

European Parliament resolution on the proceedings of the IGC on the European Union (23 October 1985)

Caption: On 23 October 1985, the European Parliament adopts a resolution on the proceedings of the IGC on the European Union in which it criticises the refusal of the IGC to take account of the draft treaty drawn up by the European Parliament.

Source: Official Journal of the European Communities (OJEC). 31.12.1985, No C 343. [s.l.].

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European Parliament resolution on the proceedings of the Intergovernmental Conference on the European Union (23 October 1985)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Treaty on European Union adopted on 14 February 1984 ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to its successive resolutions, notably the resolution of 17 April 1985 on the European Parliament's position on the deliberations of the European Council on European Union ⁽²⁾,
 - A. having noted the exchange of letters between its President and the Chairman of the Conference of Government Representatives concerning the role of the European Parliament in the elaboration of the reform of the Communities,
 - B. having regard to the first contacts between the Intergovernmental Conference and the delegation from the European Parliament,
 - C. having regard to the democratic legitimacy conferred on the European Parliament by direct elections which entitles it to speak on behalf of citizens on all matters concerning the future of their Community,
 - D. having regard to the proposals by the Commission and several governments submitted to the Intergovernmental Conference,
1. Reiterates the requirement that the work of the Intergovernmental Conference and the resulting text must be based on the draft Treaty adopted by the European Parliament, the only text which defines in precise legal terms the necessary extension of powers not only in the field of Community affairs but also in that of cooperation, provides flexible procedures for moving from cooperation to joint action wherever necessary, and defines the essential institutional means for implementing the new powers in an efficient and democratic way;
 2. Considers it essential that in any event it should be established that:
 - (a) any new Community powers must be linked to thoroughgoing institutional and democratic changes and form part of a single Community legal framework;
 - (b) institutional changes must include the following:
 - real joint decision-making powers for the European Parliament,
 - majority voting in the Council as the norm,
 - increased executive powers for the Commission;
 3. Stresses that the drawing up of a separate treaty for political cooperation would destroy Community solidarity, weaken joint Community action and prove a perpetual hindrance to the functioning of all the Community institutions and expresses satisfaction that it shares the Commission's views on this subject;
 4. (a) Refuses to accept the position of the Conference on the involvement of Parliament in its work, which would mean that the Conference would merely report to Parliament on the outcome of its work and ask its opinion;
 - (b) Reiterates the request already made in its resolution of 17 April 1985 and claims the right to examine, if necessary amend, and finally vote on the conference draft: where the text adopted by Parliament does not coincide with that of the Intergovernmental Conference, a conciliation procedure will establish the definitive text, which will be submitted to Parliament and the Conference for approval;

5. Expects the governments rapidly to correct the position adopted by the Conference in order to respect the exigencies and democratic principles inherent in our countries and to prevent a period of strain from developing between the institutions of the Community;
6. Instructs its Committee on Institutional Affairs to study the proposals submitted to the Intergovernmental Conference by the Member States and the Commission, and to compare them with the draft Treaty and forward its conclusions to the President to enable him to inform the Intergovernmental Conference of them before the Conference concludes its business;
7. Considers it vital for the national parliaments, to which the European Parliament's draft Treaty has been submitted, to be kept regularly informed of the progress of the work of the Intergovernmental Conference;
8. Wishes also to strengthen the democratic foundations of the Community by establishing formal working relations between the European Parliament and the national parliaments so that they can provide mutual support for each other's democratic action and maintain a constructive dialogue on the main Community problems;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Heads of State or Government, the national parliaments, the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Conference, the Council, the Commission and the Spanish and Portuguese Governments and Parliaments.

(1) OJ No C 77, 19.3.1984, p. 33.

(2) OJ No C 122, 20.5.1985, p.88.