

European Parliament resolution on the Intergovernmental Conference in the context of its strategy for European Union (14 March 1990)

Caption: On 14 March 1990, the European Parliament adopts a resolution in which it emphasises, in particular, the need rapidly to transform ‘the European Community into a Political Union, on a federal basis, stretching beyond the single market and Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)’, and reiterates its determination to establish the conditions for Parliament’s involvement in the work of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC).

Source: Official Journal of the European Communities (OJEC). 17.04.1990, n° C 96. [s.l.]. "Resolution on the Intergovernmental Conference in the context of the Parliament's strategy for European Union", auteur:European Parliament , p. 114-118.

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Resolution on the Intergovernmental Conference in the context of Parliament's strategy for European Union (14 March 1990)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Treaties establishing the European Communities and the Single Act amending them,
- having regard to the Solemn Declaration of the Stuttgart European Council of 19 June 1983⁽¹⁾,
- having regard to its draft Treaty establishing the European Union, adopted on 14 February 1984⁽²⁾,
- having regard to its resolution of 16 January 1986 on the Single European Act, in particular paragraph 4 thereof⁽³⁾, and its resolution of 11 December 1986 on the Single European Act⁽⁴⁾,
- having regard to its reports demonstrating the insufficiencies of the treaties as amended by the Single European Act and notably its resolutions of:
 - 17 July 1988 on the cost of 'non-Europe'⁽⁵⁾,
 - 17 July 1988 on the democratic deficit⁽⁶⁾,
 - 17 July 1988 on the procedures for consulting European citizens on European political unification⁽⁷⁾,
 - 27 October 1988 on the first year of application of the Single European Act⁽⁸⁾,
 - 12 April 1989 on Fundamental Rights and Freedoms⁽⁹⁾,
 - 10 October 1988 and 15 December 1989 on the annual reports of the Council on progress towards European Union;
- having regard to various resolutions adopted by national parliaments at the time of ratification of the Single Act or subsequently,
- having regard to the contacts and discussions between its Committee on Institutional Affairs and Delegations from the National Parliaments,
- having regard to its resolution of 16 February 1989 on the strategy of the European Parliament for achieving European Union⁽¹⁰⁾,
- having regard to the results of the European elections and of the referendum held in Italy on the occasion of the European elections on the granting of a constituent mandate to the European Parliament,
- having regard to the agreement reached at the European Council to convene an Intergovernmental Conference to revise the Treaty with a view to the final stages of EMU,
- having regard to its resolution of 14 April 1989 on the process of European monetary integration⁽¹¹⁾, and to its resolution of 25 October 1989 on EMU⁽¹²⁾,
- having regard to its resolution of 18 November 1988 on Community regional policy and the role of the regions⁽¹³⁾ and the attached Community Charter for Regionalization,
- having regard to its resolution of 23 November 1989 on the proposed Intergovernmental Conference called for by the European Council in Madrid⁽¹⁴⁾,

— having regard to the report of its Committee on Institutional Affairs and the opinion of the Committee on External Economic Relations (Doc. A3-47/90),

- A. reaffirming that Member States have an absolute duty to abide by the judgments of the Court and to implement directives on time; and that failure on their part to create a single market by 31 December 1992 will have grave implications for the future development of the Community into a European Union;
- B. whereas it is increasingly necessary rapidly to transform the European Community into a European union of federal type and going beyond the single market and economic and monetary union; whereas this is desired by a substantial majority of the public, as indicated by recent public opinion surveys,
- C. whereas progress is particularly urgent in reforming the treaties to provide for a balanced and equitable development of the Single Market and the Monetary Union, notably by providing the Community with clearer and more effective responsibilities in the field of social and environmental policies on the basis of the principal of subsidiarity,
- D. whereas the Single European Act itself requires a review of European political cooperation procedures by 1992 and whereas this review is becoming all the more urgent in view of the need for a united foreign policy in face of momentous events outside the Community,
- E. whereas progress towards a citizens' Europe has been extremely limited, notably due to the lack of provisions of the treaties enabling progress to be made in this field,
- F. whereas even the current level of responsibilities entrusted to the Community require more effective and more democratic institutions,
- G. whereas greater effectiveness of the institutions can be achieved notably by providing for systematic majority voting in the Council and the strengthening of the Commission's right to exercise executive powers independently from committees of national civil servants (Comitology),
- H. whereas fundamental democratic principles require that Community legislation should only enter into force with the explicit approval, not only of the Council representing national governments, but also of the European Parliament, representing the electorate as a whole,
- I. whereas the appointments made to Community bodies exercising important responsibilities and above all, the appointment of the European Commission and in particular its President, should be subject to the scrutiny and consent of the European Parliament,
- J. whereas such changes should themselves be negotiated and agreed jointly by the representatives of the Member States and the European Parliament,
- K. having regard to the statement by President Delors to the EP on 17 January 1990 on a single Intergovernmental Conference with two parallel themes, economic and monetary union as well as the institutional reforms of the European Community,
- L. whereas Parliament has accepted the proposals made by the Presidents-in-Office of the European Council to organize an interinstitutional pre-Conference, which should take place early in 1990, and 'assizes' with Members of national parliaments,
- M. whereas the rapid changes on the international and European political scene require the Community to speed up its institutional development and the construction of the European Union,
1. Reaffirms that the agenda of the Intergovernmental Conference must be enlarged beyond economic

and monetary union; notes that a number of national parliaments as well as the President of the Commission have lent their support to this view; considers that economic and monetary union constitutes only one of many areas of further development in the Community and that the Intergovernmental Conference should therefore consider a range of related issues and take the necessary decisions to avoid jeopardizing the balanced and uniform development of the Community in accordance with Parliament's proposals;

2. Reiterates its view that the Intergovernmental Conference should use as essential criteria in its deliberations the principles of subsidiarity and conferred powers, on the basis of which those powers not specifically conferred on the European Union remain within the Member States;

3. (a) Confirms its decision to convene a pre-Conference involving the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council, for the purpose of:

- preparing the mandate of the Intergovernmental Conference;
- establishing the nature of Parliament's participation in the Intergovernmental Conference;

(b) Decides, in accordance with the abovementioned resolution of 23 November 1989 and its resolution of 14 December 1989 on the European Council in Strasbourg and the French Presidency's six months in office⁽¹⁵⁾, and given the need for all Council members to participate in the pre-Conference, that the Parliament delegation shall consist of twelve members;

(c) Decides to invite the Economic and Social Committee to send an observer to the interinstitutional pre-Conference;

(d) Calls for this pre-Conference to commence by Spring 1990 and to continue its work until the parties attending the pre-Conference have reached a joint agreement;

4. Instructs its representatives at the pre-Conference to press for the following items to be included on the agenda of the Intergovernmental Conference:

(a) the creation of economic and monetary union in accordance with a specific, automatic and mandatory timetable, between the twelve Member States of the European Community or, if appropriate, between those willing;

(b) a rationalization of the Community's instruments for external relations, notably the full integration of EPC into the Community framework including the granting to the Commission of powers akin to those it possesses in other areas of Community policy in view of ultimately achieving common foreign and security policies in the service of peace;

(c) better treaty provisions in the social and environmental sectors to ensure that the Community is able to develop and manage more effective policies in these fields, so that the single market works to the benefit of all Community citizens and contributes to a better environment;

(d) incorporation into the treaties of the Declaration on Fundamental Rights and Freedoms adopted by Parliament on 12 April 1989 and of provisions promoting a citizens' Europe and the preservation of Europe's cultural diversity;

- (e) further improvements in the decision-making capacity of Council, notably by providing for systematic majority voting;
- (f) a strengthening of the Commission's powers to implement Community legislation and execute its programmes and policies;
- (g) the reform of the system of Community own-resources;
- (h) recognition at Community level of the dual legitimacy conferred to the Council on the one hand and the European Parliament on the other, by conferring upon Parliament the powers listed in its resolution of 23 November 1989:
 - co-decision with Council on Community legislation,
 - right to initiate legislative proposals,
 - right to elect the President of the Commission and to give its assent to the appointment of the Commission, the Court of Justice and the Court of Auditors,
 - right of inquiry within the framework of the Community's powers,
 - ratification of all constitutional decisions which also require ratification by the Member States,
 - co-decision in external agreements and international conventions through the parliamentary assent procedure to be extended to all agreements of major importance, including trade agreements,

Finally, it should also consider the institutional future of Europe with a view to instructing the European Parliament to finalize the draft constitution of the European Union, and how best to ensure the cooperation of the national parliaments in the 'assizes' in connection with the forthcoming Intergovernmental Conference; in the future construction of the European Union; and in particular in the work of the European Parliament;

5. Reiterates the demand contained in its resolution of 23 November 1989 that the Intergovernmental Conference proposals be submitted to the European Parliament and the governments acknowledge its right to amend and adopt them; if the European Parliament's position differs from that of the Intergovernmental Conference, a suitable procedure should be initiated with a view to reaching agreement to be submitted to the Member States for ratification; requests that the President of the Parliament, on the same basis as the President of the Commission, should be invited to the ministerial level meetings of the IGC;
6. Undertakes to adopt its opinion on the convening of the Intergovernmental Conference as soon as possible following agreement in the interinstitutional pre-Conference;
7. Requests the Commission to contribute to the success of the interinstitutional pre-Conference;

accordingly expects the Commission, throughout the Intergovernmental Conference, to defend Community interest and, in particular, the demands of Community citizens as expressed through their representatives in the European Parliament;

8. Reaffirms its commitment to draw up a draft European constitution and to discuss its proposals with the national parliaments;

9. Reiterates its commitment to have its proposals adopted by all democratic means, in particular by mobilizing European public opinion and its democratically elected representatives;

10. Recalls its position that, while participation in European Union cannot be imposed upon any State against its will, on the other hand, no single State can block the will of the majority to achieve European Union and, if necessary, such a Union should be set up without the initial participation of all the Member States of the Community;

11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the Economic and Social Committee.

1 EP Bulletin No 26 of 28 June 1983.

2 OJ No C 77, 19.3.1984, p. 33.

3 OJ No C 36, 17.2.1986, p. 144.

4 OJ No C 7, 12.1.1987, p. 83.

5 OJ No C 187, 18.7.1988, p. 244.

6 OJ No C 187, 18.7.1988, p. 229.

7 OJ No C 187, 18.7.1988, p. 231.

8 OJ No C 309, 5.12.1988, p. 93.

9 OJ No C 120, 16.5.1989, p. 51.

10 OJ No C 69, 12.3.1989, p. 145.

11 OJ No C 120, 16.5.1989, p. 331.

12 OJ No C 304, 4.12.1989, p. 43.

13 OJ No C 326, 19.12.1988, p. 289.

14 OJ No C 323, 27.12.1989, p. 111.

15 See Minutes of that day's sitting — Part II, Item 1.