

Friday, 14 June 1991

— A3-0145/91

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the Commission proposal for a Council decision on provision of financial assistance for Israel and the Palestinian population of the Occupied Territories

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(91) 0125) ⁽¹⁾,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 235 of the EEC Treaty (C3-0199/91),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets and the opinions of the Political Affairs Committee and the Committee on External Economic Relations (A3-0145/91),

1. Approves the Commission proposal subject to Parliament's amendments and in accordance with the vote thereon;
2. Calls on the Commission to amend its proposal accordingly, pursuant to Article 149(3) of the EEC Treaty;
3. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
4. Reserves the right to open the conciliation procedure should the Council intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
5. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;
6. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 111, 26.4.1991, p. 3.

10. Deliberations of the Committee on Petitions

— A3-0122/91

RESOLUTION

on the deliberations of the Committee on Petitions during the parliamentary year 1990-1991

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 129(5) of the Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on petitions, in particular the resolution adopted on 15 June 1990 on the basis of the annual report on the deliberations of the Committee on Petitions during the parliamentary year 1989-1990, with indications as regards future procedure for handling petitions (A3-0107/90) ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to the Interinstitutional Declaration signed at the sitting of 12 April 1989 ⁽²⁾ on petitioning the European Parliament,
 - having regard to the report of its Committee on Petitions (A3-0122/91),
- A. whereas the number of petitions and complaints from individuals received by the European Parliament has increased in recent years,

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 175, 16.7.1990, pp. 214 and 215.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 120, 16.5.1989, p. 90.

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B. whereas in dealing with petitions use should be made of all the options available under the Rules of Procedure and administrative practice, in particular forwarding petitions to the Commission and to the parliamentary committees and the drawing up of reports by the Committee on Petitions, pursuant to Rule 129(1) of the Rules of Procedure.

1. Recalls the importance of petitions for the European Parliament and for the Communities, in that they provide a link with individual citizens, their content often points to genuine needs or expresses a general feeling of unease, and they are always, in the final analysis a means of contributing to the democratic nature and running of Community institutions;

2. Considers therefore that one of its primary duties and priorities is to do all it can not to let down petitioners;

3. Calls on the parliamentary committees and departments concerned to respond appropriately to the petitions referred to them for an opinion, for further action or for information and furthermore calls on parliamentary committees asked for an opinion or for further action to consider such requests at their meetings and to respond within a reasonable period of time;

4. Calls on the Commission to step up its processing of the petitions forwarded to it and to take the steps necessary to achieve a sharp reduction in the time taken to reply, in the interests of petitioners;

5. Calls on the Commission to monitor petitioners' cases continuously, keeping the Committee on Petitions informed of any developments and duly forwarding to it those documents of a general nature announced when petitions are considered;

6. Expresses its concern at the large number of petitions exposing the failure to apply or the misapplication of Community law and calls on the Commission to continue to investigate all such cases as quickly as possible;

7. Urges the Commission to use all the means at its disposal to secure compliance with Community law, particularly in areas involving Community financial contributions or loans, by not allocating or by reclaiming funds which may have been granted for operations which, in the Commission's opinion, might involve the infringement of Community law;

8. Calls on the Member States to take the measures necessary to reduce the time taken to reply to questions concerning petitions addressed to them by Parliament and the Commission, pursuant to the Interinstitutional Declaration of 12 April 1989;

9. Calls on the Commission to forward to Parliament an annual report on the complaints made by the staff of the Communities concerning the failure to apply or the misapplication of Community law to them by the Community Institutions or their bodies, and on the outcome of such complaints;

10. Welcomes the growth in cooperation between the Committee on Petitions and the ombudsmen and petitions committees of the national parliaments, which — once it is strengthened and increased — will provide the foundations for a suitable structure for defending individual citizens in their dealings with the administration at national, local and Community level;

11. Expresses its opposition to creating a European ombudsman since this would undermine the power of Parliament and its committees to supervise the Commission and its departments and would be a new structure overlapping with and detracting from existing ones such as the European Parliament's Committee on Petitions;

12. Considers that, at Community level, it is preferable for a parliamentary committee to examine, process and reach a decision on petitions which are submitted rather than for an ombudsman to pass judgement on such cases;

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13. Fears that certain texts being considered by the Intergovernmental Conference on Political Union:

- would unnecessarily introduce a new element making the institutional structure more complex and cumbersome, by setting up a body which would operate independently but under a remit conferred by the European Parliament with the approval of the Council, which would have separate powers of enquiry to rival Parliament's own, which would be able to embark on an enquiry on its own initiative (as the Commission does at present), and which, ultimately, would only undermine the workings of the institutions;
- would significantly restrict citizens' rights by introducing a condition under which petitions to the European Parliament would not be admissible unless they directly concerned the petitioner as an individual, thus greatly diminishing the political significance of petitions.

14. Considers that the work and resources of the Committee on Petitions should be expanded substantially and that it should cooperate more closely with the Commission, the national ombudsmen and the national parliamentary committees responsible for petitions;

15. Considers, therefore, that instead of restricting the resources of the Committee on Petitions, extending its remit, and in particular its investigative powers, would ensure that it acted effectively on behalf of the general public in the Community;

16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Commission, the Council, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the national petitions committees or other committees with competence in this field and the national ombudsmen.

ANNEX

MASS PETITIONS

The following petitions bore 50 or more signatures:

No	Subject	Number of Signatures
199/90	The 'Animal Health Act' of 1981 and animal protection	54
204/90	Italy's failure to implement the Community's environment policy	203
205/90	Breach of environmental regulations in building a sewage plant in Corsica	420
241/90	Recognition of full university status of the 'Accademie di Belle Arti'	93
243/90	Right to bargain collectively	600
275/90	Removal of pesticides from the Chessington, Surrey, water supply at an early date	300
281/90	Incorporation of Guadeloupe in the European Community	1 680
282/90	Improvement of the situation of the Eritrean people	5 628
297/90	Release of 250 conscientious objectors, Jehovah's witnesses, from the military prison at Avlona	244
302/90	Protection of traditional non-industrial fishing in Third World countries	2 190
306/90	Conscientious objection	246
362/90	Ban on the testing of cosmetic products on animals	31 907

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No	Subject	Number of Signatures
373/90	Situation of Belgian teachers and the quality of teaching in Belgium	7 700
375/90	New bill on citizens' band radio	70
379/90	Attempts within the European Parliament to abolish 'corridas'	67
380/90	Protection of donkeys in Spain	50
382/90	Measures to protect the ozone layer	137
392/90	Situation of former political prisoners in Spain	1 227
418/90	Protection of horses during transport to other countries	200
424/90	Support of sanctions against apartheid in South Africa	115
426/90	Protection of animals during transport	253
428/90	Suffering of animals during export	3 000
439/90	Preservation of the Caretta-Caretta turtle which is threatened with extermination	122
440/90	Action in support of the Third World	270
462/90	Action against apartheid	1 200
463/90	Introduction of a European Seniors' pass in the United Kingdom and other concessions in favour of pensioners	5 000
471/90	Health damage caused by electromagnetic fields	1 792
480/90	Export of live horses for slaughter	500
491/90	Problems relating to the Scottish new town development corporations	438
509/90	Brazilian rainforests	145
539/90	Recreational use of public water	300
540/90	Settlement of the Palestinian question	181
544/90	Public freedom of choice to buy natural medicines	1 640
559/90	Protection of the fox	20 597
593/90	Behaviour of the Italian police	76
615/90	Vehicle test circuit in the Crau (France)	655
629/90	Abolition of the Wages Councils in the United Kingdom	2 300
652/90	Special needs of ethnic minority groups and migrant workers in the Community	1 300
655/90	Situation in the Middle East	22 216
670/90	Reduction of financial aid for Yugoslavia	60
673/90	Continuation of employment in the civil service	440
681/90	Effects of the accident at the Farmoplast factory in Massa	1 000
683/90	Public access to water for recreation	8 375
686/90	Environmental situation in the port of San Esteban de Pravia	130
693/90	Decision by the Greek Supreme Court of Appeal banning the keeping of domestic animals in rented flats	1 200
730/90	Application of Directive 82/501/EEC (the 'Seveso' Directive) in Italy	84
732/90	Deterioration of the Place des Martyrs in Brussels	229
756/90	Measures to end nuclear tests	382
763/90	Ban on catching songbirds	280
773/90	Protest campaign against German immigration law	400
150/91	Cruelty to animals	over 1 000 000

The sessional services informed the committee that on 27 September 1990 a further 250 000 signatures were received in support of petition No 371/89, on reprocessing of nuclear fuels, which had been submitted during the 1989-1990 parliamentary year.