

Written Question No 117/68 by Harri Bading, MEP, to the Commission (19 June 1968)

Caption: Written question No 117/68 put by Harri Bading, Member of the European Parliament, to the Commission on 19 June 1968, regarding the agreement reached between the Council and the Commission in 1966 on the presentation of the letters of credence of Heads of Mission of third countries.

Source: Journal officiel des Communautés européennes (JOCE). 09.08.1968, n° C 78. [s.l.]. "Question écrite n° 117/68 de M. Bading à la Commission des Communautés européennes (19 juin 1968)", p. 14.

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Written Question No 117/68, tabled by Harri Bading, Member of the European Parliament, to the Commission of the European Communities on 19 June 1968

(19 June 1968)

Subject: Presentation of credentials of Heads of Mission of non-member countries

The first sentence of the Commission's answer to Written Question No 43/68, tabled by Mr Vredeling ⁽¹⁾, gives the impression that the Commission considers itself bound by the 'Luxembourg decisions' taken at the extraordinary meeting of the Councils on 28 and 29 January 1966 with regard to the 'heptalogue', i.e. relations between the Council and the Commission.

Would the Commission therefore answer the following questions:

1. Does the Commission propose to refrain from applying Article 162 of the EEC Treaty requiring the Commission and the Council to 'settle by common accord their methods of cooperation'?
2. Does the Commission wish to depart from the position, adopted by the Commission of the EEC in its declaration of 2 February 1966 and reaffirmed by Mr Levi Sandri, speaking before the European Parliament on 9 March 1966 on behalf of the Commission of the EEC, that new procedures concerning relations between the Council and the Commission could be established only following an agreement between them?
3. Has the Commission abandoned its view that the presentation of credentials by the Heads of Mission of non-member countries has, to date, been the subject of a provisional agreement between the Council and the Commission, as stated by the Commission of the EEC in its answer to Written Questions Nos 36/66 and 78/66 ⁽²⁾?

Answer

(30 July 1968)

1. The wording of the first paragraph of the Commission's answer to Written Question No 43/68, as published in Official Journal C 56 of 7 June 1968, is the result of an error for which the Commission apologises. The correctly worded answer has been forwarded to Parliament for republication in the Official Journal ⁽³⁾.
2. As the Commission of the EEC recalled in the declarations to which the Honourable Member refers, the Commission is always ready, where appropriate, to hold consultations with the Council, in accordance with Article 15 of the Merger Treaty, with a view to settling by common accord even more effective methods of cooperation between the Commission and the Council.
3. The Commission confirms and endorses the answers given by the Commission of the EEC and the Commission of Euratom to Written Questions Nos 36/66 and 78/66 tabled by Mr Berkhouwer.

(1) OJ C 56, 7.6.1968, p. 10.

(2) OJ 143, 4.8.1966, p. 2637/66 and OJ 241, 28.12.1966, p. 4049/66.

(3) See p. 1 of the current issue of the Official Journal.