

Note from the European Commission concerning the Luxembourg Extraordinary Council (Brussels, 27 January 1966)

Caption: On 27 January 1966, Émile Noël, Executive Secretary of the Commission of the European Economic Community (EEC), informs the Members of the Commission of the nature of the debates within the Permanent Representatives Committee (Coreper) of the Six, meeting in Luxembourg on 26 and 27 January in order to find a political solution to the empty chair crisis.

Source: Archives historiques de l'Union européenne, Florence, Villa Il Poggiolo. Dépôts, DEP. Émile Noël, EN. 343.

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European Economic Community
Commission
Executive Secretariat
G(66)50

Brussels, 27 January 1966

Note to the Members of the Commission

Subject: Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives – Luxembourg, 26/27 January 1966

The afternoon session of Wednesday, 26 January was devoted entirely to a consideration of the memorandum presented by the French Delegation on 17 January.

The general response adopted by the five Ambassadors, the main elements of which were presented to the Commission by Mr Hallstein at yesterday afternoon's meeting, was also accepted by the French Delegation with regard to all but two points. These are point 5, on the presentation of credentials, and point 8, which relates to public statements.

Point 5. The French Delegation insisted that credentials should be presented to the President of the Council alone, whereas the other five delegations stood by the formula of a joint presentation to the President of the Council and the President of the Commission. This point will have to be reviewed at this morning's session on the basis of a new text, to be drafted by Ambassador Borschette.

Point 8. The French Delegation insisted on the adoption of a formal text. The German Delegation asked that action on this issue be limited to an interview between the President of the Council and the President of the future single Commission. In this instance, too, Ambassador Borschette was to submit a compromise formula to the Committee at this morning's session.

It should be emphasised that the agreement reached by the six Permanent Representatives was based on the text drafted and submitted by the Five without significant amendments. In other words, the explicit reference to Article 162 and the need for a subsequent agreement between the Council and the Commission were retained.

It is also worth noting that agreement seems to have been secured on point 9, concerning the Information Service, on the basis of the text proposed by the Five. The French Delegation, therefore, seems satisfied with the principle that an annual information programme should be drawn up by the Council, assisted by the Commission.

The Committee of Permanent Representatives is due to resume its deliberations at ten o'clock this morning when it will consider the aforementioned compromise text drawn up by Ambassador Borschette. It will then begin to review the issues relating to the introduction of decision-making by qualified majority.

Immediately after the end of their meeting this morning, the Ambassadors will be joined for a private luncheon by Mr Werner's Chef de Cabinet. This intimate meal could be the occasion for an initial consideration of the most delicate questions that remain unresolved.

It apparently cannot be ruled out that the question of the presentation of credentials will have to be resolved at ministerial level. The Delegations of the Five do seem to be well aware of its significance in terms of the equality of the institutions and the sharing of responsibilities between them in the field of foreign affairs.

Émile Noël
Executive Secretary