

Recommendation 130 (1957)¹

Establishment of a European General Common Market

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

Recalling its [Resolution 101](#), in which it welcomed the study by the O.E.E.C. of the possibility of setting up a free trade area around the proposed customs union of the Six, and expressed the hope that as many Member States of the Council of Europe as possible might join such a free trade area if they were not able to join the proposed Customs Union ;

Noting the expressed wish of the United Kingdom Government that such a free trade area should exclude, as far as the United Kingdom is concerned, foodstuffs, feeding stuffs, drinks and tobacco ;

Noting the important part played by these commodities in intra-European trade and their particular significance in the economy of certain member countries of the O.E.E.C. ;

Believing that the total exclusion of this sector of trade might, consequently, create a serious obstacle to the participation of some Member States in the free trade area and therefore to the success of the proposal as a whole;

Fully conscious of the imperative need for the United Kingdom to maintain its economic links with Commonwealth countries,

Recommends that the Committee of Ministers consider ways by which the development of freer trade between European countries can proceed on lines which enable member countries to participate on a basis of reciprocal advantages for all sectors of their economies, and, in particular, to examine ways by which agricultural exporting countries can look forward to an expansion of their markets in the food-importing countries ; and

Invites the Committee of Ministers to report to the Assembly at the next session of the Assembly as to what action it has been able to take on this Recommendation.

1. (see [Doc. 603](#), draft Recommendation presented by the Committee on Economic Questions). This Recommendation was adopted by the Assembly at its 37th Sitting, on 11th January 1957

