

'Hallstein: talks on EEC crisis must continue' from the Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant (22 July 1965)

Caption: On 22 July 1965, the Netherlands daily newspaper Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant describes the concern of the European Parliament and of Walter Hallstein, President of the Commission of the European Economic Community (EEC), at the difficulties in resolving the crisis concerning the means of financing the common agricultural policy (CAP).

Source: Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant. 22.07.1965. Rotterdam. "Hallstein: gesprek over crisis in EEG moet worden voortgezet."

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Hallstein: talks on EEC crisis must continue

Accusations repudiated

Walter Hallstein, President of the EEC Commission, said in Brussels on Wednesday that the debate on funding the European agricultural policy, which had been interrupted, should resume where it had left off. In its internal deliberations aimed at reaching a compromise, the Commission took the view that talks in the Council of Ministers of the EEC had to continue, Hallstein told a Brussels meeting of the European Parliament's Political Affairs Committee.

Hallstein did not enlarge upon the substance of the Commission's proposed compromise, again repudiating accusations that the Commission had been too slow in coming forward with new proposals. On 30 June, the debate had not yet made enough headway, he said, and the Commission had twice urged the Ministers not to break off the negotiations.

Since the six delegations had failed at that last meeting to reach consensus on a funding system for the period up to 1 July 1967, which is what the Commission had wanted, it was clear that the Council of Ministers would have to negotiate for a transitional period from 1965 to 1970, said Hallstein.

Resolution

On Wednesday, the European Parliament's Political Affairs Committee adopted the following resolution: 'The Political Affairs Committee expresses its concern at the serious difficulties which have arisen within the Community and which, if not speedily resolved, will jeopardise its development, affirms that the Treaty of Rome is binding upon the peoples and governments of the six Member States of the European Community, notes that the proposals put forward by the Commission of the European Economic Community on 30 March 1965 are consistent with the mandates entrusted to it by the Council of Ministers, believes that the opportunities for negotiation and consensus on these proposals have not been fully exhausted, something which is necessary for the future of Europe, and calls on Member State governments to make all necessary efforts towards mutual understanding in order not to hamper the development of the Community.'

Dissenting voices

The Bureau of the European Parliament, which also met on Wednesday, noted this resolution, approved it and forwarded the text to the Council of Ministers and the Commission.

The three French Gaullist Members present at the Political Affairs Committee meeting were the only ones to vote against the resolution. One of them, Christian de la Malène, a former Minister, objected more to the general climate of hostility towards France which he claimed prevailed at the meeting than to the wording of the resolution itself, so members of the Committee said later.

On Wednesday, in Brussels, the Bureau of the European Parliament rejected a request from a number of Italian and French Members for the holding of a special sitting to discuss the crisis in the EEC. The Bureau consists of the President and Vice-Presidents of Parliament, the parliamentary committee chairmen and the political group chairmen.

(DPA)