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FROM UKREP BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN COUNCIL: MILAN: 28/9 JUNE

M I P T : UK TEXT AS FOLLOWS.

INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

1. THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL HAS HELD A WIDE-RANGING DEBATE ON THE PROPOSALS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS WHICH WAS CREATED AT FONTAINEBLEAU AND IN PARTICULAR ON THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURE OF THE COUNCIL, ON STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, ON THE MANAGEMENT POWERS OF THE COMMISSION AND ON THE REINFORCEMENT OF POLITICAL COOPERATION IN THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK OF PASSAGE TO EUROPEAN UNION.

2. THE COUNCIL CONFIRMS THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE FUNCTIONING OF THE COMMUNITY IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES IT HAS FIXED, PARTICULARLY THE COMPLETION OF THE INTERNAL MARKET AND MEASURES DESTINED TO MAKE POSSIBLE A TECHNOLOGICAL EUROPE.

1. THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AGREED THAT THE FOLLOWING DISPOSITIONS WILL APPLY FROM NOW ON TO THE DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURE OF THE COUNCIL, THE EXERCISE OF THE MANAGEMENT POWERS OF THE COMMISSION AND OF THE POWERS OF THE PARLIAMENT.

THE PRACTICE OF MAJORITY VOTING SHOULD BE REINFORCED. TO THIS END:

A. THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL HAS DECIDED THAT THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WILL BE MODIFIED, AND THAT IT WILL PROCEED TO A VOTE EITHER ON THE INITIATIVE OF ITS PRESIDENT OR ON THE DEMAND OF A MAJORITY OF ITS MEMBERS:

B. THE MEMBER STATES COMMIT THEMSELVES TO HAVE RECOURSE TO ABSTENTION, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE DISPOSITIONS OF ARTICLE 148(3) OF THE TREATY IN ORDER NOT TO OBSTRUCT THE ADOPTION OF DECISIONS WHICH DEMAND UNANIMITY IN THE COUNCIL. THE COUNCIL COULD IF NECESSARY GIVE A TEMPORARY DISPENSATION TO THE MEMBER STATES WHO HAVE ABSTAINED FROM THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS WHICH RESULT FROM ITS DECISIONS.

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C. TO THE EXTENT THAT SOME MEMBER STATES DO NOT ENVISAGE RENOUNCING IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE THE PROVISIONS OF THE ARRANGEMENTS OF 29 JANUARY 1966, THE SO CALLED QUOTE LUXEMBOURG COMPROMISE UNQUOTE, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL NOTES THAT, IN CASE THEY SHOULD INVOKE QUOTE A VERY IMPORTANT NATIONAL INTEREST UNQUOTE, THESE MEMBER STATES SHOULD JUSTIFY IT IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OR IN THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL.

THE COMPETENCE OF THE COMMISSION FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND EXECUTION SHOULD BE REINFORCED.

THE PARTICIPATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN THE PROCESS OF DECISION SHOULD BE REINFORCED, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SECTORS OF THE INTERNAL MARKET, THE HARMONISATION OF LEGISLATION, AS WELL AS ACTS NECESSARY FOR COMMON POLICIES.

II. IN ADDITION, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL INSTRUCTED THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO STUDY ON THE ONE HAND PROPOSALS TO MODIFY THE TREATY DESIGNED TO IMPROVE STILL FURTHER THE DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURE OF THE COUNCIL AND IN PARTICULAR THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING RECOURSE TO MAJORITY VOTING FOR ARTICLE 57(2) AND ARTICLE 100 OF THE EC TREATY, AND ON THE OTHER HAND THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS RELATIVE TO STRENGTHENING THE POWERS OF THE PARLIAMENT. IF, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 236, THE COUNCIL DELIVERS AN OPINION IN FAVOUR OF CALLING A CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES, THE CONFERENCE SHALL BE CONVENED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING BY COMMON ACCORD THE AMENDMENTS TO BE MADE TO THIS TREATY.

III. AT THE SAME TIME WORK WILL BE SET IN HAND TO FINALISE A DRAFT TREATY ON FOREIGN POLICY AND SECURITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FRANCO-GERMAN AND BRITISH PROPOSALS.

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IV. THE RESULTING PROPOSALS WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR DECISION BY THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT AT THE LUXEMBOURG EUROPEAN COUNCIL.

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