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FRAME GENERAL

LUXEMBOURG EUROPEAN COUNCIL: KOHL'S STATEMENT TO THE BUNDESTAG

1. IN A STATEMENT TO THE BUNDESTAG TODAY CHANCELLOR KOHL SAID THAT THE DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN LUXEMBOURG HAD TAKEN THE POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY A DECISIVE STEP FORWARDS. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD MADE A CRUCIAL CONTRIBUTION BOTH IN VOTING FOR THE CONFERENCE IN MILAN AND IN HELPING TO SHAPE THE PACKAGE OF MEASURES AGREED AT LUXEMBOURG. THE EUROPEAN BALANCE SHEET OF THE PRESENT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, STARTING WITH THE STUTTGART PACKAGE, WAS MARKEDLY POSITIVE.

2. KOHL LISTED THE MAIN POINTS OF AGREEMENT:

- INTERNAL MARKET: IMPORTANT PROGRESS, BUT SOME EXCEPTIONS HAD HAD TO BE MADE FOR SENSITIVE AREAS, EG TAX AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS. THE GERMANS OF ALL PEOPLE HAD NO REASON TO FEAR THE COLD WIND OF COMPETITION:

- COHESION: A POLITICAL COMPROMISE BETWEEN WELL-BALANCED COMMUNITY POLICIES ON THE ONE HAND AND THE INTERESTS OF LESS-FAVOURLED AREAS ON THE OTHER:

- TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT: FAVOURED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM THE START:

- MONETARY POLICY: A DIFFICULT DISCUSSION. THE EMS WAS A HALF-WAY STATION ON THE WAY TO EUROPEAN UNION, NOT A FINAL GOAL IN ITSELF. A PERSPECTIVE HAD BEEN OPENED UP. BUT THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN MEMBER STATES HAD BEEN PROTECTED, AND NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE INVOLVED BEFORE THERE WERE ANY INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES.

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- EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REMAINED ATTACHED TO AN EXTENSION OF ITS INFLUENCE, BUT THERE WERE DIFFERING VIEWS IN OTHER MEMBER STATES. THE GERMANS HAD PROPOSED A MORE AMBITIOUS TEXT FOR THE IGC, BASED ON THEIR EXPERIENCE OF THE FEDERAL SYSTEM. BUT IT WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR PARTNERS FROM "CLASSIC CENTRALIST STATES" TO ACCEPT A TRANSFER OF POWERS. KOHL'S MESSAGE TO HIS FRIENDS IN THE EP WAS THAT AS MUCH AS WAS FEASIBLE HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. THE LAST WORD REMAINED WITH THE COUNCIL. KOHL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIED HIMSELF WITH THIS DECISION WHICH WAS WISE AT THE PRESENT TIME. A SIGNAL HAD HOWEVER BEEN GIVEN FOR THE FUTURE (APPLAUSE FROM THE CDU):

- FOREIGN POLICY COOPERATION: THIS HAD ALWAYS BEEN AN AIM OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. ACCORDINGLY TOGETHER WITH FRANCE THEY HAD TABLED A DRAFT TREATY ON POLITICAL COOPERATION (SIC) AT MILAN. THE IGC HAD HELD INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS OF THIS INITIATIVE, AND OF THE DRAFT TABLED SIMULTANEOUSLY (SIC) BY THE BRITISH. THE TEXT AGREED AT LUXEMBOURG CONTAINED IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF BOTH DRAFTS.

3. KOHL CONCLUDED THAT EUROPEAN POLICY WOULD ALWAYS CONSIST OF SMALL STEPS. POLITICAL AND SOCIAL STRUCTURES WHICH HAD GROWN OVER CENTURIES COULD NOT BE CHANGED OVERNIGHT. FORTUNATELY THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF EUROPE WERE DETERMINED TO MAKE PROGRESS, AS HE HAD BEEN REMINDED IN CAMBRIDGE RECENTLY. BUT WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT THE WEST WAS ONLY PART OF EUROPE. THE AIM OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION WAS TO OVERCOME THE DIVISION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. EVERY SMALL STEP FORWARD WAS A STEP INTO A BETTER FUTURE.

BULLARD

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