COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 22.09.1995
COM(95) 438 final

PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DECISION ON THE COMMUNITY POSITION IN RELATION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE TO BE DECIDED ON BY THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL ESTABLISHED BY THE EUROPE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND HUNGARY

(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. The Europe Agreement establishing an Association between the European Communities and their Member States, on the one hand, and the Republic of Hungary, on the other hand, which entered into force on 1 February 1994, provides, in the Article 109 thereof, that the Association Council may decide to set up any other special committee or body that can assist it in carrying out its duties.

2. Though the establishment of a consultative mechanism for dialogue between the social and economic interest groups of the two Parties is not explicitly provided for in the aforementioned Europe Agreement, the Commission proposes that a Joint Consultative Committee representing the social and economic interest groups of both parties be set up by the Association Council in support of the keen interest expressed, in this respect, by the social partners from both sides, represented by the Economic and Social Committee, on the part of the Community, and by the National Council for the Reconciliation of Interests, on the part of Hungary. The Commission recalls that the possibility to set up such a mechanism is provided for in certain Europe Agreements with other Central and Eastern European countries which were signed later than the Agreement with Hungary.

3. The proposed Joint Consultative Committee is intended to constitute a forum for dialogue between the social partners of both sides which would be equally beneficial to the Hungarian social partners, who will familiarize themselves with the process of consultation taking place within the Economic and Social Committee and with the dialogue between the social partners in the European Union in general, and to the social partners of the European Union who will familiarize themselves with the social dimension of the reforms of the economic and social structures taking place in Hungary. The Association Council may also consult the proposed Joint Consultative Committee before taking decisions in areas of obvious social interest. Consultation of the committee remains, however, at the discretion of the Association Council.

4. The establishment of the proposed Joint Consultative Committee does not have any financial impact on the Community budget, the Hungarian participants being responsible for their own expenses and the expenses on the Community side being covered by the budget of the Economic and Social Committee.

5. The text of the proposal for a Council decision on the position to be taken by the Community in the Association Council, as provided for by Article 2(1) of the Council and Commission decision of 13.12.1993 on the conclusion of the aforementioned Europe Agreement, is attached hereto. The Council is asked to adopt this text.

PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DECISION ON THE COMMUNITY POSITION IN RELATION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE TO BE DECIDED ON BY THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL ESTABLISHED BY THE EUROPE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND HUNGARY

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing a European Community, the Treaty establishing a European Coal and Steel Community and the Treaty establishing a European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom),

Having regard to Article 2(1) of the Council and Commission Decision of 13.12.1993 on conclusion of the Europe Agreement establishing an Association between the European Communities and their Member States, on the one hand, and the Republic of Hungary, on the other hand,

Having regard to the Commission proposal,

Whereas Article 109 of the said Europe Agreement provides that the Association Council may decide to set up any special committee or body that can assist it in carrying out its duties,

Whereas dialogue and co-operation between economic and social interest groups in the European Union and Hungary can make a major contribution to the full implementation of the Europe Agreement,

Whereas it seems appropriate that such co-operation should be between the members of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities and Hungary's National Council for the Reconciliation of Interests,

HEREBY DECIDES AS FOLLOWS:

The position to be adopted by the Community within the Association Council established by Article 104 of the Europe Agreement establishing an Association between the European Communities and their Member States, on the one hand, and the Republic of Hungary, on the other hand, in relation to the establishment of a Joint Consultative Committee shall be based on the draft decision of the said Association Council which is annexed to the present decision.

Done at Brussels,

EU-Hungary Europe Agreement
Association Council

DRAFT
DECISION N° .../
of the Association Council
on the setting-up of a
Joint Consultative Committee

The Association Council

having regard to the Europe Agreement of 16 December 1991, and in particular Article 109 thereof,

whereas dialogue and cooperation between economic and social interest groups in the European Union and Hungary can make a major contribution to the development of EU/Hungary relations,

whereas it seems appropriate that such cooperation should be between the members of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities and Hungary's National Council for the Reconciliation of Interests,

has adopted the following decision:

Article 1

A Joint Consultative Committee is hereby established with the task of promoting dialogue and cooperation between the economic and social interest groups in the European Union and Hungary. Such dialogue and cooperation shall encompass all economic and social aspects of relations between the European Union and Hungary, as they arise in the context of implementation of the Europe Agreement. The Joint Consultative Committee shall express its views on questions arising in these areas.

Article 2

The Joint Consultative Committee shall comprise six representatives of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities and six representatives of economic and social interest groups within Hungary's National Council for the Reconciliation of Interests.

The Joint Consultative Committee shall carry out its activities on the basis of consultation by the Association Council or on its own initiative.

Members shall be chosen to ensure that the Joint Consultative Committee is as faithful a reflection as possible of the various economic and social interest groups in both the European Union and Hungary.

The Joint Consultative Committee shall be co-chaired by a member of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities and a Hungarian member.

The Joint Consultative Committee shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure.

Article 3

The Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities, on the one hand, and the economic and social interest groups within Hungary's National Council for the Reconciliation of Interests, on the other hand, shall each defray the expenses they incur by reason of their participation in the meetings of the Committee and of its working groups with regard to staff, travel and subsistence expenditure and to postal and telecommunications expenditure.

Expenditure in connection with interpreting at meetings, translation and reproduction of documents shall be borne by the Economic and Social Committee, with the exception of expenditure in connection with interpreting or translation into or from Hungarian, which shall be borne by the economic and social interest groups within Hungary's National Council for the Reconciliation of Interests.

Other expenditure relating to the material organisation of meetings shall be borne by the Party which hosts the meetings.

Done at Brussels, ...

The secretaries **The Chairman**

for the European Union

for the Republic of Hungary

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DOCUMENTS

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