

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, May 29, 1990

The House met at 11 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the Government's response to several petitions.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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[*Translation*]

CANADA-EUROPE PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

TABLING OF REPORT ON EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

Mr. Terry Clifford (London—Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 34(1), I have the honour to table in the House, in both official languages, the Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association's report on the eighteenth annual meeting of delegations of the Canadian and European Parliaments held in Brussels and The Hague from April 23 to 26, 1990.

[*English*]

The main conclusion we came to, and I think it is very important to say it in the House, is that increased parliamentarian involvement is being requested by both

this Parliament and the European Parliament which is having increasing significance as Europe forges ahead to 1992.

Clearly, we recommend that the Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association be more involved in developing with this government how to strengthen the agreement to find effective new ways to reach out to the new Europe.

Canada has a framework agreement with Europe, but as Europe changes toward 1992, members in this House should be involved in developing and making sure that Canada becomes part of the new Europe.

We can do this in several ways, and specific recommendations have been made in this report both for the Secretary of State for External Affairs as well as for the Minister for International Trade. I trust that these recommendations will be well received by both ministers, as well as the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology, because Canada must come to an agreement in science and technology with the new Europe.

Indeed, the Secretary of State for Canada, who is in the House today, as well as the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism, will be pleased to know that the European Parliament wants to work with them as the new Europe for 1992 is developed. It brings 12 countries together. It wants Europe-Canada relations to increase in both cultural and educational training areas as well as in small business opportunities through the Business Community Network.

I urge the ministers and this government to work with parliamentarians in this House from all parties to enhance the relationship between Canada and the new Europe.

We have a great opportunity here, Mr. Speaker. I urge all of us to get involved and be involved in making this happen.