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Prime Minister ①  
This is the revised  
speaking note on  
the European Parliament.  
2. Although it is  
better, it will still  
cause us (i.e. the Council)  
difficulties in practice.

Qz.04518

MR POWELL

EUROPEAN COUNCIL, 28-29 JUNE

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In response to your minute of 26 June I attach a revised speaking note for the Prime Minister on the European Parliament. This has been shortened and corrected and is accompanied by draft conclusions which might be circulated. The remaining revised documents will be submitted shortly.

I am sending a copy to Sir Robert Armstrong and to Colin Budd (FCO).

DF Williamson  
D F WILLIAMSON

I should let it be  
extruded as a  
concession rather than  
volunteer it.

26 June 1985

CJP  
26/6



## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

### Speaking note for the Prime Minister

The relationship with the European Parliament is not working satisfactorily. Since one of our prime objectives is to improve decision making in the Community, it is important that the present procedures with the European Parliament should not lead to unnecessary confrontation.

I have two specific proposals. First, it is not satisfactory that the Council should practically complete its work on a proposal before it hears the views of the European Parliament. We ought to change this. The Council and the European Parliament ought to have their consultation meeting at an early stage in the Council's consideration and before the Council's position is set in concrete. In this way the Council will have the European Parliament's views when it reaches the decision stage and the so-called conciliation procedure will become a reality.

If we make this change, there will be occasions when the Council and the European Parliament can agree, which will be a step forward. On other occasions the Council will want to take account of some if not all of the European Parliament's views. The European Parliament's contribution will, therefore, be reflected in the Council's decisions.

Secondly, there is



Secondly, there is room for improvement in the way in which the Council responds to European Parliament resolutions. Many of these will not be acceptable but they should be properly considered and replied to.

In addition, I know that the Commission is trying to make more effective its own discussions with the European Parliament in the period when it is considering new proposals of importance. If the European Parliament so wishes, its specialised committees can hold hearings on Commission proposals of the kind held in some national parliaments.

I am making specific proposals (circulate attached draft conclusions) for improving the relations between the Council and European Parliament. But the European Parliament itself can do more to enhance its position by targetting its opinions more precisely and by ensuring a more consistent approach in its recommendations.

The changes I have suggested could be implemented quickly. There should be an early meeting between the Council, representatives of the European Parliament and the Commission to discuss ways of putting them into effect.



DRAFT EUROPEAN COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS  
ON THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1. The European Council agreed that the relationship between the Council and the European Parliament was not working satisfactorily, and that arrangements should be established which would provide for real and effective consultation between the Council and the European Parliament and enable the European Parliament to make a positive contribution to decision-taking.
2. They agreed on the implementation of an effective procedure in the course of decision making that would provide for genuine consultation between the Council and the European Parliament before the Council reaches the decision stage.
3. They also agreed that the Council should take steps to follow up European Parliament resolutions systematically and report on the action taken in response to them.
4. In order, therefore, to develop the improved working relationship between the Council, Commission and European Parliament, the European Council underlined that
  - without in any way prejudicing the Commission's power of initiative and its prerogative to make proposals, it should be open to the Commission to put forward discussion documents for consideration

/by the European



by the European Parliament as part of the preparation of the Commission's definitive proposal. In these circumstances the European Parliament could consider the proposals in committee, hold hearings and give its reactions;

- when formal proposals have been submitted to the Council, there should be an early meeting between the Council, the Commission and representatives of the European Parliament with a view to facilitating agreement;

- in addition, the European Parliament might choose from time to time, as the President of the Commission has suggested, subjects which it might study, and on which it would conduct the necessary hearings and prepare a resolution in cooperation with the Commission.

5. The European Parliament itself can do much to enhance its association in decision taking by targetting its opinions more precisely and ensuring that they contain clear recommendations on which action by the Council or proposals by the Commission could be based.

6. These changes could be implemented quickly. There should be an early meeting between the Presidency, representatives of the European Parliament and the Commission to discuss ways of putting them into effect.