

European Parliamentary Assembly debates on the seat of the institutions (23 June 1958)

Caption: European Parliamentary Assembly debates, of 23 June 1958, on the choice of seat for the European institutions.

Source: Débats, Compte rendu in extenso des séances. Session de mai-juin 1958. Octobre 1958, n° 3. [s.l.]: Assemblée parlementaire européenne. "Siège des institutions européennes", p. 138.

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Sitting of the European Parliamentary Assembly of 23 June 1958 Debate on the seat of the European institutions

[...]

President. — Here is the result of the second ballot on the choice of seat for the European institutions:

Number of voters 126
Blank or spoiled ballot papers 3
Votes cast 123

And the scores are as follows:

Brussels 170 points
Strasbourg 161 points
Milan 155 points
Nice 153 points
Luxembourg 99 points

The resolution adopted on 21 June, the table setting out the result of the first ballot and the names of the top three cities in the second ballot, which are, in descending order, Brussels, Strasbourg and Milan, will be notified to Belgian Foreign Minister, Victor Larock, President-in-Office of the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community, who, on behalf of his fellow Foreign Ministers of the six Member States of the European Communities, forwarded the request for an opinion to the Assembly.

Teresio Guglielmo. — I ask for the floor.

President. — Mr Guglielmo has the floor.

Teresio Guglielmo, *Chairman of the Committee on Political Affairs.* — Mr President, my dear colleagues, it is with great satisfaction that we acknowledge our Assembly's delivery, within the period prescribed, of the opinion requested by the governments of our six countries. The choice of seat is of paramount importance if the institutions are to operate effectively; our belief in this is too strong for us not to stand unanimous in hoping that our six governments will show the same eagerness to observe the timescales and take a decision as soon as possible on the choice of capital. Now that we have heard Mr Armand's interesting address, we understand fully the need to set Europe on a path towards its consolidation and progress by providing it with a capital where its institutions will be able to function organically.

(Applause)

President. — Mr Lapie has the floor.

Pierre Lapie, *Chairman of the Socialist Group.* — Mr President, I have to begin by making a request on behalf of the Socialist Group. We would be interested to hear the breakdown of the vote, which you gave at the end of the first ballot but did not give at the end of the second ballot.

[...]

President. — In response to Mr Lapie's initial request, I notified the documents listed in the resolution establishing the procedure, namely the table setting out the result of the first ballot, ranking the cities in descending order, details of the total number of points scored by each of them and the names of the cities selected in the second ballot. As stated in the resolution, the names of those cities, ranked in descending order of their scores, will be forwarded to the Council of Ministers.

There is no reference to a table relating to the second ballot.

Pierre Lapie. — I am sorry to keep on about this, Mr President, but if you really have no objection, I think that it would be interesting for the Assembly to hear the details of that table.

President. — It is no big secret, so I can inform the Assembly about it.

Bearing the number 3, the result for top preference is as follows:

Brussels	46
Strasbourg	31
Milan	30
Nice	11
Luxembourg	5

Bearing the number 2, the result for second preference is:

Nice	46
Luxembourg	28
Strasbourg	26
Milan	16
Brussels	7

Bearing the number 1, the result for third preference is:

Milan	33
Nice	28
Luxembourg	28
Brussels	18
Strasbourg	16

So, Mr Lapie, that answers your request.

Pierre Lapie. — Thank you, Mr President.

[...]