

СРЯДА 24 СЕПТЕМБРИ 2008 Г.
 MIÉRCOLES 24 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2008
 STŘEDA, 24. ZÁŘÍ 2008
 ONSDAG DEN 24. SEPTEMBER 2008
 MITTWOCH, 24. SEPTEMBER 2008
 KOLMAPÄEV, 24. SEPTEMBER 2008
 ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ 24 ΣΕΠΤΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ 2008
 WEDNESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2008
 MERCREDI 24 SEPTEMBRE 2008
 MERCOLEDI' 24 SETTEMBRE 2008
 TREŠDIENA, 2008. GADA 24. SEPTEMBRIS
 2008 M. RUGSĖJO 24 D., TREČIADIENIS
 2008. SZEPTEMBER 24., SZERDA
 L-ERBGHA, 24 TA' SETTEMBRU 2008
 WOENSDAG 24 SEPTEMBER 2008
 ŚRODA, 24 WRZEŚNIA 2008
 QUARTA-FEIRA, 24 DE SETEMBRO DE 2008
 MIERCURI 24 SEPTEMBRIE 2008
 STREDA 24. SEPTEMBRA 2008
 SREDA, 24. SEPTEMBER 2008
 KESKIVIikko 24. SYYSKUUTA 2008
 ONSDAGEN DEN 24 SEPTEMBER 2008

VORSITZ: HANS-GERT PÖTTERING
Präsident

1 - Eröffnung der Sitzung

(Die Sitzung wird um 9.00 Uhr eröffnet.)

2 - Erklärung des Präsidenten

Der Präsident. – Mit großer Traurigkeit haben wir von dem dramatischen Ereignis in Kauhajoki im Westen Finnlands erfahren, wo elf Menschen auf sehr tragische Weise in einer Schule ums Leben gekommen sind. Mehrere Menschen wurden durch den Attentäter schwer verletzt, der sich anschließend selbst richtete.

Im Namen des Europäischen Parlaments möchte ich mein tiefempfundenes Beileid und meine Solidarität mit den Familien und allen Verwandten der Opfer aussprechen. Alle Opfer waren schuldlose junge Schülerinnen und Schüler einer Berufsschule für den Dienstleistungsbereich.

Diese Tragödie findet weniger als ein Jahr nach einem ähnlich schrecklichen Amoklauf in der Hochschule von Jokela statt. Finnland gilt, wie wir alle wissen, als friedliches und eines der sichersten Länder in Europa. Ich verstehe daher, dass die Menschen in Finnland sprachlos unter Schock stehen, und teile ihr Entsetzen.

Auch wenn derartige Bluttaten bedauerlicherweise oft ähnlichen Mustern folgen, war es auch dieses Mal trotz der Ankündigung des Amoklaufs im Internet nicht möglich, die Tragödie rechtzeitig zu verhindern. Es ist unsere Aufgabe als verantwortungsvolle Politiker in Europa und in allen Mitgliedstaaten, unser Möglichstes zu tun, damit solche Bluttaten rechtzeitig erkannt und verhindert werden können.

Ich möchte noch einmal für das Europäische Parlament unser tiefstes Mitgefühl und unsere Solidarität mit den Opfern und den Familien zum Ausdruck bringen.

3-006-500

3 - Übermittlung von Abkommenstexten durch den Rat: siehe Protokoll

3-007

4 - Prioritäten des Europäischen Parlaments für das Gesetzgebungs- und Arbeitsprogramm der Kommission für 2009 (Aussprache)

3-008

Der Präsident. – Als nächster Punkt folgt die Aussprache über Prioritäten des Europäischen Parlaments für das Gesetzgebungs- und Arbeitsprogramm der Kommission für 2009.

3-009

Hartmut Nassauer, im Namen der PPE-DE-Fraktion. – Herr Präsident, meine sehr verehrten Damen und Herren! Wir sprechen heute Morgen über das Gesetzgebungs- und Arbeitsprogramm der Kommission für das kommende Jahr – ein Wahljahr. Im nächsten Jahr wird ein neues Parlament gewählt, es wird eine neue Kommission geben. Wir alle stehen zur Disposition, sogar die Kommissare, selbst der Kommissionspräsident, der bedauerlicherweise heute Morgen nicht da sein kann, um sein Programm persönlich vorzutragen.

Im Wahljahr haben wir stets die Versuchung, es allen Wählern recht zu machen, vorausgesetzt wir wissen, was die Wähler wollen, oder wir wissen mindestens, was sie wollen sollen. Also: Wie soll die Europäische Union im kommenden Jahr ihren Europäern gegenüberreten? Wie alle Politiker haben wir die Aufgabe, auf die Sorgen der Menschen Antworten zu finden. Die Europäische Union hat dazu auch eine hervorragende Gelegenheit. Wir haben Möglichkeiten, auf die Sorgen und Nöte der Menschen zu antworten.

Die Europäische Union hat in Europa über Jahrzehnte Frieden gesichert – eine Grundsorge in der ganzen Geschichte der Menschheit. Wir können Antworten finden auf Bedrohungen von außen durch den internationalen Terrorismus oder auf das Verhalten von großen Nachbarstaaten, die die Regeln des Völkerrechts gelegentlich mit Füßen treten. Wir können dazu beitragen, dass Europa mit Energie nachhaltig und sicher versorgt wird, und gleichzeitig können wir das Mögliche zum Schutz des Klimas tun. Wir können für die soziale Sicherheit in Europa sorgen und für Gerechtigkeit, indem wir die Wachstumskräfte unserer erfolgreichen Wirtschaft freisetzen, für Innovationen sorgen, die Wettbewerbsfähigkeit der europäischen Wirtschaft gewährleisten und damit die Möglichkeit bieten, dass Arbeitsplätze entstehen und gesichert werden. Europa kann ein Hort der Sicherheit in einer sich wandelnden Welt werden. Zu vielen Einzelheiten werden meine Kolleginnen und Kollegen noch Stellung nehmen.

Was sind die Voraussetzungen für erfolgreiches Handeln in der Europäischen Union? Ich will zwei nennen: Erstens brauchen wir dazu geeignete institutionelle Grundlagen, das heißt, wir brauchen entschieden den Vertrag von Lissabon. Der schafft mehr Transparenz, mehr Demokratie, mehr Handlungsfähigkeit und versetzt damit die Europäische Union besser in die Lage, ihren Aufgaben gerecht zu werden. Wir alle können an die irischen Bürgerinnen und Bürger nur appellieren, sich die Sache mit diesem Vertrag noch einmal gründlich zu überlegen. Ich teile viele Kritik, die es an der Europäischen Union gibt. Aber es ist doch unübersehbar, dass gerade dieser Vertrag auf vieles Kritische in der Europäischen Union gute Antworten gibt. Deswegen brauchen wir den Vertrag.

Zweitens brauchen wir aber auch die Zustimmung der Bürgerinnen und Bürger in Europa, die wir in erschreckendem Ausmaß verloren haben. Das ist sichtbar geworden bei den Referenden in Frankreich, den Niederlanden und nicht zuletzt auch in Irland. Es ist nicht die Frage, ob wir mehr oder weniger Europa brauchen, wie ich Gelegenheit hatte, dem Kommissionspräsidenten kürzlich zu sagen. Die Frage ist, wo wir Europa brauchen und wo nicht. Das muss entschieden werden! Wenn ich ein Beispiel nennen darf – ich gebe zu, es ist mein Leib- und Magenbeispiel –: Bodenschutz ist nichts, was wir in Europa brauchen. Bodenschutz macht Arbeit, aber er schafft keine Arbeit, jedenfalls keine Arbeitsplätze. Deswegen wird Europa dann Erfolg und Zustimmung haben, wenn es dort handelt, wo zwingend gemeinschaftlich in Europa gehandelt werden muss und wo europäisches Handeln dem nationalstaatlichen Handeln überlegen ist.

Deswegen glaube ich, dass die Kommission gut beraten ist, wenn sie gerade im kommenden Jahr der Frage der Subsidiarität ihres Handelns mehr Bedeutung beimisst, als das bisher der Fall gewesen ist. Dann wird Europa Akzeptanz haben, und wir alle werden wahrscheinlich von mehr Bürgerinnen und Bürgern wiedergewählt werden, als das bei der letzten Wahl der Fall war.

3-010

Hannes Swoboda, im Namen der PSE-Fraktion. – Herr Präsident, Frau Vizepräsidentin! Die Europäische Kommission hat in den letzten Jahren in vielen Bereichen – so in der Umwelt- und Klimapolitik – Hervorragendes geleistet, und wir sind in diesem Parlament dabei, dies in Gesetze umzusetzen. Was aber die Ausgestaltung des gemeinsamen Marktes betrifft, sehen wir große Mängel, insbesondere, was die soziale Dimension betrifft.

Die aktuelle Finanzkrise gibt ja genug Anlass, darüber zu diskutieren, und wir haben das beim Bericht Rasmussen auch getan. Nicht nur ich, meine Fraktion und viele andere sind tief enttäuscht über das, was Kommissar McCreevy hier gesagt oder eben nicht gesagt hat. Das ist das große Problem.

Wenn man heute die Leitartikel konservativer Zeitungen liest – ob das jetzt die Financial Times oder die Frankfurter Allgemeine ist –, so könnten die Schlagzeilen von sozialdemokratischen Fraktionen in diesem Haus geschrieben worden sein, sicherlich nicht vom Kommissionspräsidenten und schon gar nicht von Herrn McCreevy.

In der Financial Times zum Beispiel ist zu lesen:

3-011

‘Modern history’s greatest regulatory failure’ or ‘After the crash: why global capitalism needs global rules’.

3-012

Und während das *Golden Calf* des Künstlers Damien Hirst einen Aktionsrekordpreis erzielt hat, haben die Finanzinstitute Rekordpleiten erzielt, was die Financial Times zu der Aussage führte:

3-013

‘How we were all blinded by the golden calf’.

3-014

Das gilt leider auch für die Kommission, zumindest für die Mitglieder der Kommission, die für diese Fragen zuständig wären. Der nicht sehr linke Chefredakteur Frank Schirrmacher hat in der Frankfurter Allgemeinen Zeitung geschrieben: „Die neoliberale Ideologie hat einen Vernunft- und Glückszusammenhang zwischen Individuum und Globalisierung hergestellt, der ausschließlich ökonomisch begründet war“, und er beklagt „die Selbstzerstörung des sozialen Wohlfahrtsdiskurses“.

Nur ein bisschen von dem aus den Worten des Kommissionspräsidenten oder des Herrn Kommissar McCreevy wäre ganz gut gewesen. Ich verlange ja gar nicht so viel linke Kritik oder Selbstkritik, aber was wir immer wieder verlangen, was auch Martin Schulz vor kurzem ganz deutlich gesagt hat, ist, dass die soziale Dimension gestärkt wird und dass alle Kommissionsvorhaben auf ihre sozialen Konsequenzen hinterfragt werden. Das passiert leider noch immer nicht. Hier gibt die Kommission keine Antwort.

Was wir auch verlangen, ist eine stärkere gemeinsame Wirtschaftspolitik in Europa, die auch helfen könnte, solche Krisen, wie sie jetzt von Amerika herüberkommen, eher abzuschwächen oder zu vermeiden. Auch hier ist die Kommission etwas säumig. Und wo die Kommission – es tut mir leid, dass ich Sie anspreche, die Sie am wenigsten dafür können – auch versagt, ist, dass sie angesichts der wachsenden Ungleichheit in Europa entweder selbst nichts macht oder die nationalen Regierungen nicht zum Handeln auffordert. Wir werden das am Nachmittag auch bei der Frage der Energiearmut diskutieren, die wir immer wieder angesprochen haben und bei der wir von der Kommission keine Antwort bekommen, bei der es keine wirklichen Initiativen gibt.

Es kann nicht sein, dass die Kommission, die für die Inklusion, den Einschluss, und für soziale Gerechtigkeit im Prinzip eintritt, dann zuschaut, wie in dieser Phase des Wirtschafts- und Gesellschaftslebens die Ungleichheit in Europa immer stärker wächst. Das kann nicht sein, das darf nicht akzeptiert werden!

Die Bürgerinnen und Bürger unseres Europas erwarten, dass die Kommission diese Nöte und diese Sorgen ernst nimmt, aufnimmt, entsprechende Vorschläge macht und – wie zum Beispiel bei der Finanzkrise – auch als moralische Autorität auftritt. Es sollte nicht dem Ratspräsidenten, dem französischen Präsidenten Sarkozy, überlassen werden, hier klare Worte zu sprechen, sondern das sollte auch von der Kommission, vom Kommissionspräsidenten und auch vom zuständigen Kommissar kommen.

Sie, Frau Vizepräsidentin, bemühen sich sehr redlich – und wir unterstützen und anerkennen das voll –, dem Bürger die Arbeit der Kommission zu vermitteln. Aber der Inhalt muss auch stimmen. Die Kommissare müssen Ihnen auch die entsprechenden Inhalte geben. Was die Finanzkrise, die Regulierung, die soziale Dimension betrifft, so liefert Ihnen die soziale Marktwirtschaft zu wenig Inhalte. Daher werden Sie immer wieder Schwierigkeiten haben, das den Bürgern gegenüber mit Glaubwürdigkeit zu vertreten.

Wir sagen Ja zur ökologischen Neugestaltung unserer Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft, da sind wir voll an Ihrer Seite und werden das auch umsetzen. Aber ich bitte Sie wirklich eindringlich: Wir brauchen, wenn Sie so wollen, ein Zurück oder

ein Voran zu einer Politik der sozialen Verantwortung, auch im Rahmen der Kommission, denn es kommt auf diesem Gebiet zu wenig, und das zu spät. Schauen Sie, dass Sie das in den nächsten Monaten noch korrigieren können!

3-015

Silvana Koch-Mehrin, *im Namen der ALDE-Fraktion*. – Herr Präsident, Frau Vizepräsidentin! Nächstes Jahr ist in der Tat ein sehr wichtiges Jahr für die Europäische Union, denn 2009 stehen die Wahlen zum Europäischen Parlament an, und auch ansonsten wird die große Frage zu beantworten sein, wie es mit dieser Europäischen Union weitergehen wird.

Die Wahlen finden statt, das wissen wir, aber auf welcher Grundlage wir dann im Anschluss zusammenarbeiten werden, das wissen wir noch nicht genau. Das ist etwas, worauf die Bürgerinnen und Bürger zu Recht eine Antwort erwarten. Wie stellen wir uns aus den europäischen Institutionen heraus die Zukunft Europas vor?

Das Legislativ- und Arbeitsprogramm der Kommission ist natürlich eine Möglichkeit, darauf umfassend zu antworten. Darum haben wir als Parlament ja auch beschlossen, zunächst einmal unsere Anforderungen an das Arbeitsprogramm der Kommission zu formulieren, bevor sie es uns vorstellt und wir dann darauf reagieren können.

Die Europäische Union steht einerseits vor diesen sich selbst betreffenden großen Herausforderungen. Wie geht es weiter? Andererseits passiert in der Welt so vieles, was die Bürger tatsächlich in ihrem alltäglichen Leben betrifft, wie steigende Energiepreise und die Krise an den Finanzmärkten. Da bedarf es klarer Worte Europas, wie die Europäische Union darauf reagieren will. Dazu braucht man Überzeugung und Führungsstärke.

Deswegen ist es wichtig, dass die Europäische Kommission sehr klar formuliert, wie sie auf diese Krisen reagieren möchte, und im Arbeitsprogramm das vorlegt, wo dann klar die politischen Prioritäten festzustellen sind.

Wichtig ist dabei aus unserer Sicht, dass die Kommission vor allem die Wettbewerbsfähigkeit der Europäischen Union im Auge behält. Gerade in einem stärker globalen Markt ist es wichtig, dass wir dies nach wie vor als eine politische Priorität formulieren.

Genauso wichtig sind die Stärkung und der Erhalt der Bürgerrechte, die Ausweitung der Forschung und eine Antwort auf die Klimaänderungen. Das sind weitere Anliegen, die dem Parlament auch schon seit Jahren sehr wichtig sind. Diese Felder sollte die Kommission definieren, und vor allem sollte sie auch darauf achten, dass Europa dann mögliche Erfolge auch für sich reklamieren kann. Denn bisher ist es ja oft so, dass, wenn etwas passiert, was im Sinne und zum Wohle der Bürger ist, dies nach wie vor von den Mitgliedstaaten als eigener Erfolg verbucht wird. Das ist etwas, wo ich mir wünschen würde, dass die Kommission vielleicht einmal ein Augenmerk darauf richtet.

Insofern freue ich mich sehr, Frau Vizepräsidentin, dass Sie heute hier sind – und dass Kommissionspräsident Barroso, wie vielleicht auch der eine oder andere Kollege hier im Parlament, etwas anderes auf der Agenda hatte, muss man erstmal so hinnehmen –, weil Sie ja diejenige sind, die die Kommunikation in der Europäischen Union vorantreibt, und vielleicht wäre es eine Möglichkeit, dass das, was wir hier debattieren, nämlich das Arbeitsprogramm der Kommission, auch in den nationalen Parlamenten durchgängig beraten wird, damit wir schon von vornherein diese Art von Zusammenspiel haben. Im deutschen Bundestag erfolgt das inzwischen in den meisten Ausschüssen, aber das ist etwas, was sicherlich europaweit auch ins Plenum der nationalen Parlamente gehört.

Es ist die Stunde Europas. Eigentlich liegt es auf der Hand. Wir haben globale Herausforderungen. Europa kann darauf nur gemeinsam reagieren.

3-016

Eva Lichtenberger, *im Namen der Verts/ALE-Fraktion*. – Herr Präsident, werte Kolleginnen und Kollegen, meine Damen und Herren von der Kommission! Die Diskussion über das Arbeitsprogramm ist wie üblich die Stunde der Wahrheit. Hier sehen wir, was die Erklärungen wert sind, die bei verschiedensten Anlässen öffentlich abgegeben werden. Wenn man sich nun das Programm genauer anschaut, sieht man leider, dass diesen Ankündigungen nicht Rechnung getragen wird, wenn es um die Finanzielle Vorausschau oder um die Planung der Kommission geht.

Wir haben ein Programm in Sachen Klimaschutz vor uns liegen, als hätte es die Bali-Konferenz nie gegeben, als hätte sich Europa nicht als notwendiger Vorreiter auf globaler Ebene profiliert, um die Gefahren der Klimaänderung abzuwehren. Die Autoindustrie setzt sich mit einer Vollbremsung durch, und die Kommission schaut dabei zu. Man gibt den Mitgliedstaaten Recht und schaut zu, wie sie einander überbieten, wer noch niedrigere Werte für seine eigene Industrie fordert und wer noch mehr gegenüber der eigenen Autoindustrie nachgibt.

Auch im Industriesektor haben wir leider generell das Gleiche zu beobachten. Nach wie vor wird auf die Atomenergie gesetzt. Sie frisst Kapazität, Geld, Energie auf. Für alle unsere innovativen Betriebe im Bereich der erneuerbaren Energie bleiben sowohl vom Engagement im Energiesektor auf der europäischen Ebene als auch von den finanziellen Mitteln und von der Planung nur noch *peanuts* übrig. So geht das nicht! Wenn wir Vorreiter werden sollen, dann müssen wir klar und deutlich Zeichen setzen, und der Schwerpunkt muss dort sein, wo er notwendig ist.

In Arbeitsverhältnissen haben wir leider das gleiche Problem. Ich kann nur mehr eine Sache ganz deutlich betonen: Die Arbeitszeitrichtlinie, so wie sie jetzt beschlossen worden ist und bei der hier ganz offensichtlich nachgegeben wird, ist ein Schlag ins Gesicht aller jungen Leute, die sich eine Zukunft aufbauen wollen, weil man so mit Arbeitskraft nicht umgehen kann.

Zum Schluss die Debatte um die Finanzmärkte. Ich kann meinem Vorredner Swoboda nur Recht geben. Hier in diesem Haus sitzen die letzten Anhänger der These von der Selbstregulierung der Finanzmärkte. Sogar in den USA denkt man über Regulierungen nach, aber hier tut man so, als würde das alles von selbst geschehen. Unser notwendiges Signal wäre die Bereitschaft gewesen, einen soliden Rahmen zu schaffen, damit die Finanzmärkte nicht mehr so gestaltet werden können, wie das jetzt der Fall ist, wo unsinnige Finanzprodukte Vorrang vor einer soliden Wirtschaftspolitik bekommen. Ich bin von diesem Programm sehr enttäuscht.

3-017

Ilda Figueiredo, em nome do Grupo GUE/NGL. – Senhor Presidente, neste momento tão preocupante em que se enfrentam desafios vitais para as populações dos nossos países da União Europeia e a nível mundial, não é aceitável que a Comissão Europeia não apresente propostas que façam uma ruptura com as políticas que conduziram ao agravamento da situação social, ao aumento do desemprego e do trabalho precário e mal pago, à crise financeira, alimentar e energética, que afecta sobretudo países de economia mais débil e camadas mais frágeis da população, à militarização crescente das relações internacionais, com todos os perigos que isso representa para a paz mundial.

Mesmo sabendo que há uma clara oposição e resistência dos trabalhadores, consumidores e utilizadores dos serviços públicos à sua privatização e liberalização, às reformas injustas na saúde e segurança social, à repartição dos rendimentos cada vez mais ao serviço dos grupos económicos e financeiros, agravando as desigualdades sociais, a Comissão Europeia insiste em manter e prosseguir com os mesmos instrumentos e políticas que conduziram a esta situação, com destaque para o Pacto de Estabilidade e os seus irracionais critérios, a liberal Estratégia de Lisboa, a falsa autonomia do Banco Central Europeu, e insiste em propostas directivas inqualificáveis como a directiva sobre o tempo de trabalho.

Num momento destes, o que se impõe como prioritário é pôr cobro ao processo de ratificação do Projecto de Tratado de Lisboa, é respeitar a democracia, o resultado do referendo na Irlanda, a decisão soberana do seu povo, que se seguem a idênticos resultados na França e na Holanda. É tempo de os líderes da União Europeia retirarem as ilações destas votações e da oposição e resistência dos trabalhadores e dos povos às políticas neoliberais, militaristas e anti-democráticas.

Neste momento impõe-se como prioritário que haja propostas concretas como as que apresentamos na proposta de resolução do nosso grupo, incluindo a revogação do Pacto de Estabilidade, o fim das privatizações e liberalizações, apostando numa política monetária e numa reorientação do Banco Central Europeu para dar prioridade ao emprego com direitos, à resolução da pobreza, à justiça social, incluindo através de um pacto de progresso e desenvolvimento social. É preciso dar esperança aos nossos pobres, criar emprego com direitos para os jovens, respeitar a igualdade das mulheres e os direitos à igualdade para as mulheres.

3-018

Graham Booth, on behalf of the IND/DEM Group. – Mr President, the whole climate change programme has given the EU yet another excuse to flex its muscles and show the world how important it is, claiming that this is an issue that nation states cannot deal with alone. The 20 20 20 slogan is a typical example of a catchy phrase to work with: 20% of energy in the EU from renewable sources; a 20% reduction in carbon emissions – all by the year 2020. But you are missing the most important point: is any of this necessary?

We were told recently by the IPCC that 2 500 scientists were all in agreement that CO₂ was responsible for global warming and that we humans were the culprits. Al Gore's infamous film confirmed that view. Since then, however, over 30 500 scientists and climatologists have signed the Oregon Petition and the Manhattan Declaration which directly challenges the IPCC conclusions with some very compelling evidence. So whilst we are urged to believe the IPCC's 2 500 scientists, we are being told to completely ignore the 30 500 scientists who are painting a different picture.

The EU is persuading nations across the world to spend billions of taxpayers' money, at the very time when the world is facing dire financial problems, on something that might not only be totally unnecessary, but could well prove to be counter-productive if the latest evidence of global cooling proves to be correct. We must have a full and open debate to prove exactly who is right. What do supporters of the IPCC's position have to fear?

You will no doubt be pleased to hear that this will be my very last speech in this Parliament since I retire after this session.

3-019

Sergej Kozlík (NI). – S navrhovaným uznesením Európskeho parlamentu o politickej stratégii Komisie na rok 2009 je možné v princípe súhlasiť ako s dokumentom, ktorý túto stratégiu vhodne prehlbuje.

Osobitne by som chcel vyzdvihnúť komplexnosť, ktorou uznesenie Parlamentu zdôrazňuje význam zabezpečenia stability finančných trhov a uspokojenia spotrebiteľov počas súčasnej finančnej krízy. Je nepochybné, že je potrebné vypracovať kontrolné opatrenia tak, aby sa zvýšila transparentnosť investorov, zlepšili sa normy pre oceňovanie, dohľad nad obozretnosťou podnikania a úloha ratingových agentúr. Komisia musí vypracovať podrobný plán, aby sa dosiahlo zlepšenie právnych predpisov o finančných službách, revízia smerníc o činnosti úverových inštitúcií a kapitálovej primeranosti. Tým je možné dosiahnuť zlepšenie rámca finančného dohľadu a zvýšiť dôveru účastníkov trhu.

V článku 27 uznesenia je správne obsiahnutá výzva na Komisiu, aby zvažila, aké prechodné opatrenia by sa mali prijať v oblasti spravodlivosti a vnútorných vecí pokiaľ nenadobudne platnosť Lisabonská zmluva. Ak však situácia, že Lisabonská zmluva do volieb 2009 nenadobudne platnosť, skutočne nastane, mala by mať spomínaná výzva na Komisiu oveľa širší rámec. Ináč našu milú Európsku komisiu nachytá reálny život na hruškách.

3-020

Ryszard Czarnecki, *w imieniu grupy UEN*. – Panie Przewodniczący! O co chodzi w pracach legislacyjnych naszego Parlamentu i w propozycjach Komisji? O budowanie autorytetu wśród Europejczyków, wśród ludzi będących obywatelami krajów członkowskich Unii Europejskiej. W moim głębokim przekonaniu Komisja Europejska oraz Parlament powinny skupić się nad tymi pracami legislacyjnymi, które dotyczą wzrostu zatrudnienia, które sprzyjają wzrostowi gospodarczemu, bo tylko w ten sposób, pokazując, że Unia Europejska i jej struktury są bliskie ludziom, możemy budować autorytet instytucji unijnych jakże nadwątlonych w ostatnich kilku latach.

W moim przekonaniu dzisiaj priorytetem nie jest ratyfikacja traktatu lizbońskiego, tylko czytelne pokazanie obywatelom Unii, że chcemy mieć więcej pracy, że troszczymy się o te miejsca pracy, które już są. To także kwestia np. cyberprzestępczości, a więc zupełnie nowego wyzwania, które dla wielu stanowi problem. Proszę o właściwą hierarchię, gdy chodzi o te priorytety. Tej hierarchii do końca nie widzę.

3-021

Margot Wallström, *Vice-President of the Commission*. – Mr President, let me first thank Parliament for taking up my suggestion to make the interinstitutional dialogue on the Commission's work programme a more political exercise with the involvement of the political groups, the plenary and the committees. I think this has been given a good start with your speeches so far.

This year's work programme will be the last one of this Commission, and it has been prepared under very special and specific circumstances: the follow-up to the war in Georgia, the situation in our neighbourhood, the uncertainties surrounding the Lisbon Treaty after the Irish 'no', the escalation of fuel and commodity prices, the increase in food prices, inflation threatening purchasing power and, last but not least – and you have all mentioned it – the financial crisis affecting banks and other credit institutions.

I will not need to remind you that what we do in the first half of next year will also set the scene for the European elections. This is why, in our presentation of the annual policy strategy last year, we underlined our intention to stick to our ambition of delivering a Europe of results and bringing concrete benefits to citizens.

The main policy priorities which the Barroso Commission envisaged for next year are still structured around five pillars, but the circumstances are different and we are facing new and urgent questions.

The first pillar is promoting sustainable growth and jobs. More than ever we need to address today's concerns: what we can do to boost growth, jobs and social stability in a period of growing inflation; what we can do to improve financial stability, building on and reinforcing the instruments available to the Union – and available to the Commission as well, which is an important discussion. As you know, the financial crisis is at the top of our agenda every week too, and we have established a kind of road map, but we have also discussed the preparation of a proposal on capital requirements for banks to tighten existing rules; we are also preparing a proposal to regulate rating agencies, which, as you know, played a very important role in the financial markets and in this crisis as well. Of course, we think that well-thought-through proposals also play a very important role in ensuring that we can deal with the effects of the financial crisis. So we are active, and will continue to be active. Another concern is what we can do to respond to the rise in oil, food and commodities prices. Our job is not day-to-day micro-management but, in a single market, we need to look carefully at how we can bring long-term stability into the financial system. That is the first pillar.

The second major effort will be put into promoting the transition to a low-emission and resource-efficient economy. The Copenhagen meeting will be a major global rendezvous with a view to reaching a global climate-change agreement for post-2012/post-Kyoto. Europe must prepare its ground well and also maintain its role as a pioneer on climate change; we will also need to pursue work on how to assist with adapting to the impact of climate change so that we can be the leaders in development of smart growth.

The third pillar has to do with a common immigration policy. We want to make a reality of a common immigration policy, following up on our communication in June, as well as to work on a pact on immigration, and we will need to move from pacts to acts if we are to make this a reality.

The fourth pillar is how to focus our intentions on delivering policies that put our citizens first. The revised social agenda and the EU health strategy will also guide our action in this area, as well as the question of how we can further strengthen the rights of consumers.

Finally, we will pursue our objective of consolidating the role of Europe as a global partner. On the external front, the challenges for 2009 are well known: the enlargement process, relations with our neighbourhood, the fate of the Doha negotiations, improving our record on development assistance and establishing full cooperation with the new US Administration.

This debate means that Parliament is involved early, because the programme does not exist yet, so we are taking this as input into our discussion and we will take your suggestions on board. On the other hand, to be credible and to have a real impact, the demands from Parliament to the Commission must remain focused, and this is particularly true for 2009. On different sides of the House you have different views on how we should prioritise over the next year.

I hope most of us can agree that we must work together to forge a positive agenda for 2009, concentrated on the essentials. I think we must only consider initiatives that can really make a difference. In addition to choosing our proposals carefully, we need to communicate them well, so that European citizens can make a fair judgement on what the EU does and can do for them.

So I am grateful for this debate at the very moment when we are preparing the programme. We intend to adopt it next month and to present it in plenary with the whole college present on 19 November. I have taken good note of your views, and you can be sure that they will help us to build a work programme with concrete initiatives bringing tangible, concrete change for European citizens.

3-022

Piia-Noora Kauppi (PPE-DE). – Mr President, as Mr Nassauer has already said, the PPE-DE Group is very happy with the contents of the annual legislative programme. I think that, due to the improved process, Parliament has already come on board, which makes it very easy for us to improve the annual legislative programme.

As a representative of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, I would like to concentrate on your first pillar – growth, jobs and European competitiveness. I think that a key factor is how we respond to the financial crisis. In the PPE-DE Group we believe that, as we already have quite good legislation in place in Europe, everything we do now should be based on the existing legislation and its improvement. We do not see the need for a very radical overhaul in Europe. We think that, firstly, soft-law measures should be considered because that is also the most effective way to respond to global issues. Financial markets are very global and we cannot act in Europe as though we were in a vacuum. We also believe that there are many improvements in the present regulatory and supervisory framework, the so-called ‘Lamfalussy Framework’, and we support completely the Commission’s work on that area.

The second issue is climate change. Climate change will influence growth and jobs in Europe. We should not take the fundamentalist view about climate change that Europe must act now and must do everything at once without global support. Thirty per cent of emissions, even if we were to go that far, is not enough to tackle climate change. We need a global, effective deal and that will probably come from Copenhagen. Until then we should not punish ourselves. We should not punish European competitiveness too much, but take a realistic approach to climate change policies in Europe.

Finally, my third point concerns SMEs. SMEs are the key to European growth. For example, in the social package we should always take on board their views and how they see the social framework environment in Europe. The social package should not be a burden to European small and medium-sized companies.

3-023

Jan Andersson (PSE). – Herr talman! Fru kommissionsledamot! Jag ska koncentrera mig på det sociala EU. När den sociala dagordningen kom så sa vi att det var för lite och för sent. När vi nu tittar på kommissionens arbetsprogram och också på den gemensamma resolutionen ser vi att frågor rörande sysselsättning och sociala frågor inte är särskilt prioriterade. Det är prioriterat hos människorna men inte prioriterat hos kommissionen. Det motsvarar inte människornas krav.

I vår resolution från socialdemokraterna lyfter vi ett antal frågor. En rör människor med atypiska arbeten, en grupp som växer allt mer, och att de som har atypiska arbeten ska ges ett ordentligt skydd. De som blir utsatta för och drabbas av ogrundad uppsägning. Det måste finnas miniminormer för detta på den gemensamma arbetsmarknaden. Vi måste också undersöka globaliseringsfonden och se om vi kan skapa ännu bättre förutsättningar för dem som drabbas av arbetslöshet på

grund av omstrukturering så att de kan komma i utbildning och få nya arbeten. Vi har en del förslag på arbetsmiljöområdet.

Till slut skulle jag vilja lyfta den fråga som var uppe i sysselsättningsutskottet i måndags. På grund av domarna i EG-domstolen är människor idag oerhört rädda för att det blir en social dumpning inom EU, att det blir politiken. Vi lyckades lägga förslag om att öppna upp utstationeringsdirektivet för att garantera likabehandling och om att vi måste göra klart i primärrätten att grundläggande rättigheter som strejkrätten inte är underordnade den fria rörligheten. Jag hoppas att kommissionen nu tar det till sig. Det är bra att ni ordnar forum, men ni måste också lägga konkreta förslag som förhindrar social dumpning och ger löntagarna rimliga löner och rimliga arbetsförhållanden.

3-024

Diana Wallis (ALDE). – Mr President, when we last had this discussion with Commissioner Barroso about the work programme, I said it was good that the Commission tried to avoid what I called ‘end of term-itis’. It is, however, very difficult for Parliament up front of the European elections. Each of the groups will want to stamp its own imprint on the programme that goes forward. That is only natural, but we also have to try and speak to you in this dialogue with one voice so that some clarity comes forward. You will find that the group of Liberals and Democrats has joined the joint resolution, but also we pick things from other groups as well, to try and provide what is often our role: balance in the House and some equilibrium.

These are really unnerving times for Europe’s citizens. Everybody is uncertain about the future with the global financial turmoil, which brings worries about debt, unemployment, health costs, pensions, and it breeds an atmosphere where fairness and equality can fly out of the window when there is a scramble for everybody to save their own position.

Climate change brings its own worries about adapting our lifestyles and about fuel costs in a very different world.

This time of global problems should, of course, be a time when the EU comes into its own because we have a multinational reach, but as Liberals and Democrats we would say, OK, let us use that reach, but it should not reach too far. It should produce an umbrella, it should produce some control, but it should also give individual choice so that individual citizens can begin to feel in control again in these times of uncertainty.

So, yes to greater oversight of financial markets and players, but also yes to greater consumer choice and greater consumer redress. We do not want another Equitable Life in Europe. Yes to greater labour mobility, yes to greater joined-up social security, but yes also to fairness and non-discrimination. Yes to greater choice in health and to patient mobility. So, let us give our citizens a choice in how they live their lives.

If you are worried about the future, the one way you can begin to feel more secure about it is if you feel you can do something about it, you feel you have control, and that will be the theme running through the choices made by Liberals and Democrats in this resolution. Yes to Europe, but yes also to individual choice and empowerment.

3-025

Seán Ó Neachtain (UEN). – A Uachtaráin, is í an chloch is mó ar phaidrín an Choimisiúin agus na Comhairle, agus ar ndóigh, na Parlaiminte seo ná go dtiocfadh feabhas ar gheilleagar na hEorpa gan mhoill. Fágfar an Eoraip gan ciste airgead sóisialta a chur i bhfeidhm dóibh siúd atá faoi mhíbhuntáiste mura dtagann feabhas ar an ngeilleagar. Caithfear díriú ar an dúshlán seo láithreach.

Creidimse nach féidir linn leanúint ar aghaidh mar a rinne muid le bliain anuas i bhfianaise an méid atá tite amach ar mhargaí airgeadais na cruinne. Caithfear éirí as an tincéireacht atá ar bun le rialacha na margaí airgeadais. Tá an pobal thar a bheith buartha faoi seo agus caithfear iad a chur ar a suaimhneas. Ní mór gníomhú air sin go han-luath.

Ní mór dúinne san Aontas Eorpach breis infheistíochta a dhéanamh i dtaighde agus forbairt, agus tá mé thar a bheith ríméadach go bhfuil EUR 55 billiún le caitheamh sna réimsí seo idir 2007 agus 2013. Ach caithfear coimeád suas leis an saol, agus caithfear – sna réimsí seo – iomaíocht a chinntiú chun go mbeidh fostaíocht ann; chun go mbeidh bunús láidir geilleagair faoin saol atá againn i láthair na huaire.

3-026

Andreas Mölzer (NI). – Herr Präsident! Wir stehen in unseren Tagen vor einem brisanten Gemisch aus sozialem Niedergang, kulturellen Auseinandersetzungen, zunehmenden Defiziten der Demokratie, drohenden Versorgungsengpässen, einer Teuerungswelle, importierten Sicherheitsrisiken und einer zu platzen drohenden Spekulationsblase. Allzu lange wurden besorgniserregende Entwicklungen am Arbeitsmarkt und die Sorgen der Bürger ignoriert.

Nun ist es höchste Zeit, Prioritäten zu setzen. Im Hinblick auf die Nahrungsmittelkrise ist meines Erachtens eine Renationalisierung der Agrarpolitik unerlässlich, um die Selbstversorgungsfähigkeit zu bewahren. Probleme der illegalen Massenzuwanderung sind endlich ebenso zu lösen, wie eine sinnvolle Familien- und Geburtenpolitik für die autochthone Bevölkerung einzuführen ist. Die Bürger sind vor EU-geförderten Standortverlagerungen zu schützen, der Verschwendung

von Steuergeldern und Steuerbetrug ist ein Riegel vorzuschieben. EU-Familienilber darf nicht länger der Privatisierungseuphorie geopfert werden. Schlussendlich muss akzeptiert werden, dass der Vertrag von Lissabon eigentlich gescheitert ist.

Wenn sich die EU einsichtig zeigt, können wir die momentane Krise durchstehen, andernfalls steht uns wahrscheinlich ein unaufhaltsamer Niedergang der Union bevor.

3-027

Salvador Garriga Polledo (PPE-DE). – Señor Presidente, simplemente quisiéramos, desde mi Grupo, poner de manifiesto que el actual marco presupuestario y financiero de 2007 a 2013 dificulta mucho que se puedan dar respuestas eficaces a las nuevas prioridades políticas. Desde este Parlamento y desde mi Grupo dijimos que era imposible adoptar nuevas prioridades políticas sin disponer de la financiación suficiente para ello.

Ahora vemos que las nuevas iniciativas políticas que toman tanto el Consejo como la Comisión, como la ayuda alimentaria o la ayuda a Georgia, no tienen cabida en el actual marco financiero, y por tanto es necesario encontrar soluciones. Sin embargo, hay que evitar que las soluciones que se tomen violen las previsiones existentes y las disponibilidades contempladas en el Acuerdo interinstitucional. En este aspecto, creemos que vamos a ser extraordinariamente estrictos.

Hagamos una plena disponibilidad de los recursos necesarios, utilicemos en estos años que quedan el Acuerdo Interinstitucional en todas sus vertientes para conseguir una financiación adecuada a nuestras prioridades y utilicemos algo que tenemos un poco olvidado, que es la actual revisión del presupuesto, para solucionar adecuadamente aquellos déficits que se van a ir produciendo conforme la realidad nos vaya dictando nuevas urgencias políticas.

Por tanto, le pedimos a la Comisión un esfuerzo suplementario por sacar adelante, a la mayor brevedad posible, su propuesta de revisión del presupuesto.

3-028

Evelyn Gebhardt (PSE). – Herr Präsident, Frau Vizepräsidentin! Die Skepsis der Bürgerinnen und Bürger heutzutage gegenüber der Europäischen Union ist sehr stark spürbar, und sie hat auch einen Grund, nämlich die Politik, die in den letzten Jahren gestaltet wurde, und die Art und Weise, wie sie herübergekommen ist.

Aus diesem Grund ist es sehr wichtig, dass die Europäische Kommission und die anderen Organe der Europäischen Union die Politik sehr viel stärker an den Lebensentwurf der Menschen heranführen, ihnen auch den Eindruck geben und zeigen, dass die Politik Europas etwas für die Bürgerinnen und Bürger tut.

Dazu ist es auch wichtig, dass wir z.B. im Bereich der Analysen dessen, was gebraucht wird, genauer prüfen, was wir machen sollen. Deswegen ist z.B. ein Consumer Scoreboard ein sehr wichtiges Instrument, das weiter ausgebaut werden muss, damit wir die Belange der Bürgerinnen und Bürger in diesem Bereich auch stärker berücksichtigen können.

Das zweite, was in diesem Zusammenhang wichtig ist, ist, dass wir besser analysieren, was für Folgen unsere Gesetzgebung in der Europäischen Union hat. Da reicht es nicht, wenn wir Abschätzungen der wirtschaftlichen Folgen haben. Wir brauchen auch ganz klar die Folgenabschätzung im sozialen Bereich, damit wir wissen, was das für Auswirkungen hat, was wir beschließen, welche Gesetze wir machen, damit wir den Bürgerinnen und Bürgern auch wirklich zeigen können, was wir Positives für sie gestalten können und wollen, und wir auch wissen, was wir in diesem Bereich tun.

Es ist auch wichtig, den Bürgerinnen und Bürgern in der ganzen Europäischen Union gemeinsame Rechte zu geben. Deswegen fordere ich Sie auf, auch weiterhin daran zu arbeiten, dass Sammelklagen und gemeinsame Rechtsansprüche weiter ausgestaltet werden. Das wäre ein sehr wichtiges Signal für die Bürgerinnen und Bürger.

3-029

Bernard Lehideux (ALDE). – Monsieur le Président, Madame la Vice-présidente, la Commission donne le sentiment d'agir comme un élève distrait qui court après le temps perdu avant de rendre sa copie. Certes, le paquet social existe, mais il est incomplet et ne peut être considéré que comme un pas vers une prise en compte des questions sociales par la Commission.

Le président de la Commission n'a pas pris la mesure de l'avertissement donné par les citoyens en France, aux Pays-Bas et en Irlande, et qui aurait malheureusement été identique ailleurs en cas de vote populaire. Ces scrutins sont des rappels à l'ordre. Si les Européens veulent plus d'Europe, c'est pour construire un projet de société et non pas seulement pour adopter encore plus de directives techniques.

La réglementation relative au marché intérieur est certes nécessaire, mais elle n'est pas, et de loin, l'essentiel. Le programme 2009, comme les précédents d'ailleurs, va passer à côté du sujet. Les citoyens n'attendent pas de la

Commission qu'elle se borne à compléter ni même à simplifier la législation. Ils attendent de la Commission qu'elle soit à la hauteur de la tâche que lui assignent les traités, qu'elle soit la locomotive, la boîte à idées de l'Union.

Il ne suffit pas pour cela que son président soit sage et silencieux, au garde-à-vous derrière le président du Conseil. Nous attendons de la Commission qu'elle agisse comme un acteur clé de la réflexion sur la nature du projet de société dont nous avons besoin. Mais quel est le projet de société dans ce programme? Le programme 2009 ne contient pas d'erreur grave, mais ce n'est pas le programme dont nos concitoyens ont besoin.

Monsieur le Président, ce sera au nouveau Collège de prendre ses responsabilités. J'espère seulement qu'il sera moins sourd aux appels des peuples que l'actuel.

3-030

Andreas Schwab (PPE-DE). – Herr Präsident, Frau Vizepräsidentin, liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen! Die Botschaften, die vom Plenum heute gegenüber der Kommission zum Ausdruck gebracht werden, sind ja in ihrer Vielfältigkeit kaum zu überblicken. Deswegen will ich mich möglichst auf wenige Punkte konzentrieren, die möglicherweise zustimmungsfähig sind.

Ich glaube, dass wir uns gemeinsam darauf verständigen können – Sie, Frau Vizepräsidentin, haben darauf ja auch vorher hingewiesen –, dass die Europäische Union das Grundprinzip der sozialen Marktwirtschaft beherzigen und die Interessen der Unternehmer und der Verbraucherinnen und Verbraucher gleichermaßen berücksichtigen muss. Das ist im Einzelfall eine schwierige Abwägung, die natürlich nach politischem Standpunkt unterschiedlich ausfallen kann. Allerdings glaube ich – und da möchte ich gerne an das anschließen, was Hartmut Nassauer gesagt hat –, dass die Kommission in den kommenden Monaten ein besseres Gespür für die Subsidiarität entwickeln muss.

Wenn wir uns anschauen, was für Vorschläge Sie bei der Beschaffung von umweltfreundlichen Fahrzeugen unterbreitet haben oder was Sie insgesamt zur umweltfreundlichen Beschaffung im Arbeitsprogramm vorschlagen wollen, dann wird der Gedanke deutlich, dass die Bürgermeister, die normalen Menschen nicht in der Lage sind, selbst umweltfreundliche Entscheidungen zu treffen, sondern Sie aus Europa wollen ihnen zentrale Vorgaben geben. Wir glauben, dass das der falsche Ansatz ist. Wir wollen, dass der Einzelne versteht, dass umweltfreundliche Beschaffung auch in seinem Interesse liegt. Deswegen brauchen wir mehr Subsidiarität in diesen Bereichen, mehr *best practices* und weniger Dirigismus.

Frau Vizepräsidentin, ich möchte Sie auch dazu ermutigen, als Kommission in Zukunft mit den Mitgliedstaaten etwas mutiger zu verhandeln, wenn es beispielsweise um die Frage geht, wie wir das Verbraucherschutzrecht in der Europäischen Union sowohl im Interesse der Unternehmen als auch im Interesse der Verbraucher harmonisieren. Wenn wir diese Harmonisierung vornehmen, dann ist sie nur sinnvoll, wenn wir wirklich den gesamten Bereich des Verbraucherschutzrechtes harmonisieren und den Mitgliedstaaten keine Möglichkeiten mehr lassen, am Rand, an den Ecken und Stellen innerhalb dieses harmonisierten Besitzstands noch Veränderungen vorzunehmen. Ansonsten ist alles nichts.

3-031

Claudio Fava (PSE). – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, signora Commissaria, il 2009 è un anno in cui non solo verremo chiamati al voto, ma anche a dare alcune risposte a domande puntuali che i nostri elettori ci rivolgeranno. Una domanda riguarderà lo spazio di libertà, sicurezza e giustizia: perché lo vogliamo fare, come lo vogliamo fare e quando vogliamo realizzarlo. Abbiamo bisogno di costruire una risposta attraverso un programma politico legislativo ambizioso che la Commissione, signora Commissaria, per il momento non ha ancora messo in campo.

Ci aspettiamo proposte legislative forti nel settore della politica di immigrazione, soprattutto sulle politiche di ingresso e in quelle di asilo, per mettere in sicurezza questo diritto fondamentale in tutta l'Unione europea e per evitare una contrapposizione che a noi sembra del tutto fuori luogo, tra politiche di immigrazione legale e illegale. Noi crediamo che occorra un contesto politico, un quadro normativo comune; accanto a politiche di contenimento occorrono politiche d'integrazione e canali legali di immigrazione.

Ci attendiamo proposte forti sulla cooperazione giudiziaria, in materia penale e di polizia che sono fondate sul mutuo riconoscimento di garanzie procedurali; mutuo riconoscimento che ancora manca – e senza queste proposte la lotta alla criminalità organizzata e al terrorismo rischia di rimanere soltanto una vocazione retorica.

Ci attendiamo, infine, più coraggio in materia di protezione e tutela dei diritti fondamentali, che restano il *core business* delle politiche di giustizia. La nuova Agenzia per i diritti fondamentali, dopo l'entrata in vigore del trattato di Lisbona, dovrà diventare lo strumento principale di questa azione.

Ci attendiamo, signora Commissaria, di poter trovare i segni di questa consapevolezza nel programma che la Commissione ci farà conoscere in questi giorni.

3-032

Jean Marie Beaupuy (ALDE). – Monsieur le Président, Madame la Commissaire, mes chers collègues, vous avez dit, Madame la Commissaire, que vous-même vouliez porter une Europe visible, une Europe concrète pour nos concitoyens.

Or, il se trouve que le premier poste budgétaire aujourd'hui, soit 36% de notre budget, est consacré à notre politique de cohésion. S'il y a bien un domaine où nos concitoyens peuvent voir de manière pratique, concrète, les réalisations et les volontés de l'Europe, c'est à travers les fonds de cohésion.

2009 sera une année particulière, cela a été dit, puisqu'elle verra le renouvellement du Parlement et de la Commission. Dès lors, ce sera naturellement une forme d'année blanche, une année de pause, dans certains domaines. Mais, en politique de cohésion, nous ne pouvons pas nous permettre d'avoir une pause. Nous ne pouvons pas stopper les programmes qui sont en action et, surtout, nous ne pouvons pas stopper l'efficacité. Chacun a présent à l'esprit l'amélioration des réalités concrètes pour nos concitoyens au Portugal, en Espagne, en Irlande et dans tous les pays d'Europe grâce aux politiques de cohésion.

Il faut donc que la Commission puisse nous présenter pour cette année 2009 un programme de travail concret dans ce domaine – qui est, je le répète, le premier poste budgétaire de l'Union européenne et aussi la partie la plus tangible pour les résultats concrets de nos concitoyens – pour que 2009 ne soit pas une année blanche mais une année de progrès dans le cadre de cette programmation 2007-2013. Merci par avance, Madame la Commissaire, et à vos collègues, de vos propositions en la matière.

3-033

Françoise Grossetête (PPE-DE). – Monsieur le Président, Madame la Vice-présidente de la Commission, cette année 2008-2009 est une année charnière, parce que nous vivons un contexte de crise économique sans précédent et parce qu'il s'agit d'une année d'élections européennes, et donc malheureusement d'une année qui risque d'être assez perdue.

Il faut donc tout faire pour maintenir la compétitivité de nos entreprises et convaincre nos concitoyens que l'Europe est la bonne réponse. Malheureusement, nous voyons que le programme est chargé, trop chargé, et qu'il arrive trop tard, et ce n'est pas faute d'avoir lancé des mises en garde à ce sujet pendant plusieurs années.

Sur le changement climatique, Madame Wallström, vous nous avez dit que nous devons être pionniers d'une croissance intelligente. On est tous d'accord, mais les efforts seront communs ou ils ne seront pas. L'Europe ne peut pas se faire seule. Elle ne doit pas se tirer une balle dans le pied. Les conséquences des décisions que nous allons prendre seront lourdes sur les plans économique et social. On ne pourra pas parler d'un accord international sur le climat si la Chine, les États-Unis, le Brésil, l'Inde, ne s'engagent pas. Un accord sans la signature de la Chine, ce n'est pas un accord.

Dans le domaine de la santé, on nous annonce le paquet pharmaceutique. Enfin! Cela fait des années qu'on le réclame, ce paquet pharmaceutique. Il arrive au moment où nous allons préparer les élections. C'est quand même une grande frustration. Comment justifier notre lenteur à lutter contre la contrefaçon des médicaments alors qu'il s'agit là d'une véritable menace pour la santé, qu'il s'agit là d'un type grave de criminalité. Depuis longtemps, on aurait quand même pu travailler sur la traçabilité des médicaments et l'interdiction du reconditionnement.

Enfin, je pense qu'il faut absolument renforcer la politique du consommateur, surtout au vu de toutes les crises et de tous les scandales alimentaires que connaît le monde.

Alors veillons, je vous en supplie, Madame la Vice-présidente de la Commission, à ce que 2009 ne soit pas une année perdue!

3-034

PRZEWODNICZY: ADAM BIELAN

Wiceprzewodniczący

3-035

Libor Rouček (PSE). – Dámy a pánové, Evropa si v poslední době zvykla na relativně silný hospodářský růst a hospodářskou prosperitu. Obávám se, že toto období alespoň dočasně nyní končí. Hlavní priority Komise, Parlamentu a i Rady by z tohoto důvodu v příštím roce měly být zaměřeny právě na obnovení hospodářského růstu a posílení sociální soudržnosti. Je potřeba zlepšit systém dohledu nad finančními trhy v Unii, je nutno usilovat o efektivnější ekonomickou a daňovou koordinaci včetně koordinace systému přímých daní a jasných opatření proti daňovým podvodům. Je potřeba urychleně předložit komplexní návrh vnější politiky v oblasti energetiky včetně aktivní podpory budování energetické infrastruktury. V době ekonomické nejistoty je rovněž nutno, aby Komise mnohem výrazněji než doposud potvrdila svůj závazek podporovat sociální práva, a nemusím připomínat, že hlavní prioritou v příštím roce by mělo být i dokončení ratifikace Lisabonské smlouvy a samozřejmě její implementace.

3-036

Lambert van Nistelrooij (PPE-DE). – Voorzitter, commissaris Wallström sprak zojuist over het bereiken van de burger. Welnu, het cohesiebeleid met duizenden kleinschalige programma's in regio's en steden vormt het meest zichtbare actieonderdeel van de Europese Gemeenschap. Wij gaan daarmee de komende tijd ook actief naar de burger, ik denk o.a.

aan de open dagen van regio's en steden in de komende weken hier in Brussel, maar ook velerlei activiteiten in de lidstaten. *So far so good*.

Er zijn echter ook aanpassingen nodig en ik noem er twee. Allereerst is er de vurige wens van het Parlement om het Europees solidariteitsfonds te flexibiliseren. Burgers verwachten bij natuurrampen, bij overstromingen, snelle actie. Wij hebben daar een kijk op en de Europese Raad blokkeert al een paar jaar dat debat. Laten wij in ieder geval zorgen dat dat losgetrokken wordt.

Ten tweede moet het groenboek over de territoriale cohesie, dat in oktober wordt verwacht, de basis leggen voor het cohesiebeleid na 2013: geen renationalisatie, maar wel een blijvende Europese inzet, één integraal beleid op Europees niveau. Wij zien een concentratie in een aantal regio's in Europa, dat is een gevolg van de globalisering en dat moet ook. Tegelijkertijd moeten wij echter een visie hebben over de manier waarop een evenwichtige ontwikkeling in Europa mogelijk kan worden gemaakt in alle gebieden met hun eigen kwaliteiten in het brede scala van landbouwonwikkeling, van R&D, van ecologie, enz.

De interne markt heeft veel goeds gebracht en die is bijna voltooid. Toch komt het cohesiebeleid nu in een nieuwe fase. Het groenboek zal daarvoor de basis leggen, legislatieve stappen volgen daarna in de nieuwe periode.

3-037

Κατερίνα Μπατζελή (PSE). – Κύριε Πρόεδρε, θα ήθελα κατ' αρχήν να ευχαριστήσω την Επίτροπο κυρία Wallström, με τη συμμετοχή της οποίας πραγματικά μπορέσαμε να βρούμε μία κοινή γραμμή στην επικοινωνιακή πολιτική και στο πρόγραμμα προτεραιοτήτων της Ευρωπαϊκής Επιτροπής αλλά και του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου στα πλαίσια μιας διοργανικής συμφωνίας την οποία έχουμε κατοχυρώσει και την οποία θα παρουσιάσουμε.

Κυρία Wallström, όλοι μας γνωρίζουμε και όπως πολύ σωστά είπατε, ότι το θέμα του πρώτου πυλώνα, δηλαδή της κοινωνικής πολιτικής, θα πρέπει να αποτελέσει την προτεραιότητα της επικοινωνιακής αλλά και ουσιαστικής πολιτικής μιας Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης η οποία όχι απλώς σέβεται τους πολίτες αλλά θέλει να βάλει τις δικές της γραμμές, δομές και φυσιογνωμία σ' αυτό το διεθνές πλαίσιο της κρίσης της παγκοσμιοποίησης.

Σ' αυτό λοιπόν, δεν διαφωνεί κανείς. Όμως, επιτρέψτε μου να σας πω ότι στην πρότασή σας λείπουν επιμέρους προτάσεις οι οποίες καθλώνουν τόσο συγκεκριμένες αγορές όσο και τη διαχείριση σημαντικών ζητημάτων, όπως αυτό του τομέα της προστασίας των δικαιωμάτων πνευματικής ιδιοκτησίας, όπου η Επιτροπή οφείλει αποφασιστικά πλέον να προβεί στην επίλυση του ζητήματος διότι στην πρόσφατη ανακοίνωση την οποία έδωσε απέφυγε να ορίσει συγκεκριμένη πρόταση και περιορίζεται απλά και μόνο σε τεχνοκρατικά ζητήματα και όχι ζητήματα ουσίας.

Όσον αφορά την εκπαίδευση και τη μεταναστευτική πολιτική, θεωρώ ότι είναι από τα θέματα τα οποία πρέπει να προτάξετε στο κείμενό σας.

3-038

Georg Jarzembowski (PPE-DE). – Herr Präsident, sehr geehrte Frau Vizepräsidentin! Bei all dem Lob, das Sie aus dem Hause erhalten haben, will ich doch ein wenig Wasser in den Wein gießen, und zwar was die Passagierrechte angeht.

Wir appellieren nämlich an die Kommission, ein umfassendes Konzept für die Passagierrechte im Verkehrssektor vorzulegen. Wir haben glücklicherweise bereits Passagierrechte im Luftverkehr, die bedürfen aber dringend der Überarbeitung, weil manche Fluggesellschaften die Verordnung nicht ganz so anwenden, wie wir wollen. Wir haben in diesem Jahr gerade die Passagierrechte für Bahnfahrer beschlossen; die müssen nächstes Jahr umgesetzt werden.

Aber, Frau Kommissarin, es waren Passagierrechte für Busfernenreisen angekündigt, und es wurden Passagierrechte für Fährdienste andiskutiert. Diese beiden Vorschläge sind nicht da, und wir glauben, dass wir diese Vorschläge für ein Gesamtkonzept für Passagierrechte brauchen. Wir stimmen mit der Kommission überein: Wenn wir den Bürger an erste Stelle rücken wollen, können wir ihm dies am besten klarmachen, indem wir ihm Passagierrechte im ganzen Verkehrssektor einräumen.

Ein zweiter Punkt, den ich noch kurz erwähnen will, ist, dass wir hoffen, dass die Kommission wie vorgesehen die geplanten Verkehrsleitsysteme umsetzt. Es geht einmal um SESAR für den einheitlichen Luftraum und einmal um ERTMS für ein einheitliches europäisches Zugleitsystem. Mit solchen Verkehrsleitsystemen, Frau Vizepräsidentin, machen wir nicht nur die Verkehre sicherer und kostengünstiger, sondern wir schonen zusätzlich auch noch die Umwelt. Deshalb unterstützen wir Sie völlig bei der schnellen Einsetzung dieser europäischen Verkehrsleitsysteme.

3-039

Ingeborg Gräßle (PPE-DE). – Herr Präsident, Frau Vizepräsidentin, liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen! Die Haushaltskontrolle hat keine neuen Themen, wir sind zufrieden mit den alten und wären auch mit Fortschritten bei den alten Themen zufrieden.

Fünf Punkte: An erster Stelle unsere dringende Bitte um die Unterstützung für Rumänien und Bulgarien beim Aufbau des Rechtsstaats, der Justiz und der Finanzkontrolle. Wir möchten in zwei Jahren nicht dort sein, wo wir heute sind. Deswegen ist uns dieser Punkt sehr wichtig.

Zweitens: die Zuverlässigkeitserklärung für das Gesamtbudget nach dem abgestuften Kontrollverfahren unter Einbeziehung der nationalen Rechnungshöfe. Es wäre schön, wenn wir im letzten halben Jahr, das der Kommission ja nur verbleibt, hier entscheidende Fortschritte erzielen könnten oder uns zumindest auf einen gemeinsamen Weg einigen könnten. Man wird als Haushaltskontrolleur ja bescheiden.

Drittens: die Vereinfachung. Wir müssen den unteren Verwaltungsebenen der Mitgliedstaaten bei der Implementierung des EU-Rechts mehr helfen. Es zeigt sich, dass sie mit großen Teilen des EU-Rechts völlig überfordert sind. Daher kommen auch die hohen Fehlerquoten.

Viertens: die Außenhilfe. Hier möchte ich vor allem das Kosovo ansprechen und die Frage der Zusammenarbeit mit den Vereinten Nationen. Der Haushaltskontrollausschuss ist im Kosovo gewesen, und ich möchte jetzt schon ankündigen, dass das Kosovo bei der Haushaltsentlastung eine gewisse Rolle spielen wird. Ich glaube, dass wir hier bisher weit hinter den Möglichkeiten der Europäischen Union zurückgeblieben sind und dass wir hier dringend nacharbeiten müssen.

Fünftens: die Verbesserung der Zusammenarbeit der Mitgliedstaaten bei der Betrugsbekämpfung. Wir haben hier Hausaufgaben vor allem für die Damen und Herren des Rates. Das Parlament wird im November über die Rechtsgrundlage – die Verordnung über die Betrugsbekämpfung – abstimmen, und dann müssen wir gemeinsam überlegen, wie wir weitermachen, wenn wir auf diesem Feld bessere Ergebnisse erzielen wollen. Das war bis jetzt zumindest unser gemeinsamer Wunsch.

3-040

Genowefa Grabowska (PSE). – Panie Przewodniczący! Mówimy tu bardzo wiele o strategii Komisji, której głównym celem jest, by Unia była bliżej obywatela. Powtarzamy to co roku i ta strategia mimo usilnych starań pani komisarz, które ja cenię, i działań za które składam głębokie podziękowania, nie daje rezultatu. Unia nie jest bliżej obywatela. A dlaczego nie jest? Ciągłe uważam, że winą jest polityka informacyjna. Przyjrzałam się punktowi dotyczącemu informowania o Europie i w tym dziale przedstawionym przez Komisję jest jedna cenna rzecz, mianowicie uruchomienie społecznej kampanii na temat socjalnego wymiaru Karty Praw Podstawowych. To dobry punkt, ale reszta to są informacje nie o działaniach, ale o pracy i zamiarach Unii Europejskiej. Obywatel oczekuje informacji o rezultacie, nie o tym, co Unia zamierza, czy planuje, ale o tym co zrobiła i co do obywatela trafia.

Na koniec chciałabym zapytać Komisję, dlaczego kampania prowadzona w Irlandii przez pana Ganleya dała lepsze rezultaty niż kampania prowadzona przez rząd irlandzki, przez Unię Europejską w zakresie traktatu lizbońskiego? Czyżby zadziałała tu tajemna moc, czy też zadecydowały o tym fundusze pana Ganleya? Może Komisja się temu przyjrzy.

3-041

José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra (PPE-DE). – En el año 2009 la Unión Europea tendrá que fortalecer no sólo la dimensión interna del proyecto, sino también su proyección externa, a través de una política exterior que pueda ser coherente y que sea eficaz en responder a los retos que nos plantea en estos momentos la agenda global.

Para eso habrá que ajustar las relaciones con Rusia después de la crisis del Cáucaso, habrá que adaptar de alguna manera la política de vecindad, primero en nuestro continente, a través de los acuerdos de asociación y estabilización, y después la política de ampliación, y también, fuera de nuestro continente, el tema de la Unión por el Mediterráneo.

Yo creo que es importante también mantener nuestra presencia en los conflictos de Asia Central, en Iraq, en Irán, en Afganistán y ahora también en Pakistán, reforzar nuestra presencia en el conflicto de Oriente Medio, mantener nuestras relaciones con las potencias emergentes de China e India y, sobre todo, el Acuerdo de Asociación con los países de África, Caribe y Pacífico.

Yo creo que tenemos que estar muy atentos al resultado de las elecciones en los Estados Unidos y, por último, y no por ello menos importante, también poner el acento en la conclusión de los acuerdos de asociación con Mercosur, con la Comunidad Andina y con la Centroamericana.

En definitiva, señor Presidente, señora Vicepresidenta de la Comisión, es una tarea ingente que, yo creo, sería mucho más fácil llevar a cabo si tuviésemos los instrumentos que, en el ámbito de la política exterior, nos asigna el Tratado de Lisboa.

Quiero decirle para terminar, señora Vicepresidenta, que sabe usted por anticipado que pueden contar con el apoyo de este Parlamento.

3-042

Szabolcs Fazakas (PSE). – Köszönöm a szót, elnök úr! Az Amerikával egy évvel ezelőtt elkezdődött pénzügyi válság a várakozásokkal ellentétben nemhogy csillapodott volna, hanem újra és újra egyre nagyobb hullámokban sújtotta az egész világot, köztük Európa pénzügyi piacát és ezen keresztül gazdaságát is.

A Központi Banknak hatalmas összegeket kell a pénzügyi piacokra pumpálnia annak érdekében, hogy ezek túlélését biztosítsa. Ahhoz azonban, hogy a pénzügyi válság gazdasági, társadalmi hatását orvosolni tudjuk, a Bizottságnak két területen kell előrelépnie.

Az egyik, minél előbb ki kell alakítani egy közös európai pénzügyi felügyeletet, melynek feladata az ehhez hasonló spekulatív veszélyek elkerülése, ezáltal is biztosítva, hogy Európa fokozatosan átvegye a megrendült amerikai pénz- és tőkepiac szerepét. Másrészt el kellene érnie, hogy az európai pénzügyi szektor a spekulatív ügyletek helyett az eddig elhanyagolt reálgazdaság finanszírozására is koncentráljon. Ehhez, természetesen, arra is szükség volna, hogy az Európai Központi Bank az infláció kordában tartása mellett a gazdasági növekedést és a munkahelyteremtést is prioritásként kezelje. Köszönöm szépen.

3-043

Gunnar Hökmark (PPE-DE). – Mr President, 2009 will be, to put it mildly, a crucial year for achieving the goals of the Lisbon process. There are four matters that I would like to raise here today. The first one is the need to make real progress on the process of better regulation, where we all agree that we should reduce administrative burdens by 25% by 2012, and I think it would be appropriate for the Commission to demonstrate here in Parliament, year by year, that it is moving ahead in really making better regulation.

The second thing is research and innovation. The budget review is coming to an end, and it is crucial and of strategic importance that we now ensure that we can move ahead and put Europe in the forefront of research and innovation by contributing the proper financing.

The third thing is mobility of workers. That is one of the more dynamic aspects of the European Union where we have seen enormously good achievements that are contributing not only to the economy of Europe but also to individuals all over Europe. It is important not only that we do not make it more difficult – that we defend opportunities – but also that we make it easier also by discussing and reforming education in the framework of the Bologna Process, making mobility a reality to even more people.

Finally, 2009 will be an important year to take action on energy policy, where we currently have a number of legislative items going forward. There is legislation on the energy markets (which still has to be completed), on renewables, on effort sharing and on emission trading. Now it is also time to ensure that we can finalise this process and implement it in reality so that we have a good basis, not only for 2010 but for the further future, for being the best knowledge economy in the world.

3-044

Jan Olbrycht (PPE-DE). – Panie Przewodniczący! Pani Komisarz! Rok 2009 jest rokiem wyborczym, ale to nie oznacza, że Komisja i Parlament mają mieć tylko i wyłącznie program wyborczy, w którym, charakterystycznie, wiele rzeczy się obiecuje. Dla nas jest niezwykle ważne to, co my zrobimy wspólnie do połowy roku 2009 i w drugiej połowie roku 2009. Tego również oczekują obywatele: jasnej i czytelnej informacji.

Chciałbym zwrócić uwagę na jeden z tych elementów, jakim jest zasadnicza zmiana, którą ma zaproponować Komisja Europejska w październiku, mianowicie zmiana w polityce spójności wprowadzająca wątek przestrzenny: spójność terytorialna. Zapowiedź Komisji to październik, natomiast w programie na rok 2009 nie widzimy rozwinięcia tego tematu, a już wiemy, że ta sprawa będzie wywoływała ogromne zainteresowanie, jak również kontrowersje. W związku z tym chciałem zwrócić na to uwagę, że rok 2009 jest dla tematu polityki spójności, a w szczególności spójności terytorialnej i działań zintegrowanych, niezwykle ważny i liczę na to, że dostaniemy więcej informacji.

3-045

Danutė Budreikaitė (ALDE). – Iš tikrųjų, malonu svarstyti programą, kuri turėtų būti ankstesnių programų ir pereinamųjų metų tęsinys. Matome pirmąjį ramų etapą įvardytą kovą su pasauline finansų krize. Tai yra gaisrų gesinimas. Krizė egzistavo jau metus ir mes jos nepastebėjome, jokių priemonių nesiėmėme.

Aš noriu atkreipti dėmesį į energetikos politiką. Prieš trejus metus mes nutarėme, kad kursime bendrą energetikos politiką. Tai yra ilgas, sudėtingas, daug darbo reikalaujantis procesas ir turėtų būti veiksmų nuoseklumas. Šį kartą aš nematau, kad būtų minima kokie nors veiksmų energetikos srityje. Priimti teisės aktai patys savaime energetikos politikos, bendros energetikos politikos nesukuria ir jos neįgyvendina.

Nėra jungčių, nėra alternatyvių šaltinių paieškos, nedirbama su Arkties problemomis, Arkties galimais šaltiniais. Taigi nėra ilgalaikės bendros energetikos perspektyvos ir mes galime sulaukti tokio pat atvejo, situacijos kaip su finansų krize. Mes nustebinsime, jeigu kas nors energetikoje atsitiks, tada įsiminsime priemonių. Tai gal tėsikime numatytus darbus.

3-046

Monica Maria Iacob-Ridzi (PPE-DE). – Aș dori să subliniez două priorități pe care Comisia Europeană trebuie să le aibă în vedere pentru anul următor în ceea ce privește politica socială și de ocupare a forței de muncă.

În primul rând, Comisia Europeană trebuie să susțină gradul de ocupare a forței de muncă în rândul tinerilor. Un studiu realizat recent în Europa arată că tot mai puțini tineri intră pe piața muncii, fiind descurajați de obstacole precum inexistența unor locuri de muncă în domeniul pe care l-au studiat, lipsa experienței sau lipsa unor abilități profesionale. Este imperios necesar ca toți tinerii să aibă acces la educație de cea mai bună calitate, precum și să dețină o calificare cerută pe piața muncii. De aceea, consider necesară corelarea sistemului educațional cu piața muncii, iar tranziția între educație și practică să fie realizată lin, prin diferite programe de integrare și pregătire profesională sau prin stagii de practică în cadrul Uniunii Europene.

În al doilea rând, Uniunea Europeană trebuie să sprijine, să coordoneze și să completeze acțiunile statelor membre în domeniul sportiv, promovând spiritul competitiv și afilierea a cât mai mulți copii și tineri la cluburile sportive, dar și imparțialitatea și transparența în ceea ce privește competițiile sportive. Sportul trebuie susținut și financiar și, în acest sens, susțin înființarea unei noi linii bugetare care să sprijine programele europene destinate sportului.

3-047

James Nicholson (PPE-DE). – Mr President, I would like to make a few comments on this, and I welcome the opportunity to do so. I want to speak on the situation as regards the Solidarity Fund. I am a supporter of this fund, because I think it has the ability to bring Europe and Brussels closer to the people.

Europe is now 27 Member States, so it does not really matter if it is floods in my region in Northern Ireland or forest fires in Greece, or Spain, or Portugal. You see some terrible instances where people have almost been wiped out. So we are not talking about giving them a lot of money, but we are giving them some hope to restart again. I certainly would like to make an appeal that this Solidarity Fund is kept and supported, and please do not make it too complicated. Keep it simple, where either a national or a regional government can apply and can go back to their local area and tell the people that this fund is coming from Europe and Europe is giving them some support.

So let us make it simple, keep it simple, but let us not do away with this Solidarity Fund.

3-048

Margot Wallström, Vice-President of the Commission. – Mr President, honourable Members, thank you for this debate. I think it reflects very well the full spectrum of issues that the European Union deals with, from sports – a budget line for sports – to how we label medicines, to what we do in the Caucasus, or how we try to help the situation in the Middle East. We do all these things at the same time. It also represents the ultimate challenge from a communication point of view.

We have also heard some very detailed proposals here today. I want to assure you that the role of the Commission is to make sure that we can balance all of these interests, because the Commission cannot be seen as representing only one interest or only one stakeholder or only one issue. We have to cover this whole spectrum of political challenges. Sometimes we can choose the issues, others are chosen for us, and I think that, even if some people say that they had warned of the financial crisis, nobody knew exactly when it would occur or the full consequences of this financial crisis. So we have to deal with that as well. We have to be able to respond.

The way we do it, of course, is that we are the guardians of the Treaties, and that also sometimes restricts our capabilities or our capacities to act. We cannot suddenly make up new competences or enter into areas where we know that it is actually sometimes the Member States that have the competences, or we are at least limited in what we can propose, or we have to work together with the other institutions. That is what forms the framework for whatever we do.

When we met last time in a small seminar – and this is the message I want to pass on to Parliament as well – we said first of all that we will stay on message. We will not change our overall objectives of prosperity, solidarity and security. These will still guide everything we do, and prosperity means defending growth and jobs in Europe. Nobody should doubt our determination to continue to fight for growth and jobs in Europe. This has been even further reinforced by recent events and the financial crisis. It is all the more important that we have a very forceful policy and that we are careful about what we do right now. I do not think that anybody is ignorant of the fact that this is one of our major priorities, has been from the very beginning, and will continue to be one of our most important priorities.

On the topic of solidarity, this is about energy and climate change and about how we use the solidarity fund, because defence today is also defence against natural disasters or threats that we did not have, say, 10 or 20 years ago. Now we need proper cooperation and defence against these things too.

I do not like the doom-and-gloom atmosphere on energy and climate change. You know what, I think we have an enormous opportunity in Europe. I think we have the know-how, we have the technology, we have the resources, we have the people, we have hope for the future and, even if there is a cost to it all, I think we can do it and it will actually bring something very positive to Europe. It will bring a better quality of life and I think it offers new opportunities also for creating jobs in Europe.

I think that we have to turn it around and not only see it as a cost, a burden, an effort, but actually as part of the future. This is a solution for the future, and it is Europe that can take the lead, that can create innovation, jobs, creativity in Europe. It will bring us a better quality of life, especially by bringing the future into the picture for once and also by bringing the rest of the world into the picture.

We will also continue to deliver. Concrete results are the most important for this Commission. We will not be a caretaker Commission. We will continue to present proposals to this Parliament and to the Council until the end.

I thank you for all your concrete proposals and I would just like to respond to a few of them because I think, for example, the whole issue of consumer protection is a very important one, and we have a very ambitious project. We will present a proposal to undertake a complete review of the existing legislation on consumer protection, simplifying it and making it more accessible to all. We hope that Parliament will be able to deal with this major proposal before the elections. We will also, before the end of the year, present a proposal to extend the possibility of action on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund, another important fund. We want to be able to also use this in the context of globalisation and to meet the effects of globalisation.

Since Jan Andersson also mentioned the whole social issue – and again it is the role of the Commission to make sure that we balance all issues in which the social agenda plays an important part – the forum that the Commission will be organising in November can, I hope, also look at questions about the functioning of the Posting of Workers Directive and help us to decide on the way forward. We will not shy away from looking at these issues as well. We know by now how important they are and how they affected even the Irish referendum.

On that topic, Mrs Grabowska, you also know the saying that ‘the lie is already halfway to Damascus while truth is putting its boots on’. I do not know exactly if this is the English expression, but you know the meaning. I think that this is part of it. If you are well-funded, if you can use and mobilise fear as well, this is very often more effective than maybe having to explain a treaty text that is not always that clear or that helps to simplify things. At the same time in this debate you have, however, given some of the best examples of why we need a new treaty, why that would help us to act and speak with one voice in the world and also be more effective in our decision-making, and why that would help citizens.

We continue to deliver, for example, with the proposal yesterday on the telecoms package which will give lower prices to all those of us who use mobile phones and make sure that roaming charges go down.

Finally also on the budget review, I would like to say that this consultation process on an initial so-called reflection paper can help us from the end of November to propose a new way of constructing the budget. I think it will be an opportunity to look at the question about what Europe is and how it should act over the coming years. That is only to comment on a few of the more detailed things that you have raised.

All of this I will take back to the Commission and it will feed into our discussions on the work programme. I have very much appreciated the full range of issues that have been mentioned here, and we will come back in a few weeks with a new proposal and present it in the full college. I also want to underline how important it is that we have a framework agreement that we also abide by and follow, and that we can agree on the way the institutions should work in an efficient, effective and democratic way together.

3-049

Przewodniczący. – Otrzymałem sześć projektów rezolucji¹ złożonych zgodnie z art. 103 ust. 2 Regulaminu.

Zamykam debatę.

Głosowanie odbędzie się w środę 24 września 2008 r.

Oświadczenia pisemne (art. 142)

3-050

Tunne Kelam (PPE-DE), in writing. – The year 2009 is a crucial year, as the European elections, renewal of the Commission and, hopefully, also the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty will take place.

¹ Patrz protokół.

The main political priority of the first half of 2009 will remain the ratification process of the Lisbon Treaty. Unity and better functioning mechanisms are crucial to remaining a strong player in the global arena.

More than ever we need better coherence in our energy policy, with a perspective of enhancing energy independence. Solidarity between Member States and the search for alternative energy resources should become EU priorities.

Reaching the goals set in the Lisbon Treaty has to get a new boost. Innovation, entrepreneurship and promoting a science-based economy are the key aspects to bear in mind. The completion of the internal market has to be finalized. More efficient tools for SMEs have to be provided to further support their role as the main creators of jobs.

A new approach must be established on how to bring EU closer to citizens. This approach has to be a two-way road. We as politicians are not only leaders but first of all servants and attentive listeners to our citizens.

3-051

Magda Kósáné Kovács (PSE), írásban. – A még 2004-ben kitűzött feladatok közül a Bizottság a legfontosabbal maradt adós. Azzal, hogy megszüntesse vagy érdemben csökkentse az európai eszme iránti közömbösséget, a bizalomcsökkenést.

A jövő évi program sem tükrözi a felismerést, hogy ez az Európa más, mint a korábbi időszakban. Az EU-27-ek gazdasági potenciálja jóval nagyobb, mint az EU-15-öké volt, világgazdaságban elfoglalt helye is komolyabb. Ugyanakkor a 27-ek Európájának gazdasági és társadalmi problémái különbözőek, a belső feszültségek és félelmek is mások és erősebbek.

A munkaerő és a szolgáltatások szabad áramlása kemény konfliktusokat hozott felszínre. Világosan mutatják ezt a francia nem szavazatok, melyek az Alkotmány-tervezetet siklatták ki, az ír szavazatok pedig részben a kiküldetésben dolgozók körüli feszültségek miatt neheztlik meg a Lisszaboni Szerződéstervezet sorsát.

Nem tesz a 2009-es munkaterv arról sem említést, vajon a munkaerő szabad áramlása érdekében az 5 éves korlátozás után milyen tervvel rendelkezik a Bizottság a további korlátozásokkal élni kívánó tagországok ellenőrzésére.

Mindezekkel összefüggésben fájjalom, hogy a rasszizmus, az idegengyűlölet egyre ijesztőbb jelenléte Európában nem készíti cselekvésre a Bizottságot.

Ezek a problémák kikerülhetetlenek, és visszajönnek, mint a bumeráng. A kérdés csak az, hogy akkor foglalkozunk-e velük, amikor még a feszültség még kezelhető, vagy akkor, amikor már a neofasiszta csoportok gyűléstől telve randalíroznak Európa nagyvárosaiban. Remélem, az előbbi választjuk.

3-052

Marian-Jean Marinescu (PPE-DE), în scris. – Uniunea se confruntă cu dificultăți majore, determinate de fragilizarea neașteptată a cadrului internațional.

Instabilitatea piețelor financiare, fluctuațiile prețului combustibililor, terorismul, fantoma războiului rece, nevoia stringentă de securitate energetică, acutizarea efectelor schimbărilor climatice sunt amenințări pe care Uniunea Europeană nu le poate depăși decât prin unitate și consens.

Consecințele crizei din Georgia, ale crizei financiare din Statele Unite precum și escaladarea terorismului trebuie să impună direcții de acțiune clare în programul legislativ și de lucru al Comisiei.

Anul 2009 este crucial pentru stabilizarea instituțională prin Tratatul de la Lisabona, a cărui ratificare trebuie să fie prioritatea zero în perioada următoare. Programul trebuie să cuprindă aspectele de care depinde evoluția viitoare a Uniunii: politica energetică comună, politica externă și de securitate comună, reformarea cadrului politicii de vecinătate și întărirea angajamentelor față de țările din Balcanii de Vest, Moldova și Ucraina, state care au nevoie de Uniunea Europeană și de care, la rândul ei, Uniunea are nevoie.

2009 este și anul alegerilor pentru Parlamentul European. Eurobarometrul nu este deloc încurajator. Programul legislativ și de lucru al Comisiei trebuie să demonstreze că instituțiile europene au ca prim obiectiv îndeplinirea dorințelor și asigurarea bunăstării cetățenilor europeni.

3-053

5 - Przygotowanie szczytu UE-Indie (Marsylia, 29 września 2008 r.) (debata)

3-054

Przewodniczący. – Kolejnym punktem porządku dziennego są oświadczenia Rady i Komisji dotyczące przygotowania szczytu UE-Indie (Marsylia, 29 września 2008 r.)

3-055

Jean-Pierre Jouyet, président en exercice du Conseil. – Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les députés, je me félicite de l'intérêt que vous portez au renforcement de notre relation avec l'Inde. Le sommet Union européenne–Inde qui se tiendra, vous l'avez rappelé, Madame la Vice-présidente de la Commission, chère Margot Wallström, à Marseille le 1er septembre en présence du premier ministre indien, M. Manmohan Singh, du Président de la Commission, M. Barroso, et du président du Conseil de l'Union européenne, Nicolas Sarkozy, compte parmi la dizaine de sommets que nous organisons avec les pays tiers sous notre Présidence.

Vous remarquerez que le calendrier de ces rencontres est riche en sommets avec les grands pays émergents. Nous avons organisé en juillet un sommet avec l'Afrique du Sud et des sommets auront lieu avec la Corée – nous l'espérons –, la Chine et le Brésil en décembre. Cette succession de sommets représente pour l'Union européenne une occasion unique de développer son dialogue avec les grands pays émergents sur les sujets d'intérêt commun, et le sommet avec l'Inde s'inscrit pleinement dans cette logique.

Alors je sais que votre commission des affaires étrangères, Monsieur le Président, a participé récemment à un atelier fructueux sur les relations entre l'Union européenne et l'Inde en présence de nombreux experts. Il en est ressorti un désir profond d'encourager le renforcement du dialogue et de la coopération entre l'Union européenne et l'Inde.

La Présidence est animée de la même volonté que votre Assemblée. Avec une population de plus d'un milliard d'habitants qui devrait dépasser celle de la Chine en 2025, avec une croissance économique annuelle de plus de 8 % depuis 2005, l'Inde a vocation à devenir un partenaire incontournable de l'Union européenne, et nous voulons donc faire de ce prochain sommet une étape importante pour l'approfondissement de nos relations avec ce pays.

Depuis 2000, date de notre premier sommet, nous avons étendu le champ de notre dialogue et de notre coopération. L'Union européenne est désormais le principal partenaire commercial de l'Inde. Elle est également l'un des plus importants investisseurs dans ce pays et dans plusieurs secteurs essentiels de son économie: l'énergie, les transports, les télécommunications notamment, et les sommets que nous avons organisés ont contribué de manière décisive à l'approfondissement de nos relations.

Cela a été le cas en 2004, quand nous avons hissé notre coopération au rang de partenariat stratégique. En 2005, nous avons mis au point un plan d'action pour donner vie à ce partenariat et, en 2006, un accord dit de libre échange a été conclu. Mais il faut faire plus et faire en sorte que le dialogue politique ainsi que notre coopération avec ce pays correspondent au véritable potentiel de l'Inde.

Nous souhaitons que le sommet de Marseille serve cet objectif. Nous souhaitons également renforcer notre coopération avec l'Inde dans des domaines qui correspondent aux priorités actuelles de l'Union, la lutte contre le changement climatique et l'énergie. Ces discussions sont loin d'être faciles avec nos grands partenaires émergents, mais nous devons les avoir et nous travaillons avec nos homologues indiens à la réalisation d'un certain nombre d'objectifs.

En premier lieu, nous souhaitons adopter, au cours de ce sommet, un plan d'action rénové plus court, plus opérationnel et qui nous permette d'adapter notre partenariat à ces nouveaux enjeux que sont la sécurité énergétique et le développement durable. Nous souhaitons également renforcer nos perspectives de coopération dans le domaine de la recherche et des nouvelles technologies, de l'énergie solaire ou du projet ITER, par exemple.

Ce plan d'action devra être complété par l'adoption d'un programme de travail sur l'énergie, sur le développement propre et sur le changement climatique, et prévoir notamment des coopérations dans le domaine de l'efficacité énergétique, du charbon propre et du déploiement des énergies renouvelables.

Ces actions pourront, le cas échéant, être soutenues par le nouveau Centre européen pour les affaires et les technologies. Ce nouveau centre devrait voir le jour à New Dehli d'ici la fin de l'année et, bien évidemment, au cours de ce sommet, nous aborderons les questions régionales cruciales pour la stabilité internationale, qu'il s'agisse de l'Afghanistan, du Pakistan, de la Birmanie ou de l'Iran.

Nous souhaitons aussi faire progresser, au cours de ce sommet, notre partenariat stratégique avec l'Inde par le lancement ou par la poursuite de projets concrets de coopération. Nous espérons être en mesure de signer un accord très important dans le domaine aérien. C'est un accord qui a déjà été paraphé par les négociateurs au début de cette année. Nous souhaitons le signer parce qu'il permettra de mettre en conformité nos législations nationales avec le droit communautaire tout en renforçant la sécurité juridique des opérateurs européens. Je ne parle ici que de ce qui correspond aux vols entre l'Inde et l'Union européenne. Parce que pour le reste, j'espère qu'on est en phase avec les législations communautaires.

Nous souhaitons donner une nouvelle impulsion aux négociations grâce à un accord de commerce et d'investissement. Naturellement, il appartient à la Commission, à Mme la vice-présidente, dont c'est la compétence, de négocier cet accord. Nous souhaitons assurer la Commission, en la personne de Mme Wallström, de notre entier soutien car notre relation avec

L'Inde mérite d'être approfondie. La signature d'un accord de commerce et d'investissement constituerait à cet égard véritablement une étape importante.

Alors qu'elle présente un très grand potentiel de développement des relations, il faut rappeler que l'Inde n'est que le neuvième partenaire commercial de l'Union européenne derrière la Corée du Sud, situation anormale s'il en est.

Donc, les trois documents que nous adopterons lors de ce sommet – je les rappelle: plan d'action conjoint révisé, programme de travail sur l'énergie et perspective d'accord mentionnée plus haut – sont en cours de négociation avec la partie indienne, ainsi que le communiqué de presse conjoint. Je ne peux pas rentrer aujourd'hui dans le détail de ces textes compte tenu des échanges en cours avec nos partenaires indiens, mais je crois pouvoir dire dès à présent devant votre Assemblée que nous sommes optimistes quant aux résultats que nous pourrions obtenir à l'issue de ce sommet.

Je souhaiterais, en conclusion, saluer le rôle très constructif, Monsieur le Président, qu'a joué le Parlement européen dans les relations entre l'Union européenne et l'Inde. La création, en 2007, d'une délégation spéciale pour l'Inde a donné une nouvelle impulsion aux contacts avec le Lok Sabha, le parlement indien, et la délégation de votre Assemblée sera certainement appelée à jouer un rôle important, notamment en ce qui concerne la préparation des futures résolutions parlementaires sur les questions sensibles qui touchent aux relations entre l'Inde et l'Union européenne.

J'en profite, en terminant cette présentation, pour saluer la présence, ici, de Madame la présidente de la délégation pour les relations avec l'Inde, Mme Gill, qui anime avec dynamisme cette délégation.

3-056

Margot Wallström, Vice-President of the Commission. – Mr President, honourable Members, Mr Jouyet, I am speaking on behalf of my colleague Benita Ferrero-Waldner, and it is a pleasure to speak to you today on the preparation of the summit with India in Marseille on 29 September 2008.

Europe's relations with India, I have learned now, have been growing in importance for several years, not only because of growing trade and investment but also because of a shared commitment to, and experience of, multilingual and multicultural democracy. In this Parliament you have recently demonstrated the political importance of relations with India, both by setting up a new parliamentary delegation and also by inviting President Abdul Kalam to address the House last year, which was the first time an Indian Head of State had done so.

At this summit we hope to turn this growing political commitment into stronger concrete cooperation, and we can already report a good deal of progress since we agreed a Strategic Partnership with India in 2004 and a Joint Action Plan in 2005.

The first thing to mention is the political dialogue and cooperation that has been strengthened, and there is now a regular calendar of summits and ministerial meetings, an annual security dialogue has been established, and new formats for dialogue in the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation meeting, and this has fostered cooperation even on sensitive issues such as counter-terrorism.

The second point to mention is that the contacts between the EU and India are intensifying, particularly in education, where the European Union has provided funding for over 900 scholarships to Indian students under the Erasmus Mundus programme, and this funding will be continued until at least 2013.

The third point is that economic and technical cooperation has deepened. Science and technology activities and exchanges have intensified and they have also been lifted to ministerial level; new dialogues have been created; an EU-India energy panel has been established; and the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor – the so-called ITER agreement – to which both India and the EU are party, is now in force.

Trade and investment has also continued to expand. EU-India bilateral trade has doubled to EUR 55 billion since 2000, and the EU is now the biggest source of foreign direct investment into India while the EU is also receiving increasing inflows of Indian outward investment.

Development cooperation has continued to increase and we will be using the bulk of our indicative budget of EUR 470 million for India for 2007-2013 especially to support health and education programmes related to the Millennium Development Goals.

So we have achieved a good deal, but there is more to do, and we believe that our relations should be guided by the promotion of peace, human rights and comprehensive security, sustainable development with environmental considerations, social equity and economic prosperity, and the strengthening of cultural and educational exchanges. One of our main aims at the summit is to agree a revised joint action plan to reflect these objectives.

As global players, both sides have a responsibility to address global challenges, and some specific global issues will be raised.

With regard to world trade, we hope that India and the US can resolve their differences over the WTO Round and enable negotiations to get back on track. Climate change and energy are also summit priorities for us, and we hope to sign a joint work programme on energy, clean development and climate change focused on renewable and clean energies, together with two climate-change-related European Investment Bank loans. We will also discuss the global financial crisis and ways in which the world food situation can be addressed.

On bilateral matters, we have some significant joint interests to discuss. The free-trade agreement negotiations that were launched last year have made good progress and now we are aiming for their early and balanced conclusion. We hope to sign a horizontal agreement on civil aviation at the summit. We will also push for progress on the conclusion of a maritime agreement.

Concerning culture and education, our objective is to agree on the launch of a policy dialogue.

Science and technology is also a priority, and the summit should welcome the creation of a European Business and Technology Centre in Delhi and the support provided for this by the European Parliament.

Let me finish by welcoming the recent creation by the Indian Parliament of a group for friendship with the European Parliament. I am sure that this will enable all of you, through contacts with your Indian partners, to convince them that the EU is the most successful and forward-looking phenomenon in international governance of modern times and that we have much to offer each other.

3-057

Charles Tannock, *on behalf of the PPE-DE Group*. – Mr President, the EU strategic partnership with democratic, secular India is of critical importance in these dangerous and unpredictable times, as this is a country that shares our values and aspirations.

We face common challenges: the fight against terrorism – and in this context I hereby call for Europol to grant India privileged status in the exchange of intelligence and the fight against terrorism – the need to protect the environment including the issue of climate change, and the importance of managing the benefits of globalisation.

The recent bombings in Delhi have underlined the serious threat India faces from Islamist terrorism. Mindful of the instability in India's neighbouring countries, from Pakistan to Sri Lanka, it should be obvious to all of us that we should do our utmost to support India, both as a regional power in South Asia, but also one which plays a major, constructive and global role in multilateral fora such as SAARC, ASEAN and the UN, where it is high time that India be granted a permanent seat on the Security Council.

Our resolution rightly expresses concerns about the recent killings of Christians in the Orissa Province and unrest in Jammu and Kashmir, calling for those responsible to be punished, as human rights and the rule of law are at the forefront of the EU's strategic partnership with India. This situation is in stark contrast to the EU's dealings with the People's Republic of China, which considers itself immune from our pleas to respect the human rights of its citizens.

I do hope that the forthcoming summit will solidify the flourishing relationship between India and the EU, especially in the field of commerce. As co-president and founder of the Friends of India and draftsman in the Foreign Affairs Committee for the EU-India Free Trade Agreement, I want to see rapid steps towards establishing a free trade relationship, to our mutual benefit, with large foreign direct investment now flowing from India to the EU for the first time. But my group, the PPE-DE, also wants to see enhanced political cooperation in the many challenges, such as the current issue of global financial instability, that we both face for the future.

3-058

Emilio Menéndez del Valle, *en nombre del Grupo PSE*. – La gran mayoría de este Parlamento opina que la India es la mayor democracia del mundo y que con ella deseamos tener crecientes relaciones de cooperación.

Compartimos con la India principios y realidades, desde la misma democracia hasta el multilateralismo en las relaciones internacionales. Sin embargo, hay otros puntos en los que disentimos. Por ejemplo, la pena de muerte, cuya abolición de su sistema judicial pedimos. Asimismo, exhortamos a la India a que se adhiera al Tribunal Penal Internacional.

Muchos lamentamos que su Gobierno no haya ratificado la Convención Internacional contra la Tortura. Dicho esto, y a pesar de ello, elogiamos la cooperación india con el Consejo de Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas y nos congratulamos del papel que lleva a cabo su Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos en relación con la discriminación por razón de la religión, la casta u otros motivos.

Estamos atentos a los terribles sucesos en el Estado de Orisa, provocados recientemente por fanáticos hinduístas. Los condenamos sin vacilación alguna, pero, simultáneamente, proclamamos que las excepciones, por muy sangrantes que sean, no pueden ser generalizadas. De ahí que sostengamos que la India constituye un modelo de pluralismo cultural y religioso.

Fuera de sus fronteras, la India juega un papel clave. Lo hace regionalmente y muestra su preocupación, al igual que nosotros, por la actual y volátil situación política en Pakistán, así como, al igual que la mayoría de nosotros, por la creciente situación de inseguridad e incertidumbre en Afganistán y Sri Lanka.

Por cierto, sería encomiable que Nueva Delhi uniera sus esfuerzos a los nuestros, a los esfuerzos de la Unión Europea, para ayudar a Myanmar a salir de la pesadilla que padece.

En definitiva, se puede considerar a la India como promotora de paz y estabilidad en la región. India es hoy, a diferencia de otros, un poder nuclear responsable. Sin embargo, personalmente opino que lo sería todavía más si se adhirió al Tratado de No Proliferación Nuclear; su imagen en el mundo crecería —comentario, dicho sea de paso, que hago extensible a países como Pakistán, Corea del Norte o Israel.

Dicho todo ello —y termino— en el entendimiento de que la coincidencia en los fines no debe excluir la crítica razonada y razonable, estoy convencido de que la inminente cumbre entre ambas partes será un éxito.

3-059

Nicholson of Winterbourne, on behalf of the ALDE Group. – Mr President, it is always a pleasure to speak on matters which will enhance the steady growth of one of the most important international relationships in the globe, that between the European Union and the Republic of India. We call, in our resolution, for those involved in the summit to explore further ways of upgrading this relationship, and we look forward to concrete results which will be reported back to this Parliament.

It is a critical time for the summit. We paid tribute in our resolution to the September victims of terrorism in India, including those killed in the assault on the Indian Embassy in Kabul. But today, surely, we must also pay tribute to those heroes who saved lives in Islamabad, and we must remember that India lies at the heart of a region that is in considerable security difficulties. It is proper that the wish in our resolution that there should be greater intelligence-sharing should be taken up and honoured, and all efforts to support India in her fight against terrorism with us should be supported – including, we believe, a seat on the United Nations Security Council.

In our resolution we call also for a peaceful future for the former princely State of Jammu and Kashmir, on both sides of the border and now split into two nations. Peace comes, as we know so well with the European Union, with employment – with jobs – and it is particularly pleasant to learn that India is at present, in Jammu and Kashmir, building the longest railway tunnel in the globe, which will be nearly 11 km long, as part of a 148-km long section of track. This will be the longest in the world, 95% complete, which gives 3 900 new jobs of direct employment and, I am sure, many thousands more to come.

And culture: we call, too, for greater links with culture. This is the year of dialogue, and India has much to teach the European Union on this. We call for more people-to-people dialogue, and I am sure that is the way forward. In conclusion, I urge colleagues to support this excellent resolution.

3-060

Konrad Szymański, w imieniu grupy UEN. – Panie Przewodniczący! Indie są naszym strategicznym partnerem, tak handlowym, jak i politycznym. Odgrywają konstruktywną rolę w regionie. Przyszedł jednak czas, by rząd w Delhi usłyszał kilka gorzkich słów na temat notorycznego gwałcenia wolności wyznania w tym kraju. Według Indyjskiej Rady Chrześcijan co trzy dni dochodzi tam do większych i mniejszych aktów agresji i nietolerancji wobec chrześcijan. Ginią ludzie, demolowane są kościoły, wymiar sprawiedliwości zachowuje się w tych sprawach nad wyraz pasywnie.

Nie możemy się zgodzić na prawo zakazujące przyjmowania chrześcijaństwa w niektórych częściach Indii. Oczekujemy zdecydowanych kroków, także w zakresie odszkodowań, jakie należne są wspólnotom chrześcijańskim za zniszczone mienie.

Pani Komisarz, Panie Ministrze! Apeluję, by wszystkie te sprawy zostały bardzo jasno postawione w czasie wrześniowego szczytu Unia-Indie.

3-061

Gisela Kallenbach, im Namen der Verts/ALE-Fraktion. – Herr Präsident! Zu Beginn möchte ich unterstreichen, dass meine Fraktion ein großes Interesse an guten partnerschaftlichen Beziehungen zu Indien hat, einem Land, das als die größte demokratische Nation betrachtet wird.

Allerdings – und auch das muss betont werden –, zu einer Partnerschaft auf Augenhöhe gehört, dass Probleme ehrlich angesprochen werden. Das ist nach wie vor bei Indien nicht der Fall und spiegelt sich auch nicht in der vorliegenden Entschließung wider. Daher können wir diesen Kompromiss leider nicht mittragen.

Wie können wir – wie es formuliert ist – Indien als Modell für den Umgang mit religiösem und kulturellem Pluralismus hinstellen, wenn es gerade wieder etliche Tote im Zusammenhang mit Ausschreitungen extremistischer Hindus gegen Christen in Orissa oder Moslems in Kaschmir gab? Für die Pogrome von Gujarat sind die Verantwortlichen nach wie vor nicht zur Verantwortung gezogen worden. Etwa 200 Klagen hängen nach wie vor in den Mühlen der Justiz fest.

Wird wirklich entschieden gegen solche Ausschreitungen radikaler Gruppierungen, gegen Massaker an Christen oder Moslems vorgegangen? Wie gleichberechtigt leben die Dalits? Gelten die Menschenrechte als universelles Gut? Sind Kinder endlich vor Arbeit und Ausbeutung geschützt? Das sind Fragen, die wir mit unseren indischen Partnern offen diskutieren sollten.

In den letzten fünf Jahren hat die indische Menschenrechtskommission über 14 000 Todesfälle in Polizei- und Armeegewahrsam registriert. Bitte, Indien, reformieren Sie den *Armed Forces Special Powers Act*! Die Gesetzlosigkeit ist es, die zu Aufstandsbewegungen in vielen indischen Staaten führt.

Bedrückend ist nach wie vor die Armut, und da reichen auch gute Programme nicht aus. Es muss sehr viel mehr getan werden, wenn 40 % der am meisten unterernährten Kinder in Indien leben.

Europa kann mit Wissens- und Technologietransfer sehr viel dazu beitragen, dass sich Indien tatsächlich nachhaltig entwickelt.

3-062

Jaromír Kohlíček, za skupinu GUE/NGL. – Milé kolegyně, vážení kolegové, když v roce 1947 získala Indie samostatnost, jejich 18 % gramotných občanů, nestabilní politické prostředí i stupeň ekonomického rozvoje v žádném případě nedával tušit, jakými problémy se budeme za šedesát let zabývat. Ano, problémy rozvoje země nejsou zdaleka vyřešeny. Stále je zde mnoho milionů negramotných, nezaměstnaných a těch, kteří žijí na okraji společnosti. Jednáme ale s jadernou mocností dosahující přírůstky hrubého domácího produktu již řadu let okolo 8 %. Jedná se se zemí, která potřebuje nutně postavit desítky bloků elektráren, modernizuje základní železniční a silniční síť, řeší problémy malých měst. Malá města jsou v Indii ta, která mají kolem milionu obyvatel, abychom věděli, o čem je řeč. Stále je zde v některých částech země velký demografický tlak, ale dnes už je na stole i problém outsourcingu.

Indické firmy přebírají těm z Evropské unie kvalifikovanou práci, programátorskou práci, například v oboru účetnictví, a mnohdy tyto práce provádějí pracovníci, kteří sídlí v Indii. Řada zemí dováží kvalifikované specialisty. Zvykli jsme si na největší ocelářskou firmu v Evropské unii Lakshmi Mittala. Už víme o dalších průmyslových podnicích, které se začínají poohlížet na našem trhu. Problémy uvnitř SAARC ještě zdaleka nejsou vyřešeny a delikátní otázka Kašmíru také leží na stole vyjednávačů. Pozitivní kroky zde ale jsou a zdá se, že témat k diskuzi jsou v politické a ekonomické oblasti desítky. Velmi bych se přimlouval za podporu velkých infrastrukturních programů zahrnujících vedle Indie další země SAARC. Jedním z nich je například plynovod, který má propojit Irán, Pákistán, Indii. Zde i v mnoha dalších případech máme společné zájmy. Bezpečnost, energetická bezpečnost a mírovou mezinárodní spolupráce, to je před summitem dobré znamení.

3-063

Bastiaan Belder, namens de IND/DEM-Fractie. – Voorzitter, de gemeenschappelijke ontwerpresolutie gaat terecht in op de precaire positie van de christelijke minderheid in India. Ik wil beklemtonen, Raad en Commissie, dat deze situatie met name in de deelstaat Orissa uitzichtloos is, als de oorzaken niet daadwerkelijk bij hun politieke en sociaal-economische wortels worden aangepakt. Op 23 augustus van dit jaar werd Saraswati, lokale leider van de radicale hindoeïstische VHP in Orissa vermoord door maoïsten, naar verluidt. De christelijke minderheid moest echter boeten. Hindoenationalisten gingen gewapend met knuppels, bijlen en fakkels op jacht naar hun christelijke medeburgers en hielden gruwelijk huis, wekenlang, tot zelfs in de vluchtelingenkampen toe.

Dit geweld lijkt puur religieus, maar kent een evidente politieke component. Het punt is namelijk dat in Orissa, maar ook elders in India de hindoenationalistische BJP vandaag de dag sterk aan aanhangers wint. In haar ideologie is geen plaats voor religieuze minderheden, laat staan een christelijke minderheid.

Raad en Commissie, ik hoorde zojuist dat u de Indiase premier Singh op 29 september zult ontmoeten in Marseille. Premier Singh heeft de schanddaden in Orissa een nationale schande genoemd. U moet hem daar in Marseille over aanspreken. U moet dit punt, namelijk wat er gebeurt aan religieuze intolerantie en aan christenvervolgung, agenderen en uitvoerig bespreken want het is onacceptabel om op die manier een strategisch partnerschap in stand te houden.

3-064

Philip Claeys (NI). – Voorzitter, ook ik wil van de gelegenheid gebruikmaken om mijn bezorgdheid uit te spreken over het geweld van de jongste weken tegen christenen in India. Tientallen mensen werden vermoord, tienduizenden werden uit hun huizen verjaagd. Honderden huizen werden in brand gestoken en ook kerken werden niet gespaard.

De Europese Unie moet de centrale regering van India, maar ook die van de deelstaten, oproepen alles in het werk te stellen om het geweld te doen ophouden en de schuldigen te berechten. Op de top van volgende week in Marseille moet het strategische partnerschap met India niet alleen verdiept worden wat onze handelsrelaties betreft, ook de samenwerking in de strijd tegen het terrorisme moet uitgebreid worden. De bomaanslag van vorige week in Islamabad heeft nogmaals aangetoond in welke mate het buurland Pakistan geplaagd zit met het probleem van het islamitische terrorisme. Zeker in deze politieke overgangperiode in Pakistan is het van groot belang dat de relaties tussen India en Pakistan niet verslechteren. De Europese Unie moet alle mogelijke hulp leveren om de dialoog in stand te houden en verder te stimuleren.

India kent een sterk groeiende economie, wat zijn weerslag heeft op de behoefte aan energie. Het moet dan ook de politiek van de Europese Unie zijn om te vermijden dat India al te afhankelijk wordt van landen als Iran en Rusland.

3-065

Mario Mauro (PPE-DE). – Signor Presidente, signor Ministro Jouyet, signora Commissario Wallström, onorevoli colleghi, devo con rispetto far notare che la differenza fra gli interventi dei colleghi e le vostre introduzioni risulta essere il fatto che non avete trovato il coraggio di parlare in queste introduzioni dei massacri di questi giorni, di condannare con forza il venir meno della libertà religiosa in India. Questo è un segnale molto grave, che ci fa pensare che ci introdurremo al vertice dei prossimi giorni senza avere il coraggio di affrontare la questione centrale, che dice del rapporto vero e di vera amicizia che può esserci tra l'Unione europea e l'India.

È in gioco, infatti, non semplicemente il massacro di cristiani ma il tema della libertà religiosa, e la libertà religiosa non è una libertà come le altre, sulla libertà religiosa si fonda la qualità di una democrazia. Noi abbiamo appreso dalle parole del Presidente indiano in quest'Aula, che ci ha raccontato come ha imparato, in una scuola cristiana, non solo l'amore per la conoscenza ma anche la distinzione tra religione e politica.

Se questo è vero, noi chiediamo con forza, che l'Unione europea spenda i giorni del vertice del Summit Unione europea-India, per ricordare appunto che la libertà religiosa è fondamento per lo sviluppo della democrazia e per ricordare fino in fondo che siamo chiamati a un compito comune, nel quale in amicizia dobbiamo ricordarci che la violazione dei diritti umani è la fine di un rapporto di verità e costruttivo tra realtà che hanno molto da fruire e che hanno tutto da beneficiare, costruendo insieme il proprio futuro.

Dobbiamo avere questo coraggio, signora Commissario, dobbiamo avere questo coraggio signor Ministro, perché inevitabilmente, se non ci assumiamo noi questa responsabilità, ci rendiamo complici di un degenerare della qualità della democrazia.

3-066

Neena Gill (PSE). – Mr President, as chair of Parliament's India delegation, I really welcome this debate. I would like to stress the central importance of continued and frequent dialogue between India and Europe on many issues that benefit from a shared approach – both at Council and Commission level, but also at parliamentary level – so I welcome the group that has been set up in the Indian Parliament, and I hope they will be coming to the European Parliament in the very near future.

On our resolution, whilst it makes clear the values that Europe and India hold dear on commitment to democracy, pluralism, the rule of law and multilateralism, it is key that we are natural partners. I do believe our resolution should have focused more on major issues such as terrorism, climate change and the economic strengthening of this partnership, which I hope this summit will go some way towards tackling.

I also would like to give my deepest sympathies to the families and victims of the recent bomb attacks which have taken place in India. I think, for this reason, we need to acknowledge that both Europe and India have many enemies who want to destroy our shared values. This summit should be an opportunity to deepen our ties, but I think we have to recognise that progress so far has been slow and the joint action plan needs more resources in order to achieve the ambitions that we have given ourselves.

In conclusion I would just say that in many friendly relationships we can have constructive criticisms, but it is a responsibility of both sides to ensure that this is balanced. So criticism of India's difficulties and failings must be balanced by full and frank admission of our own. We are right to condemn the poor treatment of minorities, but Europe must also be mindful of our own problems with intercommunal violence and our own unsatisfactory record in some areas on race relations.

3-067

Wojciech Roszkowski (UEN). – Panie Przewodniczący! Ze względu na potencjał demograficzny i szybki wzrost gospodarczy Indie, jako największe na świecie państwo w ustroju demokratycznym, są istotnym partnerem Unii Europejskiej oraz świata zachodniego. Tym ważniejsze są zdrowe podstawy stosunków Unia – Indie. Mimo wielu pozytywnych symptomów rozwoju Indii z niepokojem należy przyjąć ostatnią falę prześladowań chrześcijan w Orissie i innych miejscach. Lokalne władze nie zrobiły nic, aby obronić obywateli swego kraju przed atakami fanatyków. Nie jest to wydarzenie przypadkowe, skoro w niektórych stanach indyjskich uchwalono prawa przeciwko przechodzeniu Hinduśców na inne wyznania, a działalność ekstremistycznych organizacji hinduistycznych nawołujących do oczyszczenia Indii z chrześcijan nie napotyka na żadne przeszkody prawne. System demokratyczny, którym tak szczycą się Indie, zakłada poszanowanie praw mniejszości etnicznych i religijnych. Czyżby kraj, który wydał Mahatmę Gandhiego, chciał dziś o tym zapomnieć? Jeśli tak, to na nadchodzącym szczycie musimy mu o tym przypomnieć.

3-068

Angelika Beer (Verts/ALE). – Herr Präsident, liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen! Ich darf Ihnen kurz erklären, warum meine Fraktion in der Abstimmung über den Kompromissentschließungsantrag gleich mit Nein stimmen wird.

Es ist in den Verhandlungen nicht gelungen, eine kritische Position zu dem Atomdeal zwischen den Amerikanern und Indien zu formulieren. Wir halten das für ein Versagen des Europäischen Parlaments, weil wir erwarten, dass wir den Mut haben, die europäische Sprachlosigkeit während der Verhandlungen in der *Nuclear Suppliers Group* zu kritisieren. Es ist feige, wenn alle Mitgliedstaaten und insbesondere der deutsche Vorsitz der NSG nicht in der Lage sind, die europäische Sicherheitsstrategie bei einem solchen Treffen zu verteidigen.

Wir haben einen Kompromiss, nach dem einer der Schwerpunkte der Kampf gegen die Proliferation ist. Aber genau mit diesem Schweigen haben wir jetzt den Dammbruch vollzogen, die abrüstungspolitische Glaubwürdigkeit verloren. Nukleare Abrüstung? Fehlanzeige! Stärkung des NPT-Regimes? Fehlanzeige! Glaubwürdigkeit bei den Verhandlungen mit dem Iran? Fehlanzeige! Stattdessen wirtschaftliche Interessen Frankreichs, insbesondere, um mit Atomtechnologie und Indien einen Deal zu schließen. Das ist eine Position, die wir für immanent halten, weswegen wir den Kompromiss ablehnen.

3-069

Erik Meijer (GUE/NGL). – Voorzitter, net als Europa is India een subcontinent met vele volkeren en verschillende talen, waar wordt geprobeerd een eind te maken aan het verleden van oorlog en onderdrukking. Toch kent India nog steeds martelingen en doodstraffen en daarnaast geweld tegen de bevolking van Kasjmir, die nooit het referendum heeft gekregen dat na de deling in 1947 nodig was om uit te maken bij welke staat zij willen horen.

In Europa mag het strategisch partnerschap met India, dat in 2004 is overeengekomen, geen reden zijn om de ogen te sluiten voor de discriminatie en rechteloosheid van 170 miljoen onaanraakbare mensen die niet tot een kaste behoren. Terecht vergeleek de premier van India in 2007 de achterstelling van deze Dalids met de apartheid in Zuid-Afrika. Veel Dalids hebben zich bekeerd tot het christendom of de islam. De extremistische oppositiepartij BJP wil de komende verkiezingen gebruiken om hindoes te mobiliseren tegen de christenen en de moslims en om de Dalids te dwingen erin te berusten dat zij eeuwig arm en rechteloos zullen zijn.

Hoe helpen wij de Indiase regering om dat geweld te stoppen en hoe zorgen wij ervoor dat de EU-hulp na de overstromingen ook de Dalids bereikt?

3-070

Tunne Kelam (PPE-DE). – Mr President, this relationship between the two biggest democracies of the world is a very special one. India is emerging as an economic and political giant, but it is a shared commitment to the rule of law, multicultural democracy, global stability and the fight against terrorism that unites us. I hope that the ninth summit will bring us closer to reaching a free-trade agreement and that the still unresolved issues such as services, competition and intellectual property rights can be settled.

I too express my concern about the recent wave of attacks on Christians in Orissa. It is not the first time this has happened. The last wave of mob violence occurred last December. It is very important – and I asked the Council and the Commission to bring this to the attention of their Indian counterparts – that Indian authorities take all possible steps to compensate for the damaged property, provide full protection for people who do not dare to return to their villages, help them to restore their churches and bring the perpetrators to justice.

At the same time, we understand the complexities of this huge country and I would like to express my deep sympathy with the victims of numerous terrorist attacks which have hit India. We stand together with our Indian friends for common values, for the rule of law and the unconditional respect for human life, values so forcefully embodied by Mahatma Ghandi.

3-071

Thijs Berman (PSE). – Voorzitter, bijna een jaar geleden was er in Birma een volksoptocht. De repressie gaat voort. Het zou India sieren als de regering de innige relatie met dit criminele regime in Birma zou verbreken. Meer en meer Indiërs vragen erom, geschokt na de misdadige reactie van het regime op de gevolgen van de cycloon.

India maakt de laatste jaren een fantastische groei door met steeds meer hoog gekwalificeerde mensen en een enorme nieuwsgierigheid naar innovatie. India speelt een nieuwe rol ten opzichte van ontwikkelingslanden, met een eigen *Everything but Arms*. India is een nieuwe donor. Ook tussen de Europese Unie en India wordt de dialoog anders en soms scherper, zoals het hoort tussen gelijke partners. Er kunnen door de enorme economische groei betere omstandigheden en kansen ontstaan voor meer sociale rechtvaardigheid in India. Het probleem van de onaanraakbaren is helaas nog steeds schrijnend.

De Europese Unie wil ook graag dat India de ILO-conventies over kinderarbeid naleeft. Dat is niet zomaar op te lossen. In India leven hele families van het geld dat de kinderen verdienen. Maar kinderarbeid is zowel oorzaak als gevolg van armoede. Zolang kinderen werken zijn er té veel goedkope arbeidskrachten en blijven de lonen van volwassenen laag. De kloof tussen arm en rijk blijft dan te groot in India. Werken aan kansen voor iedereen is een kwestie van overleven, het voorkomt onaantoonbare sociale spanningen en is voor miljoenen Indiërs een kwestie van rechtvaardigheid. Dat is een gezamenlijke opdracht, binnen de EU, in India, in de wereld.

3-072

Dariusz Maciej Grabowski (UEN). – Panie Przewodniczący! By sprostać wyzwaniom przyszłości Unia Europejska powinna zerwać z polityką wdzięczenia się i ustępstw. Przykładem takiej polityki jest postawa wobec Rosji i argument – bo Rosja ma surowce energetyczne.

We współczesnym szybko zmieniającym się świecie Unia Europejska ma obowiązek odegrać rolę strażnika i propagatora praw i niezbywalnych zasad takich jak prawa człowieka do wolności i tolerancji, prawa narodów do samostanowienia. Sprawdzianem przyjęcia i realizacji tej doktryny będą rozmowy i kontakty z Indiami – nową potęgą światową.

Jedną z podstawowych spraw, o jaką powinna się upomnieć Unia Europejska jest prawo do swobód religijnych dla chrześcijan, a w szczególności dla kościoła katolickiego dziś prześladowanego i zagrożonego eksterminacją. Dziś w Indiach płoną kościoły i giną chrześcijanie, a przecież to Europa dała Indiom Matkę Teresę z Kalkuty – osobę świętą, czyniącą dobro tam, gdzie go najbardziej brakowało. Oto ludzki, fundamentalny, ideowy wzór dla Unii Europejskiej w relacjach z Indiami, oto przykład dla Indii jak powinny być budowane relacje wyznawców różnych religii.

3-073

Sajjad Karim (PPE-DE). – Mr President, I, as a long-standing rapporteur on this issue within this Parliament, welcome the EU-India Summit, which is due to take place very soon.

I see India in many ways as a natural partner for the European Union. We must use this summit to make progress, and I welcome the Council and Commission statements that have been made today. But I have to say, as a rapporteur, that too much time has been taken to get to where we are today. It is now time that we have delivery.

I hear comments made by so many of my colleagues today pertaining to the issue of human rights and religious freedoms. I remind them that this House fought very hard to have a human-rights clause included in all of our free-trade agreements. We, Commissioner, must underline our commitment to that clause. So, whether it is thousands of disappeared or mass graves in Jammu and Kashmir, or the murder of Christians in Orissa and attacks upon them, our commitments to human rights must remain absolute and committed.

Concerning the FTA: we now need delivery. A comprehensive bilateral between us and India is not just of importance to us and India but is of global significance.

3-074

Mirosław Mariusz Piotrowski (UEN). – Panie Przewodniczący! Fundamentem Europy jest chrześcijaństwo, do wartości tych powinniśmy się odwoływać. Wolność wyznania jest jednym z praw podstawowych Unii Europejskiej. Wymiar ten powinien być wyraźnie akcentowany w relacjach Unii Europejskiej z innymi krajami. Ogromny niepokój budzi prześladowanie i ataki na chrześcijan oraz dewastacja kościołów w Indiach. Władze tego kraju wykazały beczynność wskazującą na przyzwolenie wobec nasilających się aktów terroru. W obliczu zbliżającego się szczytu Unia Europejska-Indie należałoby uzależnić prowadzenie rozmów od wyraźnych deklaracji władz Indii, że podejmą niezwłocznie wszelkie możliwe działania w celu powstrzymania prześladowań chrześcijan i że winni tych czynów zostaną ukarani. Unia Europejska nie może bowiem tworzyć żadnych ułatwień, także handlowych, dla krajów, w których bezkarnie łamane są prawa podstawowe. Parlament Europejski powinien wysłać czytelny sygnał, że stawia obronę tych wartości ponad doraźny interes gospodarczy.

3-075

Christa Klač (PPE-DE). – Herr Präsident, Frau Kommissarin, meine Damen und Herren! Der EU-Indien-Gipfel ist ein neuer Schritt zur Vertiefung der Beziehungen zwischen der Europäischen Union und Indien. Wir wollen die wirtschaftliche Entwicklung in Indien fördern.

Wir beobachten aber sehr genau, was in den Regionen Indiens im Bereich der Menschlichkeit und der Menschenrechte passiert. Die Kolleginnen und Kollegen haben fast alle auf die Christenverfolgungen, die neuerlich dort stattfinden, hingewiesen. Auf dem Gipfel müssen auch diese Themen angesprochen werden. Die Ermordung eines geistlichen Führers des Welthindurates am 23. August dieses Jahres löste einen neuen Konflikt aus. Es ist nicht der erste Übergriff auf Christen, denn es gibt allein im Staat Orissa mittlerweile etwa 60 000 religiöse Flüchtlinge. Christen werden verfolgt, gedemütigt, missbraucht und ermordet. Häuser, Kirchen und Klöster in christlichen Gemeinden werden verwüstet und zerstört.

Der indische Staat muss den dort lebenden christlichen Minderheiten das Recht auf Leben und auf Freiheit garantieren. Wirtschaftlicher Erfolg und Stabilität sind nur in Freiheit der Menschen möglich.

3-076

Reinhard Rack (PPE-DE). – Herr Präsident! Indien und Europa brauchen mehr und bessere Kontakte miteinander auf allen Ebenen, vor allem auch auf dem Niveau von so genannten normalen Menschen: Geschäftsreisende, Touristen, Studenten usw.

Eine kurze Anmerkung dazu – sie hat auch für das Gesetzgebungsprogramm der Kommission, über das wir vorher diskutiert haben, Bedeutung. Im weltweiten Flugverkehr brauchen wir gute Sicherheitsvorschriften, solche, die etwas bringen, und keine bloßen Alibimaßnahmen. Es wäre daher eine vernünftige, wirklich notwendige Maßnahme, endlich einmal die sinnlosen Vorschriften für das Mitführen von Flüssigkeiten aufzuheben und sich etwas Besseres einfallen zu lassen.

3-077

Czesław Adam Siekierski (PPE-DE). – Panie Przewodniczący! W perspektywie zbliżającego się szczytu Unia-Indie należy zastanowić się nad perspektywami intensyfikacji współpracy, której dotychczasowa dynamika pomimo dużych postępów ciągle jest wyraźnie mniejsza niż w relacjach z Chinami. Unia jest najważniejszym partnerem gospodarczym Indii, ale wciąż pozostaje pole do umocnienia pozycji naszych firm w takich dynamicznie rozwijających się sektorach indyjskiej gospodarki, jak energetyka, telekomunikacja czy przemysł maszynowy. Jednocześnie nie pozwólmy, aby perspektywa robienia interesów w Indiach przysłoniła nam problemy, z jakimi boryka się ludność tego kraju – powszechne ubóstwo, niedostatki systemu opieki zdrowotnej i szkolnictwa, epidemia AIDS, potężne kontrasty społeczne – to najważniejsze z tych problemów. Wysyłając do Indii polityków, finansistów, towary czy *know-how* nie zapomnijmy o pomocy humanitarnej czy lekach, a przede wszystkim o przestrzeganiu wolności religijnej w Indiach.

3-078

Jean-Pierre Jouyet, président en exercice du Conseil. – Monsieur le Président, merci pour ce débat qui a permis de montrer que nous étions attachés au développement de notre partenariat avec l'Inde, parce que c'est une puissance qui concourt à la stabilité internationale et à la stabilité régionale, parce que c'est – comme cela a été dit – le pays le plus important, le plus peuplé, le plus démocratique et aussi, parce que c'est un pays qui est attaché – en dépit des difficultés qui ont été soulignées – au pluralisme culturel et religieux. Plus précisément – pour répondre aux inquiétudes qui ont été exprimées, notamment par M. Tannock – la lutte contre le terrorisme est un élément central du dialogue entre l'Union européenne et l'Inde. S'agissant des violences terroristes qui ont frappé l'Inde, l'Union a condamné tous les attentats dont ce pays a été victime et nous sommes solidaires – ainsi que Mme Gill l'a souligné – des victimes de ces attentats qui portent atteinte au caractère multiethnique et multiconfessionnel de l'Inde.

Plusieurs orateurs sont revenus, à juste titre, sur les violences, persécutions, exactions commises contre, notamment, la communauté chrétienne, en général, et la communauté chrétienne d'Orissa, en particulier. Nous sommes extrêmement vigilants à cet égard et nous ferons, bien évidemment, droit à ces observations dans le cadre du sommet que nous tiendrons avec les autorités indiennes. Mais, comme l'a dit Mme Gill, nous devons avoir des critiques constructives et nous devons faire en sorte de saluer aussi l'attitude courageuse – cela a été souligné par plusieurs intervenants – du Premier ministre indien qui a qualifié ces faits de honte nationale et qui n'est pas resté passif puisque trois mille policiers ont tout de même été dépêchés sur place à Orissa. Enfin, il reste que nous sommes gravement préoccupés par ces attaques et les violences qui sont commises contre les différentes confessions, et notamment les communautés chrétiennes. La lutte contre le terrorisme doit s'inscrire dans le respect de l'État de droit et des normes internationales, comme nous le rappelons.

Sur la question de la stabilité régionale, évoquée par M. Menéndez del Valle et par M. Berman notamment: à la demande de l'Union européenne, la situation en Birmanie figure à l'ordre du jour du sommet. L'Union européenne souhaite convaincre tous les voisins de la Birmanie que leur intérêt réside dans les réformes démocratiques et dans une transition pacifique dans ce pays. Nous l'évoquerons avec l'Inde et aussi avec d'autres pays. Nous souhaitons également une plus grande stabilité et aussi que des négociations puissent s'ouvrir sur la question du Cachemire et des relations entre l'Inde et le Pakistan.

S'agissant des aspects sociaux qui ont été évoqués, et le travail des enfants, notamment, par Mme Kallenbach, le Conseil partage cette préoccupation, et pas seulement à l'égard de l'Inde. Nous négocions avec la partie indienne un plan d'action en vue de renforcer les engagements dans le domaine de la responsabilité sociale des entreprises, du travail décent et de la lutte contre le travail des enfants, et nous incluons dans la difficile négociation de l'accord de commerce et d'investissement des dispositions sur les droits fondamentaux du travail conformes aux normes de l'Organisation internationale du travail. Comme je l'ai dit, je partage en partie l'avis qui a été exprimé par Mme Gill, qui m'a paru très équilibré. Nous devons être solidaires des victimes de toutes les attaques terroristes, nous devons également condamner l'Inde lorsque des mesures contre les actes terroristes nous semblent insuffisantes, mais aussi soutenir les autorités indiennes lorsqu'elles prennent les mesures adéquates.

En ce qui concerne les observations qui ont été faites à propos de la coopération nucléaire, je rappelle qu'il y a eu le 6 septembre dernier un accord conclu par le groupe des fournisseurs nucléaires, par lequel il a été décidé d'accorder une dérogation permettant de nouer avec l'Inde des relations commerciales dans le domaine nucléaire civil, sous le contrôle, avec l'accord et dans le respect des conditions posées par l'Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique, et je rappellerai également que l'Inde s'est engagée à prolonger son moratoire sur les essais nucléaires et, enfin, que les programmes civils et militaires doivent être clairement séparés.

En conclusion, l'Union européenne – je le rappelle – est la seule qui développe un dialogue rigoureux avec l'ensemble des pays émergents et qui applique à chacun de ses partenaires les mêmes critères en matière de droits de l'homme, avec la clause obligatoire dans tout nouvel accord depuis 1995, avec une exigence de respect des normes internationales, qu'il s'agisse du CPI, des conventions des Nations unies sur les droits politiques ou de l'application des droits sociaux environnementaux. Cela vaut pour tous les pays émergents, y compris, par nos partenaires indiens.

3-079

Margot Wallström, Vice-President of the Commission. – Mr President, honourable Members, let me almost in telegram form answer some of your detailed questions and add a couple of points.

Firstly, a piece of information that I think is important to all of you who are engaged in the issue of India-EU cooperation concerns the recent flooding in Bihar state, where the European Commission is providing assistance to the victims of this catastrophe. The Commission mobilised EUR 2 million for emergency relief to cover the most urgent needs of food, shelter, water, sanitation and medical support. This has been provided both to those displaced and those who remained in the affected villages. I thought it important for you to know that.

There was a question on civil aviation. In principle, the signature of the horizontal agreement at the summit should be accompanied by the signature of the financing agreement on a new civil aviation cooperation programme covering EUR 12.5 million. That is the highest amount of European Community funding for aviation for any third country.

I would just like to say a few words on climate change, because it is, of course, in our interests to engage India in the run-up to the post-Kyoto regime. As you know, we take the view, contrary to India, that climate-change-related measures are not incompatible with economic development. On the contrary, they can help us and we urge India to also be proactive in the coming Poznań Conference to prepare post-Kyoto and in the negotiations on an agreement in Copenhagen. We have good reason to expect that a work programme on energy and climate change will be adopted at the summit, and this is an essential component of our cooperation with India.

We are, of course, following very closely the communal violence in the state of Orissa, which we deplore. We raised the issue of Orissa at the last human rights dialogue in February, asking the authorities to prevent such violence. We also raised the issue with the India National Human Rights Commission and the National Minorities Commission. We will also raise it at this summit on the basis of a report which has been requested from the Heads of Mission in Delhi.

Finally, concerning our dialogue on India, I would like to say to Mrs Gill that the Commission is prepared to inform Parliament on the priorities set in the revised Joint Action Plan. Our External Relations Department holds regular meetings with all the services directly involved in Indian affairs and a representative of the secretariat of the Parliament is always invited to these meetings, but I think it is important to follow this up in a very practical way.

Thank you very much for this debate. We will of course take back to the Commission all your detailed and well-informed views.

3-080

Przewodniczący. – Otrzymałem sześć projektów rezolucji² złożonych zgodnie z art. 103 ust. 2 Regulaminu.

Zamykam debatę.

² Patrz protokół.

Głosowanie odbędzie się w środę 24 września 2008 r.

Oświadczenia pisemne (art. 142)

3-080-500

Sylwester Chruszcz (NI), na piśmie. – Przed spotkaniem na szczycie UE-Indie w Marsylii 29 września pragnę zwrócić uwagę na uwadze dramatyczne wydarzenia - falę przemocy oraz serię morderstw na chrześcijanach dokonanych w sierpniu w tym kraju, a konkretnie w Orisie. Jako europarlament powinniśmy stanowczo potępić tego typu wydarzenia. Nasuwają się również pytania co do zachowania policji w obliczu masakry dokonanej na przedstawicielach mniejszości religijnej. Pragnę wyrazić głębokie ubolewanie oraz zaniepokojenie atakami na chrześcijan w Orisie, a w szczególności w dystrykcie Kandhamal i podkreślić potrzebę zapewnienia ofiarom natychmiastowej pomocy i wsparcia

3-080-750

Filip Kaczmarek (PPE-DE), na piśmie. – Indie są dla Unii Europejskiej ważnym partnerem. Osiągnięcia Indii są imponujące - zarówno w wymiarze politycznym, jak i ekonomicznym. Stosunki między Unią a Indiami mogą być coraz lepsze i obustronnie korzystne. Wydaje się jednak, że istnieje poważna bariera w rozwoju samych Indii i naszych wzajemnych relacji. Jestem przekonany, że taką barierą, znacznie ograniczającą możliwości Indii jest funkcjonowanie systemu kastowego. Władze indyjskie muszą zrobić wszystko, aby wyeliminować z życia społecznego negatywne, a czasami wręcz tragiczne skutki działania tego systemu. W tym przypadku nie wystarczą działania legislacyjne czy polityczne deklaracje. Ważne jest to, aby realnie zmieniać stosunki społeczne i niehumanitarne tradycje. Nie jest to zadanie łatwe i nie można oczekiwać natychmiastowych rezultatów. Perspektywa dłuższej pracy nie powinna nas zniechęcać. Wręcz przeciwnie - powinniśmy wpierać wysiłki Indii w tym poważnym zadaniu. Mam nadzieję, że zbliżający się szczyt UE-Indie przyczyni się do osłabienia systemu kastowego w Indiach i pozwoli na polepszenie standardów praw człowieka i obywatela w największej demokracji świata.

3-081

PRESIDENZA DELL'ON. LUIGI COCILOVO
Vicepresidente

3-082

6 - Turno di votazioni

3-083

Presidente. – L'ordine del giorno reca il turno di votazioni.

(Per i risultati dettagliati della votazione: vedasi processo verbale)

3-084

6.1 - Modifica dell'articolo 121 (A6-0324/2008, Costas Botopoulos) (votazione)

3-085

6.2 - Migrazione al sistema d'informazione Schengen di seconda generazione (SIS II) (A6-0351/2008, Carlos Coelho) (votazione)

3-086

6.3 - Migrazione al sistema d'informazione Schengen di seconda generazione (SIS II) (A6-0352/2008, Carlos Coelho) (votazione)

3-087

6.4 - Sistema comunitario di monitoraggio del traffico navale e d'informazione (A6-0334/2008, Dirk Sterckx) (votazione)

3-088

6.5 - Inchieste sugli incidenti nel settore del trasporto marittimo (A6-0332/2008, Jaromír Kohlíček) (votazione)

3-089

6.6 - Responsabilità dei vettori che trasportano passeggeri via mare in caso di incidente (A6-0333/2008, Paolo Costa) (votazione)

3-090

6.7 - Controllo da parte dello Stato di approdo (rifusione) (A6-0335/2008, Dominique Vlasto) (votazione)

3-091

6.8 - Organi che effettuano le ispezioni e le visite di controllo delle navi (rifusione) (A6-0331/2008, Luis de Grandes Pascual) (votazione)

3-092

6.9 - Organi che effettuano le ispezioni e le visite di controllo delle navi (rifusione) (A6-0330/2008, Luis de Grandes Pascual) (votazione)

3-093

6.10 - Reti e servizi di comunicazione elettronica (A6-0321/2008, Catherine Trautmann) (votazione)

3-094

Commission's position on amendments by Parliament

Trautmann report (A6-0321/2008)

The Commission accepts the following:

- amendments 12, 16, 19, 24, 32, 39 (on the recitals)
- amendments 40, 41, 42, 45, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 79, 84, 89, 92, 96, 99, 105, 111, 112, 113, 115, 116, 117, 124 (on the articles)
- plenary amendment 136.

The Commission accepts the following in principle or in part:

- amendments 2, 5, 6, 7, 14, 15, 17, 26, 27, 31, 35, 36, 37, 38 (on the recitals)
- amendments 43, 44, 46, 48, 52, 53, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 74, 75, 85, 86, 91, 95, 98, 100, 101, 102, 103, 106, 107, 108, 121, 123, 125 (on the articles)
- plenary amendments 128, 132, 134

The Commission rejects the following:

- amendments 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 28, 29, 30, 33, 34 (on the recitals)
- amendments 47, 49, 50, 51, 54, 55, 57, 73, 76, 77, 78, 80, 81, 82, 83, 87, 88, 90, 93, 94, 97, 104, 109, 110, 114, 118, 119, 120, 122 (on the articles)
- plenary amendments 126, 127, 129, 130, 131, 133, 135, 137, 138, 139, 141, 142, 143

3-095

– *Prima della votazione*

3-096

Catherine Trautmann, rapporteure. – Monsieur le Président, Madame la Commissaire, nous allons procéder au vote sur le paquet Télécom, l'un des plus sensibles de cette fin de législature.

Avec mes collègues rapporteurs au fond, Pilar del Castillo Vera et Malcom Harbour, nous avons travaillé en étroite coopération afin d'aboutir à une proposition cohérente et efficace pour ceux qui auront au final à utiliser ces directives, à savoir la Commission et les régulateurs, mais aussi positive et utile pour ceux qui cherchent une sûreté juridique, l'encouragement à l'investissement et un marché dynamique et équilibré – à savoir les opérateurs et leurs salariés – et ceux qui sont les premiers bénéficiaires de services nombreux et de qualité au prix juste et accessible – les consommateurs.

Ces objectifs, Monsieur le Président, nous ont tous réunis, rapporteurs au fond, rapporteurs pour avis et rapporteurs fictifs, et c'est la raison pour laquelle nous sommes parvenus à des compromis solides, ainsi qu'en témoigne le faible nombre d'amendements restant pour le vote.

Je souhaite exprimer toute ma gratitude à l'ensemble des rapporteurs, aux présidentes et présidents des commissions saisies au fond et pour avis, à leurs secrétariats, ainsi qu'aux groupes politiques. Je veux remercier aussi les collègues qui se sont intéressés à ce sujet et ont enrichi notre travail. Je vous invite à présent, mes chers collègues, à soutenir vos rapporteurs, par votre vote, pour leur donner un mandat clair et fort dans la période de codécision qui va suivre.

Enfin, je souhaite que la Commission et le Conseil se saisissent positivement de la version du paquet amendé par le Parlement qui, s'il représente à bien des égards une version alternative à celle initiale de la Commission, n'en apporte pas moins des pistes de rapprochement entre nos trois institutions.

3-097

– *Prima della votazione sull'emendamento 132*

3-098

Ruth Hieronymi (PPE-DE). – Herr Präsident! Ich spreche zum Änderungsantrag 132. Im Namen der Unterzeichner ziehe ich diesen Änderungsantrag 132 zurück, weil es leider nicht gelungen ist, in diesem Hause einen Kompromiss zur Stärkung des Urheberrechts zu erreichen.

3-099

– *Prima della votazione sull'emendamento 138*

3-100

Catherine Trautmann, rapporteure. – Monsieur le Président, nous avons une situation relativement difficile à propos de l'amendement 138 où trois demandes de vote par division ont été déposées. J'avais personnellement déposé pour la première partie de l'amendement un amendement oral qui figure dans les listes de vote et qui permet de dire: *applying the principle that no restriction may be imposed on the fundamental rights and freedoms of end-users*. C'est donc ce premier amendement oral. Depuis, nous avons cherché une solution qui puisse être acceptée par les groupes politiques à propos de la troisième partie de cet amendement.

Je propose donc un amendement oral nouveau, en accord avec les signataires, notamment la présidente de la commission ITRE, Mme Niebler, et d'autres, qui disposeraient: *save when public security is threatened where the ruling may be subsequent*. Ceci remplacerait donc la troisième partie et précise le point suivant: la troisième partie proposée par notre collègue Bono, crée une ambiguïté sur l'expression d'exception. Avec la précision qui est apportée dans l'amendement oral, nous avons donc un amendement lisible et acceptable. Il n'a d'ailleurs – je le précise, pour notre collègue Ruth Hieronymi – rien à voir avec la propriété intellectuelle dont elle vient de parler.

3-101

(*L'emendamento orale è accolto*)

3-102

7 - Benvenuto

3-103

Presidente. – Suspendiamo per trenta secondi la sessione di voto per ricevere la delegazione parlamentare libanese che è presente ai nostri lavori, ovviamente la salutiamo con grande cordialità.

La delegazione del Parlamento libanese, guidata da Boutros Harb, è in vista al Parlamento europeo nell'ambito degli incontri interparlamentari. Consentitemi di sottolineare l'importanza che noi attribuiamo a questa visita, dopo gli anni difficili che il Libano ha conosciuto, con una guerra civile durata quindici anni, la successiva occupazione e più recentemente la guerra che ha imperversato nell'estate 2006 e la paralisi delle istituzioni statali, siamo particolarmente lieti di ricevere la delegazione in un momento in cui la situazione politica libanese, ma anche regionale, è notevolmente migliorata, particolarmente a seguito dell'accordo di Doha e dell'elezione del Presidente della Repubblica.

Ci auguriamo che con la nuova legge elettorale, che sarà votata nei prossimi giorni, le elezioni legislative previste per il prossimo anno si possano svolgere nelle migliori condizioni e che diano un nuovo impulso alla democrazia libanese che il Parlamento europeo ampiamente sostiene. A nome del Parlamento europeo quindi porgo il benvenuto ai membri della delegazione con l'auspicio che le discussioni cui essi parteciperanno in seno al Parlamento europeo possano essere altamente proficue. Grazie ancora alla delegazione.

3-104

8 - Turno di votazioni (proseguimento)

3-105

Presidente. – L'ordine del giorno reca il proseguimento del turno di votazioni.

3-106

8.1 - Autorità europea per il mercato delle comunicazioni elettroniche (A6-0316/2008, Pilar del Castillo Vera) (votazione)

3-107

Commission's position on amendments by Parliament

del Castillo Vera report (A6-0316/2008)

The Commission accepts the following:

- amendments 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 42, 43, 44 (on the recitals)
- amendments 47, 48, 50, 54, 57, 59, 62, 66, 68, 73, 77, 78, 79, 91, 92, 94, 97, 98, 100, 103, 104, 105, 106, 115, 117, 125, 133, 136, 140, 141, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 149, 153, 156, 163, 166 (on the articles)

The Commission accepts the following in principle or in part:

- amendments 12, 17, 22, 32 (on the recitals)
- amendments 49, 53, 60, 61, 63, 64, 65, 69, 70, 81, 83, 85, 87, 88, 89, 93, 99, 101, 102, 107, 126, 131, 152, 159, 160, 161 (on the articles)
- plenary amendment 168

The Commission rejects the following:

- amendments 4, 5, 7, 13, 16, 18, 19, 24, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 45, 46 (on the recitals)
- amendments 51, 52, 55, 56, 58, 67, 71, 72, 74, 75, 76, 80, 82, 84, 86, 90, 95, 96, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 116, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 127, 128, 129, 130, 132, 134, 135, 137, 138, 139, 142, 148, 150, 151, 154, 155, 157, 158, 162, 164, 165, 167 (on the articles)

3-108

– *Prima della votazione*

3-109

Pilar del Castillo Vera, Ponente. – Señor Presidente, no me voy a extender, porque sé de los problemas que tenemos de tiempo, pero yo también quiero dar las gracias a todos los que han participado en este informe y subrayar una cosa muy importante: lo que hoy ofrece el Parlamento en relación con la revisión legislativa del sector de las comunicaciones electrónicas, como ha dicho ya Catherine Trautmann, es tremendamente consistente y creemos que va a ser muy positivo a efectos de desarrollar este mercado. Las negociaciones que empezarán ahora tienen que llegar a su final en esta legislatura. Yo creo que esto, desde luego, es decisivo para el sector.

3-110

8.2 - Trarre il massimo beneficio dal dividendo digitale in Europa: un approccio comune all'uso dello spettro liberato dal passaggio al digitale (A6-0305/2008, Patrizia Toia) (votazione)

3-111

VORSITZ: HANS-GERT PÖTTERING
Präsident

3-112-500

9 - Feierliche Sitzung - Ökumenischer Patriarch Bartholomaios I.

3-113

Der Präsident. – Eure Heiligkeit, Patriarch Bartholomäus! Es ist eine große Ehre, Eure Heiligkeit zu dieser feierlichen Sitzung im Europäischen Jahr des Interkulturellen Dialogs 2008 hier im Europäischen Parlament zu begrüßen. Als erster Gast im Rahmen des Jahres des Dialogs der Kulturen hat der Großmufti von Damaskus im Januar eine Rede vor dem Europäischen Parlament gehalten. Er kommt aus Syrien und hat als Vertreter des friedlichen Islam zu uns gesprochen.

Sie, Heiligkeit, vertreten den christlichen Glauben, und mit dem Großrabbiner Jonathan Sacks wird im November in Straßburg ein Vertreter des Judentums vor dem Europäischen Parlament sprechen.

Jahrhundertlang haben Menschen dieser drei Religionen – des Christentums, des Judentums und des moslemischen Glaubens – in enger Nachbarschaft zusammengelebt, leider nicht immer friedlich. Auch heute gibt es im Nahen Osten und darüber hinaus Gebiete, die durch die Spannungen zwischen den verschiedenen Gemeinschaften geprägt sind.

Wir, das Europäische Parlament, unterstützen alle Bemühungen, dass die Religionen und Kulturen im Nahen Osten und überall in der Welt friedlich zusammenleben. Andererseits gibt es im Nahen Osten aber auch Beispiele für religiöse Toleranz, für harmonische Beziehungen zwischen Menschen unterschiedlicher religiöser Überzeugungen. Als ich kürzlich Syrien besucht habe, hatte ich Gelegenheit, die geistlichen Oberhäupter der verschiedenen Glaubensgemeinschaften zu treffen, und sie haben mir versichert, dass in diesem Land gute Beziehungen für den Dialog zwischen den Religionen und Kulturen bestehen.

Die Europäische Union ist eine Wertegemeinschaft, und einer unserer grundlegenden Werte ist die jedem Menschen innewohnende Würde. In dieser Hinsicht ist die Religionsfreiheit ein wesentlicher Aspekt der Menschenwürde und geht weit über alle Befugnisse hinaus, auf die sich staatliche Autoritäten berufen. Die Trennung von Kirche und Staat, die wir so hoch schätzen, ist ein Garant für die Freiheit der religiösen Gemeinschaften, ihre internen Angelegenheiten und ihre Beziehungen selbst zu gestalten. Im Vertrag von Lissabon, für dessen Inkrafttreten wir engagiert sind, werden diese Grundsätze bestätigt.

Das Ökumenische Patriarchat von Konstantinopel mit Sitz in Phanar in Istanbul wurde im 4. Jahrhundert gegründet und ist ein wichtiges geistliches Zentrum für 300 Millionen orthodoxe Christen weltweit. Phanar heißt Leuchtturm, und Sie, Heiligkeit, waren den Gläubigen in der orthodoxen Welt und darüber hinaus immer ein leuchtendes Beispiel für Versöhnung und Frieden.

Bei der jüngsten Erweiterung der Europäischen Union sind Länder mit orthodoxen Mehrheiten wie Zypern, Bulgarien und Rumänien zur Europäischen Union hinzugekommen, und Griechenland ist Mitglied seit 1981. Der verstorbene Papst Johannes Paul II., der 1988 vor dem Europäischen Parlament gesprochen hat, hat das metaphorisch so ausgedrückt: „Europa atmet nach der Überwindung der Teilung Europas wieder mit beiden Lungenflügeln.“ Auch wir könnten diese Metapher heute verwenden, um den Reichtum in der erweiterten Union zu beschreiben, den uns die unterschiedlichen Perspektiven des Christentums westlicher und östlicher Prägung gebracht haben.

Heiligkeit, wir danken Ihnen für Ihren Besuch. Sie sind eine der ganz wenigen Persönlichkeiten, die zum zweiten Mal vor dem Europäischen Parlament sprechen. Sie waren 1994 schon hier, und Sie geben uns die Ehre, aus Anlass des Europäischen Jahres des Dialogs der Kulturen zu uns zu sprechen. Darauf freuen wir uns.

Ich darf Sie bitten, nun zu den Mitgliedern des Europäischen Parlaments zu sprechen. Herzlichen Dank!

(Beifall)

3-114

His Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomeos I. – Your Excellency Mr President of the European Parliament, your Excellencies, honourable Members of the European Parliament, distinguished guests, dear friends, first and foremost we convey to you salutations from the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, based for many, many centuries in what is today Istanbul – greetings replete with esteem and respect. In particular, we express our gratitude to an old friend of ours, His Excellency Hans-Gert Pöttering, President of the European Parliament. We likewise express our sincerest appreciation for the extraordinary honour to address the plenary sitting of the European Parliament for the second time (as the President already mentioned), especially on this occasion that commemorates the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

As a purely spiritual institution, our Ecumenical Patriarchate embraces a truly global apostolate that strives to raise and broaden the consciousness of the human family – to bring understanding that we are all dwelling in the same house. At its most basic sense, this is the meaning of the word ‘ecumenical’ – for the ‘*oikoumene*’ is the inhabited world – the earth understood as a house in which all peoples, kindreds, tribes and languages dwell.

As is well known, the origins of our religious institution lie at the core of the Axial Age, deep in the history of the Christian Faith – with the earliest followers of Jesus Christ. Inasmuch as our See – our institutional centre – shared the centre and capital of the Christian Roman Empire, it became known as ‘ecumenical’, with certain privileges and responsibilities that it holds to this day. One of its chief responsibilities was for bringing the redemptive message of the Gospel to the world outside the Roman Empire. In the days before the exploratory age, most civilisations held such a bicameral view of the world as being ‘within’ and ‘without’. The world was divided into two sectors: a hemisphere of civilisation and a hemisphere of barbarism. In this history, we behold the grievous consequences of the alienation of human persons from one another.

Today, when we have the technological means to transcend the horizon of our own cultural self-awareness, we nevertheless continue to witness the terrible effects of human fragmentation. Tribalism, fundamentalism, and phyletism – which is extreme nationalism without regard to the rights of the other – all these contribute to the ongoing list of atrocities that give pause to our claims of being civilised in the first place.

And yet, even with tides of trade, migrations and expansions of peoples, religious upheavals and revivals, and great geopolitical movements, the deconstruction of rigid and monolithic self-understandings of past centuries has yet to find a permanent harbour. The Ecumenical Patriarchate has sailed across the waves of these centuries, navigating the storms and the doldrums of history. For twenty centuries – through the Pax Romana, the Pax Christiana, the Pax Islamica, the Pax Ottomanica (all epochs marked by intercultural struggle, conflict and outright war) – the Ecumenical Patriarchate has continued as a lighthouse for the human family and the Christian Church. It is from the depths of our experience upon these deep waters of history that we offer to the contemporary world a timeless message of perennial human value.

Today, the ecumenical scope of our Patriarchate extends far beyond the boundaries of its physical presence at the cusp of Europe and Asia, in the same city we have inhabited for the seventeen centuries since her founding. Though small in quantity, the extensive quality of our experience brings us before this august assembly today, in order to share from that experience on the necessity of intercultural dialogue, a lofty and timely ideal for the contemporary world.

As you yourselves have said – in this most esteemed body’s own words: ‘At the heart of the European project, it is important to provide the means for intercultural dialogue and dialogue between citizens to strengthen respect for cultural diversity and deal with the complex reality in our societies and the coexistence of different cultural identities and beliefs’ (Decision No 1983/2006/EC) and we would humbly append this noble statement, as we did last year in our address to the Plenary of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg: ‘Dialogue is necessary first and foremost because it is inherent in the nature of the human person’.

This is the principal message that we propose for your consideration today: that intercultural dialogue is at the very root of what it means to be a human being, for no one culture of the human family encompasses every human person. Without such dialogue, the differences in the human family are reduced to objectifications of the ‘other’ and lead to abuse, conflict, persecution – a grand-scale human suicide, for we are all ultimately one humanity. But where the differences between us move us to encounter one another, and where that encounter is based in dialogue, there is reciprocal understanding and appreciation – even love.

In the past 50 years, our human family has experienced leaps of technological achievement undreamed of by our forebears. Many have trusted that this kind of advancement will bridge the divides that fragment the human condition. As if our achievements had given us the power to overcome the fundamental realities of our moral and – may we say – our spiritual condition. Yet, despite every conceivable benefit and technological skill – skill that seems to outstrip our anthropological wit – we still behold the universal banes of hunger, thirst, war, persecution, injustice, planned misery, intolerance, fanaticism and prejudice.

Amidst this cycle that cannot seem to be broken, the significance of the ‘European project’ cannot be underestimated. It is one of the hallmarks of the European Union that has succeeded in promoting mutual, peaceful and productive co-existence between nation states that less than 70 years ago were drenched in a bloody conflict that could have destroyed the legacy of Europe for the ages.

Here, in this great hall of assembly of the European Parliament, you strive to make possible the relationships between states and political realities that make reconciliation between persons possible. Thus you have recognised the importance of intercultural dialogue, especially at a time in the history of Europe when transformations are taking place in every country and along every societal boundary. Great tidal forces of conflict, and economic security and opportunity have shifted populations around the globe. Of necessity, then, persons of differing cultural, ethnic, religious and national origin find themselves in close proximity. In some cases, the same populations shun the greater whole and close themselves off from the dominant society. But in either case, as we engage in dialogue, it must not be a mere academic exercise in mutual appreciation.

For dialogue to be effective, to be transformative in bringing about core change in persons, it cannot be done on the basis of ‘subject’ and ‘object’. The value of the ‘other’ must be absolute – without objectification; so that each party is apprehended in the fullness of their being.

For Orthodox Christians, the icon, or image, stands not only as an acme of human aesthetic accomplishment, but as a tangible reminder of the perennial truth. As in every painting – religious or not, and notwithstanding the talent of the artist – the object presents as two-dimensional. Yet, for Orthodox Christians, an icon is no mere religious painting – and it is not, by definition, a religious object. Indeed, it is a subject with which the viewer, the worshipper, enters into wordless dialogue through the sense of sight. For an Orthodox Christian, the encounter with the icon is an act of communion with the person represented in the icon. How much more should our encounters with living icons – persons made in the image and likeness of God – be acts of communion!

In order for our dialogue to become more than mere cultural exchange, there must be a more profound understanding of the absolute interdependence – not merely of states and political and economic actors – but the interdependence of every single human person with every other single human person. And such a valuation must be made regardless of any commonality of race, religion, language, ethnicity, national origin, or any of the benchmarks by which we seek self-identification and self-identity. And in a world of billions of persons, how is such inter-connectedness possible?

Indeed, there is no possible way to link with every human person – this is a property that we would ascribe to the Divine. However, there is a way of understanding the universe in which we live as being shared by all – a plane of existence that spans the reality of every human person – an ecosphere that contains us all.

Thus it is that the Ecumenical Patriarchate – in keeping with our own sense of responsibility for the house, the *oikos* of the world and all who dwell therein – has for decades championed the cause of the environment, calling attention to ecological crises around the globe. And we engage this ministry without regard to self-interest. As you know so well, our Patriarchate is not a ‘national’ church, but rather the fundamental canonical expression of the ecumenical dimensions of the Gospel message, and of its analogous responsibility within the life of the Church. This is the deeper reason that the Church Fathers and the Councils have given it the name ‘Ecumenical’. The loving care of the Church of Constantinople exceeds any linguistic, cultural, ethnic and even religious definition, as she seeks to serve all peoples. Although firmly rooted in particular history – as any other institution is – the Ecumenical Patriarchate transcends historical categories in her perennial mission of service during 1 700 years.

In our service to the environment, we have, to date, sponsored seven scientific symposia that bring together a host of disciplines. The genesis of our initiative grew on the island that gave humanity the Apocalypse, the Book of Revelation: the sacred island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea. And it was in the Aegean that we commenced, in 1995, an ambitious programme of integrating current scientific knowledge about the oceans with the spiritual approach of the world’s religions to water, particularly the world’s oceans. Since Patmos, since 1995, we have traversed the Danube, the Adriatic Sea, the Baltic Sea, the Amazon, the Arctic Sea (last September), and we are now making preparations to sail the Nile in Egypt and the Mississippi River in the United States, both next year.

What we seek is not only an ongoing dialogue that is serviceable to practical necessities, but also one that raises human consciousness. While we strive to find answers to ecological concerns and crises, we also bring the participants into a more comprehensive sense of themselves as belonging to and relating to a greater whole. We seek to embrace the ecosphere of human existence not as an object to be controlled, but as a fellow-struggler on the path of increase and improvement. As the Apostle Paul, whose 2 000-year legacy both the Orthodox and the Roman Catholic Churches are celebrating this year, says in one of his most famous epistles, the Epistle to the Romans, ‘For we know that until now, the whole of creation groans with us and shares our birth pangs’.

Every ecosystem on this planet is like a nation – by definition limited to a place. The estuary is not the tundra, nor is the savannah the desert. But like every culture, every ecosystem will have an effect that goes beyond far beyond its natural – or in the case of cultures, national – boundaries. And when we understand that every ecosystem is part of the singular ecosphere that is inhabited by every living breath that fills the world, then do we grasp the interconnectedness, the powerful communion of all life, and our true interdependency on one another. Without such an understanding, we are led to ecocide, the self-destruction of the one ecosphere that sustains all human existence.

Thus it is that we come before you today, highlighting this Year of Intercultural Dialogue, bringing parables from the natural world to affirm your transcendent human values. As an institution, the Ecumenical Patriarchate has lived as a relatively small ecosystem within a much larger culture for centuries. Out of this long experience, allow us to suggest the most important practical characteristic that enables the work of intercultural dialogue to succeed.

Chiefly and above all, there must be respect for the rights of the minority within every majority. When and where the rights of the minority are observed, the society will for the most part be just and tolerant. In any culture, one segment will always be dominant – whether that dominance is based on race, religion or any other category. Segmentation is inevitable in our diverse world. What we seek to end is fragmentation! Societies that are built upon exclusion and repression cannot last. Or, as the divine Prince of Peace Jesus Christ said: Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.

Our counsel to all is to recognise that only when we embrace the fullness of shared presence within the ecosphere of human existence, are we then able to face the ‘otherness’ of those around us – majority or minority – with a true sense of the consanguinity of the human family. Then do we behold the stranger amongst us not as an alien, but as a brother or sister in the human family, the family of God. St Paul expounds on pan-human relation and brotherhood quite eloquently and concisely when addressing the Athenians in the first century.

This is why Europe needs to bring Turkey into its project and why Turkey needs to foster intercultural dialogue and tolerance in order to be accepted into the European project. Europe should not see any religion that is tolerant of others and respectful to the others as alien to itself. The great religions, like the European project, can be a force that transcends nationalism and can even transcend nihilism and fundamentalism by focusing their faithful on what unites us as human beings, and by fostering a dialogue about what divides us.

From our country, Turkey, we perceive both a welcome to a new economic and trading partner, but we also feel the hesitation that comes from embracing, as an equal, a country that is predominantly Muslim. And yet Europe is filled with millions of Muslims who have come here from all sorts of backgrounds and causations; just as Europe would still be filled with Jews, had it not been for the horrors of the Second World War.

Indeed, it is not only non-Christians that Europe must encounter, but Christians who do not fit into the categories of Catholic or Protestant. The resurgence of the Orthodox Church in Eastern Europe since the fall of the Iron Curtain has truly been a marvel for the world to behold. The segmentation of Eastern Europe has led to fragmentation in many places. Not only does the centre not hold; it is hardly discernible. Through this process, as nation states strive to re-establish themselves, it is the Orthodox Christian faith that has risen, even above economic indicators, to a new status that could not have been predicted even 20 years ago.

One of the vital roles of our Ecumenical Patriarchate is to assist in the process of growth and expansion that is taking place in traditional Orthodox countries, by holding fast as the canonical norm for the worldwide Orthodox Church, over a quarter of a billion people around the globe. At this moment, we wish to inform you, dear friends, that in October – next month – at our invitation, all the Heads of the Orthodox Patriarchates and Autocephalous Churches will meet in Istanbul, in order to discuss our common problems and to strengthen Pan-Orthodox unity and cooperation. Simultaneously, we will also concelebrate the two thousand years since the birth of the Apostle of the Nations, St Paul.

Currently in the City (Istanbul) we are experiencing great joy and enthusiasm as we are all preparing for its celebration as the European Capital of Culture in the year 2010. The City, which has a long history, was a crossroads for gatherings of people and served as a place of cohabitation of diverse religions and cultures. This past week, we attended a luncheon hosted by the Prime Minister of Turkey in honour of the Prime Minister of Spain. As is public knowledge, both are co-sponsors of the Alliance of Civilisations under the auspices of the United Nations. We heard their wonderful speeches, which were harmonious with the diachronic tolerant spirit of our City.

And now dear friends, please allow us to conclude in French in order to honour the French presidency, and also because this week you celebrate the European Day of Languages, I think next Friday.

3-115

Excellence, Mesdames et Messieurs les députés du Parlement européen, le patriarcat œcuménique réaffirme sa volonté de contribuer de toutes ses forces à la paix et à la prospérité de l'Union européenne. Nous sommes prêts à vous rejoindre dans d'autres dialogues constructifs comme celui d'aujourd'hui et nous prêterons une oreille attentive aux problèmes actuels.

C'est dans cet esprit que notre patriarcat cultive et nourrit depuis vingt-cinq ans déjà des dialogues de fond avec l'islam et le judaïsme. Nous avons organisé de nombreuses rencontres bilatérales et trilatérales. C'est dans ce cadre qu'au début du mois de novembre, à Athènes, nous reprendrons pour la douzième fois notre dialogue académique avec l'islam.

Parallèlement à ces échanges, nous continuons le dialogue théologique avec les Églises catholique romaine, anglicane, luthérienne, réformées et les anciennes Églises orientales – arménienne, copte, etc. Au mois d'octobre et à l'invitation du pape, nous aurons l'occasion, le privilège même, de prendre la parole lors de la douzième assemblée ordinaire du synode des évêques catholiques du monde réunis au Vatican.

Tout cela pour dire que le patriarcat œcuménique est très actif dans le domaine du dialogue œcuménique, cherchant ainsi à contribuer à une meilleure entente entre les peuples, à la réconciliation, à la paix, à la solidarité et à combattre le fanatisme, la haine et toutes les formes du mal.

Nous tenons à vous remercier pour cette occasion unique de prendre aujourd'hui la parole devant votre Assemblée pour la deuxième fois et nous implorons la miséricorde infinie de Dieu et sa bénédiction pour toutes vos justes entreprises.

Permettez-nous de présenter depuis cette auguste tribune nos meilleurs vœux aux fidèles musulmans du monde entier à l'occasion de la grande fête du ramadan qui approche ainsi qu'aux fidèles juifs de la terre entière, à l'approche de la fête de Roch Hachana. Nous sommes tous frères et sœurs, enfants du même père céleste et sur cette merveilleuse planète, dont nous sommes tous responsables, il y a de la place pour chacun, mais il n'y a pas de place pour la guerre, ni pour ceux qui s'entretuent.

Une fois de plus, nous vous remercions de tout cœur de nous avoir accordé le grand honneur et le privilège de nous adresser à vous aujourd'hui.

(L'Assemblée, debout, applaudit l'orateur)

3-116

Der Präsident. – Heiligkeit Patriarch Bartholomäus! Das Europäische Parlament hat Sie dadurch geehrt, dass die Kolleginnen und Kollegen sich von ihren Plätzen erhoben haben, um Ihnen für diese Rede zu danken. Sie haben von *pax*, vom Frieden mit den Menschen und mit der Schöpfung gesprochen. Dieser Frieden bekommt seine Vollendung durch die Respektierung der Würde des Menschen.

Wir müssen nicht mit allem einig sein, was es an Überzeugungen gibt. Wir müssen es nicht immer akzeptieren, aber wir müssen die Mitmenschen respektieren. Das ist der Kern der Würde des Menschen, und das ist der Kern der Toleranz.

In diesem Sinne möchten wir Ihnen noch einmal sehr herzlich danken, dass Sie Ihren Beitrag zum Europäischen Jahr des Dialogs der Kulturen geleistet haben. Es ist ein wichtiger Beitrag für die Verständigung der Menschen auf unserem Kontinent und in der Welt, für Versöhnung, Frieden und Freiheit.

Herzlichen Dank, Patriarch Bartholomäus!

(Beifall)

3-117

PRESIDENZA DELL'ON. LUIGI COCILOVO
Vicepresidente

3-118

10 - Turno di votazioni (proseguimento)

3-119

Presidente. – L'ordine del giorno reca il proseguimento del turno di votazioni.

3-120

10.1 - Reti e servizi di comunicazione elettronica, tutela della vita privata e protezione dei consumatori (A6-0318/2008, Malcolm Harbour) (votazione)

3-121

Commission's position on amendments by Parliament

Harbour report (A6-0318/2008)

The Commission accepts the following:

- amendments 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 13, 15, 16, 20, 21, 32, 38, 41 (on the recitals)
- amendments 43, 48, 51, 54, 55, 56, 60, 61, 63, 64, 65, 66, 68, 70, 72, 73, 77, 79, 88, 89, 90, 97, 100, 106, 110, 111, 112, 115, 116, 118, 129, 137, 141, 143, 145, 149, 150, 151, 152 (on the articles)
- plenary amendments 191, 192, 167, 182

The Commission accepts the following in principle or in part:

- amendments 3, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 31, 37 (on the recitals)
- amendments 44, 47, 53, 62, 67, 71, 74, 75, 76, 80, 82, 86, 87, 91, 92, 93, 94, 99, 103, 105, 109, 114, 122, 127, 132, 134, 135, 136, 138, 139 (on the articles)
- plenary amendments 170, 154, 171, 194, 189, 193, 188, 152, 159, 180, 181, 183, 185

The Commission rejects the following:

- amendments 1, 10, 17, 24, 28, 29, 30, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 40, 42 (on the recitals)
- amendments 45, 46, 49, 50, 52, 57, 58, 59, 69, 78, 81, 83, 84, 85, 95, 96, 98, 101, 102, 104, 107, 108, 113, 117, 119, 120, 121, 123, 124, 125, 126, 128, 130, 131, 133, 140, 142, 144, 146, 147, 148 (on the articles)
- plenary amendments 169, 153, 160, 177, 190, 176, 165, 178, 155, 172, 168, 173, 166, 157, 163, 174, 156, 158, 175, 179, 184, 186, 187

3-122

– *Prima della votazione*

3-123

Malcolm Harbour, rapporteur. – Mr President, I know that I will not be popular for making a long speech at this time, but my two fellow-rapporteurs, with whom I have worked very closely as a team, have made short statements so I want to keep the team spirit together.

I would just like to say that there are more amendments in my report because my committee has been more ambitious in the improvements it wanted to make to the Commission proposal. I ask for your support to ensure that we have confident, well-informed consumers for electronic communications, who are also secure and know that their personal data is protected.

I would like to thank all my colleagues on the committee who worked with me to put together some really big compromise amendments which we will pass today. I would like particularly to thank Alexander Alvaro and the Civil Liberties Committee, with whom we worked very closely, for their part on the E-Privacy Directive. I would like all of you to give us a huge majority for this so that, when we come to negotiate with the Commission and Council, we will do our very best for Europe's consumers.

3-124

– *Dopo la votazione*

3-125

Viviane Reding, Member of the Commission. – Mr President, I would like to thank the rapporteurs for their excellent work. It was not easy: they have worked miracles and they have my respect. I would also like to thank the honourable Members of the European Parliament for the strong signal they have given with today's vote. This is the signal for an open and competitive single market, for telecom companies and for Europe's 500 million consumers alike.

Yesterday the Commission had to propose new rules to tackle excessive charging for SMS and data roaming in the EU. These proposals will provide a fast cure for one of the most visible symptoms of the lack of a single market in telecoms, from which both companies and consumers are suffering. Today, the European Parliament has gone an important step further by proposing to remedy the problem once and for all at its root: to get rid of the fragmentation by paving the way for a single market in regulatory terms.

I welcome in particular the fact that the European Parliament voted, after an intense debate – and probably to the surprise of many observers – for the establishment of an efficient European telecom regulator, as a facilitator for bringing together the national regulators, and for the dialogue between the national regulators and the Commission. This is good news in the interest of a level playing field for the provision and use of telecom services across borders in Europe. This new European regulator will make a strong contribution to enhancing cross-border competition and consumer choice.

Now, honourable parliamentarians, we need to sit together – Parliament, the Council and the Commission – in order to get this telecoms package up and running by 2010. There is not much time left. We have to do it substantially; we have to do it quickly now. Everything the Commission can do in order to help to advance will be done.

I am convinced that the signal given today by Parliament goes beyond Europe: it is a signal that will be heard across the globe. It will show that the single telecom market in Europe is open for business in the interests of a strong industry and of an empowered consumer. Thank you and congratulations.

(*Applause*)

3-126

10.2 - Accordo internazionale del 2006 sui legni tropicali (A6-0313/2008, Caroline Lucas)

3-127

10.3 - Accordo internazionale sui legni tropicali

3-128

10.4 - Priorità del Parlamento europeo per il programma legislativo e di lavoro della Commissione per il 2009

3-129

10.5 - Preparazione del Vertice UE-India (Marsiglia, 29 settembre 2008)

3-130

– *Prima della votazione sul paragrafo 20*

3-131

Emilio Menéndez del Valle (PSE). – Mi grupo presenta una enmienda oral al apartado 20. Debe decir, después de la última línea, lo siguiente, que leo en inglés:

3-132

‘calls on India and the EU, particularly through the intermediary of the EU Special Envoy for Burma/Myanmar, to work together to prevail upon the Burmese military junta to release political prisoners and to respect human rights;’.

3-133

(*L'emendamento orale è accolto*)

– *Prima della votazione sul paragrafo 25*

3-134

Roberta Angelilli (UEN). – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, un emendamento orale all'inizio del paragrafo 25, vorrei aggiungere le seguenti parole: "condanna ogni atto di violenza contro le comunità cristiane e" e poi segue il testo originale, poiché in tutto il testo non è mai espressa una condanna esplicita di quanto avvenuto in Orissa, ma si utilizzano sinonimi dal significato molto più debole.

3-135

(L'emendamento orale non è accolto e alcuni deputati scandiscono lo slogan "L'Europa é cristiana, non mussulmana")

3-136

Daniel Cohn-Bendit (Verts/ALE). – Monsieur le Président, quand il y a des cris racistes qui disent: "Une Europe sans les musulmans", je vous demande d'intervenir!

(Applaudissements)

3-137

Presidente. – In effetti l'on. Cohn-Bendit è intervenuto.

3-138

11 - Dichiarazioni di voto

3-139

Dichiarazioni di voto orali

3-140

– **Relazioni: Carlos Coelho (A6-0351/2008 e A6-0352/2008)**

3-141

Frank Vanhecke (NI). – Voorzitter, uiteindelijk heb ik voor de beide verslagen over de modernisering van het Schengen-informatiesysteem gestemd. Ik wil er echter toch aan toevoegen dat ik van mening blijf dat de toepassing van die Schengen-akkoorden van onze grenzen een soort veredelde zeven heeft gemaakt, dat die veel onveiliger zijn geworden en minder gecontroleerd.

Sinds Schengen zijn wij absoluut allemaal even kwetsbaar als de zwakste schakel in de grenscontroles en dat leidt tot bijzonder grote problemen. Als het systeem dan echter tóch bestaat en toch blijft bestaan, is het natuurlijk mijn plicht op te komen voor een zo efficiënt mogelijke toepassing van alle controles en voor uitwisseling van informatie. Vandaar mijn jastem, die echter absoluut niet geïnterpreteerd mag worden als een instemming met de opengrenzenpolitiek van de Europese Unie.

3-142

– **Relazioni: Luis de Grandes Pascual (A6-0330/2008 e A6-0331/2008)**

3-143

Josu Ortuondo Larrea (ALDE). – Lamentablemente, y por causas ajenas a mi voluntad, ayer no pude participar en el debate de esta Directiva sobre las organizaciones de inspección y reconocimiento de buques. Quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad para expresar mi satisfacción por que haya sido aprobada por el Pleno del Parlamento con las recomendaciones de la Comisión de Transportes.

Había un par de aspectos que en la Posición Común adoptada por el Consejo de Ministros no estaban suficientemente claros ni convenientemente tratados. Uno era el que las organizaciones de clasificación de buques, cuando actúan en nombre de la administración —porque es responsabilidad de los Estados de pabellón garantizar la seguridad de los buques—, deben estar amparadas por las mismas garantías jurídicas legales que cuando quien actúa es la administración.

Y, en segundo lugar, creo que hemos aclarado convenientemente las responsabilidades financieras en caso de siniestro. La Posición Común del Consejo no distinguía claramente los tres casos posibles —que esos siniestros ocasionaran fallecimientos de personas, que ocasionaran daños corporales o que simplemente ocasionaran daños materiales— y el Parlamento ha puesto orden en esto y ha conseguido que se clarifique.

Espero que esto sea aceptado por el Consejo.

3-144

– **Relazione: Catherine Trautmann (A6-0321/2008)**

3-145

Neena Gill (PSE). – Mr President, I voted in favour of this report, because I believe it will go a long way towards creating the competition that the European electronic communication industry really needs. For too long, British telecommunication companies have struggled in other parts of Europe against enterprises, because they are still effectively run as a monopoly. Spectrum trading has created a significant amount of revenue for the UK Government, which has been successfully reinvested, but the advantage of this report is that it introduces principles of service, technology and neutrality, which, by foregoing the practice of insisting on the service that spectrums are used for and the technological standards used, will go even further towards ensuring large companies do not dominate the market.

In the UK, BT has come a long way from nationalised telecommunication provider to a successful regulated company. However, within my own constituency, I still see problems associated with the dominance of large service providers.

Particularly problematic are rural areas, where consumers suffer because they are deemed too commercially unviable to be given adequate broadband coverage. I hope the report's determination to see these disparities solved will be put into practice.

3-146

Jan Březina (PPE-DE). – Je pravda, že absence fungujícího konkurenčního prostředí v telekomunikačním sektoru činí přijetí nového regulačního rámce žádoucím, ba nutným krokem. Za nepochybný přínos považuji zvolené řešení v oblasti funkční separace založené na principu dobrovolnosti. Každý členský stát se tak bude moci rozhodnout, zda s ohledem na místní podmínky k funkční separaci přistoupí či zda zachová status quo. Osobně se k funkční separaci stavím zdrženlivě, a to jednak z toho důvodu, že s ní nejsou dostatečné zkušenosti a jednak proto, že za důležitější než konkurenci v rámci jedné sítě považuji konkurenci mezi různými druhy sítí, k jejímuž podněcování by aktivity Unie měly směřovat. V některých případech však zachází regulace příliš daleko. Nemohu například souhlasit s tím, aby Evropská komise disponovala právem veta ve vztahu k nápravným opatřením přijatým národními regulátory v rámci svého trhu. Odporuje to principu dělby pravomocí, aby Komise zasahovala do záležitostí, které mají vnitrostátní, nikoli celoevropský rozměr. Přál bych si vyváženou legislativní úpravu odrážející potřeby operátorů i jejich zákazníků, v níž není místo pro samoučelnou regulaci, ale jen pro takovou, která napomůže zvýšení kvality a dostupnosti telekomunikačních služeb.

3-147

Zuzana Roithová (PPE-DE). – Musím se přiznat, že jsem byla překvapena rozpory při projednávání pozměňovacího návrhu číslo 138, kdy část kolegů tento pozměňovací návrh nedokázala interpretovat v souladu s jeho textem. Jako spoluautorka chci zdůraznit, že ustanovení zaručuje, aby k odpojení uživatelů od internetu došlo jen na základě souhlasu justičních orgánů. Práva uživatelů však mohou být narušena, pokud je to nutné ve věci obecné bezpečnosti. Základní právo uživatelů na soukromí nebude narušeno blokováním či filtrováním obsahu bez souhlasu příslušných veřejných autorit. K tomuto návrhu dnes vedly, nebo mě přivedly, příklady z Francie, kdy byly zablokovány stránky ministerstva pro evropské záležitosti a stránky vlakové rezervace na veřejné síti pařížské radnice pro mylné vyhodnocení jejich obsahu jako pornografického. Děkuji kolegům, že náš vyvážený návrh nakonec podpořili, a Francii, že se bude muset podřídit.

3-148

– **Relazione: Pilar del Castillo Vera (A6-0316/2008)**

3-149

Zuzana Roithová (PPE-DE). – Jako stínová zpravodajka jsem ráda, že Úřad evropských regulačních orgánů v oblasti telekomunikací BERT ušetří na základě změn přijatých Evropským parlamentem evropským daňovým poplatníkům desítky milionů eur ročně. Oproti návrhu Komise se totiž zřizuje štíhlejší a flexibilnější instituce, která vytěží maximum z výhod jednotného trhu při zachování nezávislosti národních telekomunikačních úřadů. Jsem ráda, že díky mé iniciativě výrazně posílila pozice spotřebitelských organizací. Podpořila jsem i široký koncesus nad otázkou financování rozpočtu úřadu, znovu však upozorňuji i na rizika, která mohou pramenit z různé výše příspěvků členských států. To může vést k nevyváženému vlivu členských států, těch velkých, na rozhodování o přeshraniční regulaci jejich telekomunikací.

3-150

– **Relazione: Malcolm Harbour (A6-0318/2008)**

3-151

Miroslav Mikolášik (PPE-DE). – V prvom rade mi dovoľte poďakovať spravodajcovi za dlhoročnú prácu a konzistentný prístup v rámci legislatívneho balíka v oblasti elektronickej komunikácie. Na dnešnom hlasovaní som jeho správu podporil.

Telekomunikačný balík predstavuje potrebnú aktualizáciu súčasných právnych predpisov, a to najmä v oblasti ochrany súkromia jednotlivcov a ich osobných údajov. Táto otázka predstavovala jeden z hlavných cieľov návrhu, podporil som názor, podľa ktorého je nutné pojať aspekt ochrany údajov a bezpečnosti v širšom kontexte, než je európsky, keďže poskytovatelia komunikačných služieb a internetových systémov majú svoje sídla po celom svete a pracujú s osobnými údajmi v rámci rôznych právnych systémov.

Ďalej som sa stotožnil s návrhom o zlepšenie a posilnenie práva spotrebiteľov najmä zvýšením informovanosti a transparentnosti o cenách a podmienkach využívania telekomunikačných služieb. V neposlednom rade som uvítal návrh správy v oblasti uľahčenia a posilnenia prístupu k elektronickým komunikáciám pre zdravotne postihnutých spoluobčanov.

3-152

Zuzana Roithová (PPE-DE). – Pane předsedo, právě odhlasovaná zpráva navazuje na mou vlastní rok starou zprávu o důvěře spotřebitele v digitální prostředí, a proto kvituji, že se významně posilují práva koncových uživatelů a spotřebitelů. Zejména oceňuji, že jsme byli schopni dojít k takové věci, jako je přenositelnost čísla do jednoho dne, což rozhybe strnulý trh mobilních operátorů, u tísňové linky 112 bude zase lokalizace volajícího, což zachrání více lidských životů. Rozšíří se celoevropské linky 116 i mimo oblast pohřešovaných dětí, nastane průlom v transparentnosti smluv a uváděných cen, bude jednodušší předčasně ukončit smluvní vztah, běžní uživatelé se snadněji dostanou k bezpečnostnímu softwaru, zdravotně postižení uživatelé budou mít zaručen rovnocenný přístup a spam bude definován přísněji a mnoho dalších zlepšení.

3-153

– **Relazione: Caroline Lucas (A6-0313/2008)**

3-154

Zuzana Roithová (PPE-DE). – Milí kolegové, dovoluňte mi vyjádřit rozladění nad sporem, který se neuzavřel ani při včerejší debatě s Komisí, pokud jde o právní základ schvalování této mezinárodní dohody o udržitelné a legální těžbě tropického dřeva. Jsem přesvědčena, že by mělo jít o ratifikaci Parlamentem, a nikoliv jen o konzultaci. Smlouva je nedostatečná, ale zatím nic jiného nemáme, proto jsem ráda, že jsme ji dnes tak jednoznačně přijali. Stavíme se tím proti drancování tropických lesů, ale bojím se, že do Evropy budou dál proudit miliony tun tropického dřeva za dumpingové ceny, protože se nedaří prosadit environmentální požadavky do evropské obchodní politiky. Je to paradox, protože se pyšníme tím, že jsme vlajkou lodí pro snižování emisí CO₂ na světě. Něco tady nehraje. Možná, že pravá ruka neví, co dělá ta levá, či naopak.

3-155

– **Risoluzione: Programma legislativo e di lavoro della Commissione per il 2009 (RC B6-0420/2008)**

3-156

Peter Baco (NI). – Hlasoval som za uznesenie Európskeho parlamentu o politickej stratégii na rok 2009, pre jeho celkovú kompetentnosť.

Zásadnú podporu opatrení Európskeho parlamentu na stabilizáciu finančných trhov v súčasnej finančnej kríze považujem za osobitne správne rozhodnutie. Som však presvedčený, že táto stratégia nezohľadňuje riziká potravinovej bezpečnosti, ktoré bude treba riešiť konkrétnymi opatreniami, a nielen vyjadrením poľutovania nad touto skutočnosťou.

Osobitne naliehavo sa pritom treba zamerať na využitie agrárneho potenciálu v nových členských štátoch, lebo súčasná diskriminujúca a spoločná poľnohospodárska politika kriticky prehlbuje úpadok poľnohospodárstva v týchto nových členských štátoch.

3-157

Frank Vanhecke (NI). – Voorzitter, de aanbevelingen die dit Parlement had opgesteld voor het werkprogramma 2009 van de Europese Commissie, waren alles welbeschouwd toch eigenlijk nogal straf. Men had toch mogen verwachten dat dit Parlement in de eerste plaats vanwege die politiek benoemde mandarijnen van de Europese Commissie respect had moeten eisen voor democratische rechtsorde in Europa.

Wat zou dit concreet betekenen? Ik geef maar twee voorbeelden. Ten eerste, respecteer in godsnaam de uitspraak van het Ierse volk, een uitspraak die ongetwijfeld de wil uitdrukt van een grote meerderheid van onze Europese burgers die niet eens de kans krijgen om zich uit te spreken tegen dat Verdrag van Lissabon. Weg dus met die vermomde Europese grondwet.

Tweede voorbeeld, zeer essentieel, stop die toetredingsonderhandelingen met Turkije waarvoor geen enkele democratische basis bestaat. Maar wij weten natuurlijk allang dat de eurocraten zich geen barst aantrekken van de wensen van de burgers, die nochtans hun prinselijke levenswandel met hun belastinggeld betalen.

3-158

– **Risoluzione: Preparazione del Vertice UE-India (Marsiglia, 29 settembre 2008) (RC B6-0426/2008)**

3-159

Bogdan Pęk (UEN). – Panie Przewodniczący! Podczas głosowania tej rezolucji doszło do skandalicznego przypadku odrzucenia wniosku ustnego i doszło do tego na wniosek jednego z głównych obrońców praw człowieka i zwolenników niedyskryminacji, pana Schulza. Włączył się do tego również pan Cohn-Bendit znany z obrony praw człowieka w szerokim spektrum. Tymczasem wszyscy wiemy, że w Indiach doszło do makabrycznych, krwawych wydarzeń, które dotyczyły właśnie chrześcijan. Zatem nie pojmuję skąd ten neorasizm w wydaniu czołowych polityków Unii Europejskiej, którzy odważają się tu, w Parlamencie Europejskim, którego fundamentem jest ponoć obrona praw człowieka i zasada niedyskryminacji, negować tak oczywisty wniosek w sprawozdaniu. Myślę, że ta sprawa powinna dać ludziom i członkom Parlamentu wiele do myślenia.

3-160

Jo Leinen (PSE). – Herr Präsident! Ich habe gegen die Entschließung zum EU-Indien-Gipfel gestimmt, nicht weil ich gegen die Zusammenarbeit mit Indien wäre, im Gegenteil. Als Ko-Vorsitzender der *Friends of India* hier im Parlament bin ich für die Verstärkung der Zusammenarbeit. Aber diese Entschließung ist eine Shoppingliste von allen Themen, die uns zu diesem Riesenland einfallen.

Ich kann nur an Ziffer 29 erinnern, in der wir einen Bericht der Kommission über die Lage der Menschenrechte in Indien und über die Ergebnisse des Menschenrechtsdialogs EU-Indien fordern. Trotzdem haben wir viele Ziffern zu gewissen Bevölkerungsgruppen, wie z.B. die Christen in Orissa – und insofern ist der vorangegangene Redebeitrag völlig absurd, das wird sehr oft in dieser Entschließung erwähnt –, die Muslime in Kashmir und die Dalits in anderen Teilen.

Ich meine, alles zu seiner Zeit. Ich stelle mir vor, das indische Parlament macht eine Entschließung über die Roma in der Tschechischen Republik, die Ungarn in der Slowakei und die Russen in Estland und in Lettland. Wir sind nicht reif genug, uns auf die richtigen Punkte zu konzentrieren, sondern es wird immer eine lange Liste aller möglichen Themen erwähnt, und das schmälert wirklich unseren Einfluss. Ich weiß, dass wir nicht ernst genommen werden.

Deswegen habe ich dagegen gestimmt. Es ist schade. Dieser neunte Gipfel ist wichtig genug, und das Parlament muss bei seiner Reform auch einmal über die Reform solcher Entschließungstexte nachdenken.

3-161

Dichiarazioni di voto scritte

3-162

– Relazione: Costas Botopoulos (A6-0324/2008)

3-163

David Martin (PSE), in writing. – Costas Botopoulos' report 'Amendment to Rule 121 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure on proceedings before the Court of Justice' deals with a minor modification of the rules to Parliamentary procedure. I therefore voted in favour of its recommendations.

3-163-500

Andrzej Jan Szejna (PSE), na piśmie. – Opowiedziałem się za przyjęciem sprawozdania w sprawie zmian do artykułu 121 Regulaminu Parlamentu Europejskiego dotyczącego postępowania przed Europejskim Trybunałem Sprawiedliwości, ponieważ jest ono wyrazem poszanowania zasady praworządności.

Ustęp trzeci artykułu 121 Regulaminu stanowi, iż Przewodniczący wnosi w imieniu Parlamentu skargę do Trybunału Sprawiedliwości zgodnie z zaleceniem właściwej komisji. Przepis ten odnosi się jednoznacznie wyłącznie do skarg wnoszonych do Trybunału. Nie można w tym przypadku zastosować wykładni rozszerzającej, w wyniku której norma ta obejmowałaby sprawy innego rodzaju toczące się przed Trybunałem. Stosuje się go jedynie w sytuacji wnoszenia skargi (na przykład o unieważnienie aktu prawnego) w przypadku wszczynania postępowania sądowego przez Parlament.

Kierując się chęcią zapewnienia pewności prawnej oraz kompletności, sprawozdawca słusznie zaproponował dodanie do artykułu 121 nowego ustępu, który stanowiłby usankcjonowanie ustalonej praktyki wnoszenia przez Przewodniczącego Parlamentu Europejskiego uwag do Trybunału albo też występowania przed nim na zalecenie Komisji Prawnej. Zaproponowana zmiana ustanawia procedurę postępowania w przypadku różnic zdań pomiędzy Przewodniczącym a właściwą komisją. Dzięki tej zmianie praktykowana procedura będzie miała demokratyczne umocowanie prawne.

3-164

– Relazioni: Carlos Coelho (A6-0351/2008 e A6-0352/2008)

3-165

Genowefa Grabowska (PSE), na piśmie. – Wyrażam niezadowolenie, że sprawa tak ważna dla obywateli UE jak SIS jest prowadzona w trybie konsultacji, w którym Parlament formułuje w zasadzie tylko swoje stanowisko, nie mające dla Rady wiążącego charakteru.

Wszak SIS (System informacyjny Schengen) to symbol „Europy bez granic” gwarantujący wewnątrz UE przestrzeń wolności, bezpieczeństwa i sprawiedliwości. SIS otworzył możliwość współpracy policyjnej i sądowej w sprawach karnych starych państw członkowskich UE pozwalając na stworzenie unikatowej, europejskiej bazy danych o osobach i przedmiotach. Ma to decydujące znaczenie przy wydawaniu wiz i zezwoleń na pobyt. Wejście do UE nowej dwunastki wywołało potrzebę objęcia ich systemem SIS. Odpowiada na tę potrzebę dopiero SIS II jako system nowej generacji obejmujący już wszystkie państwa członkowskie UE i pozwalający na pełne gromadzenie danych (w tym: danych biometrycznych czy informacji o europejskich nakazach aresztowania).

Teraz Unię czeka delikatna operacja przetransportowania wszystkich danych do nowego systemu SIS II. To operacja niezwykle potrzebna, ale i skomplikowana. Dlatego apeluję o uwagę i rozważę. Dane zgromadzone w „starym” systemie nie mogą wyciec, czy w inny sposób dostać się w niepowołane ręce. One muszą być bezpieczne, bo także od nich zależy bezpieczeństwo obywateli i państw-członków UE.

3-166

Pedro Guerreiro (GUE/NGL), por escrito. – Porque pugnamos que seja assegurada uma efectiva liberdade de circulação de pessoas na Europa, consideramos que o "Espaço Schengen" (que não integra todos os países da UE e muito menos todos os países europeus), ao mesmo tempo e na mesma medida em que levanta barreiras entre os países que nele participam, reforça-as com outros países (nomeadamente, com países com que Portugal tem vínculos históricos).

Dito isto, não podemos escamotear que utilizando a "liberdade de circulação" se procura construir um sistema de informação e bases de dados que largamente ultrapassam este objectivo, procurando que este seja um dos instrumentos

centrais de suporte (a "espinha dorsal") à ofensiva securitária (protagonizada pela UE) e à progressiva comunitarização da justiça e assuntos internos, áreas que estão no cerne da soberania dos Estados.

Isto é, não podemos aceitar o que a Presidência do Conselho da UE propõe: instale-se o sistema, que posteriormente definiremos as suas finalidades. Tanto mais, porque as finalidades desde há muito que têm vindo a ser apontadas (introdução do mandato de captura europeu, de dados biométricos, acesso por parte de novas entidades, incluindo a partilha de dados com países terceiros,...).

Medidas que, como afirmámos, comportam riscos para a salvaguarda de direitos, liberdades e garantias dos cidadãos.

3-167

Carl Lang et Fernand Le Rachinel (NI), par écrit. – À la lecture de ce rapport, une question se pose: est-ce parce que le système Schengen "première génération" ne fonctionnait pas ou tout du moins était inefficace pour garantir la sécurité au sein de l'espace de Schengen, qu'une "deuxième génération", sensée pallier ces manques, est en cours de réalisation ?

Malheureusement non, car cette deuxième génération n'est qu'une version plus moderne d'un système déjà inopérant.

Selon les chiffres donnés par la Commission européenne, 400 000 clandestins passeraient, chaque année, les frontières de l'Union. À supposer même que des données biométriques soient prochainement disponibles et utilisables pour fichier et renvoyer les clandestins déjà enregistrés comme étant des immigrants illégaux, l'Union européenne serait dans l'incapacité, faute de contrôles aux frontières intérieures et extérieures des États membres, de mettre un terme à l'immigration massive qu'elle subit le long de ses côtes ou frontières terrestres.

Le système informatisé de Schengen ne sera toujours qu'un gadget inutile tant que les dangereux accords de Schengen existeront.

3-168

Andreas Mölzer (NI), schriftlich. – Schon beim SIS-II-Überwachungssystem musste die Einführung aufgrund technischer Schwierigkeiten mehrfach verschoben werden. Damals haben etwa die neuen osteuropäischen Mitgliedstaaten angesichts gravierender Probleme an ihren Grenzen darauf gedrängt, ein „Lückenbüßer-Programm“ einzuführen. Das mag in der damaligen Situation sinnvoll gewesen sein, hat aber gewiss Mehrkosten verursacht.

Mittlerweile scheinen wir mit der aktuellen SIS-Variante gute Erfahrungen zu machen. Auf lange Sicht ist das Programm natürlich weiterzuentwickeln. Unausgereifte Zwischenlösungen aber können zu Sicherheitslücken führen, weshalb ich die geplante Einführung der unausgereiften Version als verfrüht abgelehnt habe.

3-169

– **Raccomandazione per la seconda lettura: Dirk Sterckx (A6-0334/2008)**

3-170

Jim Higgins (PPE-DE), in writing. – In relation to RCVs 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 on the Sterckx Report, I and my Irish EPP-ED colleagues voted against or abstained on these amendments, so as to demonstrate our concerns over issues relating to the power of the independent authority and the scope of the Directive which would undermine Member State competence in a number of areas. We fully support the general thrust of the Directive and wish to see a successful agreement reached between Parliament and Council.

3-171

Carl Lang et Fernand Le Rachinel (NI), par écrit. – L'Europe veut se protéger contre les accidents maritimes et la pollution de ses mers et océans. Nous nous en félicitons. Les récents et funestes exemples des naufrages du Prestige ou de l'Erika sont là pour nous rappeler à notre devoir de précaution, de contrôle de la sécurité des navires, mais aussi de responsabilité en cas de catastrophe environnementale.

Une mention spéciale doit par ailleurs être décernée à la proposition de directive relative aux enquêtes après les accidents. Pour la première fois, il a été accepté de mettre en place une entité d'investigation, chargée de décider, en toute indépendance et impartialité, de l'opportunité d'ouvrir une enquête de sécurité pour déterminer les causes et les circonstances d'un accident. Les intentions sont bonnes, espérons seulement qu'elles ne resteront pas lettre morte face aux intérêts financiers énormes qui sont en jeu.

3-171-500

Vincent Peillon (PSE), par écrit. – J'ai voté en faveur de ce rapport, présenté par mon collègue belge, Dirk Sterckx, sur la régulation du trafic maritime.

Depuis le naufrage de l'Erika en 1999 ou celui du Prestige en 2002, nous attendons, en vain, des solutions européennes pour que de telles catastrophes ne se reproduisent plus. Loin d'avoir décru, le risque augmente au contraire chaque jour : le trafic maritime devrait tripler dans les trente ans à venir.

En dépit de ce constat alarmant, une majorité d'Etats membres n'ont pas hésité à "couler" les principales avancées proposées par la Commission européenne, et défendues par les socialistes européens. Disparaît notamment l'idée d'une

assurance qui, via une garantie financière, devait permettre aux victimes de catastrophes maritimes d'être indemnisées plus facilement.

Voter ce texte, c'est donc s'opposer au cynisme et à l'irresponsabilité des Etats. Le Parlement peut être fier de son unité, car par son vote d'aujourd'hui il affirme sans détour son engagement en faveur d'eaux européennes plus sûres et moins polluées.

3-172

– **Raccomandazione per la seconda lettura: Jaromír Kohlíček (A6-0332/2008)**

3-173

Jim Higgins (PPE-DE), in writing. – I and my Irish EPP-ED colleagues abstained on the report on the amendments to the Kohlíček Report. We did so due to concerns relating to the impact of the division of investigations into technical and criminal and the problems that this would create under Irish law. We support the general thrust of this and all the Maritime Reports adopted today in plenary.

3-174

Ian Hudghton (Verts/ALE), in writing. – Representing Scotland, I recognise the importance of maritime transport and believe that this sector is one which has immense potential for future development. It is vital that adequate measures are taken to maximise safety at sea and to prevent accidents; accordingly this package, which will serve to prevent repeat accidents occurring, is one which I welcome.

3-175

– **Raccomandazione per la seconda lettura: Paolo Costa (A6-0333/2008)**

3-176

Ian Hudghton (Verts/ALE), in writing. – The Costa report deals with important issues for all maritime regions. It is vital that the EU is serious about improving safety standards at sea whilst not placing unrealistic burdens on carriers. I fully support the notion that national authorities and port authorities play a vital role in identifying risks involved in this area and am on the whole satisfied with the measures adopted by this House today.

3-177

– **Raccomandazione per la seconda lettura: Dominique Vlasto (A6-0335/2008)**

3-178

Jim Higgins (PPE-DE), in writing. – I and my Irish EPP-ED colleagues abstained on the vote on the Report on Port State Control due to concerns that the amendments as put forward would undermine and complicate the Paris MoU, and we feel that the issue of Flag States would be better dealt with in a separate Directive and that inclusion of such amendments would unnecessarily complicate this Directive.

3-179

Dominique Vlasto (PPE-DE), par écrit. – Par notre vote d'aujourd'hui, nous avons rappelé au Conseil que le paquet Erika III forme un tout et doit être examiné comme tel. C'est la raison pour laquelle j'ai accepté que des amendements du rapport Savary soient repris dans mon rapport sur le contrôle par l'État du port. De plus, en revenant à nos positions de première lecture, nous avons refusé de suivre le Conseil dans l'abandon des deux propositions, importantes, sur le contrôle par l'État du pavillon et la responsabilité civile des armateurs, pour lesquelles nous n'avons pas reçu de positions communes. La Présidence française, dont je veux saluer l'immense travail et le constant engagement pour trouver une solution à ce problème, a convaincu le Conseil de reprendre les travaux sur ces deux propositions manquantes. Je suis convaincue qu'elle parviendra à débloquer cette situation et que nous trouverons, en procédure de conciliation, un accord global sur le paquet Erika III. J'espère que cette procédure pourra être rapidement engagée afin que nous puissions arriver à une conclusion avant la fin de l'année. La sécurité maritime doit en effet rester une priorité de notre agenda politique européen et c'est avec cette volonté que je continuerai à défendre nos propositions.

3-180

– **Raccomandazione per la seconda lettura: Luis de Grandes Pascual (A6-0331/2008)**

3-181

Charlotte Cederschiöld, Christofer Fjellner, Gunnar Hökmark och Anna Ibrisagic (PPE-DE), skriftlig. – Moderaterna stöder i grunden förslaget till direktiv om gemensamma regler och standarder för organisationer som utför inspektioner och utövar tillsyn av fartyg, och röstade även för det vid första behandlingen i april 2007.

Inför andra behandlingen har transportutskottet beslutat att som en del av detta direktiv införliva stora delar av det av rådet förkastade förslaget till direktiv om flaggstatsförpliktelser.

Direktivet om flaggstatsförpliktelser är ett försök att utvidga EU:s kompetens på ett område där det redan finns FN-regler. Vi röstade emot denna utvidgning redan i första behandlingen i mars 2007, och stöder därför inte heller detta försök att

bakvägen införa dessa regler som en del av direktivet om organisationer som utför inspektioner av fartyg. Därför har vi valt att rösta emot de Grandes Pascuals betänkande.

3-182

– **Raccomandazione per la seconda lettura: Luis de Grandes Pascual (A6-0330/2008)**

3-183

Brian Simpson (PSE), *in writing*. – I am in support of this report from the Parliament looking at Ship Inspections and Survey Organisations and I am in favour of the other Parliament reports which, along with this one, make up the Maritime Package.

The issue of the two 'missing' dossiers, on Civil Liability and Flag States, needs to be resolved by the Council one way or another, so it is important that Parliament keeps the pressure on by including them collectively in the Sterckx report on Vessel Traffic Monitoring, the Vlasto report on Port State Control and this report.

Much work has been done, and I feel that agreement on the five dossiers we have voted on today could be easily reached, However without Civil Liability and without Flag States we will not be able to move any further forward. The Council must find a solution to their internal stalemate or else we will not be able to deliver a safer Maritime sector to the citizens of the EU.

3-184

– **Raccomandazioni per la seconda lettura: Dirk Sterckx (A6-0334/2008), Jaromír Kohlíček (A6-0332/2008), Paolo Costa (A6-0333/2008), Dominique Vlasto (A6-0335/2008), Luis de Grandes Pascual (A6-0331/2008 - A6-0330/2008)**

3-185

Marie-Arlette Carlotti (PSE), *par écrit*. – Au lendemain des naufrages des pétroliers *Erika* et *Prestige*, les socialistes européens ont mené le combat pour que l'UE se dote d'une législation "haut de gamme" sur la sécurité maritime.

Les sept rapports de ce "3e paquet sécurité maritime" constituent une étape décisive vers cet objectif, s'ils ne sont pas vidés de leur contenu par le Conseil!

Depuis 2007 et la 1ère lecture, le Conseil rejette la plupart des recommandations du Parlement sur les 5 autres.

Pour cette seconde lecture, et après un intense travail d'amendement, le Parlement réaffirme la priorité absolue qu'il accorde à la mise en place d'une politique maritime européenne à très haut niveau de protection sur:

- le contrôle de l'État du pavillon,
- le système communautaire de surveillance du trafic maritime,
- la responsabilité des transporteurs de passagers,
- les inspections sur les navires et les organismes d'enquête,
- la désignation d'une autorité indépendante compétente pour les navires en détresse,
- l'application du principe "pollueur-payeur" au secteur maritime.

Je soutiens avec force ce message adressé au Conseil.

Je lance un appel à Nicolas Sarkozy et à Dominique Bussereau, pour que la Présidence française établisse l'acte de naissance d'un espace maritime vertueux en Europe.

3-186

Seán Ó Neachtain (UEN), *i scríbhinn*. – Tamall gairid ó shin bhí tionóisc ag bád seoltóireachta Éireannach, a chuaigh go tonn na farraige thart ar 30 ciliméadar amach ó chósta na Fraince. Bhí an t-ádh ar an gcriú agus ar na daoine faoi oiliúint a bhí ar bord, agus a tháinig as gan gortú. Ní raibh orthu brath ar an ádh amháin, áfach. Is le cabhair foirne tarrthála na Fraince a tháinig siad uilig slán, agus is as lámha a chéile atá aonaid imscrúdú mara na hÉireann agus na Fraince ag déanamh scrúduithe ar chúis na tubaiste.

Léiríonn cás Erika cad a fhéadfaidh tarlú nuair atá leisce ar fhoirne bád cabhair a lorg. Mar atá luaite ag údair na dtuarascálacha, níor cheart go dtarlódh sé riamh go gcuirfeadh criú báid, ar chúis ar bith, saol mhuintir an bháid nó folláine na timpeallachta i mbaol trí gan dul i dteagmháil leis an gcaladh nó leis an bhfoireann tarrthála is gaire dóibh ag am na timpiste.

Ar son sábháilteachta muirí tá géarghá le comhoibriú ar bhonn idirnáisiúnta. Mar sin, táim ag súil go mór gur féidir teacht ar réiteach ar Dhara Léamh an Phacáiste Muirí agus chuige sin bhíos sásta mo chuid tacaíochta a thabhairt do na tuarascálacha seo.

3-187

– **Relazione: Catherine Trautmann (A6-0321/2008)**

3-188

Šarūnas Birutis (ALDE), raštu. – Visų įstatymų dėl vaistų svarbiausias tikslas turi būti visuomenės sveikatos apsauga. Šis tikslas vis dėlto turi būti pasiektas tokiais būdais, kad netrukdytų pramonės plėtrai Bendrijoje arba prekybai vaistais. Nors ankstesnėmis direktyvomis buvo nustatytas maistinių dažiklių sąrašas, skirtingose šalyse yra skirtingi įstatymai dėl jų. Šie skirtumai gali trukdyti prekybai vaistais, kuriuose yra dažikliai, todėl direktyvai buvo būtina nauja redakcija; ji suteiks aiškumo ir palengvės daugelio institucijų darbas.

3-189

Carlos Coelho (PPE-DE), por escrito. – Esta proposta visa alterar o quadro regulamentar das comunicações electrónicas, de forma a melhorar a sua eficácia, tornar mais simples e mais eficiente o acesso às frequências disponíveis no espaço radioeléctrico, bem como reduzir os custos administrativos necessários para implementar a regulamentação.

Desta forma, os cidadãos europeus deverão poder beneficiar, onde quer que se encontrem na UE, de serviços de comunicações mais eficientes e menos dispendiosos, quer utilizem telemóveis, ligações em banda larga à Internet ou televisão por cabo.

O novo regime para o espectro radioeléctrico tem como objectivo a promoção do investimento em novas infra-estruturas e permitir a todos os cidadãos o acesso à banda larga.

Só poderá existir um mercado interno das comunicações a funcionar da forma mais correcta, bem como uma economia competitiva da sociedade da informação, em benefício dos consumidores e das empresas, caso exista uma aplicação coerente do quadro regulamentar das telecomunicações. Para esse efeito, deverá ser reforçado o papel de coordenação da Comissão, actuando em estreita cooperação com as ARN e com a nova autoridade europeia (BERT), de forma a melhorar a coerência tanto ao nível das decisões nacionais com impacto no mercado interno, como na imposição de remédios.

Apoio, deste modo este Relatório, bem como as alterações principais que procuram alargar a oferta aos consumidores através do reforço da concorrência.

3-191

Edite Estrela (PSE), por escrito. – Votei a favor do relatório Catherine Trautmann sobre as redes e serviços de comunicações electrónicas porque acho essencial melhorar o quadro legislativo relativo às comunicações electrónicas, proporcionando ao consumidor, mais escolha, melhor protecção, um serviço menos dispendioso e de melhor qualidade.

Juntamente com a criação de um novo organismo europeu de regulação das telecomunicações, este novo quadro legislativo permitirá proteger melhor os dados privados dos consumidores, aumentar a concorrência, proporcionar mais escolhas aos consumidores e tornar as condições contratuais mais claras. Cabe também destacar que o "pacote" irá facilitar o acesso de pessoas com deficiência aos serviços de telecomunicações.

3-192

Ilda Figueiredo (GUE/NGL), por escrito. – Sabemos que, à semelhança de outros recursos naturais, o espectro é um bem público. Logo, esta é uma área que devia manter-se na gestão pública para assegurar que serve o interesse geral. Só assim seria possível oferecer bens públicos indispensáveis à concretização de uma sociedade da informação para todos. Daí a nossa discordância de base em relação à resolução tomada e o voto contra final.

A experiência já demonstrou que as abordagens ditas combinadas (políticas e de mercado) acabam sempre a servir mais os interesses de grupos económicos do que os interesses das populações. O mesmo se aplica na atribuição do espectro libertado pela transição para o digital, onde deve ser prioritário o valor social, cultural e económico (melhor serviço público, banda larga sem fios para áreas mal servidas, crescimento e emprego, etc.) e não o aumento das receitas públicas.

A gestão do espectro é competência exclusiva de cada Estado nacional, havendo, no entanto, um ou outro aspecto da resolução que merece a nossa concordância, sabendo-se que o espectro não conhece fronteiras e que é útil uma utilização eficiente do espectro nos Estados-Membros e uma coordenação a nível da UE, nomeadamente no desenvolvimento de serviços e na negociação de acordos internacionais. Mas discordamos que se utilize abordagem idêntica à da política comercial.

3-193

Petru Filip (PPE-DE), în scris. – Pachetul Telecom este unul dintre cele mai importante pe care PE îl are în analiză în actuala sesiune parlamentară, având în vedere că unul dintre pilonii majori pe care sta globalizarea este comunicarea în timp real, în spațiul național, dar și în cel mondial. De aici și mulțimea amendamentelor care a ținut de abordarea diferită a realităților din spațiile naționale ale celor 27. Cu toate diferențele de abordare apărute în cursul dezbaterilor, consider că raportul Trautmann reprezintă un pas înainte pentru întregul spațiu european, chiar dacă amendamente precum 132 sau 138 au suscitat vii dezbateri. Consider că actuala formă adoptată de PE asigură atât o abordare comună a dezvoltării comunicării în spațiul comun european, cât și un control constructiv a ceea ce se poate întâmpla într-un spațiu virtual al comunicării, legat de protecția transferului de date sau crima organizată care se poate transmite pe calea internetului, a

undelor, și nu numai. De aceea, în calitatea pe care o am, de parlamentar al acestui Parlament, am votat pentru adoptarea acestui raport.

3-194

Ruth Hieronymi (PPE-DE), *schriftlich*. – Ich habe den Änderungsantrag 132 zum Bericht Trautmann auch im Namen der 40 Unterzeichner zurückgezogen, weil es nicht möglich war, im Europäischen Parlament bei der Beratung der Rahmenrichtlinie zum so genannten Telekom-Paket einen Kompromiss zur Stärkung des Grundrechts auf Schutz des geistigen Eigentums zu erreichen.

Ziel des Änderungsantrags 132 war es, neue Formen zu entwickeln, wie das Grundrecht auf freien Zugang zu Informationen/Internet und das Grundrecht auf Schutz des geistigen Eigentums angesichts der dramatisch zunehmenden Piraterie im Internet in ein ausgeglicheneres Verhältnis gebracht werden könnte.

Die Unterstützung der Fraktion der EVP-ED für diesen Antrag wurde zurückgenommen, nachdem die linken Fraktionen (SPE, Grüne/FEA, VEL/NGL) ihre Zustimmung zum Bericht del Castillo Vera (Europäische Behörde für die Märkte der elektronischen Kommunikation) mit dieser Frage verbunden haben.

3-195

Astrid Lulling (PPE-DE), *par écrit*. – Le marché des télécommunications évolue de façon tellement rapide qu'il était nécessaire d'en adapter le cadre législatif. Cependant, pour moi, il était élémentaire que ce cadre soit clair et précis et surtout qu'il ne freine pas les investissements des entreprises de télécommunications européennes qui sont en rude concurrence avec le marché américain et asiatique. Nos entreprises doivent pouvoir planifier et investir dans les nouvelles technologies sans délai.

Même s'il est bénéfique pour tous de renforcer le marché intérieur dans le secteur des télécoms, je suis ravie que la Commission n'ait pas réussi à nous imposer son Autorité, mais que le Parlement européen ait proposé l'ORET, une alternative crédible renforçant la coopération de nos régulateurs nationaux et évitant une nouvelle bureaucratie que l'institution de l'EECMA (l'Autorité européenne du marché des communications électroniques) aurait impliquée. Le marché des télécommunications luxembourgeois par exemple (4,7 % de la population active travaille directement ou indirectement dans ce secteur) nécessite un régulateur national puissant proche et au fait de la spécificité de notre marché. En l'occurrence, il est sage d'avoir appliqué le principe de subsidiarité.

3-196

David Martin (PSE), *in writing*. – The telecoms industry is rapidly evolving. Consequently, new measures are required to preserve and enhance consumer protection and the rights of the telecoms user. Catherine Trautmann's report on electronic communications networks and services aims to encourage the development of the next generation of telecommunications networks in Europe. I believe this to be a positive contribution to the advancement of telecoms regulation that will promote investment in new communications infrastructure and strengthen consumer rights. My vote reflects this view.

3-196-500

Δημήτριος Παπαδημούλης (GUE/NGL), *γραφτως*. – Υπερνήφισα τις τροπολογίες της Ευρωομάδας της Αριστεράς που εγγυώνται ουσιαστικότερη ελευθερία στο διαδίκτυο, διότι πρόκειται για μια από τις μορφές της ελευθερίας της έκφρασης τόσο σημαντική για τη δημοκρατία όσο η ελευθερία του τύπου. Είναι θετικό ότι το Κοινοβούλιο, παρά την ογκώδη πίεση των λόμπι, εξέφρασε τις αντιρρήσεις του εναντίον αυτού του αυθαίρετου αποκλεισμού από το Διαδίκτυο, μη δεχόμενο τον αποκλεισμό πρόσβασης στο ίντερνετ για κανένα χρήστη.

Παρόλα αυτά, το τελικό ισοζύγιο της έκθεσης παραμένει αρνητικό. Η ΕΕ οφείλει να δώσει μεγάλη βαρύτητα στο δημόσιο διάλογο, ούτως ώστε να εξασφαλίζεται τόσο η ελευθερία της έκφρασης όσο και η προστασία των προσωπικών δεδομένων, σε συνεργασία με την κοινωνία των πολιτών.

3-197

Olle Schmidt (ALDE), *skriftlig*. – Det ska erkännas att telekompaketet är ett av de svåraste lagförslag jag sett sedan jag kom hit. Dels därför att det är tekniskt komplicerat med överlappande lagförslag, dels därför att balansen mellan integritet och säkerhet till sin natur kräver eftertanke. Jag valde en linje som utgick ifrån att internet förvisso inte kan vara helt oreglerat men att rättssamhällets regler samtidigt måste gälla fullt ut. Jag kan inte acceptera att rättskipningen privatiseras, vilket skulle bli konsekvensen av att enskilda företag tillåts gå in och censurera innehållet på nätet innan användarna fått ta ställning. Anser man att öppenhet bör vara en ledande princip är filtrering djupt problematiskt.

Samtidigt som det måste stå klart att övervakning av civila nätanvändare aldrig får tillåtas av kommersiella hänsyn vill jag förstås inte vara delaktig i lagstiftning som till exempel skulle förhindra polisen från att spåra barnpornografi eller på annat sätt riskerar att äventyra medborgarnas säkerhet. Det var viktigt att inte bidra till ett europeiskt, juridiskt ramverk som förhindrar teknikutveckling och begränsar nätets demokratiska, sociala och professionella förutsättningar och möjligheter.

Till slut ansåg jag att tillräckliga skyddsmekanismer fanns på plats för att kunna rösta ja till den i övrigt viktiga liberaliseringen av telekommarknaden.

3-198

Dominique Vlasto (PPE-DE), par écrit. – J'ai souhaité voter en faveur du rapport de Catherine Trautmann car il consacre la valeur sociale, culturelle et économique des radiofréquences tout en organisant une meilleure gestion du spectre radioélectrique et ce, au bénéfice de l'ensemble des opérateurs et des consommateurs.

Cette première lecture permet également de proposer une alternative équilibrée à la proposition initiale de la Commission européenne en replaçant cette dernière en position d'arbitre et non de juge vis-à-vis du contrôle de la concurrence. Il importe en effet que les autorités de régulation nationales puissent continuer à jouer pleinement leur rôle.

Je regrette néanmoins l'adoption de l'amendement oral de Madame Trautmann. A priori consensuel, cet amendement introduit en pratique une hiérarchisation des droits fondamentaux au profit des utilisateurs finaux en interdisant toute action préventive sans une saisine préalable du juge s'agissant de la communication et de la distribution de contenus en ligne. Le drame survenu hier dans un collège finlandais et la diffusion d'images effroyables sur Internet doivent aujourd'hui, plus que jamais, nous inviter à mettre en place des mécanismes préventifs raisonnés et proportionnés. C'était tout l'enjeu de l'amendement de coopération que j'ai soutenu et je déplore par conséquent l'actuel statu quo au sein du Parlement européen.

3-199

Marian Zlotea (PPE-DE), în scris. – Ca raportor de opinie în cadrul IMCO pe acest raport, mă bucur să vad că eforturile depuse în ultimele luni de către colegii mei, de către noi toți, s-au concretizat sub forma acestui raport echilibrat, care aduce îmbunătățiri semnificative în sectorul comunicațiilor electronice. Am încredere că aceste schimbări sunt în beneficiul consumatorilor, oferindu-le o gamă variată de alegeri și că, totodată, vor susține o piață competitivă.

Cred că menținerea separării funcționale ca o opțiune la îndemâna autorităților naționale de reglementare va da acestora șansa de a promova competitivitatea în domeniu. Creșterea economică europeană, precum și bunăstarea consumatorilor depind de un sector dinamic și competitiv al telecomunicațiilor. Piețele competitive au la dispoziție mai multă bandă largă (broadband), noi veniți pe piață au adus viteze crescute și servicii inovative.

Au fost atinse astfel obiectivele pe care noua directivă și le-a propus: reformarea managementului spectrului, îmbunătățirea consistenței reglementărilor pieței interne a comunicațiilor electronice, precum și creșterea nivelului de securitate și integritate în beneficiul utilizatorilor acestor servicii.

3-200

– **Relazione: Pilar del Castillo Vera (A6-0316/2008)**

3-201

Carlos Coelho (PPE-DE), por escrito. – Iniciada em 2001, a liberalização das telecomunicações soltou as rédeas dos mercados europeus, hoje em dia mais competitivos, inovadores e com alta rentabilidade. Os consumidores europeus foram sem dúvida os principais beneficiários desta evolução, com mais e melhores serviços, formas e conteúdos, cada vez mais acessíveis. Foi uma (r)evolução tecnológica, económica e socio-cultural.

Apesar deste balanço francamente positivo, não podemos descansar à sombra dos louros conquistados.

Subsistem estrangulamentos que obstam à criação de um genuíno mercado integrado, essencialmente devidos às disparidades na aplicação da regulamentação europeia a cargo de cada Autoridade Reguladora Nacional (ARN).

Defendo assim a criação do BERT, órgão europeu de regulação das telecomunicações, como uma versão actualizada e reforçada do Conselho de Reguladores Europeus das redes e serviços de comunicações electrónicas (ERG), responsável pela aplicação mais coerente da regulamentação e que conta com a participação efectiva das ARN com uma preciosa experiência quotidiana no terreno. Ao instituir o BERT, promove-se uma abordagem reguladora coerente em toda a UE das medidas correctivas tomadas pelas ARN, com total independência em relação aos governos e à indústria.

O BERT também desempenhará funções em prol da consciencialização dos consumidores. Nessa senda, a UE já tem motivos de satisfação ao recordar a sua intervenção para a redução substancial do preço do roaming.

3-202

Ona Juknevičienė (ALDE), raštu. – Europos telekomunikacijų rinkos liberalizavimas atnešė daug naudos visai Bendrijai, o didesnė konkurencija sektoriuje tapo pagrindiniu investicijų ir naujovių varikliu. Sutinku su Komisija, kad šiai rinkai vis dar reikalingas reguliavimas, kol telekomunikacijų rinka ims veikti pagal bendrus konkurencijos įstatymus.

Tačiau iš esmės negaliu sutikti su Komisijos siūlymu steigti dar vieną reguliavimo instituciją, kuri tik padidintų biurokratinę našta ir būtų nutolusi nuo reguliuojamųjų rinkų valstybės narėse. Balsuojant palaikiau Pramonės, mokslinių tyrimų ir energetikos komitetui (ITRE) pakeitimą, siūlančią išplėsti dabar egzistuojančios Europos telekomunikacijų reguliuotojų instituciją (ETRI) funkcijas bei suteikti Europos Komisijai papildomas galias.

Nacionaliniai telekomunikacijų rinkos reguliuotojai turėtų glaudžiau bendradarbiauti su ETRI bei Europos Komisija. Manau, kad ITRE pasiūlymas leis ne tik efektyviau reguliuoti rinkos dalyvius, bet ir užtikrins veiksmingą nacionalinių reguliavimo institucijų dalyvavimą ir jų patirties panaudojimą Bendrijos lygiu. Taip pat padės išvengti netikslingo mokesčių mokėtojų pinigų švaistymo, įkuriant dar vieną biurokratinį aparatą.

3-203

David Martin (PSE), in writing. – I welcome Pilar del Castillo's report on the European Electronic Communications Market Authority. The report's vision for a Board of European Regulators that acts as a bridge between both the Commission and National Regulatory Authorities is one that adequately accounts for the complexity of the market and its ever-expanding nature. This is reflected in my vote.

3-204

– **Relazione: Patrizia Toia (A6-0305/2008)**

3-205

Carlos Coelho (PPE-DE), por escrito. – O objectivo desta proposta é o de promover uma acção coordenada a nível da UE, de forma a assegurar uma utilização eficaz do dividendo digital.

A transição da televisão terrestre analógica para a digital até ao final de 2012, em que o aumento da eficiência do espectro da televisão terrestre digital deverá permitir uma libertação considerável de espectro, deverá criar uma oportunidade única para a UE poder abrir caminho a novas possibilidades de crescimento dos mercados, expansão da qualidade e escolha dos serviços aos consumidores.

Espera-se, assim, que os EM possam libertar o mais rápido possível os seus dividendos digitais, de forma a permitir que os cidadãos europeus possam vir a beneficiar de todo um novo conjunto de serviços, inovadores e competitivos.

Cabe aos EM determinar a utilização do dividendo digital e garantir que todos esses tipos de serviços de comunicações electrónicas sejam oferecidos nas faixas de radiofrequência disponíveis, de acordo com o respectivo plano nacional de radiofrequências e os regulamentos da União Internacional das Telecomunicações.

Porém, é fundamental que exista uma abordagem comunitária coordenada, de forma a poder evitar uma interferência prejudicial entre EM, bem como entre EM e países terceiros. Deverá ainda permitir maximizar os benefícios da utilização desse espectro, garantindo uma utilização óptima sob o ponto de vista social e económico.

3-206

David Martin (PSE), in writing. – Spectrum is a finite resource in the telecommunications industry. With Member States set to switch to entirely digital television broadcasts by 2012, more spectrum will become available. Consequently how we use it needs careful consideration. I believe Patrizia Toia's report on the Common approach to the use of spectrum released by the digital switchover recognises the competing demands for spectrum and accounts for the issues of service and technology neutrality when allocating new licences. I therefore voted in support of her recommendations.

3-207

– **Relazione: Malcolm Harbour (A6-0318/2008)**

3-208

Marco Cappato (ALDE), per iscritto. – Come parlamentari europei radicali ci siamo oggi astenuti sull'approvazione della relazione Harbour, per rimarcare le occasioni perdute per incidere da subito e in modo vincolate a favore dell'inclusione dei disabili. Sebbene dei passi avanti siano stati compiuti, sono troppo pochi i provvedimenti obbligatori che ricadranno sulle autorità competenti e sui gestori di telecomunicazione a favore dell'inclusione dei disabili. Non è stato ad esempio tenuto conto delle proposte, elaborate insieme all'Associazione Luca Coscioni, per la sottotitolazione di tutti i programmi di servizio pubblico quali telegiornali e programmi di approfondimento, e i gestori di servizi non avranno l'obbligo di informare periodicamente gli utenti disabili dei servizi a loro dedicati e delle tariffe agevolate di cui possono godere.

Restano anche molte perplessità sulla garanzia della neutralità di internet e sulla salvaguardia dei diritti fondamentali dei suoi utenti. Si fa strada un controllo sempre più militarizzato della rete e, con la scusa della salvaguardia della sicurezza, si erodono ancora una volta le libertà degli utenti, le cui tutele e garanzie, di fronte alla possibilità del filtraggio sistematico del web, restano tutte da verificare.

3-208-500

Κωνσταντίνος Δρούτσας (GUE/NGL), γραπτώς. – Η Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση με το νέο πακέτο προτάσεων για τις ηλεκτρονικές επικοινωνίες προωθεί μέτρα αστυνόμευσης-τρομοκράτησης των χρηστών του Ιντερνέτ και όλων των ηλεκτρονικών επικοινωνιών με πρόφαση την δημόσια ασφάλεια και την προστασία δικαιωμάτων με την καθιέρωση συστημάτων "φιλτραρίσματος". Ταυτόχρονα ομογενοποιεί την εσωτερική ευρωπαϊκή αγορά τηλεπικοινωνιών, διαδικτύου, παραγωγής και μετάδοσης εικόνας και ήχου, ραδιοτηλεοπτικών μέσων και δορυφορικών συνδέσεων υπό τον έλεγχο μίας ενισχυμένης "ανεξάρτητης" αρχής προς όφελος των μονοπωλιακών επιχειρήσεων.

Η εξασφάλιση των κερδών και η ενίσχυση της θέσης των ευρωπαϊκών μονοπωλίων απέναντι στον διεθνή ανταγωνισμό κατοχυρώνεται μέσα από την διαδικασία απελευθέρωσης και ενοποίησης των αγορών σε ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο, που, μετά την πλήρη απελευθέρωση και ιδιωτικοποίηση σε εθνικό επίπεδο, θα οδηγήσει σε νέες αναδιαρθρώσεις υπερσυγκέντρωσης των μέσων και συσσώρευσης κεφαλαίου σε βάρος των εργαζομένων στον τομέα και των χρηστών.

Ο διαχωρισμός των υποδομών από την προσφορά υπηρεσιών και την εμπορία διατηρεί την χρηματοδότηση των υποδομών από το δημόσιο, ως μη επικερδείς για το κεφάλαιο δραστηριότητες, και ξεπουλά τις υπηρεσίες στους ιδιώτες.

Η αποδοχή αυτών των προτάσεων από τις κεντροδεξιές και κεντροαριστερές δυνάμεις αποδεικνύει για άλλη μία φορά την θερμή υποστήριξή τους στις επιλογές του κεφαλαίου και επιβεβαιώνει την αναγκαιότητα αλλαγής του συσχετισμού δύναμης υπέρ των εργαζομένων για μία ριζικά διαφορετική πολιτική που θα αξιοποιεί τις νέες τεχνολογίες προς όφελος τους.

3-209-500

Małgorzata Handzlik (PPE-DE), na piśmie. – Przyjęte sprawozdanie w sprawie usługi powszechnej i praw użytkowników korzystających z usług telekomunikacyjnych przyczyni się do poprawy pozycji konsumenta na rynku usług elektronicznych. Usługa powszechna powinna zapewniać użytkownikom dostęp do publicznej usługi telefonicznej po przystępnej cenie, gwarantując połączenia krajowe, międzynarodowe, jak i na numery alarmowe.

Dzięki przyjętym rozwiązaniom prawa użytkownika zostaną zwiększone. Będzie miał on prawo do zmiany operatora telekomunikacyjnego z zachowaniem dotychczasowego numeru telefonicznego, a co ważniejsze – czas przeniesienia numeru nie powinien być dłuższy niż jeden dzień. Ograniczony zostanie także maksymalny czas, na jaki przedsiębiorstwo telekomunikacyjne będzie mogło zawierać z abonentami umowy, wynoszący 24 miesiące, ale operator powinien również zapewnić użytkownikowi możliwości zawarcia umowy na maksymalny okres 12 miesięcy obejmujący wszystkie usługi i urządzenia końcowe.

Powinna zwiększyć się także dostępność numeru alarmowego 112, co jest szczególnie istotne w sytuacjach kryzysowych. Państwa członkowskie powinny zapewnić pełną dostępność publicznie dostępnych usług telefonicznych w przypadku załamania sieci w wyniku katastrofy lub działania siły wyższej. Rozpowszechnieniu powinien ulec także numer alarmowy o zaginionych dzieciach 116, który w chwili obecnej działa na zasadzie dobrowolności w zaledwie 7 krajach Unii Europejskiej.

3-209

Mieczysław Edmund Janowski (UEN), na piśmie. – Z dużą satysfakcją przyjąłem sprawozdanie w sprawie zmian w dyrektywach dotyczących praw użytkowników usług telekomunikacyjnych, które przedstawił pan Malcolm Harbour. Jest to dokument wyważony i zmierza do istotnej poprawy sytuacji na rynku usług elektronicznych. Dobrze się stało, iż sformułowano poprawki kompromisowe, które zostały zaakceptowane przez znakomitą większość posłów. Mimo bardzo dużej liczby poprawek pozwoliło to na przyjęcie całego sprawozdania.

W moim przekonaniu zmiany w dyrektywach stanowią wielką szansę na dostosowanie unijnych przepisów prawnych w zakresie telekomunikacji, które powstały na początku lat dziewięćdziesiątych ubiegłego wieku, do olbrzymich zmian w technologiach. Na podkreślenie zasługuje również i to, że do usług powszechnych chcemy zaliczyć telewizję mobilną i szerokopasmowy internet. Abonenci winni mieć zapewnione prawo do pełnej informacji o wszelkich ograniczeniach w dostępie do legalnego oprogramowania. Usługodawcy muszą zapewnić bezpieczeństwo sieci, ochronę danych osobowych użytkowników, a także zatamować zalew tzw. spamów.

Za szczególnie ważne uważam dostrzeżenie potrzeb osób niepełnosprawnych i starszych, które potrzebują ułatwień w dostępie do usług telekomunikacyjnych. W tej materii oczekiwane są także nowe rozwiązania konstrukcyjne w zakresie sprzętu. Jestem przeświadczony, że te działania przyczynią się do znacznego obniżenia cen usług telekomunikacyjnych w całej Unii. Dziś nadal – mimo Schengen – „karani” jesteśmy wysokimi kosztami transmisji danych przez granice wewnątrzunijne.

3-210

David Martin (PSE), in writing. – What Malcolm Harbour's report shows quite emphatically is that Internet and phone users are currently getting a raw deal. In these tough economic times consumers need to be confident that they are getting value for money. The proposals in the report mean that customers will be better informed and their personal data, be it online or off, will be more secure. The stipulation that disabled users receive equivalent access to the Internet and other communication services is also essential to ensure that everyone benefits from today's digital age. I voted in support of the report.

3-211

Andreas Mölzer (NI), schriftlich. – Heute wird versucht, Wirtschaftsinteressen auf Biegen und Brechen durchzubringen. Plötzlich soll in einem Rahmengesetz zur Bereitstellung der Telekommunikation ein Feuerwerk an Copyright-Gesetzen Einzug finden. Es reicht, wenn die EU eine Pflicht zur Warnung der Kunden vor Gefahren der Verletzung „geistiger Eigentumsrechte“ einführt, die Sanktionen könnten dann auf nationaler Ebene geregelt werden. Im Nachhinein kann dann

jeder dem anderen die Schuld zuweisen. Zudem haben im vorliegenden Bericht große Software-Entwickler versucht, einen Stolperstein für kleinere einzubauen.

Im Internet mag es Rechtsverstöße geben, wie Kinderpornographie, gegen die wir vorgehen müssen, aber es darf nicht dahingehend ausarten, dass im Namen der Wirtschaftsinteressen einiger Groß- und Multikonzerne der Datenschutz geopfert wird. Da die ursprüngliche Idee des Telekom-Paketes durchaus sinnvoll war, bei der unüberschaubaren Menge an Änderungsanträgen aber der eine oder andere in kritisiertem Sinne gehaltene durchgerutscht sein könnte, habe ich mich der Stimme enthalten.

3-212

Nicolae Vlad Popa (PPE-DE), *în scris*. – Succesul procesului liberalizării pieței telecomunicațiilor, derulat de UE în ultimii 10 ani, este de necontestat.

Reforma cadrului de reglementare a comunicațiilor electronice este parte a strategiei globale a Comisiei privind piața internă și este esențială pentru atingerea obiectivelor stabilite prin Strategia de la Lisabona deoarece, din perspectiva macroeconomică, telecomunicațiile contribuie la eficientizarea activității din numeroase alte sectoare.

Apreciez munca depusă de raportori în elaborarea unui ansamblu de măsuri coerente și eficiente care să reflecte atât obiectivele UE, cât și punctele de vedere ale majorității membrilor Parlamentului European în legătură cu un domeniu vital pentru dezvoltarea și consolidarea legăturilor dintre educație, cercetare și inovație și, în special, pentru edificarea societății informaționale europene, adaptate la economia globală, care să contribuie la creșterea economică, să genereze locuri de muncă și să ofere servicii mai performante, ameliorând calitatea vieții cetățenilor Uniunii.

Astfel, votul pozitiv exprimat în legătură cu aspecte esențiale precum clarificarea și sporirea drepturilor utilizatorilor, întărirea protecției datelor personale, crearea unui organism al autorităților europene de reglementare (BERT) și o mai bună gestionare a spectrului radio, subliniază preocuparea PPE-DE pentru găsirea echilibrului între asigurarea dreptului fundamental al cetățenilor UE de a fi integrați în societatea informațională și crearea cadrului favorabil pentru inovare și dezvoltare economică.

3-212-500

Bart Staes (Verts/ALE), *schriftelijk*. – Mijn nee-stem inzake het zogenaamde telecompakket (verslag Harbour) is ingegeven door de achterpoortjes die in de richtlijn zijn gelaten en die een mogelijke inbreuk van onze vrijheden kunnen betekenen. Zo kunnen de lidstaten providers de toestemming geven het doen en laten van individuen op internet te volgen. Ik hoop dat lidstaten bij het implementeren van deze nieuwe regels niet in de verleiding worden gebracht om de inhoud van het internet te gaan filteren. Deze taak zou enkel voor de politiediensten mogen weggelegd zijn.

Ik begrijp dat inbreuken van eigendomsrechten via internet moeten worden aangepakt, maar dat mag niet betekenen dat de vrijheid van een individuele internetgebruiker wordt aangetast. Het kan toch niet dat we een situatie creëren vergelijkbaar met een postbode die brieven opent om te zien of de inhoud wel legaal is?

De amendementen waarmee de Groenen deze tekst wilden verbeteren, werden weggestemd, waardoor ik niet langer achter dit voorstel kon staan.

Ik had graag voor de vele consumentenvoordelen willen stemmen, maar ik vind het onaanvaardbaar om internetproviders verantwoordelijk te maken voor de inhoud van het internet. Daar was deze wetgeving ook niet voor bedoeld.

3-213

– **Relazione: Caroline Lucas (A6-0313/2008)**

3-214

Hélène Goudin och Nils Lundgren (IND/DEM), *skriftlig*. – Illegal avverkning och skogsskövling orsakar svåra skador på miljön och alla är vara överens om att avverkningen av känslig tropisk skog måste minska. Därför ställer sig Junilistan positivt till att enskilda stater utarbetar uppförandekoder gällande importen av tropiskt timmer. Därtill välkomnar vi märkningsinitiativ, exempelvis genom Forest Stewardship Council, som ger konsumenterna ökade möjligheter att fatta medvetna och faktabaserade beslut inför beslut om köp av timmer eller produkter av timmer.

Dessvärre utmärks det här betänkandet i huvudsak av en tydlig vilja att flytta fram EU-parlamentets positioner i frågor som rör skogspolitik i allmänhet.

Junilistan är av den bestämda åsikten att en gemensam skogspolitik inom ramen för EU-samarbetet inte är önskvärd. Istället bör ansvaret för frågor om eller med anknytning till de enskilda medlemsländernas skogspolitik ligga kvar på nationell nivå. Junilistan har utifrån dessa ståndpunkter valt att rösta nej till betänkandet.

3-215

Ian Hudgton (Verts/ALE), in writing. – I was happy to support my colleague Ms Lucas's report on the ITTA. Millions of hectares of tropical forest are lost annually and the resultant carbon emissions are bound to have a drastic effect on the planet. In future the EU must ensure that it plays a lead role in minimising destructive and unnecessary practices.

3-216

David Martin (PSE), in writing. – I welcome Ms Lucas's report on the International Tropical Timber Agreement 2006. A serious approach to preserving the environment requires an effective framework for consultation, international cooperation and policy development regarding the world timber economy. The EU needs to support conservation, reforestation and the restoration of degraded forest land. I believe this report helps set the EU on the right track towards achieving a sustainable timber economy and I voted in favour of it.

3-217

Véronique Mathieu (PPE-DE), par écrit. – Plus de vingt ans après la première conclusion d'un accord relatif aux bois tropicaux, force est de constater que la surexploitation forestière et l'abattage illégal persistent.

Dès lors, il était devenu impérieux de réviser l'accord afin de mieux prendre en compte ces nouveaux objectifs.

C'est désormais chose faite: l'accord international sur les bois tropicaux, négocié dans le cadre de la CNUCED (Conférence des Nations unies sur le commerce et le développement) par la Commission en 2006, illustre en effet ces préoccupations nouvelles d'exploitation durable et licite des zones forestières.

Je me félicite vivement de l'intégration de ces objectifs.

Cependant, il ne s'agit pas de faire peser les coûts qu'engendreront inévitablement ces nouvelles dispositions sur les producteurs des pays concernés. Un système de compensation financière adapté doit ainsi être mis en place par la communauté internationale.

En outre, je souhaite que la Commission aille plus loin et élabore une législation complète afin que seuls le bois et les produits dérivés issus de forêts gérées dans une optique de développement durable et exploitées légalement atteignent le marché européen.

Il s'agit en effet de la seule manière d'inciter les producteurs à produire légalement tout en respectant l'environnement et donc d'encourager, au niveau mondial, une exploitation raisonnée et durable des forêts tropicales.

3-218

– **Proposta di risoluzione: Accordo internazionale del 2006 sui legni tropicali (B6-0422/2008)**

3-219

Sylwester Chruszcz (NI), na piśmie. – Poparłem dziś rezolucję w sprawie Międzynarodowej umowy w sprawie drewna tropikalnego (ITTA) z 2006 r., bo uważam, że promowanie środków zmierzających do rozwiązania regionalnych lub światowych problemów środowiskowych na płaszczyźnie międzynarodowej jest tak naprawdę jedną z pożyteczniejszych sfer działalności Unii Europejskiej. Mam nadzieję, że dla wszystkich nas oczywista jest konieczność zapewnienia ochrony lasów tropikalnych i zrównoważonej gospodarki nimi oraz odbudowy zdegradowanych obszarów leśnych.

3-220

– **Proposte di risoluzione: Priorità del Parlamento europeo per il programma legislativo e di lavoro della Commissione per il 2009 (RC B6-0420/2008)**

3-221

Philip Bushill-Matthews (PPE-DE), in writing. – I and my British Conservative colleagues are extremely supportive of much that is contained in this resolution. We strongly support the calls for a reduction in administrative burdens, the pursuit of the Lisbon Strategy on growth and jobs, support for SMEs, further progress on completing the Single Market, measures to boost consumer rights, further action on climate change, cross-border health care initiatives and boosting relations with the United States.

However, we cannot support the text on the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty, the call for a common immigration policy, the call for a common asylum policy or the call for the creation of a European External Action Service.

3-222

Sylwester Chruszcz (NI), na piśmie. – Głosowałem dziś przeciwko rezolucji Parlamentu Europejskiego w sprawie programu działalności legislacyjnej i prac Komisji na 2009 r. Ambitne plany Komisji przewidują kolejne zbędne harmonizacje i dyrektywy dla państw członkowskich w przyszłym roku. Stanowczo protestuję również przeciwko presji na Irlandię i inne państwa członkowskie, aby kontynuować proces ratyfikacji traktatu lizbońskiego, odrzuconego w irlandzkim referendum, co zostało wyrażone w 1. punkcie rezolucji.

3-223

Ilda Figueiredo (GUE/NGL), por escrito. – Não deixa de ser sintomático que o Parlamento Europeu não tenha conseguido aprovar qualquer resolução sobre as prioridades do Programa da Comissão Europeia. É certo que estamos a aproximarmo-nos das eleições para o Parlamento Europeu, o que já está a influenciar as decisões, sobretudo daqueles que querem branquear o seu comportamento e as suas responsabilidades nas políticas que conduziram ao agravamento da situação social, ao aumento do desemprego e do trabalho precário e mal pago, à crise financeira, alimentar e energética que afecta sobretudo países de economia mais débil e camadas mais frágeis da população, à militarização crescente das relações internacionais, com todos os perigos que isso representa para a paz mundial.

Mas, simultaneamente, não querem assumir a necessidade de uma ruptura com as políticas que lhe deram origem. Preferem que a Comissão Europeia prossiga com os mesmos instrumentos e políticas que conduziram a esta situação, embora com alguns retoques rosa e verdes para alimentar ilusões.

Por isso, insistimos nas propostas contidas na Resolução do nosso Grupo, incluindo a revogação do Pacto de Estabilidade, o fim das privatizações e liberalizações, a prioridade ao emprego com direitos, à resolução do problema da pobreza e à justiça social.

3-224

Ona Juknevičienė (ALDE), raštu. – Balsavau „UŽ“ rezoliuciją „Dėl 2009 m. Komisijos teisėkūros ir darbo programos“ ir apgailestauju, kad ji nebuvo priimta. Ypač svarbu, kad Komisija pateiktų komunikatą, kuriame būtų įvertinama, kaip valstybės narės įgyvendina direktyvą ir reglamentą dėl valstybių narių socialinės apsaugos sistemų koordinavimo.

Rengiant šį dokumentą, kaip šešėlinė pranešėja, pasisakiau, kad šie dokumentai svarbūs kiekvienam Bendrijos piliečiui. Jie apibrėžia tvarką ir sprendžia konkrečias, kasdienišką žmonių problemas. Juo nesiekama suvienodinti socialinės apsaugos sistemų. Tai įgyvendinimo tvarka, kuri netrukdo turėti valstybėse narėse skirtingas socialinės apsaugos sistemas. Tačiau kartu neleidžia, kad dėl jų skirtumų nukentėtų žmogus. Nuo šių dokumentų įgyvendinimo priklauso kiekvieno Bendrijos piliečio kasdienio gyvenimo gerovė.

Apgailestauju, kad Komisijai nebus perduoti įpareigojimai patikrinti, kas padaryta valstybėse narėse Transeuropinių energijos tinklų tiesimo klausimu ir kad gali užtrukti bendros energetikos rinkos sukūrimas, ir užtikrinti energetinį saugumą visoje Bendrijoje. Šis klausimas yra gyvybiškai svarbus Lietuvai, Latvijai ir Estijai, todėl Europos Sąjungos institucijos ir, pirmiausia, Komisija privalo imtis konkrečių veiksmų kuo greičiau panaikinti šių valstybių narių energetinę izoliaciją ir priklausomybę nuo Rusijos, vienintelio dujų ir naftos tiekėjo.

3-224-500

Zita Pleštinská (PPE-DE), písomne. – Hlasovala som proti uzneseniu o legislatívnom programe Komisie na rok 2009 z dôvodu, že boli schválené pozmeňujúce návrhy žiadajúce novú legislatívnu návrhy v sociálnej oblasti.

Kedže sociálna oblasť patrí takmer výlučne do kompetencie členských štátov, naša frakcia odmietla revíziu nariadenia o Európskom fonde na prispôsobenie sa globalizácii, minimálnych noriem zameraných na nespravodlivé prepúšťanie jednotlivých pracovníkov, ochrany pracovníkov s netypickými pracovnými zmluvami a zlepšovania pracovných podmienok a znižovania počtu pracovných úrazov.

Taktiež otázky právnej ochrany proti diskriminácii sa líšia medzi členskými štátmi najmä čo sa týka reprodukčných práv, tradičnej rodiny, vzdelávania a náboženstva. Naša politická skupina preto v tejto otázke pokladá za potrebné zachovať princíp subsidiarity, keďže každý členský štát má nárok upraviť si tieto princípy v súlade s národnou tradíciou a zvykmi.

Otázka tureckého vstupu do EÚ je taktiež citlivou záležitosťou v našej politickej frakcii, kde veľkú časť delegácie tvoria nemeckí a francúzski konzervatívci.

3-225

Luís Queiró (PPE-DE), por escrito. – O ano de 2009 será marcado por uma actividade da Comissão condicionada ao calendário das eleições europeias e, consequentemente, à menor possibilidade de acção, designadamente de uma das instituições. Essa circunstância não é, todavia, inibidora de um plano de actividades realista. O mundo requer uma revisão dos paradigmas, uma compreensão de que a realidade ultrapassou largamente muitos dos debates teóricos sobre os modelos económicos e sociais, sobre as múltiplas polaridades nas relações internacionais (tanto ao nível do *hard power* como dos poderes económicos ou das relações de forças comerciais). A esta nova realidade devemos desejar que a Comissão responda com uma visão de longo prazo que seja flexível e adaptável na execução; ao mesmo tempo que se deseje uma agenda para o ano de 2009 que contribua para tornar clara, aos olhos dos eleitores de cada um dos Estados Membros, a importância e o proveito para as nossas economias e as nossas sociedades das políticas da União. Essa demonstração, que decorre muito mais da qualidade das políticas do que das questões comunicacionais, deve ser o eixo da nossa actividade e, consequentemente, da actividade da Comissão Europeia. Infelizmente, a Resolução levada a votação não reflectia esta abordagem, pelo que votei contra.

3-226

Catherine Stihler (PSE), in writing. – There is still a need to promote children's rights. Currently there is too little being done to tackle child poverty across the EU. One in five children lives on the brink of poverty in the EU – that is one too many. I am pleased that Parliament has rejected the Commission's work programme for 2009. We need to do more to promote decent work in order to tackle poverty across the EU.

3-227

– **Proposte di risoluzione: Preparazione del Vertice UE-India (RC B6-0426/2008)**

3-228

Edite Estrela (PSE), por escrito. – Votei a favor da resolução comum do Parlamento Europeu sobre a preparação da Cimeira UE-Índia porque considero ser essencial adaptar a parceria estratégica com a Índia, adoptada em 2004, aos novos desafios que a UE e a Índia enfrentam, tais como a crise alimentar, a crise energética e as alterações climáticas.

Saliento o facto de a resolução encorajar a Índia a continuar os seus esforços para alcançar os Objectivos de Desenvolvimento do Milénio, nomeadamente, na área da igualdade dos géneros. É igualmente importante que a resolução relembre à Índia os valores da União Europeia, pedindo ao Governo indiano que suprima a pena de morte.

3-229

Pedro Guerreiro (GUE/NGL), por escrito. – Para além da possível apreciação de muitas outras questões suscitadas por esta resolução, consideramos essencial sublinhar que somos defensores inquestionáveis do aprofundamento de reais e efectivas relações de cooperação e de amizade entre os países que integram a UE e a Índia. Isto é, de uma relação baseada na resposta às necessidades dos diferentes povos, que seja mutuamente vantajosa e que contribua para o desenvolvimento recíproco, respeitando o princípio da não ingerência e o respeito pelas soberanias nacionais.

Com base nestes princípios e pressupostos, naturalmente, não podemos partilhar de muitas das propostas constantes na presente resolução, nomeadamente quanto ao estabelecimento de um acordo dito de "comércio livre", que visa incluir, entre outros aspectos, um "acordo sobre serviços", a "concorrência", os "contratos públicos" e a "abolição das actuais restrições no domínio do investimento directo" entre a UE e a Índia.

Esta proposta (e objectivo) procura dar resposta aos anseios de expansão dos grandes grupos económicos e financeiros - que não foram concretizados ao nível das negociações na OMC, que visam a liberalização do comércio mundial -, cuja necessidade de aumentar a acumulação e a centralização do capital é premente. Uma investida contraditória com as necessidades dos trabalhadores e dos povos da Índia e dos diferentes países que integram a UE.

3-229-500

Carl Lang (NI), par écrit. – Il est nécessaire de développer nos relations avec l'Inde qui, avec plus d'un milliard d'habitants et une économie en pleine expansion, constitue une puissance d'équilibre face au monde musulman et à la Chine. Mais la résolution proposée, correspondant aux vues de monsieur Sarkozy et de la Commission européenne, va à l'encontre des intérêts des nations d'Europe. Ainsi, "l'accord de libre échange complet" demandé s'inscrit dans le processus de destruction de nos économies et de nos systèmes sociaux, mis en concurrence avec des pays pratiquant le dumping social. Par ailleurs, la revendication pour l'Inde d'un siège au Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies fait partie des propositions de réforme de l'ONU, visant notamment à enlever à la France et à la Grande-Bretagne leur statut de membre permanent du Conseil de sécurité pour le donner à l'Europe de Bruxelles.

Par ailleurs, présenter l'Inde comme "un modèle de pluralisme religieux" est une provocation à l'égard des Chrétiens massacrés en Orissa.

L'Inde défend ses intérêts nationaux et ses valeurs plurimillénaires. Pour avoir une relation équilibrée avec elle, nos États doivent en faire de même. Ils ne le feront que dans une autre Europe: l'Europe des nations souveraines reposant sur les valeurs chrétiennes et gréco-romaines de sa civilisation.

3-230

Mairead McGuinness (PPE-DE), in writing. – As a member of the EU-India Delegation, I support the Joint Motion for a Resolution on the preparation of the EU-India Summit 2008.

The motion addresses the issue of the failure to reach agreement at the WTO and expresses a desire for renewed efforts to reach agreement.

However, the motion does not reflect the key stumbling block to such an agreement, namely the failure of the US and India to reach agreement on a special safeguard mechanism to prevent dumping of products onto the Indian market to the detriment of India's large rural/farming population. Without such a mechanism there are fears for the very survival of the subsistence farmers in India. The key issue of food security is not adequately addressed at the WTO and perhaps this is why ultimately the talks failed to deliver. Any renewed effort to re-open the talks must ensure that food security concerns of members are adequately addressed. Import surges can have a very negative and dramatic impact on local food

production, and in developing countries with a large farming base import surges would be hugely damaging to efforts to develop a local agriculture/food production base.

3-231

Luís Queiró (PPE-DE), *por escrito*. – Por vezes é necessário recordar que a Índia é, demograficamente, a maior Democracia do Mundo. Essa circunstância, associada à sua vitalidade económica e ao seu crescente papel ao nível das relações internacionais - em primeiro lugar naquela região -, sugere que repensemos a nossa relação com este importante parceiro. Seria, naturalmente, um erro ignorar as fragilidades da Democracia indiana, da sua estrutura económica ou da sua organização social. Pelo que se deve considerar que no nosso relacionamento com este País esses aspectos devem figurar no topo da agenda. No entanto, essa agenda deve ser mais ampla e, sobretudo, mais consentânea com as novas realidades e circunstâncias. O reforço dos laços políticos e uma maior aproximação a esse gigante devem ser compreendidos como estratégicos. De igual modo, devemos estar atentos e disponíveis para o reforço do papel da Índia no concerto das Nações, designadamente no que diz respeito à arquitectura e enquadramento institucional. Se é comum dizer-se que o século XXI será o século do Pacífico – questão que deve merecer a maior atenção da Europa – convém acrescentar o Índico a essa profecia. E adaptar, conformemente, as nossas estratégias.

3-232

12 - Correzioni e intenzioni di voto: vedasi processo verbale

3-233

(La seduta, sospesa alle 13.45, è ripresa alle 15.00)

3-234

PRÉSIDENCE DE MME MARTINE ROURE *Vice-présidente*

3-235

13 - Approbation du procès-verbal de la séance précédente: voir procès-verbal

3-236

14 - Situation du système financier mondial et ses effets sur l'économie européenne (débat)

3-237

La Présidente. – L'ordre du jour appelle les déclarations du Conseil et de la Commission sur la situation du système financier mondial et ses effets sur l'économie européenne.

3-238

Jean-Pierre Jouyet, *président en exercice du Conseil*. – Madame la Présidente, chère Martine Roure, Señor Commissario, querido Joaquin, Mesdames et Messieurs les députés, nous assistons, à la fin d'une époque. La finance mondiale ne ressemblera plus dans les prochaines années à celle que nous avons connue. Ce n'est pas seulement une crise américaine à laquelle nous devons faire face, c'est une crise du système financier international et aucune région du monde n'est épargnée.

Depuis de nombreuses années des voix s'étaient élevées pour dénoncer des déséquilibres croissants au sein de la sphère financière: une exposition aux risques déraisonnable de nombreux acteurs, la faible capacité des contrôleurs financiers à maîtriser l'introduction rapide de produits financiers de plus en plus complexes, et – M. le commissaire y reviendra sans doute – le goût, trop prononcé pour certains, de la cupidité. Les résultats sont là. La sphère financière américaine est dans la tourmente, les autorités américaines sont amenées à intervenir de manière toujours croissante pour éviter une crise systémique. L'Europe et l'ensemble du monde subissent les retombées de cette crise sans précédent depuis les années trente.

La Présidence française a la conviction que les événements des jours passés renforcent la nécessité d'une Europe forte et unie dans le domaine économique et financier. Nous devons d'abord apporter des réponses immédiates aux turbulences financières. L'Union économique et monétaire dispose, avec la Banque centrale européenne, d'une banque centrale puissante, qui a su intervenir avec rapidité, détermination et efficacité lorsque les tensions ont été les plus vives, ceci en étroite collaboration avec les autres grandes banques centrales. C'est un atout considérable en ces temps de turbulences et nous devons saluer l'action de la Banque centrale européenne, qui reste prête à intervenir en toute circonstance.

Face à l'accélération des turbulences dans les derniers jours, les autorités de régulation des marchés dans la plupart des États membres ont, comme les autorités américaines, décidé d'interdire, pour une durée déterminée, les ventes à découvert. C'est une mesure d'urgence mais cette mesure est bienvenue car elle peut contribuer à calmer les tensions sur les marchés.

Aujourd'hui, nous n'envisageons pas d'initiative du même type que celle que viennent d'annoncer les autorités fédérales américaines concernant le rachat à grande échelle de produits "toxiques" détenus par les acteurs financiers et le commissaire Almunia s'est prononcé à juste titre sur ce sujet.

Le système financier de l'Union reste globalement solide et n'appelle donc pas ce type de mesures mais nous devons rester très vigilants et rien ne peut être exclu au nom d'une quelconque idéologie. C'est le réalisme et le pragmatisme qui doivent primer. Nous devons, si nécessaire, faire face aux éventuels risques systémiques en utilisant tous les moyens à notre disposition.

Les interventions en urgence des banques centrales et des régulateurs sont cruciales mais tous les experts reconnaissent qu'elles ne sont pas de nature à résoudre à elles seules la crise. Il faut que les Européens prennent leurs responsabilités dans les autres domaines d'intervention qui leur incombent.

Nous devons apporter des réponses au ralentissement économique. Cela a été l'objet de l'approche européenne commune, adoptée par les ministres de l'économie et des finances lors du Conseil informel de Nice. Les ministres, avec la Commission et le Président de la Banque centrale européenne ont, notamment, décidé de laisser jouer les stabilisateurs automatiques en matière budgétaire dans les États membres qui disposent des marges de manœuvre.

Ils ont en outre approuvé le plan de financement des PME européennes par la Banque européenne d'investissement à hauteur de 30 milliards d'euros d'ici 2011, ce qui est de nature à apporter un soutien significatif à l'activité dans la mesure où, paradoxalement, peut être plus en Europe qu'aux États-Unis, même si la crise financière est moins tendue, elle comporte autant de risques sur l'économie réelle. En effet, avec un système financier stable et des banques solides, celles-ci, pour améliorer leur situation, peuvent être amenées, d'une part, à restreindre ou à renchérir le coût de crédits et, notamment, aux PME. Il fallait donc agir très directement à l'égard de ces dernières.

Nous devons aussi réformer notre système financier selon deux axes forts: le premier axe, est une action législative et réglementaire rapide pour remettre de la transparence dans le système financier et responsabiliser les acteurs. C'est en ce sens que, le 13 septembre, les ministres ont montré leur détermination à accélérer la mise en œuvre de la feuille de route adoptée en 2007 en réponse aux premiers signes de la crise financière. Cette feuille de route, pour répondre aux turbulences financières, porte sur quatre actions-clé: la transparence, les règles prudentielles, la valorisation d'actifs et le fonctionnement des marchés, y compris les agences de notation.

Il faut maintenant passer aux actes sur le contrôle des agences de notation, sur la révision des contrôles exercés sur les banques, sur l'adaptation des normes comptables qui, dans le domaine financier, ont sans doute joué un rôle procyclique. C'est une priorité forte de la Présidence française, nous en débattons lors du prochain Conseil européen. Je pense – mais le commissaire le confirmera – que la Commission proposera très rapidement de modifier les directives en vigueur depuis 2006 sur les exigences relatives aux fonds propres.

Cet exercice s'inscrira dans le cadre des travaux actuellement en cours dans les différentes enceintes pour répondre à la turbulence financière, y compris, bien évidemment, les récentes recommandations qui ont été formulées par le Forum de stabilité financière. Je sais que la Commission pourra faire ces propositions dans les meilleurs délais et nous comptons sur votre Assemblée pour dégager un accord avec le Conseil en première lecture, avant la fin de cette législature, sur ces propositions qui sont urgentes.

Une proposition relative aux agences de notation est également attendue de la Commission d'ici quelques semaines. Elle fera suite à l'invitation qui avait été formulée par le Conseil des ministres de l'économie et des finances du mois de juillet 2008 et, là aussi, je compte sur la volonté de votre Assemblée pour arriver à un accord sur cette proposition ambitieuse dans les meilleurs délais.

Je note également avec satisfaction qu'il a été décidé d'établir un groupe de travail pour étudier la façon dont la supervision prudentielle des banques et des assurances doit prendre en compte le caractère cyclique des évolutions, notamment en ce qui concerne les capitaux. Des mesures concrètes devront aussi en découler.

Ces éléments d'une réforme du secteur financier sont indispensables, ils devront probablement être complétés par d'autres initiatives, au gré de la poursuite de la réflexion européenne sur la crise financière. Le Parlement doit, dans ce cadre, jouer tout son rôle et la Présidence a pris note avec grand intérêt des récentes contributions de votre Assemblée. Je pense notamment aux fonds spéculatifs, les *hedge funds*, dont certains experts nous disent qu'ils peuvent être les prochaines victimes de la crise. Je pense – comme je l'ai indiqué – à la question des normes comptables mais aussi à la question des rémunérations dans le secteur financier dont nous devons nous saisir sans hésiter.

Dire – comme je l'ai entendu de certains responsables européens – que le laisser-faire doit se poursuivre et qu'aucune réglementation ne s'impose, est une faute. C'est même plus qu'une faute, c'est une faute contre la stabilité du système financier, c'est une faute contre la raison. Je le dis sans ambages: il faut réfléchir à une réglementation sur les *hedge funds*. L'Union européenne doit le faire, il faut que nous réfléchissions à la transparence des risques, au pouvoir de contrôle des régulateurs et, également, aux rémunérations concernant ce type d'institution.

Le deuxième axe fondamental, c'est le renforcement de notre dispositif de supervision financière. Les ministres des finances se sont félicités de l'accord des comités européens de régulateurs sur l'unification, d'ici 2012, des exigences relatives aux données transmises par les banques européennes aux autorités de supervision. Ce sont de premiers résultats importants mais ils doivent être suivis par d'autres et les ministres ont convenu de poursuivre leurs efforts visant à une amélioration de la coordination du contrôle et de la supervision des acteurs financiers. Nous sommes, en ce qui concerne la Présidence, aux côtés de votre Assemblée, aux côtés de la Commission, pour renforcer l'intégration de la supervision et du contrôle prudentiel sur des groupes qui sont de plus en plus transfrontaliers. L'Union doit se doter d'un système de supervision plus efficace et plus intégré pour être mieux en mesure d'affronter les crises financières.

Mesdames et Messieurs les députés, la France préside le Conseil de l'Union européenne en un moment de grandes turbulences. Dans ces circonstances difficiles, nous avons pleinement conscience de nos responsabilités. Le temps est venu de prendre des décisions importantes s'agissant de l'organisation de notre système financier, de sa place dans l'économie européenne et de son rôle qui doit rester au service du financement des entreprises et des particuliers.

L'Union n'a pas été inactive durant ces derniers mois, la Présidence peut donc s'appuyer sur les réflexions et les travaux déjà conduits par la Commission en ce domaine et peut s'appuyer également sur des réflexions qui ont été conduites notamment par un certain nombre d'experts, dont, en France, M. Ricol.

Le Conseil européen du mois d'octobre donne une occasion de prendre des orientations fortes au niveau européen, c'est notre ambition. Il est évident que l'Europe ne doit pas agir seule, elle doit être suffisamment réactive et impulser une nouvelle coopération internationale, comme l'indiquait le Président Sarkozy hier aux Nations unies. Nous proposons également d'organiser, d'ici la fin de l'année, une réunion internationale rassemblant autour du G8 les autorités de régulation financière. Notre but est de contribuer à dégager de premiers principes et de nouvelles règles communes au plan international pour refonder le système financier international.

Par une telle initiative, l'Union européenne manifeste son attachement à une gouvernance mondiale renouvée et équilibrée. La réponse européenne et internationale doit être conçue à court, moyen et long terme. À court terme pour les interventions d'urgence, à moyen terme pour la rénovation de notre législation et à long terme pour conduire une réflexion plus globale sur la place de notre modèle économique en faveur de la croissance et de l'emploi et la poursuite des réformes structurelles qui restent absolument indispensables.

Voilà ce que je souhaitais vous indiquer aujourd'hui pour l'information de votre Assemblée.

3-239

Joquín Almunia, Member of the Commission. – Madam President, the series of events we have witnessed in financial markets during the last year, and in particular during the last few days, are of a magnitude that exceeds anything we have seen in our lifetime. Many believe – and I tend to agree – that this will trigger important changes in the functioning of the international financial system.

Since the outbreak of the crisis in August 2007, disclosed losses have totalled more than USD 500 billion, a sum equivalent to the GDP of a country like Sweden. And, unfortunately, the final figure is considered to be larger still.

The acceleration of declared losses in the US during the last few weeks, and the subsequent decline in investor confidence, have pushed several major financial institutions to the brink of collapse. In cases where the fall of one of these institutions would have implied a systemic risk – that is to say, put the entire financial system at risk – emergency rescue operations have been required.

Some of these rescue operations took the form of public interventions, such as those carried out by the US Treasury and the Federal Reserve to avoid the bankruptcy of the world's largest insurance company, AIG, or of the mortgage financiers Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, that together underwrite half of all mortgages in the US.

Others took the form of private takeovers, such as the purchase of the investment bank Merrill Lynch by Bank of America.

For others, like the case of investment banker Lehman Brothers or almost two dozen US regional banks, bankruptcy was the only option possible. In short, we have witnessed an extraordinary transformation in the US banking landscape.

Consequently, we have reached the point where the US financial system is facing a substantial confidence problem. At this juncture, according to the US authorities, a series of bail-outs is not the answer any more. A systemic solution is urgently needed.

In the short term we all need a response that will restore confidence and stabilise markets.

The US plan announced by Secretary Paulson last week is a good initiative. In short, the US Treasury Secretary proposes to set up a federal fund to remove from the banks' balance sheets the illiquid assets – those mortgage-linked securities that are at the root of the problems we face. Removing these from the system would help to remove uncertainty and refocus the market on fundamentals. However, the details of this proposal need to be properly defined – and quickly – if it is to succeed.

I should say that we are talking about a US plan, adapted for the circumstances in the US, where – it should be recalled – the crisis originated and where the financial sector has been most severely affected. But we all have to analyse why this has happened. We all have to cope with the consequences and react to the present situation.

To do this, we first have to understand how we arrived at this point. The origins of the turmoil we see today lie in the persisting global imbalances in the world economy, which created an environment of high availability of liquidity and poor assessment of risks.

The interconnection of global financial markets, the high level of leverage and the use of innovative and complex financial techniques and instruments, which were only poorly understood, caused these risks to spread across the international financial system on an unprecedented scale.

What is clear is that market participants – but also regulators and supervisors – were unable to properly understand the risks of this situation and, therefore, could not prevent the consequences that we see today.

True, in the months leading up to the crisis, the IMF, the European Central Bank and the Commission, among others, all warned of these underlying risks. We knew the situation was unsustainable, but what we could not know, and what no one was able to predict, was how, when and just how violently the crisis would be triggered by rising defaults in the sub-prime mortgage sector.

What we are now seeing is the process of the last few years going into reverse, with the financial system grappling with the consequent need to deleverage. Because of the exceptionally high leverage and the scale of linkages between risks, this process of unwinding is proving particularly painful. The lack of transparency in the system and the inability of supervisors to piece together an accurate and complete picture of the situation, has led to a dramatic fall in confidence.

The financial sector has been most severely affected, as nervousness among banks has caused liquidity to dry up in the interbank lending market.

Several key credit markets remain disrupted, and recently there has been a renewed flight to quality among investors, accompanied by widening spreads between benchmark bond yields and yields on relatively risky investments.

Thanks to the swift and coordinated intervention by central banks – with a relevant role here for the ECB – we have managed to avoid a severe liquidity shortage. Nevertheless, banks remain under pressure. The crisis of confidence has provoked a fall in asset prices, compounding the strain on banks' balance sheets. Combined with the situation in the interbank market, banks face difficulties to recapitalise.

The situation we face here in Europe is less acute, and Member States do not, at this point, consider that a US-style plan is needed.

Taking a medium-term perspective, it is evident that we need a more comprehensive structural response. The latest events in financial markets have made it clear that the current model of regulation and supervision needs to be revamped.

In the short term, we rapidly need to address the weaknesses in the current framework, and in this respect – and I fully agree with the Council position – the ECOFIN road map of regulatory actions and the recommendations of the Financial Stability Forum contain all the elements necessary. As you know, this includes concrete initiatives on enhanced transparency for investors, markets and regulators; revised capital requirements for banking groups, and clarification of the role of credit-rating agencies.

Work is progressing at the Commission, and the Commission will soon come forward with proposals on a revision to the Capital Requirements Directive – next week – and new legislation on credit-rating agencies, I hope, before the end of October. But given the latest developments, it is likely that we will need to explore additional issues that have come to light.

We will continue to discuss what else should be done to better ensure financial stability and to correct the reasons underlying this crisis, and in this regard I fully share the words of welcome that the Presidency of the Council gave to your contributions.

Finally, let me turn to the impact of the financial sector crisis on the economy – on the real economy. There can be no doubt that events in the financial sector are hurting the real economy. These effects have been compounded by the inflationary pressures of the rising oil and other commodity prices and the severe housing-market corrections in some Member States. This combination of shocks has impacted directly on economic activity through higher costs and negative wealth effects and, indirectly, via a sharp erosion of economic confidence. The result has been a brake on domestic demand at a time when external demand is fading.

Leading indicators on economic activity point to a marked deceleration in the underlying growth momentum both in the EU and in the euro area. Against this background, GDP growth for this year was revised down significantly in our last interim forecast to 1.4% in the EU and 1.3% in the euro area. At the same time, for this year inflation forecasts have been revised up to 3.8% in the EU and 3.6% in the euro area. Inflation could, however, be at a turning point, as the impact of past increases in energy and food prices gradually fades in the coming months. This could possibly be reinforced by a further downward correction in oil and other commodity prices, although this remains to be seen.

Overall, the economic situation and outlook remain unusually uncertain. Risks to the growth outlook remain on the downside, while risks to the inflation outlook are on the upside. These uncertainties are even higher regarding economic developments next year, but we expect growth in both the EU and the euro area to remain relatively weak next year.

How should we respond to this economic slowdown? The best answer is to make use of all the policy instruments we have at our disposal.

Firstly, in budgetary policy, we must preserve our commitment to fiscal discipline and the rules of the Stability and Growth Pact while letting the automatic stabilisers play their role. In this regard, the reform of the pact in 2005 is proving very helpful.

Secondly, a clear commitment to implement structural reforms, as defined in the framework of the Lisbon Strategy and the national reform programmes, would be crucial to boost consumer and investor confidence in the short term and to improve the resilience and dynamism of our economies in the longer term. Measures to strengthen competition in retail and energy markets and improve the functioning of our labour markets would be particularly valuable at this juncture.

Finally, delivering improvements in financial-market regulation and meeting the goals of the ECOFIN road map is, as I have already stressed, more urgent than ever before. An effective and rapid solution to the difficult challenges we are facing could go a long way to restore confidence quicker than expected and limit the damage to our economies.

In each of these policy areas our actions will be more efficient and effective if we coordinate them at the euro area and European Union level.

Inevitably, we will need to overcome some resistance by Member States to agree common action, yet the consensus we reached during the last informal ECOFIN meeting in Nice should be deepened and developed.

European countries face common challenges. We will overcome them most effectively if we work together to find common solutions. In this respect, the Economic and Monetary Union is a formidable asset, and we should exploit the opportunities it provides to strengthen coordination, along the lines we proposed in our EMU@10 report and communication last May.

However, events make clear that internal European action is not sufficient to confront global challenges. We need to reinforce common external action in the Financial Stability Forum, in the Basel Committee, in the G7, as well as devoting more attention to the future role of the International Monetary Fund.

Looking ahead, we need to think about how we can shape the future of our financial systems and global governance, and the role of the European Union in this regard is vital. Europe can be a driving force behind reinforcing global coordination and should take a leading role in international debates in this area, and this first requires European countries to work together and agree on internal solutions.

3-240

Alexander Radwan, *im Namen der PPE-DE-Fraktion.* – Frau Präsidentin, Herr Ratsvorsitzender, Herr Kommissar, meine sehr verehrten Damen und Herren! Teilweise hatte ich bei den Ausführungen, die ich gerade gehört habe, das Gefühl, ich bin im falschen Film. Es wurde regelmäßig betont, man werde schnell handeln. Der einzige, der in den letzten Monaten, Jahren und Wochen schnell gehandelt hat, war der Markt, der ja immer wieder beschworen wird, wenn wir hier regelmäßig über etwas nachdenken. Der Markt hat das Problem der Investmentbanken sehr schnell selber geregelt. So schnell konnten wir gar nicht reagieren.

Aber von schnell kann ja auch keine Rede sein, wenn man auf den Rat und insbesondere auf die Kommission schaut. Jetzt werden wir von den Amerikanern freundlich eingeladen mitzuzahlen. Dazu möchte ich jetzt nichts sagen, da muss man sich einfach einmal die Entwicklung anschauen. Aber das, was ich vom Rat erwarte – bei der Kommission bin ich mir nicht im Klaren, ob die Kommission Barroso dazu in der Lage ist –, ist, dass wir zumindest einmal den Widerstand der Amerikaner und der Briten bei der Frage der Transparenz der Finanzmärkte brechen. Ich will hier nur an den deutschen Ratsvorsitz erinnern, als Sarkozy und Frau Merkel etwas angestoßen haben und die Kommission Barroso sich zurückgelehnt und gesagt hat „Wer ist Sarkozy, und wer ist Merkel?“ und etwas nicht gemacht hat.

Es kann auch nicht von schnell die Rede sein. Ich möchte nur an Enron und Parmalat erinnern. Damals hat das Europäische Parlament einen entsprechenden Bericht des Kollegen Katiforis verabschiedet – ich war damals Schattenberichterstatter – zum Thema Rating-Agenturen, das war 2003. Jetzt, im Oktober 2008, wird möglicherweise die Kommission etwas vorlegen, zu dem bereits heute die IOSCO sagt, wir dürfen von den Vorgaben der SEC und der Amerikaner nicht abweichen, weil sonst das internationale Finanzsystem gestört ist.

Europa muss hier einen eigenen Weg gehen! Darum ist es mir ziemlich egal, was die SEC hier vorschlägt, und wenn die Kommission in die gleiche Richtung gehen sollte, sollte sie sich warm anziehen. Wir müssen das machen, was wir für richtig halten, und die Amerikaner können uns dann folgen. So viel zum Thema Rating-Agenturen.

Es wurde darauf verwiesen, wir sollten bei der Basel-II-Überarbeitung in einer Lesung arbeiten. Ich würde mich freuen, wenn der Ratsvertreter jetzt zuhören würde, denn das ist etwas, das er angesprochen hat. Wir können eine Lesung machen, wenn der Rat seinen Widerstand aufgibt, ein europäisches Aufsichtsregime herbeizuführen. Das, was der Rat bisher hier in einer engeren Kooperation der Aufseher in Europa geliefert hat, war blamabel. Nizza war ein intergouvernementales Zusammenarbeiten. Von daher ist es schon notwendig, dass der Rat hier einmal über seinen eigenen Schatten springt und auch europäisch denkt.

Hedge-Fonds wurden angesprochen, Private Equity ebenfalls. Kommissar McCreevy hat diese Woche in diesem Haus hier gesagt, man dürfe nichts überstürzen. Also, man kann McCreevy viel vorwerfen, aber nicht, dass er etwas überstürzt.

(Zwischenrufe und Beifall)

McCreevy wurde bei den Themen Hedge-Fonds und Private Equity von mir hier regelmäßig attackiert. Wir müssen darauf schauen, dass die Kommission jetzt die richtigen Analysen vorlegt und sich nicht weiterhin verweigert. Das Problem ist nicht das von McCreevy, das Problem ist inzwischen eines von Barroso.

(Beifall)

Ich würde mich jetzt freuen, wenn wir auch den Amerikanern gegenüber klar machen würden, dass die SEC – die amerikanische Börsenaufsicht – sich einmal um den eigenen Stall kümmern sollte. Siemens wird strengstens durchleuchtet, Amerika wird nicht angeschaut. Ich erwarte von der Kommission und vom Rat, dass wir einen europäischen Weg in diesem Bereich entsprechend formulieren.

(Beifall)

3-241

Martin Schulz, im Namen der PSE-Fraktion. – Frau Präsidentin! Wir haben Herrn Radwan mit großer Aufmerksamkeit zugehört. Der bayerische Wahlkampf wirft seine Schatten voraus. Ja, Sie haben Recht mit einigen Ihrer Bemerkungen, Herr Radwan. Der Markt hat es geregelt, aber der Steuerzahler der USA zahlt. Es ist der Staat, der zahlt.

Was wir in diesen Tagen erleben, ist nicht nur ein Konkurs von Investmentbanken und großen Versicherungsgesellschaften. Es ist der Bankrott einer ökonomischen Philosophie, von der uns über Jahre hinweg erzählt worden ist, dass nur sie, diese angeblich moderne Wirtschaft, in der alles und jedes im Spekulativen, nicht im Realen, möglich war, Wachstum generiert und Wohlstand schafft. Und dieses System geht bankrott!

(Beifall)

Im Übrigen, Herr Radwan, erinnern wir uns auch noch sehr gut an den Bericht Katiforis. Sie sind ein wendiger Politiker, mein Kompliment. Sie gehen jetzt am kommenden Sonntag in den Landtag in Bayern, viel Glück dazu. Aber der Hauptbremsen beim Bericht Katiforis, der hieß Alexander Radwan! Daran können wir uns allerdings auch noch sehr gut erinnern.

Charlie McCreevy ist nicht hier. Schade! Joaquín Almunia hat die Analyse sehr gut vorgetragen. Die notwendigen Maßnahmen, die wir jetzt ergreifen müssen, Herr Kommissar Almunia, die müssen Sie Ihrem Kollegen McCreevy mit auf den Weg geben. Ich weiß nicht, wo er ist. Vielleicht ist er wieder auf der Rennbahn, vielleicht sind auch auf der Rennbahn

die Wettbüros geordneter als an den internationalen Finanzmärkten. Aber eines ist ganz klar: Wir erwarten, dass die Kommission bis zum Ende des Jahres, spätestens bis zum Frühjahr, die notwendigen Maßnahmen, die wir ergreifen können, auch ergreift.

Dazu gehört z.B., dass wir Regeln für die Rating-Agenturen brauchen, und zwar schnell. Dazu gehört, dass wir – und das ist für uns ein ganz wichtiger Punkt – die Entkoppelung der Managergehälter von kurzfristigen Spekulationsgewinnen brauchen. Wenn ein Manager weiß, dass er eine Milliarde, die er spekulativ gewinnt, mit 5 % für sich einnehmen kann, weil sein Gehalt an die Spekulationsmilliarde gekoppelt ist, dann wird er, so ist nun einmal die menschliche Natur, egal wie versuchen, an seine Milliarde Gewinn heranzukommen, und koste es – wie in den vergangenen Jahrzehnten an vielen Orten der Welt geschehen – Zehntausende Arbeitsplätze.

Als wenn nichts geschehen wäre, haben Manager, die uns hier als smarte Jungs auf den Fluren entgegengekommen sind, ganze Unternehmen, ganze Unternehmensstandorte und alle damit verbundenen sozialen Schicksale vernichtet. Und diese Vernichtungssummen stecken in den 700 Milliarden, die der Steuerzahler der Vereinigten Staaten jetzt in die Sanierung von Großbanken und Versicherungsgesellschaften stecken muss. Welcher Dilettantismus in den USA regiert, kann man daran sehen, dass es selbst in der größten Krise diese Großunternehmen sind, die saniert werden, für deren Sanierung mehr als 700 Milliarden im US-Haushalt von den kleinen Steuerzahlern gezahlt werden müssen. Nur, über die Schicksale dieser kleinen Steuerzahler, deren Überschuldung und deren Hypotheken auf ihren Häusern kommen im Sanierungsplan der US-Regierung nicht vor. Wieder einmal perfekt gezeigt: Die Gewinne werden privatisiert, die Verluste werden sozialisiert. Auch das muss ein Ende haben.

(Beifall)

Wir haben das ja am Montag in der Debatte gehört. Ich habe fast den Eindruck, wir müssen bei der EVP-Fraktion Beitrittsformulare zur Sozialdemokratischen Partei verteilen – Sie können ja gar nicht schnell genug Ihre Meinung ändern, und noch schlimmer, das will ich jetzt einmal sagen, sind die Liberalen.

Ich habe in einer Debatte im November des vergangenen Jahres folgenden Satz gesagt, als es um die Rolle der Europäischen Union in der Globalisierung ging: "Der Wildwest-Kapitalismus, der an den Finanzmärkten herrscht, der ganze Volkswirtschaften bedroht – jetzt die der USA – braucht internationale Regeln. Wir brauchen Kontrolle, Transparenz und Machtbegrenzung der Finanzmärkte". Darauf hat der Vorsitzende der liberalen Fraktion geantwortet: *Mister President, we have just heard the language of the past* – die Rede der Vergangenheit. Nun gut, wenigstens beteiligt er sich heute nicht an der Debatte, was eine Qualitätssteigerung ist. Aber das, was ich damals gesagt habe, ist nicht *the language of the past*. Mehr denn je ist die Zukunft Kontrolle und staatliche Aufsicht über einen deregulierten Markt, der vor nichts und gar nichts Respekt hat.

Lassen Sie mich deshalb eines hinzufügen. Natürlich müssen wir schnell handeln, aber wir müssen in einem Bereich handeln, der mir und meinen Kolleginnen und Kollegen hier im Europäischen Parlament am stärksten am Herzen liegt. Die Spekulationsblase hört ja nicht auf, selbst wenn wir kurzfristig Leerverkäufe verbieten, sie werden ja wiederkommen. Und es wird wiederkommen, dass z.B. Anleger beraten werden, man möge doch bitte auf steigende Lebensmittelpreise spekulieren. Steigende Lebensmittelpreise gibt es dann, wenn es weniger Lebensmittel gibt. Das heißt, diejenigen, die ein Interesse an hohen Lebensmittelpreisen haben, müssen schauen, dass sich die Lebensmittel verknappen. Lebensmittelverknappung bedeutet aber Hunger auf der Welt, und wenn es in einem System möglich ist, dass der Hunger in einigen Regionen der Welt der Profit in anderen Regionen der Welt ist, dann nutzen uns auch 700 Milliarden Sanierungsdollar nichts. Das System, das so pervers ist, wird irgendwann bittere Konsequenzen für die ganze Menschheit haben.

Deshalb ist das, was wir hier diskutieren, nicht nur mit kurzfristigen Notwendigkeiten verbunden, sondern vor allen Dingen mit der Frage, ob wir auf Dauer eine humane und soziale Menschheitsentwicklung garantieren können.

3-242

Silvana Koch-Mehrin, im Namen der ALDE-Fraktion. – Frau Präsidentin, meine Damen und Herren! Die globale Finanzkrise hat sich an den Märkten mit unvorhersehbaren Konsequenzen ausgebreitet. Manchem fällt es vielleicht leicht, ein bisschen Freude darüber zu äußern, dass der eine oder andere Banker abrutscht und arbeitslos wird. Aber so eine Freude ist ausgesprochen dumm, denn die echten Verlierer sind nicht die Wirtschaftsbosse und nicht die Wertpapierhändler. Die Kreditkrise, die sinkenden Aktien- und Finanzwerte treffen nämlich am allerhärtesten die einfachen Familien. Deren finanzielle Sicherheit wird erschüttert, da das Ersparte und die Pensionen gefährdet werden.

Deswegen ist es nötig – und ich finde es gut, dass wir es an solcher Stelle heute machen –, die Finanzkrise und ihre Auslöser genau zu analysieren, damit sich das nicht wiederholt. Martin Schulz nutzte seine Rede, um gegen die Märkte zu wettern. Vielleicht ergibt sich ja für Sie sogar eine Zuverdienstmöglichkeit als Orakel, nachdem Sie Ihr Zitat vom vergangenen Herbst noch einmal erwähnt haben. Sie müssten aber auch wissen, Geld ist der Motor der Märkte, nicht heiße Luft.

Die Antwort auf die jetzige Krise ist nicht die Abkehr vom freien Unternehmertum. Unternehmer schaffen Arbeitsplätze und Wohlstand. Brauchen die Finanzmärkte also mehr Regulierung? Ludwig Erhard, der Vater des deutschen Wirtschaftswunders, hat es schon auf den Punkt gebracht. Er sagte: „Der Staat soll die Spielregeln für die Wirtschaft und das Finanzsystem bestimmen, aber so wenig wie der Schiedsrichter soll er mitspielen.“ Das heißt natürlich, dass Fouls und jeder Regelverstoß geahndet werden müssen.

Regulierung ist notwendig und richtig, um Exzesse zu verhindern, aber nicht die Marktwirtschaft ist schuld an der Krise, sondern diejenigen, die sich Rahmen und Regeln verweigern. Seit Jahren warnen Experten schon vor waghalsigen Verleihgeschäften, vor unsicheren Krediten und einer Blase auf dem Finanz- und Immobilienmarkt. Wir brauchen gemeinsame und transparente Regeln für ganz Europa und für die ganze Welt. Ja, wir brauchen eine internationale Kontrolle – mit Augenmaß. Denn keinem ist geholfen, wenn wir mit mehr Regeln das Kapital immobil machen und einen wirtschaftlichen Abschwung herbeiführen.

Vor allem müssen wir das Vertrauen in einen offenen und freien Markt wieder aufbauen. Die wirtschaftliche Stabilität der Bürger Europas und der ganzen Welt hängt von unserer Fähigkeit zum Handeln ab. Die internationalen Finanzmärkte warten aber nicht auf die Entscheidungen in Europa und warten nicht darauf, was wir als Parlament äußern.

Herr Kommissar, Herr Minister Jouyet, meine Fraktion wartet darauf, dass es Ihnen gelingt, jetzt schnell und vernünftig zu handeln.

3-243

Eoin Ryan, on behalf of the UEN Group. – Madam President, the President of the European Central Bank, Jean-Claude Trichet, recently said that, when the market stabilises, we will not return to business as usual, but instead we will experience a new normality.

Given the failings and weaknesses in the market and institutions that have been brought to light in devastating fashion over the last year, a move away from the abuses and faults of the past is only to be welcomed. The financial crisis has caused terrible panic, but it has also served to emphasise the need to eliminate obscurities and to introduce transparency, and for we legislators to regulate. But we also must avoid panic, because if we panic we will make poor decisions.

In the US, out of the scramble to avert catastrophe, radical alterations to the landscape of high finance are emerging. Our institutions have stood steadier than those in the States – understandably as the crisis originated across the Atlantic – yet certain cases are a reminder that we are in no way invulnerable. To ensure the stability of our markets in the future, we must implement structural and systematic reforms and be prepared to act quickly. There may be three things that will happen or have happened already, such as reforms – for example ensuring that central banks prevent runs on banks and financial institutions – and there has been significant action in this regard already. Secondly, treasuries must remove the reason for runs occurring in the first place, namely the presence of distressed assets in the balance sheets of financial institutions. Lastly, it is pivotal for the financial system to be recapitalised.

We have passed the initial stages of the crisis. The effects on banking and the political response to this initial trauma will not be known for some time. However, we now have to face up to ensuring that the new financial reality that emerges from the other end of this crisis is a strong and healthy one. To this end, it is necessary to address the root of the crisis and to remove distressed assets and clean up balance sheets. To emerge from the quagmire of the crisis, it is also necessary, for both localised and global economic health, to show there is sufficient capital in the finance system. Whether this is from public or private injection or a combination of both is another discussion, but we must have one soon.

We do not know yet what the full and lasting impact of the world's financial crisis and its consequences on European markets will be. However, what we do know is that, to emerge standing from this crisis and to be sure that investors, markets and citizens are protected in the new normality that will result, we must keep our heads – even in time of doubt and turmoil – and take concrete steps towards implementing structural and systematic reforms that will safeguard the health of our European system and the financial well-being of citizens of European countries and globally.

3-244

Francis Wurtz, au nom du groupe GUE/NGL. – Madame la Présidente, si les principaux dirigeants européens voulaient illustrer le fossé qui les sépare de nos concitoyens, ils ne réagiraient pas différemment de ce qu'ils viennent de faire à propos de la crise financière après la réunion des ministres des finances du 14 septembre dernier.

En quoi consistent en effet les principales mesures annoncées, mis à part dans une positive mais très insuffisante augmentation des crédits de la BEI aux petites et moyennes entreprises?

Elles se résument en trois points. D'abord, en ce concerne l'espoir d'une relance budgétaire, je cite, "nous avons exclu tout plan de relance européen" (Jean-Claude Juncker). On appliquera le pacte de stabilité, tout le pacte, rien que le pacte.

Ensuite, concernant le processus de déréglementation à l'œuvre, je cite encore, "il faut refuser tout ralentissement des réformes structurelles" (Christine Lagarde), "tout ce qui peut être fait pour renforcer la flexibilité de l'économie est bon à prendre" (Jean-Claude Trichet), "il faut réformer le marché du travail, des biens et des services, il faut que la concurrence gagne plus d'espace" (Jean-Claude Juncker).

Enfin, concernant la question qui tараude tous les esprits, qui doit payer les pots cassés? Je cite toujours, "les supervisions bancaires ne doivent pas avoir des exigences démesurées vis-à-vis des établissements de crédit" (Jean-Claude Trichet), en revanche, "tout doit être fait pour que les salaires ne dérapent pas" (Jean-Claude Juncker).

On a envie de leur adresser ce message: sortez de votre bulle, si je puis dire, mettez-vous un peu à la place des gens. Ils voient, d'un côté, les grands argentiers se mobiliser corps et âme pour les *jumbo* spéculateurs planétaires – 110 milliards d'euros sortis de la seule BCE – et, de l'autre, ce sont les salariés qui sont dans le collimateur. À force de tenter de rassurer les marchés, vous désespérez des sociétés.

La vérité, c'est qu'au nom de la libre circulation des capitaux et de la fameuse économie de marché ouverte où la concurrence est libre, ils ont collectivement nourri des mécanismes diaboliques qu'ils ne maîtrisent plus eux-mêmes. Je rappelle que cinq mois après le déclenchement de la crise des *subprimes*, M. Trichet, au nom des dix principales banques centrales mondiales, ne parlaient encore que de simples, je le cite, "corrections de marché" et annonçait, je le cite encore, "une croissance robuste, même s'il y a un léger ralentissement". Trois mois plus tard, il plaidait devant la commission des affaires économiques et monétaires du Parlement pour que, je le cite, "on donne une chance au secteur privé de s'autoréglementer". Quelle perspicacité! Si un système voit lui échapper ainsi ses propres créatures, c'est qu'il est dans une crise existentielle.

Voilà pourquoi, si on veut éviter d'autres effondrements, toujours plus douloureux, il faut oser des ruptures. En premier lieu, nous pensons qu'il faut rompre avec une conception de la productivité fondée sur l'abaissement des coûts salariaux et des dépenses sociales. Il faut inverser la tendance continue à la baisse de la part des salaires dans la valeur ajoutée. La source de l'inflation n'est pas là, elle est du côté des turpitudes des opérateurs financiers.

En deuxième lieu, il faut rompre avec la dépendance absolue des marchés financiers pour financer l'économie, car ils ne la financent plus, ils l'empoisonnent. La Banque centrale européenne a, avec sa création monétaire, un rôle déterminant à jouer pour orienter l'argent vers l'économie socialement efficace, celle qui crée des emplois, qui promeut la formation, qui développe les services publics, qui réalise des productions durables, des services utiles, qui donne toute sa place à la recherche et au développement, respecte les entreprises publiques et l'intérêt général et fait prévaloir la coopération sur la guerre économique.

Mais, pour cela, il faut changer la mission de la Banque centrale européenne. Elle doit refinancer les banques avec des taux d'intérêt très différents selon qu'il s'agit de crédits destinés à l'économie saine que je viens d'évoquer ou, au contraire, voués aux opérations financières malsaines. Les conditions d'accès aux crédits doivent être très avantageuses dans le premier cas et extrêmement dissuasives dans le second. Dans le même temps, il faut naturellement des contrôles rigoureux des banques et des fonds et il faut instituer une taxe sur les mouvements de capitaux financiers. Il faut enfin travailler à la refondation des institutions économiques internationales, comme vient de le réclamer avec force et avec raison le président Lula devant les Nations unies.

En troisième lieu, enfin, il faut rompre avec la suffisance et la condescendance d'une petite élite expliquant au citoyen qu'il n'y a pas d'autre choix qui vaille que les siens. Pussions-nous au moins discuter sérieusement de tout cela avec un esprit ouvert et un grand sens des responsabilités. Alors la crise aurait au moins servi à quelque chose.

3-245

Hanne Dahl, for IND/DEM-Gruppen. – Fru formand! Da jeg tidligt mandag morgen tændte bilradioen på vej til lufthavnen, var den første nyhed, at min bank er i en alvorlig økonomisk krise. Heldigvis er jeg småsparer, så jeg taber ingen penge. Men aktionærerne græder. Den verdensomspændende økonomiske krise er nået til mit lille pengeinstitut. Problemets kerne ligger i den måde, globaliseringen har udviklet sig på. Ikke mindst retten til, at kapitalen kan flytte sig frit hen over grænserne. Der spekuleres som aldrig før uden andet formål, end at nogle ejere mener, at de på den måde kan score et overskud. For den reale økonomi er denne trafik kun til skade, akkurat som vi ser det lige nu, hvor spekulationer på det amerikanske boligmarked har udløst en international finansiell krise.

Derfor skal der gøres op med tanken om, at kapitalens fri bevægelighed er vejen til udvikling og rigdom. Den fri bevægelighed er kun til fordel for spekulanter og skattesnydere. Almindelige borgere og folk, der gerne vil investere i virksomheder og finansiere køb og salg af varer, kan sagtens leve med, at der er kontrol med, hvem der flytter store summer over grænserne og med hvilket formål. Kontrol med kapitalbevægelserne vil give demokratiet mere indsigt og mulighed for indflydelse.

Hvad er så løsningen på den umiddelbare krise? Et skatteyderbetalt sikkerhedsnet vil helt sikkert øge aggressiv og spekulativ udlandspolitik i finanssektoren og fremme det værste i kapitalismen. Bankerne må selv rydde op efter krak og kriser. Det er ikke nationalbankernes og dermed skatteborgernes opgave. Den danske finansrådgiver Kim Valentin foreslår en redningsfond finansieret af bankerne selv. Der er helt afgørende, at bankerne indskyder så store beløb i den nye fond, at de reelt får en interesse i at holde øje med hinanden og griber ind, når der er optræk til krise, for de skal selv betale oprydningen.

Jeg foreslår, at vi bruger EU til at opstille skrappe regler for størrelsen af bankernes redningsfonde. Dermed vil vi også imødekomme ønsket fra FN's generalsekretær Ban Ki-moon om en global, ansvarlig økonomisk politik. Bankerne må holde op med at være som børn, der aldrig har prøvet at falde og derfor ikke ved, at man kan slå sig.

3-246

Piia-Noora Kauppi (PPE-DE). – Madam President, I do not share the views of my colleagues who blame the Commission for their non-delivery. I think the biggest mistake the European Commission could have made would have been to think that more regulation is always the right answer. All proposals from the Commission should be proportionate, balanced and well-targeted.

I have been moderately content with how this Commission has responded until now, and I remain confident that the Commission has all the right tools to improve the regulatory framework for financial services. Improvements should be based, in the first place, on existing legislation and legal bases. In the second place, soft-law measures should be considered, and finally, if there is no improvement otherwise, then we should turn to legal, new regulations.

I think that sometimes there is a tendency to forget how much we have already done in Europe. Since 2000 we have gone through a serious overhaul of our financial services laws, and we have updated many of the relevant regulations already. We have a modern and sophisticated legal framework in Europe. I think it is followed by most of the people in America already, so I do not think we need to radically change our approach.

Finally, I would like to say that it of course needs to be considered that the supervisory framework is not as good as it could be. We should develop – based on the ECOFIN road map – the way the supervisors work in Europe, but also we should remember the global scale of things. We should remember that the financial industry is probably the most global industry in today's world, and we cannot act in a vacuum. We should remember that we are living together with the outside world, and we should try to develop standards, mutual recognition and convergence with transatlantic players – because that is the way to currently open competition – and also very good rules on the protection of retail clients and the way these things go forward.

Finally, one thing about the ECB. I think we need to thank the ECB. The ECB did a very good job. The consequences to the European economy, both in the financial economy and also the real economy, would have been much more severe without the very good delivery of the ECB in terms of liquidity. I think the ECB should be congratulated for that.

3-247

Pervenche Berès (PSE). – Madame la Présidente, Monsieur le Ministre – nous regrettons l'absence de la ministre en charge –, Monsieur le Commissaire, les socialistes sont partisans du marché mais ils savent que, sur un marché, il y a des acteurs honnêtes, il y a des voleurs et que donc il y a besoin de gendarmes. Il est étonnant de constater que, quand on cherche à mettre en place des gendarmes modernes pour réguler des voleurs modernes, eh bien tout d'un coup, on est accusé d'archaïsme.

Nous avons besoin d'une supervision et d'une régulation modernes. Et pour cela, il n'y a pas trop de risques que nous nous précipitions et que nous prenions le risque d'une législation inadaptée ou précipitée du type Sarbanes-Oxley car nous sommes plus d'un an après le déclenchement de la crise et, lorsque le commissaire Charlie McCreevy était venu le 11 septembre 2007 devant la commission économique et monétaire, il avait pointé du doigt, comme bouc émissaire principal, les agences de notation. Nous sommes plus d'un an après et nous n'avons toujours pas de proposition. Je ne pense pas que cela soit du *better regulation*.

Quant à la feuille de route que vous avez élaborée en octobre et en décembre 2007, je l'ai là, je l'ai pointée, point par point. Franchement, d'abord cette feuille de route n'était peut-être pas à la hauteur de la crise que nous connaissons aujourd'hui et ensuite, lorsque je regarde le respect du calendrier, il y a fort à redire.

Le Président de la République française nous annonce une initiative: il va dénoncer les responsables et réunir tout le monde autour de la table pour discuter. Mais de quoi va-t-il discuter? Reprendre la feuille de route qui a déjà été définie par le Forum de stabilité financière et que personne ne sait mettre en œuvre parce que, dans le Forum de stabilité financière il n'y a pas les autorités pour mettre en œuvre cette feuille de route?

Alors que lui-même, comme première réaction à la crise, est allé se précipiter à Londres, à l'automne 2007, pour valider la stratégie de Gordon Brown qui voulait mettre en place un système d'alerte précoce, plutôt que renforcer le bras armé de

l'Europe, celui que M. Barroso défend aujourd'hui à Washington, et j'espère qu'il pourra contraindre son commissaire Charlie McCreevy pour que le bras européen en matière de régulation et de supervision des marchés financiers soit aussi fort que nécessaire...

(Le Président retire la parole à l'orateur)

(Intervention hors micro de M. Purvis sur le temps de parole)

3-248

La Présidente. – Je suis désolée, j'ai interrompu Mme Kauppi et j'ai interrompu Mme Berès. Je suis en général équitable, Monsieur le député.

3-249

Daniel Dăianu (ALDE). – Madam President, are only greed, euphoria and cheap money to be blamed for the whole mess? What about the flaws of the originate-and-distribute model, which has enhanced systemic risk? What about skewed pay schemes with a lack of ethics, which have stimulated reckless risk-taking? What about investment-grade values assigned to trash? What about conflicts of interest? What about banks engaging in casino-type transactions? What about the 'shadow' banking sector, with its extreme leveraging and speculation? Why have policymakers not learnt from previous crises, though stern warnings were sent? Just remember what Lamfalussy, Gramlich, Volcker and Buffett said years ago.

The argument that regulation stifles financial innovation I find ludicrous. Not all financial innovation is sound. Is a quasi-international Ponzi scheme, as it has been developing via toxic products during the past decade, to be tolerated? The issue at stake is the lack of proper regulation and supervision, and a poor understanding of financial markets, of the way they function and of systemic risk. Free markets are not synonymous with deregulated markets. Correction is going to be very painful, especially in the United States, but Europe is not immune to economic downturn. Solutions should not be patchy – consider that markets are global. International coordination is needed to restore confidence.

(The President cut off the speaker.)

3-250

PRESIDENZA DELL'ON. LUIGI COCILOVO

Vicepresidente

3-251

Roberts Zīle (UEN). – Domāju, ka stāvoklis finanšu tirgos ir raksturojams ar vienu vispārzināmu tēzi – „izpriece ir beigušās, tās ir paģiras.” Kāds bargi maksā par sasisto interjeru, bet, protams, ir daļa valstu un uzņēmumu, kas gūs labumu no šīs pesimistiskās situācijas. Citiem vārdiem sakot, ir virkne energoresursu un īpaši attīstītas valstis un uzņēmumi, kas pārvirza virspelņu savā virzienā, kas nepārprotami izmainīs arī politisko ietekmes centru un līdzsvaru pasaulē. Eiropā visievainojamākās, manuprāt, šajā situācijā ir nelielās, jaunās Eiropas Savienības dalībvalstis. Kļūdaina struktūrpolitika un nodokļu politika augstas ekonomiskās izaugsmes laikā tagad rada nepārprotamus ekonomiskus un sociālus draudus vairākās šajās valstīs, tajā skaitā manā valstī – Latvijā.

Rezidentu privātaizņēmumu lielais apjoms no eiro zonas valstu bankām eiro valūtā, lielais nerezidentu naudas īpatsvars banku sektorā, strauja Eiropas vidējā līmeņa algu "ķeršana" eiro izteiksmē var novest pie secinājuma ar nacionālās valūtas pārvērtēšanu. Un tad ilgtermiņa atmaksa eiro zonas finanšu institūcijām var kļūt par jaunu slogu šo dalībvalstu pilsoņiem un uzņēmumiem. Un ja tiek paplašināts nacionālās valūtas apmaiņas koridors pret eiro, tad jau tā augstā inflācija var iegūt jaunu elpu un vēl vairāk attālināt jauno dalībvalstu iestāšanos eiro zonā.

Ja privāto aizņēmumu kopsumma tikai procentu maksājumos bankā sastāda divciparu skaitli no IKP, tad optimisms šo valstu pilsoņus nepārņem un drīzāk tas radīs stipru politisku pesimismu, tostarp arī pret Eiropas Savienību kā tādu, ar visām izrietošajām sekām arī Parlamentam politiskā ziņā jaunajās dalībvalstīs.

3-252

John Whittaker (IND/DEM). – Madam President, the financial crisis rages on and euro-zone countries are facing recession. The answer, we are repeatedly told, is that we need more regulation to make the financial sector work better.

But we have a problem now, and changing the rules after the problem has arisen is not going to help us with that problem.

I urge Members to consider a completely different reaction to the current economic difficulties. They are a signal that we cannot continue as we are and that, thanks to borrowing that has been too cheap and imports that have been too cheap, we have all been living above our means and we cannot go on consuming at the same rate.

Adjustment will be painful, but it is necessary, and in these hard times there is another message that is even more salient but will not be heard in these institutions. It is that the EU cannot continue with its massive legislative programmes in the

name of health and safety, consumer protection, social equality, for instance, for the overriding effect of all these schemes is to add costs and to crush the productive activity on which our very prosperity depends.

In these hard times, the one message that should be heard is that European countries can no longer afford the European Union, its institutions and its immense outpourings of legislation.

3-253

José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil (PPE-DE). – Señor Presidente, voy a intentar ser muy claro, dada la diversidad de opiniones que se oyen en mi bancada.

En primer lugar, la crisis que aquí estamos sufriendo no es una maldición bíblica, no es un castigo de los dioses. Los mercados han fallado y esos fallos han provocado intervenciones que hubiesen hecho las delicias del mismísimo Keynes. Y si los mercados han fallado hay que corregir aquello en lo que han fallado los mercados; es decir, hay que hacer algo.

Y en ese algo hay que hacer varias cosas. En primer lugar hay que hacer un tratamiento de *shock* para sacar al enfermo del estado de coma en que se encuentra. Yo recuerdo aquí a la Comisión y al Consejo que si los problemas de la liquidez los puede arreglar el Banco Central, los problemas de la solvencia son algo que les afecta directamente a ustedes: al Consejo, a la Comisión y a los Estados miembros.

En segundo lugar, para que esto no se vuelva a repetir es necesario saber en qué ha fallado el mercado y cuáles son los principios que tenemos que restablecer. Ha fallado el control de riesgos, ha fallado la gobernanza y, finalmente, ha fallado la ética.

Y eso exige que restablezcamos unos principios básicos: la transparencia en productos, en entidades y en mercados, la responsabilidad de los gestores, la confianza entre la economía financiera y la economía real y el papel central de la política.

Coincido con el Consejo en que los tiempos de la desregulación absoluta son tiempos del pasado. Los mercados no se autorregulan ni la industria se autorregula.

Y la última receta —qué es lo que hay que hacer para vacunar al enfermo y para que ésto no vuelva a ocurrir o no ocurra de otra manera— es que hay que seguir en la integración de los mercados. Tenemos que lograr una dimensión crítica suficiente, como la que tienen los Estados Unidos; tenemos que establecer una democracia del euro para que nuestra moneda pueda pesar en el mundo en una crisis que es global; y tenemos que revisar el marco regulatorio y el marco de supervisión, que es lo que ha fallado.

Por tanto, no coincido con la legislación blanda, con los códigos de buena conducta ni con la autorregulación. Nos corresponde a todos dar una respuesta a unos ciudadanos que son los que van a pagar finalmente.

3-254

Elisa Ferreira (PSE). – Num minuto que conclusões tirar sobre a presente crise? Ela é o fruto da opção de não vigiar adequadamente a actividade dos mercados financeiros. A regulação competente não mata o mercado, pelo contrário, é indispensável à sua sobrevivência. Há actores que são responsáveis pelas perdas, porém hoje são os cidadãos quem paga a factura dos seus excessos e das falhas da supervisão pública.

O alerta fora dado há muito. O relatório Rasmussen, que este Parlamento aprovou ontem por larguíssima maioria, faz propostas precisas sobre riscos de alavancagem excessiva, a falta de transparência, os conflitos de interesse, mas ele resulta do trabalho do Grupo Socialista que foi iniciado anos antes de se iniciar a crise de 2007.

O relatório de iniciativa de Ieke Van Den Burg e Dăianu vai no mesmo sentido. A União Europeia é um parceiro maior do contexto internacional, e eu cumprimento o Comissário Almunia pelos anúncios que trouxe aqui hoje; mas será que o Comissário McCreevy os partilha? A paralisia que a Comissão tem tido em relação a estas matérias não tem justificação possível. O Parlamento faz o que lhe cabe. Saibam também as outras instituições agir de forma equivalente.

3-255

Margarita Starkevičiūtė (ALDE). – Mr President, it is a pity that Mr Schulz has already left. I wanted to make the point that it is too early to say who will go bankrupt, because nobody knows who the end-investors in the toxic assets are. Maybe they are state-owned banks.

Nevertheless, I would like to encourage a broader view of events and to recall that Parliament, as early as the beginning of this year, put forward some valid proposals which were not accepted by the Council and the Commission. Firstly, we asked for economic management at EU level to be brought into line with global developments and for the broad economic guidelines to be updated. We also suggested ensuring vigorous enforcement of EU competition rules and not allowing the crowding-out of small and medium-sized business from the market, or the creation of monsters which are too big to fall.

We have to promote and preserve our national, traditional business culture because the slogan of the European Union is 'in diversity we are united'.

3-256

John Purvis (PPE-DE). – Mr President, let us hope that the American proposals for purchases of toxic assets do work, because, if they do not, the contagion will almost certainly spread over here. I would like assurance from Mr Jouyet and Mr Almunia that we really do have our defences in place. Do we have our lenders of last resort ready to meet the very worst which might occur in such a circumstance? We are moving from a liquidity problem to a solvency problem.

It is true that, in due course, we will have to review our regulatory defences, but this cannot and should not be done precipitately, in the heat of the crisis. We would risk overreacting, imposing unnecessary, wrongly directed, over-draconian conditions which would only harm the prospects for investment in our economies and jobs for the future.

The most vital thing, which we must bring about immediately, is the restoration of confidence. Mr Almunia, you mentioned the word several times. Let us see how we can set about it.

I would urge that the leaders of the world's most important economies of America, Europe, the Middle and Far East meet together within days and assure the world unequivocally that whatever is necessary to douse the flames will be provided unequivocally wherever those flames may erupt. Only when the flames and embers are extinguished can we turn to post-mortems as to how this happened and what is needed to avoid it happening again.

Confidence is the vital base on which a vibrant financial system and a vibrant global economy rests. It is now up to the political leaders of the highest level – a summit indeed – of the free-market economies to come together – no excuses, no holding back, no arguments – to take full responsibility for restoring confidence.

3-257

Wolf Klinz (ALDE). – Herr Präsident, liebe Kollegen! „Dies ist eine demütigende Zeit für die USA.“ Mit diesen Worten hat der amerikanische Finanzminister Henry Paulson sein Rettungspaket von bis zu 700 Milliarden Dollar für den notleidenden Finanzsektor vorgestellt.

Die Situation in den USA ist in der Tat alarmierend. Das amerikanische Finanzsystem mit Investmentbanken, Hedge-Fonds und strukturierten Produkten, die der normalen Bankenaufsicht nicht unterstehen, und vielen Geschäften über Zweckgesellschaften, die in keiner Bilanz erscheinen, ist praktisch zusammengebrochen. Es wird in alter Form so schnell nicht wiederaufstehen. Mit Goldman Sachs und Morgan Stanley sind die beiden letzten reinen Investmentbanken ins Lager der *commercial banks* gewechselt. Das Versprechen, mit billigem Geld für jedermann immer größeres Wachstum, größere Renditen und mehr Liquidität zu schaffen, hat sich als Illusion herausgestellt. Ein solches Perpetuum mobile gibt es nicht. Ein hoher Lebensstandard auf Pump mit Haus, Auto und vielem anderem schon in jungen Jahren für jeden ist auf Dauer nicht zu haben. Die Charakteristika der Realwirtschaft haben uns alle eingeholt: Ohne Arbeit keine Ersparnisse, ohne Ersparnisse keine Investitionen, ohne Investitionen kein nachhaltiges Wachstum.

Wir Europäer sollten aus Amerikas Desaster lernen. Zur Haushaltskonsolidierung gibt es keine Alternative. Die Bäume wachsen nicht in den Himmel. Billiges Geld im Übermaß, das die Sozialisten so gerne immer wieder von der EZB einfordern, löst die Probleme nicht, es verstärkt sie.

Die Kommission sollte die Vorschläge, die das Europäische Parlament unterstützt, bezüglich Kreditverbriefung, Einbehalt strukturierter Produkte in den Büchern der Initiatoren, Weiterentwicklung der Aufsicht, *code of conduct* bei Marktteilnehmern und anderes mehr so schnell wie möglich umsetzen, allerdings mit Augenmaß und Umsicht!

3-258

Jean-Paul Gauzès (PPE-DE). – Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Ministre, Monsieur le Commissaire, je voudrais tout d'abord remercier Monsieur le Ministre: merci de votre disponibilité et de votre grande compétence dans tous les domaines.

L'Europe ne peut pas continuer à subir périodiquement les conséquences de crises qui trouvent leur origine dans le fonctionnement du capitalisme américain, ceci a été je crois largement dit par les collègues qui ont parlé avant moi. Cette position n'est pas inamicale à l'égard des États-Unis. Elle procède d'un constat évident: la crise est le résultat de dysfonctionnements graves auxquels il faut apporter des remèdes vigoureux. L'autorégulation ne suffit pas.

Mais aujourd'hui, la crise est mondiale. Vous l'avez dit tout à l'heure, Monsieur le Ministre, il faut apporter des éléments nouveaux, régulations et réglementations, et procéder à l'évaluation des bilans et de la solvabilité des banques, des agences de notation, des fonds souverains, des rémunérations, de la transparence, de la supervision, des normes comptables. Tout ceci mérite d'être approfondi et amélioré.

Il faut, et ceci a été aussi beaucoup dit, rétablir la confiance dans le système financier qui constitue l'un des éléments essentiels de la vie économique. À cet égard, et je ne partage pas les critiques qui ont été faites, la Présidence française a été réactive. Les propos du président Sarkozy, qui s'exprimait au nom de l'Union européenne, ont donné à New York des signaux forts et la réunion élargie du G8 qu'il propose est véritablement un point important qui permettra de réunir autour d'une table les différentes puissances qui interviennent aujourd'hui dans le monde économique.

Pour dégager des règles mondiales, on ne peut plus régler simplement les questions en Europe. Il faut que l'Europe avance, bien évidemment. À cet égard, on peut regretter une certaine lenteur, mais il faut aussi que des règles soient édictées au niveau mondial. L'économie est mondiale, les règles doivent donc être mondiales.

Un gros travail reste à faire et j'ai confiance dans les propositions que vous avez annoncées tout à l'heure, Monsieur le Ministre, pour faire en sorte que dans les semaines ou dans les mois qui viennent, des pistes de solution soient trouvées. Il serait illusoire de penser que ces questions peuvent se régler en quelques minutes.

3-259

Karsten Friedrich Hoppenstedt (PPE-DE). – Herr Präsident! Die letzten Tage waren, um es vorsichtig auszudrücken, reich an Umwälzungen im Finanzsystem der USA. Eine der großen Meldungen war, dass die Lehman Brothers Holding Gläubigerschutz beantragen musste. Ich möchte in diesem Zusammenhang auf zweierlei hinweisen. Erstens: Die USA planen zwar immense Stützungsmaßnahmen, das beendet aber die Krise nicht und schützt uns nicht vor weiteren Überraschungen in deren weiterem Verlauf.

Zweitens ist es zwar notwendig, dass wir prüfen, welche Regulierungen eventuell noch verbessert werden können und wie mehr Transparenz geschaffen werden kann. Aber auch mit besserer und mehr Regulierung werden wir künftig leider nicht alle Überraschungen an den Finanzmärkten generell ausschließen können, weil wir nicht alle bestehenden Bankmechanismen kennen.

Wie komme ich zu dieser Einschätzung? Nur ein Beispiel: Überraschungen können sich etwa aus den Aufrechnungsvereinbarungen zwischen Banken ergeben, die sehr wichtig sind, wenn es darum geht, Kreditrisiken zu mindern. Natürlich dürfen Banken Aufrechnungsvereinbarungen für die Beurteilung ihrer Risiken nur dann berücksichtigen, wenn sie die Aufrechnungsvereinbarungen rechtlich durchsetzbar machen. Könnten bessere Regelungen künftig jegliche Unsicherheiten darüber ausschließen, inwieweit Aufrechnungsvereinbarungen ziehen? Ich glaube kaum. Überraschungen wird also auch eine noch so gute und anständige Regulierung künftig nicht ausschließen können.

3-260

Manuel António dos Santos (PSE). – Senhor Presidente, a actual crise financeira, que a curto prazo será económica e que não deixará de ser social, eventualmente política, era antecipável porque era previsível. Foi pena que o dogmatismo ultraliberal e a economia da especulação financeira, a chamada "economia do diabo", tenham vencido as concepções sociais e a economia do empreendedorismo e da acção, que é a única capaz de gerar riqueza e estar ao serviço dos cidadãos.

A regulação falhou, disse recentemente o Comissário Almunia. Ora, se falhou, deve ser radicalmente substituída depois de penalizada. A crise do sistema financeiro mundial é estrutural, também disse o Comissário Almunia. Porque é assim, não chega a mera utilização dos instrumentos políticos que temos hoje à nossa disposição. A atitude do Banco Central Europeu, que insiste na aplicação de remédios que a actual doença recusa, o autismo panglossiano de alguns membros do Conselho Ecofin, que se mostravam há 15 dias apenas surpreendidos com a dimensão da crise, a atitude do Comissário McCreavy, que propõe mudar alguma coisa para que tudo fique na mesma, são inaceitáveis.

A Comissão tem hoje a responsabilidade de utilizar todos os seus instrumentos e de pressionar os Estados-Membros a criarem instrumentos novos. E passa sobretudo essa responsabilidade por atender às recomendações correctas e ambiciosas que o Parlamento Europeu lhe remeteu na sequência do relatório Rasmussen.

3-261

Dumitru Oprea (PPE-DE). – Se spune că de globalizare poți să fugi, dar nu poți să scapi. La fel și despre piețele financiare globale. Cât timp pe tot globul s-au înregistrat forme diverse de profit, era o stare de normalitate, astăzi, când s-a generalizat forma de pierdere este o vină a capitalismului. După părerea noastră, vina este, în mare parte, a statului care a uitat de una din infrastructurile cheie ale lui, infrastructura financiară, la fel de importantă precum șoselele, căile ferate și liniile aeriene.

Prin ceea ce realizează acum Statele Unite și Uniunea Europeană, dar și statele membre ale Uniunii Europene, se încearcă a se așeza o nouă infrastructură foarte serioasă, cea financiară globală. Din păcate statele intervin cam târziu. Nu vorbim de o reglementare nouă, ci de o fluidizare, de o supraveghere a circuitelor financiare globale la care ar trebui ca statele lumii să conlucreze, să ducă astfel la o readucere a credibilității sistemului financiar.

3-262

Proinsias De Rossa (PSE). – Mr President, on Monday we were told by Commissioner McCreevy that hedge funds and private equity were not the cause of the current turmoil. In today's *Guardian* it was reported that the billionaire John Paulson was revealed yesterday as one of the hedge fund bosses who has been short-selling UK bank shares, placing a nearly GBP 1 billion bet that their shares would fall dramatically. His New York-based Paulson & Co was last year's most successful hedge fund after it bet against the sub-prime mortgages that later turned toxic in the credit crunch. Paulson & Co has placed bets on four high street banks, including HBOS, which was forced to agree a rescue takeover by Lloyds TSB last week after a precipitous collapse in its shares.

If Commissioner McCreevy is not prepared to regulate all financial institutions, then he should be forced to step aside. The Commission has a responsibility to ensure that these institutions are not allowed to pick the pockets of pension funds, of savings and of jobs. They have to be stopped and the only way to do it is to bring transparency and regulation into this area. The so-called 'invisible hand' of the market is in fact a pickpocket and the more invisible it is, the more pockets it picks.

3-263

Presidente. – Credo che la proposta dell'on. De Rossa sia quella di regalare un abbonamento al *Guardian* al Commissario McCreevy. L'Ufficio di presidenza se ne farà carico.

3-264

Olle Schmidt (ALDE). – Herr talman! Orimliga ersättningssystem och bonussystem har vi all anledning att reagera inför. Jag tror att alla gör det och har full förståelse för det, men jag vill ändå säga efter att ha lyssnat på den här debatten att högröstad retorik, politisk sådan, lämpar sig illa för att lösa finansiella globala kriser. Ni får inte låta som om ni helt kastar ut barnet med badvattnet och skapar den panik som fanns på den finansiella marknaden förra veckan. Den ska inte finnas i det här huset. Vi ska vara resonabla, vi ska vara förnuftiga. Det är det ansvar vi har fått av våra väljare. Vi ska ha en balanserad hållning, vi ska skapa bra och effektiva regler och lagar som ger utrymme för tillväxtkraft och självreglering, mina vänner. Jag blir bekymrad när jag lyssnar på denna högröstade retorik och är ängslig och rädd för att detta kommer att skapa ett överreglerat finansiellt samhälle som inte kommer att ge möjlighet för den växtkraft vi så väl behöver. Det är växtkraften och möjligheten att skapa fler jobb som våra väljare är ute efter.

3-265

Jean-Pierre Audy (PPE-DE). – Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Président du Conseil, chers collègues, j'ai écouté avec stupéfaction les positions des socialo-communistes qui nous disent que c'est la faillite du système. Ils ont la mémoire un peu courte, eux qui ont mis en faillite au XXe siècle toutes les économies qu'ils ont administrées! Le problème est mondial et la réponse doit donc être européenne.

S'agissant de la question financière, Monsieur le Commissaire, j'aimerais savoir si oui ou non vous allez mettre en œuvre le point 6 de l'article 105 du traité instituant les Communautés européennes, lequel prévoit que vous pouvez proposer au Conseil – qui doit alors statuer à l'unanimité – de confier à la Banque centrale européenne une mission sur le contrôle prudentiel des établissements de crédit. Je crois qu'aujourd'hui les citoyens estiment qu'il est temps que nous exercions une surveillance des modalités de contrôle des systèmes prudentiels. Nous ne bâtirons pas notre marché intérieur si nous ne disposons pas d'une politique de régulation européenne.

3-266

Dariusz Rosati (PSE). – Mr President, this crisis has demonstrated that the global financial system is seriously flawed. First the supervisory agencies failed to prevent irresponsible behaviour by investors. We have seen the development of new financial instruments that are, however, not transparent enough and do not allow for proper risk assessment. Secondly, owners and shareholders of financial institutions failed to supervise properly their own managers, who paid themselves exorbitant salaries and bonuses, and for what? For driving their companies into bankruptcy!

We need urgent action at least in these two areas. We do not want a repetition of the American meltdown scenario in Europe. We do not want in Europe a situation in which chief executive officers of financial companies go away with tens of millions of dollars while taxpayers are left to pay their bills. We expect the Commission to take serious action on this.

3-267

Jean-Pierre Jouyet, président en exercice du Conseil. – Monsieur le Président, merci beaucoup Mesdames et Messieurs les parlementaires pour ce débat absolument passionnant. Nous pourrions rester ici des heures car le sujet mérite effectivement beaucoup de débats et les réflexions dont vous avez fait part sont passionnantes, mais nous avons, malheureusement, des contraintes de temps.

Je tire les enseignements suivants: premièrement, en ce qui concerne la position sur le laisser-faire, sur l'absence de régulation, je crois que, au regard des réserves qui sont dues à ma fonction, je me suis exprimé assez clairement. Il me paraît évident qu'il faut dépasser le débat entre "réglementation" et "absence de réglementation". La déréglementation financière fait partie aujourd'hui des archaïsmes. Une régulation financière forte, moderne, est celle qui représente les solutions d'avenir. Elle doit être adaptée, nous devons aller au-delà de ce qui a été fait jusqu'à présent.

C'est le premier point et, de ce point de vue-là, je suis extrêmement clair. J'ai écouté avec attention ce qu'a dit également Mme Koch-Mehrin et je reprends ce qu'elle a dit, à savoir que la réglementation n'est pas l'ennemie du marché. À chacun ses responsabilités. C'est aux autorités publiques de réglementer, d'adapter les régulations, parce que ce qui est en jeu, c'est la stabilité d'un système, c'est la protection des petits épargnants, c'est la protection des déposants. Je le dis aussi à M. Wurtz: c'est également l'emploi, la croissance, les incidences sur l'économie réelle qui sont aujourd'hui en cause dans cette crise, et c'est pour cela qu'il faut agir, y compris pour les plus modestes, et vite.

Deuxième conviction: l'Europe doit, effectivement, agir dans le cadre d'une coopération internationale renforcée. Il n'y a pas d'autre choix. L'Europe, cela a été dit, doit faire entendre sa voix, sinon – j'allais dire comme d'habitude – nous allons subir ce qui nous vient de réglementations américaines. On l'a déjà fait avec *Sarbane-Oxley*, on a vu les effets que ça avait sur un certain nombre d'entreprises européennes, on a vu ce que ça a donné sur les normes comptables et les normes *market*.

Nous pouvons recommencer aujourd'hui. Le seul avantage, c'est que l'Europe, aujourd'hui, a la possibilité de s'affirmer clairement, comme l'a souligné le commissaire Almunia, comme l'a fait le président de l'Union européenne – le président Sarkozy – de faire entendre sa voix sur la scène internationale, a la possibilité de prendre les rênes, de prendre un temps d'avance. J'appelle véritablement les Européens à se coordonner pour faire en sorte que l'Union ait une présence forte sur la scène internationale, et à avoir une réflexion sur l'architecture financière internationale ainsi que sur les organismes de régulation au niveau international.

Parce que, si aucune initiative internationale n'est prise, il ne faudra pas se plaindre de ne pas avoir d'autre solution que de faire appel à des fonds souverains, que par ailleurs nous souhaitons garder. Je ne porte pas de jugement, mais enfin il faut une certaine cohérence de ce point de vue-là, savoir ce que l'on veut faire et, si l'Europe n'agit pas, eh bien nous nous retrouverons dépendants également d'autres fonds pour stabiliser le système financier.

Troisième conviction: plusieurs l'ont évoquée, dont le président Schulz. Il est vrai que nous devons poser le problème des rémunérations et le problème des gains qui sont liés à des activités cycliques de marché. Le problème des rémunérations des opérateurs de marché doit aussi être vu dans le cadre de cette réflexion internationale. Je ne suis pas le premier à le dire, Gordon Brown l'avait dit en son temps. Cela me paraît logique et il faut qu'il y ait une réflexion approfondie sur ce plan-là.

Il est clair que ce n'est pas seulement une crise économique et financière, c'est aussi une crise de l'éthique, de la responsabilité. C'est une crise de l'éthique économique et cela interpelle tous les acteurs et tous les responsables politiques, quelle que soit leur sensibilité. Comme cela a été souligné, la finance doit rester au service de l'économie et l'économie ne doit pas être victime de la finance, comme l'ont souligné également M. Wurtz et d'autres orateurs dans ce domaine.

Il faut, je l'ai dit, réfléchir au rôle des institutions financières et à la feuille de route qui a été conclue par les ministres des finances avec le soutien de la Commission, sur la base de propositions de la Commission. Parlons des avancées concrètes: je le dis à Pervenche Berès, nous devons aller au-delà et nous devons, sur le plan du calendrier, agir vite. Le commissaire Almunia l'a dit – je retiens ses paroles –, il faut que la Commission puisse agir très vite parce que ce qui est en jeu, et je voudrais terminer là-dessus, c'est la restauration de la confiance.

Ce qui est important, c'est que, même si l'Europe est moins affectée, nous envoyions des messages de confiance. Des messages de confiance, cela signifie l'action, une coopération internationale, ne pas avoir peur d'adapter les régulations, agir vite et avoir des propositions sur la table dans la perspective du Conseil européen du 15 octobre, se servir des propositions de votre Assemblée et, comme cela est indiqué, être attentif au fait que nous sommes confrontés, également, à des mouvements qui n'affectent pas seulement la liquidité – cela a été dit –, mais également la solvabilité de l'ensemble du système financier.

À partir de ce moment-là, c'est bien la confiance économique qui recréera la croissance, et c'est pour cela que nous devons agir extrêmement vigoureusement, sans dogmatisme, et que nous devons utiliser toute la panoplie des instruments qui sont à notre disposition.

3-268

Joquín Almunia, Member of the Commission. – Mr President, I agree with all those who have stressed in this debate that we have to react; that we have to react to a very big transformation in our financial system; that we need to learn from the errors of the past; and that we need to work together – the European institutions – because, without our interinstitutional cooperation, we all know that we cannot succeed. We also need, in reacting, to work together with the other players in this game, and we know that we are talking about global financial systems. If they were not global, we would not be affected in the way we are, so we cannot forget that our leadership, our initiatives and our decisions should be followed by a high degree of consensus around our positions with the other partners and the other players. If not – let us be honest – we will pay the price of being clear but naive, and we will not be competitive in the financial industry, and we need to continue to

be competitive – not only efficient, not only rigorous, not only able to learn the lessons of the past, but also to be competitive.

As I have already said in my introductory remarks – and I agree with the chair's remarks – what I mean by reaction in the short term is to fully implement the ECOFIN road map as soon as possible – and we are on track, Mrs Berès. The assessment carried out a few weeks ago in Nice shows that we are on track in adopting the decisions of this ECOFIN. Next week we will need to put forward proposals on the Capital Requirements Directive and, in a few weeks, to the Credit Rating Agencies Directive.

In this Parliament and in the Council, the adoption as soon as possible of the Solvency II Directive is also very important. But beyond the EU's borders the Financial Stability Forum needs to continue working very intensively; it is a very important institution at this moment – the level 3 committees of the Lamfalussy framework. We are deeply concerned – Parliament, the Commission and, I hope, also the Council – about the lack of efficiency of some reactions at this level, and these are key institutions that should work much more efficiently than when these institutions were created a few years ago – the Basel Committee, the International Accounting Standards Board – that is a key issue, as Mr Jouyet said. So, we are not alone. We have to react quickly, in an efficient way, taking into account the big problems that we are facing and, at the same time, ensuring that our leadership is followed by others – as we know is the case in many other regulatory areas.

From a structural point of view, unfortunately, we cannot decide on everything today. But it is true – and I fully agree – that the relationship between regulation and markets will change because of this crisis. It is obvious there is a regulatory failure, among things.

I think we all agree that we need to establish a more intense relationship at all levels with the US authorities, not only in our task as the Commission or the executive branches, but also Parliament with Congress, which is now a key actor in the solution of the particular problems in the USA. We need to react at the multilateral level. The real origin of all these failures in the financial systems – the excess of liquidity, the excess of risks adopted by the actors, the low risk aversion that we have seen in the past – the *cupidité*, in the words of Mr Jouyet – has been created by these global imbalances that the global institutions have not been able to solve so far, and we need to act, as Europeans united, to convince the other partners in the global arena that, if we are not able to adjust these global imbalances in an orderly way, they will create new problems in the future, and we need to coordinate ourselves within the EU in a more clear and efficient way.

We are living in an economic and monetary union. We have an internal market, we have an action plan for integration of financial services, but we still have a lot of internal barriers and inefficiency. I think all of us should be aware that this will require more European integration and not more national reactions or defensive attitudes from the Member States.

Beyond this, we need to keep in mind what our challenges are for the medium to long term, and we need to preserve, in this very difficult environment, the Stability and Growth Pact, the Lisbon Strategy, and the energy and climate change strategies, which are extremely important now. We cannot afford to forget that we are facing not only very difficult short-term challenges from the point of view of financial markets, but also big challenges over the medium to long term for the world economy and for our own future.

One last word: this was not in the road map but will be on the agenda of the next ECOFIN, and the Commission will fully agree with this issue. We need to think about the systems of remuneration of executives, directors and CEOs and all those who can create trends and who can adopt decisions in the markets. I will tell you one thing – and this is also addressed to the Council – in 2004 the Commission – and in particular my colleague Charlie McCreevy – put forward a recommendation asking the Member States to adopt decisions in this regard, to avoid wrong incentives. We have been considering what has happened since then, during the last four years. Only one out of the 27 Member States reacted positively to this recommendation from the Commission point of view. So the Commission fully agrees now with this consensus to touch upon these important issues as well.

3-269

Presidente. – La discussione è chiusa.

Dichiarazione scritte (articolo 142)

3-270

Sebastian Valentin Bodu (PPE-DE), in writing. – The US financial system has been jolted in the last few days as Lehman Brothers filed for bankruptcy and Merrill Lynch, fearing a similar-type collapse, agreed to be taken over by the Bank of America. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 4.4 % on 15 September, and another 4.1 % two days later. The decline in stock prices worldwide on 15-17 September resulted in about USD 3.6 trillion in losses for the investors. The stock of AIG has plunged more than 90 %, from USD 72 last year to USD 2.05. The U.S. government took control of AIG with an USD 85 billion bailout on 16 September. These 'developments' point to the largest financial crisis facing the US since the opening of the Great Depression. They have occurred a week after the US federal government seized control of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the giant mortgage companies. The problem is that Lehman Brothers and AIG owe many

billions to creditors not only in the United States but in Europe as well. Is Europe prepared to absorb the shock induced by its indissoluble link with the US market? Is the EUR 36.3 billion injected into the market by the ECB and Bank of England enough to make the danger disappear?

3-271

Zbigniew Krzysztof Kuźmiuk (UEN), na piśmie. – Chciałbym zwrócić uwagę na następujące kwestie:

1. Przeznaczenie przez rząd USA i Amerykańską Rezerwę Federalną do tej pory blisko biliona USD na walkę ze skutkami kryzysu finansowego, a także kolejne propozycje zawarte w tzw. pakiecie Paulsona których koszt szacuje się na kolejne 700-800 mld USD świadczą o tym, że może on być porównywany z wielkim kryzysem z 1929 roku.
2. Także reakcje EBC, który chcąc poprawić płynność uruchomił środki około 750 mld USD i Centralnego Banku Anglii na kwotę ok. 80 mld USD potwierdziły, że sytuacja na europejskich rynkach finansowych uznawana jest za poważną.
3. Wszystkie te posunięcia świadczą o tym, że do łask wraca zdecydowany i silny interwencjonizm państwowy i nawet najbardziej liberalni ekonomiści uznają konieczność wprowadzenia regulacji hamujących kryzys, a także są gotowi zaakceptować zaangażowanie rządów i międzynarodowych instytucji finansowych w te procesy.
4. Skala i zasięg tego kryzysu będą miały negatywny wpływ na przebieg realnych procesów gospodarczych, co w gospodarce USA oznacza recesję, a więc ujemny wzrost gospodarczy, a w Europie znaczące spowolnienie wzrostu gospodarczego.
5. W tej sytuacji konieczne jest wzmocnienie we wszystkich państwach, a w szczególności w UE instytucji nadzoru finansowego, które miałyby silniejszy nadzór nad działalnością najważniejszych banków, funduszy inwestycyjnych i instytucji ubezpieczeniowych. Tylko takie wzmocnienie nadzoru może poprawić bezpieczeństwo finansowe i zapewnić stabilność finansową w przyszłości.

3-272

Esko Seppänen (GUE/NGL), kirjallinen. – Nyt tiedetään, että valtiovaltaa tarvitaan kapitalismin takaajaksi taloudellisestikin eikä vain sotilaallisesti. Petokapitalismin isänmaassa USA:ssa valtiovalta on yksityistänyt keinotteluvoimat ja on nyt sosialisoimassa roskapankkiin taloushistorian suurimmat keinottelutapit.

Peto (Raubtier) on saksankielinen nimitys sille kapitalismille, joka perustuu kantasanaan Raub (ryöstö) lähellä olevaan toiseen sanaan Raubgier (saaliinhimo). Molempi parempi.

Pahoihin päiviin varautuneilta tallettajilta kaikkialla maailmassa ryöstetään lähivuosina osa säästöjen arvosta, kun viime viikon tapahtumien seurauksena maailmantalous inflatoidaan ja/tai ajetaan taloudelliseen taantumaan. On vaikea kuvitella, miten USA muuten pystyisi maksamaan nyt syntyviä uusia suunnattomia velkojaan, kuin inflaatiolla eli heikentämällä rahan arvoa vastaamaan oman velanhoidokykynsä huonontumista ja normalisoimaan ylihinnoiteltuja varallisuusarvoja.

USA:ssa julkisen vallan sallimat ja petokapitalismin markkinaterroristipankkien valmistamat aikapommit, jotka perustuvat pankkien kahdenvälisiin (swap) kauppoihin, virtuaalisiin finanssitusotepaketteihin, luottokelvottomien asiakkaiden maksukyvyttömyyteen ja katteettomiin luottovakuutuksiin, ovat räjähdelleet veronmaksajien silmille - ja muu maailma maksaa.

3-273

15 - Controllo dei prezzi energetici (discussione)

3-274

Presidente. – L'ordine del giorno reca la discussione su:

- l'interrogazione orale al Consiglio sul controllo sui prezzi dell'energia, di Hannes Swoboda, a nome del gruppo PSE (O-0082/2008 - B6-0460/2008),
- l'interrogazione orale alla Commissione sul controllo dei prezzi energetici, di Hannes Swoboda, a nome del gruppo PSE (O-0083/2008 - B6-0461/2008),
- l'interrogazione orale al Consiglio sul controllo dei prezzi energetici, di Giles Chichester, Anne Laperrouze, Sophia in 't Veld, Eugenijus Maldeikis, a nome dei gruppi PPE-DE, ALDE e UEN (O-0089/2008 - B6-0463/2008),
- l'interrogazione orale alla Commissione sul controllo dei prezzi energetici, di Giles Chichester, Anne Laperrouze, Sophia in 't Veld, Eugenijus Maldeikis, a nome dei gruppi PPE-DE, ALDE e UEN (O-0090/2008 - B6-0465/2008),

- l'interrogazione orale alla Commissione sul controllo dei prezzi energetici, di Rebecca Harms, Claude Turmes, a nome del gruppo Verts/ALE (O-0091/2008 - B6-0466/2008),
- l'interrogazione orale al Consiglio sul controllo dei prezzi energetici, di Esko Seppänen, Ilda Figueiredo, a nome del gruppo GUE/NGL (O-0093/2008 - B6-0468/2008),
- l'interrogazione orale alla Commissione sul controllo dei prezzi energetici, di Esko Seppänen, Ilda Figueiredo, a nome del gruppo GUE/NGL (O-0094/2008 - B6-0469/2008),

3-275

Hannes Swoboda, Verfasser. – Herr Präsident! Ich möchte den Kommissar und auch den Minister Borloo recht herzlich begrüßen. Wir haben hier einige Fragen, weil wir – ganz ehrlich – glauben, dass die Europäische Union – das gilt für die Kommission, vielleicht auch für den Rat – der Ölpreisentwicklung zu wenig Aufmerksamkeit geschenkt hat. Unabhängig von dem Respekt, den ich für den Herrn Kommissar habe, glaube ich, dass wir mehr tun müssen.

Erstens: steigende Ölpreise. Ich habe immer wieder darauf hingewiesen, Herr Kommissar: Was geschieht mit diesen Gewinnen? In Wirklichkeit werden die nicht investiert, z. B. in Alternativenergien oder in andere wichtige Investitionsvorhaben, sondern für den Aufkauf von Aktien und Dividendenausschüttungen verwendet.

Zweitens: zu sinkenden Ölpreisen, die es ja auch zum Teil gibt. Hat die Kommission einen Überblick, ob diese sinkenden Ölpreise auch an die Konsumentinnen und Konsumenten weitergegeben werden? Ich fürchte, Nein! Aber da wünsche ich mir eine Antwort von Ihnen.

Drittens: die Frage der Energiearmut. Wir haben das ja diskutiert, auch im Zusammenhang mit den Berichten, die wir im Ausschuss beschlossen haben. Es spricht nichts dagegen, dass die Kommission unabhängig von den zukünftigen Gesetzgebungen ein sehr konkretes Energiearmutspaket zusammenstellt. Das sind nicht nur Maßnahmen, die die Kommission ergreifen kann, sondern auch Maßnahmen, die natürlich die einzelnen Regierungen ergreifen müssen. Aber hier wollen wir mehr Initiative von der Kommission.

Viertens: die Energieaußenpolitik, die Versorgung mit Energie, insbesondere natürlich mit Gas. Wir haben ja schon etliche Male davon gesprochen. Ich höre, Sie waren kürzlich in Nigeria. Es wäre interessant zu wissen, welche Initiativen gesetzt worden sind.

Wir sehen Nabucco dahinschleichen, um nur ein Beispiel zu nehmen. Die Amerikaner haben die PTC-Pipeline für Öl durchgesetzt. Da hat jeder gesagt, das ist überhaupt nicht gewinnträchtig. Jetzt, bei den hohen Ölpreisen, ist es gewinnträchtig. Die haben einfach gesagt: Wir wollen und brauchen das zur Diversifikation unserer Energieversorgung.

Was macht Europa? Europa ist da viel zu schwach unterwegs, um gewisse Dinge durchzusetzen. Ich würde mir wünschen, dass Rat und Kommission hier doch mit stärkerer Kraft und mit größerer Entschlossenheit und Entschiedenheit vorgehen und die entsprechende Diversifikation fortsetzen, weil das natürlich auch für die Energieversorgung wichtig ist. Aber ganz wichtig ist für unsere Fraktion insbesondere die Frage der Energiearmut und die Frage, was wir gegen diese Energiearmut, die nach wie vor sehr gravierend ist, unternehmen.

3-276

Giles Chichester, author. – Mr President, I am sorry the Socialists have chosen to vent their old prejudices about profits and social issues in what is, essentially, an economic and industrial question. Clearly, oil price rises are serious for the real economy – especially any volatility or instability in those prices – but let us remember the lessons that we learned from the 1970s. Those lessons include the fact that higher prices will encourage more exploration and the development of resources. They will discourage excessive consumption, and they will drive efficiency. I submit the issue of fuel poverty is an important one, but it should be tackled via social security measures and not through market distortions such as seeking to cap prices.

Let us also remember that prices can come down as well as rise, and that markets always tend to overshoot before settling down at a realistic level. Establishing a truly competitive market is an essential prerequisite for pursuing other policy objectives. This prices issue underlines the fundamentals of EU energy policy and the EU energy situation – the three pillars, namely: the essential need for truly competitive markets – markets which will deliver the lowest prices and the most efficient services; the security of supply issues in our dependence on imported fuels; and the convergence of sustainability objectives with the other two elements of our policy. Let us beware throwing out the baby with the bathwater because we are concerned about price rises last summer and forget that prices come down as well as go up.

3-277

Rebecca Harms, Verfasserin. – Herr Präsident, meine Damen und Herren, Herr Kommissar! Sicher, Herr Chichester, die Preise können auch nach unten korrigiert werden, aber ich glaube, so gut wie alle sind sich einig, dass angesichts von

knappen, begrenzt vorhandenen Energiere Ressourcen und einer wachsenden Konkurrenz global um die Erschließung dieser Ressourcen, um Anteile an diesen Ressourcen, die Preise dauerhaft sehr hoch sein werden.

Die aktuelle Entwicklung, auch das Problem der Energiearmut, zeigt, dass wir bisher noch nicht ausreichend mit dieser Erkenntnis umgegangen sind. Ich würde sagen, dass man akuten sozialen Problemen wegen hoher Energiepreise immer auch sozialpolitisch begegnen muss. Man muss aber strukturell dafür sorgen, dass in unseren Gesellschaften nicht mehr verschwenderisch mit Energiere Ressourcen umgegangen wird. Herr Kommissar Piebalgs müsste dazu noch etwas sagen, weil er sich zu Beginn seiner Amtszeit hier so sehr engagiert hat.

Das Ziel der Energieeinsparung und der Energieeffizienz muss viel konsequenter verfolgt werden, als das bisher der Fall gewesen ist. Wir haben oft gesagt, dass wir andere Häuser bauen müssen, dass wir andere Heizungssysteme brauchen, dass wir andere Kühlungssysteme brauchen, effiziente Elektrogeräte. Aber wo bleibt die konzertierte große Aktion, um die großen Potenziale, die wir im Bereich der Effizienz und der Einsparung haben, tatsächlich zu erschließen?

Wenn wir so etwas wie einen europäischen Masterplan, nationale Pläne, brauchen, dann für diesen Bereich. Ich bin der Auffassung, dass Strukturfonds, Kohäsionsfonds, Programme der Europäischen Investitionsbank etc. gebündelt genutzt werden müssen, um die Ziele, die Sie, Herr Piebalgs, vor drei Jahren immer wieder formuliert haben, tatsächlich ernsthaft anzusteuern.

Wenn wir uns zum Beispiel die aktuelle Auseinandersetzung um den Ölpreis anschauen und feststellen, was in diesem Parlament vorgeschlagen wird, um die Kommission, die ja wollte, dass Autos effizienter werden, zu bremsen, fragt man sich natürlich auch, ob die Idee, dass der Preis dauerhaft hoch sein wird, überhaupt wirklich schon angekommen ist.

Herr Kommissar, ich möchte Sie an dieser Stelle ermutigen, Ihre alten Vorschläge für Einsparung und Effizienz in den Mittelpunkt der *Strategic Energy Review* zu stellen. Auf diesem Feld wird entschieden werden, ob wir gut mit unseren Gesellschaften und ihren Bedürfnissen durch Zeiten dauerhaft hoher Preise kommen oder nicht.

3-278

Anne Laperrouze, auteur. – Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Commissaire, Monsieur le Ministre, chers collègues, les hausses des prix de l'énergie ont de nombreux impacts négatifs, dont le plus visible est la hausse du coût de la vie pour nos concitoyens. Ils mettent en évidence une fois de plus notre dépendance énergétique. Diminuer la fluctuation et surtout la hausse des prix de l'énergie implique de mettre en œuvre diverses actions.

Je vous propose trois réflexions. Le premier angle d'attaque concerne la maîtrise conjoncturelle des prix de l'énergie qu'il convient de mettre en œuvre dès maintenant, c'est-à-dire que les États membres devraient développer des mécanismes fiscaux pour tenter d'effacer la hausse des prix dans le budget des entreprises, dans le budget des ménages. Ils devraient aussi encourager les mesures sociales nationales pour lutter contre la pauvreté énergétique des ménages à faibles revenus.

Le deuxième angle d'attaque est de travailler sur les prix de l'énergie que nous importons. Que proposez-vous pour que l'Union européenne parle d'une seule voix avec les pays producteurs – on dit toujours "parler d'une seule voix" –, pour que ces politiques de voisinage ou accords de partenariat accordent une dimension adéquate à l'énergie? Permettez-moi de vous proposer, peut-être naïvement, une solution qui pourrait apaiser nos relations dans les négociations avec la Russie. Pourquoi ne pas interconnecter le projet de gazoduc Nabucco avec le projet South Stream? Peut-être arriverions-nous dans ce cas-là à faciliter nos relations.

Le troisième angle d'attaque est de diminuer, voire de supprimer – ce qui serait idéal – les importations. Pour ce faire, il nous faut casser ce rapport symbiotique entre hausse de la croissance et hausse de la consommation d'énergie. Il est déterminant que notre croissance ne génère pas automatiquement une hausse proportionnelle de consommation d'énergie. Il faut bien sûr développer les énergies renouvelables ou faiblement émettrices de CO₂. Le rapport de notre collègue Turmes est un pas dans ce sens. L'efficacité énergétique est aussi une source d'économie, insuffisamment mise en œuvre pour l'instant. Les textes qui vont arriver sur la table sont donc plus qu'attendus. L'accent doit être mis sur les capacités de stockage physique et technologique de l'énergie, mais aussi sur les vecteurs de consommation de l'énergie.

Pouvez-vous nous dire, Monsieur le Ministre, si vous avez bon espoir que le paquet énergie/climat soit adopté dans les prochaines semaines? Quelles sont les tendances pour arriver à un paquet ambitieux répondant à ces quelques objectifs?

3-279

Esko Seppänen, laatiija. – Arvoisa puhemies, arvoisa komissaari, kompromissipäätöslauselmassa energian hinnoista kielletään keinottelun merkitys energian hinnan nousussa. Virtuaalista öljyä myydään kuitenkin johdannaispörssissä kuusi kertaa enemmän kuin fyysistä öljyä. Myös sähkön hinta on arvopaperistettu, virtuaalista sähköä myydään energiapörssissä enemmän kuin fyysistä sähköä, EEX-pörssissä viisi kertaa enemmän.

Suuria petoksia esiintyy OTC-johdannaiskaupassa, jota ei valvo julkinen valta eivätkä myöskään pörssit itse. EU:ssa sähkön hinnoittelun yhdenmukaistaminen tuottaa automaattisia windfall-voittoja suurille yhtiöille, ja vuonna 2013 päästökauppa moninkertaistaa keinottelumahdollisuudet.

Arvopaperistettavilla energiajohdannaisilla kuluttajat pannaan maksamaan keinottelu, samaan tapaan kuin kävi USA:ssa subprime-kiinnitysluottomarkkinoilla: voitot yksityistettiin ja tappiot sosialisoidaan. Kapitalismi on kasino, jossa energian hinta arvotaan pörsseissä. Kiitos.

3-280

Jean-Louis Borloo, *président en exercice du Conseil*. – Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les parlementaires, après avoir écouté les différentes interrogations que se pose au fond tout le monde, permettez-moi de faire trois ou quatre remarques.

La première remarque concerne le caractère assez erratique des prix – dix dollars, puis 140 il y a peu, aujourd'hui 100. On constate effectivement une déconnexion entre l'appréciation du produit lui-même et le marché financier qui fonctionne sur ce produit. Néanmoins, sur le long terme, je crois qu'il est assez clair que les spéculateurs pourront toujours jouer dès lors qu'on a le sentiment que nos besoins énergétiques mondiaux qui, eux, ne font que croître, ne s'appuient pas sur un nouveau mix énergétique moins dépendant des hydrocarbures.

J'observe d'ailleurs qu'à Djeddah à la fin du mois de juin, où le commissaire Piebalgs et moi-même nous sommes rendus et où était réuni l'ensemble des pays producteurs et consommateurs, le message commun était assez clair dans ce domaine. Il y avait une attente claire: il faudrait que les principaux pays consommateurs indiquent clairement qu'ils modifient leur mix énergétique, qu'ils pratiquent l'efficacité énergétique et qu'ils soient moins dépendants des hydrocarbures. Les pays producteurs eux-mêmes en convenaient. Je pense que c'est tout l'enjeu du paquet climat-énergie qui va être présenté, que les 500 millions de consommateurs européens disent: on va vers de l'énergie plus locale, plus autonome, avec un lien plus direct entre producteurs et consommateurs.

Cela dit, sur le très court terme, il est clair qu'il y a un certain nombre de problèmes de régulation, notamment en ce qui concerne la connaissance des stocks commerciaux et pas seulement des stocks stratégiques. Les États-Unis le font, le Japon le fait. Il été demandé à la Commission d'y réfléchir. Je crois que, fin octobre, début novembre, la Commission présentera une proposition visant à une meilleure transparence à très court terme. Mais une véritable stratégie d'autonomie énergétique et une modification du mix nous paraissent être à moyen et à long terme la réponse la plus adéquate.

3-281

Andris Piebalgs, *Member of the Commission*. – Mr President, I think these are very timely questions and this is a very important debate. The Commission is now finalising the second Strategic Energy Review, which is also based on the debates in this House. I expect that this second Strategic Energy Review will be adopted in November, and it will particularly cover the issues that we have been addressing today.

Definitely there is a limit to what we can propose in the strategic energy review due to the Lisbon Treaty ratification, because there is an energy article that would give much more opportunity to streamline the response. But still we can do quite a lot.

The Commission shares the opinion that oil prices are likely to remain high in the medium and long term. The justification for this type of prognosis is volatility in daily markets. Even if now, the oil price is USD 106 or USD 110 per barrel, which is much lower than it was some time ago, at USD 145, the daily volatility still makes the situation relatively difficult to predict, and it is definitely making a major, wide-ranging impact and deserves a response.

While there is clearly a need for short-term action by Member States to mitigate the impact on the most vulnerable households, the main policy response should aim at facilitating our transition towards clearly more sustainable ways of producing and consuming energy. In other words, to pursue our aim of becoming a low-carbon and energy-efficient economy. In order to do so it will be vital to take forward the Commission's proposals on climate and energy policy, following up on the political commitments of the European Council.

On the structural reforms. It is important to underline that we are facing an energy price increase, not only for oil: it also goes for coal, it also goes for gas and, as a result, it also has an impact on electricity prices. Links between these prices are related by pricing structure: for example, gas contracts often use oil price benchmarks; gas-fired electricity generation is increasingly marginal and thus price-setting. So I think it is very important to address not only issues about oil prices but all the sectors. The situation clearly reinforces the need for encouraging competition throughout the whole energy sector. That is why, again, I would like to underline the importance of swiftly reaching an agreement on the third internal energy market package.

Europe can and must develop its own strengths to deal with the fast-changing global energy economy. A well-functioning, fully interconnected and competitive EU-wide internal market is a response. This will diminish European vulnerability to

energy-supply disruption and facilitate our cooperation with energy producer and transit countries. Solidarity between Member States in crises will be enabled by European networks.

On European energy oil stocks, we have now prepared legislation that will clearly address two things: one, that these oil stocks will be always available at moments of crisis and can be easily used; and second, it is issues of precedence addressed, it is transparency and reporting on a weekly basis on commercial stocks. In this respect, even though we are not the biggest oil consumer in the world, we are able to influence transparency in the market and diminish volatility and the level of speculation in the market.

Speculation is definitely an issue. We have done an analysis. The available evidence suggests that supply and demand are the main drivers of oil prices, and that these fundamentals are set to underpin high prices in the future. But, at the same time, we will continue our work on analysing what impact speculation has at a particular moment and whether there is really the ability to diminish volatility and have more supervision in the energy market.

In any case, it is very clear that transparency in oil markets, both in terms of contracts and related financial instruments and fundamentals, is a must. I would also like to say that both Commission and national competition authorities are acting against anti-competitive behaviour. This is a way in which we can pass the changes in oil prices to the consumers, because consumers use refined products. The Commission will make additional efforts in this respect – we are following this issue – and a lot of competition authorities in member countries have already started investigations into the issue of how soon and how fast the oil price changes are being passed to the consumers. At the same time it is very clear that there are differences between different member countries, because there are different sourcing strategies for the companies concerned. Also, in some countries there are biofuel blends that also influence the velocity of the possibility to change prices according to the oil price. Nevertheless, it should be very clearly in the focus of attention in all anti-trust authorities.

Energy efficiency, renewables and diversification: it is very clear that our main lines are in our energy and climate policy, and it will be prominent in our Strategic Energy Review.

There is already a substantial European legal framework in place. In addition, there are many actions being pursued under the current Energy Efficiency Action Plan, including also legislative initiatives and studies. And there are also support actions, for example under the Intelligent Energy Europe programme.

Regarding existing EU legislation, it is implementation that is very essential. The ambitious 2020 target for energy savings cannot be met without adequate transposition by Member States. The Commission is vigorously pursuing infringement procedures to ensure that member countries are really implementing their existing EU legislation.

This year the Commission also will adopt an energy efficiency package. This will include a communication with a comprehensive overview of the Commission's ambitions for energy efficiency, as well as legislative and policy initiatives – in particular, prominent proposals for an ambitious recast of the Directive on the energy performance of buildings; also for a modification of the Energy Labelling Directive, to ensure more effective and dynamic labelling. Needless to say, continued high energy prices further support the need for action in this area. And also we get clear involvement of the European Investment Bank in this area.

The European Council, when analysing the appropriate responses to the high oil price situation, underlines the importance of a sustainable and adequate tax framework.

There is considerable scope for the EU and its Member States to make more systematic and effective use of taxation to encourage energy savings. The Commission intends to present proposals and recommendations on the cost-effective use of taxation and specific tax incentives, including reduced VAT, to promote the demand and supply of energy-efficient goods and services.

Furthermore, in its review of the Energy Tax Directive, the Commission will look at how it can better support the EU's energy and climate policy, encouraging energy efficiency and emission reductions. More widespread and systematic use of road pricing, in line with the principles of the Commission's 'Greening Transport' Communication, would also encourage a shift to more energy-efficient transparency rules.

On financing alternative energy technologies and research, let me draw your attention to the fact that we are in the process of preparing a communication on financing low-carbon technologies as a follow-up to the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan. The Communication will analyse the resource needs for long-term research and development, large-scale demonstration projects and the early-stage commercialisation phase. We are considering measures that best use public investment to leverage additional private investment, such as the creation of a specific facility for large-scale demonstration projects. This could be built on existing instruments such as the Risk Sharing Financing Facility, a joint initiative of the Commission and the European Investment Bank. The Commission also encourages Member States to use

national resources, for example potential resources that could be raised through the auctioning of CO₂ allowances in the revised ETS schemes.

On energy security and foreign policy aspects, I come back to the idea that Europe can and must reinforce its own strengths to deal with the fast-changing global energy economy. Internal and external policy in energy work together. The stronger a common European energy market is, the stronger it will be towards external energy suppliers. We are pursuing diversification with countries like Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Egypt, Iraq, Nigeria, but it is clear that we also encourage predictable relations with current suppliers like Russia, and definitely we are looking very much at the possibility that Norway could increase supply to the market, because it is very clear that the EU market is attractive for suppliers, and we should not be afraid that we will run out of gas, but we should really work for competitive supplies to the European market and not be in a situation where we could be blackmailed on prices.

Regarding the issue of assistance to oil-importing developing countries. Given the strong impact of access and price of energy on development and global climate change, energy cooperation is increasingly important throughout our development assistance activities. It was a central theme of my joint visit with Commissioner Michel to the African Union and a number of African countries earlier this month. We invest substantial resources in supporting movement of these countries, not only to eliminate energy poverty, but to power themselves with clean and new energy sources.

On macroeconomic and social aspects, the increase in oil price levels certainly put a strain on consumers and certain sectors of the economy which face difficult adjustment processes. More immediately, most member countries have undertaken – or are currently considering – short-term measures in response to the recent surge in energy prices. In line with the European Council conclusions, most of these policies focus on vulnerable households. Some Member States have also implemented or discussed temporary measures targeted at specific sectors.

As high energy prices are expected to prevail in the long term, it is essential that the policy measures aim at facilitating the structural shift to more sustainable patterns of production, transport and consumption. This also points to the significance of flexible product and labour markets and the Lisbon agenda, and to the importance of the transition towards a low-carbon and highly energy-efficient economy.

But I believe there is clearly not one answer to these issues. Still, the framework that we propose with the energy and climate change package and the internal energy market package is a backbone, because, the sooner it is adopted, the stronger we will be, and also there will be more competition and lower prices for consumers. At the same time we should be open and honest and say to the people: do not expect oil prices to come back to USD 20 per barrel. That means each of us also should change our behaviour, because part of the issue is also our behaviour, and I believe that we should really pay true attention in our everyday lives.

3-282

Jerzy Buzek, *w imieniu grupy PPE-DE*. – Panie Przewodniczący! Są dwa różne problemy. Po pierwsze ceny ropy i gazu, te surowce Unia głównie importuje, po drugie ceny energii elektrycznej.

Odnosnie pierwszego punktu: ceny ropy i gazu mogą spaść, jeśli także producenci tych surowców, a nie tylko konsumenci będą podlegali rynkowi. Jest to kwestia naszych wspólnych, unijnych negocjacji z takimi krajami jak OPEC, Rosja czy z krajami północnej Afryki. Musimy także zdecydowanie poprawić sprawność energetyczną i oszczędzanie energii. To najważniejszy nasz obowiązek i priorytet, i mówimy o tym od dawna. Oczywiście musimy rozwinąć energetykę odnawialną, bo to są nasze własne nieimportowane surowce. Ale to na pewno nam nie wystarczy. Pozostaje więc nasz węgiel i nasza energia nuklearna. I nie wolno nam negocjować żadnego z tych źródeł, jeśli nie chcemy doprowadzić do drastycznego wzrostu cen.

Tu dochodzimy do punktu drugiego: energia elektryczna. Ceny energii elektrycznej można obniżać przez zdecydowane tworzenie wspólnego europejskiego rynku energii. Tu potrzebne jest szybkie wdrożenie trzeciego pakietu energetycznego. Możemy także panować nad cenami energii elektrycznej poprzez rozsądne, umiarkowane wprowadzenie pakietu energetyczno-klimatycznego. Szczególnie ważne to jest dla sektora energii elektrycznej, gdzie konieczne jest rozważenie, w dyrektywie systemu handlu emisjami, benchmarkingu albo zasady *phase in* dla tego sektora.

Dziękuję Komisji za podejmowanie trudu w tych kierunkach, a autorom rezolucji za podniesienie tego tematu.

3-283

Robert Goebbels, *au nom du groupe PSE*. – Monsieur le Président, le 2 janvier 2008, Richard Arens, courtier au Nymex, offrit 100 000 dollars pour un lot de mille barils de pétrole. Pour la première fois, le prix du baril atteignait 100 dollars. Pour cette transaction, le courtier avait engagé 5 000 dollars. Il a tout de suite revendu son lot, acceptant une perte de 800 dollars. Perte légère qu'il a dignement fêtée avec ses collègues pour avoir franchi en premier la barrière psychologique des 100 dollars pour un baril.

Dans les mois qui suivirent, les *traders* de New York ont souvent fêté des records. Le 4 juillet, le prix du baril atteignait 148 dollars. Même si le prix du pétrole est sur le reflux, le mal est fait. La flambée du pétrole s'est accompagnée d'une orgie spéculative sur les matières premières, y compris les denrées alimentaires.

L'économie mondiale ne pourra pas se passer des marchés, mais il est inacceptable que le monde de la finance organise des paris fous dignes des jeux de casino. Avec un levier de seulement 5 000 dollars, le *trader* de New York a pu mettre en marche une vague spéculative sur le pétrole qui laisse des traces sanglantes dans l'économie mondiale. Les autorités boursières viennent enfin de mettre un petit frein à la spéculation pure en interdisant, provisoirement, la vente d'actifs non détenus par les *traders*, ce qu'on appelle le *naked short selling*. Pour endiguer ces spéculations malsaines, il faudra imposer non pas des règles provisoires, mais des régulations plus strictes. Il faut ainsi une couverture plus conséquente des paris engagés par les spéculateurs. Le Sénat américain discute actuellement d'une proposition visant à augmenter la mise réelle des *traders* pour chaque opération à un minimum de 25 %, ce qui éviterait beaucoup de paris hasardeux sur base de *peanuts*, de cacahuètes.

Ces quatre dernières années, les fonds investis sur le seul marché américain des matières premières ont été multipliés par dix. L'indice portant sur les prix des vingt-cinq principales matières premières a ainsi explosé de plus de 200 %. La fixation des prix n'est plus déterminée par l'offre physique et la demande effective des matières premières mais par les mécanismes spéculatifs des marchés financiers. Les premiers six mois de l'année, 60 % des opérations sur le marché américain du pétrole ont porté sur du pétrole virtuel vendu et revendu à répétition. Les bourses ne servent plus à ajuster le jeu complexe entre l'offre disponible et la demande réelle, on y fait des paris sur des produits financiers dont la complexité échappe même aux dirigeants des entreprises financières. Ce qui compte pour les courtiers et leurs chefs, c'est le bonus. Tous les *Golden boys* du casino global ont empoché des millions tout en perdant les milliards de leurs clients. Les bénéfices étant encaissés, les pertes sont maintenant nationalisées. Les contribuables américains vont devoir assumer plus de mille milliards de dollars afin d'éponger les crédits pourris de la finance internationale. C'est l'équivalent de sept fois le budget de l'Union européenne.

En Europe, également, le pouvoir d'achat est en baisse, le crédit est devenu plus cher, la récession guette. La Commission, nos gouvernements, se sont toujours refusés à trop réglementer des marchés financiers réputés efficaces. Mais, après la déconfiture totale des génies financiers, les pouvoirs publics doivent imposer d'urgence des règles plus strictes, des dispositions efficaces contre la spéculation folle sur tous les marchés, dont celui du pétrole.

3-284

PRESIDÊNCIA: MANUEL ANTÓNIO DOS SANTOS
Vice-Presidente

3-285

Liam Aylward, *on behalf of the UEN Group*. – Mr President, I welcome the fact that this debate is encompassing all energy prices, and not just that of oil – which of course is a major concern. Over the past year it is not only oil that has experienced a price shock: the cost of coal and gas is rising just as fast as oil, if not faster. As is always the case, the consumers are the worst affected.

Spikes in energy prices put huge pressure on the budget of the average consumer. As representatives of the people at policy level, it is up to us to implement policies that will ensure a sustainable fuel supply at a reasonable price. How can we achieve this as fuel wells' supplies approach depletion? We should be concentrating to an even greater degree on renewable energy and resources. We should increase study of, and investment in, alternative fuel sources. This is by no means a new idea, yet to date we have not done enough in this regard. We have a duty to the European people, and for the sake of our environment, to turn our words into actions.

Environmental protection and consumer financial welfare are not mutually exclusive goals. By spending more money, time and resources on the area of renewable energy, we can achieve them both and can ensure a sustainable supply of energy for the future.

3-286

Claude Turmes, *au nom du groupe Verts/ALE*. – Monsieur le Président, chers collègues, M. Goebbels a raison, il y a une énorme spéculation sur les prix du pétrole, M. Borloo et M. Piebalgs l'ont dit aussi. Les Verts, les Socialistes, la Gauche unitaire ont déposé des amendements pour que dans notre résolution, nous abordions ce problème et ceux qui ont applaudi aujourd'hui à droite – et je m'en réjouis – à l'idée de combattre la spéculation outrancière sur le pétrole, voterons nos amendements demain, je l'espère. Ce serait ridicule que ce Parlement vote une résolution qui ne traite pas de la spéculation outrancière sur les marchés du pétrole.

La deuxième chose importante, c'est l'aspect social. Nous devons aider les couches sociales pauvres à maîtriser cette situation. Pour réaliser cet objectif, moi je préconise des aides ciblées. Il vaut mieux donner cent euros aux ménages qui ont peu d'argent que de lancer de fausses bonnes idées comme une réduction de la TVA. Cette idée, chère à M. Sarkozy, le

Parlement va clairement la rejeter demain et nous sommes plutôt du côté de M. Borloo, qui appuie plutôt l'idée d'encourager le bonus-malus, et de donner aux citoyens l'accès aux services et aux appareils peu énergivores.

Deux dernières remarques: le fonds d'allocation: nous ne traiterons cette question que si nous avançons sur la voie de la maîtrise de l'énergie et des énergies renouvelables. Cher Commissaire, la Commission veut-elle encore une fois être ridicule en présentant un document stratégique sur l'énergie, sur la sécurité énergétique, sans aborder la question des transports? Dans tous les projets que j'ai vus, il n'y a rien sur les transports. C'est ridicule, notre plus grande dépendance en Europe, c'est le pétrole, ce n'est pas le gaz et il n'y a rien à ce sujet dans vos documents.

Dernière remarque à M. Borloo: le COREPER a discuté aujourd'hui des énergies renouvelables, et moi je ne comprends plus la Présidence française. Vous mettez en cause, avec la clause de rendez-vous, y compris l'objectif des 20 %. Heureusement, cette proposition a été rejetée aujourd'hui par la majorité des États membres. Donc, je vous en conjure, arrêtez, au niveau de la Présidence française, de mettre en danger cette directive qui est vraiment importante!

3-287

Sergej Kozlík (NI). – Európa má významnú možnosť ovplyvňovať ceny energie, a to dostatočnou produkciou vlastnej energie založenej na inej báze, než sú ropa a plyn. Ide však Európa touto cestou?

V 80-tych rokoch Slovensko a Maďarsko započali spoločnú výstavbu vodného diela Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros. Neskôr Maďarsko od výstavby odskočilo a vodné dielo dokončilo Slovensko samo. Miesto výroby špičkovej energie výsledkom bol medzinárodný arbitrážny spor, ktorého závery však maďarská strana neplní.

V 90-tych rokoch Slovensko investovalo značné prostriedky do zvýšenia bezpečnosti a predĺženia životnosti jadrovej elektrárne Jaslovské Bohunice. Splnenie bezpečnostných štandardov potvrdila Medzinárodná atómová komisia. V rámci prístupového procesu do Európskej únie však bolo Slovensko donútené predčasne uzatvoriť dva bloky tejto elektrárne.

Dnes Európska komisia posudzuje otázku dostavby rozostavaných dvoch blokov jadrovej elektrárne Mochovce. Prvé dva bloky už bezpečne a efektívne pracujú. Európska komisia si však s odpoveďou dáva načas. Príklad Slovenska ukazuje, že zámer zvýšenia vlastnej produkcie, a tým kontroly cien energie v Európe je zatiaľ veľmi vzdialený.

3-288

Μαργαρίτης Σχοινάς (PPE-DE). – Κύριε Πρόεδρε, η εξέλιξη των τιμών του πετρελαίου αυτό το χρόνο είναι ένα μεγάλο σκάνδαλο. Ένα σκάνδαλο που χτυπάει τα νοικοκυριά με το χαμηλότερο εισόδημα στην Ευρώπη, ένα σκάνδαλο που αναζητά πολιτικές απαντήσεις, που, πέρα από όσα θα κάνουμε με την προσαρμογή μας στην πράσινη οικονομία, στην πολιτική των αγωγών, στην πολιτική του πακέτου ενέργειας, πρέπει οπωσδήποτε να βρούμε μια λύση στη μάχη εναντίον των καρτέλ του πετρελαίου.

Υπάρχουν δύο καρτέλ πετρελαίου αυτή τη στιγμή τα οποία λειτουργούν εις βάρος του ευρωπαίου πολίτη:

Ένα είναι το διεθνές καρτέλ πετρελαίου, στο οποίο δεν μιλάμε με μια φωνή – δεν μιλάμε με καμία φωνή – διότι, όταν ο ΟΠΕΚ πράττει δεν αισθάνεται την πίεση της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης για να μην πράξει.

Και έχουμε και ένα δεύτερο καρτέλ το οποίο βρίσκεται στο εσωτερικό της ευρωπαϊκής αγοράς όπου, κύριε Επίτροπε, η συνάδελφός σας Επίτροπος αρμόδια για τον ανταγωνισμό ακόμη το παρακολουθεί χωρίς να το ενοχλεί και νομίζω ότι, πέρα από το ζήτημα της κερδοσκοπίας που σωστά έθεσε ο κύριος Goebbels, έχουμε να κάνουμε και με την αδιαφάνεια στην εσωτερική αγορά των πετρελαιοειδών, όπου υπάρχει πεδίο δόξης λαμπρό για την επιτροπή ανταγωνισμού της Ευρωπαϊκής Επιτροπής από την οποία και αναμένουμε να αναλάβει δράση προς όφελος των πολιτών. Διότι, αν δεν απατώμαι, η πολιτική ανταγωνισμού συνεχίζει να είναι κοινοτική αρμοδιότητα.

Αν λοιπόν με τον ΟΠΕΚ έχουμε δυσκολίες, ας ασκήσουμε την πολιτική ανταγωνισμού στο εσωτερικό της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης.

3-289

Eluned Morgan (PSE). – Mr President, there are going to be radical changes in the way the EU produces and consumes its energy. This has been based on a three-pronged strategy by the Commission: security of supply, sustainability and competitiveness. But the Commission left out a fundamental part of this important debate, namely the issue of affordability.

Since the publication of the Green Paper on energy, Socialists in this Parliament have been asking for consumers to be put right back into the driving seat. We want to see energy poverty as a part of this debate. So far in the EU there are no national definitions and there is no data collection, so we have no idea of the scale of this problem. We know that energy prices have been rising exponentially and they are hitting the most vulnerable in our society the hardest.

I would like to give fair warning to the Council that, in the negotiations on the electricity and gas directives that we are about to begin, the issue of energy poverty will be fundamental to our agreement. We are not going to step on your toes. We are asking for domestic action on this – not Community action – but we do expect action for the poorest people in the EU on energy poverty.

3-290

Luca Romagnoli (NI). – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, un tetto al caro energetico, dirlo in poco più di un minuto, oserei dire è impossibile. Cerchiamo di riassumere un po' la situazione: intanto, misure sociali nazionali che favoriscano i gruppi più vulnerabili e le piccole imprese, pensa ad esempio i pescatori e anche però le amministrazioni pubbliche; sono quindi favorevole, come ha detto il collega Turmes, ad interventi sociali mirati. Occorre poi una politica diversa nei confronti dei cartelli e dei paesi produttori, lo diceva anche il collega Buzek e forse anche altri e questa è senz'altro una misura indispensabile.

Vorrei anche sottolineare un altro aspetto di fronte al quale spesso ci si ferma ed è il discorso delle accise: un tetto agli Stati sul costo massimo dei carburanti produrrebbe, senza violare né la sussidiarietà fiscale né le leggi della libera concorrenza, l'automatico adeguamento delle accise a questo tetto, quindi perché non prenderlo in considerazione? Mi sembra che anche nelle intenzioni del signor Piebalgs ci sia qualcosa di simile.

Ci vuole, a mio giudizio, in generale, una strategia che premi chi consuma di meno e penalizzi chi consuma di più. Una strategia che premi quindi l'efficienza energetica. Ci vuole però anche un controllo antispeculazione che non c'è fin qui stato e un adeguamento bidirezionale dei prezzi al dettaglio e dei costi di produzione.

3-291

Vito Bonsignore (PPE-DE). – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi l'andamento dei prezzi energetici sta strozzando l'economia ed erodendo il potere d'acquisto delle famiglie che vedono le bollette energetiche salire sempre di più.

In questo nuovo contesto è evidente il collegamento tra prezzi delle energie e la politica estera e quindi l'accresciuto peso politico dei paesi produttori. È chiaro che l'Europa deve seguire una strategia corta basata sull'accelerazione dell'utilizzo delle fonti di energia rinnovabili, la promozione e la ricerca di nuove forme di sfruttamento dell'energia naturale e pulita e la costruzione di nuove pipeline e quindi è necessario anche aumentare le scorte di petrolio e di gas.

Tutto questo non può bastare, bisogna battere strade nuove. Sottolineo le due proposte fatte dal Presidente Berlusconi in queste ultime settimane: mettere assieme tutti gli Stati che acquistano un'energia e quindi fissare un prezzo massimo, varare un grande piano di centrale nucleare. La Commissione, signor Commissario, può rispondere su queste due proposte? E nell'indicarci le sue strategie per emarginare un futuro differente per quanto riguarda l'approvvigionamento, può dire se è in atto per la sua informazione una speculazione di tipo finanziaria e cosa intende fare a questo proposito la Commissione?

3-292

Reino Paasilinna (PSE). – Arvoisa puhemies, tämä päätöslauselma on tärkeä ja meillä on siihen oma lähtökohtamme. Tämä tilanne on kuin myrskyisä Bermudan kolmio, jossa riippuvuus, ilmasto-ongelmat ja köyhille kestäättömät hinnat vellovat keskenään. Mukana ovat keinottelijat ja jopa ruoan hinta.

Säästäminen on tarpeellista ja tehokkainta, senhän me tiedämme. Köyhien ekologinen jalanjälki on kuitenkin hyvin pieni verrattuna rikkaisiin, jotka eivät aio sitä oikeastaan pienentääkään, vaan ovat valmiita maksamaan enemmän.

Pitäisikö meidän siis tässä tilanteessa säätää energiaverotuksesta, joka on progressiivinen? Niillä, joilla on varaa maksaa, maksaisivat energiasta suhteellisesti enemmän. Vai pannaanko paljon energiaa kuluttaville tavaroille tai energiaa tuhlaville palveluille kalliimpi hinta? Keinottelijat on tietysti laitettava kuriin. Puhumme kestävästä kehityksestä, sen sankareita ovat energiaköyhät ja heidän asemansa on järjestettävä kestävästi. Se on meidän lähtökohtamme.

3-293

Jim Allister (NI). – Mr President, among the projects that the EU has encouraged is the single electricity market on the island of Ireland. Can the Commission explain why it is not working for consumers in Northern Ireland and why, instead of stability and price savings, we have seen a massive 52% hike since January of this year and an ever-widening gap with prices prevailing in the rest of the United Kingdom, where in the same period the price rise was 29%? Big in itself, but a lot less than 52%.

Will the Commission investigate the failure of this scheme to deliver the promise of Minister Dodds, when he launched it, of efficiency savings and enhanced competition to help minimise the wholesale cost of electricity, with the vast bulk of the benefits, he said, going to the consumer? For my constituents, less than a year on, that rings very hollow indeed. In particular, will the Commission investigate the contribution to the non-delivery of the single electricity market of the failure adequately to address the dominance of the ESB in the southern market and the resulting lack of competition, which of course is the imperative to success in any single electricity market?

3-294

Ari Vatanen (PPE-DE). – Mr President, we always talk about renewable energy when we talk about prices. Well, we know that it is going to cost us an arm and a leg and so financial responsibility regarding energy prices often has gone with the wind. What about this 80%? What about meeting the needs of tomorrow's increasing energy consumption?

Look at Nord Stream. We are just talking about the environmental standards regarding Nord Stream. Well, that is a little bit like looking at the standards of the rope that is a noose around your neck, because Nord Stream and such projects are reducing our energy independence when we have to increase our independence.

So, what are we going to do? The only really responsible answer is the nuclear one: it is independent, it is cheap, it is competitive and the price is foreseeable – it is also emission-free and Russia-free.

3-295

Атанас Папаризов (PSE). – Уважаеми г-н Председател, уважаеми г-н Комисар, в условията на нарастващи цени на енергията е особено важно да се осигури по-голяма прозрачност по отношение на образуването на цените. Необходимо е да се регламентират общите правила на изграждането на единен европейски енергиен пазар. По този начин ще се създаде по-голяма сигурност за нови инвестиции в енергетиката и в електро- и газопреносните мрежи. Именно третият енергиен пакет следва да бъде приет възможно най-скоро и в това отношение ролята на Комисията и на Съвета е особено важна. Той засилва правата и независимостта на енергийните регулатори, и хармонизира техните действия чрез новосъздадената агенция. Необходимо е също така да се обърне особено внимание на понятието "енергийна бедност" и на националното определяне на това понятие, включително и да се осигури чрез механизма на обществените услуги от общ интерес минимално количество енергия през зимата на хора под прага на бедността.

Считам, че проблемът с високите цени на енергията би могъл да бъде овладян и с адекватна фискална политика, насочена към стимулиране на енергийната ефективност, възобновяемите източници на енергия и продукти, щадящи околната среда. И с интерес ще разгледаме предложението, за което говори комисарят Piebalgs по въпроса за енергийната ефективност.

3-296

Rareș-Lucian Niculescu (PPE-DE). – Potrivit unor cercetări, cel puțin 20% din energia consumată în Uniunea Europeană este risipită. Trebuie subliniat faptul că locuințele prezintă un potențial de economisire a energiei de aproape 30%, adică o treime din energia consumată în prezent de clădirile de locuințe poate fi economisită. Soluția la îndemână este reabilitarea termică a imobilelor de locuit, o soluție pe care Uniunea Europeană, pe nedrept, o ignoră și o subfinanțează.

În România, de exemplu, reabilitarea termică ar permite economisirea a peste 600 de mii de tone echivalent petrol pe an. Consider că Parlamentul European ar trebui să susțină mărirea la cel puțin 10% a proporției finanțării comunitare care poate fi alocată îmbunătățirii eficienței termice în locuință. Aceasta ar fi o soluție concretă, la îndemână și pe termen lung pentru problemele pe care prețul energiei le provoacă cetățenilor.

3-297

Gyula Hegyi (PSE). – Mr President, I would like to speak about only one aspect of energy prices, namely the price of district heating. In Hungary, hundreds of thousands of households use district heating – mostly families with modest incomes – and its price is a crucial social issue. However, due to the run-down infrastructure and for other technical reasons, district heating is far more expensive than individual heating. This contradicts common sense and the basic interests of the environment. That is why, whenever I can, I urge the Commission and the Council to provide financial support to improve district-heating systems in order to make it socially acceptable and environmentally efficient. As long as district heating is more expensive in some Member States than individual heating, it is nonsense to speak about energy efficiency.

3-298

Paul Rübig (PPE-DE). – Herr Präsident, sehr geehrter Herr Ratspräsident! Die Europäische Kommission hat ein Paket für die Sicherheit und Sicherung von Nuklearkraftwerken vorgelegt. Werden Sie dafür sorgen, dass das in der Ratsarbeitsgruppe jetzt endlich auf die Tagesordnung kommt und noch ein Erfolg für die französische Ratspräsidentschaft werden kann?

Herrn Kommissar Piebalgs möchte ich gerne fragen, ob es möglich wäre, mit Herrn Kommissar Kovács zu reden, um zu sehen, dass wir für Investitionen in den Energiebereich Anreize und Abschreibungsmöglichkeiten bekommen, so dass die Gewinne sinnvoll investiert werden können und damit auch die Preise sinken könnten.

3-299

Danutė Budreikaitė (ALDE). – Kad išspręstume energetikos problemas, turime turėti bendrąją energetikos politiką su vidaus ir užsienio politikos aspektais. Turime sukurti vidaus rinką. Trečiasis energetikos paketas yra to pagrindas. Tačiau pati direktyva to nepadarys. Turime tai paremti finansiškai ir realiai sukurti jungtis, tiek dujų, tiek elektros srityje ir tai užtikrins mums energetinį saugumą.

Išorės aspektas, Europos Sąjunga, kaip PPO, turi kalbėti vienu balsu. Komisija turi turėti galią derėtis dėl energetikos kainų. Ne kiekviena valstybė atskirai, o kaip vienas didelis pasaulio rinkos dalyvis mes galime kalbėti apie kainas.

Būtina matyti plačiau, kas gi yra mūsų energetikos tiekėjai? Ar mes netiesiame dujotiekių, kurie potencialiai neturės dujų, kaip įtariama dėl *Nord Stream*? Ar mes matome Arktį, kuri yra potencialus energetikos šaltinis?

Noriu dar paminėti, kad labai svarbus aspektas yra trumpalaikės priemonės. Tai – derybos su OPECO šalimis ir akcizo klausimas.

3-300

Christopher Beazley (PPE-DE). – Mr President, during this debate colleagues from the Socialist and Green benches have referred to speculation and how unacceptable that is in terms of energy prices, and I agree with them. I would ask them also to reflect on the political context of energy pricing, and in particular on the career of former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, currently employed by Gazprom, who quite clearly is pursuing an interest which is nuclear-free, but as Ari Vatanen has reminded us, is not free of Russian politics.

I should like to ask the Council if it could explain in its reply the route map towards achieving a common energy policy in the EU, giving the timescale. And I should like to ask the Commissioner whether he has produced a table for the Council of relative costings of oil and gas, for example from Russia, as opposed to liquefied natural gas from Qatar, nuclear energy, and all the others, because it seems to me that our governments are not actually producing energy at the prices that the consumers would want. They are pursuing their own political interests.

3-301

Jean-Louis Borloo, président en exercice du Conseil. – Monsieur le Président, voici trois éléments d'information. Je crois vraiment que la période qui veut que l'énergie soit produite quelque part puis transportée et vendue au monde entier, nous a fait connaître des situations territoriales qui ne sont pas pour rien dans la crise financière mondiale, car il y a la pluie utile et les inondations. Lorsqu'il y a tout d'un coup trop de pluie à un endroit qui ne peut pas l'absorber, on parle d'inondations et de catastrophe, qui se traduisent par des successions de produits dérivés et une gestion irréaliste de ces masses financières.

L'énergie, c'est le sujet du siècle, Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Commissaire, Mesdames et Messieurs. J'ai écouté M. Goebbels tout à l'heure et j'ai été frappé par l'émotion de son interrogation. Je crois qu'il faut non seulement réduire le besoin mais le localiser indépendamment même de la nature de l'énergie, ce qui posera d'ailleurs des problèmes, comme avec le charbon, qui est un outil localisé, ce dont il faudra tenir compte. Il faut aussi localiser, réduire la spéculation et la combattre.

La réunion OPEP-Union européenne d'il y a un mois et demi a prévu des moyens d'investigation significatifs, avec des spécialistes, pour essayer de comprendre ce qui s'était passé par ailleurs sur le plan du court terme dans un certain nombre de marchés.

Et puis il y a l'anticipation à long terme. La seule réponse concernant l'anticipation consiste à faire ce qui a été décidé à Djeddah, à savoir que l'Europe, que chacun des pays d'Europe et l'Europe tout entière, s'orientent vers cette efficacité énergétique et cette réduction des besoins. Cédons de 6 à 9 milliards et, si l'on suit ce modèle, les anticipateurs auront évidemment toujours raison.

La question peut se poser, Monsieur le Commissaire, d'une action, d'un financement plus global sur un certain nombre de points de recherche. Sur l'efficacité énergétique, on aura l'occasion d'en reparler.

3-302

Andris Piebalgs, Member of the Commission. – Mr President, I really would like to reassure you that oil prices will go down. But I would like to draw attention to the issues that somehow we have underestimated. Oil markets have ensured the physical delivery of oil, gas markets are delivering physical supplies of gas and coal markets deliver coal. That means that the interaction between financial markets and oil markets can work. In other words we do not need to question the market, but we need to change the way we produce and consume energy inside the European Union. This is the real answer, because we cannot expect the market to become easier.

There is growth. If growth is there, then there is more demand for energy resources, and none of the existing energy resources are in such quantities that we can say easy access is guaranteed. So for this we need a paradigm shift, we need to really invest in energy efficiency, renewables, research and development: a new investment.

But for this we need money, coming from both private investors and public investors. So we should be able to do this only if there is a really functioning market. A really functioning market means that everybody pays the real price to cover not only the cost but also the interest on investment. What we need to concentrate on – and there is EU existing legislation on this – is public service obligations that apply to households or small and medium-sized enterprises that really need it. But we should not deviate from this course.

I believe – and I have said it again and again – that the proposals made in the second package are crucial to making this change, and for this to be strengthened we will add a couple of elements in the second strategic energy review under the headings: infrastructure needs and diversification of energy supplies, external energy relations, oil and gas stocks and crisis mechanisms, energy efficiency and making the best use of the EU's indigenous energy sources.

We are on the right track. We do not need to deviate and believe that there is a magic solution that will bring prices down immediately. But, if we follow this path, we can really guarantee that already in this generation we will have efficient, affordable, clean energy. If we are slow in changing the energy sector, then not only will we suffer but also the next generations will suffer.

So we are at this critical stage and, as the Minister said, energy is this century's main issue. It is a main issue, but the public perception is not always there. The belief is that we have this silver bullet which will change everything. We should continue on the path we have started with Parliament, and I believe it is consistency that matters, and I very much hope that the proposed legal proposals will be adopted during this Parliament. It is crucial: this is the best response to the rising oil prices.

3-303

Presidente. – Comunico que recebi seis propostas de resolução³ apresentadas em conformidade com o n.º 2 do artigo 103.º do Regimento.

O debate está encerrado.

A votação terá lugar na amanhã, 25 de Setembro de 2008.

Declarações escritas (artigo 142º)

3-304

Ilda Figueiredo (GUE/NGL), por escrito. – Vivemos recentemente uma escalada dos preços dos combustíveis de que não havia memória, o que resultou bastante da especulação praticada pelas empresas que apresentaram lucros muito elevados, fruto da valorização especulativa dos stocks do petróleo comprado a valores mais baixos.

Esta subida escandalosa agravou as condições de vida da generalidade da população, sobretudo das camadas economicamente mais débeis, e teve um efeito devastador sobre a actividade económica dos diversos sectores: transportes e outros serviços, indústria, agricultura e pescas.

Entretanto, apesar da baixa significativa que se verificou no crude, em diversos países mantêm-se práticas de preços elevados de que os consumidores são vítimas, o que deveria levar à criação de um imposto, por cada Estado-Membro, que incida exclusivamente sobre os lucros extraordinários e especulativos, de forma a fazê-los reverter para os cofres dos Estados e, assim, contribuindo para apoiar os sectores e as populações mais atingidas pela situação.

Mas as grandes mudanças deveriam ser estruturais, travando a liberalização do sector energético, tendo em conta que este é um sector estratégico para o desenvolvimento, pelo que deve ser um sector nacionalizado, de forma a garantir políticas públicas que sirvam os interesses nacionais e da generalidade da população.

3-305

Urszula Gacek (PPE-DE), in writing. – How appropriate that the European Parliament is debating energy prices just as the summer ends. Many of my constituents are already watching the thermometer with a real sense of dread. Falling temperatures mean that they have to calculate whether they can justify switching on the oh-so-expensive heating.

The day the bill for a household's gas or electricity is expected is anticipated with dread. It is not just the poorest families who have to make the decision of which essential purchases they will have to do without this autumn and winter in order to keep themselves warm.

Households with small children or elderly residents are especially hard hit. They have the most limited budgets and at the same time the greatest requirement for energy.

Any action taken which alleviates the burden of energy costs placed on the most venerable in society gets my wholehearted support.

In the civilised heart of Europe, in the 21st century a warm home cannot be treated as a luxury item.

3-306

³ Ver Acta.

András Gyürk (PPE-DE), írásban. – Az elmúlt hónapokban az energiaárak soha nem látott emelkedése zajlott le a szemünk előtt. Az energiafogyasztással kapcsolatos költségek megugrása rendkívül káros következményekkel járhat Európa versenyképességét tekintve. Mindemellett a folyamat épp a leginkább kiszolgáltatott társadalmi rétegeket érinti súlyosan. Fokozza a problémát, hogy egyes országok politikai céloknak rendelik alá a rendelkezésükre álló nyersanyagkészletet. A fentiek miatt az energiaárak emelkedése a legérzékenyebb politikai kérdések egyikévé vált.

Bár az áremelkedések hatása alól egyetlen tagállam sem vonhatja ki magát, egyes országok különösen kiszolgáltatott helyzetben vannak. A sodródó és elhibázott kormányzati politikának is köszönhetően a magyar fogyasztók, csak 2008-ban, négyszer voltak kénytelenek elviselni a gázárak emelkedését. Éppen ezért az energiaárak emelkedése Magyarországon a társadalmi elégedetlenség egyik legfontosabb forrása lett.

Ahhoz, hogy az árak elviselhetőek maradjanak, összehangolt és következetes cselekvésre van szükség. Mindent meg kell tenni annak érdekében, hogy az energiaellátást meghatározó hosszú távú nemzetközi szerződések rendszere átlátható legyen. Mindemellett mind közösségi, mind tagállami szinten meg kell erősíteni a verseny élénkítését, valamint az energiahatékonyság javítását célzó intézkedéseket. Az Európai Uniónak érdemi lépéseket kell tennie a több lábon állás érdekében, elsősorban alternatív energiaszállítási útvonalak kiépítése révén. Egyúttal célszerűnek tartjuk a leginkább kiszolgáltatott rétegek védelmét célzó intézkedések összehangolását. Úgy véljük, hogy az áramárak emelkedése nem járhat együtt a társadalmi különbségek elmélyülésével.

3-307

Katrin Saks (PSE), kirjalikult. – On oluline, et eelseisval talvel teevad liikmesriikide valitsused kõik selleks, et toetada isikuid, kellele energia hindade tõus võib käia üle jõu. Ka Eestis ennustatakse hinnatõusu, mis võib küündida kuni 30-40 protsendini. Eriti olen ma mures selle üle, mis mõju avaldavad tõusvad energiahinnad madala sissetulega, vaeste ja toimetulekuraskustega rühmadele.

Olen sada protsenti nõus sellega, et liikmesriigid peavad võtma piisavad meetmed, et tagada teenuste taskukohased energiahinnad. Sealhulgas sihtotstarbeline sissetulekutoetus ja soodustused ning stiimulid elamumajandussektoris kodude energiatõhususe parandamiseks.

Samuti olen täielikult selle poolt, et liikmesriigid peaksid koostama "energiavaesusega" võitlemise tegevuskavasid. Kõigepealt on vaja defineerida energiavaesus. Selline definitsioon aitab keskenduda mingile eesmärgile. Peame tooma kõik inimesed energiavaesusest välja!

Erinevalt näiteks Suurbritanniast on kodus, Eestis, sõna "energiavaesus" päris võõras. Järjekordne näide eurosõnavarast, mis tahes-tahtmata kasutusse hiilib. Selle taga on aga päris huvitav mõte, millega peavad tutvuma seadusloojad.

Sihtotstarbelised toetused vanemas eas isikutele, paljulapselistele peredele ja puudega inimestele sellisel kujul nagu Suurbritannias "winter fuel payments", "cold weather payments" mängivad olulist rolli. Need meetmed on minu arvates suurepäraseks eeskujuks ka teistele.

Säästmisest räägitakse palju, aga tehakse vähe, kuigi see on kõige kiirem viis midagi muuta. Mida paremini isoleeritud ja energiasäästlikumad on meie majad, seda vähem peame kulutama toasooja hoidmisele. Kokkuhoid oleks suur, sest hooned tarbivad näiteks Eestis 40% primaarenergiast. Aga siin ei saa lootma jääda iga külmetaja ettevõtlikkusele.

3-308

IN THE CHAIR: Diana WALLIS

Vice-President

3-309

16 - Question Time (Commission)

3-310

President. – The next item is Question Time (B6-0462/2008).

The following questions are addressed to the Commission.

Part one

3-311

Question No 35 by Mairead McGuinness (H-0637/08)

Subject: Eurozone budget deficit limits

Under the rules of the European Union's Stability and Growth Pact, eurozone countries should remain inside a budget deficit limit of 3% of GDP.

Can the Commission provide an up-to-date assessment of current adherence to the rules?

Does the Commission consider current fiscal rules to be flexible enough to allow governments to react to economic trouble but strict enough to ensure the sustainability of public finances?

What, if any, are the circumstances in which eurozone countries may be permitted to exceed the 3% budget deficit?

3-312

Andris Piebalgs, Member of the Commission. – The subject of the first question is covered in detail in the Commission's 2008 report on public finances in the EMU. The only significant budgetary development which is not covered there is the recent launch of the excessive-deficit procedure for the United Kingdom.

Given that the budget deficit in the UK is expected by the Commission to exceed the 3% reference value in both fiscal years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010, in accordance with Article 104(6) of the Treaty, the Council has decided this year that an excessive deficit does exist in the United Kingdom. On the same occasion, in accordance with Article 104(7) of the Treaty, the Council set a deadline of one year for the correction of this excessive deficit.

More generally, in line with its mandate under the Treaty and the Stability and Growth Pact, the Commission is continuously monitoring the economic and budgetary development in Member States and stands ready to activate the instruments of budgetary surveillance where necessary.

The answer to the second question is positive, particularly with reference to the corrective arm. Since the 2005 reform, excessive deficits have been corrected, with currently only the UK and Hungary subject to the excessive-deficit procedure. Overall, in 2007 the euro area recorded its lowest structural fiscal deficit since 1973. Nevertheless, the application of the preventive arm has sometimes been uneven. So, in the April 2007 Berlin Declaration, the euro-area Finance Ministers committed themselves to reaching their medium-term budgetary objectives by 2010 at the latest. In principle this commitment was reiterated this year. At the same time, the 2005 reform introduced enough economic rationale into the pact to be able to react flexibly to serious disturbances where necessary, in particular through the revised flexibility clause and the incorporation of implicit liabilities in MTOs.

The functioning of the revised pact is well documented in the Commission reports on public finances in the EMU of 2006, 2007 and 2008 and in the accompanying communication. In this year's report, the methodology proposed for incorporating implicit liabilities in the MTOs of the preventive arm is also presented.

Regarding the third question, according to the reformed Stability and Growth Pact, only under tightly constrained circumstances are budget deficits in EU Member States permitted to exceed the 3% reference value without resulting in the existence of excessive deficit. In particular, these deficits will always have to be close and also temporary. In addition, either the excess over the reference value must be exceptional, and/or it must include a deficit occurring under circumstances of severe economic downturn, which is defined as negative growth or accumulated loss of output.

If the deficit is close and temporary, various other element factors always need to be taken into account, but this must happen in a very balanced way. Other relevant factors include, for instance, growth-enhancing expenditure on research and development. However, a direct deduction of any spending items from the deficit is excluded. Finally, in any event, an annual structural fiscal improvement of the order of 0.5% of GDP as a benchmark must be delivered.

3-313

Mairead McGuinness (PPE-DE). – I will take time to digest the detail in your answer. You mentioned in particular the UK. I have an interest, obviously, in the Irish situation and we are expecting a tough budget in Ireland in a number of weeks. I would like you to comment if you will on the conversations you have had with the Irish Minister about our deficit and, indeed, whether we will exceed and what impact that will have from an EU perspective.

3-314

Andris Piebalgs, Member of the Commission. – Well, we always follow facts. Any conversation between my colleague Joaquín Almunia and Irish colleagues is for more information, but we analyse the facts and figures at the end of the year. That is why, unfortunately, I cannot answer this question, but it is very understandable. As I said today, we have excessive-budget procedures against the UK and Hungary.

3-315

Richard Corbett (PSE). – Does the Commission accept that under the Treaty – as opposed to the Stability Pact – the 3% is not a limit, it is a reference value? The Commission's report on any Member State that exceeds that reference value has to take account – and I quote Article 104(3) of the Treaty – 'of all other relevant factors including the medium-term economic and budgetary position of the Member States'.

Does he not think that in the last few days and weeks the economic positions of Member States have necessarily changed, and perhaps warrant an extra degree of flexibility?

3-316

Andris Piebalgs, Member of the Commission. – I think we have a rather good track record when we start the procedures. Three per cent is a threshold that we really looked at. If it is exceeded, then, in very exceptional circumstances, we will not start the procedures. So, basically, 3% is the threshold that we are looking at, and I think we will follow the procedures we have always followed. We will not change the goalposts, even in the current situation.

3-317

President. – Question No 36 by Olle Schmidt (H-0668/08)

Subject: Mortgage crisis and financial regulations

During the spring, there were further economic problems and strains in the global financial markets, caused particularly by the spreading mortgage crisis. With both Fannie Mae and Freddy Mac now receiving capital injections from the US State, the mortgage market is rocking on its foundations. I was in Washington in July and met a number of Senators who believed that the bottom of the mortgage crisis had not yet been reached and this would not happen before 2010.

How long does the Commission think the financial crisis will continue? What does the Commission think of the signal sent to the market by the USA bailing out companies in financial straits, even though these are not generally protected by the State - first Bear Stearns and now Fannie May and Freddy Mac?

Finally, what does the Commission think of the current and upcoming reviews of existing legislation such as Lamfalussy and the Capital Requirements Directive, given the major risk nowadays of the changes spilling over and damaging the competitiveness of the European financial market?

3-318

Andris Piebalgs, Member of the Commission. – International financial markets have now been in turmoil for about one year and the interaction between accumulating losses in the financial system and the deteriorating global economic outlook make it very difficult to predict when the turmoil will end. The current situation in financial markets illustrates how the problem that seemed initially limited to a specific market segment, for the United States and sub-prime mortgages, can rapidly affect the international financial system as a whole.

As losses linked to the US sub-prime mortgages have spread via interconnected markets and complex financial products, several key credit markets have been disrupted. Problems in the functioning of these markets have been felt, though, most severely within the banking sector, where substantial losses have been incurred and market liquidity shortages have required support by central banks.

Nevertheless, a number of financial institutions in the United States and in Europe have been rescued from insolvency after experiencing serious difficulty in accessing liquidity. These public sector interventions have reflected concerns about risks to financial stability and have been met by a generally positive response from financial markets.

In the United States, as a consequence of the mis-selling of sub-prime mortgages in the past, reset of these mortgage contracts is expected to continue until mid-2009. Problems in the international financial market remain acute – you have already discussed these issues today – driven partly by developments in the financial sector itself and partly by the implications of the deteriorating economic environment.

Uncertainty about the ultimate scale and location of credit losses continues to undermine investor confidence, and the total losses so far disclosed by banks remain well below estimates for overall losses across the financial system based on various projections of future mortgage losses.

Banks are increasingly forced to recapitalise, often at high cost and in difficult market conditions. Moreover, problems in the banking sector are increasingly reflected in tightening lending standards and reduced bank lending activity.

The implied higher financing costs and the reduced access to credit are likely to interact with other headwinds, such as high oil prices and rising inflation, facing the global economy.

On this basis, the economic outlook for the EU and the euro area economy has further deteriorated since the Commission's spring 2008 forecast. Economic prospects vary across the Member States. As economic conditions deteriorate, the pressure on bank balance sheets is set to continue.

Fragile market conditions require continued vigilance from public authorities, notably central banks, supervisors and finance ministers, to monitor market developments. The need for further interventions in the case of systemic crisis cannot be ruled out.

In a broader context, concrete actions to address weaknesses in the framework for financial markets are being addressed. Further to the Economic and Financial Affairs Council discussion in October 2007, a road map of regulatory actions has been adopted.

While this road map applies only to the EU, it is consistent with corresponding initiatives at a global level. The objectives of the road map are to enhance transparency, address valuation issues, strengthen prudential supervision of banks and examine structural market issues by analysing relevant weaknesses in the regulatory framework and formulating appropriate policy responses. The Commission is currently working to ensure that this road map is delivered on time, including concrete initiatives on enhancing transparency for investors, markets and regulators, revised capital requirements for banks and the regulation of credit-rating agencies.

In this respect the Commission has completed its external consultation on proposed changes to the Capital Requirements Directive and intends to come forward with a proposal during the coming months.

It is also considering legislation on credit-rating agencies. In this context, a public consultation was launched at the end of July 2008.

Progress has also been achieved with regard to supervisory cooperation across borders within the EU with the entry into force of a new memorandum of understanding at the beginning of July 2008.

More generally, one of the aims of the Lamfalussy review is the improvement of the new supervisory arrangement where the Commission plans, for instance, to revise the decisions on the EU committees of supervisors.

In all its efforts, the Commission is well aware of the global dimension of the required response and in this respect we are coordinating our responses with our partners.

3-319

Olle Schmidt (ALDE). – Sometimes a question flies away, and this is perhaps a bit obsolete, I must admit, but I thank the Commission for giving such a fair answer. My appeal, and my worry, is that we are over-reacting, and I hope the Commission could consider that. I agree that we should act and react, but we should not overdo it, because we need a balanced approach. Otherwise – and I think that is something we should consider in the long term – we could harm growth in Europe. So, I think, a balanced approach; and I rely on the Commission to ensure these measures are implemented in an appropriate way.

3-320

Andris Piebalgs, Member of the Commission. – I think the Commission is really balanced. We have had one hour of debate when a lot of Members of Parliament called for very hasty action, but the Commission is really taking a balanced approach.

3-321

Danutė Budreikaitė (ALDE). – Šiandien mes diskutavome apie pasaulinę finansų krizę ir jos įtaką mūsų ekonomikai. Ir diskusijose viena parlamentarė išsakė, kad jos šalyje jau bankrutavo bankas. Ar turite kokių žinių, ar iš tikrųjų gresia mūsų šalių, Europos Sąjungos šalių, bankų bankrotai? Ir kokių prevencinių priemonių galima būtų imtis?

3-322

Paul Rübzig (PPE-DE). – Mich würde interessieren, wie es im Energiebereich eigentlich jetzt mit realen und Finanzkäufen aussieht. Gibt es hier Vorschläge der Kommission, in den Statistiken klar zu zeigen, was real an Energie gekauft wird und was nur am Finanzmarkt gehandelt wird, und haben Sie auch vor, eine Regelung für Leerverkäufe zu treffen?

3-323

Andris Piebalgs, Member of the Commission. – My country, Latvia, has plenty of banks, and definitely insolvency could happen. I believe that we have rather an advanced market. But it happens under central bank supervision, and at least there was no turmoil whatsoever on the Latvian financial markets. Therefore, I can assure you that the Latvian financial market is very stable and there has been no perturbation. But it is very important to emphasise the role bank supervision should play and that all the conditions for this supervision are fulfilled by commercial banks.

Concerning energy purchases, if the honourable Member is agreeable, I will reply in writing because I think it is a very specific question and I would hesitate to give a concrete figure.

3-324

President. – Question No 37 by Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (H-0679/08)

Subject: Air safety

The recent Spanair disaster in Madrid in which many people were killed and the forced landing of a Ryanair Boeing 737 in Limoges in France, in which 26 people were injured, once again raise questions about whether the Community's arsenal of legislation and controls governing air

safety is being adequately and effectively implemented. Regulation (EC) No. 1899/2006⁴ specifically lays down the obligation of airlines to carry out accident prevention and flight safety programmes and the requirements applicable to the operation of any civil aeroplane (certification, supervision, maintenance, instruments and equipment, safety, etc.).

Does the Commission consider that these provisions are satisfactory and adequate, or does it believe that a more stringent control framework should be established for airlines? How does the Commission judge the implementation to date of Directive 2003/42/EC⁵ on occurrence reporting in civil aviation (adoption of a system of notification of accidents and serious incidents)? Does it consider that the aid provided so far for control mechanisms and early warning systems in respect of airlines with a dubious safety record and for the compliance inspections carried out by the European Aviation Safety Agency in respect of the airline authorities of Member States and the data released for establishing a blacklist is satisfactory?

3-325

Andris Piebalgs, Member of the Commission. – With regard to the application of the Community rules regarding aircraft operations, the Commission has no indication of weaknesses or safety-related loopholes in the respective air safety legislation which only recently became applicable in the Community on 16 July 2008. The set of technical requirements for aircraft operations is constantly undergoing changes reflecting the state of scientific knowledge. This is achieved through constant monitoring of the performance of operators; hence, at this stage, a more stringent control framework is not deemed to be required by the Commission.

With regard to the application of Community rules regarding occurrence reporting, the Commission is satisfied that all Member States have set up a mandatory reporting system and collect the information in national databases. These rules contain a system of exchange of information and provide for the dissemination of information. The exchange of information is still not fully operational, because it requires the agreement on individual protocols between each Member State and the Commission for the updating of the central repository in accordance with the Commission Regulation. The Member States and the Commission are actively working on this matter, but information is already available at national level at this stage.

The dissemination of information is correctly implemented on the basis of the Commission Regulation of 24 September 2007. The implementation of the protection of information has been transposed into national legislation, but only time will enable us to judge the efficiency of these provisions, which constitute the cornerstone of good reporting culture by ensuring the necessary trust of the reporters.

With regard to the control of airlines with a dubious safety record, the Commission can reassure the honourable Member that it is applying scrupulously the provisions of the Community rules regarding the imposition of operating bans on air carriers not complying with safety requirements. Today in Europe 54% of all aircraft ramp inspections concern European operators. That means that the Commission pays equal attention to the safety performance not only of European but also of non-European airlines. Thanks to its constant and close cooperation, the civil aviation authorities in Member States are stepping up the supervision of their carriers. The results of the ramp inspections have been a particularly successful preventive instrument to avoid air carriers being faced with operating restrictions in the Community.

With regard to the standardisation inspection of national civil aviation authorities by EASA, the Commission should like to reassure the honourable Member that it is thanks to the close cooperation and mutual trust established between the civil authorities in the Member States and EASA that sustainable solutions are being agreed and worked out between the Agency and the inspected authorities. Evidence of the good cooperation is the fact that the Agency has been able to double the number of inspections since the relevant rules were adopted in 2006, and the safeguard measures imposed on a Member State at the end of that year were lifted this week.

3-326

Ρόδη Κράτσα-Τσαγκαροπούλου (PPE-DE). – Ευχαριστώ πολύ την Επιτροπή για την απάντησή της αλλά διερωτώμαι, κύριε Επίτροπε, τα αεροπορικά δυστυχήματα γίνονται με μία συχνότητα που μπορεί να μην είναι τόσο μεγάλη σε σχέση με τη συχνότητα των πτήσεων, δεν παύουν όμως να είναι δυστυχήματα πολύνεκρα τα οποία δημιουργούν αμφιβολίες στην κοινή γνώμη και κλονίζουν την εμπιστοσύνη στην πολιτική μας και στους ελέγχους μας.

Δεν είδα να προτείνετε κάποια μέτρα, δεν είδα να αναθέτετε κάποιες καινούργιες αρμοδιότητες ή κάποιες αποστολές στον Οργανισμό για την Ασφάλεια. Δεν πρόκειται μόνο για τις αεροπορικές εταιρίες, πρόκειται επίσης και για τις πολιτικές υπηρεσίες που είναι υπεύθυνες για τους ελέγχους στα κράτη μέλη. Πρόκειται και για τη μαύρη λίστα: με τι κριτήρια γίνεται; Θα τα ενισχύσετε; Δεν μου δώσατε μια απάντηση που να βρίσκεται στο ύψος των συνεπειών αυτών των ατυχημάτων αλλά και των προβλημάτων που δημιουργούνται εκτός από τις τραγικές συνέπειες των ατυχημάτων σε ανθρώπινες ζωές.

3-327

⁴ OJ L377, 27.12.2006, p.1.

⁵ OJ L167, 4.7.2003, p.23.

Andris Piebalgs, Member of the Commission. – I can assure you that the safety system in Europe is at the highest level. It is very clear that it is implemented, and we have all the measures in place.

Unfortunately it does not prevent accidents from happening. I am very sorry that people have been killed, but it is not because safety levels in the EU have not been satisfactory.

As soon as we know the results, what caused the accident, we will carry out analyses, and if there is a need to strengthen some of the measures, it will be done.

But today I can assure you that Europe's aviation safety meets the highest standards that exist anywhere in the world.

3-328

Jörg Leichtfried (PSE). – Die Situation ist Folgende: Die EASA bekommt jetzt immer mehr Zuständigkeiten, um ein einheitliches Niveau an Sicherheit in Europa zu garantieren. Das ist gut so! Jetzt erfolgt die zweite Welle der Zuständigkeitserweiterung. Was aber nicht passiert ist, ist, dass das Budget der EASA erhöht oder anders finanziert wird. Es gibt da zwei Möglichkeiten. Die erste Möglichkeit ist, man stellt nicht alle Agenturen gleich. Ich gehe nicht so weit wie manche Kollegen, die sagen, würden einige Agenturen aufhören zu arbeiten, würde das niemand merken. Die EASA ist eben anders. Wenn die EASA kein Geld hat, geht es um Menschenleben.

Die zweite Möglichkeit ist eine Drittfinanzierung, nämlich die EASA über eine Ticketabgabe besser zu finanzieren. Meine Frage: Welche der beiden Möglichkeiten würden Sie favorisieren?

Frau Präsidentin, gestatten Sie mir, außerhalb der Tagesordnung noch zu sagen: Ich würde dem polnischen Kollegen, der sich über die Sitzungsführung geäußert hat, vollinhaltlich zustimmen.

3-329

Andris Piebalgs, Member of the Commission. – For any agency, my view is that direct financing through taxpayers' money is the best way because, with its own income, you can never guarantee that public service, exactly, is delivered. So, I believe that the best way is for the budget to finance any agency, but if there is the possibility of supplementary funds being raised, it should be evaluated. In any case, each budget is discussed according to the procedure and tough regulations imposed by European legislation.

3-330

Part two

3-331

President. – Question No 38 by Emmanouil Angelakas (H-0612/08)

Subject: Safety of nuclear power plant

The European Union is now being faced with the immediate problem of satisfying ever-increasing energy demand. Given that oil and, natural gas supplies and renewable sources of energies can only meet some of this demand, the major role of nuclear energy in resolving the problem is undeniable. At the same time, European citizens are becoming particularly anxious about the safety of nuclear power plant and proper nuclear waste management, particularly following recent leaks of radioactive material from nuclear plant in France and Slovenia.

It is therefore only natural that a large number of questions should arise concerning the safety of nuclear power plant in all EU countries and of the nuclear power plants to be constructed in Turkey and other Balkan countries and the guarantees provided concerning their safe operation. Has the Commission made a survey of the need to build nuclear power stations? What are its conclusions? Finally, has it calculated the extent of EU dependency on nuclear energy in the near future?

3-332

Andris Piebalgs, Member of the Commission. – The EU currently relies on nuclear energy for 30% of its electricity production, and it accounts for two thirds of the EU's carbon-free electricity. By 2030, energy demand in the EU is expected to grow by 20% and electricity demand by 38%.

As a result, the share of electricity in the final energy demand would grow from 20% to 23%. Electricity-generation capacity is forecast to grow by 31%, but, under the PRIMES baseline assumptions studied by the Commission, the share of nuclear energy will decrease from 30% to 20% in electricity generation.

Also, the International Energy Agency in its recently published EU energy policy review concluded that 'EU nuclear generating capacity will decline from now on unless significant investment is forthcoming in the near future for plant lifetime extensions and the replacement of facilities reaching the end of their operational lives.'

It is for each individual Member State to decide whether or not to rely on nuclear power for the generation of electricity and launch new projects or go ahead with a nuclear phase-out policy. Should the Member States decide to invest in new

nuclear power generation, the Commission will exercise its available powers to ensure that the new projects in this field meet the highest standards of safety, security and non-proliferation as required by the Euratom Treaty.

The assurance of the high level of safety, security and safeguards throughout the entire lifecycle of a nuclear installation also represents a priority in the context of EU enlargement, and in relations with third countries through the Instrument on Nuclear Safety Cooperation.

The Commission is following the overall picture of ongoing investments in the nuclear energy sector in the EU. In 2007, the Commission adopted the Nuclear Illustrative Programme which provides an overview of the status of the EU nuclear sector. At present, the Commission is updating this Communication, as part of the Commission's overall Strategic Energy Review. It should be available before the end of 2008.

In addition, the Commission launched two initiatives to further debate the future of nuclear energy and to identify requirements for its development. The first is the 'High Level Group on Nuclear Safety and Waste Management' focusing on identifying safety issues for priority handling and recommending actions to be taken at EU level.

The second, the 'European Nuclear Energy Forum', intends to provide a platform for a broad and transparent stakeholder discussion on the opportunities and risks of nuclear energy.

3-333

Εμμανουήλ Αγγελάκας (PPE-DE). – Κυρία Πρόεδρε, κύριε Επίτροπε, καταλαβαίνω ότι θα περιμένουμε το τέλος του έτους για να δούμε τα αποτελέσματα αυτών των μελετών για να εξάγουμε κάποια καλύτερα συμπεράσματα.

Ήθελα από τον Επίτροπο να σχολιάσει την εξής πληροφορία που είναι γνωστή από πέρσι: η Ρωσία κατασκευάζει ένα πλωτό πυρηνικό εργοστάσιο το οποίο θα ολοκληρωθεί το 2010 και το οποίο θα σταλεί σε απομακρυσμένη περιοχή της Ρωσίας. Προβλέπεται να κατασκευάσει άλλα έξι τα οποία προτίθεται να διαθέσει και σε χώρες που πιθανόν να το ζητήσουν και έχουν εκδηλώσει ενδιαφέρον.

Πώς το σχολιάζετε αυτό από άποψη ασφαλείας;

3-334

Andris Piebalgs, Member of the Commission. – Russia is also part of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and Russian nuclear technology corresponds to international standards. So, if any country would like to have Russian nuclear technology, there are some international rules that Russia is following.

For the EU, Russian supply technology could be used, provided that the Commission's opinion is positive towards it and, from the standard level, Russian technology competes with other technology providers.

So merely because it is Russian does not mean that it is less safe.

3-335

Justas Vincas Paleckis (PSE). – Commissioner, I would like to ask you once more about our famous Ignalina atomic plant.

Recently our Prime Minister met the President of the European Commission, Mr Barroso, and in our papers there were some interpretations that there is a gap; there is a possibility of prolonging the work of this station.

What is your opinion, and what would you recommend to the Lithuanian Government in this situation?

3-336

Zita Pleštinská (PPE-DE). – Atómové elektrárne a jadrové zariadenia patria z bezpečnostného hľadiska k najprísnejšie sledovaným.

Perspektívy využívania jadrovej energetiky na Slovensku, aktivity, ktoré vyžadujú dostavbu 3. a 4. bloku Mochovce, a záväzok Slovenskej republiky odstaviť bloky v Jaslovských Bohuniciach v roku 2006 a 2008 predstavujú pre Slovensko vážne úlohy.

Prečo je, pán komisár, politická opatrnosť na strane Komisie v prípade dostavby jadrovej elektrárne v Mochovciach? Má Komisia reálne výhrady voči jej bezpečnosti?

3-337

Andris Piebalgs, Member of the Commission. – I will start with Ignalina, because I have talked about this issue many times.

During the accession negotiations it was agreed by Lithuania and the negotiating parties – the other Member States – that because of safety concerns it should be closed by the end of 2009. This Treaty is primary law and it is ratified by all Member States. The Commission is not part of this process. The Commission is the guardian of the Treaty and its role is really to see that the law is being observed.

Therefore I cannot give you any positive news about any change of position, because the Commission position is decided by the Treaty. What could be done? I believe that in the Treaty there are also general provisions for support for Lithuania's transformations in the energy sector – an overall package, if I am not mistaken, of EUR 1.3 billion, and this should address areas that could strengthen the supply of energy resources to Lithuania, by strengthening interconnections, by financing energy efficiency measures, by financing alternative supplies. So that is the way to go, but, at least in my opinion, there is no way in which the Treaty could be changed, because only an intergovernmental conference and ratification can change a primary law of the European Union.

As for Mochovce, in the Commission's opinion it is actually the same question as for Ignalina – it is not a different approach. But, for Mochovce, we analysed the situation, and in today's world there are particular requirements for new challenges we face. We have also seen not only safety but security concerns where aircraft could be used to target nuclear installations. The technology proposed for the new reactors did not sufficiently address this issue. That is why we asked the operator, together with the Slovak nuclear energy control authorities, to take some supplementary measures that would guarantee that, even if a nuclear power plant was targeted in this way, it would sustain no permanent damage.

3-338

President. – Question No 39 by Liam Aylward (H-0624/08)

Subject: Investment in first generation, priority for second generation

The Turmes draft report (2008/0016/COD) on the proposal for a Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, currently making its way through Parliamentary committees, is reconsidering the Council and Commission biofuel and renewable energy mandatory target in transport, because second generation research and development has not attained a breakthrough.

Is it not the case, however, that we should set out a clear regulatory policy for investors in first-generation biofuels? Why? These are the very same investors in second- and third-generation research and development who will build plants which can be easily converted to the needs of second- and third-generation technology. They cannot afford not to invest in R&D for next generation plants, as their plants will become obsolete.

3-339

Andris Piebalgs, Member of the Commission. – The Commission agrees with the opinion of the honourable Member that clear regulatory policy is needed for investors in first-generation biofuels in order to get to the second-generation biofuels.

The Commission sees the first-generation biofuels as a bridge to the second-generation biofuels using lignocellulosic materials as a feedstock.

Without a good domestic production base for first-generation biofuels, innovative and efficient products will have difficulties finding their way into the market. Having said this, clear regulatory policy is paramount not only to spur growth in the biofuel industry but also to avoid negative effects on the environment. The development of biofuels should also not be to the detriment of food security and also should not influence the prices of food.

At the same time, there should be no doubt that the Commission wants to accelerate the development of second-generation biofuels.

The proposed directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources clearly specifies that the contribution made by biofuels produced from waste, residues and non-food cellulosic material shall be considered to be twice that made by other biofuels, when counting towards national biofuels obligations.

Further to this, Member States will also be required to report on how they have structured their support schemes in favour of second-generation biofuels.

The EU is also providing significant support to the ongoing research to develop second-generation production techniques. The activities under the EU's seventh Research Framework Programme have an increased focus on second-generation biofuels and 'biomass to liquids' processes in particular.

Research should include technically and economically based pilot studies to ensure not only an attractive economic benefit-cost ratio but also one that yields net benefits toward the Community's goals of curtailing climate change and affordable food prices for all citizens of the world.

So Commission policy and the Commission proposal were really tailored to the need to develop second-generation biofuels, the need to use also, if necessary, those of the first generation, but in a sustainable way.

3-340

Liam Aylward (UEN). – Mr Commissioner, can I ask you why you think the European Union is losing the information battle on the advantage of strong and consistent biofuel targets, particularly in a world of more limited supply? I would like to ask this in relation to biodiesel, which has the potential to make a significant contribution to enhancing the European Union's security of energy supply. Biodiesel can be produced in accordance with sustainability principles without endangering food supply – which you have referred to – and biodiesel is the only renewable energy where Europe holds a strong, wide leadership.

3-341

Andris Piebalgs, Member of the Commission. – The Commission proposal does not discourage development of the biodiesel industry and its use in the transport sector, particularly as the refining sector very specifically suffers from a lack of diesel production in the European Union. So it is not that we are discouraging it, but I believe that if there is no clear sustainability requirement the damage done by one unsuccessful project will be to the detriment of the whole industry, because the focus is so strong now on biofuels that we cannot afford to have any unsuccessful projects, because that would mean the end of the whole industry.

To explain why I feel so strongly about biofuel policy, what we have in transport is: firstly, more efficient cars – and in this House there have been some very tough debates on cars; secondly, there is modal shift, but people still prefer in a lot of cases to use the car; and the third is replacement with alternative fuels – one of the alternative fuels is biofuel, but we should take into account that it is produced on the land that could also produce food products, so that is why I believe that although this measure is positive – and it is very clearly positive – all the necessary precautions need to be taken.

3-342

Teresa Riera Madurell (PSE). – Señor Comisario, en relación con los biocarburantes a menudo se mezclan mitos y realidades que fácilmente confunden a la ciudadanía, causando perjuicios a la investigación, a la innovación y a las inversiones industriales en estas materias.

¿Se ha planteado la Comisión lanzar a nivel europeo alguna campaña informativa, rigurosa y objetiva que clarifique esta situación?

3-343

Avril Doyle (PPE-DE). – Indeed, the two questions could almost have been taken together, but the subliminal message, I think, in my Irish colleague's question, if I am doing justice to it, is that he would like to see – or that the legislation might favour – first-generation investment, or at least that we should not apologise for legislation favouring first-generation investment, as that leads on to second- and third-generation.

I would come at it slightly differently, and I would like ask you through the chair, Commissioner: should not all legislation in this area, as a matter of principle, be technology-neutral?

3-344

Andris Piebalgs, Member of the Commission. – I will perhaps start with the second point. I think we need to be aware, from the debate on oil, that we could face a similar situation with an unpredictable growth in demand in other sectors, and food is the one that is a really basic need for people. So we need technology to give us a broader opportunity. Broader opportunity definitely comes when you use things that usually just go to waste. So for this purpose I believe that we clearly need to promote second-generation. I would say that perhaps even this is not sufficient, because there we do not have the risks. We need new technologies. It is not just that we would like to replace oil with biofuels, but that we have technology that really guarantees that we do not have this competition, or limited competition. That is why – even if in theory all technologies should be equal – I still believe that the second generation is worthy of particular attention.

With regard to education, I believe that this is a broader part of education. There are educational programmes, because generally this is not education about biofuels but about sustainability, energy efficiency and a quite different attitude towards the environment and knowing that whatever you use is taken from somewhere and is always doing damage. Sometimes, in the debate on biofuels, we forget that oil is also produced and sometimes it is produced from tar sands. Recently some pictures have been published about where it is produced. It is not a farm and it is really also a challenge. So I believe that each of us, when using energy, should try to use it as efficiently as possible and follow the trend of using greener energy, supporting this even if it costs a bit more.

3-345

President. – Question No 40 by Avril Doyle (H-0632/08)

When determining targets for biofuels should priority not be given to biodiesel rather than bioethanol?

3-346

Andris Piebalgs, Member of the Commission. – The Commission recognises that there is greater demand in the European Union for biodiesel as a replacement for diesel fuel rather than bioethanol, which could reduce petrol consumption.

With this in mind it can be expected that in the years to come biodiesel consumption in the EU will remain higher than that of bioethanol. Nevertheless, the Commission believes that it is not necessary to have technologically specific targets as both biodiesel and bioethanol can have an important role to play in reducing the oil dependence of the European transport sector.

Having said this, it is second-generation which promotes biodiesel or bioethanol independently, but still demand in the EU market is definitely bigger for diesel. I do not believe that we should discriminate between ethanol and diesel, but we should encourage second-generation instead of first-generation.

3-347

Avril Doyle (PPE-DE). – Could you comment please and give your views on the whole issue of the life-cycle sustainability for biofuels, or transport fuels generally, in relation to the Turmes report? In other words, on the overall CO₂ reductions from start to finish, including the production of the crop, the production method, the transport, refining and use. Where do you come down in the argument concerning the percentage of CO₂ reduction? Are you in the 40-45% or 35% camp?

3-348

Andris Piebalgs, Member of the Commission. – I would be in the 35% camp, because it is important that, if we put requirements that completely ban biofuels from the market and there is too high a risk of leverage, we will move to oil – and deeper – and perhaps to coal and liquid technology.

In my opinion this is worse than really keeping 35% as the threshold, and a 35% threshold is clearly saving CO₂.

So I will stay with 35%. It is now up to negotiations with Parliament and Council: if it comes to be a different figure, well, I will live with this figure, but I think 35% is rather tough, because in the college, when the figure was discussed, we were also in different camps, and this is already compromised from the two camps: one that believes in biofuels and one that is afraid of biofuels. So 35% was actually the compromise.

3-349

Zita Pleštinská (PPE-DE). – Pani predsedníčka, dnešný deň sa nesie v duchu hľadania ciest v oblasti alternatívnych zdrojov energie. Spolu s kolegom Rackom sme sa zúčastnili v júli na Novom Zélande – upútalo ma využívanie geotermálnej energie. V mojom regióne, na Slovensku v Starej Ľubovni, sú takéto geotermálne zdroje, ich využívanie si vyžaduje veľa finančných prostriedkov.

Aký je postoj Komisie k využívaniu geotermálnych zdrojov pre výrobu energie?

3-350

Reinhard Rack (PPE-DE). – Ich möchte eine Frage ansprechen, die hier noch nicht wirklich Teil der Diskussion war. Biokraftstoffe, Biodiesel, Bioethanol – da gibt es unterschiedliche Effizienzwerte und unterschiedliche Zuordnungen, auch was die CO₂-Belastung betrifft. Was nicht wirklich angesprochen wurde, ist der unmittelbare Energieeinsatz in der Gewinnung der verschiedenen Kraftstoffe. Könnten Sie, Herr Kommissar, dazu auch etwas sagen?

3-351

Andris Piebalgs, Member of the Commission. – We are very positive about the development of geothermal, and I believe that the draft directive now being discussed, and the climate-energy package, will facilitate the use of renewable power, including geothermal.

Why is it not being used now? Well, partly because it is not sufficient to focus on the renewables. It is much easier to pass the costs of fossil fuels to the consumers, because to use renewable energy, like geothermal, you need capital investment, and for this you need a specific environment for, and focus on, renewables. So I believe that a renewable energy source, like geothermal, will have much better developments in the EU, not only for power production but, for example, in Copenhagen it is used for district heating. So there are different applications of this technology, and it will grow in the European Union.

Concerning energy content: it is true that biofuels have a low energy content and you need bigger volumes, and I think we should not be mistaken that we will replace oil with biofuels. But at least here I drive a car that is powered by biofuel, and its only disadvantage is that I need to go to a service station much more often, but I do not mind this. That is why I would say that it is different, but not so different as to make me change my behaviour.

That will be a problem with the electric car. At the moment it is very much slower, at least at this stage – city-run cars. Perhaps there is a need for some kind of hybrid, because if you travel a longer distance, electric vehicles might not be satisfactory – but for biofuel-driven vehicles there is no problem.

3-352

President. – Question No 41 was ruled inadmissible and Questions Nos 42 to 45 will be answered in writing. As they deal with the same subject, Questions 46, 47, 48 and 49 will be taken together:

3-353

Question No 46 by Georgios Papastamkos (H-0613/08)

Subject: Price fixing in the telecommunications sector

Following the regulatory action taken by the Commission seeking to rationalise roaming charges, the Commissioner responsible for the information society announced plans to cut charges for mobile data roaming services from the summer of 2009, targeting principally the disparities between SMS messaging service charges.

What is the Commissioner's response to the telecommunications sector which is levelling charges of populism and attempted market manipulation through 'price fixing' in place of measures to create a healthy competitive environment in the telecommunications sector? How will she respond to the open hostility of the telecommunications sector to the above plans? Does she consider that price fixing policies should have been adopted in other sectors of the EU internal market also?

Question No 47 by Giovanna Corda (H-0618/08)

Subject: Lowering the price of SMSs sent or received in a different Member State (roaming)

The European Regulators' Group (ERG), which comprises the 27 European regulators, has been calling on the Commission for a year to cap prices for SMSs sent or received in a different Member State other than the user's state of origin. The Commission gave operators until July 2008 to lower the price of SMSs and the internet in the case of messages sent or received when roaming in the European Union. The operators have not responded, and are penalising consumers heavily.

Can the Commission state what measures it intends to take to force operators to lower the exorbitant prices charged to consumers for SMSs and the internet when roaming within the EU and whether it plans to extend beyond 2010 the cap on mobile communications prices introduced in 2007?

Question No 48 by Brian Crowley (H-0626/08)

Subject: EU Roaming Regulation

What has been the exact progress to date vis-à-vis the EU Roaming Regulation, and has there been success for the voluntary reduction of roaming prices for text messages and mobile data services in the mobile industry?

Question No 49 by Marian Harkin (H-0645/08)

Subject: Roaming charges

In light of the Commission's commitment to set regulatory caps on cross-border text and data roaming fees, what steps has the Commission taken to ensure that inadvertent roaming charges do not occur for people living in and travelling to border areas of a particular country?

3-354

Viviane Reding, Member of the Commission. – You know that the Commission yesterday decided on a proposal for the second roaming package – this time on SMS and data roaming. Parliament will remember very well that this analysis of the market was done at the request of Parliament which, during the voice roaming package in June last year, put in Article 11 of the Regulation that the Commission should come back to SMS and data roaming in due course in 2008. That is what the Commission did, and you know that we have proposed price caps.

That brings me to the question of price fixing. No, we do not fix prices. We fix ceilings under which operators have the flexibility to compete and to innovate, either with roaming offers below the maximum oral tariff ceilings or with other packages which customers might then choose. So, flexibility is given.

As regards SMS, the evidence suggests that prices have been more or less static over the last year and remain at levels that cannot be justified by reference to the underlying cost, and the SMS market presents roughly the same problems as the market in voice roaming.

In February this year, I went to the GSM Association World Congress in Barcelona and warned the industry. I spoke personally with industry leaders to tell them that they had time to bring down prices by themselves and that the deadline was 1 July. What we saw is that the prices between last year and this year for SMS roaming did not move at all. Our proposal therefore is to cap the retail charge at a maximum of 11 cents and the wholesale charge at a maximum of 4 cents.

Turning to data roaming, we have included actions to deal with the very famous cases of bill shocks where customers have to pay several thousand euros when they come back from one or two weeks abroad, because they used their mobile phone for data downloading in the same way as at home where a data download per megabyte could cost between 5 and 15 cents. Abroad, it can go up to 16 euros per megabyte so you can imagine what kind of bills you can receive if you are now aware of what is happening.

That is why we have proposed several measures. The first is a transparency measure to inform citizens crossing a border what data roaming will cost. The second is a measure where the consumer can fix, together with his operator, a ceiling over which he does not want to pay any more so that communications are then cut; and the third is because we have seen that the whole problem here comes from highly overpriced wholesale costs which one operator imposes on another. That is why we propose a wholesale cap at one euro per megabyte, hoping that normal price structures can then be developed and offered to consumers.

3-355

Γεώργιος Παπαστάμκος (PPE-DE). – Κυρία Πρόεδρε, πριν υποβάλω το συμπληρωματικό μου ερώτημα, θα ήθελα να συγχαρώ την Επίτροπο, κυρία Reding, για την υπερψήφιση σήμερα του πακέτου των ηλεκτρονικών επικοινωνιών από το Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο. Είναι μια ακόμη πρωτοβουλία που φέρει τη σφραγίδα σας, κυρία Επίτροπε, όπως τη σφραγίδα σας φέρει και η πολιτική που με αποφασιστικότητα προωθήσατε για τις χρεώσεις περιαγωγής (roaming).

Αλλά μήπως η πολιτική αυτή για το roaming εμπεριέχει τον κίνδυνο να ωθήσει ευρωπαϊκές εταιρίες κινητής τηλεφωνίας να εφαρμόσουν μία πρακτική η οποία ακολουθείται σε τρίτες, μη ευρωπαϊκές χώρες, όπου οι καταναλωτές πληρώνουν όχι μόνον όταν καλούν αλλά και όταν λαμβάνουν κλήσεις;

3-356

Marian Harkin (ALDE). – Firstly I would like to congratulate the Commissioner on the roaming package. I think it will be positive news for many EU phone users. My particular question referred to inadvertent roaming charges, when people are travelling close to a border – and indeed I have plenty of experience of that myself. I heard what you said about the transparency initiative, namely that, when crossing borders, users would be informed as to what the cost would be. That was not in reference to telephone calls, but I just want to ask if you have any initiatives in that area and, if you have not, would you consider the transparency initiative that you mentioned a few moments ago in your reply?

3-357

Viviane Reding, Member of the Commission. – Madam President, first I would like to thank the honourable Member of Parliament for his congratulations, but I would like to pass his congratulations on to Parliament, because Parliament, in a very difficult situation with five directives on the table on very complicated matters, has done a wonderful job. I might not agree 100% on everything Parliament has voted, but what Parliament has done today is put the single market for telecoms on the agenda. Now the Council has to look at what Parliament has proposed and try to find a common way in order to make this telecom package become a reality for industry and consumers.

With regard to the question on roaming, is there not a risk that, because we bring down prices on roaming, the operators try to raise prices in another way? We already heard last year, when we introduced the voice roaming package, that the operators would be forced to raise the national cost for voice mobiles, but what we saw was just the contrary. So what happened? Firstly, citizens, instead of switching off their phones when they are abroad, are now using them. So the volume on voice has gone up tremendously, by 34% in one year only.

Secondly, because there is competition at national level, national prices have not risen but have gone down by 10-12%. The honourable Member recalls the polemics which were going on at a certain time about 'bill and keep'. It is up to the operators what kind of billing system they want to adopt. Our European way of doing it is not to use 'bill and keep'. That is the American way of doing it. I have just seen that prices in the United States are lower than prices here, and I told the operator very clearly that they should choose their business model. It is not for the Commissioner to do that, but they have to be on terms with their customers. The only thing that concerns me is that there is transparency, that prices do not go

above price limits which are unacceptable, and that all European consumers can feel at home when they are travelling in Europe and when they are communicating in Europe.

Regarding the question on inadvertent roaming: yes, we are aware of this. Coming from Luxembourg, you can imagine how many complaints I receive from consumers on this question, because some Luxembourgers living in a border area have one operator in the living room, another one in the kitchen and a third in the bedroom, so I am fully aware of this question. That is why we have raised this question with the national regulators, and we are monitoring this problem with the European Regulators Group. We will also continue to do so with the national regulators. We have also increased the transparency initiatives for data and SMS on the package which is now on the table in the European Parliament. There have already been some positive developments concerning this inadvertent roaming, for instance in Ireland, with good work done on both sides of the border. I think that is a positive way to see it, and I think that the operators also should be very conscious of the fact of inadvertent roaming. Even if it is only a very small percentage of the population which suffers as a result of this question, it is the responsibility of the operators to try to solve the problem.

3-358

Paul Rübzig (PPE-DE). – Ich möchte auch zum heutigen Abstimmungsergebnis gratulieren. Mich würde interessieren: Haben Sie eigentlich vor, einen Arbeitsplan für BERT zu entwerfen, mit dem Ziele vereinbart werden, mit dem ein Zeitplan vereinbart wird, sodass wir im Bereich der zwischenstaatlichen Zusammenarbeit deutliche Fortschritte machen können? Wir haben ja unlängst in *New Europe*, der Zeitschrift auf europäischer Ebene, gelesen, dass dem europäischen Konsumenten durch Roaming angeblich ein Schaden von 30 Milliarden Euro entstanden ist.

Ich möchte mich bei Ihnen bedanken, dass Sie das Roaming aktiv aufgegriffen haben. Glauben Sie, dass es auch notwendig sein wird, einen Aktionsplan für die Mitgliedstaaten zu entwerfen, weil ja einige der Aufgaben vom Europäischen Parlament herausgenommen wurden? Ist hier eine neue Institution notwendig?

3-359

Reinhard Rack (PPE-DE). – Frau Kommissarin, Sie haben zu Recht das Lob erfahren – es ist an Sie weitergetragen worden –, das die Bürger Ihnen dafür zollen, dass Telekommunikation im gemeinsamen Europa um einiges billiger geworden ist und verspricht, noch günstiger zu werden.

Ich darf in diesem Zusammenhang eine Frage weitergeben, die mir auch immer wieder gestellt wird. Da ich nicht weiß, ob Sie dafür zuständig sind, bitte ich Sie, sie andernfalls weiterzuleiten. Im Bereich der Telekommunikation kann die Kommission, kann die Kommissarin dafür sorgen, dass der Wettbewerb funktioniert, dass es mit *caps* und anderen Maßnahmen billiger wird. Warum geht das im Bereich der Mineralölprodukte nicht? Warum haben wir dort die Situation, dass die Preise im Prinzip nur eine Entwicklung haben, nämlich nach oben?

3-360

Viviane Reding, Mitglied der Kommission. – Frau Präsidentin! Eigentlich hätte Kommissar Piebalgs auf die Frage antworten müssen, ich werde aber die Frage an ihn weiterleiten. Also, ein Roaming für Mineralölprodukte, das wäre doch etwas!

Zu dem Zeitplan, nach dem Herr Rübzig gefragt hat: Ich glaube, wir haben jetzt das zweite Roaming-Paket auf dem Tisch liegen. Ich kann mir vorstellen, dass das Parlament sehr schnell agieren wird, um seine Stellungnahme zu diesem Roaming-Paket auszuarbeiten, damit das noch zügig unter der französischen Präsidentschaft abgeschlossen werden kann.

Ich habe heute Nachmittag auch mit dem französischen Ratspräsidenten geredet, der die Sache in Angriff nehmen wird und der so schnell wie möglich von Seiten des Rates zu einer Analyse der Kommissionsvorschläge kommen wird, so dass es möglich sein sollte, den Termin 1. Juli 2009, an dem die neuen Bestimmungen in Kraft treten sollen, einzuhalten. Das wäre jedenfalls das, was die Bürger, die Verbraucher sowohl vom Parlament als auch vom Rat erwarten.

3-361

Brian Crowley (UEN). – Madam President, I just want to apologise for not being here when the Commissioner was answering my question. I was stuck at another meeting. I am very sorry.

3-362

President. – Thank you Mr Crowley, and thanks too for not insisting on a supplementary.

3-363

Question No 50 by Paul Rübzig (H-0665/08)

Subject: Break in transmission of the Chinese TV channel NTDTV

On 16 June transmission of New Tang Dynasty Television (NTDTV) to mainland China was suddenly halted by the operating firm Eutelsat. The reason given was 'an irregularity in the power supply' to the satellite. Since then Eutelsat has given no satisfactory explanation of the causes. NTDTV has not been informed whether efforts are being made to remedy the technical faults. NTDTV is the largest independent TV broadcaster in Chinese and, before 16 June, the only one which could be received in uncensored form in China. NTDTV broadcasts programmes in Chinese

and English. Eutelsat did not want to renew the contract with NTDTV for transmission to Asia in 2005, but the cancellation of the contract was prevented by international intervention.

What measures will the Commission be taking to ensure the continued transmission of independent TV channels in China?

3-364

Viviane Reding, Member of the Commission. – I am at the disposal of the honourable Mr Crowley if he would like to speak with me later on and has a supplementary question.

As for the question concerning the break in transmission of the Chinese TV Channel NTDTV, The Commission was very much aware of this problem, and therefore asked Eutelsat to clarify the situation.

We received a letter from Eutelsat which answered that the irreversible loss of one of the V5's two solar panels has been confirmed both by Eutelsat and by the satellite manufacturer, Thales Space.

To safeguard the satellite's operation, Eutelsat switched off the four transponders providing direct-to-home television services while keeping the 20 remaining transponders used for telecommunication services.

As Eutelsat does not operate any other satellite with coverage of Asia, they have provided their customers, including the service provider of NTDTV, with a list of competitor satellites with appropriate coverage and availability capacity.

Eutelsat also pointed out that their satellites carried channels representing all channels, cultures and political viewpoints. They refrain from indulging in the slightest judgement as to the ideological and political positioning of the channels. Eutelsat reaffirmed to the Commission that they had not taken any action against NTDTV at the behest of the Government of China or anyone else. NTDTV is actually still carried by one of their European satellites.

Eutelsat also supplied technical information showing that, in order to receive NTDTV, rather large satellite dishes were necessary, which made it unlikely that a significant part of the population of the People's Republic of China could receive it.

3-365

Paul Rübig (PPE-DE). – Können Sie einschätzen, bis wann dieses Programm und die Sendeleistung möglich sein werden? Auch meine zweite Frage geht in diese Richtung: Glauben Sie, dass wir auch in Europa einen europäischen Medienraum kreieren können, wo wir alle nationalen Sendungen in ganz Europa empfangen können?

3-366

Viviane Reding, Member of the Commission. – Concerning the first question, Eutelsat has told us that the breakdown is irreversible and that the transmission of TV services cannot be resumed. So it is a purely technical question. Unfortunately, the capacity is only 50%, so the energy which can be taken up is only 50%. It is a technical question which, unfortunately, cannot be solved.

Now to the more fundamental question from the honourable Member as to whether we should, some day, have a 'Europe without borders' for television. We are not yet there. We have our Television without Frontiers Directive, which is now implemented in an Audiovisual Services without Frontiers Directive, where I hope very much that the video-on-demand services can become Europe-wide services. The dream, of course, is that one day there will no longer be any borders and that citizens, wherever they are, can receive whatever TV channels they want. We are not yet there because the selling of rights is still done under a national system. One day, Europe will arrive at a situation where the selling of rights can also be done at a European level. I favour this. I cannot impose it, but I favour it, and I believe that slowly but surely we will move beyond the national selling of rights to the European selling of rights.

3-367

President. – I apologise to the remaining two questioners for Commissioner Reding, but Questions Nos 51 and 52 will be answered in writing.

3-368

Question No 53 by Seán Ó Neachtain (H-0622/08)

Subject: Irish as an official working language of the European Union

How does the Commission intend to implement its new strategy for multilingualism, particularly with regard to the strengthening of the Irish language as an official working language of the European Union?

3-369

Leonard Orban, Membru al Comisiei. – Noua strategie a Comisiei Europene în domeniul multilingvismului, intitulată „Multilingvismul, un avantaj pentru Europa și un angajament comun” au fost adoptate în 18 septembrie 2008. Tema principală a strategiei este diversitatea lingvistică și modalitatea optimă de utilizare și dezvoltare a acesteia în scopul de a favoriza dialogul intercultural, de a stimula competitivitatea companiilor europene, precum și de a îmbunătăți competențele și capacitatea de a găsi un loc de muncă pentru cetățenii europeni.

Prin urmare, strategia se concentrează asupra încurajării folosirii și învățării limbilor străine în statele membre și nu asupra regimului lingvistic intern al instituțiilor europene. Se reafirmă angajamentul de a dezvolta aptitudinea cetățenilor de a comunica în două limbi în plus față de limba lor maternă și se evidențiază, în același timp, necesitatea de a pune la dispoziția cetățenilor o gamă mai amplă de limbi pentru a le permite să învețe acele limbi străine pentru care au un interes mai mare. Comisia va recurge la programele comunitare existente, în special la Programul de învățare de-a lungul vieții, pentru a sprijini statele membre în promovarea limbilor străine prin implementarea acestei strategii.

În temeiul Regulamentului 1 al Consiliului din 15 aprilie 1958, modificat prin articolul 1 din Regulamentul 920/2005 al Consiliului din 13 iunie 2005, limba irlandeză a dobândit statutul de limbă oficială și de limbă de lucru în cadrul instituțiilor Uniunii Europene, începând cu 1 ianuarie 2007. Cu toate acestea, la articolele 2 și 3 din Regulament se prevede o derogare parțială și reînnoibilă la un interval de 5 ani privind utilizarea limbii irlandeze de către instituțiile Uniunii Europene. În mod practic, această derogare implică faptul că, pentru moment, numai propunerile de regulamente din cadrul procedurii de codecizie și anumite documente conexe, precum și corespondența directă cu publicul, sunt traduse în sau din limba irlandeză.

În acest sens, în conformitate cu dispozițiile menționate anterior, Comisia a fost în măsură să realizeze toate traducerile în irlandeză necesare în cadrul procesului legislativ, precum și să asigure transmiterea lor în timp. În plus, au fost formulate răspunsuri în irlandeză la interelările adresate Comisiei de către cetățeni sau persoane juridice. Pe lângă obligațiile care decurg din Regulamentul 1 modificat și în limita resurselor disponibile, Comisia a început de asemenea, să prezinte în limba irlandeză unele din paginile sale web de o importanță sporită, acordând prioritate conținutului care prezintă un interes deosebit pentru cetățenii vorbitori de limbă irlandeză.

În ceea ce privește interpretarea, Direcția generală de interpretare este în măsură să răspundă tuturor cererilor de interpretare, din și în limba irlandeză, primite din partea Consiliului, Comisiei sau Comitetelor și va depune eforturi în continuare pentru a se asigura că dispune de resursele suficiente pentru a face același lucru în viitor.

3-370

Seán Ó Neachtain (UEN). – A Uachtaráin, tá mé an-bhuíoch den Choimisinéir as an tacaíocht agus an dul chun cinn atá déanta ag an gCoimisiún maidir leis an teanga Ghaeilge, ach tá seanfhocal againn sa nGaeilge a deireann ‘is é a laghad a locht’. Níl agam ach leathnóiméad anois, mar sin ní fhéadfaidh mé an t-am a chur amú, ach níl agam ach nóiméad den uair is mó atá am agam anseo sa Pharlaimint chun mo theanga féin a labhairt.

Ba mhaith liom a fhiafrú den Choimisinéir: an mbeadh an Coimisiún sásta anois go mbeadh forbairt ar an teanga Ghaeilge agus go bhféadfadh muid í a úsáid níos leithne anseo sa bParlaimint agus san Institiúid eile – go háirithe, b’fhéidir, ag leibhéal an choiste áit ar féidir linn an teanga a úsáid níos leithne? Ní mhairfidh teanga ar chúpla soicind.

3-371

Leonard Orban, Membru al Comisiei. – Dacă privim cerințele care au fost puse în fața Comisiei Europene, ne putem declara satisfăcuți că ele nu numai că s-au îndeplinit, dar Comisia Europeană a mers dincolo de acestea. Pe de altă parte, pentru a promova și a încuraja utilizarea pe o scară mai largă a limbii irlandeze la nivel comunitar, este vorba de eforturi conjugate atât ale instituțiilor comunitare, cât, mai ales, ale autorităților și ale societății irlandeze, o să vă dau un singur exemplu: din acest punct de vedere, avem nevoie, pentru a asigura o mai largă utilizare a limbii irlandeze de mai mulți interpreți, de mai mulți traducători, și, fără un training adecvat, fără alocarea unor resurse importante la nivelul țării, deci la nivelul Irlandei, va fi dificil să se atingă acest obiectiv.

Acesta este motivul pentru care sunt în strânsă legătură cu autoritățile irlandeze, pentru a încuraja și a stimula pe cei care doresc să o facă, să vină să se pregătească și să dobândească cunoștințele necesare pentru a lucra la nivelul instituțiilor comunitare în domeniul lingvistic.

De asemenea, aș mai dori să subliniez, suntem în strânsă legătură cu autoritățile irlandeze nu numai în ceea ce privește aspectele instituționale, dar, inclusiv, în ceea ce privește diferitele evoluții ale limbii irlandeze. Desigur, vrem să ajutăm cu toate forțele noastre dezvoltarea, de exemplu, terminologică la nivelul limbii irlandeze și, așa cum v-am spus, avem legături foarte strânse, nu numai cu autoritățile, dar, în general, cu toți actorii care sunt implicați în domeniu.

3-372

President. – Question No 54 from Mr Higgins has been withdrawn.

3-373

Question No 55 by Marco Cappato (H-0630/08)

Subject: Multilingualism in the EU institutions

The Commission organises traineeship programmes which it publicises only in English, French and German⁶. Equally, it publishes EIDHR announcements only in English, French and Spanish, stating that only in those languages will it accept projects from European organisations, whatever their national origin. Indeed, the website of the Commission's own anti-discrimination campaign⁷ is, like many others, registered only in English, and its homepage displays logos in that language only.

What policies does the Commission intend to introduce in order to ensure that the multilingualism which is always defended in public and is officially promoted in all its own documents is implemented in reality in its day-to-day activities?

3-374

Leonard Orban, Membru al Comisiei. – Programul de stagii al Comisiei Europene se adresează oricărei persoane care a terminat studiile universitare, care nu a efectuat încă un stagiu în cadrul instituțiilor europene și care are cunoștințe aprofundate privind cel puțin una dintre limbile de lucru ale Comisiei europene: germană, engleză sau franceză. Acest lucru reprezintă o necesitate de ordin practic care permite unui stagiar să participe la activitățile din cadrul serviciilor și să beneficieze din plin de perioada de stagiu. De altfel, informațiile privind modalitățile practice și explicațiile care pot să ajute candidații nu sunt disponibile decât în aceste trei limbi. Pe de altă parte, dispozițiile privind programul de stagii sunt disponibile pe site-ul Europa în toate limbile oficiale ale Uniunii, în vigoare la data adoptării deciziei de referință a Comisiei.

În vederea îndeplinirii misiunii prevăzute la articolul 177 din Tratatul CE, numărul limbilor admisibile în care se pot accepta propunerile Instrumentului european pentru democrație și drepturile omului trebuie să se limiteze la acele limbi care sunt înțelese și folosite, în mod curent, în țările terțe în cauză. Cu toate acestea, documentele transmise de organizațiile non-guvernamentale în sprijinul propunerilor lor în materie de proiecte pentru ajutor extern, precum actele privind statutul lor, sunt acceptate acum în toate limbile oficiale ale Uniunii prin intermediul PADOR, sistemul de înregistrare online pentru organizații non-guvernamentale.

În ceea ce privește creșterea gradului de sensibilizare sau acțiunile de coordonare care au loc exclusiv în Uniune și în cazul cărora grupurile principale vizate sunt cetățenii Uniunii, se vor evalua cererile transmise în limba/limbile statului/statelor membru/membre respective. Într-adevăr, prima pagină a campaniei online împotriva discriminării folosește un logo în limba engleză, însă acesta asigură accesul către pagini web în aproape toate limbile oficiale ale Uniunii.

Potrivit planului de acțiune pentru o mai bună comunicare cu cetățenii, în 2006, Comisia a înființat un serviciu destinat traducerii web în cadrul direcției de traducere. Astfel, Comisia și-a mărit progresiv capacitatea de comunicare multilingvă prin intermediul traducerii de pagini web. Cu toate acestea, având în vedere evoluția rapidă a internetului, precum și necesitatea de a-și îndeplini mai întâi obligațiile privind traducerile juridice care decurg din cerințele Regulamentului Nr. 1, Comisia trebuie să realizeze în permanență echilibrul just între opțiunea de a pune la dispoziție informații pertinente și actualizate pentru factorii interesați din Uniune, și opțiunea de a asigura un caracter multilingv deplin pentru toate site-urile web ale Comisiei.

Referitor la utilizarea limbilor pe paginile web, principiul general este adaptarea acestui regim lingvistic al fiecărui site la publicul vizat. Prin urmare, Comisia asigură traducerea într-un număr cât mai mare posibil de limbi oficiale a site-urilor sau a unor părți din site-urile care prezintă interes pentru toți cetățenii, în timp ce subiectele mai tehnice, care interesează în principal pe specialiști, sunt prezentate într-un număr limitat de limbi sau numai în limba de redactare. În mod similar, informațiile care se preconizează, în general, că vor rămâne pentru o perioadă mai îndelungată vor fi publicate în mai multe limbi decât conținuturile cu un caracter mai provizoriu.

Obligațiile Comisiei care decurg din Regulamentul Nr. 1 implică, pe de o parte, că regulamentele și directivele, precum și toate propunerile legislative și comunicările aprobate oficial de către Comisie și transmise instituțiilor, sunt traduse în toate limbile oficiale, iar pe de altă parte, că răspunsurile la scrisori din partea cetățenilor sunt redactate în limba aleasă de către aceștia din urmă. Pe lângă aceste obligații, și conform principiului multilingvismului și multiculturalismului, Comisia se angajează să depună toate eforturile posibile pentru a asigura un tratament egal al cetățenilor, culturilor și limbilor.

3-375

Marco Cappato (ALDE). – Signora Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, innanzitutto io ritengo che la distinzione che lei ha portato e proposto tra quei documenti di carattere tecnico e documenti – se ho capito bene dall'interpretazione – invece di interesse pubblico, mi sembra una distinzione particolarmente pericolosa e scivolosa, perché proprio documenti di carattere tecnico possono essere, in realtà di grande interesse pubblico.

Il problema è semplice: i documenti che sono unicamente documenti di lavoro seguono un regime linguistico, ma tutti i documenti che sono potenzialmente rivolti al pubblico, anche se di carattere tecnico, questi devono cadere in un regime di assoluto plurilinguismo, nel senso di traduzione in tutte le lingue. In particolare, io trovo, assolutamente incomprensibile

⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/stages/index_en.htm

⁷ <http://www.stop-discrimination.info/>

perché i bandi sui progetti di promozione della democrazia e dei diritti umani debbano essere accessibili soltanto nella lingua inglese, francese e spagnola. I siti devono essere oltre che multilingue, registrati in tutte le lingue e per concludere anche il bollettino interno d'informazione *Commission en direct*, anche quello non si comprende perché debba essere quasi esclusivamente in lingua inglese.

3-376

Leonard Orban, Membru al Comisiei. – Așa cum am spus, pe de o parte, Comisia Europeană are obligații juridice, legale care decurg din Regulamentul 1 din 1958 și din acest punct de vedere nu există niciun fel de ezitare de a îndeplini deplin aceste obligații; pe de altă parte, există, să zic, chestiuni, precum cele menționate de dumneavoastră, legate, de exemplu, de traduceri de pe site-urile Comisiei Europene, unde Comisia stă în fața unei mari dileme; de altfel, nu numai Comisia, ci și celelalte instituții comunitare.

Pe de o parte, un conținut complet multilingv al acestor site-uri nu e posibil de a fi asigurat și, vă spun foarte clar, în limita resurselor financiare și umane de care dispune Comisia Europeană, a asigura o acoperire completă, un multilingvism complet pentru toate documentele care sunt prezentate pe site-urile Comisiei este imposibil.

Pe de altă parte, ceea ce facem în momentul de față este să creștem în mod susținut, în limita, repet, capacităților și resurselor existente și fără a afecta în niciun fel obligațiile juridice pe care le avem, să creștem numărul de documente care sunt traduse în cât mai multe limbi oficiale ale Uniunii Europene. Din acest punct de vedere, am dovedit flexibilitate în situațiile în care au fost prezentate diferite cereri către Comisia Europeană și, repet, în măsura în care există capacitatea fizică de a răspunde acestor cerințe, noi suntem gata să dovedim acea flexibilitate necesară.

3-377

President. – I am sorry to have to disappoint further questioners, but in view of the time I am afraid we are going to have to leave it there.

3-378

Questions which have not been answered for lack of time will be answered in writing (see Annex).

3-379

Robert Evans (PSE). – It is a point of order in a roundabout sort of way. Mr Orban and I go back a long time, so I hope he will take this in the spirit that it is intended, because one of his answers did actually take six minutes, and I think, as we are trying to get many questions up in future, I wonder if he could perhaps try and make his answers a little bit more focused or succinct in future for the benefit of all Members.

3-380

President. – Mr Evans, we have discussed the matter with Vice-President Wallström. On the one hand, we know the Commission is trying to give us answers that are as full as we would like them to be, but then that obviously curtails the number of Members able to participate. Thank you all, and I am sure that you will receive full answers in writing.

(The sitting was suspended at 19.15 and resumed at 21.00.)

3-381

PRESIDE: MIGUEL ANGEL MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ
Vicepresidente

3-382

17 - Alimentación, sobrepeso y obesidad (debate)

3-383

El Presidente. – El siguiente punto es el informe de Alessandro Foglietta, en nombre de la Comisión de Medio Ambiente, Salud Pública y Seguridad Alimentaria, sobre el Libro Blanco «Estrategia europea sobre problemas de salud relacionados con la alimentación, el sobrepeso y la obesidad» (2007/2285(INI)) (A6-0256/2008).

3-384

Alessandro Foglietta, relatore. – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, prima di aprire il dibattito sulla relazione che voteremo domattina, voglio approfittare per fare alcuni doverosi ringraziamenti. Ringrazio innanzitutto la mia collega, ora senatore della Repubblica italiana, Adriana Poli Bortone, da cui ho ereditato il progetto di relazione ed uno studio già attento e puntuale della problematicità; i miei collaboratori, che mi hanno affiancato nel portare avanti con entusiasmo e dedizione l'approfondimento e l'analisi del fenomeno ed infine i relatori ombra, che hanno indubbiamente contribuito con il loro impegno all'attuazione del testo in sede di commissione ambiente, con un consenso politicamente e praticamente unanime.

Cari colleghi, nel momento in cui mi è stato affidato il progetto, mi sono domandato quale doveva essere il mio obiettivo di relatore nell'approfondire uno studio di questo tipo, e ho trovato una risposta nella natura strategica del documento che mi ha indicato i due pilastri sui quali impostare il mio lavoro: completezza innanzitutto, in modo da non lasciare momenti di vuoto né tantomeno di sottovalutare il peso di alcuni dei molteplici aspetti chiamati in causa dalla problematica in

questione; concretezza, per poter realizzare un documento realmente proiettato verso il futuro e verso l'individuazione di strumenti e soluzioni efficaci.

Nell'intraprendere questo percorso, mi sono affidato ai dati, alle statistiche, alle percentuali, già ampiamente disponibili sul tema. Percentuali che creano disagio, perché se andiamo a verificare, secondo l'Organizzazione mondiale della sanità, più di un miliardo di persone soffre di sovrappeso e oltre 300 milioni di persone sono obese. L'obesità nei bambini è in rapidissima crescita e bisogna ritenere che la patologia legata all'obesità e al sovrappeso assorbono alcuni Stati membri fino al 6% della spesa sanitaria nazionale.

Nella ricerca delle possibili soluzioni ci siamo ben guardati dal voler demonizzare certe categorie di cibo, come uniche responsabili del problema obesità. Non è eliminando tali alimenti dalla dieta che si risolve il problema, ma piuttosto educando il cittadino consumatore e soprattutto il giovane, il bambino ad una corretta alimentazione. I grassi sono fondamentali per un corretto apporto nutrizionale, ma nelle giuste quantità e nei giusti momenti della giornata. La pedagogia alimentare sulla quale insisto con forza non è la capacità di discernere i cibi buoni da quelli cattivi, niente fa male, in assoluto e niente in condizioni di salute, a meno di patologie legate all'alimentazione, deve essere escluso dalla dieta.

Altro problema su cui voglio richiamare la vostra attenzione: l'obesità è a tutti gli effetti una patologia. Una patologia con cause non solo fisiche, ma spesso sociali o psicologiche, ma pur sempre una patologia che ogni anno comporta spese ingenti per i nostri sistemi sanitari nazionali. Una patologia che in quanto tale deve essere affrontata con soluzioni concrete e multilivello. In questi mesi di studi, invece, mi sono reso conto che troppo spesso l'opinione pubblica sottovaluta questo aspetto, sprecandosi in giustissimi allarmismi e campagne di sensibilizzazione contro l'anoressia ma in un altrettanto ingiusto approccio consolatorio nei confronti del sovrappeso con slogan del tipo: grasso è bello, e così via. Questo è sbagliato, è diseducativo; non parliamo di estetica o di apparenza, parliamo di salute. E così, come la piaga dell'anoressia va combattuta con prepotenza, allo stesso modo vogliamo cercare di sconfiggere l'obesità, lavorando sui molteplici canali, specificati in questa relazione che richiede appunto un contributo parallelo e coerente.

Dagli operatori dell'educazione, dai professionisti della sanità, dall'industria alimentare, dai media in particolare della televisione, che invitiamo ad avvertire il forte senso di responsabilità legato al loro potenziale nell'orientare l'opinione pubblica. All'amministrazione pubblica, in particolare e a quella locale.

Io vorrei chiudere, cari colleghi, con una notizia che in questi giorni ha fatto eco: quella che, uno dei due candidati alla Casa Bianca ha fatto presente che sarebbe utile, giusto, necessario, tassare i cittadini obesi come tassare gli alcolisti e i fumatori. Noi crediamo, che ci troviamo di fronte ad un'assurdità in termini di principio, ma riteniamo fondamentale che questo grave disagio e questo grave problema deve essere affrontato nella maniera giusta, perché solo con un metodo che ci può portare a determinare alcune condizioni si può raggiungere un risultato positivo.

3-385

El Presidente. – Voy a rogar a todos los oradores que se atengan al tiempo con una cierta discreción, porque lo que no puede ser es que prolonguemos el debate, dado que es un debate nocturno y tenemos un tiempo muy limitado, incluso en la logística: servicio de intérpretes, etc.

Procuren ustedes que no tenga que cortarles la palabra, porque desde la Presidencia a mí me resulta muy violento y creo en la responsabilidad de cada uno de los colegas.

3-386

László Kovács, Member of the Commission. – Mr President, I very much welcome Parliament's report in response to the Commission White Paper on nutrition, overweight and obesity-related health issues. In particular, allow me to congratulate Mr Alessandro Foglietta on his excellent work.

I am happy to note that Parliament shares the Commission's view that the obesity epidemic can only be halted by means of an integrated approach and that Parliament welcomes the Commission's White Paper as an important step towards stemming the rise in obesity and overweight across Europe. I also take note of Parliament's request for a number of further actions – including more regulatory measures – beyond those currently envisaged by the Commission.

The Commission will, in 2010, hold a first review of achievements against the objectives set out in the White Paper of 2007.

If monitoring shows that progress is not adequate, further actions, including a possible regulatory approach, will of course need to be considered.

With regard to the monitoring process, I wish to draw your attention to the important role being played by the World Health Organisation. We are working together in line with the conclusions of the WHO Ministerial Conference in Istanbul,

with a focus on monitoring actions in Member States to implement both the Commission's White Paper and the WHO strategy.

Finally, I wish to share with you today some of the most recent developments in the implementation of the strategy for Europe on nutrition, overweight and obesity-related health issues, which respond to some of the actions called for in your report.

As you know, to strengthen actions at the European level the Commission has to set up a high-level group focused on nutrition and physical-activity-related health issues. The group is ensuring the rapid exchange of ideas and practices between Member States, with an overview of all government policies.

Looking at the engagement of the stakeholders to date, the pan-European organisations, members of the European Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, are currently implementing more than 200 commitments in key areas such as product reformulation, labelling and responsible advertising.

Monitoring is ongoing and annual reports are publicly available on the Commission's website.

Complementary to the EU Platform, to date Public-Private Partnerships between governments and the private sector are reported in 17 EU Member States and I consider that this is going in the right direction.

In July, the high-level group met with the European Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health in order to discuss potential for synergies and partnerships, focusing in particular on salt reduction – the agreed initial priority for joint action with Member States.

This joint meeting was positive and I am certain that such gatherings involving both high-level officials from Member States and Platform members will increase the impact of actions taken both by government authorities and by Platform members in the future.

Let me also draw your attention to the Commission's proposal last July to reserve EUR 90 million every year for the purchase and distribution of free fruit and vegetables to schools.

Turning the tide on obesity is one of the most important public health challenges we are faced with in Europe today.

I am grateful for your continued support and look forward to continuing dialogue with Parliament on how best to proceed so that the European Union can play its role to the full in addressing this issue.

3-387

Małgorzata Handzlik, *autorka projektu opinii Komisji Rynku Wewnętrznego i Ochrony Konsumentów*. – Panie Przewodniczący! Nadwaga i otyłość stanowią wyzwanie współczesnej cywilizacji prowadząc do wielu chorób chronicznych takich jak choroby układu krążenia, nadciśnienie, cukrzyca typu 2, udary czy niektóre nowotwory. Walka z nimi powinna być priorytetem w polityce zdrowotnej Unii. Strategia obejmująca walkę z tym zjawiskiem powinna angażować jak najwięcej partnerów od władz lokalnych, państw członkowskich, Komisji Europejskiej po przedstawicieli przemysłu. Nie powinniśmy jednak zapominać o konsumentach, którzy sami dokonują wyborów żywieniowych. Kampanie edukacyjne i promocje aktywności fizycznej wydają się być najwłaściwszym podejściem, tak aby konsument dzięki jasnym i czytelnym informacjom był w stanie dokonać racjonalnego wyboru diety. Nie sądzę natomiast, aby restrykcje narzucane samym producentom żywności, np. w odniesieniu do reklamy, przyniosły efekt w postaci zmniejszenia liczby osób cierpiących na nadwagę.

Pragnę zwrócić uwagę także na inny element nieco pomijany w tej dyskusji, a mianowicie konieczność odpowiedniego kształcenia pracowników służby zdrowia, w szczególności w dziedzinie opieki diabetologicznej i leczenia cukrzycy, gdyż kwestia ta pozostaje nieco zaniedbana, zwłaszcza w nowych państwach członkowskich.

3-388

Czesław Adam Siekierski, *autor projektu opinii Komisji Rolnictwa i Rozwoju Wsi*. – Panie Przewodniczący! Sam w pewnym sensie czuję się adresatem tego projektu. Popieram rozwiązania przedstawione w białej księdze. Tam wśród najskuteczniejszych metod leczenia wymieniona jest prozdrowotna zmiana stylu życia, aktywność fizyczna w każdej formie oraz działania prewencyjne w postaci daleko idących zaleceń dla producentów żywności, konsumentów, producentów reklam, właścicieli restauracji, sieci gastronomicznych, a także kampanii informacyjnych.

W celu realizacji tych założeń bardzo ważne jest skoordynowanie wszystkich obszarów polityki, różnych szczebli zarządzania oraz zaangażowanie sektora prywatnego, aby wspólnie stawić czoła temu problemowi. Ze szczególnym naciskiem musimy podjąć te działania, które chronią przed otyłością dzieci. Na dorosłych spoczywa odpowiedzialność wpajania młodym zdrowych nawyków żywieniowych, czasem jednak bywa, że sami do końca nie wiemy, co jest dobre, a

co złe. Dlatego tak ważne jest organizowanie kampanii informacyjnych skierowanych do rodziców, aby mogli oni zapewnić swoim pociechom zbilansowaną dietę.

Programy promujące zasady zdrowego odżywiania i aktywności fizycznej powinny być również skierowane do dzieci i młodzieży, gdyż epidemia otyłości oczywiście istnieje, ale istnieje także szal, rygor, presja odchudzania. 80% nastolatków do 18. roku życia odchudzało się przynajmniej jeden raz w życiu. Niewłaściwe odchudzanie jest szkodliwe. Dlatego tak jak młodym ludziom trzeba umiejętnie dawkować wiedzę o świecie, tak samo trzeba nauczyć ich prawidłowego odżywiania, które skutkuje głodem wiedzy, a taki głód jest jak najbardziej wskazany.

Należy również jak najszybciej zadbać o realizację ogólnoeuropejskiego programu „Owoce w szkole”. Komisja Europejska zaproponowała na ten cel tylko 90 milionów euro. Moim zdaniem kwota ta powinna być zwielokrotniona, tak aby w każdej szkole wszechobecne automaty z chipsami, batonikami, napojami gazowanymi zastąpić tymi ze świeżymi owocami, warzywami, produktami mlecznymi. Pamiętajmy, że to jakie posiłki spożywają nasze dzieci, będzie miało wpływ na ich zdrowie w późniejszym okresie życia.

3-389

Anna Záborská, *Spravodajkyňa Výboru pre práva žien a rodovú rovnosť požiadaného o stanovisko*. – Ďakujem pán predseda, nemám veľa času, tak aspoň niekoľko bodov.

Ako vždy som za prevenciu, a to za prevenciu od detského veku. Táto prevencia je úzko spojená s podporou zodpovednosti rodičov. Najlepším spôsobom, ako predísť obezite detí, je nevyužívať televízor, videohry a internet ako babysitting. Ak chýbajú kreatívne aktivity, deti a dospievajúci nemajú dostatok pohybu.

Deti si musia osvojiť stravovacie návyky ako v oblasti kvality a množstva jedla, tak aj v spôsobe stolovania. Je potrebné podporovať spoločné stolovanie rodičov a detí. Nie je nič lepšie, ako keď rodina môže prežiť aspoň jedno jedlo spoločne. Aby to bolo možné, je nevyhnutné umožniť zosúladenie rodinného a pracovného života. Rovnako odovzdávanie znalostí vo varení deťom je dobrým spôsobom ako predísť obezite. Deti veľmi radi asistujú pri varení, a bolo by dobre to využiť.

3-390

Philip Bushill-Matthews, *on behalf of the PPE-DE Group*. – Mr President, obesity is one of Europe's greatest health challenges, but some may say what has it got to do with us here in the European Parliament? Or indeed within the EU?

There are at least two reasons. One is, as the rapporteur has already said, obesity-related diseases account for more than 6% of taxpayer-funded national health budgets in the EU. We all have to pay for it. Secondly, different EU countries are tackling the issue differently, and all have much to learn from each other.

So may I congratulate the Commission for their White Paper in triggering this debate, and I would just highlight a few key points. We generally welcome the Commission's proposal on food labelling, but felt it would be inappropriate for this report to pre-empt the detailed discussions which will be necessary on this specific issue.

On obesity, evidence shows that the problem is much more about how much exercise people take rather than just how much food they eat. It is about calorie output, not just about calorie input. So it would be totally wrong to blame the food and drink industry for causing the problem, or indeed for failing to provide a sufficient solution.

The reality is in fact much more complicated. We need more activity-friendly communities offering more bicycle routes, better town planning, more promotion of public transport, more parks and sports facilities, more school playing fields and yes, better education. We need many aspects of our lives to change.

So may I congratulate the rapporteur on his wide-ranging report and his very difficult task, picking up from his predecessor, and dealing with so many shadows with so many ideas of their own. I particularly thank him for accepting some of my amendments including those concerning the problem of malnourishment, particularly in hospitals and care homes for the elderly. It is most important that we look after the more vulnerable in our society.

Some people make themselves vulnerable, and, if I may conclude with a sweeping generalisation, one of the problems of society today is a lack of personal responsibility, a belief that every failing is someone else's problem, that someone else will solve it. More regulation simply feeds this perception; more self-regulation and self-discipline is the answer. We need to encourage greater personal responsibility, and that way we will all make greater progress as a society.

3-391

Linda McAvan, *on behalf of the PSE Group*. – Mr President, this is a long report. There were 400 amendments, and I would like to thank the rapporteur because he has tried to make some sense of it. I hope the key messages will not be lost because it is so long.

For us in the Socialist Group the key messages – and there are some very positive points here – are that we need good food-labelling regulation and we want to see front-of-pack labelling, if possible using colour coding, included in the forthcoming discussions. We know the Commission is looking at this and that is what we want to see.

We are pleased that there is now support across the Parliament for a ban on artificial trans-fatty acids. When I first raised this two years ago there was no support in the Parliament – in fact the Commission was taking Denmark to court and there was nothing happening. We have now had a written declaration and we have a consensus, so I hope the Commission will do something like this.

Commissioner, you spoke about product reformulation. I think this is crucial. It is true what Philip Bushill-Matthews says that obviously people have to take some responsibility, but manufacturers have a responsibility in terms of how they make products. Many of them are now making great efforts to cut salt, fat and sugar. Often these things are hidden in foods. It is not obvious to consumers when they buy ketchup or yoghurt that they contain lots of sugar. In fact the labelling system often disguises what is in the product, such as yoghurts which are labelled 'low fat' when they have very high levels of sugar.

We do not believe that self-regulation is the answer to everything. We think there has to be a degree of regulation, in particular in relation to children. Yes, adults can make choices but children need to be protected by the law and that is why we want to see independent monitoring of any voluntary agreements by industry. We know that you are taking the first steps in this direction.

Finally, this is a huge issue for Europe. It is going to cost the public purse a lot of money if we do not tackle it and we now need some concrete proposals to come from the Commission – not on issues which are to do with national responsibility, but in those areas where the EU has responsibility we need clear policies which help national governments to reduce obesity.

3-392

Frédérique Ries, *au nom du groupe ALDE*. – Monsieur le Président, maladie de la sédentarité, maladie de la jeunesse aussi, de plus en plus, on l'a dit, l'obésité est au cœur de nos travaux parlementaires, au fond depuis le début de cette législature. Chaque année, ce sont plus de 400 000 jeunes qui s'ajoutent à cette longue liste des personnes qui feront un jour connaissance avec l'effet yo-yo des régimes alimentaires.

L'Europe a donc bien fait de prendre ce problème à bras-le-corps. Elle s'est d'ailleurs dotée d'une stratégie claire en la matière avec le lancement, en mars 2005, de cette plateforme européenne qui réunit tous les acteurs concernés des filières agroalimentaires, de la grande distribution, des professions médicales et aussi des associations de consommateurs.

Il faut reconnaître – et on l'a déjà entendu ici – qu'il n'est pas évident de convaincre que l'Europe a plus que son mot à dire dans cette lutte contre l'obésité. Pour ce faire, nous devons commencer par clarifier les niveaux de pouvoir, ce qui ne nous empêche pas, et nous le faisons, de rappeler aux États membres ce qui est de leur compétence et de leur responsabilité.

Je pense ici à deux propositions fortes que nous faisons dans le rapport: éviter la discrimination et la stigmatisation des personnes obèses en reconnaissant officiellement l'obésité comme maladie chronique – comme c'est le cas, par exemple, à l'OMS et au Portugal –, veiller aussi à ce que tous les enfants aient accès aux activités physiques et au sport à l'école – deux heures par semaine me semblent un minimum –, mieux financer les cantines scolaires pour assurer l'offre de produits frais aux enfants, et je salue ici le projet de la Commission de distribution gratuite de fruits à l'école qu'a rappelé M. le commissaire. Je dirais que c'est avec ce genre d'actions simples, concrètes et pleines de bon sens que les citoyens vont réapprendre aussi à aimer l'Europe.

J'en viens au rapport de M. Foglietta, que je remercie également pour tous les efforts qu'il a fournis. J'aimerais mettre en exergue ici deux propositions. D'abord le choix d'une politique incitative – baisse des prix, réductions fiscales – plutôt que d'un système qui repose sur une taxation majorée des produits caloriques, la fameuse *fat tax*, qui, au final, pénaliserait surtout les ménages européens à revenus modestes.

Le groupe des libéraux et démocrates, que je représente ici, est donc opposé à l'amendement 6 des Verts et préfère s'en tenir à cette baisse conséquente de la TVA sur les fruits et légumes, telle qu'elle est formulée en notre paragraphe 28.

Même soutien de mon groupe à l'interdiction des acides gras trans-artificiels qui sont liés, on le sait, à une augmentation significative des problèmes cardiovasculaires. Nous nous opposons donc aussi aux amendements de M. Blokland, qui visent à assouplir les paragraphes 32, 34 et 35 et dédouaner, pour ne pas dire blanchir, ces graisses hydrogénées. Notre message aux fabricants est clair: faites preuve de bonne volonté, innovez, dans l'intérêt de la santé des consommateurs et aussi dans votre propre intérêt.

J'aimerais conclure en évoquant, puisque le temps est compté, les premières rencontres parlementaires européennes sur l'alimentation et la santé que j'ai lancées il y a un an dans cette enceinte. C'est un immense carrefour pour tous les acteurs concernés, qui a été axé autour de quatre priorités: bouger dès le plus jeune âge, manger varié et équilibré, soigner l'obésité comme maladie chronique et légiférer si nécessaire. Beaucoup plus qu'un slogan, je dirais que c'est un vrai devoir moral pour l'Union européenne, qui doit prendre toute cette part dans la lutte contre l'obésité et la sédentarité.

3-393

Ewa Tomaszewska, w imieniu grupy UEN. – Panie Przewodniczący! 3 miliony dzieci otyłych, 22 miliony dzieci z nadwagą, ponad 50% mieszkańców Europy to osoby otyłe lub z nadwagą. Otyłość to większe obciążenie układu kostno-szkieletowego i związane z tym zagrożenia, ale także zaburzenia metabolizmu i wynika stąd skłonność do cukrzycy, choroby układu krążenia, nadciśnienia, nadwyżki cholesterolu.

Problem wynika zarówno z niewłaściwego sposobu odżywiania, jak i z siedzącego trybu życia i unikania wysiłku fizycznego, czemu towarzyszą obciążenia cywilizacyjne, choćby stres. Społeczny wymiar problemu wymaga zdecydowanych działań, szczególnie zabezpieczenia dzieci. Słodczyce zamiast pełnowartościowych posiłków, całe dni przed telewizorem lub przy komputerze, to efekt braku wzorców i właściwego wpływu dorosłych na sposób życia dziecka. Biała księga na temat żywienia to pożyteczny dokument w działaniach na rzecz ograniczania otyłości, przede wszystkim u dzieci. Wybór zdrowych produktów winna ułatwiać polityka promocyjna i informacyjna adresowana zarówno do dzieci, jak i przede wszystkim do ich rodziców. Szczególnie popieramy kampanię „Owoce w szkole”.

3-394

Kathalijne Maria Buitenweg, namens de Verts/ALE-Fractie. – Voorzitter, wij hebben het vandaag over overgewicht en zwaarlijvigheid en ik vind het belangrijk - het is al door een aantal mensen gezegd - om niet te veel te praten over dieet en afvallen, maar vooral ook te praten over de noodzaak om gezond te eten.

Ik was een paar maanden geleden erg geschrokken toen mijn dochter, een buitengewoon slanke dochter, thuiskwam en haar tweede boterham niet wilde eten omdat zij dan te dik zou worden. Zij had op school wel veel gehoord dat je vooral niet dik moet zijn, maar had onvoldoende eigen besef over hoe je nu gezond moet eten en wat een normale portie is. Een kind van acht begrijpt immers nog niet echt wanneer je te dik bent. Het is dan ook heel belangrijk om vooral te praten over gezond eten en niet over het al dan niet te dik zijn.

Het is inderdaad vooral een taak van ouders om te laten zien wat gezond is en wat een uitgebalanceerde portie eten is, en ook van scholen om dit aan een kind door te geven en om een voorbeeld te zijn. Op hun beurt moeten ouders ook beter inzicht krijgen in de voedingswaarde en het vetgehalte van producten en dus ben ik het ook eens met wat eerder gezegd is over de etikettering. Wij moeten dit punt dan ook terugzien in de wetgeving over de etikettering.

Ik vind het ook goed om veel te praten over sport en ook over het feit dat kinderen lekker buiten moeten kunnen spelen. Wij moeten dus in ieder geval een aanbeveling doen dat in ruimtelijke-ordeningsplannen beter rekening moet worden gehouden met de wensen van kinderen om lekker vrij te kunnen leven.

In verband met eten heeft de Europese Commissie een vrij leuke website over EU-minichefs. Deze website is al verbeterd. Er staan nu namelijk ook plaatjes op van groenten, die er voordien bijna niet waren, maar toch bevatten vrijwel alle recepten vlees. Laten wij daar eerlijk over zijn, dierlijke eiwitten dragen veel bij aan overgewicht. Los van het dierenwelzijn moet de Europese Commissie niet expliciet vleesconsumptie bevorderen.

Een laatste woord over de BTW. Er werd net door mevrouw Ries gezegd dat zij tegen ons amendement 6 is omdat zij mensen niet wil straffen, maar veeleer belonen. Zij wil dus geen vettaks, een hogere belasting op ongezonde producten, invoeren maar vooral een lagere belasting op gezonde producten. Daar ben ik het wel mee eens, maar nu blijkt dat, bijvoorbeeld ook in Nederland, alle voedingsmiddelen nu binnen de lage categorie vallen. De chips, de lolly's, enz. hebben nu allemaal een laag BTW-tarief. Dat kan toch niet de bedoeling zijn, dat je die extra uitzondering toekent aan ongezonde producten. Het gaat dus niet om het bestraffen, het gaat erom dat je niet een beloning, namelijk een lager BTW-tarief, moet toekennen aan producten die niet gezond zijn.

3-395

Jens Holm, för GUE/NGL-gruppen. – En tredjedel av europeerna lider av övervikt och fetma. En inte obetydlig del av medlemsländernas hälsobudgetar måste användas till att motverka de problem som övervikt medför. Dessutom slår överviktsproblemet socioekonomiskt orättvist. Låginkomsttagare drabbas värst när de konsumerar mer socker och mättade fetter. Sämre mat helt enkelt.

Det är självklart politikens uppgift att skapa de bästa tänkbara förutsättningarna för att människor ska kunna äta mer hälsosamt. Det är precis vad föredragande Foglietta gör i det här betänkandet. Han har därför vänstergruppens stöd. I betänkandet krävs att EU måste bli flexibla i att tillåta medlemsländerna att ha lägre momssatser för nyttig mat och högre för det vi borde äta mindre av. Det är ett viktigt krav som jag hoppas hörsammas av EU-ledningen. Vad säger förresten

kommissionen om det här? Kan kommissionen återkomma med en översyn av EU:s momsdirektiv för att tillåta mer flexibilitet hos medlemsländerna så att man kan ha just lägre moms på nyttigt mat, exempelvis?

En annan fråga till kommissionen rör transfetter. Vi vet att transfetter är dåliga för hälsan. Det har konstaterats av myndigheter i medlemsländerna, liksom av EU:s egen livsmedelsmyndighet, EFSA. Kommissionsledamot Androulla Vassiliou sa i miljöutskottet den 1 april i år under en utfrågning, och nu citerar jag: "Transfett är definitivt inte bra för hälsan, det är inget tvivel om detta". I det här betänkandet kräver vi ett förbud mot transfetter, men kommissionen vägrar att föreslå detta. Vassiliou vill inte ens tillåta att enskilda medlemsländer skulle kunna gå före och införa nationella förbud. Nu har kommissionen chansen att retirera från denna ohälsosamma ståndpunkt. När får vi ett förbud mot transfetter? Kan kommissionen i alla fall garantera att medlemsländerna har friheten att förbjuda transfetter om man så önskar.

Kött är en annan dimension av folkhälsoproblematiken, precis som föregående talare, Buitenweg, tog upp. Köttkonsumtionen ökar lavinartat i världen. Om inget görs nu varnar FN:s livsmedels- och jordbruksorgan, FAO, för att den redan höga köttkonsumtionen kommer att fördubblas till 2050. Kött innehåller mättade fetter och bidrar till fetma. Dessutom förvärrar köttindustrin kraftigt klimatförändringarna. EU borde fasa ut subventioner till köttindustrin, men bara i budgeten för 2007 anslogs över 45 miljoner euro till rena marknadsföringspengar för köttindustrin. Det är kontraproduktivt och dessutom ett bisarrt slöseri med skattebetalarnas pengar. En utfasning av dessa köttsubventioner samt en strategi för minskad köttkonsumtion borde vara självklara åtgärder för bättre hälsa i EU.

3-396

Johannes Blokland, *namens de IND/DEM-Fractie*. – Voorzitter, transvetzuren zijn niet de meest gezonde vetzuren die er bestaan. Deze transvetzuren bestaan in natuurlijke en industriële vorm en zijn te vinden in veel voedingswaren.

Ofschoon diverse wetenschappelijke onderzoeken verschillende uitkomsten hebben wijst de meerderheid van de onderzoeken uit dat er geen verschil bestaat in risico's tussen van nature in voedsel aanwezige transvetzuren en kunstmatig toegevoegde industriële transvetzuren. Beide soorten transvetzuren zijn namelijk bij te hoge consumptie even schadelijk. Het lijkt mij dan ook niet terecht om dit onderscheid aan te houden in het voorliggende voorstel, vandaar mijn amendement.

Het is daarnaast zeer moeilijk om alle transvetzuren volledig uit te bannen zonder dat het andere risico's voor de volksgezondheid met zich meebrengt. Een verbod op transvetzuren leidt namelijk tot een toename van de concentratie verzadigde vetzuren, volgens onder meer het *UK Food Standard Agency*. Die verzadigde vetzuren zijn minstens zo schadelijk als transvetzuren. De mens krijgt gemiddeld fors meer verzadigde vetzuren binnen dan de Wereldgezondheidsorganisatie bij norm aanbeveelt. Ik heb daarom amendementen ingediend om ook de hoeveelheid verzadigde vetzuren te beperken en tegelijkertijd stel ik voor om niet op te roepen tot een verbod op transvetzuren, zoals nu in artikel 32 van het verslag wordt gesteld.

Wat bijvoorbeeld wél een mogelijkheid zou zijn, is dat wij een grens stellen op bijvoorbeeld een 2%-aandeel van transvetzuren in de totale energie-inname. Dit blijkt technisch wel haalbaar te zijn en is voor een deel al praktisch. Wij moeten voorkomen dat wij een *trade-off* krijgen tussen transvetzuren en verzadigde vetzuren en de gezondheid van de consument daardoor geen enkele verbetering ondervindt.

3-397

Irena Belohorská (NI). – Zhoršujúci sa trend nezdravého stravovania a nedostatku telesnej aktivity v Európe je alarmujúci. Preto vysoko hodnotím fakt, že sa s uvedenou problematikou zaoberáme aj tu na pôde Európskeho parlamentu.

Vieme, že obezita je jeden z faktorov, ktoré sú zodpovedné za tzv. civilizačné choroby, ako je vysoký krvný tlak, ochorenia srdca, cukrovka príp. aj následné ochorenia pohybového aparátu. 17. septembra som organizovala pracovný obed tu na pôde Európskeho parlamentu, ktorý sa venoval problematike vzťahu obezita a cukrovka v tehotenstve. Prítomní poslanci a asistenti mali možnosť si vypočuť špičkových odborníkov z Európy, napr. Dr. Rosu Corcoy Pla, ktorá je predsedníčkou pracovnej skupiny pre diabetes v tehotenstve, profesora F. Andre Van Assche, ktorý bol prezidentom Európskej asociácie gynekológov a pôrodníkov a profesora Dr. Pera Ovesena.

Obezita a materská cukrovka predstavujú zvýšené riziko materskej, ale aj novorodeneckej morbidita a mortality. Musíme si uvedomiť, že sa vlastne jedná už nielen o ochorenie matky, teda osoby, ktorá nerešpektuje veľakrát racionálnu výživu, ale už ide o zodpovednosť za zdravý vývin budúcej populácie.

Obézná diabetická matka má obézne dieťa, a tak nám to ďalej pokračuje do ďalšej generácie. Preto si vás vážení kolegovia dovoľm upozorniť na písomnú deklaráciu, ktorú sme pripravili s mojimi kolegyňami práve k tejto problematike, vzťahu cukrovky a obezity v tehotnosti. Členské štáty Európskej únie by mali venovať väčšiu pozornosť prevencii a screeningu diabetu v tehotnosti, ale aj zvýšiť informovanosť obyvateľstva o rizikách a dôsledkoch obezity.

3-398

Horst Schnellhardt (PPE-DE). – Herr Präsident, meine Damen und Herren! Die Kommission beabsichtigt, mit dem Weißbuch ein integriertes Konzept der EU darzustellen, um Erkrankungen aufgrund ungesunder Ernährung und damit auftretendes Übergewicht und Adipositas zu verringern. Das ist richtig und wichtig, denn die Zunahme der Erkrankungen durch ungesunde Ernährung und Bewegungsmangel zwingt zum Handeln.

Das Ziel der Kommission, bei den Maßnahmen den politikbereichsübergreifenden Ansatz zu wählen, ist richtig. Nur so können wir die Ursachen, die zu Erkrankungen durch Fettleibigkeit führen, bekämpfen. Ausgewogene Ernährung ist wichtig, ebenso Bildung in Bezug auf gesunde Ernährung und die Förderung des Schulsports, und es ist wichtig, dass wir die Menschen in der Europäischen Union genau darauf hinorientieren und hinlenken. Es gibt da schon gute Ansätze. Die Plattform für gesunde Ernährung und Bewegung unterstützt ja gerade dieses Ziel. Sie zieht durch Europa und versucht, Bürger auf die neue Situation einzustellen. Auch das Schulobst-Programm der Kommission kann hier als Beispiel genannt werden.

Wenn wir aber versuchen, so wie jetzt in dem Vorschlag, wieder mit populistischen Forderungen aufzutreten, lenken wir doch von dem eigentlichen Problem ab. Was soll denn die Forderung schon wieder, dass Werbung eingeschränkt werden soll? Wir haben gerade erst die Richtlinie „Fernsehen ohne Grenzen“ verabschiedet. Dort sind genaue Regeln vorgeschrieben. Wir kommen schon wieder mit neuen Wünschen und Vorstellungen.

Ich habe vierzig Jahre in einer Gegend gewohnt, wo Werbung verboten war. Das hat auch nicht dazu geführt, dass wir im kommunistischen Teil Europas alle schlank geworden sind. Was soll die Forderung der Grünen, dass Lebensmittel mit einem bestimmten Nährstoffgehalt mit Steuersätzen belegt werden? Wollen wir, dass die Armen in der Europäischen Union bestimmte Lebensmittel nicht mehr essen können, weil sie sie nicht bezahlen können? Oder welchen Ansatz wollen wir wählen?

Wir brauchen den Ansatz der Bildung, der Schulung. Da müssen wir Geld hineinstecken! Wir dürfen nicht mit Zwangsmaßnahmen den Bürger in seinen Bewegungen einschränken und ihn in seiner Ernährung beschneiden.

3-399

Edite Estrela (PSE). – Senhor Presidente, este debate é muito importante e quero, por isso, começar por saudar a iniciativa da Comissão e o relatório do Sr. Foglietta. Tem-se falado mais da anorexia do que da obesidade, apesar de a obesidade se estar a transformar numa verdadeira epidemia mundial. Mais de 50% dos europeus sofrem de excesso de peso e cerca de 6% das despesas de saúde estão relacionadas com a obesidade – já aqui foram referidos esses números. A obesidade infantil continua a crescer, 22 milhões de crianças europeias sofrem de excesso de peso.

O combate à obesidade deve ser uma prioridade política da União Europeia. Por isso concordo com a generalidade das medidas propostas: informação ao consumidor, restrição da publicidade televisiva, alegações nutricionais e de saúde na rotulagem dos alimentos. É preciso que as pessoas tenham consciência de que a obesidade constitui uma das principais causas de morte e que lhe estão associadas muitas doenças crónicas, como a diabetes, a hipertensão, as perturbações cardiovasculares, problemas ósseos e articulares, doenças respiratórias e cancro. É preciso agir e depressa. A solução é conhecida: mais exercício físico e mais cuidados com a alimentação. Precisamente o contrário do que a maior parte das pessoas faz. As sandes e os refrigerantes, os doces e os salgadinhos não devem ser consumidos todos os dias e a vida sedentária não faz nada bem à saúde.

O exercício físico pode ser andar pelo menos uma meia hora por dia, não exige grande esforço, nem custa dinheiro, mas resulta. É importante para os adultos e fundamental para as crianças. Muitos pais nem sequer têm consciência do mal que fazem aos filhos deixando que passem o seu tempo livre em frente da televisão ou do computador, comendo o que não devem, sem qualquer tipo de acompanhamento ou controlo.

É preciso unir esforços para combater a obesidade, por isso as intervenções devem ser concertadas e envolver as escolas, as famílias e os operadores do sector produtivo, sanitário e social – a cada um a sua responsabilidade. O papel da família na alteração dos hábitos é decisivo. Compete à escola cuidar do controlo qualitativo e nutricional das refeições escolares, proibindo a venda de produtos gordos, demasiado salgados ou com excesso de teor de açúcar nos bares e nas máquinas de venda automática e, ao mesmo tempo, facilitar e promover a actividade física dos alunos.

3-400

Holger Krahmer (ALDE). – Herr Präsident! Ich begrüße den Ansatz sehr, den wir in dem Weißbuch beschreiben, dass wir den Ursachen von Fehlernährung und Fettleibigkeit und daraus folgenden Krankheiten auf die Spur kommen. Leider verfallen wir in der Lebensmittelpolitik in Europa, ganz egal, ob wir über Nährwertprofile reden, über Lebensmittelkennzeichnung oder auch an manchen Stellen in dem Weißbuch, in einen sehr einseitigen Ansatz. Wir versuchen nämlich die Probleme, die wir in Europa haben, über die Produktpolitik zu lösen.

Ich glaube, dass es ein grundsätzlich falscher Politikansatz ist, davon auszugehen, dass es gute und schlechte Lebensmittel gibt. Viele Änderungsanträge zeigen das, das gibt es nicht. Es gibt nur gute und schlechte oder eben ausgewogene und unausgewogene Ernährungsweisen. Das sollte unser Ansatz sein. Die Ursachen für falsche Ernährung sind vielschichtig.

Sie dadurch beheben zu wollen, dass wir versuchen, den Verbraucher durch Produktkennzeichnung zu lenken oder gar mit Werbeverboten oder Regulierungen oder mit unterschiedlichen Mehrwertsteuersätzen vorzugehen, wird uns nicht zum Ziel führen.

Ich will jetzt nicht der Kennzeichnungsverordnungsdebatte vorgreifen, aber ich glaube, alles, was wir hier tun, sollte ein bisschen unter der Überschrift stehen: Was können wir tun, um den Verbraucher dazu zu motivieren, über seine Ernährungsgewohnheiten nachzudenken. Eine Ampelkennzeichnung, die ihm suggeriert: Ich stehe jetzt vor einem guten oder schlechten Produkt, ist meines Erachtens eher ein Instrument der Entmündigung als ein Instrument der Bildung und Aufklärung. Deswegen wünsche ich mir hier einen ausgewogeneren Ansatz und die Erkenntnis, dass uns allein der Weg über die Produktpolitik nicht weiterbringen wird.

3-401

Roberta Angelilli (UEN). – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, innanzitutto vorrei fare i miei complimenti al relatore per l'ottimo lavoro svolto. Ovviamente, ripeterò molte riflessioni già evidenziate dai colleghi, ma credo che non bisogna usare mezzi termini: l'obesità colpisce circa il 25% dei bambini europei ed è quindi una grave ipoteca sulla loro salute futura; tra le cause poca informazione, abitudini alimentari scorrette, scarsa attività fisica, anche mancanza di strutture sportive. Non bisogna neanche sottovalutare i problemi sociali e psicologici, anche perché i bambini sovrappeso spesso sono vittime di bullismo.

È quindi interessante, a mio avviso, la proposta di incrementare il finanziamento del programma frutta nelle scuole che rende disponibili gratuitamente frutta e verdura sui banchi. Il 2009 dovrà poi rilanciare la dieta mediterranea e la produzione della frutta e verdura anche a fronte degli ultimi dati dell'OMS che dicono che anche nei paesi mediterranei si registra un abbassamento nei consumi di questo tipo di alimenti. Con questa iniziativa la frutta, prima destinata alla distruzione per mantenere i prezzi, sarà utilizzata per garantire un'alimentazione più salutare soprattutto per i nostri bambini e quindi un futuro più sano per i cittadini europei.

3-402

Ilda Figueiredo (GUE/NGL). – Senhor Presidente, é importante ter uma visão global e integrada sobre a nutrição, o excesso de peso e a obesidade, dado que são múltiplos os factores envolvidos onde as questões da pobreza alimentar, de má nutrição e de falta de informação sobre alimentação saudável assumem particular importância.

Assim, a questão da garantia de uma alimentação saudável assume particular importância, devendo garantir-se através de políticas públicas que todos tenham acesso a uma alimentação saudável, o que coloca a necessidade de prever medidas diversas que assegurem a produção agrícola, de qualidade e de proximidade, de bens alimentares de qualidade, incluindo o leite, a fruta e os legumes, bem como a sua distribuição a pessoas com escassos recursos económicos.

Por outro lado, uma outra política agrícola comum, apostada na defesa da agricultura familiar e na criação de mercados de proximidade, com frutas, legumes e outros bens alimentares de primeira necessidade, cuja produção seja devidamente apoiada, pode garantir uma alimentação saudável, a preços acessíveis, à generalidade da população.

Havendo propostas que visam algum apoio à distribuição nas escolas de frutas e legumes, é fundamental aumentar o valor que a Comissão Europeia propõe para esse programa de forma a garantir a sua distribuição diária e gratuita a todas as crianças em idade escolar e não apenas um dia por semana, como agora acontece. Mas, igualmente importante, é preciso pôr em prática todo um conjunto de políticas e programas de saúde pública, que coloquem a questão da nutrição como uma prioridade, incluindo campanhas de informação e educação para a saúde, de promoção de regimes e modos de vida saudáveis, onde não falem a educação física e o desporto, garantindo o seu acesso à generalidade da população, dando particular destaque às crianças e jovens, designadamente nas escolas.

3-403

Urszula Krupa (IND/DEM). – Panie Przewodniczący! Dokument dotyczący zagadnień zdrowotnych związanych z odżywianiem, otyłością i nadwagą zawiera szereg ważnych spostrzeżeń. Niepokojące wskaźniki pokazujące rozpowszechnienie nadwagi są powodem konieczności przeciwdziałania ze zwróceniem szczególnej uwagi na propagowanie ekologicznej żywności, aktywności fizycznej od najmłodszych lat, sportu oraz zwracanie uwagi na szkodliwość reklam podświadomie stymulujących objadanie. Korzystne elementy dokumentu to także propagowanie karmienia piersią, poprawienia jakości standardów żywyczych posiłków szkolnych, dostarczania owoców, natomiast zakazu sprzedaży w szkołach żywności i napojów zawierających dużo tłuszczu, soli i cukru.

Problem otyłości i nadwagi ma jednak jeszcze inne przyczyny, spośród których ważną rolę odgrywają powody psychiczne i urazowe. Różnorodne zaburzenia psychiczne prowadzą do zaburzeń odżywiania pozostając poza sferą świadomości, czego ewidentnym przykładem są bulimia i anoreksja. Nie tylko niedorozwój osobowy, ale brak respektowania wartości, powszechne depresje, nerwice powodują, że silniejsze znaczenie od świadomego działania mają automatyzmy biologiczne utrwalane przez powszechną obecność dostępnych na każdym kroku fast foodów. Pogardzane zasady etyczno-moralne, zlekceważenie znaczenia postów mogą nawet uniemożliwić wzrost osobowy uzależniając człowieka od poziomu cukru we krwi i wrażeń smakowo-wzrokowych.

Observervując mailowe dyskusje i zgłaszane poprawki nieco dziwi pomijanie znaczenia kwasów tłuszczowych nasyconych, których spożycie wzrasta. Natomiast problem odmiennego wpływu sztucznych kwasów trans od pozostałych wydaje się rozstrzygnięty, gdyż w postaci naturalnej kwasy trans występują w niewielu produktach, zwłaszcza w niewielkim procencie w mleku.

3-404

Avril Doyle (PPE-DE). – Mr President, more than half of the European population is overweight, and the World Health Organisation tells us that a billion people worldwide are overweight, 300 million of them obese. As many as 50% of Europeans take no exercise at all.

Cardio-metabolic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and heart disease are growing at an alarming rate, and those with high levels of obesity are extremely prone to develop type-two diabetes with all the consequent morbidity issues, as witness the alarming increases in this type of diabetes among very young teenagers. Doctors are now also telling us there is a serious connection between obesity and dementia/Alzheimer's disease.

Critically this is a huge challenge for policymakers, especially when it comes to our children, 22 million of whom are overweight in Europe. We have reached a stage in this strange world of ours today where there are more people overweight than there are hungry. On top of all of this, particularly in wealthier countries, we have an increasingly problematic relationship with food, with increasing anorexia and bulimia, diseases of countries where there is plenty to eat.

Although health matters largely fall within the Member States' area of competence, there are many ways in which issues around obesity can be tackled at EU level: exchange of best practice, promoting healthier lifestyles in relevant EU policies and cross-border epidemiological cooperation.

Last week I hosted a breakfast week here in Parliament, where we underlined the fact that 61% of Europeans skip breakfast regularly during the week. This fact can be directly linked to excess weight gain by our doctors. The Harvard Medical School recently conducted a study which found that people who ate breakfast every day were 35% less likely to be obese. Research has also found that these people who skip breakfast are likely to be more tired, irritable and restless in the morning.

Starting the day with a proper blood-sugar level is the best antidote to snacking and sugar cravings. So while citizens are ultimately personally responsible for their own diets, the ongoing promotion of healthier lifestyles is a must.

I support this report strongly, except for paragraph 28, with which I cannot agree: I do not believe tax measures should be raised in a health-based report.

3-405

Åsa Westlund (PSE). – Herr talman! Som många har sagt så är det en viktig fråga som vi diskuterar här idag. Det är en väldigt viktig fråga där vi kan lära av varandra, medlemsstaterna emellan, men det är också väldigt viktigt att vi respekterar subsidiaritetsprincipen när vi diskuterar den här frågan.

Det finns mycket som EU kan göra för att minska problemet med fetma och som vi borde fokusera på här i parlamentet. Reklam och konsumentinformation är områden som vi faktiskt beslutar om här i parlamentet och som borde vara vårt fokus. Jag tycker att vi har misslyckats delvis där. Vi har till exempel misslyckats med att förbjuda reklam som riktar sig till barn, en grupp som inte kan göra skillnad på reklam och fakta som presenteras till dem och som därmed definitionsmässigt är vilseledande för just de här konsumenterna. Väldigt mycket av den reklam som riktar sig till barn handlar just om mat som innehåller mycket fett, salt eller socker. Ett förbud mot reklam som riktar sig till barn skulle på ett effektivt sätt kunna minska fetmaproblemen i Europa.

Det andra som jag tänkte ta upp handlar om transfetter. Jag är väldigt glad att vi kanske imorgon kan uppmana kommissionen att lägga fram ett förbud mot transfetter. Det vanligaste argumentet mot ett sådant förbud brukar vara att det egentligen är mättade fetter som är det största problemet för folkhälsan i Europa. Så är det definitionsmässigt, men varför inte resonera som man gör i Danmark? Om vi nu har ett jättestort problem med mättade fetter, varför måste vi ha ett extra problem med transfetter också? Jag kan inte förstå den logiken. Man kan inte ta bort alla mättade fetter, men man kan faktiskt ta bort den här industrialiserade produktionen av transfetter, som bara är ett billigt och dåligt sätt att göra mat på.

Jag är också väldigt glad att vi i betänkandet tar upp det här om glutamat. Slutligen vill jag ändå säga att subsidiaritet är viktigt. Vi hade kunnat avhålla oss ifrån en mängd åsikter om vad olika skolor ska göra och servera. Jag tror faktiskt att det finns bättre politiska nivåer att ta sådana beslut på än här i Europaparlamentet.

3-406

Cristian Silviu Bușoi (ALDE). – Am ascultat cu toții statisticile legate de persoanele mature și de copiii care suferă de obezitate, nu am să le reiau acum. Ceea ce este mai îngrijorător este că, din 2010, perspectivele sunt și mai proaste. De

aceea, obezitatea, excesul de greutate sunt, și ar trebui să fie, teme prioritare care să ne preocupe și, de aceea, salut Cartea albă a Comisiei, cât și raportul domnului Foglietta.

Din păcate, obezitatea îi afectează cel mai mult pe cei din categoriile socio-economice defavorizate, cu atât mai mult cu cât, în ultima perioadă, prețul alimentelor de bază a crescut considerabil; toate acestea, în condițiile în care promovarea unui stil de viață și de alimentație sănătoase ar putea să scadă numărul mare de persoane obeze, fiind, în același timp, un element esențial de reducere a costurilor sistemelor de sănătate din statele membre, cu tratarea complicațiilor bolilor legate de obezitate.

Și eu cred că măsurile coercitive nu reprezintă o soluție. Cetățenii europeni au libertatea de alegere. Soluția este o mai bună informare cu privire la nutriție, în special, etichetarea corespunzătoare care să precizeze clar conținutul nutrițional, dar și campanii de informare pe care Comisia Europeană și guvernele statelor membre ar trebui să le finanțeze. Campanii de educare a părinților, care au un rol foarte important, cât și a copiilor. În plus, statele membre, în ceea ce-i privește pe copii, ar trebui să supravegheze conținutul automatelor din școli, să monitorizeze mesele oferite la cantinele din școli și grădinițe și să încurajeze un consum mai mare de fructe și legume. Orele de sport pentru copii sunt foarte importante. Nu în ultimul rând, Comisia ar trebui să fie foarte atentă la inițiativele industriei cu privire la publicitatea responsabilă și la reducerea conținutului de sare, zahăr și grăsimi.

3-407

Zdzisław Zbigniew Podkański (UEN). – Panie Przewodniczący! Z danych WHO wynika, że ponad miliard osób cierpi na nadwagę, a ponad trzysta milionów jest otyłych. Jeszcze dramatyczniej wygląda sytuacja w Europie. Otyłość stała się więc nie tylko problemem, ale epidemią niosącą za sobą zachorowania na cukrzycę, nadciśnienie, zawał i niektóre rodzaje nowotworów.

Walka z nadwagą i otyłością wymaga kompleksowych działań obejmujących produkcję zdrowej żywności, racjonalne odżywianie się, poprawę sytuacji ekonomicznej najuboższych, budzenie świadomości społecznej, rozwój badań naukowych, troskę o żywienie dzieci, prowadzenie zdrowego trybu życia i aktywnego wypoczynku. Obok powszechnie znanych przyczyn otyłości i nadwagi pojawiają się niestety nowe wynikające z chęci zysku i niefrasobliwości. Dobrym przykładem na to zjawisko jest rozpowszechnianie organizmów genetycznie modyfikowanych, niszczenie poprzez ich uprawę i hodowlę bioróżnorodności oraz wypieranie zdrowej żywności.

Dla dobra człowieka, jego rozwoju i zdrowia, dla ochrony środowiska naturalnego winniśmy podjąć wspólne działania, by Europa była wolna od GMO pamiętając przy tym, że zdrowa, naturalna żywność to najskuteczniejszy środek w walce z chorobami, w tym z nadwagą i otyłością.

3-408

Christa Klab (PPE-DE). – Herr Präsident! Übergewicht und Adipositas stellen ein großes Problem für unsere Gesellschaft dar. Wir wissen, dass wir die Verhaltensweisen der Verbraucher nicht durch Gesetze ändern können. Vielmehr wirkt das veränderte Verhalten der gesamten Gesellschaft auf die einzelnen Menschen ein. Wer will schon gerne Außenseiter sein! Unser Gesundheits- und Essverhalten ist durch unser gesellschaftliches Umfeld geprägt. Es wurde beklagt, dass der Fleischkonsum zunehme. Er nimmt aber auch deshalb zu, weil sich mehr Menschen ein Stück Fleisch leisten können, nicht nur, weil einzelne Menschen mehr Fleisch essen.

Am wichtigsten ist es, ein gesundes Verhältnis zu Essen und Trinken zu haben. Extremes Schlankheitsdenken ist genau so krankhaft wie die Esssucht. Essverhalten kann man nicht per Gesetz steuern. Es gibt keine Kalorien- und Fettmenge, die für alle Menschen gleich ist. So unterschiedlich wie die Menschen, so unterschiedlich ist auch der individuelle Energiebedarf, abhängig von Alter, Geschlecht, Beruf, von der Tätigkeit. Verbote sind ein schlechter Ratgeber für Situationen, in denen die Einsicht greifen müsste. Wir brauchen nicht neue Gesetze, sondern Informationskampagnen – Wissen vermitteln –, nicht Gängelung, sondern Freiheit. Mut zur Freiheit heißt auch Mut zur Verantwortung.

Wir haben mündige Bürger in Europa, die selbst denken können. Eine Ampel in der Kennzeichnung ist jedenfalls nicht repräsentativ, wenn nur bestimmte Angaben unabhängig voneinander betrachtet werden und den Verbraucher verwirren. Was will ich wählen, wenn gleichzeitig rot und grün und gelb gezeigt werden? Die Lebensmittelindustrie legt die Kosten der neuen Kennzeichnung dann auf die Preise um, und es treibt die Preise zusätzlich in die Höhe.

Ich spreche mich gegen eine Gängelung der Bevölkerung und gegen eine zwingende Farbkodierung auf der Verpackungsvorderseite aus und bitte daher die Kolleginnen und Kollegen, gegen Ziffer 37 des Berichts zu stimmen. Das können wir, wenn es notwendig ist, bei einer anderen Aufgabe dann erledigen – wenn es um die Kennzeichnung geht. Nutzen wir das Weißbuch „Ernährung, Übergewicht, Adipositas“ als Meinungsbildungsinstrument und Denkanstoß für die Gesellschaft und nicht für neue Auflagen und neue Gesetze!

3-409

Justas Vincas Paleckis (PSE). – Mr President, I would like to congratulate the rapporteur for successfully tackling such an oversized topic.

Firstly, I should stress the importance of providing free lunches for schoolchildren, which is the practice in my home country of Lithuania but is far from that of all Member States. Of course there are objections relating to insufficient funding and generally about the quality of food which is actually on the plate, but it helps children – especially from the poorest families – to have proper and decent-quality meals.

I also welcome an initiative to distribute fruit and vegetables free in schools. It should be considered as an example of best practice. I believe EU funding could be helpful in assisting Member States with the financial burden. The importance of this is that such projects take the EU directly to citizens.

Last but certainly not least, the report fails to mention consumption in the sense of over-consumption. These days, changing consumption patterns equal a change in our lifestyles. It is perhaps hard to imagine a parallel between obesity and climate change but, indeed, such dependency exists. If we started to think about both topics at the same time, perhaps we would fly fewer of our apples and strawberries from abroad and grow more of them at home, selling them at local food markets instead of supermarkets – which is exactly one of the points that the current report proposes.

3-410

Siiri Oviir (ALDE). – Lugupeetud volinik, head kolleegid. Ülekaaluliste ja rasvunute arvust on siin juba korduvalt räägitud, aga ekspertarvamuse kohaselt lisandub neile järgmisel aastal veel 1,3 miljonit inimest. See on üks minu koduriigi Eesti jagu inimesi – see on ju kohutav. Valet toitumist ja rasvumist põhjustavaid tegureid on palju, kuid kindlasti tuleb arvestada toiduainete maksumuse, kättesaadavuse ja teadlikkusega selles vallas.

Kuueistkümmnes Euroopa Liidu riigis on peetud võimalikuks toiduainete käibemaksu hoida üldmäära tunduvalt madalamal – see on kiiduväärne otsus. Tervitav on raportis sellele meetmele tehtud ettepanek, nimelt alandada puu- ja köögiviljade käibemaksu viiest protsendist allapoole. Toob ju WHO aruanne tervise kohta välja ühena seitsmest terviseriskist just vähese puu- ja köögiviljade tarbimise. Selles kontekstis oleks tänuväärne alustada koolides puuvilja pakkumist ja selleks oleks ka vajalik Euroopa Liidu tugi. Just nimelt sellel eesmärgil, et see meede rakenduks kõigis 27 liikmesriigis.

Minutiga ei jõua palju, kuid ma tahaksin peatuda paari sõnaga reklaamil ja meedial. Siin oleks vaja nende mõlema abi ja mõistvat suhtumist reklaamida porgandit, mitte Pepsi-Colat, reklaamida milliseid stereotüüpe, milliseid kehakuvandeid – sellel on väga tähtis osa inimeste teadlikkuse tõstmisel. Lubage mul lõpetades tänada komisjoni ja raportööri tehtud jõupingutuste eest.

3-411

Andrzej Tomasz Zapalowski (UEN). – Panie Przewodniczący! Debaturujemy dziś nad problemem wzrostu liczby osób otyłych. Równocześnie w Komisji Rolnictwa trwa debata dotycząca przyszłej polityki rolnej. Obydwie te debaty w pewnej części dotyczą tego samego zagadnienia: zdrowia naszego społeczeństwa, a szczególnie młodzieży.

Czasami odnoszę wrażenie, iż w jednych dokumentach ubolewamy nad problemami zdrowotnymi, a w drugich promujemy GMO, klonowanie, import żywności z regionów, w których produkuje się ją metodami daleko odbiegającymi od naturalnych. Nasi negocjatorzy w ramach WTO chcą jeszcze bardziej otwierać się na rynki pozaeuropejskie. Zadajmy sobie pytanie, czy my naprawdę dbamy o nasze społeczeństwo, czy tylko o tym mówimy? Większość dopłat bezpośrednich do rolnictwa otrzymują duże koncerny przemysłowo-rolnicze produkujące żywność wysoce nasyconą chemią, a nie gospodarstwa rodzinne produkujące zdrową żywność.

Oczywiście to sprawozdanie jest bardzo potrzebne, ale pod warunkiem wprowadzenia jego głównych założeń w życie. Patrząc na obecne priorytety Komisji mam w tej sprawie duże obawy.

3-412

Françoise Grossetête (PPE-DE). – Monsieur le Président, 27 % des hommes, 38 % des femmes, un enfant sur quatre, sont aujourd'hui considérés en surpoids ou obèses en Europe, et on compte 400 000 nouveaux cas par an. C'est un véritable fléau qui est en train de se développer en Europe. L'information et la prévention sont certainement les bonnes réponses parce que, malheureusement, nous sommes face à un problème de santé publique, qui devient aussi un problème social. L'obésité se conjugue malheureusement souvent avec pauvreté et exclusion.

On a beaucoup parlé de l'information et de la prévention. Je ne vais pas revenir sur ce qui a été dit concernant l'étiquetage des aliments, le rôle des pouvoirs publics, les cantines scolaires, équipements sportifs, la transmission d'une bonne information, une alimentation saine et la nécessité d'un exercice physique quotidien.

Je voudrais insister sur le rôle essentiel des professionnels de santé, qui sont là pour détecter les risques de maladies chroniques liées à l'obésité, par exemple les diabètes, les maladies cardiovasculaires et les conséquences qu'elles ont, bien sûr, sur ces personnes en surpoids. La prévention passe par l'échange des bonnes pratiques, dans le respect du principe de subsidiarité.

Les études ont montré, par exemple, qu'un tour de taille supérieur à 88 cm chez la femme, hors état de grossesse, et de plus de 102 cm chez l'homme définissent l'obésité abdominale et traduisent un risque pour la santé, et ce, indépendamment de la taille. C'est donc un repère très simple et encore insuffisamment pris en compte en consultation médicale. C'est pourquoi la mesure du tour de taille doit devenir pour tous les patients un point de repère simple, incitant à dépister au plus tôt les facteurs de risque associés comme l'intolérance au glucose, qui annonce un prédiabète, les excès de cholestérol, de triglycérides, l'hypertension artérielle, et on sait que tout cela, malheureusement, est aussi indice de développement de la maladie d'Alzheimer.

Voilà toutes les raisons pour lesquelles il faut véritablement s'appuyer sur le rôle des professionnels de santé.

3-413

Marian Harkin (ALDE). – Mr President, I would like to congratulate the rapporteur: this report is very timely and deserves the full attention of policymakers. The facts on obesity are startling and have already been quoted. Yesterday at a major conference in Dublin a nutrition expert claimed that Ireland was on the cusp of an obesity crisis, and, indeed, a similar situation pertains across Europe.

I want to briefly mention just one issue: self-regulation versus legislation. We have a voluntary code for the advertising of food of poor nutritional value to children, but there is a large question mark over whether this is working or not. According to the Irish Heart Alliance, this voluntary code is not effective. I believe we need to monitor it very carefully and take immediate action if necessary.

Mr Bushill-Matthews mentioned personal responsibility. That is fine at one level, but we need clear, understandable food labelling – colour coding is a positive step. We live in a world where we consume greater and greater amounts of processed foods. Indeed, certain EU policies promote this – the Lisbon Agenda: more people at work, less time for food preparation. I fully support the Lisbon Agenda, but, alongside that, we as EU policymakers have a duty to ensure that food manufacturers make it very clear what is contained in the processed foods they manufacture.

3-414

Bogusław Sonik (PPE-DE). – Panie Przewodniczący! Temat zagadnień zdrowotnych związanych z odżywianiem, nadwagą i otyłością jest tematem niezwykle aktualnym i na czasie. Nie tylko Europa, ale i cały świat stoi dzisiaj przed ogromnym wyzwaniem, jakim jest otyłość i związane z nią bezpośrednio i pośrednio choroby. Tempo, w jakim rosną wydatki na leczenie, jest zaskakujące. Według najnowszych danych w Stanach Zjednoczonych, gdzie nadwagę ma 60% mieszkańców, a już 1/3 cierpi na otyłość, wydatki pochłaniają rocznie ponad 10% budżetu opieki zdrowotnej, czyli aż 100 miliardów dolarów. Europa zaczyna powoli doganiać swoich sąsiadów w tych niechlubnych wskaźnikach. Coraz więcej dzieci i młodzieży cierpi na nadciśnienie i cukrzycę, które są częstokroć następstwem złego sposobu odżywiania i braku ruchu. Mając na uwadze przyszłość Europy i jej mieszkańców musimy zwrócić większą uwagę na problemy, które zostały poruszone w sprawozdaniu pana Foglietti. Tylko wspólne, zdecydowane i szybkie działania mogą zapobiec katastrofie zdrowotnej, przed którą stoi Europa i cały zglobalizowany świat.

Obecnie Parlament Europejski zajmuje się wieloma kwestiami dotyczącymi spraw ekonomicznych, socjalnych. Jednak, aby móc w pełni je zrealizować, nie możemy zapomnieć o tym, że tylko zdrowe społeczeństwa będą mogły w pełni korzystać z danych im dóbr. Konieczne jest podjęcie działań nie tylko promujących zdrowy tryb życia, ale również wprowadzenie takich rozwiązań prawnych, które będą nakładać obowiązek na wszystkie państwa członkowskie, aby bardziej aktywnie działały na rzecz kondycji fizycznej, zdrowego żywienia i sportu. Trzeba oczywiście przy tym pamiętać, że konkretne działania i polityki przeciwdziałania temu zjawisku leżą po stronie państw członkowskich.

3-415

Danutė Budreikaitė (ALDE). – Baltojoje knygoje dėl Europos strategijos su mityba, atsivoriu ir nutukimu susijusioms sveikatos problemomis spręsti siūloma atsižvelgti į tris veiksnius. Pirma, už gyvenimo būdą pirmiausia atsako pats žmogus. Antra, tik gerai informuotas vartotojas gali priimti tinkamus sprendimus. Trečia, siūloma derinti daugelį sričių – maisto, vartotojų, sporto, švietimo, transporto.

Tačiau šiems veiksniams iš esmės turi įtakos reklama. Ką gi mes valgome? Kur mes tai pamatome? Ir iš kur mes apie tai sužinome? Televizijos reklamoje 89 proc. reklamuojamo maisto yra nesveikas maistas. Daugiau nei 70 proc. vaikų tėvų prašo maisto, kurį matė per televiziją.

Kalbant apie žmonių sveikatą, aš pasigendu dar vieno diskusijų dalyvio - verslo, maisto gamintojų. Mes kartu turėtume paskatinti juos suprasti apie nesveiko maisto žalą, jo vartojimo kaštus visuomenei. Ir ne tik nereklamuoti tokį maistą, bet daugiau gaminti sveiko maisto.

3-416

Miroslav Mikolášik (PPE-DE). – Viac ako polovica európskej populácie trpí nadváhou. Podľa štatistík sa za ľudí s nadváhou považuje takmer 27 % mužov, 38 % žien, a viac než 5 miliónov detí je obéznych. 5 – 7 % výdavkov v zdravotníctve priamo súvisí s obezitou, a to predstavuje miliardy. Práve kvôli týmto znepokojujúcim faktom je potrebné prijať na všetkých úrovniach rôzne iniciatívy na zamedzenie tohto javu.

Vítam kroky Komisie k prijatiu Bielej knihy, ktorými jasne posunula oblasť výživy, nadváhy a obezity na úroveň politickej priority Európskej únie, a zastávam názor, že pokrok v boji proti obezite môžeme dosiahnuť koordináciou rôznych sektorových politík na európskej úrovni.

Dovoľte mi upriamiť pozornosť na problém nadváhy detí a mládeže – práve táto veková kategória by mala byť jednou z priorít. Správna výživa a telesná aktivita sú predpokladmi normálneho rastu a zdravého vývinu dieťaťa. Výchova k zdravej výžive patrí hlavne rodičom, ale vzdelávanie v tejto oblasti prináleží aj školám. Tie by sa mali stať ďalším centrom činností zameraných na boj proti obezite.

Súhlasím so spravodajcom v názore, aby sa na školách zabezpečila prítomnosť lekára, špecialistu na výživu. Ďalej presadzujem zákaz predaja masných, presolených a presladených výrobkov v školských zariadeniach, ktoré sú k dispozícii najmä v automatoch. Podľa štatistík dnešná mládež trávi viac ako 5 hodín denne sedavou činnosťou, a to hlavne pozeraním televízie a hraním sa na počítači. Pohyb, na druhej strane, zvyšuje ukladanie vápnika v kostiach, rozvíja sociálne zručnosti dieťaťa a je významným faktorom v boji proti stresu. Dôležité je vytvoriť školám podmienky, aby mohli vyhradiť počas dňa dostatočný čas na telesnú výchovu a viesť deti k športu, napríklad aj výstavbou ihrísk a športových hál. Tieto kroky sú nevyhnutné, ak chceme našim mladým generáciám pripraviť zdravú budúcnosť.

Už len v závere poviem: k prevencii obezity patrí aspoň jedno pokojné zdravé jedlo v rodinnom kruhu, kde sa majú predovšetkým pestovať zdravé návyky.

3-417

Antonio De Blasio (PPE-DE). – Köszönöm, elnök úr. Biztos úr, tisztelt képviselőtársaim! Az elhízás és a túlsúly nem kizárólag egészségügyi, hanem szélesebb értelemben vett társadalmi gyökerekből táplálkozik. Örömmel láttam, hogy a fehér könyv és a kapcsolódó jelentés rámutat arra, hogy az elhízás és a túlsúly kérdését nem abban a fázisban kell vizsgálni, amikor az már valós egészségügyi problémává nőtte ki magát, hanem vissza kell nyúlni a kiinduló okokhoz.

Fontosnak tartom hangsúlyozni, hogy a fehér könyvnek, illetve a parlamenti állásfoglalásnak nem az egészségügyi szférát kell megszólítani, hanem a polgárokat, a közösségeket, vagyis a társadalmat. Ezt a rendkívüli fontosságú kérdést az Európai Unió egyéb dokumentumaival összhangban kell kezelni, hiszen – minthogy a probléma okai többértékes – a siker érdekében a megoldásnak is több irányból érkezőnek, ugyanakkor összehangoltnak kell lennie.

Mind európai uniós, mind tagállami, mind pedig regionális és helyi szinten minden lehetséges formában támogatni kell az egészséges életmód népszerűsítését. Különösen nagy hangsúlyt kell helyezni azokra a programokra és akciókra, amelyek az iskoláskorú gyerekek és a fiatalok egészséges életmódra nevelését célozzák. Itt kell hangsúlyoznom a helyi önkormányzatok szerepét, hiszen az iskolákat nagy részben ők működtetik. A jól működő programokat pedig széles körben ismertté kell tenni.

Mindannyian tudjuk, hogy a tudatformálásban a média szerepe egyre szélesebb teret nyer: a reklám erejével divattá és követendő modellté lehet varázsolni az egészséges táplálkozást, a sportot, a rendszeres mozgást, egyszóval az egészséges életmódot is. Az elhízás megelőzésében a mozgás, a sport fontosságát szorosan össze kell kapcsolni az egészséges táplálkozás követelményeivel, azonban távolról sem elegendő csak erre a két aspektusra fókuszálni, az egészséges életmódra való ösztönzésnek minden kapcsolódó szakpolitika területén elsődleges jelentőségű prioritássá kell válnia.

A cél az, hogy az emberek megértsék, az egészséges, kiegyensúlyozott étkezés nem azt jelenti, hogy bizonyos táplálékokat soha nem fogyaszthatunk. A rendszeres mozgás nem azt jelenti, hogy minden szabad percben mozognunk kell. A hangsúly a mértéktartáson van, ettől válik az étrendünk és az életünk is kiegyensúlyozottá. Szeretném megköszönni a jelentéstevő munkáját és azt, hogy meghallgattak. Köszönöm szépen.

3-418

Zbigniew Zaleski (PPE-DE). – Panie Przewodniczący! Mamy do czynienia z dwoma zaburzeniami związanymi z jedzeniem, mianowicie anoreksją wywołaną najczęściej psychologicznie przez modelowanie szczupłych figur jako bardziej atrakcyjnych (w skrajnych przypadkach tego zaburzenia dochodzi do śmierci, są nam to przypadki znane, jednak, dzięki Bogu, moda przemija i fenomen trochę traci na sile). Drugie zaburzenie to otyłość, która też może mieć podłoże psychologiczne: jedzenie traktowane jako zapobieganie stresowi, jako ucieczka od problemów życiowych. Jednak ważniejsze wydaje mi się tutaj odżywianie. W tym zakresie producenci i dystrybutorzy jedzenia ponoszą dużo więcej winy i obecne sprawozdanie jako przestroga jest bardzo potrzebne. Tak zwany *fast food* oferowany uczniom szkolnym na wycieczkach, w podróży – jest to duże zagrożenie, bo to jest edukacja jak jeść. Trzeba zatem odpowiedniej edukacji i kontroli żywności. Ja myślę, że nasze przedsięwzięcie jest dobrym krokiem i popieram to sprawozdanie.

3-419

Marian Zlotea (PPE-DE). – Cred că trebuie să ne focalizăm atenția asupra copiilor supraponderali și să încercăm să creăm noi programe, care să combată obezitatea din primele etape ale vieții, când deprindem obiceiurile alimentare. Trebuie să promovăm educația alimentară și continuarea acestei educații și după terminarea școlii primare. Toate statele

membre trebuie să includă în programele școlare o inițiere privind beneficiile alimentației echilibrate și ale exercițiilor fizice.

După anumite statistici, peste 10 ani, Europa va avea peste 30 de milioane de copii supraponderali. Sunt profund îngrijorat de această problemă cu care ne confruntăm. În acest sens, am inițiat o serie de declarații scrise care propun crearea de programe speciale în școli pentru acești copii, care să cuprindă teste medicale gratuite periodice, programe de consultanță psihologică pentru a-i ajuta pe acești copii. Susțin propunerile din această Carte albă, precum etichetarea corespunzătoare a produselor, restricțiile privind publicitatea alimentelor nesănătoase pentru copii, reducerile de TVA pentru fructe și legume, precum și pentru alimente adresate exclusiv copiilor. În încheiere, aș dori să felicit raportorul pentru munca depusă.

3-420

László Kovács, Member of the Commission. – Mr President, I am really pleased that the Members of Parliament who took the floor basically agreed with the Commission White Paper. They not only shared its views, but also expressed support for the Commission's initiatives.

I appreciate the complex approach of the speakers. This is fully in compliance with the complex nature of the problem of obesity. Many of the speakers urge raising public awareness and cooperation with the food industry, which is also fully in line with the text of the White Paper both in spirit and letter. The Commission's commitment is reflected in the proposal on food information to consumers which we will soon be discussing with the Parliament and also with the Council.

I want to stress that there are various programmes and projects in the European Union which mutually reinforce the White Paper on nutrition, overweight and obesity – such as the Green Paper on urban mobility or the White Paper on sport, both aimed at a healthier lifestyle and a healthier environment. Others include the common agricultural policy health check – which would, for example, decrease consumption aid for butter – or the schemes for school milk and fruit, the Community legislation on advertising and marketing to promote responsible advertising, or the Directive on Unfair Commercial Practices.

These are very important initiatives in full harmony with the Commission's position. The Commission will continue to work with the EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health and with the high-level group of Member State experts.

I also want to stress that the Commission is encouraging initiatives that help prevent the development of cardiovascular disease in Europe, for which trans-fatty-acid consumption is a risk factor in addition to overall fat intake and the intake of saturated-fat acids. Voluntary reformulation can deliver results. Commitments have been made within the European Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health to reformulate products and reduce the amount of trans-fats and saturated fats in them.

There is just one more issue which I want to mention because it touches my portfolio – taxation. There was a proposal to examine the possibility of applying reduced VAT rates for vegetables and fruits. I do feel sympathy with this proposal because it shows exactly how tax policy can promote the attainment of other important policy purposes.

To conclude, I want to underline that Parliament is one of the founding members of the Platform, and the European Commission is prepared to regularly update Parliament on the activities of the Platform. Parliament is expected to discuss the monitoring report in 2010.

3-421

El Presidente. – Vamos a terminar este debate con la intervención del ponente, señor Foglietta, a quien ruego se atenga a los dos minutos de tiempo que le corresponden.

3-422

Alessandro Foglietta, relatore. – Signor Presidente, onorevoli colleghi, vorrei sottolineare un aspetto che ritengo molto importante, proprio dalle dichiarazioni che ha fatto il Commissario, un'attenzione forte su una problematica che deve essere affrontata seriamente cercando anche di mettere a disposizione delle opportunità.

Io credo che questo argomento è un argomento al quale teniamo in molti, perché sono stati parecchi interventi tutti mirati, sono entrati nel merito della questione, hanno cercato di segnalare e sollecitare la Commissione, ma soprattutto la relazione, per poter raggiungere un obiettivo che è quello di stabilire un principio che certamente abbiamo una grande criticità, che è quella dell'obesità.

L'obesità, proprio in riferimento al problema sanitario, che è un problema che ormai sta diventando estremamente complicato perché deve essere risolto, perché deve essere aiutato, perché bisogna cercare di stabilire un rapporto che ci deve portare a raggiungere gli obiettivi. Allora, io credo Commissario, che diventa anche indispensabile pensare che la Commissione ha sottolineato il ruolo dell'Organizzazione mondiale della sanità, ma proprio l'Organizzazione mondiale

chiede di invertire il trend di crescita dell'obesità dei bambini entro il 2015. Ma nel 2010 avremo una data importante, che è quella per stabilire effettivamente qual è il risultato che abbiamo ottenuto, per quanto riguarda questa strategia.

Allora, io credo, nel ringraziare tutti coloro che sono intervenuti, i relatori ombra, ma tutti i suggerimenti che ci sono stati, nel dire che dobbiamo essere molto attenti, osservatori nel cercare di stabilire un rapporto importante che ci possa consentire di pensare realmente a una prevenzione e a un equilibrio per mangiar bene, non solo nel corpo, anche nella mente e nell'anima; e credo che possiamo raggiungere veramente questo obiettivo grazie alla collaborazione di tutti. Di nuovo, grazie a tutti coloro che sono intervenuti a sostegno di questa nostra relazione. Grazie Commissario.

3-423

El Presidente. – Gracias a usted, señor Foglietta, por su trabajo, reconocido aquí por todos.

Se cierra el debate.

La votación tendrá lugar mañana 25 de septiembre.

Declaraciones por escrito (artículo 142 del Reglamento)

3-424

Genowefa Grabowska (PSE), na piśmie. – Nadwaga i otyłość to rodzaj współczesnej epidemii o skutkach groźnych dla zdrowia, a nawet dla życia człowieka. Cukrzyca, zaburzenia układu krążenia, nadciśnienie, zawał, niektóre rodzaje nowotworów to tylko niektóre zagrożenia wywołane nadwagą i otyłością. Dlatego dobrze się stało, że PE inicjuje walkę z nadwagą i otyłością, że zachęca do takich działań wszystkie podmioty (na każdym szczeblu administracji krajowej i europejskiej) odpowiedzialne za stan zdrowia obywateli UE.

Sz szczególnie groźna jest otyłość wśród dzieci. W Europie mamy już 22 miliony dzieci z nadwagą i ich liczba niestety stale rośnie. Jeśli tej tendencji nie zahamujemy, to wkrótce nasze społeczeństwo będzie jeszcze bardziej otyłe, mniej zdrowe i zdecydowanie mniej produktywnie. Dlatego w pełni popieram niniejsze sprawozdanie i uważam, że nadszedł czas, aby zjednoczyć nasze wysiłki i rozpocząć zdecydowaną i konsekwentną walkę z nadwagą i otyłością, koncentrując się na warstwach wrażliwych, takich jak: dzieci i osoby starsze, w tym zwłaszcza osoby samotne oraz kobiety.

Jeśli zdołamy przekonać społeczeństwo, że warto kontrolować wagę ciała i walczyć z otyłością, jeśli zdołamy uruchomić mechanizmy sprzyjające zdrowemu trybowi życia, będziemy w stanie uniknąć wielu problemów. Wszak zapobieganie otyłości to nie tylko kwestia naszego zdrowia czy estetyki, to problem który niesie implikacje kulturowe i społeczne.

3-423-500

Louis Grech (PSE), in writing. – The problem of obesity and diet-related diseases has taken dramatic proportions worldwide. In my view, sophisticated and aggressive marketing techniques have prevented consumers from making informed choices in regards to their diet. In this respect children are particularly vulnerable. The AVMS Directive foresees that media service providers would adopt voluntarily a code of conduct regarding commercial communication on food and beverages. While I appreciate the self-regulation aspirations of industry and media, I would have preferred to see concrete restrictions on the volume and type of advertising aimed at children. The destructive effects of low quality food on society are comparable to that of alcohol and tobacco, whose advertising is heavily regulated. A similar approach can be applied to foods that have been established as harmful to human health. Consumers need clear and objective information, which can be provided by requiring higher standards on food labelling and placing more restrictions on advertising. The current financial crisis has exposed one more time the results from mixing greed and lack of regulation. Whether you stand to lose your house or your health, I think the stakes are too high for an indifferent marketing approach. As regulators we need to step in and do our job.

3-425

Mieczysław Edmund Janowski (UEN), na piśmie. – Z uznaniem odnoszę się do sprawozdania na temat zagadnień zdrowotnych związanych z odżywianiem, nadwagą i otyłością, który przedstawił poseł Alessandro Foglietta. Dobrze się składa, iż po raz kolejny Parlament zajmuje się tak istotną sprawą, jaką jest promowanie zdrowego odżywiania. Warto mieć świadomość tego, że prawidłowe odżywianie jest jednym z 12 warunków dobrego zdrowia wypunktowanych przez Światową Organizację Zdrowia, zaś zdrowy człowiek to podstawa zdrowego społeczeństwa. W tym kontekście ważne jest to, by żywność była bezpieczna. Ostatnie przykłady z zatrutym chińskim mlekiem dla dzieci pokazują wagę tej sprawy.

Do skutków złego odżywiania zalicza się wiele przypadłości, wśród nich nadwagę i otyłość. Otyłość, rozumiana jako nadmierne nagromadzenie tłuszczu w organizmie, zwiększa ryzyko występowania chorób serca, nadciśnienia tętniczego, miażdżycy, cukrzycy, kamicy, zwyrodnienia układu kostno-stawowego, niektórych nowotworów. W Polsce problemy nadwagi i otyłości dotyczą ok. 65% osób w wieku 35-65 lat. Plagą społeczną staje się otyłość wśród najmłodszych, która dotyka ponad 22 miliony dzieci europejskich. Tutaj fatalne skutki ma reklama produktów spożywczych o dużej zawartości tłuszczu, cukru, soli. Troska o żywność dobrej jakości i właściwie przyrządzoną musi być widoczna w naszych rodzinach i w szkołach, które powinny zwracać uwagę młodzieży na zdrowy styl życia. Ten styl to także uprawianie rekreacji i sportu.

3-426

Bogusław Rogalski (UEN), na piśmie. – Nadwaga oraz otyłość to problemy, które w przeciagu ostatniego czasu przybrały postać epidemii ze względu na negatywne skutki dla zdrowia ludzi. Jak wskazują dane Narodowej Organizacji Zdrowia ponad 50 % społeczeństwa europejskiego to osoby z nadwagą lub otyłe. Alarmujący jest fakt, iż otyłość dotyka ponad 5 mln dzieci, a 22 miliony dzieci ma nadwagę. Liczby te niestety rosną w zaskakującym tempie. Otyłość jest jedną z głównych przyczyn śmiertelności jak i chorób chronicznych, takich jak cukrzyca typu 2, zaburzenia układu krążenia, nadciśnienie, zawały oraz niektóre typy nowotworów.

Leczenie otyłości wymaga ogromnych nakładów kosztów, gdyż stanowią one ok 7% krajowych budżetów na ochronę zdrowia w Unii i do 6 % rządowych wydatków na opiekę zdrowotną.

W celu walki z tym problemem konsumenci w Europie powinni mieć lepszy dostęp do informacji dotyczących najlepszego źródła pożywienia w celu wyboru odpowiedniej diety. Etykietowanie żywności powinno być przejrzyste, natomiast niektóre składniki, np. sztuczne kwasy tłuszczowe wraz z izomerami trans, powinny zostać wykluczone z użycia. Co jest również istotne – reklama telewizyjna wpływa na tzw. krótkoterminowe nawyki konsumpcyjne dzieci między 2. a 11. rokiem życia, co negatywnie wpływa na kształtowanie się nawyków żywieniowych.

Walka z nadwagą, zwłaszcza u dzieci, powinna stanowić priorytet na szczeblu międzynarodowym, europejskim, krajowym oraz lokalnym.

3-426-500

Daciana Octavia Sârbu (PSE), în scris. – Ponderea obezității și a excesului de greutate generate de alimentația incorectă și lipsa de activitatea fizică cunoaște o creștere generalizată în UE, având consecințe majore în plan economic și social. Pentru asigurarea existenței unei societăți mai sănătoase, Comunitatea trebuie să se implice în mod activ și să acorde sprijin statelor membre pentru reducerea efectelor nocive ale dezechilibrului alimentar și sedentarismului. Nu este suficient însă să încercăm să promovăm un stil de viață sănătos cetățenilor europeni, trebuie să le și oferim motivația și infrastructura necesară, respectiv introducerea de măsuri la nivel local de reducere a dependenței de automobile și de promovare a mersului pe jos, a parcurilor și pistelor pentru bicicliști. Politicile de combatere a obezității trebuie corelate cu politicile de dezvoltare urbană și de transport, precum Cartea Verde privind Mobilitatea Urbană, politici care trebuie să complementeze eforturile de promovare a activităților fizice. Trebuie acordată mai multă atenție grupurilor socioeconomice defavorizate afectate de creșterea prețurilor la materiile prime și implicit la produsele alimentare, dar și grupurilor vulnerabile precum copii și femeile însărcinate. Promovarea educației alimentare și interzicerea vânzării în școli și grădinițe a alimentelor cu conținut ridicat de grăsimi, sare sau zahăr, va asigura existența unei generații sănă.

3-427

Richard Seeber (PPE-DE), schriftlich. – In Anbetracht der dramatischen Gesundheitsentwicklung bei Kindern – europaweit sind über 5 Millionen adipös und 22 Millionen übergewichtig – ist die Erstellung einer europäischen Ernährungsstrategie ein sehr begrüßenswerter Schritt. Mit der gewissenhaften Nährwert-Kennzeichnung bei Nahrungsmitteln ist den Konsumenten ein gutes Instrument an die Hand gegeben, die eigene Ernährung bewusster zu gestalten. Auch das umfassende Bewusstseinsbildungskonzept, schon von der frühesten Kindheit an, wird in den kommenden Jahren sicherlich zu einer Trendumkehr beitragen. Mittelfristig sind Punktaktionen wie Verteilung von Frischobst in den Schulen ein notwendiger Ansatz. Die europäischen Schulen müssen sich auch wieder vermehrt im Bereich Schulsport und tägliche Bewegung ihrer Verantwortung stellen, da Kinder und Jugendliche einen beträchtlichen Teil des Tages in der Schule verbringen.

Dennoch kann eine europäische Regelung lediglich das Umfeld für eine gesunde Ernährung bereiten und darf nicht den Fehler begehen, dem Bürger die Eigenverantwortung aus der Hand zu nehmen. Soll auf Dauer ein gesünderes Europa entstehen, muss die Europäische Gemeinschaft auf sämtlichen Ebenen auf Partnersuche gehen, sowohl in der Politik als auch in der Wirtschaft und in der Zivilgesellschaft.

3-428

18 - Impuesto sobre el valor añadido: Régimen de los servicios financieros y de seguros (debate)

3-429

El Presidente. – El siguiente punto es el informe de Joseph Muscat, en nombre de la Comisión de Asuntos Económicos y Monetarios, sobre la propuesta de Directiva del Consejo por la que se modifica la Directiva 2006/112/CE relativa al sistema común del impuesto sobre el valor añadido, en lo que respecta al régimen de los servicios financieros y de seguros (COM(2007)0747 - C6-0473/2007 - 2007/0267(CNS)) (A6-0344/2008).

Aprovecho la ocasión para saludar a mi amigo Muscat y felicitarle por el éxito muy importante que acaba de tener en su vida política, que quizás le aleje en algún momento de nuestros escaños pero que, por el momento, es motivo de alegría para él y, ciertamente, para muchos de nosotros.

3-430

Joseph Muscat, Rapporteur . – Qed niddiskutu dwar regoli godda u aktar trasparenti fil-qasam tas-servizzi finanzjarji fiz-zmien meta ghaddejjin minn wahda mill-akbar krizijiet f'dan il-qasam. Dawn iż-żminijiet juruna li l-affarijiet ma jistghux jithallew jimxu wahedhom u hemm bżonn ta' regolamentazzjoni. "Regolamentazzjoni" ma tfissirx burokrazija (u żgur mhux burokrazija żejda) iżda assigurazzjoni li l-affarijiet qed isiru bl-aħjar mod, mhux b'formoli u karti li ma jwasslu mkien. Meta shabi u jien hejjejna dan ir-rapport kellna żewġ prioritatijiet. L-ewwel wahda kienet dik li naraw li kull bidla li tista' ssir ma jkollhiex riperkussjonijiet negattivi fuq il-konsumatur.

Fi kliem iehor m'ghandux ikun hemm aktar piżijiet fuq il-konsumaturi, u għalhekk li qed nghidu li l-possibilità li tiddaħhal il-VAT fuq is-servizzi finanzjarji għandha tapplika biss fit-tranzazzjonijiet bejn negozju u iehor u għalhekk tkun rekuperabbli. Fl-ebda stadju ma jista' jkun hemm VAT fit-test propost minna fuq servizz finanzjarju moghti lil persuna mhux taxxabli, jiġifieri lill-konsumatur. Dan qed jinghad ċar u bla tidwir fit-test propost, minkejja forsi hemm riservi minn istituzzjonijiet oħra. Ikun hemm min jikkritika l-fatt li l-industrija se tiffirka l-ispejjeż u li jista' jkun hemm tnaqqis mid-dhul tal-Istati Membri, argument interessanti iżda li frankament nahseb li hafna drabi jkun ġej minn min għandu veduta ristretta tal-ekonomija u l-politika fiskali. L-ewwel nett, f'qasam kompetittiv bħal dak tas-servizzi finanzjarji u f'sistema fejn għandek salvagwardja kontra ftehim bejn kumpaniji, spejjeż li jiġu ffrankati minn kumpaniji għandhom jew jgħaddu bħala benefiċċji lill-konsumaturi jew inkella jintużaw biex jagħmlu tajjeb għal spejjeż oħra li jkun hemm. It-tieni nett, bħala Ewropa irridu nifhemu darba għal dejjem li ma ninsabux wahedna nikkompetu fis-suq, irridu naraw li s-sistemi użati mill-Istati Membri - kif ukoll bħala Unjoni Ewropea, kollha kemm hi - ikunu attraenti għall-kumpaniji serji li jridu jidhlu fis-suq u jistabbilixxu ruhhom bħala operaturi Ewropej ta' veru. Li tiffaċilita s-sistemi huwa mod kif tincentiva dan il-qasam, tiġġenera s-suq u, ngħid jien, tohloq ix-xogħol - u xogħol produttiv.

Permezz ta' dan ir-rapport qed ngħinu biex jinholoq suq Ewropew billi nneħhu ostakoli. Qeghdin inwettqu dak li ilu jinghad għal hafna snin; qeghdin inwettqu wahda mill-miri tal-pjan ta' azzjoni f'dan il-qasam. Qed nuru li kapaċi nkunu proattivi, insolvu l-problemi u nimxu fuq ideat godda. Forsi nistgħu ma naqblux fuq it-teknikalitajiet, forsi jkun hemm min jgħid li nistgħu nużaw sistema u mhux oħra, imma nemmen li dan il-Parlament irid jagħti indikazzjoni li dan huwa l-għan finali tagħna. Ovvjament kien hemm ċertu punti fejn mhux kulhadd qabel, inkluż jien: pereżempju, it-twessigh tad-definizzjonijiet. Nemmen li kien ikun aħjar kieku l-Kumitat segwa r-rakkomandazzjonijiet tiegħi dwar dan, li dejjem kienu li jew inżommu mat-test tal-Kummissjoni, jew inkella li jkollna restrizzjoni akbar tad-definizzjonijiet. Madankollu, tajjeb ukoll li ninnotaw li l-Kumitat għażel li mbagħad jimxi b'mod strateġiku u għalhekk dan ir-rapport gie approvat b'vot wiehed biss kontra. Nistenna li nisma minghand shabi r-reazzjonijiet tagħhom u anke min-naħa tal-Kummissjoni.

3-431

PRESIDENZA DELL'ON. LUISA MORGANTINI
Vicepresidente

3-432

László Kovács, Member of the Commission. – Madam President, I would like to start by thanking Mr Muscat for his work and the support he has given to the Commission's proposal, and I wish him success in his future role in Malta.

The Commission proposal addresses three major issues.

First, the existing provisions are increasingly subject to legal challenge in the European Court of Justice. Something needs to be done about this.

Second, we need more consistent application of the VAT rules on financial services and a more level playing field in the internal market.

Third, we must take steps to improve competitiveness in the sector.

There are concerns that the financial services and insurance industries in the European Union are less efficient than they should be, and consequently EU industry faces higher costs for financial services and insurance than its competitors in third countries. This is not solely a result of the EU's VAT rules, but they do have a role in contributing to this situation. I have to add that VAT exemption is not applied uniformly in the different Member States, and this causes competitive distortions within the European Union. For example, the possibility of recovering tax paid to specialist third-party service providers (outsourcers) varies depending on national interpretation of the VAT rules.

For the Commission, improving the competitiveness of our European financial and insurance companies was therefore a factor in making this proposal, but the reality is that this must be balanced against the need of the Member States to ensure stable tax revenues.

The proposal has three elements.

First, to increase legal certainty for all concerned, we propose a modernised definition of the exempt services.

Second, to avoid their business customers incurring non-deductible 'hidden' VAT, the proposal aims at allowing all banking and insurance companies to opt to tax their services.

Third, the proposal contains an exemption from VAT on cost-sharing arrangements, including those which operate across borders.

These proposals could result in some limited initial VAT revenue reductions for the Member States, but these can be justified if, as we expect, the proposed changes lead to increased competitiveness.

I therefore welcome the observation in the report on the problems of non-recoverable VAT and its relevance to business efficiency and the Lisbon strategy. I also welcome the fact that the rapporteur recognises that change may result in a reduction in VAT receipts.

For consumers, I agree that the implications are not always clear-cut, but I believe they will eventually benefit from cost savings achieved within the industry.

I also welcome the positive remarks about the scope of the proposal and the creation of legal certainty. The new definitions proposed by the Commission are necessary to bring the legislation into line with economic realities.

I sympathise with the remarks on the need for prudence and the absence of reliable figures which would allow the impact of change to be fully assessed. This latter lacuna should not, however, be laid at the feet of the Commission, as neither the industries concerned nor national administrations could provide the necessary data.

Like Mr Muscat, I am conscious that cross-border consolidation in the finance industry increasingly results in VAT revenue accruing to the Member State where the service is created, rather than where the consumer of the service is established. A move from exemption to taxation, which would result from greater access to the option to tax as we have advocated in this proposal, would correct this trend. I think this is the best way to deal with the concerns which have been raised.

Finally, I would like to inform you that detailed discussions on this proposal already started in the Council under the recent Slovenian presidency. The current French Presidency is also committed to making progress on this particular dossier, and I therefore welcome the positive engagement by Parliament which can further encourage the Council to make progress.

3-433

David Casa, f'isem il-grupp PPE-DE. – Ir-rapport li għandna quddiemna għandu sinifikat partikolari meta wiehed iqis illi matul dawn l-aħħar snin l-ekonomija ħadet xejra kemm xejn differenti mis-snin ta' qabel. Mingħajr dubju dan ir-rapport qiegħed jipprova jirrifletti aktar is-sitwazzjoni preżenti. Huwa għalhekk importanti li tkun assigurata l-bażi legali sabiex il-kumpaniji kkonċernati jkun jistgħu joperaw b'inqas burokrazija, kif qal tajjeb ir-rapporteur. Dan jista' jsehh billi jitnehhaw l-anomaliji li hemm fil-liġi bħalissa li tirregola l-VAT fuq is-servizzi finanzjarji. Liġi illi ilha teżisti għal dawn l-aħħar tletin sena u li mhijiex ċara biżżejjed. Huwa rapport illi se jgħin sabiex kemm jista' jkun ikollna aktar stabbiltà u rridu naraw kif il-pajjiżi kollha kemm jista' jkun ikunu f'armonija fir-rati applikabbli sabiex jitnaqqsu kemm jista' jkun id-diskrepanzi. Kien ilu jinhass il-bżonn illi din is-sitwazzjoni tinbidel u nahseb illi r-rapporteur għamel tajjeb li filwaqt li żamm f'moħħu l-bżonn li jissimplifika x-xogħol għall-kumpaniji finanzjarji, ha ħsieb ukoll, u nahseb li din hija l-iktar haġa importanti, li jara li l-konsumaturi jibbenefikaw minn din il-bidla proposta.

Illum hija l-aħħar darba li l-kollega tiegħi minn Malta qiegħed jattendi għal din il-plenarja u nahseb li jien ukoll minn hawn nixtieq nawgurulu fix-xogħol li se jkollu fis-snin illi għandu quddiemu. Għandu esperjenza ta' erba' snin f'dan il-Parlament, esperjenza illi nahseb li ttrasformat il-karattru tal-kollega tiegħi minn politiku li ma tantx kien jemmen fl-Unjoni Ewropea, u l-ġid li tista' tagħmel lil Malta, għal wiehed li b'dan ir-rapport uriena illi jemmen verament illi minn hawnhekk ahna nistgħu nbiddlu l-politika, mhux biss f'pajjiżna, imma wkoll il-politika li naddottaw fl-Unjoni Ewropea. Illum għandna trasformazzjoni li nixtiequ jieħu lura f'pajjiżi għaliex jien nahseb li din l-esperjenza li ha f'dan il-Parlament jista' joħodha lura f'pajjiżna u l-politika li ssir f'pajjiżi tista' tkun tixbah il-mod ta' kif nahdmu f'dan il-Parlament, jiġifieri li l-interess nazzjonali jkun importanti, pero anki l-interess tal-Unjoni Ewropea, għax illum ahna naghmlu parti minnha. Nawgurulu fix-xogħol tiegħu, nawgurulu li jagħmel suċċess fil-kariga tiegħu bħala kap tal-oppożizzjoni, mhux se nawgurulu li jdum hafna kap tal-oppożizzjoni, għax ma nahsibx li huwa l-mod ta' kif nitkellem fuq kollega tiegħi, pero nawgurulu li l-esperjenza pożittiva li ha minn dan il-Parlament jittrasformaha l-ewwelnett fil-partit tiegħu, u fl-aħħar nett f'pajjiżna.

3-434

Antolín Sánchez Presedo, en nombre del Grupo PSE. – La mayoría de los servicios financieros, incluidos los seguros y la gestión de fondos de inversión, están exentos de IVA desde 1977. Durante este período han surgido fundamentalmente dos dificultades: la definición del ámbito de la exención y la imposibilidad de recuperar el IVA soportado para prestar servicios exentos, que da lugar al fenómeno del IVA oculto. La globalización, la integración financiera europea y la

consolidación del mercado, al influir en la organización y externalización de las operaciones para la prestación de estos servicios, han aumentado la complejidad de los problemas.

Este informe es el primer intento de actualizar una normativa que, además de confusa —lo que ha motivado la intervención del Tribunal de Justicia de las Comunidades Europeas—, es obsoleta.

Quiero felicitar al ponente, señor Muscat, por el excelente trabajo que ha venido desarrollando en este dossier tan sensible económicamente y tan complejo técnicamente.

Sus propuestas para una modernización de la definición de los servicios financieros y de seguros, coherentes con el plan de acción para los servicios financieros y estrictas por tratarse de exenciones, han merecido general aceptación. También la ha merecido su celo en evitar que la posibilidad de que los sujetos pasivos se acojan a la opción de tributación produzca aumentos de precios para los consumidores.

El resultado final, acogiendo la exención específica del IVA para las empresas que inciden en los mecanismos de reparto de costes, aumentará la certidumbre para las industrias y la seguridad presupuestaria para los Estados miembros, impedirá distorsiones de la competencia y mejorará la competitividad para los bancos y aseguradoras sin incrementar los costes para los consumidores.

Quiero expresar mi satisfacción por la incorporación de dos aspectos contenidos en esas enmiendas: la referencia al coaseguro y una mejor delimitación del concepto de intermediación, ciñéndolo a actividades profesionales y diferenciadas de mediación, tanto directa como indirecta, y especificando que los intermediarios no sean contraparte en las próximas operaciones.

Y finalizo deseando al señor Muscat muchos éxitos y expresando la confianza de tenerlo pronto participando en la construcción europea desde el Consejo.

3-435

Zbigniew Krzysztof Kuźmiuk, *w imieniu grupy UEN*. – Pani Przewodnicząca! Zabierając głos w tej debacie w imieniu grupy UEN chcę zwrócić uwagę na trzy kwestie.

Po pierwsze, propozycje Komisji Europejskiej dotyczące zmian w opodatkowaniu podatkiem VAT usług finansowych i ubezpieczeniowych poprawiają pewność prawną zarówno w odniesieniu do podmiotów gospodarczych świadczących te usługi, jak i organów podatkowych w poszczególnych państwach członkowskich.

Po drugie, pozytywnym rozwiązaniem jest z jednej strony zobowiązanie państw członkowskich do przyznawania podatnikom prawa wyboru opodatkowania podatkiem VAT usług finansowych i ubezpieczeniowych, a z drugiej strony pozostawienie w gestii państw członkowskich wielu szczegółowych rozwiązań w tym zakresie, co oznacza decentralizację uprawnień podatkowych, a więc realizację zasady subsydiarności.

Po trzecie, konieczna jest bieżąca analiza skutków finansowych zaproponowanych rozwiązań, w szczególności dotyczących obniżenia wpływów z VAT w poszczególnych państwach członkowskich wynikających ze zwiększenia poziomu odliczeń przez przedsiębiorców, a także wpływu tych zmian na ceny usług finansowych i ubezpieczeniowych dla konsumentów.

3-436

Louis Grech (PSE). – Ir-rapporteur żamm il-qafas tal-proposta tal-Kummissjoni biex b'hekk tiġi ffaċċjata problema li ilna nipposponu għal aktar minn tletin sena. Dan il-qasam huwa importanti ħafna għal numru dejjem jikber ta' pajjiżi, fosthom Malta. Fir-rapport insibu regolamenti li jiffaċilitaw l-operat ta' kumpaniji serji, li jagħtu ċans li jkun hemm suq veru bla fruntieri biex iwasslu għall-ħolqien ta' ġid, xogħol u aktar għażla. Waħda mill-prijoritajiet hi li għandu jkun hemm proviżjoni qawwija biex il-konsumaturi jkun protetti u bl-ebda mod ma jkollhom iħallsu xi taxxi oħra. Fil-fatt kull tnaqqis mill-ispejjeż u żieda fl-effiċjenza tas-sistema għandhom jibbenefikaw minnha l-konsumaturi. Fil-futur għandhom isiru aktar analiżi biex ninkludu salvagwardji oħra jekk tinstab il-ħtieġa.

Ir-rapport tal-ħabib tiegħi Joseph Muscat wassal għal aktar ċarezza u ċertezza legali fil-qasam tat-tassazzjoni tas-servizzi finanzjarji, speċjalment bħalissa meta għaddejjin minn taqliba shiħa fis-swieq finanzjarji.

Biex nikkonkludi nixtieq niringrazzja lill-ħabib tiegħi u sieħbi Joseph Muscat, li tant tana xogħol siewi f'dawn l-erba' snin u nofs.

3-437

László Kovács, *Member of the Commission*. – Madam President, I would like to thank you for your comments and the valuable views you expressed during the debate. As I said in my opening remarks, obtaining a positive opinion by Parliament on the Commission's proposal for VAT on insurance and financial services is very important. We have taken note of the concerns raised in the report, in particular the lack of neutrality in recovery rates, the difficulties with statistics and the risk of diversion of tax revenue from non-recoverable VAT on inputs.

While the Commission could in principle look favourably at some of the amendments, such as those on derivatives, we will not formally amend our proposal. We will, however, endeavour to take the amendments suggested by Parliament into consideration as much as possible during deliberations in the Council.

I would like to express my gratitude for your positive endorsement of our proposal. A positive opinion from Parliament will be a good signal serving to raise awareness on the part of the Member States of the need to act.

3-438

Joseph Muscat, Rapporteur . – L-ewwel nett irrid niringrazzja lis-servizzi tal-Parlament u lill-Kummissjoni għall-ghajnuna kollha li taw għal dan id-*dossier* delikat, għalkemm ix-xogħol għadu ma spiċċax. Imma, min-naħa tal-Parlament, kif awgura il-Kummissarju, nawgura jien ukoll illi jkollna messaġġ ċar ħafna. Nahseb li dak li rridu naqblu dwaru hawnhekk - u hawn qbil totali fil-Parlament - hu li iva, ejja nċaqalqu r-regolamenti, ejja nbiddlu fejn hemm bżonn, ejja naraw li s-sistema ssir iktar sempliċi, imma ejja noqogħdu attenti li l-kont ma jkollux iħallsu l-konsumatur. Nahseb li dan hu l-messaġġ ewlieni li għandhom jiehdu l-Kummissjoni, u anke l-Kunsill, minn hawnhekk, bħala Parlament. Mill-bqija nawgura l-hidma t-tajba f'dan il-kumplament sakemm dan id-*dossier* jasal fi tmiem. Niringrazzja lil shabi tal-awguri tagħhom, speċjalment lil siehbi David Casa li tana ċertifikat sabiħ tal-istagun politiku għdid tal-Partit Laburista u tal-pajjiż.

3-439

Presidente. – La ringrazio molto, onorevole Muscat, anch'io le porgo i migliori auguri per un lavoro proficuo e per rendere l'Europa sempre più forte.

La discussione è chiusa.

La votazione si svolgerà giovedì 25 settembre 2008.

Dichiarazioni scritte (articolo 142)

3-440

Gábor Harangozó (PSE). – *in writing.* – Firstly, I would like to congratulate the rapporteur, Joseph Muscat, for a very comprehensive report allowing for the issue of a common system of value added tax for insurance and financial services from the point of view of businesses, tax administrations and consumers. I believe that, although it is difficult – on the basis of this proposal – to clearly assess what will be the extent of the benefits for consumers in terms of efficiency and cost reduction, we ought to ensure the legal certainty and consistency of insurance and financial service- VAT related issues. As a matter of fact, it is essential to ensure that VAT facilitation measures for businesses would not be implemented at the cost of the consumers. However, it is worth noticing, together with the rapporteur, that much flexibility is given to the Member States, which might lead to uneven implementation results from one Member State to the other. Finally, I would like to put the emphasis on the fact that, given the uncertainty of the impact of the implementation of these measures, we ought to remain vigilant and therefore support the obligation for the Commission to report on the issue to both the Council and Parliament.

3-441

19 - Gestione collettiva dei diritti d'autore on line (discussione)

3-442

Presidente. – L'ordine del giorno reca l'interrogazione orale di Giuseppe Gargani sulla gestione collettiva dei diritti d'autore on line (B6-0459/2008).

3-443

Jacques Toubon, suppléant l' auteur. – Madame la Présidente, cette question est au cœur de l'économie culturelle pour l'avenir. En effet, malgré l'existence de la directive concernant les droits d'auteur dans la société de l'information, la situation dans le secteur de la gestion collective des droits d'auteur et des droits voisins, quand il s'agit de l'exploitation en ligne, est extrêmement complexe, en raison notamment du caractère territorial des droits d'auteur et de l'absence de licence paneuropéenne. Cette situation a été rendue plus compliquée encore par l'absence d'une politique cohérente de la part de la Commission européenne, au sein de laquelle, d'une part, la Direction générale responsable du marché unique et de la propriété intellectuelle et, d'autre part, celle compétente en matière de concurrence, agissent souvent chacune pour leur compte sans vision globale du secteur par rapport notamment aux intérêts des créateurs en Europe.

En effet, en refusant de légiférer, en ignorant aussi les différentes résolutions du Parlement européen et en choisissant d'essayer de réglementer le secteur par la voie d'une recommandation ou de décisions administratives, la Direction générale du marché intérieur a créé un climat d'insécurité juridique. Dans cette situation, la Direction générale de la concurrence, elle, est intervenue en entamant une procédure contre un des acteurs du secteur qui cherchait à agir en conformité avec la recommandation de la Commission de 2005.

La Commission a donc pris cette décision au mois de juillet contre la CISAC. Elle ne prévoit pas de sanctions pécuniaires, mais elle tend à modifier le fonctionnement de la CISAC et des sociétés qui en sont membres. Cette situation reflète le fait

que la Commission européenne a choisi d'ignorer les mises en garde exprimées par le Parlement européen, notamment dans sa résolution du 13 mars 2007, laquelle contenait également des propositions concrètes pour une concurrence contrôlée ainsi que pour la protection et l'encouragement des cultures minoritaires dans l'Union européenne.

Depuis lors, d'ailleurs, les initiatives se multiplient, dont une seule est de caractère législatif: un bilan fantaisiste de la recommandation sur les sociétés de gestion collective, un rapport d'évaluation et un livre vert sur la directive de 2001, la mise en cause de la copie privée, l'accès libre par décision de la direction générale de la recherche pour 20 % des appels d'offre du septième PCRD, l'extension de la durée des droits des artistes interprètes, dont la directive va être examinée, etc.

C'est pourquoi la commission juridique soulève la question suivante: est-ce que la Commission ne pense pas qu'il serait préférable de faire en sorte que les changements imposés, par exemple à l'opérateur CISAC, fassent l'objet d'une large consultation associant toutes les parties intéressées, de manière à mettre un terme à l'incohérence de la situation juridique actuelle qui résulte de positions divergentes de la Commission? La Commission européenne entend-elle reconsidérer sa politique dans ce secteur à la lumière de la résolution du Parlement du 13 mars 2007, afin de trouver une approche globale qui tienne compte non seulement des intérêts des utilisateurs, mais également des intérêts des détenteurs de droits et de la communauté créative? Nous sommes en effet persuadés que le cas de la CISAC démontre que l'approche suivie par la Commission européenne par le biais de dispositions non contraignantes de *soft law*, comme on dit, ou de décisions purement administratives, est incohérente et contraire au principe de la sécurité juridique, parce que les parties lésées par cette approche n'ont aucune voie de recours et de discussion.

Demain, la Commission a l'intention de continuer dans cette voie de *soft law* en adoptant une autre recommandation, cette fois relative au contenu créatif en ligne, qui traitera également de la mise en application de licences transfrontalières. Ce ne sera pas une recommandation en codécision. Est-ce que la Commission prévoit de faire participer le Parlement européen à l'élaboration de cette recommandation d'une manière effective? Ou bien, dans un domaine aussi crucial pour l'avenir de l'économie et de la culture en Europe, la Commission va-t-elle, encore une fois, ignorer les représentants des États et des peuples?

C'est pour cela que je fais deux suggestions. Premièrement, comme la Commission l'a fait pour la copie privée, qu'elle mette en place une plateforme avec toutes les parties prenantes, qu'enfin le dossier soit ouvert et examiné par tous ceux qui ont à en connaître. Le Parlement européen, quant à lui, s'exprimera quoi qu'il en soit. La commission des affaires juridiques vient de créer un groupe de travail ad hoc sur le droit d'auteur, qui a pour objectif de proposer à toutes les parties prenantes une vision globale claire et à long terme de la propriété intellectuelle et artistique ainsi que de son rôle dans l'économie de la connaissance et de la culture. Ce groupe se réunira pour la première fois demain matin.

3-444

Charlie McCreevy, Member of the Commission. – Madam President, I believe that these questions should be placed in a wider context, as the debate on how to license music on the internet is gaining momentum. There is more music available to consumers on the internet than ever before, yet hardly any of it is properly licensed. Almost none of it, therefore, produces any revenue for artists or music producers. In 2006, the ratio of illegal to legal song downloads was 40 to 1, and over 20 billion recordings are illegally downloaded every single year. So something is wrong here.

Online operators say that licensing of music in Europe is too complicated, which is why there is still no legal online service available in any of the new Member States.

This is the background to the series of questions we have received from Mr Gargani. Everybody agrees that we need to simplify the licensing of music for internet downloads and mobile phones. But nobody wants to lose out in the process.

Is there a simple way to achieve licences that cover all rights all over Europe? In answering this question, we must bear in mind that most authors, composers and performers live off the revenue they generate with copyright. This is how they make ends meet every month.

How, then, do we balance efficiency and fairness? The Commission made its recommendations in 2005. As the 2008 evaluation report on these recommendations shows, some owners of copyright, such as the music publishers, have followed our advice and set up Europe-wide licences. While small collecting societies fear that these platforms leave no room for niche repertoire, we now have to make sure that they do. The signs are encouraging. There are already EU licences for small music publishers. While these efforts are ongoing, we should not legislate prematurely. The ongoing restructuring should be given a chance. But we should remain vigilant so that small repertoire does not lose out.

Let me now say a word on the antitrust decision that the Commission recently adopted in the CISAC case. The decision prohibits anti-competitive practices by European collecting societies which limit their ability to offer their services to authors and online operators. The removal of the restrictions will allow authors to choose which collecting society manages their copyright. It will also make it easier for online operators to obtain licences for exploitation in several countries from a single collecting society of their choice.

The 2005 Recommendation and the CISAC Decision are governed by the same principles: they both encourage the removal of restrictions which prevent authors and composers from freely choosing their collecting societies, and rights managers from delivering multi-territorial licences.

Concerning the preparation of the recommendation on creative content online, the Commission plans to adopt this recommendation during the first quarter of 2009. The 2008 public consultation on creative content online has shown that the topic of multi-territory licensing for audiovisual works is not ripe to be dealt with in the planned recommendation.

The Commission has published a call for tender for an independent study on multi-territory licensing of audiovisual works, with the aim of analysing both the economic and cultural aspects of such practices. The Commission is currently analysing the tenders and the results of the study should become available by the end of 2009. We are working closely with both the European Parliament and the Member States on developments concerning creative content online, in particular by participating in the various hearings organised by the European Parliament and the discussions in the audiovisual working group of the Council of Ministers.

Since the developments concerning creative content online take place at a rapid pace, there are no consolidated practices on which to base compulsory legislation at this stage. At this point in time, such legislation at a European level would possibly jeopardise the development of new business models and the cooperation processes among stakeholders. For this reason, a recommendation seems the most appropriate means to facilitate the shift of the creative content sector to the online environment.

Mr Toubon made the interesting suggestion that maybe there should be a working group on small collecting societies, and I think that this is a very excellent idea. The Commission would be prepared to be a facilitator and try to find a role for small societies in the online world so we will take up his suggestion.

3-445

Manuel Medina Ortega, en nombre del Grupo PSE. – El señor Toubon ha hecho una magnífica exposición del problema desde el punto de vista jurídico. Eso me ahorra a mí tener que entrar en esta materia.

Yo querría llevar la cuestión a un terreno mucho más práctico. La Dirección General de la Competencia, en el tema del derecho de autor, parte de la base de que los autores tienen el mismo peso que las grandes sociedades multinacionales que manejan el mundo de la comunicación. Y eso no es verdad.

Los autores, los intérpretes, los ejecutantes son, en realidad, trabajadores. Es posible que haya unas cuantas estrellas —que son las que aparecen en las revistas— que tengan una cierta posibilidad de elección. Pero la mayor parte de los autores, de los intérpretes, de los ejecutores, de los creadores, no tiene esa posibilidad de elección. Su posición es prácticamente la de un trabajador sindicado a través de su organización de derechos de autor.

Pretender que estos autores —miles, decenas de miles, quizás centenares de miles—, que trabajan en Europa todos los días y que están obteniendo su rendimiento a través de sus sociedades de autores, funcionen como si fueran empresas multinacionales es una ficción que no se conforma con la realidad.

Si no partimos de la base de que las actuales sociedades de autores europeas representan unos intereses concretos de miles de afiliados cada una de ellas y que actúan como tales, no comprenderemos nunca la realidad.

Yo creo que la Comisión probablemente hace su trabajo, pero cuando la Comisión habla de estudios a mí me da un poco de miedo, porque ¿quién hace esos estudios? ¿quién paga esos estudios? ¿qué grupos de presión influyen sobre eso?

Para eso tenemos en la Unión Europea un sistema democrático, un sistema democrático en el nivel de los Estados y en el nivel de cada uno de ellos. A los parlamentarios europeos, humildemente, nos toca asumir ese papel de traer aquí lo que es la expresión de la realidad social y que no se encuentra quizás en los despachos ni en los grandes estudios de carácter económico.

Nos encontramos en una situación en la que, si no tenemos cuidado, si tratamos de desregular este sector como se ha hecho en otros, acabaremos matando una de las cosas más propias, que es la creación. Europa se caracteriza, a pesar de todas sus dificultades, por la gran creación. Acabaremos creando una industria audiovisual absolutamente vacía de contenido; tenemos algún modelo en algún otro país donde lo hemos visto. Es decir, en este momento, creo que tiene que ser parte de nuestros esfuerzos dotar a estos creadores de una maquinaria institucional, de un sistema que les permita actuar.

Yo creo que actuar en abstracto, pensar que el pequeño músico, que el pequeño compositor puede defenderse por sí mismo es absurdo.

Si Beethoven viviera ahora y estuviera haciendo sinfonías y se le tuviera que obligar a llegar al mercado internacional para competir con las grandes multinacionales de la música, Beethoven se moriría de hambre. Su situación económica sería mucho peor que la que tuvo entre el siglo XVIII y XIX. Yo creo que esto es algo importante y algo que tenemos que transmitir.

El señor Toubon se ha referido a la decisión de nuestra comisión de crear un grupo de trabajo sobre la protección de la propiedad intelectual. Nosotros esperamos, por parte de la Comisión y sobre todo por parte del señor McCreevy, que ha sido siempre un gran amigo de esta Comisión de Asuntos Jurídicos, que estén dispuestos a colaborar con nosotros, a transmitirnos sus preocupaciones, pero también a escuchar. Y que, además, este grupo de trabajo sirva, en efecto, para escuchar los puntos de vista de esos miles de personas que, en este momento, humildemente, están haciendo una gran labor intelectual y que están permitiendo que estos medios audiovisuales que estamos creando se llenen de contenido.

Por que si no, repito, hay el peligro de que creemos un gran sistema audiovisual absolutamente vacío que solamente pueda ser ocupado por anuncios, pero que no tenga ningún contenido concreto.

Por tanto, señora Presidenta, yo creo que la propuesta, la pregunta oral y la propuesta de resolución que nos proponemos presentar van dirigidas a reforzar esta independencia y esta identidad propia de la cultura europea, que no puede ser sustituida por ninguna abstracción basada en la libre competencia.

3-446

Eva Lichtenberger, im Namen der Verts/ALE-Fraktion. – Frau Präsidentin! Herr Kommissar! Im Jahr 2004 war es, als wir im Rechtsausschuss ein Hearing hatten, in dem es auch um die Rolle der Verwertungsgesellschaften ging. Einige Künstler schilderten sehr eindrücklich, welche Problematiken ihnen beim jetzigen System der Verwertungsgesellschaften begegnen. Sie haben daraufhin Ihren legislatischen oder eben nicht legislatischen *Soft-law*-Weg gewählt, und der hat inzwischen noch mehr rechtliche Unsicherheit geschaffen, und wir sind mehr und mehr mit Klagen und Irritationen genau aufgrund dieser unklaren Situation konfrontiert. Herr Kommissar, das ist ein Problem!

Das System, das Sie vorgeschlagen haben, führt dazu, dass es eine Marktkonzentration gibt, die ohnehin schon Starke begünstigt, die aber zum Beispiel die Konvention über die Diversität in Sachen Kunst und Kultur in Europa ignoriert. Bei diesem System müssen Minderheitenkulturen oder solche, die nicht im Mainstream liegen, oder solche, die kleinen Sprachen angehören, notwendigerweise Schaden erleiden, weil es sich da einfach nicht mehr ausgehen kann.

Als wir Sie im Rechtsausschuss gefragt haben, warum Sie nicht das vorlegen, was das Parlament im Bericht Lévai verlangt hat, haben Sie gesagt, dass sich der Markt ohnehin in Ihre Richtung bewegen würde und Sie keine Notwendigkeit sehen würden, hier eine Änderung vorzunehmen. Herr Kommissar, Sie sehen jetzt anhand der eher widersprüchlichen Urteile, die wir in der letzten Zeit gesehen haben, dass diese Vorgangsweise nicht die richtige war. Wir brauchen aber, gerade wenn wir das kreative Potential schützen wollen, eine zukunftsweisende Lösung. Ich glaube auch, dass wir uns tiefere Gedanken machen werden, etwa über die Anbindung der Rechte generell. Ist das in der alten Form, in dieser Hardware-orientierten Form, auf Dauer noch haltbar? Werden wir da die notwendigen Ziele erreichen, oder wird das nicht gehen?

Herr Kommissar, ich glaube nicht, dass weitere Studien und Hearings das Mittel der Wahl sind. Wir haben leider die Erfahrung gemacht, dass immer nur die Gleichen eingeladen werden, und das sind immer nur die Marktriesen, nicht aber die Kleinen, oder deren Meinung wird dann nicht berücksichtigt. Wir brauchen ein anderes Herangehen und einen klaren legislatischen Vorschlag, wie Verwertungsgesellschaften diese Rechte und Werte schützen müssen und können.

3-447

Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg (PSE). – Pani Przewodnicząca! W odpowiedzi na zalecenie Komisji z 2005 roku w sprawie transgranicznego zbiorowego zarządzania prawami autorskimi Parlament Europejski w swej ubiegłorocznej rezolucji prosił o wyraźne zaznaczenie, iż zalecenie ma zastosowanie jedynie w odniesieniu do sprzedaży nagrań muzycznych w internecie. Postulowaliśmy także o bezzwłoczne przeprowadzenie stosownych konsultacji z zainteresowanymi stronami i przedłożenie Parlamentowi i Radzie projektu elastycznej dyrektywy ramowej regulującej kwestie zbiorowego zarządzania prawami autorskimi i pokrewnymi w odniesieniu do transgranicznych internetowych usług muzycznych.

Mimo obowiązującej dyrektywy o harmonizacji niektórych aspektów praw autorskich w społeczeństwie informacyjnym zarządzanie prawami autorskimi i pokrewnymi w odniesieniu do usług muzycznych online wciąż pozostaje kwestią złożoną i problematyczną głównie z uwagi na brak licencji europejskich. Tym bardziej niepokoi fakt nieprecyzyjnego sformułowania zalecenia, w rezultacie którego mogłoby ono znaleźć zastosowanie także odnośnie do innych usług online, np. usług nadawczych, które obejmują nagrania. Wynikająca z powyższego niejasność w odniesieniu do stosowania różnych systemów wydawania licencji prowadzi do niepewności prawnej i niesie ze sobą niekorzystne skutki szczególnie dla usług nadawczych online.

Tym samym zauważam z przykrością, iż Komisja nie wzięła pod uwagę zaleceń Parlamentu, ograniczając się wyłącznie do monitorowania i wdrażania zalecenia z 2005 roku, co nie stanowi absolutnie żadnej odpowiedzi na problemy

utrzymujące się stale w tym sektorze. Politykę Komisji odzwierciedla między innymi decyzja podjęta w odniesieniu do Międzynarodowej Konfederacji Związków Autorów i Kompozytorów. Wykluczenie przez Komisję możliwości jakichkolwiek wspólnych działań podejmowanych przez związki, np. w zakresie propozycji stworzenia przejrzystego systemu praw autorskich w Europie, jest jednoznaczne z utrzymaniem władzy w rękach oligopolu złożonych z wielkich wytwórni, które powiązane są dwustronnymi porozumieniami ze światowymi wykonawcami. Możemy spodziewać się, iż rezultatem tej decyzji będzie dalsze ograniczenie wyboru i zniknięcie z rynku małych firm ze szkodą dla różnorodności kulturowej.

3-448

Zuzana Roithová (PPE-DE). – Současný stav na trhu s digitálním obsahem je neúnosný, je fragmentovaný, strnulý kvůli monopolům. Proto jsem ocenila, jak si Komise v červenci posvítila alespoň na praktiky kolektivních správců. Vadí mi neférové smluvní podmínky nejen pro autory, ale také pro uživatele. Chtěla bych věřit, že nyní Češi a další občané z menších zemí budou moci kupovat oblíbené písničky, digitální knihy či televizní seriály přes internet, například i z iTunes a jiných virtuálních obchodních domů, přeshraničně, což dnes skutečně nemohou. Chci věřit, že autoři si budou svobodně vybírat kolektivní správce z jakéhokoliv členského státu, a že to tyto správce přinutí zlepšit kvalitu služeb a snížit provozní náklady. Přeji kolektivním správcům, aby na oplátku mohli nabízet licence bez omezení hranicemi domovského státu včetně celoevropské licence, ale takhle snadné to není. Nevěřím, že to červencové píchnutí Komise do vosího hnízda opravdu nastartuje systémové změny na trhu s digitálním obsahem. Žádám zde Komisi, aby zadala nezávislou studii o kolektivních správcích jako celku a předložila do Parlamentu směrnici, která upraví celý systém, a to komplexně na základě řádné analýzy všech specifík tohoto druhu.

3-449

Jean-Paul Gauzès (PPE-DE). – Madame la Présidente, Monsieur le Commissaire, vous avez fait preuve de beaucoup de sens de l'écoute et d'attention sur ces questions. Je souhaiterais toutefois vous poser une question et formuler une demande.

La question est celle de savoir comment le Parlement sera associé aux travaux que vous envisagez. La demande, c'est que si une plateforme est mise en place, il me paraît indispensable que les conclusions, ses conclusions, ne soient pas arrêtées à l'avance mais qu'il y ait un véritable débat, et il me paraît également nécessaire que les membres de cette plateforme soient représentatifs de la diversité économique et culturelle.

3-450

Charlie McCreevy, Member of the Commission. – I would like to thank the honourable Members for the range of their discussions.

The regulators should not take all the decisions. The Commission actively encourages the development of the online licensing market for music, but premature legislative intervention, without full analysis of market needs and trends, would not appear the best way of developing a healthy online retail market in Europe. However, if it becomes apparent that the Commission's current interventions cannot deliver an online licensing model fit for the 21st century, then we will consider a different approach.

It is now essential that all stakeholders, authors, performers, publishers, collecting societies and the record companies, get together and find a licensing structure that will enable the emergence of more legal online services while preserving a decent outcome for authors.

Mr Medina Ortega has alluded to the fact that it is in everybody's interest that we have a healthy cultural industry throughout Europe. I think I speak for everybody in the Commission when I say that is our goal. I think it is also proper to try to introduce a system whereby everybody benefits from creativity and culture – including the artists – and everybody can enjoy it at a reasonable cost.

So that is what we are all trying to achieve. We can have differences of opinion as to how we go about it. Over the last number of years I have heard expressions of different viewpoints, both inside this House and from groups outside Parliament. We do not always agree on how we could achieve those objectives, but I think we all know what we want to try and do.

When I suggested the platform – and it was referred to by Mr Gauzès and others – it was the need to bring together the small and big players in a particular forum, and particularly the smaller collecting societies who, I understand, feel left out in this particular debate. So that is what I was proposing there. I think our goals are the same. We certainly want to take all interests into account and arrive at a proper licensing system that is a model which is fit for the world of today, not the world of maybe 40 or 50 years ago.

3-451

Presidente. – La discussione è chiusa.

La votazione si svolgerà giovedì 25 settembre 2008.

3-452

20 - "IASCF: Revisione dello statuto - responsabilità pubblica e composizione dell'IASB - proposta di cambiamento" (discussione)

3-453

Presidente. – L'ordine del giorno reca l'interrogazione orale di Pervenche Berès su "IASCF: Revisione dello statuto - responsabilità pubblica e composizione dell'IASB - proposta di cambiamento" (B6-0463/2008).

3-454

Pervenche Berès, auteur. – Madame la Présidente, Monsieur le Commissaire, dans le domaine des normes comptables, dorénavant le Parlement européen le sait, vous avez une certaine capacité de créativité, de comité Théodule. Lorsque, au début de cette législature, nous vous avons interpellé sur le statut, le rôle de l'EFRAG, vous avez inventé la table ronde, dont chacun reconnaît aujourd'hui qu'elle n'a pas rempli son rôle.

Face aux propositions des *trustees* de l'IASCF de mettre en place un groupe de supervision, un *monitoring group*, dès lors qu'un certain nombre de membres ne vous agréent pas, vous proposez de créer un groupe consultatif international d'auditeurs.

Le Parlement européen est dorénavant habitué à vos pratiques. Lorsque nous vous avons alerté, en prenant l'initiative d'un rapport sur les questions de gouvernance de l'IASCF, vous vous êtes précipité pour arbitrer, avec vos collègues japonais et américains, et avec l'OICV, en élaborant, le 7 novembre 2007, un communiqué de presse, une déclaration dans laquelle vous prétendiez arbitrer tous les problèmes de gouvernance plutôt que d'attendre l'opportunité de pouvoir vous fonder sur la légitimité et l'autorité d'une position élaborée par la représentation démocratique de l'Union européenne, en clair, le Parlement européen.

Lorsque le Parlement européen a élaboré cette position à l'initiative de notre rapporteur, Alexander Radwan, vous avez préféré, en mars dernier, reporter ce débat au mois d'avril pour des raisons qui vous concernent et dont vous prenez seul la responsabilité.

Lorsque, sur la base de ces propositions en avril, vous aviez la force et la possibilité d'arbitrer ce que pourrait être la position de l'Union européenne sur la scène internationale, sur la base du paragraphe 9 de cette résolution que je lis: "constate que, comme elle l'avait fait en avril 2006 en convenant d'une feuille de route avec les autorités américaines, la Commission, par la déclaration précitée du 7 novembre 2007, a cherché à imposer anticipativement des solutions là où l'efficacité et la légitimité plaident pour un processus ouvert de consultation et de débat, auquel la présente résolution pourrait contribuer", vous avez préféré, dans le secret de votre cabinet ou de vos services, élaborer une solution sans concertation avec le Conseil ni avec ce Parlement européen.

Monsieur le Commissaire, qu'avez-vous fait depuis le 24 avril dernier, lorsque nous avons voté cette résolution? Nous vous avions à l'époque interpellé sur la place du FMI, de la Banque mondiale. D'autres depuis vous ont interpellé sur la place du Comité de Bâle, des superviseurs européens, dans les structures de supervision, de *monitoring group*, pour l'IASCF. Face à un tel problème, vous avez à nouveau imaginé un comité Théodule, le groupe consultatif international des auditeurs.

Vous nous dites : "il ne faut pas augmenter le nombre de ce *monitoring group*, parce qu'alors l'autorité serait diluée et nous n'aurions plus aucune compétence pour piloter les *trustees*". La proposition des *trustees* repose sur une composition de sept membres. Votre proposition repose sur une composition de cinq membres, plus un observateur, plus deux membres que vous mettriez dans ce comité international des auditeurs qui serait consulté.

Notre proposition consiste à conforter le groupe de sept proposé par les *trustees*, en incluant ce qui devrait y figurer. L'argument du nombre n'en est pas un puisque, par ailleurs dans le même moment, est proposée l'augmentation du nombre de membres de l'IASB, du *board* lui-même, pour passer de quatorze à seize.

Alors, aujourd'hui, Monsieur le Commissaire, nous vous disons deux choses. D'une part, si vous voulez vraiment réformer la gouvernance de l'IASB, nous sommes d'accord, c'est nous qui vous l'avons demandé, mais consultez-nous, associez-nous, en amont, pas au dernier moment. Ne nous dites pas que vous avez dû travailler au mois d'août de manière urgente, alors que nous vous interpellons depuis l'automne dernier et que, depuis avril, vous connaissez la position du Parlement européen!

Et puis nous vous disons que, dans le programme de travail de l'IASB et de l'IASCF, il y a une deuxième phase, dans laquelle l'ensemble du dispositif doit être revu, y compris les conditions de constitution de l'IASCF et nous vous proposons de profiter de ce moment-là pour poser clairement les conditions de l'équilibre, de la gouvernance, de l'ensemble du dispositif, en vue de disposer enfin d'un système de gouvernance qui soit à la hauteur des enjeux qui sont les nôtres aujourd'hui. En clair, quelles sont les normes comptables dont nous avons besoin pour disposer d'un marché financier dont

la lecture des normes comptables serait en phase avec la réalité économique des situations que nous connaissons ici ou ailleurs?

3-455

Charlie McCreevy, *Member of the Commission*. – Madam President, the need to improve the governance of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) is something that has long been recognised by the Commission, Parliament and the Council of Ministers. I have highlighted the importance of this on numerous occasions. I have been critical of the IASB's lack of adequate consultation and feedback procedures, as well as the lack of impact assessments for new standards.

Given the IASB's de facto role as a global standards setter, it is imperative its governance procedures are up to the highest standards. I want to get to the situation where we can adopt IFRS standards in the EU with full confidence that the process and content of these standards are exemplary. That is why, when I learnt that a revision of the constitution of the IASCF was envisaged, I set as a priority the improvement of governance.

You will recall last November, with my counterparts in the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Financial Services Agency of Japan and the International Organisation for Securities Commissions, I proposed the creation of a monitoring board to ensure the public accountability of the IASCF.

We have made some good progress on this. The IASCF has recently proposed modifying its constitution in order to enter into a formal relationship with the proposed monitoring board. It accepts that this Board must have the power to participate in the nomination process of the IASCF Trustees and have the ultimate power to approve their appointment. It also accepts that the monitoring board will be able to address any area of work of either the Trustees or the IASB and refer them for consideration by the IASCF Board of Trustees or by the IASB.

The IASCF intends to reach a conclusion about these matters in early October, with changes to the IASCF constitution entering into force from 1 January 2009. This will, in particular, allow the monitoring board to become operational early in 2009. That is why I consider the time is now ripe to firm up on these proposals. If we leave it too late, we will not be able to reopen the governance issues.

The ongoing financial turmoil emphasises the need to ensure that accounting standards reflect the objectives of prudential supervision and financial stability. It has not proven possible to get agreement to have bodies such as the ECB in the monitoring board. As a compromise, we could envisage, in these new arrangements, that there would be an international accounting advisory group to advise the monitoring group on prudential and financial stability matters. This group should include both the European Central Bank and the Committee of European Securities Regulators and, no doubt, other relevant international bodies. Again, I am grateful to this House for having emphasised the importance of prudential supervision and financial stability in its resolution of 24 April.

In exercising its eventual role in the monitoring board, the Commission must also represent the other European institutions, in particular this House. To do so effectively, I would propose to draw up consultation procedures with the European Parliament. These procedures could, if necessary, be formalised in an appropriate form.

I have endeavoured to ensure that key MEPs were kept informed by my services about the evolution of this debate. It was, however, brought to my attention today that there was a lapse in this communication. Apparently, in preparing our position, events that took place towards the end of July were not communicated by my services in the usual manner, because of the holiday period. I know that there is widespread dissatisfaction in this House about the fact that you were not properly consulted during the elaboration of our proposals. I am also dissatisfied by this fact and have given clear and firm instructions to my services not to repeat such a mistake again. I believe my Director-General has been in contact with Mrs Berès to try and explain this omission. I hope that this oversight will not jeopardise the common goal we have both been striving for, namely, a better governance regime for the IASB.

With some further improvements, I am confident that these enhancements to the IASCF's governance will improve the quality of accounting standards and ensure that they meet the needs of all stakeholders – including the European Union, which to this date remains the largest user of IFRS.

The reform of the IASCF governance currently being contemplated represents a step change in the accountability of this body to public authorities, something this House has repeatedly called for. I appeal to the European Parliament to support our proposals as the best way to ensure that this reform achieves real influence.

3-456

Jean-Paul Gauzès, *au nom du groupe PPE-DE*. – Madame la Présidente, Monsieur le Commissaire, mes chers collègues, nous venons d'entendre, de la présidente de la commission économique, l'expression de ce qu'en fait pensent les députés qui s'intéressent à cette question. Vous l'avez souligné, chacun est conscient de l'importance des normes comptables et de

la réforme qui est annoncée. L'occasion est venue de clarifier et de traduire dans les faits les propos que vous tenez, Monsieur le Commissaire.

Je fais une proposition: cette résolution est sévère et ceci est mérité, mais il ne faut pas tuer le pécheur. Finalement, ce qui serait possible, ce serait de mettre à profit quelques jours pour essayer d'établir, entre la Commission et le Parlement, un protocole qui définirait clairement l'information du Parlement, sa participation à cette réflexion et ses positions, et à cette fin, il faudrait que nous reportions le vote de quelques jours. C'est la proposition que formulera le PPE demain, de reporter le vote de la résolution pour permettre d'ouvrir véritablement une concertation entre le Parlement et la Commission sur ce sujet important. Il est bien évident que si rien n'aboutissait pendant ce laps de temps, pour rattraper le temps perdu et les éventuels manques d'information, eh bien nous serions amenés à voter une résolution qui serait celle qui nous est proposée aujourd'hui, avec la sévérité des jugements qu'elle comporte.

J'espère qu'en ces circonstances difficiles que nous fait connaître aujourd'hui la crise financière, à laquelle les normes comptables ne sont pas totalement étrangères, chacun comprendra qu'il s'agit-là de trouver une solution pratique et rapide qui rende possible les évolutions souhaitables.

3-457

John Purvis (PPE-DE). – Madam President, I have to admit to the Commissioner that I am really quite confused by what has been going on with this case. I had heard nothing about it until literally this week and suddenly I get deluged with approaches, both from the IASCF and from the Commission, trying to persuade me one way or the other as to whether the IMF should be included in the monitoring group. I think this is a rather unsatisfactory way to proceed with what is essentially almost a piece of legislation, so I would ask the Commissioner if we could not delay this a little, get it sorted out and come back to it perhaps at the October mini-plenary.

I would like to suggest that I do not see that adding the IMF and the World Bank to this monitoring group would make it that unwieldy. It seems to me they would cover the rest of the world in a rather satisfactory manner. I do not really see that there is a need then to have yet another accounting advisory group that advises the monitors that monitor things. It is like the house that Jack built. I wonder whether they could not in any case consult quite readily, unofficially, if they ever need to do so. I wonder if we could have some discussions over the next couple of weeks and end up with a vote, possibly in a more satisfactory manner, at the mini-plenary in October.

3-458

Zuzana Roithová (PPE-DE). – Pane komisaři, dnešní světová finanční krize odhaluje, jaký význam má pro zdravé fungování finančních trhů fair value, tedy reálná hodnota podniku. Je to klíčová informace pro akcionáře i věřitele. Monitorovací výbor by mohl přispět k prohlubování transparentnosti a srovnatelnosti účetního výkaznictví, a tím i posílení osobní odpovědnosti akcionářů za správná ekonomická rozhodnutí. Mezinárodní standardizace jednoznačně vede k rozvoji přeshraničních kapitálových trhů, a proto by kvůli stabilitě měla tato monitorovací skupina přijímat také preventivní opatření proti cykličnosti a napomáhat předcházení systémovému riziku. Návrh na zřízení skupiny ovšem není dotažený. Nejsou vyjasněny jeho kompetence, například zda bude mít také kontrolní funkce. Rovněž považuji za důležité, aby každá země měla svého delegáta v navrhované monitorovací skupině, kde nesmí chybět také zástupci významných institucí tak, aby to odráželo poměr nejvýznamnějších světových měnových oblastí, kulturní rozmanitost a zájmy rozvinutých i nově vznikajících ekonomik a mezinárodních institucí, které jsou odpovědné veřejným orgánům. Je škoda, že to nebylo předem standardně s Parlamentem konzultováno.

3-459

Pervenche Berès, auteur. – Madame la Présidente, Monsieur le Commissaire, qu'avez-vous fait depuis le 24 avril pour tenir compte de la position du Parlement européen? Qu'avez-vous fait depuis le 24 avril pour débattre avec le Parlement européen des bonnes solutions pour piloter la gouvernance des *trustees*? Nous le savons bien, l'IASB est un bateau ivre entre les mains des auditeurs qui ont produit ces *fair values*, dont personne ne sait comment on les a élus quand il n'y a plus de marché.

Et aujourd'hui, l'enjeu de la gouvernance de l'IASCF est celui dont nous devons débattre. Vous nous proposez dans la précipitation – lorsque nous vous proposons des solutions raisonnables pour intégrer la gouvernance de ces structures dans une gouvernance mondiale, responsable – de mettre en place des comités de consultation. Est-ce raisonnable?

Je ne crois pas qu'une simple association du Parlement européen à telle ou telle étape du processus suffira à résoudre la question. La proposition que vous nous faites pour la gouvernance de l'IASCF n'est pas satisfaisante. Nous attendons de votre part une autre proposition et, éventuellement, d'attendre la deuxième phase de la consultation, de la révision de cette gouvernance le cas échéant.

3-460

Charlie McCreevy, Member of the Commission. – Madam President, at my stage in life, I do not get very surprised too often, so I am not the least bit surprised at what goes on here in the European Parliament and the views of some people.

Can I just say in all of this particular debate, let us just remember one small thing. The IASCF and its underlying constituent body, the IASB, is an independent organisation.

(Inaudible interruption from the floor)

I just want to put the facts on the table. They are totally independent but they have *de facto* become the accounts-standard-setting body for the globe because IFRS, which came out of the IASB, has now become the *de facto* worldwide accountancy standard. I have to point out that this is an independent body; since we in Europe have adopted IFRS – a decision made before my time by the Commission and to the satisfaction of the European Parliament – we are the largest constituency that has IFRS today. This position may change as the world moves over more to IFRS. We might not then be the largest any more, but we certainly are the largest current user of IFRS.

For some time, with the support of the European Parliament, we have been endeavouring to improve the governance arrangements of the IASCF trustees, noting that they are an independent organisation.

We have made some progress in the past, and the IAS recently announced that they were going to have a review of their own constitution. So we are availing ourselves of that opportunity to make our submission. We have no right to impose our view on the IASCF – this is up to the independent trustees – but we are making it our submission to improve the governance arrangements. I would just point out this basic fact before everybody, as we might say in Ireland, ‘loses the run of themselves’ in this particular area. That is the *de facto* and *de jure* situation.

The IAS trustees are intending to bring in their new governance arrangements, having considered all the submissions, in early October. The closing date for making our submission has actually passed by a few days. It was to be 20 September, and the date today is 24 September. We waited to submit our final result. We have been in informal consultations with them for some time, so they know, really, what we are going to propose, but we waited for Parliament’s resolution for the courtesy of doing that. So we will have to submit our formal proposals in the next few days.

It is entirely a matter for Parliament as to what you want to do with this particular recommendation. Mr Gauzès has put forward a reasonable approach about taking a few extra days perhaps to work out a protocol about Parliament’s participation in the process which I am endeavouring to set up.

As regards the monitoring board idea, which we announced last November, it is not possible for everybody to be represented on the monitoring board. It will not be acceptable to the trustees of the IASCF, and, if they say absolutely no, then that is that. So we proposed a kind of a way around this by having relevant people, relevant bodies, in this advisory group. I am not hung up on any particular strong views as to how it should be organised or who should be on it. I do not have any views about that.

I only learned today that my services have not been in constant contact with relevant Members here in the European Parliament in the past month or so. This was news to me, because I thought my officials would have been keeping contact the whole time with the people here who take an interest in this particular subject, but I find out today that did not occur. In my former remarks, I said that I regretted this, and that I had given directions that it should not happen again; we want to cooperate. No more can I do.

Mr Purvis, it is not as though Parliament can delay until any time it likes – mid-October or beyond – but if I want the European Commission to have a say, I have to submit our formal proposals regarding our ideas about governance to the IASB board forthwith. They will not agree with some of them. As Mr John Purvis says, he has been lobbied for the last two days by various actors in this particular scene as to what they want to achieve.

From reading the resolution as it is drafted, there is one definite peculiarity about this, which I think should not go unnoticed, particularly by Mrs Berès who has long been an advocate of greater governance and accountability of this particular IASB body. The peculiarity of the resolution is that it would do exactly what the trustees actually want and reverse what we are trying to do in getting more governance. That is the peculiarity, but the matter of the resolution is entirely a matter for the European Parliament, not a matter for me. I would just make that particular comment in passing, because there are people among the IASB trustees who are not too anxious to accommodate some of the more far-reaching governance arrangements that we are proposing for them. There will be a fair degree of resistance. We are reliant on the existing trustees to take account of our concerns and to improve these governance arrangements as we think fit. We are not in the position, because we only submit these things, to make demands and say it has to be like this, but we have had contacts and they know what we are going to propose. They are not happy with some of what we are going to propose. I am aware of that, but we are trying to get this improved governance.

Not that I am ever surprised by what happens in the political arena, as I have been well over 30 years in this field, but it will be ironic if, after we have got this far over the years in getting our way on two things – namely that the IFRS has become an international standard and that, now, as people here know, the United States is proposing that IFRS be available

to US companies (something I predicted would happen about two years ago to the relevant members of the relevant Parliament committee and was more or less laughed at that this would ever occur, and it has) – this body that has been demanding with us and pressing us to get increased governance and accountability from this particular body is, at this particular stage and according to some people, actually going to do quite the opposite. I just think it is a little bit ironic, but I hope I have explained this as best I can.

3-461

Presidente. – Conformemente all'articolo 108, paragrafo 5, del regolamento, ho ricevuto una proposta di risoluzione⁸;

La discussione è chiusa.

La votazione si svolgerà giovedì 25 settembre 2008.

3-462

21 - Ordine del giorno della prossima seduta: vedasi processo verbale

3-463

22 - Chiusura della seduta

3-464

(La seduta è tolta alle 23.45)

⁸ Cfr. Processo verbale.