

Motion for a resolution submitted by the Political Affairs Committee to the European Parliament (19 June 1981)

Caption: On 25 June 1985, the Political Affairs Committee submits a motion for a resolution to the European Parliament on the redefinition of the mechanisms governing European Political Cooperation and the role of the European Parliament.

Source: European Parliament - Working Documents 1981-1982. 30.06.1981, No Document 1-335/81. [s.l.].

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The political Affairs Committee hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

Motion for a resolution on European political cooperation and the role of the European Parliament

The European Parliament,

- noting recent developments in European political cooperation,
- considering that the time has come for the governments States of the EEC to redefine the aims and continue to improve the machinery of European political cooperation with a view to its wider application,
- considering the need for the governments of the Ten to improve prior mutual consultation concerning all their foreign policy initiatives,
- hoping that, on the strength of the representative status conferred on it by direct universal suffrage, the European Parliament will be able to exert greater influence on the problems of political cooperation, potentially one of the most important areas of parliamentary activity,
- stressing the need to improve the relationship between of the Ten and the European Parliament with the particular aim of a prompt and more thorough flow of information to the latter institution, to enable it to exert more influence and democratic parliamentary control, over political cooperation,
- having regard to the report of its Political Affairs Committee (Doc. 1-335/81)

I. Calls upon the Foreign Ministers of the Member States

1. to submit to the European Council before the end of 1981, following consultation with the European Parliament, a third report on European political cooperation including:

(a) - a reference to the undertaking given by the Member States in the Copenhagen report on European political cooperation of 23 July 1973 as a general rule (*en règle générale*) to consult each other before adopting a final position on a matter relating to EPC, so that Member States adopt such consultation as a firm principle and put it into practice on all occasions;

- an undertaking by the Member States on the basis of their consultations to seek more consistently to formulate and apply a common foreign policy, at least in certain mutually agreed fields;

(b) proposals for improving its machinery, in particular, the creation of a permanent secretariat to ensure continuity in the work of European political cooperation, which will be answerable to the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation and able to provide Parliament, through its Political Affairs Committee, with full and up-to-date information;

2. To implement, immediately, the proposals made in the European Parliament's resolution of January 1978 concerning European political cooperation, and in particular , that the annual report on European political cooperation take the form of a written document made available to Parliament in all official languages a fortnight before the debate on the report;

3. To establish, immediately, a procedure under which the Foreign Ministers of the Ten would meet within forty-eight hours at a request made by three Member States;

4. To invite, whenever appropriate, all those other ministers, and their officials, who are affected by the agenda to attend meetings of Foreign Ministers or their officials within the framework of European political cooperation, in order to ensure that all matters pertaining to international relations and the foreign policies of

the Member States may be fully and adequately dealt with, including those that have a bearing on the security of the Member States of the European Community;

(a) To ensure that all relevant resolutions of the European Parliament be drawn to the attention of the permanent delegations of the Ten at New York and to the United Nations General Assembly by the delegations of the Ten especially by that of the Presidency;

(b) to suggest to their governments that appropriate Members of the European Parliament be appointed as members of their national delegations wherever this is possible;

(c) and further to examine the possibility of sending Members of the European Parliament as observers on the Community's delegation to the United Nations;

6. To take steps to ensure that, at European level, the two types of activity - political cooperation work and Community work in general - are restructured to produce a single decision-making process, having due regard to the importance of the policies pursued by the Community in various sectors, e.g. those relating to external economic relations and to relations with the developing countries;

7. To admit the Commission at all parts of all European political cooperation meetings;

8. To implement measures improving contacts with the Parliament in the following ways, for example:

(a) the regular holding of colloquies and revised procedures for preparation and organization of these colloquies along the lines set out in chapter 8 of this report (Explanatory Statement);

(b) improving the quality and speed of answers to Parliament's questions concerning European political cooperation;

(c) the attendance of the President of the Foreign Ministers or his deputy when motions for resolutions are debated on matters falling within European political cooperation during Parliament's plenary sessions , under Rule 48 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure;

(d) submission of a statement by the new President of the Foreign Ministers at the beginning of the six-months period of office;

(e) the attendance of the President of the Foreign Ministers, his deputy or a senior official at meetings of the Political Affairs Committee when major foreign policy issues are being discussed by that committee;

(f) in accordance with the Copenhagen Report, ensuring that the Political Committee of EPC directs its attention to the proposals adopted by the European Parliament in the field of foreign policy; for this purpose the Foreign Ministers should instruct the political Committee to discuss the European Parliament's proposals at the earliest opportunity;

9. To invite the Foreign Ministers of Portugal and Spain to participate in the meetings on political cooperation as soon as the accession negotiations are completed;

10. To request the European Council to renew the commitment of the Member States to speak with one voice on all external matters of vital concern to the Community;

II. Notes that, insofar as no provision is made in European political cooperation for decisions to be taken by a qualified majority, as in the Community, such cooperation is based on the principle of unanimity and therefore requires the full, unrestricted participation of all Member States in the preparation and implementation of joint positions and excludes the possibility of any form of directorate;

III. Instructs its President to forward this resolution together with the report of its committee to the Foreign

Ministers of the Member States meeting in political cooperation to the European Council, to the Council and the Commission of the European Community and to the Parliaments and Governments of the Member States.