

European Communities

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## Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Development and Cooperation

on a Communication from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 42/76) on renewal of the Convention between the European Economic Community and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA)

Rapporteur: Miss C. FLESCH  
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PE 44.534/fin.

1.2.2

English Edition



By letter of 29 March 1976 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for renewal of the Convention between the European Economic Community and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA).

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Development and Cooperation as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets for its opinion.

On 24 March 1976, the Committee on Development and Cooperation appointed Miss FLESCH rapporteur for that section of the proposal which dealt with the supply of sugar to UNRWA as food aid.

At the same meeting, the committee unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and explanatory statement. The motion for a resolution was put to the plenary session for vote without further debate at its April session, and adopted unanimously.<sup>1</sup>

At its meeting of 19 May 1976, the Committee on Development and Cooperation appointed Miss Flesch rapporteur for the other sections of the proposal. At the same meeting, it considered the motion for a resolution relating to these sections, and adopted it unanimously.

Present: Miss Flesch, chairman and rapporteur; Mrs Walz, Mr Lagorce, vice-chairmen; Mr Broeksz, Mr Deschamps, Mr Dondelinger, Sir Geoffrey de Freitas, Mr F.ämig, Mr Glinne, Mr Jakobsen, Mr Schuijt and Mr Vandewiele.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 100, 3.5.1976, p.36

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A

The Committee on Development and Cooperation hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on a communication from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council on renewal of the Convention between the European Economic Community and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council (COM(76) 103 final);
- having been consulted by the Council (Doc. 42/76),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Development and Cooperation and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (doc. 131/76),

Approves the proposal for a renewal of the Convention between the European Economic Community and UNRWA backdated to commence on 1 July 1975, (immediately after expiry of its predecessor) and renewable every year with or without amendment up to 30 June 1978 or the expiry of UNRWA's mandate whichever is the later.

B

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The proposed Convention between the European Economic Community and UNRWA is essentially the same as that which ran from July 1972 - July 1975, with certain improvements.
2. In summary, the European Economic Community undertakes by the Convention to provide UNRWA with
  - (a) Contributions of certain foodstuffs (flour, rice, milk powder and sugar); along with cash contributions needed to cover the operation of UNRWA's Supplementary feeding program;
  - (b) Contributions of sugar needed for UNRWA's Basic rations program, along with cash for inland transport and distribution costs. These contributions are not covered by the Community's annual food aid budget, but are covered by a special Council regulation on which Parliament has already expressed a favourable opinion at the April session.<sup>1</sup> This report is therefore only concerned with other items covered by the Convention.
3. The improvements to the proposed Convention include a change to its timing in order to make the renewable date coincide with the European Economic Community's financial year and to reduce confusion. The effect of this is that the initial period lasts 18 months (1.7.75 - 31.12.76) instead of 1 year.

The second improvement is to remove the automatic termination of the Convention at the end of 3 years. The Convention is renewable every year with or without amendment until 30 June 1978 or the expiry of UNRWA's mandate whichever is the later. Thus Council's annual scrutiny of the Convention is not affected but it will avoid the hiatus that we are at present experiencing with formal renewal of a 3-year Convention. Other improvements include a reduction of staff costs, and, at the special request of the Committee on Budgets, expression of financial amounts in units of account rather than dollars.

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<sup>1</sup>OJ No. C 100, 3.5.1976, p.36

4. UNRWA has shown itself to be co-operative and helpful, as well as efficient in distributing the aid given.
  
5. The costs of the programme for the initial period (which is the 18 months from 1.7.75 - 31.12.76) are 9,094m u.a. Parliament has already expressed a favourable opinion on the supply of sugar, costing 2,310m u.a., so the programme for which Parliament is here being asked for its approval will cost 6,784m u.a.

