

# COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 12 August 1971

SG/GT/Bât. (71) PV 13



COE078631

## MINUTES

### OF THE 13th MEETING OF THE WORKING PARTY TO STUDY THE PROBLEM OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE BUILDINGS (1)

held in Paris at the offices of Mr. BERNARD, Architect  
from 3 p.m. on 26 July  
to 1 p.m. on 27 July 1971

Mr. de Grave took the Chair at 3 p.m. on 26 July 1971 and welcomed Mr. Lange, expressing pleasure at his return to the Working Party.

He announced that Mr. Amatucci had sent a telegram apologising for his absence on health grounds.

#### I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted in the form set out in Appendix II (SG/GT/Bât.(71) OJ 13).

#### II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 12th MEETING

Mr. de Grave mentioned a suggestion by Mr. Amatucci that the word "probably" be added to paragraph (a) of the Chairman's statement quoted on page 9. The text would then read as follows:

".....

- a) more compact lay-out, as a result of which it will probably be possible to keep the cost (at 1 October 1970 prices) within the limit laid down; ..."

Mr. Hunt said that this amendment had already been made to the text of the report to the Committee of Ministers.

./.

(1) list of participants appended.

22.965  
08

Mr. de Grave recalled that when the minutes of the 11th meeting were being examined (page 2), he had pointed out, on the subject of communications, that Mr. Lange seemed to have been inaccurately reported. He asked Mr. Lange whether or not this was the case.

Mr. Lange thanked the Chairman and his colleagues for their best wishes for his recovery, passed on by the Director General. On the question of communications, his feeling, as Mr. de Grave had suggested, was that vertical communications were to be preferred to horizontal ones, especially in the office areas.

Subject to these alterations, the minutes of the 12th meeting (SG/GT/Bât.(71) PV 12) were approved.

### III. EXAMINATION OF THE PLANS AS REVISED BY THE ARCHITECT IN THE LIGHT OF THE DISCUSSIONS OF 10 and 11 JUNE 1971

Before embarking upon this examination, Mr. de Grave asked whether there were any comments on the report of the joint meeting between the Ministers' Deputies and the Working Party, which had been sent to them amongst the working papers for this meeting.

There were no comments.

Mr. de Grave said that a statement had been made at the 200th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies by their Chairman in office, Mr. Fältheim.

Mr. Fältheim had, in particular, reported the statements made by Mr. Bernard and by the Chairman of the Working Party at the joint meeting held on 11 June 1971 between the Ministers' Deputies and the Working Party.

The Ministers' Deputies had taken note of their Chairman's statement and, at the close of their meeting, agreed with the Working Party that the architect should go ahead on the lines envisaged with a view to drawing up the final construction plans.

Mr. de Grave also announced that he had received the details of requirements drawn up by the Secretariat and had studied them. He would have a number of comments to make later, mainly concerning:

- the number of offices planned on the same level as the Assembly Chamber;
- access to the committee rooms;
- the number of seats in the Assembly Chamber;
- the number of interpreters' booths in relation to the number of languages used.

Turning to the agenda, he observed that the purpose of the meeting was to hear a statement by Mr. Bernard on his revision of the preliminary plans in the light of the comments made at the last meeting and at the joint meeting with the Ministers' Deputies. The Working Party would then examine the new plans.

Mr. Bernard explained that the new version of the preliminary plans took account of the comments made at previous meetings and of the requirements of the European Parliament, as they had emerged from his meeting with Mr. Ginestet, a senior official of the European Parliament, and Mr. Hunt.

The European Parliament wanted as many offices as possible on the Assembly Chamber level, so as to provide adequate accommodation for the staff of the Presidents, the Office of the Clerk of the Consultative Assembly, the Secretary General of the European Parliament and the Assembly services.

As a result, he had had to make adjustments to the layout so as to provide:

- (a) an office area on the Assembly Chamber level;
- (b) a series of committee rooms (the largest), including the Committee of Ministers' room on the next level above.

This substantial change meant altering the main entrance and lowering the Assembly Chamber floor.

With regard to the Assembly Chamber, he had been unable to obtain a firm indication of the number of seats required in the event of the Communities' being enlarged. The seating requirements affected not only the overall size of the Assembly Chamber itself but also the surrounding area and annexes. He must therefore have a definite figure as soon as possible.

After detailed discussion, in which MM. de Grave, Peyrot and Hunt took part, the Working Party finally decided to abide by the original proposals in the report, viz., maximum of 400 seats and seating for 300 initially. 300 seats would be sufficient for the requirements of:

- the European Parliament: 208 seats for parliamentarians (allowing for the enlargement of the Communities);
- the Consultative Assembly: 140 seats, plus about 50 for substitutes;
- the Commission of the European Communities: 10 seats;
- the Council of Ministers (or Committee of Ministers): 14 seats.

Over and above these figures a further 50 seats for officials might be added later, as required, to the rostrum.

Mr. Bernard raised the question of languages, with particular reference to the number of languages to be used. It appeared that, for the time being, the European Parliament was unable to give an official reply, but he had been told unofficially that provision was being made in the premises at present under construction in Luxembourg for interpretation in seven languages.

This being so, the Working Party felt that 11 rooms and the Assembly Chamber should be fitted with 7 booths plus a control room, the three smaller rooms being restricted to five booths plus a control room.

It was noted that these additional facilities raised a financial problem which would have to be settled by the Committee of Ministers. The cost of installing and equipping the additional interpreters' booths had been estimated at 2,500,000 French francs.

Turning to the problem of the Library, Mr. Bernard explained that there had been a revision of requirements and that, whereas the original plans had been for a conventional-type library, the Secretariat seemed to have changed its mind in favour of incorporating all the documentation centres as well. The new specifications had yet to be worked out in the light of the comments made by the expert, Mr. Bleton.

To sum up, as the Working Party would see from the plans he was about to submit to them, the building was slightly different from the one he had described to them in June:

- the Assembly and the European Parliament were being given the offices they needed during sessions on the same level as the Assembly Chamber;
- above this level were the Library and the committee rooms;
- the top two levels were set aside for offices.

After this statement, Mr. de Grave asked to have the following:

- a flow diagram showing how each of the various areas was to be reached and indicating how access was to be controlled;
- the exact number of parking places (the present provision for 300 in the basement with a possible further 150 beneath the forecourt seemed inadequate).

He asked also that a chart be prepared showing how the floor space was divided up and that a study be made of the problem of documents traffic.

He then asked the Working Party to turn its attention to document SG/GT/Bât.(71) 2 dealing with the assessment of items not included in the financial estimate.

At the Chairman's request, Mr. Clamer explained that the figures given did not include:

- the cost of purchasing the land (10,000 F), the cost of surveying (32,000 F) and drilling probes (25,000 F), i.e. 67,000 F;
- the increase in the cost of extension of the automatic telephone-switchboard, 1,000,000 instead of 500,000 F;
- a further amount of approximately 1 million francs to be added in respect of the purchase of furniture and equipment, as recommended by the Working Party at its meeting of 10 June;
- the cost of purchase and installation of closed circuit television for debates in the Assembly Chamber;
- the cost of purchase and installation of a documents transport system;
- the cost of **simultaneous** interpretation equipment for seven languages instead of four.

Having heard these explanations, Mr. de Grave asked that the document in question be revised to incorporate these various items.

He noted, following a point raised by Mr. Ovtchikov, that although it had been decided against having air-conditioning in the offices, the Assembly Chamber and the committee rooms would be air-conditioned; he hoped, however, that allowance would be made in the main fabric of the building for the subsequent installations of air-conditioning throughout.

The Working Party then proceeded to examine the plans and the model showing the alterations to the original preliminary plans. Various members of the Working Party made comments and offered criticisms. The meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.

#### IV. OTHER BUSINESS

##### Working methods and financial aspects

The meeting was resumed at 9.30 a.m. on 27 July in the absence of Mr. **Bernard** and his assistants, who were engaged in bringing the plans into line with the comments made by certain members of the Working Party the previous day.

Mr. de Grave was deeply concerned at the constant alterations to the preliminary plans and the failure to arrive at a definite layout. He referred to the brief the Working Party had been given by the Committee of Ministers, outlined the changes the preliminary plans had undergone so far and voiced his fears as to whether the agreed schedule could be kept to and expenditure contained within the limits laid down.

Mr. Wilby was in broad agreement with Mr. de Grave but felt personally that it was not the Working Party's business to take the architect's place. Its functions were simply:

- to act as professional adviser to the Committee of Ministers, so as to ensure that the specifications were not departed from and to ensure achievement of the most rational and functional layout possible;
- to keep a check on expenditure incurred and to contain it within the limits laid down;
- to see that the agreed schedule was kept to.

Mr. Lange and Mr. Peyrot both agreed with Mr. Wilby.

Mr. de Grave also endorsed Mr. Wilby's view and asked:

- that the Working Party be restored to its original numbers by replacing MM. Kitsikis and Bernard as soon as possible;
- that the Working Party's next meeting be arranged for 10.15 a.m. on Friday, 1 October 1971 at the offices of Mr. Bernard;
- that in order that this meeting might be effective, the members of the Working Party be supplied by 20 September 1971 with the following papers:
  - the chart showing floor-space areas and the flow diagrams for movement by Ministers/parliamentarians, journalists, the public, officials, cars and documents;
  - the series of plans of the various levels showing areas so that it could be verified whether the specifications were being **observed** and whether communications between the various departments, parts of the building and levels corresponded to the flow diagrams;
  - the architectural reply to the objections raised by the Ministers' Deputies, the Working Party and the Secretariat at the meetings in June and July 1971, explaining the reasons for the new layout.

Mr. Hunt said that the Secretariat was very much alive to the arguments put forward by the Chairman and assured the Working Party that every effort would be made to see that the relevant documents were available by 20 September 1971.

The French Government had been asked to appoint a replacement for Mr. Bernard but, despite a reminder sent to the Permanent Representative in mid-July, had not yet replied.

./.

The Secretariat shared responsibility for the alterations to the preliminary plans, which were due to new proposals put forward by the European Parliament.

One of the main reasons for the European Parliament's second thoughts was the recent agreement in Brussels on the enlargement of the Communities. The European Parliament's new requirements had to be met as far as possible, though this did not mean any increase in the total area initially provided for in respect of the Parliament.

To meet the new requirements, it would be sufficient to divide up the reserves originally allowed for and to allocate them to cover the European Parliament's various requirements.

The Working Party should urge that the planning and building schedule set out on pages 18-19 of the architect's report of 2 June 1971 (SG/GT/Bât.(71) 1) be kept to.

Finally, the Working Party should not overlook the increase in the Secretariat's staff since 1967 and the further increase to be expected between now and 1975. There was no doubt that by then the amount of space at the Council of Europe's disposal would not be sufficient for its needs.

On the arrival of Mr. Bernard, Mr. de Grave informed him of the conclusions reached by the Working Party and impressed upon him the importance of keeping to the planning schedule and of sending members of the Working Party the plans and diagrams by 20 September 1971. The papers should also include the new, revised estimate.

The financial problem was then discussed. The Working Party noted that the estimates had been based on October 1970 prices and that the Committee of Ministers should be informed of the rise in prices and, consequently, in the cost of the project.

The Working Party then turned to the architect's new sketches and thanked Mr. Bernard for the efforts made by his staff since the previous evening to get the new plans ready. It was explained that neither the Secretariat nor the Working Party wished to interfere in architectural matters but that both appreciated having a hand in the development of the project.

Mr. de Grave thought that the final version of the plans should now emerge and reminded the architect that the Working Party would like to know what alterations would have to be made to the estimate as a result of changes in the plans, it being essential to avoid additional expenditure (October 1970 prices).

Mr. Bernard, after commenting on the plans which he had just submitted, confirmed that he would keep to the schedule he had drawn up and assured the Working Party that he would make every effort to provide them with large-scale extracts from the final plans in good time, so that they could check whether the layout was functional and whether the specifications had been complied with.

The Chairman noted this statement. The Working Party then proceeded to examine the new sketches in detail and approved them as a whole.

The Working Party asked Mr. Peyrot to prepare an outline report and to send it to the Chairman. The purpose of this report would be to set forth the Working Party's opinion on the architect's final outline plan. The outline report would be circulated to members of the Working Party before the meeting on 1 October 1971.

V. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The Working Party decided to hold its next meeting in Paris on Friday, 1 October at 10.15 a.m.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.



A N N E X E IA P P E N D I X ILISTE DES PARTICIPANTSLIST OF PARTICIPANTS

BELGIQUE  
BELGIUM

M. A. de GRÂVE, Président

Directeur Général des Bâtiments  
d'Etat, Ministère des Travaux  
Publics,  
Résidence Palace  
155, rue de la Loi  
BRUXELLES 4

REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE  
D'ALLEMAGNE  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF  
GERMANY

M. K. LANGE

Ministerialrat  
Dipl.Ing.  
Bundesschatz Ministerium  
Baubteilung  
BONN  
Rheindorferstr. 108

ROYAUME UNI  
UNITED KINGDOM

Mr. G.T. WILBY

Senior Estate Surveyor  
Ministry of Public  
Buildings and Works  
Directorate of Estate  
Management Overseas,  
Whitgift Centre,  
Wellesley Road,  
CROYDON, Surrey, CR9 3LY

SUISSE  
SWITZERLAND

M. F. PEYROT

ancien Conseiller d'Etat  
11, rue de Beaumont  
CH 1206 GENEVE

Architecte  
Architect

M. H. BERNARD

Inspecteur Général des Bâtiments  
Civils et des Palais Nationaux  
44, Avenue d'Iéna  
75 - PARIS (16°)

Conseil de l'Europe  
Council of Europe

Mr. S.C. HUNT

Deputy to the Director General  
of Administration and Finance

M. R. CLAMER

Chef de la Division des Services  
Techniques et des Conférences

Etaient également présents / Also present :

M. OVTCHNIKOV

Ingénieur en chef du Bureau d'Etudes CECOB

M. F. DEBEVER

Adjoint de l'Architecte

M. P. D'HAUTHUILLE

Collaborateur de l'Architecte

Excusé pour raison de santé / Absent for reasons of health :

M. I.E. AMATUCCI

Ingénieur

A P P E N D I X    II

AGENDA

of the 13th meeting of the  
Working Party to study the problem of  
Council of Europe buildings

held in Paris from 3 p.m. on 26 July  
to 1 p.m. on 27 July 1971

---

1. Adoption of the agenda  
    [SG/GT/Bât.(71) OJ 13]
2. Approval of the minutes of the 12th meeting  
    [SG/GT/Bât.(71) PV 12]
3. Examination of the plans as revised by the architect in the  
    light of the discussions of 10 and 11 June 1971
4. Other business
5. Date and place of next meeting.