CHAIR: Mr GIL-ROBLES GIL-DELGADO

President

The President consulted the House on whether it wished the debate to be followed by the tabling of motions for resolutions. Parliament rejected the proposal by EV (187 for, 259 against, 13 abstentions).

(The sitting opened at 09.35)

* * *

The President welcomed to the official gallery the former chairman of the V Group, Mrs Roth.

1. Order of business

The President announced that the PSE, PPE, GUE/NGL and V Groups had proposed the Council and Commission make statements on the situation in Iraq followed by debate between 15.00 and 15.45 that day, and that the debate on topical and urgent subjects should be correspondingly shortened.

The House approved the proposal.

* * *

The President also announced that the PPE Group had proposed, as a result, the deletion from the agenda of Subjects IV (Rank Xerox) and V (Philippines).

On behalf of the PSE Group, Mrs Green proposed that the Secretaries-General of the political groups should meet to examine in detail how that afternoon's topical and urgent debate should proceed.

The President took over this proposal and announced the meeting would be held after the morning's votes and that the proposed changes to the agenda would be submitted to the House at 3 p.m.

The following spoke on the President's announcement: Mr Spencer, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr David W. Martin, Mrs Green, who emphasised the PSE Group would like the debate to be wound up with a motion for a resolution, Mrs Oomen-Ruijten, who pointed out that the PPE Group favoured a vote on a motion for a resolution, but in January 1999, Mrs Aelvoet, who pointed out that the V Group also favoured winding up the debate with a motion for a resolution, and Mr Cox, who pointed out that the ELDR Group was in favour of a debate but opposed to the tabling of motions for resolutions.

The following spoke: Mrs Moreau, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, whom the President cut off as she was making political comments, and Mrs Berès, who protested at the President's action.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr Teverson had informed the Chair that he had been present the previous day but that his name was not on the attendance register.

The following spoke:

— Mr Gallagher, who referred to the decision by the House the previous day to include 50 000 tons of frozen mackerel fillets in its programme to supply agricultural produce to Russia (Part II, Item 11, amendment 9) and asked the President urgently to contact the Fisheries Council which was meeting that morning and urged it not to ignore this call by Parliament (the President replied that he would do so);

— Mrs Miranda de Lage, who noted that Argentina and Chile had signed a territorial agreement the previous day ending a long series of conflicts between the two countries and called on the President to offer the two governments Parliament's congratulations on the agreement (the President replied that he would do so);

— Mr Metten, who referred to the item concerning objections to the list of subjects for topical and urgent debate (Part I, Item 4) and pointed out that, concerning Subject IV, the company in question was called 'Xerox', not 'Rank Xerox' (the President replied that this would be checked).

The Minutes of the previous sitting were approved.

3. Order of business

At the request of the PPE Group and with the approval of the Conference of Presidents, the President proposed placing the report by Mr García-Margallo y Marfil (A4-0402/98), currently first item on the agenda (Item 72), at the end of the agenda.

Parliament approved the proposal.