



26 January 1995

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By Fax

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Dear Victor,

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT REGIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE: PRESENTATION BY CARLO TROJAN

1 attended Trojan's presentation last evening to the Regional Policy Committee of the European Parliament.

2 Trojan described the Commission's proposal in the same terms as set out in the December communication. He outlined the timetable which had been explained to us by Poulsen on Wednesday, and asked whether the Parliament could give an opinion on the Commission's draft Guidelines in March. Speciale (Committee Chairman), having taken Hume's opinion, thought that the earliest opportunity would be the April plenary.

3 Trojan made much of the consultation process which had informed the preparation of the Commission's work to date. He emphasised the need to crack on and show additional impact of the new Initiative on the ground in NI. He said that the Commission would ensure additionality and complementarity in relation to existing SF expenditure, and the IFI.

4 He characterised the Initiative as being about "reconciliation: hearts and minds rather than bricks and mortar". The Committee liked that.

5 They liked Hume's intervention too. He portrayed the Trojan grass-roots approach to regional development as an exciting new development which should inform the Commission's practices elsewhere. He stressed that his work as rapporteur for the Committee would be done in full co-operation with Nicholson and Paisley. (Nicholson was present and grumbled publicly that he had not been consulted prior to Hume's selection as rapporteur).

6 Hume said he had plans for an EP conference in Belfast as part of his consultation on the proposals. He would invite Santer. He believed that the "consultative platforms" which



Trojan had constructed should be carried forward into implementation of the programme.

7 He also majored on additionality and transparency, a theme picked up by others who spoke in the debate. Generally though the tone was positive.

8 Nicholson criticised the UK government for "creative accounting" and an over-bureaucratic approach. He said there remained differences between himself and Trojan over content of the programme, but pledged his support for an "impartial EP report". He wanted to see an Initiative which would address social deprivation and long term unemployment, town centre development and nursery education.

9 In responding to the Committee Trojan accepted the timetable for EP opinion, and welcomed the idea of a conference.

10 Pat Hastings of the Irish Representation was present to hear Trojan. They have not had informal meetings with the Commission yet. Their chief concern, like ours, is that in preparing the Guidelines the Commission stick to the politically-acceptable substance and language of the Communication.

11 I am copying this letter to Alan Adams, NIO London and Steve Bickel, DTI. Please could you forward a copy to Wilfie Hamilton, DFP and other interested colleagues in Belfast.

DR J E MILLIGAN