

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

BRUSSELS
12-13 JULY 1976

Conclusions

Session of the European Council
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Luxembourg 1990

Election of the European Parliament

Agreement in the Council

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Session of the European Council

Brussels, 12 and 13 July 1976

Conclusions

Election of the European Parliament

The European Council agreed that the number and distribution of seats in the European Parliament which is to be elected by direct universal suffrage in 1978 should be as follows:

Luxembourg	6
Ireland	15
Denmark	16
Belgium	24
Netherlands	25
France	81
Italy	81
United Kingdom	81
Germany	81
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The European Council also took note of a statement by the Federal Chancellor on the application to Land Berlin of the Act introducing election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage.

The United Kingdom and Danish Prime Ministers confirmed the statements they made at the European Council meeting in Rome on 1 and 2 December 1975.

The European Council asked the Council to take an overall decision on the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage before the end of July 1976.

Tindemans Report

In preparation for its next meeting, the European Council asked the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to continue the examination of the Tindemans Report.

Economic and social situation in the Community

There was broad agreement within the European Council on the assessment to be made of the economic situation. This is characterized by a clear conjunctural recovery and the European Council is confident that this recovery will persist in 1977. Account must be taken for some time to come of a relatively high level of unemployment, which will continue to require particular attention in a number of Member States. It will continue to be necessary to stimulate productive investments in the immediate future. Great attention must be paid to the management of budget deficits and the creation of liquidity, in order to prevent a resumption of inflationary tendencies. With this in view, endeavours will be made to hold a Council meeting of Ministers of Economic and Financial Affairs this month in order, among other items, to discuss the Commission's document of 23 June 1976 and to prepare the practical conclusions to be drawn.

The European Council agrees on the necessity of increased convergence of economic and monetary policies, while recognizing that agreements concerning exchange rates are meaningful only if they are supported by a coordinated policy. In this connection, the European Council has noted the results of the most recent tripartite conference with approval. The Council congratulates the Commission on the way in which preparations for this conference were made and supports the conclusions adopted at it. It considers that the system of tripartite conferences must continue to be followed, and urges the Commission to continue the dialogue with both sides of industry in the Community.

Extension of the Community's fishery limits

The European Council, having taken note of the work carried out at the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference and noting an increasing trend towards the extension of fishery limits to 200 miles without awaiting the conclusions of this Conference, expresses its determination to protect the legitimate interests of Community fishermen.

To this end, it invites the Council, at its meeting on 20 July 1976, to give consideration to a declaration of intent by the Member States of the Community on the extension of fishing limits of the Community to 200 miles.

Puerto Rico Conference

During the meeting the European Council briefly considered the Puerto Rico Conference and unanimously agreed that when such conferences took place the Member States should inform and consult one another as quickly as possible on how Community interests can be consolidated and that should problems crop up which fall within the Community's competence these must be dealt with in full compliance with the requirements of Community procedure.

Combating terrorism

1. The Member States of the European Communities hereby declare that they regard the inhuman practice of taking hostages for the purpose of putting pressure on governments, for whatever political or non-political ends and for whatever motives, as completely unacceptable.
2. It is in the interests of all governments resolutely to oppose such methods. It is in the interests of all governments to cooperate in combating the evil of terrorism.
3. Recent events have shown once again that no country, no people and no government can hope to be spared acts of terrorism, kidnappings and hijackings directed against its citizens and interests unless all countries agree on effective measures.
4. In this connection the Member States of the European Communities declare that they are determined to cooperate with other countries in setting up effective worldwide measures to eradicate and prevent international terrorism, kidnappings and hijackings. Member States undertake to prosecute or to extradite those who engage in the taking of hostages.
5. The Heads of Government take note of the decisions which the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Justice of the Member States have already taken in this matter in response to the request made at the European Council held on 1 and 2 December 1975 in Rome, and ask these Ministers to continue their activities.
6. More particularly, the Heads of Government ask their Ministers for Justice to set up a convention under which the nine Member States undertake to prosecute or extradite those who engage in the taking of hostages. They shall ensure that as many countries as possible cooperate in this.

Election of the European Parliament

Agreement in the European Council

'The European Council agreed on the following number and apportionment of the seats in the European Parliament to be elected in 1978 by direct universal suffrage:

Luxembourg	6
Ireland	15
Denmark	16
Belgium	24
Netherlands	25
France	81
Italy	81
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It also took note of a declaration by the Federal Chancellor on the application to Land Berlin of the Act instituting direct election of the European Parliament.

The British and Danish Prime Ministers confirmed the declarations made by them at the European Council session in Rome on 1 and 2 December 1975.

The European Council requested the Council to take a comprehensive decision on the direct election of the European Parliament by the end of July 1976.'

This was the statement issued by the Heads of Government announcing the agreement reached at the European Council meeting in Brussels on 12 and 13 July. The number and distribution among the Member States of the seats were the last problems still outstanding and a number of proposals and compromise formulas had been put forward in an effort to find a solution. The Foreign Ministers managed to bring positions closer into line in June and this enabled the European Council finally to settle the matter.