

\*\*\* Document 15 of 25 for FBIS \*\*\*  
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CLAS UNCLAS 7L/LD

WARN WARNING: ATTN VIENNA ECON

SERI SERIAL: BR1805132695

COUN COUNTRY: SPAIN

SUBJ SUBJ: GIL ROBLES EXPLAINS EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S DEMAND FOR POWER

SOUR SOURCE: MADRID ABC IN SPANISH 18 MAY 95 P 42

TEXT TEXT:

Approved for Release

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//(INTERVIEW WITH EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DEPUTY SPEAKER JOSE MARIA GIL ROBLES BY "F.A." IN STRASBOURG; DATE NOT GIVEN: "GIL ROBLES: ONLY EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CAN MAKE UP DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT"))

((FBIS TRANSLATED TEXT)) STRASBOURG -- EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY DEPUTY JOSE MARIA GIL ROBLES IS ONE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S MOST AUTHORITATIVE VOICES FOR MANY REASONS: HIS PROVEN COMPETENCE IN EUROPEAN MATTERS, HIS STATUS AS DEPUTY SPEAKER..., AND THE CONVICTION THAT HE WILL HEAD THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FROM 1997, IN THE FINAL STAGE OF THE DECISIVE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE.

(("F.A.)) WHY IS THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DEMANDING MORE POWERS?

((GIL ROBLES)) BECAUSE THE DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT MUST BE MADE UP, AND ONLY A PARLIAMENT CAN DO SO. THE WISHES OF THE MAJORITY OF THE UNION'S CITIZENS CANNOT BE ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, WHERE THE SMALLER STATES HAVE GREATER INFLUENCE.

(("F.A.)) HOW DO YOU ANSWER THOSE WHO REFER TO THE ABSENTEEISM AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MEMBERS' EXCESSIVE SALARIES?

((GIL ROBLES)) THAT CLICHE IS INCORRECT. I BELIEVE THAT THERE IS LESS ABSENTEEISM IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THAN IN THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS. MOREOVER, IT HAS USED ITS POWERS -- EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF THE OMBUDSMAN -- VERY RESPONSIBLY. WHERE THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IS MOST DEMAGOGIC IS WHERE IT HAS NO POWERS. THERE ARE CASES SUCH AS THE RESOLUTIONS IN FAVOR OF THE MARRIAGE OF HOMOSEXUALS OR ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS WHICH ARE AN OUTLET FOR THE SMALL GROUPS AND WHERE THE LARGE GROUPS RELAX THEIR DISCIPLINE BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO ILL EFFECTS.

(("F.A.)) IF IT IS A MATTER OF FACILITATING THE DECISIONMAKING PROCESS, WHY MAKE IT MORE COMPLICATED BY SEEKING GREATER POWERS?

((GIL ROBLES)) HITHERTO, IT IS IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS THAT BILLS HAVE BEEN BLOCKED. HOWEVER, IN THE PARLIAMENT, THE PROCEDURES ARE VERY REGULATED, AND DEADLINES ARE MET.

(("F.A.)) THE GOVERNMENTS POINT OUT THAT THEIR INTERESTS ARE

411

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CLEAR IN THE COMMUNITY NEGOTIATION, WHILE THOSE OF THE POLITICAL GROUPS IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ARE UNPREDICTABLE... ((GIL ROBLES)) IF THAT IS SO, THEY HAVE NOT SHOWY IT DURING THE CONCILIATION MEETINGS PROVIDED FOR IN THE CODECISION PROCEDURE BETWEEN THE PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL. THE PARLIAMENT'S REPRESENTATIVES HAVE ALWAYS GONE TO THOSE MEETINGS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE AND TO ACHIEVE A CONSENSUS, WHILE THOSE OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ARE REPRESENTATIVES WITHOUT LEEWAY FOR NEGOTIATION, AND FIND THEMSELVES FORCED CONSTANTLY TO INTERRUPT THE PROCESS IN ORDER TO CONSULT THEIR GOVERNMENTS.

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