

ANNEX 1

Conclusions of the presidency

The European Affairs Committees of the Parliaments of the EC Member States held their Eighth Conference in Copenhagen May 3rd - 4th 1993.

During the meeting, Mr. Nyrup Rasmussen, the Danish Prime Minister and Mr. Helveg Petersen, the Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs each made a brief statement on the current situation of the EC. Both interventions were followed by a long series of questions from the delegates participating in the Conference.

Most of these questions were about political initiatives aimed at promoting growth and employment. Both Ministers indicated that a co-ordinated initiative on the part of all twelve Member States would be of far greater value than non-co-ordinated individual initiatives.

There was broad agreement among the parliamentarians that common initiatives aimed at promoting growth and employment were of decisive importance. The EC-growth initiatives were to be supplemented by extended public initiatives in the individual Member States. A lower rate of interest was a prerequisite for increasing private investments. At a time when the private sector is finding itself in a trough, a common public investment initiative could become the decisive factor which could reverse the current negative tendency. A common initiative of that kind could, at the same time, contribute to breaking the increasing unemployment rate.

The Parliamentarians also agreed that competitive devaluations had a negative effect on the whole employment situation in the EC. Competitive devaluations should therefore be avoided by having the Member States return to fixed exchange rates in the Economic Monetary System.

Subsequently, the participants discussed the course of the Conferences held up to now, and the planning of future Conferences was considered.

A lot of suggestions were made as to improvements. The delegates agreed that the present custom of the President of the European Council (the Prime Minister) and the President of the Council (the Minister for Foreign Affairs) conducting a dialogue on topical themes should be a rule.

Furthermore, there was broad agreement that a Minister in charge of a specific department and the EC Commissioner concerned should be invited in order to discuss a special subject of topical interest e.g. transport policy.

The participants also discussed the individual Parliament's control of the common foreign policy and security policy (Pillar 2) and the legal co-operation (Pillar 3).

They agreed that parliamentary control of the interstate co-operation is very important irrespective of the fact that the co-operation is not comprised by the institutional co-operation.

Finally, each delegation accounted for their plans to elect Members to sit on the Committee of the Regions.