

Statement by the President at the Opening of the October (1) Part-Session
Concerning German Unification

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is the first session of the European Parliament to take place following the unification of Germany on 3rd October last. At the invitation of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany and the President of the Bundestag I took part in the various celebrations to mark this historic event in the history of Europe. The President of the Commission and I were, in fact, the only official guests from outside Germany invited to Berlin. I was deeply impressed by the firm commitment to European Union expressed by all the speakers on this occasion, and in particular I would like to pay tribute to the President of the Bundestag, Dr. Rita SÜSSMUTH, for the kind words which she addressed to me at the opening of the first session of the Bundestag in Berlin on the morning of October 4th. On this occasion she underlined the continuing commitment of the German Bundestag in favour of a strengthening of the role of the European Parliament. / I know I speak for all Members of this House in addressing our heartfelt congratulations on this momentous occasion to our colleagues in the German Bundestag and to all the people of Germany.