

## European Parliament resolution on the situation of the European Community (9 March 1966)

**Caption:** On 9 March 1966, the European Parliament adopts a resolution setting out its official stance on the Luxembourg Compromise which, on 29 January, put an end to the empty chair crisis that had begun on 30 June 1965.

**Source:** Débats du Parlement européen. Séance du 9 mars 1966. 1966. [s.l.]. "Résolution sur la situation de la Communauté européenne (9 mars 1966)", auteur:Parlement européen.

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*The European Parliament,*

– having regard to the results of the extraordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers held on 17 and 18 and on 28 and 29 January 1966 in Luxembourg,

– having regard to the report of its Political Affairs Committee (Doc. 18),

1. Welcomes what it regards as the most important outcome of that extraordinary meeting, namely the agreement by Council members to resume the Community's normal course of work, in accordance with the Treaty; this has led in the first instance to the drawing up of a work programme and the adoption of the budget of the European Economic Community and of the European Atomic Energy Community;
2. Is concerned, however, about the uncertainty that still exists as to the interpretation of certain points of the texts published at the end of the Council meeting on the latter's views and decisions, an uncertainty that seems bound to give rise to some reservations on the part of Parliament;
3. Is convinced, in regard to the Council's qualified-majority decision-making procedure provided for in the Treaty, that members of the Council will not fail constantly to seek solutions that serve the interests of the Community and may be accepted by all concerned;
4. Considers that the Council must not give up the option of taking majority decisions;
5. Warns of the incalculable consequences that might arise if the Council, in a given situation, were to establish the existence of 'vital interests' that prevented the application of the majority rule;
6. Welcomes the Council's statement to the effect that the principles of future cooperation will be adopted by common accord with the Commission, pursuant to Article 162 of the EEC Treaty, and that the powers and responsibilities of the two institutions must not be affected;
7. Considers it vital that the rules governing relations between the Council and the Commission should be adopted by common accord prior to the merger of the executive bodies;
8. Expresses its concern about the delays that might occur in the Commission's normal activity as a result of the envisaged new procedures for cooperation between the Commission, the Council and Member State governments;
9. Emphasises that these procedures may in no circumstances restrict the rights of Parliament as the institution that – in accordance with the Treaty – exercises political supervisory power over the Commission;
10. Underlines that Parliament retains full confidence in the executive bodies, even with regard to their activity in the field of information, and that it does not wish for any restriction of their powers in that sector;
11. Regrets that, in the texts that it published at the end of its extraordinary meeting held on 28 and 29 January 1966 in Luxembourg, the Council did not address the problems that still arise in relation to the democratic structure of the Communities and the task incumbent upon Parliament;
12. Instructs its President to forward this report and the accompanying resolution to the institutions of the Community and to the governments of the Member States.