



EPP
ACTION PROGRAMME
(Christian Democratic Group)
for the Second Legislature of the European Parliament

Keep Winning
IN EUROPE

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1984



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Contents

Chapter I.	: INTRODUCTION	4
Chapter II.	: MORE JOBS AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN EUROPE	8
	— Economic recovery	9
	— Social policy	14
	— Agriculture and fisheries	17
Chapter III.	: TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN A HEALTHY EUROPE	20
	— Citizen's Security	20
	— The value of the Family	21
	— Position of women	23
	— Education and training	25
	— Cultural Aspects	27
	— Public Health	28
	— Nature and the environment	28
	— Consumer protection	31
Chapter IV.	: TOWARDS PEACE WITH GREATER SECURITY THROUGH JUSTICE AND SOLIDARITY	33
	— East-West relations	34
	— Our responsibility towards the Third and Fourth Worlds	36
	— Human Rights and democracy	40
	— External Relations of the European Community and its role as a mediator in the World	42
Chapter V.	: GREATER DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE	44
	— The Institutions	45
	— The necessary measures	46
	— Political will	47

I. INTRODUCTION

1. European Unification is a historic mission for the present generation. The European Peoples' Party (EPP) remains the motivating force. To continue on the road prepared by the Community founding fathers is a primary obligation for Christian Democrats.
- 1.2. At a critical time, the Christian Democrats provided the impetus for European Unification because they firmly believed that only through solidarity could frontiers be abolished and class barriers overcome.
2. **Foundation and aim**
 - 2.1. The EPP defends a policy which is rooted in Christian standards and values. Our objective is a political structure which
 - protects the well-being of all citizens, particularly the weak,
 - allows individuals to enjoy their freedom in solidarity,
 - considers spiritual and cultural development as an inalienable right,
 - favours the development of social relationships,
 - redistributes public responsibilities effectively and harmoniously on a Community, regional and local level,
 - carefully protects the environment,
 - is aware of the responsibilities of the Community in the world,
 - acts for peace and security.

- 2.2. The co-operation and unification of Europeans must be based on these principles so that the liberties and rights of citizens can be guaranteed.
- 2.3. As Christian Democrats, we are in favour of a society in which a variety of organisations, through their diversity, can fulfil their role, each in their own way. Such a society is rich in initiatives and is based on the principle of mutual responsibility.

3. **Choose for Europe**

- 3.1. The economic recession, unemployment and international tension have thrown the people of Europe into a state of confusion. The great challenges of the technological revolution, the restructuring of industry and the opportunities for social and cultural development encourage our creativity.

In this situation we choose once more a Europe — a European Union which can act and take decisions.

- 3.2. A whole range of problems which face the Member States today can only be solved within the European Community where one can find more effective and less costly solutions on a European level. The necessary institutions and instruments to achieve these tasks must be made available to the Community.

4. **More jobs as a result of increased economic growth**

- 4.1. A Community equipped with the right political structures can contribute considerably to economic recovery and the creation of new jobs.
- 4.2. The convergence of Member States' financial and economic policy in a European strategy is essential for the optimal result of national efforts.

4.3. The EPP is committed to a social market economy within which:

- industry, agriculture, trade and services and crafts can grow
- workers' dignity is guaranteed
- the responsibility and participation of social partners is recognised
- the development of creativity, interest and responsibility allows more people to find jobs
- the environment and natural resources are carefully protected
- development opportunities are given to the Third World.

4.4. EPP economic and social policy is orientated particularly towards the development and completion of the internal market, a coordinated renewal of industry and increased job opportunities for young people and women.

4.5. We support the Common Agricultural Policy, based on Community solidarity. It guarantees farmers' living conditions and food for our citizens.

4.6. The creation of a stable monetary zone is essential for the lasting development of the European economy.

5. **Development opportunities for citizens**

5.1. Citizens must be able to count on the preservation of basic social security and of the constitutional State, which we Christian Democrats claim to guarantee.

5.2. Equality of all individuals, which is the basis of a just society must always be protected. In this context the EPP encourages equal rights and opportunities for women, in particular for the most underprivileged among them.

5.3. We emphasise the importance of the family, in which both parents and children can develop. The EPP wants a caring society in which its members accept responsibility for each other. Citizens must be prepared for this role through education. The Christian Democrats defend the citizen's right to choice in education.

5.4. Every initiative which strengthens both European cultural identity and diversity should be encouraged.

6. **Respect for nature and the environment**

6.1. Economic growth, development and prosperity should not lead to the exhaustion of nature and the environment. The protection and improvement of the environment as well as huge national efforts, needs integrated action by the European Community. The pollution of nature and environment does not stop at national borders. Forest decay, air and water pollution must be dealt with on a Community level.

7. **Peace and Justice**

7.1. Only a strong and united Europe can genuinely promote freedom and solidarity, peace and justice, for all mankind.

7.2. Only a united Europe can effectively contribute to the institution of a new world order which can develop as a force for progress and international social justice.

7.3. Only a united Europe can control its future, have its legitimate interests respected in the world, defend itself against military threats and guarantee its future existence through sovereignty and freedom.

7.4. The desire for peace and freedom in justice is the basis of European unity. The Community is and remains a force for peace which places rights before power. The EPP is committed to

- the peaceful resolution of conflicts in Europe and elsewhere in the world
 - a balanced reduction in armament levels
 - lessening the tension between East and West by negotiation and continual dialogue.
- 7.5. The goal of our international policy is to create a world order of peace and justice which is based on the right to self-determination, independence and freedom for all peoples.
- 7.6. We Christian Democrats are firm and resolute defenders of Human Rights whenever they are violated. The EPP demands that the Community exercise its power primarily in the service of protecting mankind.
- 7.7. The EPP advocates an outward looking Europe which contributes by active aid and support to the development of the Third World. Europeans must be prepared to share their prosperity with others.
- 7.8. The Community Institutions and the Member States, as well as private bodies should contribute to the social and economic independence of developing countries.

II. MORE JOBS AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN EUROPE

- 1.1. The economic situation in Europe is greatly influenced by international factors which give the recession a world-wide character; large currency fluctuations, high increases in raw material and energy costs, extensive social and technological change are all factors. There are more than 13 million unemployed in the Community, almost half of them under twenty-five. The EPP considers it a priority to offer these people future prospects.

1.2. Recent experiences have taught us that we have been:

- living beyond our means and neglecting productive investment;
- permitting labour costs to rise too rapidly at the expense of innovation
- relying excessively on the public sector thus creating established rights, whose costs cannot be controlled.

1.3. The opportunities offered by the Community are not being sufficiently used.

1.4. In certain cases measures can be taken at national level but they will remain ineffective if they are not co-ordinated with the other Community Member States.

1.5. The individual Member States are simply too small to solve many of the major problems. The Community must have the scope and framework for the co-ordinated approach that is essential in tackling the problems of unemployment.

1.6. The Community should not turn in on itself but rather it should shoulder its responsibilities to the world including that of creating a more just international economic order.

1.7. The EPP is committed to the principle of a socially and ecologically responsible market economy, which is the cornerstone of its policy. Simplistic approaches are incompatible with the philosophy that determines our party line. A responsible policy requires both a sound economic and a sound social base.

2. **Economic recovery**

2.1. A Community with effective policies and the necessary instruments is the best employment programme we can have since such a Community can do a great deal for economic recovery.

2.1.1 Our principle economic policy objectives are:

- lasting, balanced economic growth with a subsequent reduction in unemployment, due to an increase in investment and advances in structural reform.
- Continuation of the struggle against inflation and an improvement in competitiveness, thus pre-supposing a national socio-economic policy which is adapted at Community level.

Efforts for stronger convergence are absolutely essential for the Member States socio-economic policy and ought to be given priority. Agreement on policy is essential if the Community is to assert its economic position and associated political influence in a changing world and if its internal problems are to be overcome. The economic climate can only be improved by co-ordinated, convergent and indeed Community-wide policy.

2.1.2. This policy should aim to:

- increase the overall expansion of the private sector particularly small and medium size enterprises,
- create favourable economic conditions, providing new possibilities for jobs,
- encourage investment from Community business and attract foreign investment,
- develop and complete the internal market.

This is the way to increase the opportunities for meaningful paid employment, particularly in the socially and economically less-favoured regions. We simply cannot allow the waste caused by the present piecemeal approach due to border formalities and protectionism. Europe must wake up and take common action.

- 2.2. The EPP is therefore committed to a policy with the following objectives:
- 2.2.1. — co-ordination of the Members States' policies for economic recovery. Such a policy must be designed to:
- * reduce national Budget deficits to a level compatible with available resources,
 - * improve industrial profitability.
 - * stimulate production at sectoral as well as individual level.
 - * undertake initiatives and justifiable co-ordinated action to stimulate growth on an international level,
 - * create conditions where interests rates can be controlled.
 - * bring inflation rates down as much as possible;
- 2.2.2. — economic growth that is subject to social and ecological constraints, taking into account the specific position of the Third World and to an appropriate and fair distribution of work throughout the world;
- 2.2.3. — rapid dismantling of all money-wasting administrative, fiscal and technical border formalities and the abolition of regulations of a nationalist protectionist character, an extravagant waste of time and money. The Community must become a single market, attractive to investors;

- 2.2.4. — conditions of equal competition for passenger and goods transport in Europe by the creation of a common market for transport and allied services;
- 2.2.5. — progressive tax harmonisation on capital returns, more effective cooperation at European level to combat tax fraud and flows of capital towards non-Community countries; common company law and taxation rules;
- 2.2.6. — further development of the European Monetary System:
 - * better co-ordination of credit, monetary, budgetary, social and economic policies of the Member States, thus strengthening common exchange rates,
 - * the creation of an autonomous European Monetary Fund,
 - * the ECU could be used increasingly as a reserve currency in Central Banks, promoted as a means of payment in transactions and strengthened in its role in the International Monetary System,
 - * introduction of travellers cheques and deposit accounts in ECUs,

This would contribute considerably to the stability of the world money market;

- 2.2.7. — application of joint measures for the development of key industries and innovation; the encouragement of co-operation between European firms, in particular in the area of research, in projects that are of general interest to the future development of Europe and/or capital intensive projects. To achieve this the Community must make the necessary finance available.

- 2.2.8. — gradual abolition of national subsidies to industries and sectors that are not structurally viable, taking the problems of the frontier regions into account. According to the Treaty, national subsidies must be presented to the Commission for approval first.
- 2.2.9. — greater solidarity in action to combat energy shortages, in line with the commitment made by the Member States in case of a crisis; in such cases existing gas and oil stocks should be released to ensure European energy supplies; more long-term contracts for imports and exports of electricity.
- 2.2.10. — a European investment programme particularly to develop alternative sources of energy and raw materials and to improve the environment and infrastructure and for research into raw material and energy savings.
- 2.2.11. — active support for small and medium-sized undertakings (SMUs), as well as co-operatives and craft industries through such facilities as loans, tax incentives, access to research findings and export promotion, by the harmonisation of tax systems and by simplifying administrative formalities. In particular, the setting up of undertakings should be made easier (enterprise creation saving schemes similar to those for housing).
- 2.2.12. — encouragement of private or cooperative SMUs that are developing new ranges of products or services, in particular those related to the environment, research, energy and technical assistance;
- 2.2.13. — concentration of available resources under the European Regional Development Fund in the least developed regions and areas suffering from large industrial decline. This policy is an expression of mutual solidarity within the Community and it must aim at strengthening the particular development opportunities of the regions concerned;

2.2.14. — effective promotion of structurally weak areas of the Community. Regional Policy must contribute to closing the gap between rich and poor regions. The goal of such efforts is that people find work in their own region; people should not be forced to migrate to other regions or even other Member States.

As far as the EPP is concerned, Regional Policy must contribute to regional decision-making.

By proposing a "Mediterranean Plan" for example, the EPP can point the way for Southern Europe.

3. **Social policy**

3.1. Economic growth will not in itself eradicate unemployment in the short and medium term, not even with the best possible combination of national and European policies. Initially the development of micro electronics and information technology will have repercussions on employment. It is important therefore, to be well prepared for such developments. In the meantime we cannot ask the present generation of unemployed just to wait. The distribution of job opportunities among the largest number of people can be approached differently from one country to another. European policy however must prevent such differences causing distortions in competition.

3.2. The EPP is working towards:

3.2.1. — a flexible system for the redistribution of paid working hours taking into account practical possibilities in working life, what is feasible for industry and the personal circumstances of workers. Such measures must not lead to a fall in the average level of productivity. The policies of the two sides of industry must be backed up by a Community framework agreement laying down the basic conditions for the many ways and means of redistributing work. Furthermore such a redistribution of work implies

strict limits on both work and overtime and calls for a more active battle against those working on the side or illegally;

- 3.2.2. — a re-organisation of work that also allows scope for a fairer allocation of paid employment, housework, education and voluntary work between men and women. Where possible the Community itself must direct policy and encourage Member States to do likewise;
- 3.2.3. — education and training must acknowledge that employment will play a smaller role in people's lives in future to the benefit of other equally useful and interesting activities;
- 3.2.4. — employment schemes giving every young person the opportunity to gain practical experience either in industry or in the voluntary sector, measures which grant Community youth a guarantee from society offering an alternative to unemployment, and a possibility of gaining experience in the area for which they trained. Support for young people who wish to set up their own business and thereby making use of the technical expertise of the older unemployed;
- 3.2.5. — European support for projects to foster the social integration of the handicapped. Encouragement of professional training offering as much as possible to those under-privileged members of our society, thus providing a basis for stable and dignified work;
- 3.2.6. — harmonisation of and, where it proves possible or useful, an improvement in social security systems in the Member States, particularly where large differences between them falsify competition, thus prejudicing small and medium undertakings and labour intensive sectors and companies. The EPP underlines that a policy of control of social security expenditure must however take into account that

fundamental social security conditions must be maintained in the long term. There is good reason therefore to conserve solidarity between those who have work and the unemployed;

- 3.2.7. — harmonisation of legislation concerning the standard of living of those who are not able to provide for their own needs (for example the elderly, the physically or mentally disabled). Launching an action programme to combat the poverty which still exists in our countries.
- 3.2.8. — continuing harmonisation of legislation on health and safety on the shop floor with a comprehensive programme of exchanges for officials and factory inspectors within the Community; issuing of directives to protect workers handling harmful substances or working in dangerous conditions;
- 3.2.9. — strengthening and improvement of the European Social Fund and the concentration of its resources in areas and groups severely affected by long-term unemployment, particularly women. Increased utilisation of the Social Fund in favour of the young unemployed is fully supported. The introduction of socio-political measures in the framework of the restructuring of industry (e.g. steel, textiles, shipbuilding, etc.);
- 3.2.10. — the organisation of worker participation and co-operation between both sides of industry to be supported by legislation; the implementation of the Vth directive which allows workers to participate in decision-making in limited companies and of the "Vredeling-Davignon" Directive on the informing and consulting of workers in multinationals. The conclusion of framework agreements making decisions on the level of participation in profits and capital of a company possible, thus leading to a more equitable distribution of profits and increased worker participation;

- 3.2.11. — improvements in the position of frontier workers, as regards border formalities and communications as well as their social, fiscal and revenue position. The same applies to self-employed persons who exercise their activities on both sides of a border;
- 3.2.12. — signing and ratification at Community level of the Council of Europe Convention and the legal status of migrant workers in Community countries; the development of measures to help wives of migrant workers;
- 3.2.13. — measures to prevent the creation of jobs that have an adverse effect on the environment, the Third World, underprivileged or minority groups;
- 3.2.14. — the creation of European labour legislation which responds to justifiable demands and claims from both sides of industry. As a first step we call on both parties to draw up work agreements which have a binding force at European level, to accept their responsibility at European level and to put it into practise.

4. **Agriculture and fisheries**

- 4.1 — The agriculture sector is of particular importance to the Community because it is the only area where the Community has totally integrated budgetary policy. The Common Agricultural Policy, therefore has a dominating position in the achievement of a coherent, Community economic policy. The success of CAP lies in the assurance of high quality food production, in sufficient quantity, at reasonable prices. Although European agriculture has seen an unprecedented increase in production, it has not succeeded in increasing farmers incomes.
- 4.2. — The principles of the CAP are basically valid. However, difficulties have developed because of the non-respect of these principles, which are the result of a failure to achieve economic and monetary union.

- 4.3. — The CAP framework is threatened above all by growing structural surpluses and expenditure increases pertaining to them. If we want to maintain its Community character and the principle of financial solidarity, the individual market instruments must be adapted to deal with current trends. Particular attention must be paid to farmers' incomes when making the necessary changes.
- 4.4. — The EPP demands:
- 4.4.1. — the maintenance and completion of the basic principles of the present Common Agricultural Policy, namely
- * free movement of agricultural and fisheries products within the internal market, as well as common prices;
 - * joint financing of the policy;
 - * Community preference over imports from third countries;
- 4.4.2. — the maintenance of the operational capacity of CAP by creating monetary and economic union and abolishing Monetary Compensatory Amounts (M.C.A.'s);
- 4.4.3. — financial co-responsibility on the part of producers equitably divided.
- 4.4.4. — safeguarding of jobs in the agricultural sector, by means of a responsible marketing and pricing policy, among other things. Stimulate improvements in quality as well as increasing outlets; extend allied sectors (supplies, processing, exports); a system of aids granted when the farmer's income is maintained solely by the guaranteed price and where his work is necessary for environmental reasons;

- 4.4.5. — the maintenance and development of many family holdings generating sufficient income, special grants to young farmers and horticulturalists who want to set up in business;
- 4.4.6. — the development of supplementary sources of income (e.g. agri-tourism) in Community regions where this is possible and desirable given the type of holding;
- 4.4.7. — forestry programmes and reactivation programmes in order to:
 - * improve the environment,
 - * ensure raw material supplies,
 - * develop sources of energy,
 - * create jobs,
 - * search for alternatives to agriculture;
- 4.4.8. — integrated regional action programmes particularly in areas with few natural advantages or which have been over-exploited;
- 4.4.9. — a common fisheries policy designed to achieve a fair balance between the need to protect fish stocks and the socio-economic conditions linked with fishing;
- 4.4.10. — a flexible structural policy which respects both acquired and traditional rights of Member States and prevents distorted competition;
- 4.4.11. — the development of the fish-processing and by-products industry.

III. TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN A HEALTHY EUROPE

- 1.1. The EPP bases its policy on a Christian-inspired vision of the individual and society. This vision finds expression in many ways but especially in its concern that there should be justice for all individuals and its commitment in favour of vulnerable groups in our society.
- 1.2. Christian Democrats are firm believers in the social constitutional State under the rule of law which protects the safety of its citizens in various respects. EPP policies actively foster the social and cultural development of man.

The EPP advocates a policy which protects and promotes all shades of cultural expression against the decline in spiritual values.

The EPP's view of nature as the Creation calls for proper management and protection of the environment in Europe, as well as taking the importance of the environment for people everywhere in the world into account.

- 1.3. The EPP stresses the importance of citizens' associations, communities and organisations. These are essential to the development of a healthy and dynamic society.

2. **Citizens' Security**

- 2.1. The democratic constitutional State provides a protective framework within which citizens can assume their freedom with responsibility. The security offered to citizens by the constitutional State against the violation of personal integrity by other citizens or the authorities is taken for granted. A continual and active commitment is however necessary so that the constitutional State may be protected and enlarged.

- 2.2. The introduction and use of new technology, the upsurge in international crime as well as political crimes create security problems which must be resolved.
- 2.3. The EPP underlines the importance of measures taken by the Council of Europe and other International Bodies to protect citizens' security. Furthermore, the European Parliament must be careful to fulfil its own responsibilities in this area.

2.4. Therefore the EPP advocates:

- 2.4.1. — an effective protection of citizens' privacy and the development of a code of conduct for the use of computer records establishing rules which
- * guarantee that stored information will only be used in the situation required
 - * determine the duration and place of storage
 - * allows the individual the right to correct any false or out-of-date information;
- 2.4.2. — co-ordinated action against international terrorism and drug traffic;
- 2.4.3. -- exchange of information concerning criminals, mutual access to files and computer records of suspects;
- 2.4.4. — programmes for crime prevention and the exchange of relevant experience in the different Member States.

3. **The value of the Family**

- 3.1. The family is the basis of society; offering, above all, the conditions which its members need for their growth and development. The family also provides the context for mutual aid between spouses, as well as between parents and children.

3.2. Therefore the EPP stresses the importance of family solidarity and actively supports families who are socially vulnerable such as:

- households living on minimum wages,
- immigrant workers' families,
- families with handicapped children or relatives.

This is not solely the role of the State. Society too must take on its responsibilities in this area.

3.3. The Community needs an effective policy for youth so they feel welcome in our society.

3.4. The proportion of elderly people is rising. They have the right to express their views; their importance to society should be recognised and their interests protected.

3.5. Therefore the EPP desires:

3.5.1. — an action programme for the family whereby the Community takes greater account of the effects of policy on family life — in particular, on the conditions necessary for rearing children;

3.5.2. — a social, economic and fiscal policy that supports the family, recognises the activity of the family as an important social entity, takes the material means of families into account and promotes lasting relationships between partners;

3.5.3. — provision for the possibility of part-time work and leave for family reasons when shorter working hours are introduced so that mothers and fathers have the opportunity to fulfil their role satisfactorily;

- 3.5.4. — to give young people the opportunity of participating in the life of the community. To this end, vocational training and facilities for further training and retraining should be increased and adapted to new technology so as to give young people greater opportunities. Special attention should be paid to the vocational training of girls to ensure that they have the same opportunities in the job market as boys.

4. **The position of women**

- 4.1. The quantitative and qualitative evolution of household and educational tasks, the growing need for the social and professional involvement of women and the altered relationship between men and women have considerably modified the position of men and women in marriage, the family and society. For decades womens' organisations have prepared for and participated in these changes by means of education and their efforts to increase awareness. Today the emancipation of women is one of the most important areas of the political and ideological fight.
- 4.2. The EPP advocates equal rights and opportunities for men and women. What is needed is an effective policy which will make up the lost ground and eliminate the obstacles which stand in the way of the full development of women's personality.
- 4.3. In this context, the EPP wishes to give priority to women in unfavourable circumstances, i.e., women in the socially and economically vulnerable strata of society, including foreign minorities, women with many family duties and women who wish to re-enter the job market later in life.
- 4.4. The EPP is fighting for a policy which takes the particular worth, responsibility and versatility of the human person into account. Consequently, it encourages the social development of men and women. The mutual responsibility and solidarity of men and women in the family and in society must be the guideline of all

policy concerning emancipation. In this context, the EPP rejects all policy based on individualism.

4.5. The EPP stresses the need for:

4.5.1 — greater participation by women in the political, economic and social decision-making process and in employment, by means of a fair distribution of these tasks and family responsibilities between men and women;

4.5.2. — free choice for a father or mother to work in paid employment. Social policy must:

- * on the one hand, aim to create sufficient measures concerning the family to allow parents to reconcile work and family obligations,

- * on the other hand, prevent a situation forcing parents to work purely for financial reasons at the expense of family obligations;

4.5.3. — the three directives (equal pay, equal right to work, equal social security) should be implemented. In addition the directive on social security should be extended to cover labour regulations. This means that the principle of equal pay would apply not only to statutory provisions but also to social provisions (such as pensions) governed by agreements between social partners within specific vocational groups;

4.5.4. — in the short term, a European directive to improve the legal status of women working in family businesses in the agricultural, commercial and craft sectors. The status of this group of women should be improved in both legal terms and in the area of wages, social security and tax;

4.5.5 — an appropriate policy for the retraining and further training of women wishing to re-enter the labour market after a long period spent looking after their families.

5. Education and training

- 5.1. The right to education constitutes a fundamental social right which must become a reality for all the inhabitants of Europe. The EPP wholeheartedly supports the principle of free education, where parental rights of participation are fully recognised. Associations and foundations should have the possibility of running schools. State-run education should be acceptable to all those who wish to avail themselves of it and should never be used as an instrument of political or ideological propaganda. Education should play its part in the spiritual, social and cultural development of the individual, make both boys and girls aware of their responsibilities in the family, at work and in society. Education cannot be blind to society's needs.
- 5.2. The EPP considers that great emphasis must be laid on the importance of vocational training, including socio-cultural training for the development of the individual. A reappraisal is needed of the role in society of the craft trades and of work in the home. Education, particularly continuing education, should be more geared towards careers in the new technologies.
- 5.3. The European dimension must be properly represented in education and training so that young peoples' awareness of Europe is enhanced. Europe cannot be built without men and women who feel European.
- 5.4. This is why the EPP is fighting for:
 - 5.4.1. — freedom in education to be recognised and made available, among other things, by giving equal legal and financial status to both public sector and private education;
 - 5.4.2. — a European educational passport should be created to register the qualifications of young people so that they can follow further vocational training or exercise a skilled job commensurate with their vocational training in any Community Member State. These depend on greater

co-ordination of vocational training in the Member States and the mutual recognition of diplomas;

- 5.4.3. — the study of Community languages should be encouraged as should the study of European history, geography and culture;
- 5.4.4. — youth exchange programmes should be expanded, not least for young workers. A European youth institute should be established to this end within the "European Foundation". Moreover, teacher mobility should be encouraged.
- 5.4.5. — universities in the Member States should acquire a more European character. Co-operation and exchanges between professors and researchers should be encouraged. Study abroad for students from the Community must be promoted. A necessary pre-condition is an end to administrative barriers as well as a reduction in the dramatic differences in enrolment requirements. This necessitates the creation of a European agreement. No student from the Community should have to pay higher enrolment fees than students from the Member State in which he wishes to study. The mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other qualifications as provided for by Article 57 of the Treaty of Rome should be operational in all areas of study;
- 5.4.6. — the education of migrant workers' children should be improved in accordance with Community directives. These directives must also apply to the children of migrant workers from outside the Community;
- 5.4.7. — a literacy programme must be created in order to put an end to illiteracy in the Member States. This campaign should be supported by detailed and regular assessment.

6. Cultural Aspects

- 6.1. Much greater emphasis should be given to the cultural aspects of Community policy. This can be achieved because of the common features of European national cultures and it is vital to the development of European awareness. Christian-Democratic policies are guided by the spiritual values which find particular expression in our society's culture.
- 6.2. The EPP advocates that:
- 6.2.1. — the free exchange of cultural treasures between Member States should be developed and the living and working conditions of artists and others involved in artistic fields should be improved. The architectural and cultural heritage of Europe in its diversity should be protected;
 - 6.2.2 — the European Foundation should have a clear role in developing the unity of the Community.
 - 6.2.3. — conditions for the production and distribution of European films. Clear rules on copyright for authors should be drawn up at Community level;
 - 6.2.4. — European radio and TV programmes should be created, including a news broadcast in several languages, to underline and foster the growing links between different countries. In the medium-term the creation of a European radio and TV service should be considered;
 - 6.2.5. — a European Convention should be drawn up to govern relations between the national broadcasting authorities and create the conditions whereby they maintain their role in propagating national cultures. Radio and television advertising should be subject to common rules. Following Community-wide agreement between the public authorities and the relevant organisations, initiatives must be taken, and codes drawn up, so that new changes in the techniques of communication can be

put at the service of those media which are broadcasting for national and European cultures.

6.2.6. — minority cultures and languages must be encouraged.

7. Public Health

7.1. Health is a possession to be preserved and protected, a fundamental element for a full life. Its improvement is one of the clear objectives of the European Community Treaty.

7.2. Consequently the EPP places great emphasis on community health, as much on the prevention of illness as on the cure.

7.3. The EPP considers it absolutely essential that gradually measures be adopted to guarantee all European citizens decent medical care of a similar nature in whatever Member State they belong to or reside in. In this context we recognise that the Treaty leaves the control and organisation of medical treatment to the Member States, leaving harmonisation of legislation to the European Community.

8. Nature and the environment

8.1. The European Community has a major responsibility for combating transfrontier pollution of the environment. The European People's Party believes that environmental policy need not conflict with a policy of economic growth and should also be pursued in harmony with agricultural policy. The importance of the environment requires suitable measures to be taken to combat the pollution of air, water and land. The EPP favours an environment policy that not only provides protection but also actively contributes to restoring the environment. It is vital that the efforts of Parliament and the Commission should be backed up by an appropriate response from the Council of Ministers.

8.2. The EPP calls for

- 8.2.1. — the Council of Ministers to go ahead without delay with the discussion and adoption of the draft directives submitted to it by the European Parliament and the Commission; these directives must then be translated into concrete policies;
- 8.2.2 — a directive must be passed rapidly to establish levels of pollution in the environment either by a statutory body or privately. A system of measurement of pollution levels in the environment must be embodied in existing national legislation;
- 8.2.3. — the co-ordination at Community level of the planning, location and construction of industrial zones in frontier areas. In the case of nuclear power stations standards should be laid down by the Community with regard to construction, location, the transport and processing of waste, etc. When the construction of nuclear power stations in frontier regions is being considered the countries concerned should be consulted. This should include provision for consultation with the inhabitants or the transfrontier bodies that represent them (e.g. the Euroregions);
- 8.2.4. — Community research into the management of radioactive waste and the security aspects of nuclear power stations should be actively pursued;
- 8.2.5. — action to combat air, water and soil pollution is very much a task for the Community. Action to combat the pollution of soil and water must be taken without delay in order to protect Western European flora and fauna (woods). The Council of Ministers must adopt a directive for the introduction of lead-free petrol in the European Community. The Community must negotiate with the countries of Eastern Europe to ensure that there too, the

emission of substances harmful to the environment by industry and vehicles is curbed;

- 8.2.6. — that the European Community has a clear policy aimed at protecting and improving the quality of drinking water;
- 8.2.7. -- immediate enforcement of European legislation on the transfrontier transport of dangerous waste; adoption of regulations for the destruction and storage of chemical, industrial and nuclear and urban waste. Dumping at sea should be strictly controlled;
- 8.2.8. — pollution by fertilisers and pesticides must be limited;
- 8.2.9. — action to promote the purification of effluent from large residential and industrial zones;
- 8.2.10. — programmes establishing basic Community norms for water and soil and air pollution. It should be possible to have more severe standards should serious situations arise. In future the establishment of limits should be directed solely on a technical level. Should it prove necessary transitional periods may be introduced for certain countries;
- 8.2.11. — a general European Convention to prevent the pollution of the North Sea should be drawn up to co-ordinate existing national and international legislation. The European Commission should take action to combat pollution of the Mediterranean;
- 8.2.12. — the efforts made at European level to reduce the pollution of the Rhine should be actively continued. Action should also be taken to reduce the pollution of other European rivers;
- 8.2.13. — the Community should actively encourage the protection and recreational use of areas of the countryside;

- 8.2.14. — Community norms be established to control noise levels of vehicles (especially cars and aircraft);
- 8.2.15. — determined efforts to bring about the ratification at Community level of international conventions on the protection of endangered species of plants and animals;
- 8.2.16. — the European import ban on products made from threatened species of whales and seals to be extended to other endangered species when the Member States have a substantial share in the trade, processing and purchase of the species in question;
- 8.2.17. — legislation to protect farm animals and livestock should be harmonized at Community level. The transfrontier transport of animals by roads should be more strictly controlled to prevent unnecessary suffering as a result of interminable delays at borders.

9. **Consumer protection**

9.1. European citizens in each Member State must be able to count on the same protection with regard to goods and services. A European consumer policy is also important as a way of avoiding distortions of competition between firms and organisations within the Community, arising from differences in consumer protection legislation.

9.2. The EPP therefore wants to see:

- 9.2.1. — the adoption without delay of the directive on liability for defective products as called for by the European Parliament. The same applies to the draft directive on misleading advertising. There should also be European legislation in the area of consumer credit. Regulations on the safety of toys and household appliances should be harmonised at European level;

- 9.2.2. — the use of toxic substances in food products or animal fodder ought to be banned;

- 9.2.3. — the implementation of codes of conduct in the handling of products, for labelling and the standardisation of products. Private industry can play an important role here in co-operation with consumer organisations. Where appropriate, such agreements can be declared binding by the European authorities so that they can be changed into a directive and subsequently implemented in national legislation. Furthermore, the European Community itself has an active role to play in drawing up directives to protect the consumer. Good contacts with European consumer organisations are vital here. Existing national legislation can serve as a model for the drawing up of the European codes. As a rule, wherever possible, provision should be made for sanctions.

IV. TOWARDS PEACE WITH GREATER SECURITY THROUGH JUSTICE AND SOLIDARITY

- 1.1 Peace means a lot more than the absence of acts of war. There can be no true peace without justice and freedom. It is the will for peace which, since the victory of democracy over Nazi totalitarianism, is at the basis of the European Community which guarantees genuine peace between the democratic nations who are Members. It works also for world peace through dialogue and active solidarity with all people.
- 1.2. International relations are being disrupted in a number of ways. Tension between East and West has been heightened by problems such as the occupation of Afghanistan and the threat which weighs on the Polish people. In real terms this tension means a rapid increase in nuclear and conventional arms levels.
- 1.3. The hopes of establishing an equitable world economic order have been dashed by the stagnation of the North-South dialogue. The effects of this are being felt by people everywhere.
- 1.4. The EPP supports a "theory of peace" which fulfils the following basic conditions:
 - 1.4.1. — respect for inalienable Human Rights, violation of which is one of the underlying causes of conflict;
 - 1.4.2. — development of a world legal order, based on a better organisation of relations between States, guaranteeing the right of self determination and the independence of all peoples;
 - 1.4.3. — the overcoming of national egoism by developing regional and inter-regional co-operation, and by following a process of integration without constraint. The creation of common institutions, to which States would cede part of their sovereignty, in order to achieve these objectives of co-operation and be a first step in the direction of a juridical world order.

- 1.4.4. — the promotion of international social justice, that is, a policy to help the poor countries of the Third World where intolerable economic and social conditions are liable to create tension leading to conflict.

2. **East-West relations (*)**

- 2.1. The essence of Soviet ideology and its conception of international relations manifests itself by repeated acts of political and military expansionism and the oppression of peoples and States which fall into the Soviet sphere of influence. The differences in ideology between East and West, together with the excess armaments at their disposal, are the major source of tension in their relations. These differences do not mean that negotiations to promote international security are impossible, but they do make it more difficult to achieve satisfactory results. Nonetheless, negotiations are the best political means of safeguarding world peace.
- 2.2. The Christian Democrats continue to see arms reductions and in particular a reduction in dependence on nuclear arms as priority objectives in order to maintain security in Europe. This goal should be achieved through negotiations leading to a simultaneous balanced and supervised reduction of forces, to the lowest possible level.
- 2.3. A durable and stable solution to East-West relations is not possible without solving the German question within the framework of a global European Peace Treaty. West Berlin is part of the Community and remains the corner stone of genuine detente in Europe.
- 2.4. The EPP therefore believes that:
 - 2.4.1. — Democratic Europe must be prepared to participate in any agreement on arms control. The dialogue within the Conference on Security and Co-operation (CSCE) should clearly be pursued without evading the fundamental issues of Human Rights, the right to self determination and the

renunciation of any acts of aggression. The European Community and its Member States must continue to examine the possible means of economic co-operation with the Eastern bloc;

- 2.4.2. — within the context of European Political Co-operation (EPC) the 10 Member States of the Community should contribute, by a series of common initiatives, to the respect for the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty;
- 2.4.3. — within the context of the EURATOM Treaty the EEC should participate in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna;
- 2.4.4 — the international arms trade should be controlled and supply contracts should not exceed the normal security requirements of the purchasing countries. There must be restrictions when arms might be used for aggression or oppression by countries which systematically violate Human Rights and the fundamental Right to Liberty. Common rules for arms exports to third countries must be established at Community level. The Community should establish provisions for arms exports to other countries. The Council ought to submit an annual report of arms trading to the European Parliament.

*2.5 EPP parties from NATO countries believe that:

Collaboration in a strong Atlantic Alliance and the up-keep of its forces are essential to any European policy aimed at preserving peace. In this context it is vital that relations between the United States and Western Europe should develop on a basis of equality, mutual understanding and solidarity between allies. Such relations can only be achieved by joint conciliation on matters of a political and strategic nature.

*2.6 EPP parties from NATO countries will make every effort so that:

- 2.6.1. — Europeans fulfill their responsibility in the Atlantic Alliance for International Security. The European Council should set up a European Security Council. Thus, in a first stage, security policy would become an integral part of European Political Co-operation and in a second stage become Community responsibility in the "Treaty instituting European Union". European policy would thus be enlarged to all aspects of foreign policy. The developments of a European concept of security is of prime significance.
- 2.6.2. — co-operation is established on a European level in the arms manufacturing industry. Standardisation is required particularly to improve our conventional strength and control armament costs. In addition, agreements with the United States must provide better utilisation of industrial possibilities so that we can speak in terms of a genuine bilateral exchange system.

*2.7 EPP parties from NATO countries desire:

- improved conventional arms levels and a defence strategy for Europe and the entire Atlantic Alliance leading to the highest possible threshold for the use of nuclear arms.

(*) References to links with NATO only apply to parties associated with the EPP in countries that are NATO members.

3. Our responsibility towards the Third and Fourth Worlds

- 3.1. The EPP, accepting the fact that all individuals are interdependent for their well-being, calls on the Community to recognise its huge responsibility in helping to put an end to the scandal of under-development from which 80% of humanity is suffering and the fact that millions of men, women and children in the developing countries are likely to die of hunger or malnutrition

each year. Huge differences exist in the degree of under-development, on the one hand between Third World countries and on the other hand between populations of these countries. In view of the dramatic developments in certain regions, policy should be increasingly directed towards the poorest of the poor in the Third World.

- 3.2. From an ethical point of view, as much as from an economical one, it is essential that the Third World achieves a higher standard of living. The EPP is gravely concerned by the fact that the gulf between the North and South is widening steadily. The reasons are, the international economic and monetary situation, the instability of raw-material prices, high oil prices and intolerably heavy and growing indebtedness of a number of developing countries as well as for other reasons inherent in the Third World countries themselves.
- 3.3. In the long term, the sole alternative to the present state of international relations and the serious threats posed to world peace lies in a co-operation policy which will establish real international social justice, promote possibilities for development on an assessment of the basic needs of the world's population based on clear legal principals. From an economic as well as a political and cultural point of view, regional co-operation between Third World countries takes on a prime importance. A growing dependence between Europe and the developing countries is unmistakably emerging which means the Europe must pursue a clear-cut policy of co-operation.
- 3.4. The EPP demands that:
 - 3.4.1. — there should be better co-ordination of national development and co-operation policies by the Community to strengthen the European development co-operation effort. In view of the gravity of the problem, aid to the least developed countries could be covered by a joint programme insofar as it makes it more effective.

- 3.4.2. — Community Member States should achieve their goal of 0.70% of GNP being devoted to development policy. In addition, an arrangement must be made to lift the intolerable burden of debt from the poor countries;
- 3.4.3. — the European Community and its Member States support the development aid projects of international organisations and at the same time insist that methods are improved and that these organisations are effective;
- 3.4.4. — the new Lome Convention (1985—1990) must provide for concentrated and co-ordinated action to benefit the least developed partners. Cultural and Humanitarian co-operation must play a larger role in the Lome Convention so as to strengthen dialogue between cultures.
- 3.4.5. — the Community should make Treaties similar to Lome with other States; e.g. with South and Central American countries;
- 3.4.6. — the Community contributes to a fairer structure for world food supplies, geared to the interest of the beneficiary countries; thanks to agricultural development and the increase in food production economic dependence on industrialised countries should decline. The Community must ensure that its contribution does not consist solely of food aid but is linked with development programmes and projects providing support for food production, distribution and processing in developing countries themselves;
- 3.4.7. — the system of guaranteeing raw material export earnings should be strengthened and should bring direct aid to the economic regions or sectors concerned. Moreover the poor countries should also be allowed greater access to the European market for a wider range of their products and with a system of import facilities and trade promotion, individual producers and SMUs should both benefit. Trade

barriers with the developing countries must be reduced to a minimum.

3.4.8. — in the framework of this enlarged policy the European Community must supervise the progress made by recipient countries within the ILO Conventions, especially that of the newly industrialised countries;

3.4.9. — the idea that private investment by industry in the Third World could contribute considerably to these countries' economic development should be made a reality. This transfer of capital and economic and technical expertise must be an irreplaceable addition to development co-operation in these countries;

3.4.10. — the European Community encourages the establishment of codes of conduct for companies, industrial and agricultural, and private enterprise active in the Third World based on Human Rights. These codes must lead companies and organisations concerned to make a genuine contribution to development and ensure that the most important international norms concerning working conditions and the work environment are respected and that the population's health is protected.

3.5. The EPP stresses that:

3.5.1. — in view of the essential role of women in developing societies and in particular the important position she holds in primary production sectors in these countries, women must be involved in the implementation of programmes and projects particularly in dealing with food aid and public health;

3.5.2. — the non-governmental, social, cultural and religious organisations that are involved in the development field provide invaluable humanitarian aid. We believe that such organisations are often better equipped to cope with the needs

of the population and the different aspects of local communities with which these organisations concern themselves. The EPP considers that more financial support must be granted to the NGOs and that more tasks should be delegated to them;

3.5.3. — the NGOs are the most appropriate channels for aid to people and local communities. Furthermore they provide independent channels through which to continue aid in countries where Human Rights are openly violated by the Government or where official aid could be abused or construed as direct or indirect support for military aggression;

3.5.4. — measures taken as a part of development policy should essentially be directed towards the propagation of democratic systems that advocate a pluralist society and co-operation between various social groups. This is the best climate for peace, social justice and development to take root.

4. Human Rights and democracy

4.1. Human Rights and Democracy are rooted in the Christian tradition. The European Community is an association of states in Western Europe in which democracy and respect for Human Rights are well established. The Christian origins of these values are beyond dispute. The EPP sees the Community as having a major responsibility to defend and propagate fundamental Human Rights, it also considers it to have a responsibility towards peoples that are oppressed by dictatorial regimes.

4.2. The EPP, therefore, suggests:

4.2.1. — the Community should press for the appointment of a UN High Commissioner for Human Rights;

4.2.2. — Human Rights movements should receive the moral and political support of the European Community. We are

thinking of groups active in totalitarian and authoritarian countries in particular;

- 4.2.3. — where possible the Community should adopt common measures to combat violations of Human Rights the nature of which will be determined case by case. It is possible to choose from several options, e.g. stop arms exports, economic sanctions, breaking off cultural relations and diplomatic measures;
- 4.2.4. — the European Community must do everything to ensure basic rights relevant to the individual's integrity, as well as the International Labour Organisation (ILO) code, are adhered to in co-operation treaties with third countries or groups of third countries;
- 4.2.5. — the Community defend, as far as possible, the rights of every citizen to live in his/her country. Nobody can be exiled from his country on the basis of his/her political opinions or his/her ethnic group;
- 4.2.6. — in view of the often dramatic situation of 16 million refugees and deportees (14 million from developing countries) the Community should strengthen its collaboration with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, with international organisations and the NGO's who are specialised in this crucial area. This policy should not only respond to urgent needs but also and above all, should reduce the great dependence of refugees and contribute to reinstating those who find themselves in desperate circumstances while taking into account the problems of the region concerned. With this in mind the Community should increase its possibilities of intervention, and include in the next ACP-EC Lome Convention special funds for refugees.

5. **External Relations of the European Community and its role as a mediator in the World**

5.1. The importance of the European Community is clearly recognised in particular, in areas outside Europe. For this reason the European Community is called upon more and more to fill the role of mediator in an uncertain world threatened by confrontation. This gives the Community an added responsibility in the development of its external relations and its co-operation with a whole series of regions and third countries. Europe must have a Community foreign policy and speak more and more with one voice in order to fulfil this task in the world.

5.2. The EPP is committed to:

5.2.1. — co-operation with modern industrialised democratic States, such as the US and Japan, to promote world freedom and to improve economic and monetary relations with a view to establishing a more equitable international economic order;

5.2.2. — peaceful solutions through structural reform in Latin America and Caribbean, favouring the restoration of peace, democracy and respect for Human Rights. The Contadora Group's efforts must be supported;

5.2.3. — strengthening of economic and cultural ties with the countries and associations of countries in Latin America; e.g. the Andean Pact countries. The creation of a Latin American Institute would prove useful in order to improve knowledge of the content and support of Latin American policy of the European Community;

5.2.4. — strengthening of the Co-operation Treaty which exists with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN);

5.2.5. — ensuring that the Community works for a just peace in the Middle East recognising the following principles: the right of Israel to exist with borders which are secure and

recognised by all states in the region, the right of Palestinians to national self-determination, that all the states and peoples concerned renounce violence or threats to use violence.

- 5.2.6. — that the Community and its Member States support Lebanon in the restoring of its sovereignty, in a return to peace through national reconciliation without external interference and in the recovery of the economy destroyed by the war;
- 5.2.7. — development of co-operation between the Mediterranean Basin States, so as to contribute to peace and stability in this area;
- 5.2.8. — systematic co-operation between European Community Member States in the framework of International Organisations, the United Nations, in particular;
- 5.2.9. — greater technical, cultural and political co-operation between the embassies of Community Member States in third countries within the framework of our aims towards a Common Foreign Policy for the European Community.

V. GREATER DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE

1. The Christian Democrats commit themselves to European Unity. European integration represents much more than material gain. Our first political objective in European Unification is to transform the European Community into a European Federation. Co-operation between the Member States in a spirit of solidarity and joint action is consistent with our Christian principles.
2. The allocation of responsibilities and political powers between local, regional, national and Community bodies follows and ought to conform with the principle of subsidiarity. This allocation of responsibilities ought to contribute to the desire for justice, solidarity and honest management. The tasks which national governments cannot accomplish alone should be undertaken by larger bodies (the Community). National and other authorities maintain their own significance in this context. It goes without saying that the national differences which ensue must be respected.
3. As a democratic party we attach considerable importance to achieving a fair balance between Parliament, the Commission and the Council, a legislative process that is subject to democratic control, with scope for initiatives and flexible decision-making procedures.
4. A great many initiatives have been taken during the last legislature by the EPP and the Commission that will benefit the citizens of Europe. Unfortunately far too many of these initiatives have come up against strong opposition due to the re-emergence of national egoism creating serious difficulties for the development of Community Policies. Take note here of the abuse of the "Luxembourg Compromise" Agreements which means the Treaties are undermined and the Community itself is paralysed. The Community cannot allow such nationalistic approaches. Also with the growing awareness of the European citizens in the European idea, a climate in which the Council of Ministers can make decisions in the common interest must be created.

We can and ought to expect a great deal of the European Parliament but then it needs greater resources and legal powers if they are to achieve the results they should in the best interests of European citizens.

5. **The Institutions**

5.1. The EPP therefore desires:

- 5.1.1. — that we should remain no less committed to the objective of European union as the ultimate goal of the integration process: 270 million citizens represented in the European Parliament and administered by a European government. The EPP is the main supporter of the proposals to create a European Union, as formulated to European Parliament. The achievement of European Union is the next important step towards the creation of a United-States of Europe. The EPP consequently encourages the Member States' national Parliaments to ratify a treaty of European Union;
- 5.1.2. — in the meantime, the possibilities offered by the present European Treaties should be utilised to the full to solve society's' problems;
- 5.1.3. — following the adoption of the necessary framework legislation by the Council, legislative powers should be delegated to the Commission to increase the Community's decision-making authority. The Commission must become the driving force of European Unification once more. In order to achieve this it must abandon its bureaucratic nature and take its political responsibilities;
- 5.1.4. — the links between Parliament and the Commission should be further consolidated by:
 - * the appointment of the President of the Commission by the European Parliament,

- * submission of the Commission's multiannual programme to Parliament for approval,
 - * regular monitoring by Parliament of progress in the implementation of that programme;
- 5.1.5. — greater effort should be made to render the Community's administrative procedures more transparent. This would enable the European Parliament to strengthen its supervisory role. We wholeheartedly support any measures that would increase the degree of popular representation in Europe. This applies particularly to extending the powers and influence of the European Parliament:
- * in the area of decision-making and legislation,
 - * in the conclusion of agreements with third countries,
 - * in increasing the Community's own resources.

The extension of Parliament's powers is a dynamic process and a step on the road towards European union;

6. **The necessary measures**

6.1. The EPP demands:

- 6.1.1. — in a number of sectors national policies should be replaced by a European policy. Greater effectiveness and efficiency can be achieved by transferring political decision-making from the national to European level. Examples of areas in which this is feasible include parts of development policy, capital-intensive scientific research, industrial restructuring, the energy sector and many other policies that are discussed in this action programme. This will make it possible to observe strict spending limits that will promote European development and reduce the growing burden on the taxpayer;

- 6.1.2 — importance be placed on statutory co-operation in border zones, therefore strengthening the European ideas already entrenched in these regions;
- 6.1.3. — enlargement of the Community to include Spain and Portugal should be pursued in order to support these democracies and to enhance relations between the European Community and Latin America. So that such an enlargement can succeed, the necessary conditions for growth and the effective operation of the EC must be created;
- 6.1.4. — the operation of present policies, the creation of new policies and the membership of Spain and Portugal should be guaranteed by an increase in the Community's financial resources and an effective cost control policy;
- 6.1.5. — the effectiveness of the decision-making process and the legislative and administrative services of the European Community be improved;
- 6.1.6. — a European company law be created;
- 6.1.7. — the role of administrative tribunals should be handed over by the Court of Justice to specialised bodies;
- 6.1.8. — a European passport should be introduced to underline the solidarity and unity of the citizens of Europe. In addition a decision should be taken on the creation of a European driving licence.

7. **Political will**

- 7.1. The EPP holds a key position in the European Parliament, it wields political power which can influence the decision-making process in a decisive manner.

- 7.2. The EPP will play its role in satisfying the needs of European citizens and recognises Europe's responsibility in ensuring peace and freedom in justice in the world. The European Community is its indispensable instrument .
- 7.3. The EPP is the party which works constantly, steadily and unanimously towards the building of the United States of Europe.
- 7.4. The Christian Democrats are federalists. They aspire to ideals of harmony in social justice. They uphold the realistic belief that only through European Unification can our citizens prosper.

