

European Parliament Resolution on the Luxembourg European Council (11 December 1985)

Caption: On 11 December 1985, the European Parliament adopts a resolution in which it regrets that the work achieved at the Luxembourg European Council of 2 and 3 December does not enable the planned institutional reform to be carried out.

Source: Official Journal of the European Communities (OJEC). 31.12.1985, No C 352. [s.l.]. "Resolution following the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission after the meeting of the European Council on 2 and 3 December 1985 in Luxembourg (11 December 1985)", auteur:European Parliament , p. 60-61.

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European Parliament Resolution following the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission after the meeting of the European Council on 2 and 3 December 1985 in Luxembourg (11 December 1985)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Treaty of European Union ⁽¹⁾,
- having regard to its resolutions of 17 April and 23 October 1985 on institutional matters ⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the synthesis drawn up by the Committee on Institutional Affairs containing a comparison of the proposals submitted to the Intergovernmental Conference with Parliament's draft Treaty (PE 101.517/Syn.fin.) ⁽³⁾,
- having regard to the final declaration of the European Council meeting in Luxembourg on 2 and 3 December 1985 ⁽⁴⁾,

A. Whereas the European Council did not even take into account the solemn declaration made in Stuttgart on 19 June 1983, in which it announced that the European Parliament's opinion would be sought as soon as the time came to incorporate the progress achieved on the path to European unification into a treaty on union.

1. Reaffirms its conviction that a radical institutional reform of the Community and of political cooperation can no longer be put off without danger for the political and economic future and the dignity of democratic Europe, a fact expressly acknowledged by the European Council meeting in Milan in June 1985;
2. Notes that the work of the Intergovernmental Conference and the conclusions reached by the European Council have defined most of the central problems of Community policy which should be dealt with (creation of an area free of internal frontiers, the Community's monetary capacity, economic and social cohesion, research and technological development, environment and social policy);
3. Notes that the Council has embarked on the road to reform, but that in their present form the conclusions remain incomplete and do not enable the objectives stated in the Conference mandate to be attained, particularly since, owing to the ambiguity of certain of the texts there is on the one hand, still uncertainty as to the establishment of the European area by 1992 in other fields the Community's powers are defined in restrictive terms, the question of reforming the system of Community finances, particularly that of associating the European Parliament in the matter of Community revenue, is completely ignored, and, on the other hand, the proposed modifications to the decision-making process do not offer the necessary guarantee as to effectiveness and the democratic character thereof;
4. Believes that, at a time of unemployment and imbalance among the regions, a genuine union of peoples cannot be achieved unless a social dimension is given to the European area defined by the European Council and unless the cohesion of this European area is strengthened by showing solidarity with the less-developed countries and regions;
5. Notes that the draft Treaty on cooperation with regard to foreign policy is restricted to confirming what already exists and leaves open the problem of the unity of the Treaties;
6. Notes the conclusions of the European Council meeting in Luxembourg: reserves its final position until the results of the meeting of Foreign Ministers on 16 December 1985 are made known: but considers that the results of the European Council as a whole are unsatisfactory and is unable to accept in their present form the proposed modifications to the EEC Treaty particularly as regards the powers of the European Parliament;
7. Approves the action of the Italian Government, which kept the debate open to enable the governments to

take account of Parliament's position and thus allow an agreement to be reached between the Community institutions;

8. Reaffirms its attachment to the spirit and method of its draft Treaty but, in a desire to collaborate with the Intergovernmental Conference and the European Council, hereby indicates the substance of the amendments which Parliament will ask the Council on 16 and 17 December 1985 to make to the European Council's texts, taking due account of the problems raised during the Conference, and of the possible need to introduce an element of gradualness into the implementation of powers for the Community and its institutions;

9. Calls on the Council of Foreign Ministers meeting on 16 and 17 December 1985 to take the necessary steps to:

(a) clarify and finalize the procedure for cooperation between the Council and the European Parliament so as to arrive at a genuine joint decision-making procedure.

(b) complete the general content of the decisions adopted at the Summit, in particular as regards monetary cooperation and the unity of the Treaties;

and stresses that, more particularly as regards the effectiveness and democratic nature of Community decisions, the main thrust of the improvements to be made is as follows:

— the new 'cooperation' procedure provided for in Article 149 (new) should apply to all acts pursuant to articles in the Treaties under which the Council is required to take a majority decision.

— at the end of the second reading provided for in Article 149 (new), the Council should act on the texts issued by Parliament. The Council should not be able to modify amendments adopted by Parliament except by a qualified majority: inasmuch as such amendments are supported by the Commission, the Council should be able to modify them only by a unanimous vote and, in the absence of any decision by the Council within a period of three months, the text proposed by Parliament should be deemed to have been adopted.

— a procedure should be introduced within the Council to ensure that a common position is arrived at during the first reading within a reasonable period of time.

— it is not possible to accept the new Article 145 in so far as it enables the Council to take away certain executive powers from the Commission and exercise them itself. This is a dangerous innovation and is inconsistent with the need to strengthen the role of the Commission as provided for in Article 149 (new);

10. Decides that, if the Council on 16 and 17 December 1985 fails to reach agreement on the proposals contained in the preceding paragraph, the European Parliament will propose at the earliest opportunity the amendments to the texts of the European Council meeting in Luxembourg which are necessary to enable the texts to be adopted, and instructs its Committee on Institutional Affairs to submit these amendments to it;

11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the European Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States, the national parliaments 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 and minutes of the meeting of 23.10.1985.

(3) EP Bulletin No 39/Add.4/85

(4) EP Bulletin No 58/85