



**DEUTSCHER BUNDESTAG
BUNDESRAT**

Konferenz der Präsidenten der
europäischen parlamentarischen
Versammlungen
Bonn 9. – 10. Juli 1976

July 10, 1976

**Final Communiqué of the Conference of the
Presidents of the European Parliamentary
Assemblies in Bonn**

1. The Presidents of the Parliamentary Assemblies of

- the Federal Republic of Germany
- Austria
- Belgium
- Denmark
- the European Parliament
- the Council of Europe
- France
- Greece
- Ireland
- Iceland
- Italy*
- Luxembourg
- the Netherlands
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- the United Kingdom
- the Western European Union

or their representatives met in Bonn on July 9 and 10, 1976, at the invitation and under the chairmanship of the President of the German Bundestag, Mrs. Annemarie Renger, and the President of the German Bundesrat, Mr. Albert Osswald. This meeting follows a decision taken at the preceding Conference which was held in Rome on September 26 and 27, 1975.

- 2. The participants in the Conference have decided to address an appeal to the European Council, which is to meet on July 12 and 13, the text of which is attached to the present communiqué.**

The President of the European Parliament asked that this appeal which concerns the election by direct universal suffrage to the European Parliament should be transmitted to the European Council, emphasizing the particular importance of this matter which was in the center of the debates.

- 3. The participants in the Conference deliberated on the project of European union, on the basis of the introductory report of the President of the Bundestag, to the extent that it concerns the European Parliament and the national parliaments. They discussed the development of relations**

*) The Presidents of the Italian Chambers were prevented from participating in the Conference or from sending their deputies; but they were able to inform the Conference that they associated themselves with its work.

between the European Parliament and the national parliaments in light of the evolution of the Community since the last Conference. They also dealt with current problems of parliamentary democracy in Europe and in particular the question of the relationship of parliaments and public opinion.

4. In the context of European union, the participants coming from the countries of the Community, stressed the importance of the Institutions' establishing a balance between the executive and legislative powers in such a way that the people can participate more actively in the development of European union.

With regard to the European union, the President of the Bundesrat expressed himself in favour of a Chamber of Nations which could be modelled on the assembly over which he presides.

The progress towards European union directly concerns only the member states of the European Community. It is of the greatest importance to promote close and complementary cooperation between the European Communities and the Council of Europe.

5. With regard to the election to the European Parliament by universal suffrage, the Conference, representing the member states of the Community, underlined the importance and urgency of closer cooperation between the parliaments of the member states and the European Parliament. This cooperation could particularly be effected in the domain of legislative procedures and the possibility of parliamentary control with regard to the Council and the handling of resolutions and documents by the national parliaments.
6. The members of the Conference noted with satisfaction that a study had been made at the initiative of the Presidents of the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe following the conference in Rome on the establishment of a Parliamentary Research and Documentation System. They instructed the presidents of the two Assemblies to study how to promote a sound system and to institute it on an experimental basis. On this occasion the Conference acknowledges with interest the announcement of future meetings at expert level.
7. In the course of its discussion of the topic „Parliament and Public Opinion“, which was opened by the address delivered by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, it was underlined that there is the danger of a growing gap between the representatives of the people and the citizens, due in particular to the incomprehensibility of modern legal jargon.

It is indispensable that the people participate actively in the national decision-making process and that this participation is ensured by an objective flow of information.

8. The members accepted the invitation to attend the next Conference, which will be held in Vienna in June, 1977. They have chosen the following subjects for the next Conference:
 - 1) a) Questions arising from the project of the European union, in particular the institutional questions, (including the idea for a Chamber of Nations).
 - b) The review of the cooperation between the European Parliament and the national parliaments. Outlook.
- 2) The European Human Rights Convention as European law — a questionnaire concerning certain fundamental rights will be submitted to the participants prior to the Conference.
- 3) Research and documentation system, progress report.

The members have commissioned the German and Austrian Presidents to jointly determine the modalities of the next meeting.



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Appeal to the European Council

1. The Presidents of the Parliamentary Assemblies of the European Communities meeting in Bonn on July 9 and 10, 1976, address the following appeal to the European Council:
2. — They note that the European idea that favours cooperation and understanding in the European institutions must continue to draw its strength from the peoples of their countries.
3. — They declare that continued promotion and development of the European awareness is essential as a source for the formation of a European identity of the individual citizen particularly through direct participation of the peoples in the building of Europe.
4. — They are convinced that parliamentary democracy is the only way of national life that guarantees the respect of human rights.
5. — They note with satisfaction that the European Council has decided to make the further development of the European institutions the subject of its forthcoming deliberations.
6. — They expect that, in doing so, political difficulties will be overcome that constitute a hindrance to direct election of the European Parliament and to the development of European unity.
7. — The peoples of Europe anxiously hope that the results of the deliberations will be favourable and declare that the decision on the continued progress towards European unity must not be further delayed.

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8. The Presidents attending the conference of the Parliamentary Assemblies that do not belong to the European Community support this appeal and wish that cooperation among all European democratic states be intensified, particularly within the framework of the Council of Europe.

On behalf of the members of the Conference

Annemarie Renger
President of the
German Bundestag

Albert Osswald
President of the Bundesrat