MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE SITTING OF THURSDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 1977

IN THE CHAIR: Mr BORDU  
Vice-President

The sitting was opened at 10.05 a.m.

Approval of minutes

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

Documents received

The President announced that he had received the following documents:

(a) from the Council a request for an opinion on:

I. the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC), implementing the Decision of 21 April 1970 on the replacement of financial contributions from Member States by the Communities' own resources

II. the second amended proposal under Articles 149 of the EEC Treaty and 119 of the EAEC Treaty for a Council Regulation (ECSC, EEC, Euratom) amending the Financial Regulation of 25 April 1973 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities

III. the amended proposal for a Council Regulation implementing, in respect of the own resources from VAT, the Decision of 21 April 1970 on the replacement of financial contributions from Member States by the Communities' own resources (Doc. 274/77) which had been referred to the Committee on Budgets;

(b) from the Committee on Agriculture, a report by Mr Hughes on the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 236/77) for:

I. a Regulation prohibiting the direct fishing and landing of herring for industrial purposes

II. a Regulation laying down conservation measures in respect of herring stocks in the North Sea in 1978

III. a Regulation relating to certain interim measures for the conservation and management of certain herring stocks

and

a communication from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council concerning the proposal for a Regulation relating to certain interim measures for the conservation and management of certain herring stocks (Doc. 280/77).

Decision on urgent procedure

Parliament decided to adopt urgent procedure for the report drawn up by Mr Bayerl on behalf of the Committee on External Economic Relations on economic and trade relations between the European Community and Portugal (Doc. 187/77/rev.) and, after Mr Giraud had spoken, to place it on the agenda for that day's sitting after the oral question on the Statute for migrant workers (Doc. 259/77).

Membership committees

At the request of the Socialist Group, Parliament ratified the appointment of:

— Mr Vanvelthoven as a member of the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Energy and Research,

— Mr Andersen as a member of the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection,

— Mr Dinesen as a member of the Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and Education,

— Mrs Dahlerup as a member of the Committee on Budgets (replacing Mr Albertini) and the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs.

At the request of the Group of European Progressive Democrats, Parliament ratified the appointment of:
Mr Nyborg as a member of the Committee on Development and Cooperation,

Mr Jensen as a member of the Committee on Energy and Research and the Committee on External Economic Relations (in the case of the latter committee, replacing Mr Nyborg),

Mr Herbert as a member of the Committee on Agriculture (replacing Mr Gibbons).

At the request of the Communist and Allies Group, Parliament also ratified the appointment of:

Mr Petersen as a member of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on External Economic Relations and the Consultative Assembly of the ACP—EEC Convention.

Unemployment among young people

The next item on the agenda was the joint debate on two oral questions on unemployment among young people.

Mrs Dunwoody moved the oral question with debate which, together with Mr Adams, Mr Lezzi, Mr Albers, Mr Kavanagh, Mr Delmotte, Mr Carpentier, Mr O. Hansen, Mr Dondelinger, Lord Murray, Mr Schreiber and Lady Fisher, she had put on behalf of the Socialist Group to the Commission on unemployment among young people (Doc. 264/77).

Mr Granelli moved the oral question with debate which, together with Mrs Cassanmagnago Cerretti, Mr van der Gun, Mr Bertrand, Mr Ripamonti, Mr Martinelli, Mr Noë, Mr Vandewiele and Mr Pisoni, he had put to the Commission on the Statute for migrant workers (Doc. 259/77).

Mr Vredeling, Vice-President of the Commission, answered the question.

The following spoke: Mr Bertrand on behalf of the Christian-Democratic Group, Mr Albers on behalf of the Socialist Group, and Mr Broeksz.

The President authorized Mr Bertrand to speak for a second time.

The following then spoke: Mr Rivierez on behalf of the Group of European Progressive Democrats, Mr Pistillo on behalf of the Communist and Allies Group, and Mr Vredeling.

The President declared the debate on this question closed.

Mr Vredeling, Vice-President of the Commission, answered the questions.

The sitting was suspended at 1.10 p.m. and resumed at 3.20 p.m.

IN THE CHAIR: Mr COLOMBO

President

Question Time

The next item on the agenda was the continuation and conclusion of Question Time (Doc. 269/77).
Questions to the Commission

Question No 12 by Sir Brandon Rhys Williams: Liberalization of insurance

Mr Vredeling, *Vice-President of the Commission*, answered the question.

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams spoke.

Question No 13 by Mr Caillavet on commercial support for European projects would be answered in writing as the author was absent and had not appointed a deputy.

Question No 14 by Sir Geoffrey de Freitas on travel by citizens of the Community was postponed.

Question No 15 by Mrs Kellett-Bowman: European Regional Development Fund

Mr Giolitti *Member of the Commission*, answered the question.

Mrs Kellett-Bowman spoke.

Question No 16 by Mr Kavanagh would be answered in writing as the author was absent and had not appointed a deputy.

Question No 17 by Mr Cousté on the negotiations between President Carter's representative and the Commission spokesmen was postponed.

Question No 18 by Mr Berkhouwer on the dumping of electric motors by East European countries would be answered in writing as the author was absent and had not appointed a deputy.

Mr Vredeling, *Vice-President of the Commission*, spoke.

Mrs Kellett-Bowman and Mr Dalyell spoke on questions of procedure.

Question No 19 by Mr Meintz: EEC steel imports from Eastern Europe

Mr Vredeling, *Vice-President of the Commission*, answered the question and supplementary questions by Mr Fletcher-Cooke and Mr Ellis.
Question No 20 by Mr Howell on the green currency system was postponed.

Question No 21 by Mr Radoux on Mediterranean agriculture would be answered in writing at the request of the author.

Question No 22 by Mr Herbert: Cheese imports from New Zealand

Mr Gundelach, Vice-President of the Commission, answered the question and supplementary questions by Mr Herbert, Mr Price and Mr Dalyell.

Question No 23 by Mr Nyborg: Devaluation of the Danish green krone

Mr Gundelach, Vice-President of the Commission, answered the question and a supplementary question by Mr Nyborg.

As the author was now present, the President called Question No 16 by Mr Kavanagh on the use of dioxin — the Seveso disaster chemical — as weedkiller in Ireland.

Mr Giolitti, Member of the Commission, answered the question and a supplementary question by Mr Kavanagh.

The President declared Question Time closed.

The following spoke on questions of procedure concerning the conduct of Question Time: Mr Broeksz, Sir Derek Walker-Smith, Mrs Ewing, Mr Hamilton, Sir Derek Walker-Smith, Mr Blumenfeld and Mr Broeksz.

Mr Vredeling, Vice-President of the Commission, spoke on these questions of procedure.

Carry-over of appropriations from 1976 to 1977 (vote)

Parliament adopted the following resolution contained in the report by Mr Cointat (Doc. 275/77):

1.0. 77 Official Journal of the European Communities No C 241/39
RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the complete list of requests for the
carry-over of appropriations from the 1976 to the 1977 financial year (non-automatic
carry-overs)

The European Parliament,

— having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 6 (2) of the Financial Regulation (*) of the Communities (Doc. 181/77),
— having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 275/77),

1. Approves the non-automatic carry-over of appropriations requested by the Commission in respect of the following amounts:
   (a) 9 603 834 u.a. (Chapter 33),
   (b) 92 355 265-43 u.a. (Chapters 60, 61 and 62),
   (c) 17 150 000 u.a. (Chapter 92),
   in the 'Commission' section of the 1976 budget;

2. Reserves the right to look more closely into the management of carry-overs during the discharge procedures in respect of the 1976 and 1977 financial years;

3. Reaffirms its views on the desirability of abolishing non-automatic carry-overs expressed during its consideration of the proposal to amend the Financial Regulation;

4. Stresses that some of the carry-overs are the consequence of dilatoriness on the part of the Council in adopting the decisions required to implement certain programmes;

5. Expresses the strongest reservations regarding the irregular procedures adopted by the Commission in implementing certain appropriations and feels that the budgetary authority must be informed in good time when use is made of such procedures, which must in any case remain the exception.


Data processing in the Community (vote)

The next item on the agenda was the vote on the motion for a resolution contained in the Cousté report (Doc. 235/77).

Speaking on the amendments tabled to paragraph 26, Lord Bessborough, on behalf of the Committee on Budgets, proposed an oral amendment using the text of amendment No 2 by Mr Glinne and Mr Cousté but replacing 'amplify' by 'bring up to date'.

The following spoke on questions of procedure: Mr Dalyell, Mr Lange, Chairman of the Committee on Budgets, Mr Brown, Mr Klepsch, Mr Lange, Mr Glinne, Chairman of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Mr Aigner and Mr Klepsch.

Mr Glinne, deputizing for the rapporteur, spoke on amendment No 2 which he had tabled with Mr Cousté.

Lord Bessborough spoke on amendment No 1 which he had tabled on behalf of the Committee on Budgets.

Parliament adopted the preamble and paragraphs 1 to 25.

On paragraph 26, the President announced that he had received:
— amendment No 1 by Lord Bessborough on behalf of the Committee on Budgets,
— amendment No 2 by Mr Glinne and Mr Cousté, and
— an oral amendment proposed by Lord Bessborough as a compromise between the two above amendments.

Amendment No 1 was rejected. Amendment No 2 was rejected. The deputy rapporteur spoke. The oral amendment by Lord Bessborough was adopted. Parliament adopted paragraphs 27 and 28. Parliament adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a four-year programme for the development of informatics in the Community

The European Parliament,

— having regard to the Council resolution of 15 July 1974 on a Community policy on data processing (1),
— having regard to the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (2),
— having been consulted by the Council (Doc. 433/76),
— having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and the opinions of the Legal Affairs Committee, the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Energy and Research (Doc. 235/77),

A — as regards the report concerning developments in the data-processing sector

1. Notes from the Commission's report on developments in the data-processing sector that in the areas which are expanding rapidly, such as peri-informatics, software and electronic components, there are still considerable possibilities for development in the European data-processing industry;

2. Points out, however, that because the position of the European data-processing industry on the world market is weak at the moment, these possibilities for development will soon be lost if a Community policy for this sector is not implemented in the immediate future;

3. Notes that this key industry, especially the sector involving medium and large scale central processing units, has for several years been dominated by one large undertaking;

4. Notes in this connection that insufficient effort has been made to implement such a policy since the Council's resolution of 15 July 1974, despite the importance of informatics for the Community and its economic and technological position in the world; looks to the Council to adopt and implement the second data-processing programme as rapidly as possible (3);

5. Notes furthermore, that the report draws attention to the serious lack of information on informatics in the Community;

(2) OJ No C 39, 16. 2. 1977, p. 2.
6. Calls upon the Commission and Council to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Community is in possession of the basic statistics which are vital to both users and industries and essential if a sectoral policy for this area is to be implemented effectively;

B — as regards the four-year programme for the development of informatics

(a) The environment of data-processing

7. Stresses the need to establish international standards as a matter of priority and approves the measures provided for in the multiannual programme with a view to introducing a standardization policy to prevent the Community market from being dominated by the standards of a single manufacturer; calls upon the Commission, after consultation with the various sectors of industry, to draw up practical proposals on this matter with the primary aim of standardizing the specifications and procedures essential to the users of European data-processing before they are introduced on the technical level;

8. Approves the measures to coordinate public procurement policies in the Community as proposed by the Commission; considers, however, that more binding and specific public contract measures must be adopted in order to support and develop the European data-processing industry within the context of a standardized market;

9. Notes in this connection that the Directive on the coordination of procedures for the award of public supply contracts adopted by the Council on 21 December 1976 will not be applicable to data-processing until 1981; bearing in mind the complexity of the measures to be taken, calls on the Commission to draw up an initial proposal for this market before the end of the following year;

10. Approves the studies proposed in the programme, relating in particular to: the effects of data-processing on employment, the harmonization of legislation with a view to providing effective protection for the public and the legal protection of computer programmes; asks for these studies to be followed up by specific proposals;

11. Calls on the Commission to draw up as soon as possible a Directive on 'data-processing and freedom' which will provide maximum protection for the individual against any abuse of or defectiveness in data-processing before any contradictory national legislative provisions can be enacted; stresses, moreover, that in order to safeguard access to data-processing systems, the necessary technical and scientific studies should be carried out;

12. Stresses that the Commission must be provided with the means required to detect and take immediate action against any abuse of a dominant position;

(b) Community support for the data processing sector

13. Considers that the Community support machinery provided for in the multiannual programme will be effective in remedying the serious effects of the present lack of coordination between the activities of undertakings and those of the Member States;

14. Regrets, however, in view of the importance of these sectors that the four-year programme does not cover medium to large scale central processing units or the electronic components sector, contrary to the overall objective laid down in the resolution of 15 July 1974;
15. Considers that a rigorous selection of projects eligible for Community support on the basis of their importance and effectiveness, chiefly in the peripherals and components sector, is necessary in order to ensure the economic success and viability of the projects undertaken; in this respect, the Commission must encourage the European undertakings by means of financial incentives not only to cooperate on a permanent basis but also to sub-contract work to each other, making any adjustments which prove necessary;

16. Points out that the appropriations proposed are on the low side and stresses that a viable and competitive European data-processing industry requires large-scale funding at Community level with an increasing proportion of funds being transferred from the Member States to the Community;

17. Feels that the four-year programme ought to make provision for cooperation agreements with the non-dominant companies outside Europe;

18. Supports the principle of establishing a Community Leasing Fund administered by the European Investment Bank and calls on the Commission to submit a proposal on this matter at an early date;

19. Also feels that the Commission should submit additional proposals for the development and use of data-processing in the Community;

20. Stresses the need to step up and extend European data-processing research especially in the important field of electronic components and software particularly through greater coordination of national efforts at Community level, if progress is to be achieved;

C — as regards the electronic components industry

21. Agrees with the Commission that a European capability in integrated circuits is essential to the European economy;

22. Considers it necessary to reorganize the European integrated circuits industry, while respecting the Treaty provisions;

23. Considers also that a joint technological development programme should be put into effect and subsidized by national and Community funds;

24. Greatly regrets, however, that the Commission has so far done no more than draw up a communication — which is simply a declaration of intent — on a matter that is so crucial to the future of the Community's data-processing industry and urges the Commission to submit practical proposals in this area without delay;

25. Strongly urges the Council and Commission to make every effort to ensure that the objective of establishing a viable and competitive Community-based data-processing industry by the early 1980's is given practical effect;

26. Asks the Commission, in view of the reservations expressed by the Committee on Budgets, to bring up to date its proposals for a four-year programme for the development of informatics in the Community and to submit an additional multi-annual programme after adequate consultation with all the industrial and trade associations covering both manufacturers and users in the data-processing sector;

27. Requests the Commission to incorporate the following amendment in its proposal, pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 149 of the EEC Treaty, and, subject to this amendment, approved the Commission's proposals;

28. Instructs its Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, which alone is competent in matters of industrial policy, to keep developments in the European data-processing sector under review in the light of the Commission's report on the implementation of the four-year programme and to report back to Parliament on this matter if necessary.
Council Decision on a four-year programme (1978 to 1981) for the data-processing sector

Preamble, recitals and Articles 1 to 3 unchanged

Article 4

The Commission shall submit an annual report to the Council and to the Parliament. The programme shall be subject to review in 1979 to permit the implementation of possible modifications from the beginning of 1980. The Commission, on the advice of the Management and Coordinating Committee of the Data Processing Programmes, shall make to the Council any relevant proposals for appropriate amendments to the programme.

Article 4

The Commission shall submit an annual report to the Council and to the Parliament. The programme shall be subject to review in 1979 to permit the implementation of possible modifications from the beginning of 1980. The Commission, on the advice of the Management and Coordinating Committee of the Data Processing Programmes, shall, after consulting the Assembly, make to the Council any relevant proposals for appropriate amendments to the programme.

Annex unchanged

(1) For complete text see OJ No C 39, 16. 2. 1977, p. 2.

Economic and trade relations between the EEC and Portugal (debate)

Deputizing for the rapporteur, Mr Price introduced the report by Mr Bayerl on behalf of the Committee on External Economic Relations on economic and trade relations between the European Communities and Portugal (Doc. 187/77/rev.)

Mr Martinelli spoke on behalf of the Christian-Democratic Group.

IN THE CHAIR: Mr MEINTZ
Vice-President

The following spoke: Mr Scott-Hopkins on behalf of the European Conservative Group and Mr Vredeling, Vice-President of the Commission.

The President declared the debate on this report closed.

Agenda for next sitting

The President announced the following agenda for the next sitting on Friday, 16 September 1977:

9.00 a.m. to 12 noon:
— procedure without report;
— oral question without debate to the Commission on charges for telex lines;
— Hughes report on herring stocks;
— vote on motions for resolution on which the debate was closed.

The sitting was closed at 5.10 p.m.

H. R. NORD
Secretary-General

Carlo MEINTZ
Vice-President