

**THE COOPERATION PROCEDURE:
THE REINFORCEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT POSITION IN THE
COMMUNITY DECISION-MAKING PROCESS**

The second reading of legislation of course led again to the point that I am always making, you know, that this is again a second stage. We have gone through the first stage and we then get to the stage, where a second reading means then you are at a stage probably when you are going closer to the Commission, and that became extremely important. And that, I think, showed very clearly that the Parliament was playing a prominent part and it was not just at committee level because at my level, as with all Presidents, you had the Bureau, that is all the Vice-Presidents, and then you had the enlarged Bureau, which was the chairmen of the political groups as well as the Vice-Presidents, so you had a double – two committees often in a day. I used to get so frustrated with these because you were doing the same thing a second time. You would meet with the Vice-Presidents first. I would like to tidy that up a lot. If I had had another two-and-a-half years I would have done it, but it was not easy to do because, you know, the chairmen of the political groups want to be in on it, quite rightly, but to go through it twice was a bit frustrating for any President and for the team of people who had to organise it.