

European Parliament resolution on the negotiations with Spain and Portugal and their repercussions (9 July 1982)

Caption: On 9 July 1982, the European Parliament adopts a resolution in which it calls on the European Commission to indicate which proposals it intends to submit so that the enlargement to include Spain and Portugal does not lead to a weakening of the Community but rather represents an opportunity for a deepening of common policies and a strengthening of the decision-making process.

Source: Official Journal of the European Communities (OJEC). 13.09.1982, No C 238. [s.l.]. "Resolution on the negotiations with Spain and Portugal ", p. 94-95.

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Resolution on the negotiations with Spain and Portugal (9 July 1982)

The European Parliament,

- A. convinced that the enlargement of the EEC to include Spain and Portugal is a logical extension of the European ideal and will contribute to strengthening democracy in the applicant countries, and recalling a decision in principle that the two countries should join the EEC on 1 January 1984,
- B. concerned at the fact that the accession of two new members could well aggravate the crisis in the Community's decision-making process and widen the gap between the developed regions and the less-favoured regions unless the EEC strengthens its own structure as enlargement goes ahead, and accordingly urging the Commission to do its utmost to improve the decision-making process as approved by Parliament in its resolution of 6 July 1982 on reform of the Treaties and achievement of European Union ⁽¹⁾,
- C. endorsing the statement of the President-in-Office of the Council that the problems still pending could and should be settled by the end of the year,
- D. aware of the damage to the future of Spain and Portugal which would be caused by any delay in the accession negotiations,
- E. anxious, furthermore, to see these negotiations carried on in a realistic frame of mind so that the Community regions most directly affected, in particular the Mediterranean regions and the less-favoured areas, do not suffer as a result of an ill-prepared enlargement,
- F. whereas the political will of the Community and its member countries must be positively reaffirmed and given practical expression by pressing ahead with thorough negotiations, which must respect the deadline laid down,
1. Asks the Commission
 - (a) to say what proposals it will bring forward to ensure that enlargement strengthens the Community particularly as regards the common policies and financial instruments needed to preserve Community solidarity, so that enlargement, far from leading to the EEC degenerating into a mere free trade area, makes the Community even stronger;
 - (b) to specify the most sensitive areas and to indicate the respective positions of the EEC and the applicant countries on these subjects;
 - (c) to indicate the possible effects of enlargement on the Community both internally and in its relations with the associated countries and third countries;
 - (d) to provide the European Parliament, not later than October 1982, with a progress report on accession negotiations with Spain and Portugal;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission.

⁽¹⁾ Spinelli report Doc. 1-305/82.