

European Parliament resolution on the enlargement of the EEC to include Spain and Portugal (17 November 1982)

Caption: On 17 November 1982, the European Parliament adopts a resolution in which it considers, in particular, the political, institutional, economic, social and environmental implications of the future accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Economic Community (EEC).

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Resolution on the enlargement of the Community to include Spain and Portugal (17 November 1982)

The European Parliament,

A. considering that the Community's duty is to welcome all European States which apply the principles of a pluralist democracy and observe human rights and civil liberties and support the ideal of a strong and united Europe,

B. considering the applications for accession to the Community made by Portugal on 28 March 1977 and by Spain on 28 July 1977 and the negotiations relating thereto,

C. considering that the Community has, since its inception, been enlarged twice and has thus enhanced its political and economic influence in the world,

D. considering that in the context of these two enlargements it is vital that the Community, whilst preparing to welcome two new members, should at the same time strengthen its internal cohesion with regard to common policies and its institutional decision-making system,

E. aware that Spain and Portugal are eager to join the Community at the earliest possible date and have taken steps to align their economies for this purpose,

F. recalling its previous viewpoints on this question and particularly its resolutions of 18 January 1979, 9 May 1979 and 19 November 1981,

G. having regard to the interim report of the Political Affairs Committee and the opinions of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, the Committee on Energy and Research, the Committee on External Economic Relations, the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment, the Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning, the Committee on Transport, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection, the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport and the Committee on Development and Cooperation (Doc. 1-658/82),

Political and institutional issues

1. Reaffirms the great importance that membership of the Community should be open to countries like Spain and Portugal which share with the present Member States the principles of democracy and individual freedoms;

2. Reaffirms therefore the political will, which it has expressed on many occasions, that Spain and Portugal should join the Community by 1 January 1984 at the latest;

3. Deplores the difference between the statements of principle and specific political action of some Member States *vis-à-vis* enlargement, and hopes that the European Council's request that the Commission re-examine in depth the main problems of accession will help to speed up the negotiations, which have already taken far too long;

4. Nevertheless urges the Commission and the Council to use every possible means to ensure that the negotiations for accession are completed by 30 March 1983 so that the ratification procedures can be completed in 1983; this can only be achieved if the frequency of meetings is increased;

5. Considers it necessary to take steps to ensure that enlargement helps to solve the problems of the Mediterranean areas of the existing Community, failing which these problems would have an adverse effect on the Community of Twelve and on the relations with the other Mediterranean countries;

6. Hopes nevertheless that the negotiations will leave no uncertainty on either side as to the substance of the

Community's achievements or the commitments to be honoured after accession;

7. Points out that the need to increase own resources is already one of the crucial issues affecting the development of the EEC; stresses that the problem will be all the more acute when the two applicant countries become members;

8. Decides to hold a ratification debate after the treaties of accession have been signed;

9. Insists that the treaties of accession should contain firm commitments by the applicant States to respect 'l'acquis communautaire', including achievements in the area of political cooperation;

10. Recognizes that enlargement will create new differences in economic levels within the Community which will increase the importance for the Community to develop and restructure its policies with a view to redressing the balance between the affluent and less affluent regions of the Community;

11. Approves the financial help which the Community has given to Spain and Portugal to adapt their economies and believes there are sound arguments for this to be increased, in particular by increasing the authority for the EIB to lend in the two applicant countries;

12. Believes the transitional arrangements must be clearly defined in the treaties of accession, but recognizes that they could be of long duration;

13. Calls for the fullest consultation between the Community and the applicant States on all new Community policies and economic policy decisions which the applicant countries wish to take;

14. Requests the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to ensure close consultation with the applicant States until the signing of the treaties of accession;

15. Requests the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to include Spain and Portugal as soon as the respective accession treaties have been signed;

16. Underlines the important role which Spain and Portugal can now play in strengthening relations between the EEC and Latin America;

17. Requests the Spanish and Portuguese Governments to ensure that the Spanish and Portuguese seats in the European Parliament are filled by directly-elected members from the date of accession or as soon thereafter as is practicable;

18. Agrees that Spain should have 58 members of the European Parliament and Portugal 24 members;

19. Agrees that there should be two Spanish members of the Commission and one Portuguese member until such time as the whole Commission may be restructured;

20. Agrees that Spain should have eight votes in the Council and that Portugal should have five votes;

21. Requests the governments of the applicant States and the institutions of the Community to ensure that nationals of the two applicant States are recruited in sufficient time to ensure that their appointments to fill the appropriate posts in the institutions are in effect on the date of accession;

22. Requests the chairmen of the Parliamentary Committees to invite members of the Spanish and Portuguese Parliaments to attend Committee meetings between now and the accession date when there are items on the agenda of particular concern and interest to the applicant countries;

Trade issues

23. Welcomes the fact that enlargement will lead to a great increase in the commercial links with the Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries, particularly in Latin America and Africa;
24. Concludes that the next enlargement of the Community will not pose any major problems as far as the industrialized countries are concerned;
25. Believes that the abolition of protectionist tariffs and non-tariff measures particularly in Spain will considerably increase the export opportunities for manufactured goods from the present Member States; this will also apply to some exports from ACP countries and Mediterranean States;

Effects on other Mediterranean countries

26. Is concerned that enlargement may have adverse effects on relations between the EEC and the 11 countries of the Mediterranean with which it has concluded agreements and whose trade deficit *vis-à-vis* the Community is constantly growing;
27. Considers that, in order to meet the expectations of the countries of the southern Mediterranean, the EEC must lay the foundations for a new 'global Mediterranean policy', developing relations based on complementarity in the trade sector and capable, with adequate financial resources, of promoting the development of a region very close to Europe in historical, strategic and political terms;

Economic and industrial aspects

28. Points out that Portugal and Spain are seriously affected by the world economic crisis and that their unemployment figures, rates of inflation and balance of payments deficits are considerably higher than the Community average;
29. Points out that Portugal will be the least developed Member State of the Community which will make new demands on the Regional and Social Funds; however, Portugal's membership of EFTA has accustomed it to a considerable liberalization of tariff barriers;
30. Recognizes however, that Spain already has a large industrial capacity in certain sectors where the Community already has structural problems; these include ship-building, steel, automobiles and footwear; in addition, with Portugal, there is a substantial textile industry;
31. Is conscious that the dismantling of a highly protected market in Spain will have serious effects on a number of firms;
32. Expects that due weight will be given in the accession negotiations to the problems referred to in paragraphs 28 to 31, firstly in the form of transitional arrangements and, secondly through adjustment aid; the European Parliament's proposals put forward in its resolution of 16 February 1982 on the Mediterranean Plan ⁽¹⁾ should be taken into consideration in that context;
33. Considers that from the date of accession the Spanish peseta and the Portuguese escudo should join the EMS exchange rate mechanism, as should the United Kingdom and Greece since they participate in and benefit from other European policies;
34. Recognizes that the liberalization in the rules concerning the movement of capital will enhance the investment opportunities for Community investors in the applicant countries;

Development aspects

35. Calls on the Community

(a) to take full account of its obligations to the ACP States when negotiating the terms of Spanish and

Portuguese accession,

(b) to enter into full and meaningful consultations with the ACP States pursuant to Article 181 of the Convention of Lomé II;

36. Believes that in addition to Cap Verde and Guinea Bissau who are already members, and Angola and Mozambique who wish to join, certain countries from the Spanish and Portuguese-speaking world in Central America and the Caribbean could become signatories of the Lomé Convention if they wish to;

37. Considers that, in planning long-term internal policies for an enlarged Community of 12, the Commission and Member States must be sensitive to the likely progress of developing countries, particularly in the agricultural and industrial sectors;

38. Stresses the need for the applicant States to confirm their commitment to the Community's existing development policies and to make known their views on future relations between the Community of Twelve and developing countries, as these could be important for the negotiations for the successor agreement to the second Lomé Convention;

Cultural and educational aspects

39. Recognizes the strong cultural ties between the Community of Ten and the two applicant countries; also recognizes the strong cultural bond between the Iberian countries and Latin America on the one hand, and with Arab and African countries on the other hand;

40. Requests the governments of the applicant States in conjunction with the Commission to make a significant effort to inform the Spanish and Portuguese populations about all aspects of the Community and the effects of their impending membership;

Environment and consumer protection

41. Recognizes that there are a considerable number of Community provisions relating to water, air and earth pollution and the protection of flora and fauna which will have to be introduced as quickly as possible by the two applicant States. One important example is the Council's decision of 25 July 1977 for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea;

42. As whaling has ceased in the Community and as the Community prohibits the import of whale products, the cessation of whaling by both Spain and Portugal should be seen as a necessary consequence of their accession to the Community;

43. Hopes that Spain and Portugal will immediately set in motion the process of harmonizing their laws on the environment with existing EEC legislation as this will be in the interests of both the Community and the applicant States;

44. Believes that Spain and Portugal should implement various directives for consumer protection and public health including regulations to fix the maximum levels of pesticide residues in and on fruit and vegetables and the establishment of a scientific advisory committee to examine toxicity and ecotoxicity of chemical compounds;

45. Requests the applicant States to implement immediately Community rules about the use of additives in foodstuffs (colouring, preservatives, flavourings, etc.);

Agriculture

46. Recognizes that the accession of the two new States will have repercussions in the other Mediterranean regions of the Community of Ten and in Mediterranean countries with which the Community has trading

agreements;

47. Recognizes that the accession of Spain and Portugal will increase the need for the modification of policies for the Mediterranean products; these policies can best be devised in cooperation with Spain and Portugal;

48. Stresses that the low productivity of certain agricultural regions in the Iberian peninsula is basically due to the poor quality of the land and the low levels of rainfall and that cultivation techniques, increased irrigation and the prospect of good prices are likely to increase the production in Spain of fruit, vegetables and wine;

49. Nevertheless accepts that for certain products considerable periods of transition will be required for some of the weaker Mediterranean areas of the Community to adapt themselves to this enlargement;

50. Considers that the accession of two new Mediterranean countries to the EEC makes it essential to define an overall agricultural and non-agricultural strategy for the Mediterranean areas in order to ensure that enlargement brings an equitable distribution of advantages and burdens for the present Member States;

51. Believes the Community should immediately help Spain and Portugal to improve the standard of technical development in Iberian agriculture and make funds available for the restructuring of farm holdings particularly in Portugal;

Fishing

52. Desires that the Community agree a definitive fisheries policy before the end of this year and that the negotiations on the accession of Spain and Portugal be finally opened in the fisheries sector, given the importance of their fishing fleet, particularly the Spanish fleet;

53. Invites the Commission to take into account forthwith the future enlargement of the Community within the framework of the negotiations conducted with third countries with a view to the conclusion of fisheries agreements;

54. Requests that the Commission open negotiations with the Member States and also Spain and Portugal with a view to working out a Mediterranean fisheries policy;

55. Desires that the Commission in its regulations on structural policy take into account the situation in the applicant countries with a view to developing the necessary infrastructure for freezing, processing and for aquaculture; these measures will permit the improvement of marketing opportunities for fish products to the advantage of fishermen and consumers;

Regional and transport aspects

56. Recalls its resolution on a Mediterranean Plan ⁽²⁾; takes the view that the Community must step up its regional policy efforts if it is to provide an adequate response to the needs of the enlarged Community; it is necessary for loans at reduced rates of interest ('revolving fund') to be granted, as decided by Parliament in its abovementioned resolution;

57. Emphasizes that the development of trade is dependent on the quality of transport systems, particularly for the Iberian countries, which are very distant from the central areas of the Community;

58. Notes, however, that there are still many weaknesses in the infrastructures, and emphasizes the urgent need to improve the air traffic control system, among other things;

59. Asks for immediate consideration to be given to the provision of the necessary financial aids to fund the most urgently needed investment projects;

60. Reaffirms, as the logical outcome of the above considerations, the urgent need for a specific transport infrastructures fund to enable the various projects envisaged to improve such infrastructures to be implemented;
61. Asks that, as a general rule, consideration of transport problems in the context of enlargement should not be confined to existing Community legislation, but should take into account all those aspects of such problems not yet covered by legislative provisions;
62. Recommends that the Commission should ensure that, subject of course to transitional arrangements, the Spanish and Portuguese Governments observe, from the moment of accession, Community legislation on transport, particularly where the latter has a bearing on the safety of the public;
63. Points out that the overland routes to the Iberian peninsula have to contend with the bottlenecks of the Pyrenean mountains which still exact a severe economic toll, particularly in the summer period, and recommends that a series of administrative measures be taken to produce an immediate improvement in the flow of traffic, and that a programme of road improvements should be planned to eliminate these bottlenecks;
64. Considers that, during the pre-accession period, all possible measures should be taken to alert Spain and Portugal to the need to take more account of the common transport policy, both through the joint EEC/Spain and EEC/Portugal parliamentary delegations and by means of direct contacts between the Committee on Transport of the European Parliament and the corresponding Spanish and Portuguese committees;

Social affairs and employment

65. Recommends that the decisions to be taken within the framework of the negotiations have due regard not only to the problems of Community countries, but also to the needs connected with the economic and social development of the applicant States;
66. Shares the view of the Commission contained in the report on social problems associated with enlargement, according to which the free circulation of persons of applicant States should be considered within a global Community policy at the economic and monetary level;
67. Considers that the migratory trends of Spanish and Portuguese workers will, to a large extent, depend on the aims of Community development of which the process of accession is an important element;
68. Requests that the integration of resident foreign workers and, in particular, of young persons of the second generation be encouraged by means of a social and employment policy aimed at bringing about real equality of treatment as regards employment, living and working conditions and social security;
69. Recommends the full implementation of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on social security immediately after accession; however considers that transitional measures or legal exemptions may be provided for in exceptional cases to take account of objective circumstances connected with the financial and statutory adjustments required of workers and their families;
70. Considers it advisable that the applicant States take particular note of the aim of harmonizing social legislation and that henceforth they make every effort to adjust their national regulations;
71. Emphasizes the importance of vocational training and retraining with a view to improving workers' geographical and job mobility;
72. Calls on the Commission to draw up a report containing a detailed evaluation of all the implications that could arise at the social level — and particularly with respect to employment — as a result of the Community's possible enlargement to include Spain and Portugal; this report, which is to be forwarded to

the European Parliament's responsible committees, should deal with the foreseeable situation, in the case of accession, both in the Member States and in the applicant States;

Conclusions

73. Recalls the principle enshrined in the Treaty of Rome, which established the EEC, that any democratic and pluralist country has the right to become a member of the Community;

74. Reminds the Council that in 1977 all the then Member States welcomed the applications of Portugal and Spain; these political commitments must be honoured;

75. Calls on the Member States to recognize the political importance and advantage in allowing Spain and Portugal to join the Community in 1984 despite the difficulties which this may pose for each Member State in differing sectors;

76. Considers that many of the problems posed by enlargement can be solved by suitable transitional periods or modification of existing Community policies;

77. Instructs its president to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission, to the Spanish and Portuguese Governments and to the Presidency of the Spanish Cortes and the Portuguese Assembly.

(¹) OJ No C 66, 15.3.1982, p.26 — Pöttering report Doc. 1-736/81.

(²) Pöttering report, Doc. 1-736/81.