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423rd Council meeting  
- Education -

Brussels, 29 November 1976

President: Mr J.A. VAN KEMENADE,  
Minister for Education of  
the Netherlands

1348/76 (Presse 150)

The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Community were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Mr Antoine HUMBLET	Minister for Education (French language)
Mr Herman DE CROO	Minister for Education (Dutch language)

Denmark:

Mrs Ritt BJERREGAARD	Minister for Education
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Germany:

Mr Helmut ROHDE	Federal Minister of Education and Science
Mr Reimut JOCHIMSEN	State Secretary for Education
Mr Wilhelm HAHN	Minister (Baden-Württemberg), Chairman of the Standing Conference of Education Ministers of the Länder

France

M. René HABY	Minister for Education
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Ireland:

Mr Richard BURKE	Minister for Education
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Italy:

Mr Franco-Maria MALFATTI	Minister for Education
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Luxembourg:

Mr Joseph WEYLAND

Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr S.A. VAN KEVENADE

Minister for Education and  
Science

Mr K. DE JONG

State Secretary,  
Ministry for Education and Science

United Kingdom:

Mrs Shirley WILLIAMS

Secretary of State for  
Education and Science

Mr Alec JONES

Parliamentary Under-Secretary,  
Welsh Office

Commission:

Mr Guido BRUNNER

Member

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29.XI.76

PREPARATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE FOR WORKING LIFE AND THE  
TRANSITION FROM EDUCATION TO WORK

The Council and the Ministers for Education, meeting within the Council, held a general discussion on this matter, with particular reference to the report submitted to them by the Education Committee in accordance with paragraph 22 of the Resolution of 9 February 1976 comprising an action programme in the field of education.

The discussions gave all the delegations the opportunity to stress the prime importance they attached to strong action in this field, in particular to combat unemployment among young people.

Following the discussion, the Council and the Ministers for Education, meeting within the Council, recorded their agreement, in the form of a Resolution <sup>(1)</sup>, to a series of measures to be undertaken:

- by the Member States, in particular:
  - = to take into account, in developing their national policies, a number of conclusions and measures concerning a wide variety of measures to make young people better prepared for working life;
  - = to periodically exchange and compare experience in the Education Committee.

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<sup>(1)</sup> the draft text of which is appended.

- and at Community level, in addition to the national initiatives taken during the period to 31 December 1980, in particular:
  - = to implement pilot projects and studies to assist in the evaluation and development of national policies to prepare young people for working life and the transition from education to work;
  - = to organize study visits relating to vocational training and guidance and workshops for teachers and trainers of teachers;
  - = to extend existing Community arrangements to provide regular information on trends and developments relating to vocational guidance and preparation for working life.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the text of the Resolution with a view to having the final version published in the Official Journal as soon as possible.

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THE WORK OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council held a wide-ranging discussion on the progress of the Education Committee's work as regards all the measures envisaged in the Resolution of 9 February 1976 and gave guidance to the Committee as to the direction its work should take and the aspects on which emphasis should be placed in 1977.

VARIOUS DECISIONS

In the framework of its association policy the Council adopted the Directives concerning the negotiation of the 2nd EEC-Greece Financial Protocol and the 3rd EEC-Turkey Financial Protocol.

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The Council adopted the following Regulations in the official languages of the Communities

- on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for newsprint falling within subheading 48.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff (1977) and extending this same quota to some other types of paper;
- increasing the Community tariff quota opened for 1976 for unwrought magnesium falling within subheading 77.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff;
- on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for unwrought magnesium falling within subheading 77.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff (1977);
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 947/70 laying down general rules for fixing the reference price and levying the countervailing charge for wine.

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The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community, meeting within the Council, adopted Decisions:

- concerning certain tariff measures for the first half of 1977;
  - on certain measures to be applied, in respect of State-trading countries, to trade in iron and steel products covered by the ECSC Treaty, including pig iron, cast iron and high-carbon ferro-manganese.
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ANNEX

Provisional text

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL AND OF  
THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL  
of 29 November 1976

comprising measures to improve the preparation  
of young people for working life and to facilitate  
their transition from education to working life

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND THE MINISTERS OF  
EDUCATION, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to the Treaties establishing the European  
Communities,

Referring to the Resolution of the Council and of the Ministers  
of Education meeting within the Council of 9 February 1976  
comprising an action programme in the field of education, and  
in particular points II, III and IV(22) thereof;

Referring to previous measures and activities of the European  
Communities, notably concerning vocational guidance, vocational  
training, equal treatment for men and women and action by the  
European Social Fund to assist those affected by employment  
difficulties;

Taking account of the interest of the European Parliament and of the Economic and Social Committee in the relationship between the education and employment of young people and of the importance attached to this question by both sides of industry;

Conscious of the grave problems facing so many young people in the transition from education to adult working life;

Having regard to the continuing special responsibility of educational systems in preparing young people for working life during the period of compulsory schooling and in subsequent general education and vocational training and to the importance of the opportunities which education offers all young people for the realization of their own potential;

Taking note of the initial report submitted by the Education Committee on the preparation of young people for working life and the transition from education to work,

HEREBY ADOPTS THIS RESOLUTION:

1. This resolution and the report of the Education Committee shall be transmitted to the European Parliament and to the Economic and Social Committee. The report, including its annexes, shall subsequently be published.

II. Member States will:

1. take account, in developing their national policies, of the conclusions and measures suggested in the Education Committee's report concerning, in particular:

- (a) the development of curricula and teaching methods providing appropriate preparation for working life in all stages of general education and vocational training and promoting closer links between these two types of education;
- (b) the promotion of a system of continuing educational and vocational guidance, involving the participation of parents, teachers and counsellors;
- (c) the provision of continuing education and training opportunities for all young people, particularly those who, at the end of their full-time education, leave school without achieving adequate scholastic results or without formal qualifications;
- (d) the particular needs of, and compensatory educational strategies for, those young people who for social or economic reasons, or because of personal handicaps, are most vulnerable in changing employment conditions;
- (e) the initial and continuing training of teachers, so that they may prepare young people more effectively for working life and counsel them in their choice between alternative opportunities in employment, further education and training;
- (f) the improvement of presentation and collation and more rapid dissemination of information on education, the employment of young people and their aspirations and motivation;
- (g) the strengthening of consultation and co-ordination between education and vocational guidance, training and placement services to facilitate the preparation of young people for, and their entry into, working life.

2. periodically exchange and compare experience in the Education Committee.

III. At Community level:

1. The actions set out below shall be implemented to complement national initiatives taken during the period to 31 December 1980.
2. The implementation of pilot projects and studies to assist in the evaluation and development of national policies in respect of the following priority themes:
  - (a) the educational and training requirements of those leaving the educational system who encounter problems in securing and retaining employment in which they can find satisfaction and opportunities for personal development, and appropriate measures to resolve these problems;
  - (b) the problems of low motivation towards education and work prevalent among many young people and the measures which might be adopted to stimulate their interest and participation;
  - (c) the design and development of specific actions to:
    - ensure equal educational opportunities for girls,
    - to assist young migrants
    - to promote adequate measures for target groups with special problems, such as physically and mentally handicapped young people;

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- (d) the development of a continuing process of guidance and counselling, peaking at the crucial periods of choice and spanning the final years of compulsory schooling and the post-compulsory period, with particular regard to collaboration between those responsible for education, guidance, training and placement;
- (e) the improvement of vocational preparation in the final years of compulsory schooling and in the post-compulsory period, particularly by the promotion of co-operation between the education and employment sectors;
- (f) the promotion of measures to improve the initial and inservice training of teachers so that they may more effectively prepare young people for the world of work.

3. Preparation of a report analysing:

- (a) the experience of Member States in strengthening the co-ordinated planning of education and other sectoral policies in relation to the less-favoured regions of the Community;
- (b) existing and planned provisions and measures under which young persons may return as part of their continuing education to further study during the period immediately following the end of compulsory schooling.

4. Organization of

- (a) study visits relating to vocational education and guidance intended for specialists in these fields; and
- (b) workshops for teachers and trainers of teachers concerning the transition from education to working life. As appropriate, interested employers' and workers' representatives could also be invited to participate.

5. The preparation by the Statistical Office of the Community of guidelines for the comparison of relevant existing statistical information regarding the transition from education to working life, taking account of distinctive national needs, so as to facilitate the work of policy makers in the education, employment and other interested sectors. The production also by the Statistical Office of a regular analysis of the situation in the Member States, which could include available information on the following aspects: the flow of pupils and students into different sectors of employment and the different types of post-compulsory education and training, the social and educational characteristics of school-leavers and of those who are unemployed, and the participation of young people in part-time vocational education and industrial training.

6. The extension of existing Community arrangements to provide regular information on trends and developments relating to vocational guidance and preparation for active life, within both general and vocational education, designed in particular for local and regional policy makers and for staff of teacher training establishments.
- IV. A report will be established by the Education Committee on the measures taken at Community level and within Member States and on the results achieved.
  - V. The resources required for the implementation of the measures to be taken at Community level will be determined in accordance with the Communities' existing budgetary rules and procedures.
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" PRIORITE P-1 "

Remis au télex à

Note BIO(76) 403 aux Bureaux nationaux  
c. c. aux Membres du Groupe et à MM. les Directeurs généraux des DG I et X  
et à M. Christensen DG VIII

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL AND MINISTERS OF EDUCATION TO BE HELD ON  
22 NOVEMBER 1976

The Council and Ministers of Education will meet in Brussels on Monday, 29 November 1976. The Council has two main items on its agenda, both of which derive directly from the first ever action programme in education of the European Community worked out almost one year ago in December, 1975 and adopted on 9 February, 1976 (1). Since then, the services of the Commission under the responsibility of Commissioner Guido Brunner have been actively implementing this programme.

I.

- 1) The first and main item on the agenda will be <sup>the</sup> consideration of a report on the problems of preparing young people for working life and for the transition from education to work.

During 1976 one third of all the unemployed in the nine countries of the European Community totalling around 5 million have been young people between the ages of 15 and 25. Forecasts of the employment situation into the 1980s indicate the probability that the phenomenon of high unemployment is likely to persist, and, in such circumstances, young people will inevitably feature as one of the most vulnerable categories. The seriousness of the current economic and employment situation, and their impact on the educational systems, have served to highlight a number of key problems and weaknesses, which, in periods of relative equilibrium, have tended to lie beneath the surface of everyday life in education.

- 2) The report was elaborated by the Education Committee in the first six months of this year as a first priority, in accordance with the mandate received at the previous Ministerial meeting, and following the initiative on that occasion of Mr. Rohde, Minister for Education and Science of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Education Committee is composed of representatives of the nine Member States and the Commission and is currently acting under the presidency of the Netherlands.

(1) OJ No C 38, 19.2.76, p. 1



The Education Committee's report is based on a background analysis of the situation and of measures recently taken in Member States in the educational field, supplemented by more detailed official accounts of the situation in each country. On this basis, the Education Committee has reached a number of conclusions and has suggested measures for consideration by Member States individually and for joint action at Community level.

- 3) These suggested measures are to complement the initiatives which are being discussed within the framework of other Community bodies such as the Standing Committee on Employment, since the solution to unemployment does not lie within the capacity of education systems.

They focus on 3 main aspects, each of which is of both short and long-term importance:

- a) preparation of young people for working life in the final period of compulsory schooling;
  - b) methods of facilitating the process of transition from education to work, particularly for those most at risk; and
  - c) the continuing education and training needs of young people who have left full-time education and whose educational qualifications and training opportunities are minimal.
- 4) On 29 november, the Council will be invited to turn the findings of the report into action and to adopt a Resolution to this end. At the level of the individual Member States it is proposed that account should be taken of the conclusions and measures suggested in the Education Committee's report in developing national policies. This involves, in particular, the following key factors:
- a) the promotion of a system of continuing educational and vocational guidance, involving the participation of parents, teachers and counsellors;
  - b) the provision of continuing education and training opportunities for all young people, particularly those who leave school with insufficient educational achievements or without formal qualifications;
  - c) the initial and continuing education of teachers, so that they may prepare young people more effectively for the world of work and counsel them in their choice between alternative opportunities in employment, in further education and in training;

- d) the strengthening of consultation and coordination between educational and vocational guidance, training and placement services to facilitate the preparation of young people for, and their entry into, working life.
- 5) Besides, a four-year action programme is proposed, for development jointly in the Community as a whole. The main thrust of the programme would be the establishment of a number of cooperative pilot projects, a programme of intensive study visits and exchanges by personnel involved in vocational guidance and training, a limited programme of workshops for teachers and trainers of teachers, and further study in depth of specific problems, such as the coordinated planning of education and other sectors in disadvantaged regions and an analysis of the provisions made for re-entry by young people into the education system after completion of compulsory education so as to guarantee the continuation of their education and training opportunities.

This programme would provide an important cooperative impetus to the initiatives already taken or planned at Member State level and, thus reflect the urgency and priority which should be allocated to educational and training measures on behalf of young people, especially those aged 15-19.

- 6) The pilot projects would be designed to focus on the following priority problems of common concern to Member States:
- a) the educational and training requirements of those leaving the educational system who find difficulty in securing and retaining employment in which they can find satisfaction;
  - b) the problems of low motivation towards education and work;
  - c) the design and development of specific actions to ensure equal educational opportunities for girls, and to assist young migrants and special target groups such as the physically and mentally handicapped;
  - d) the development of a continuing process of guidance and counselling;
  - e) the improvement of vocational preparation in the final years of compulsory schooling and in the post-compulsory period;
  - f) measures to improve the initial and in-service training of teachers so that they may more effectively prepare young people for the world of work.

- 7). To make a realistic and practical contribution and to permit sufficient diversity and multiplication of experience, it is estimated that the Community programme should cost approximately 10 to 13 million units of account for the period to 1981. Of course, the European Social Fund allocates considerable sums of money to measures on behalf of unemployed youth, but the existing criteria governing these funds would not normally permit their allocation to educational schemes as such.

## II.

The second topic will be the consideration of a report from the Education Committee on the progress made in implementing the action programme of 9 February. Considerable progress will be reported under almost every item of the twenty-two point programme, in particular:

- Six pilot schemes have been launched in 1976 by the Commission concerning the education of children of migrant workers. Two of these projects (in Limburg and Leyden) are concerned with the initial reception of these children, and accelerated learning of the language of the host country; two (in Bedford and Paris) with the teaching of the mother tongue and culture, and two (in France and Germany) with the training of teachers specialising in this field.
- A first scheme of grants to promote the development of joint courses of study between institutions of higher education in different Member States has also been successfully launched. A large number of applications have been received, and the Commission, with the assistance of advice from a panel of experts in higher education, will shortly be offering grants to about 80 successful applicants setting up something like 35 projects.
- 1977 will see the further development of this programme and the introduction of a Community scheme to enable teaching, research and administrative staffs of institutions of higher education to go on short study visits to other Member States.
- A handbook will also be published next year to inform students wishing to seek admission to institutions of higher education in other Member States about the course structures, admission conditions and procedures of each country.

(à suivre)

Amitiés,

B. OLIVIERI



PRIORITE P-1

Remis au télex à

Note BIO(76) 403 (suite 1 et fin) aux Bureaux nationaux  
c. c. aux Membres du Groupe, à MM. les Directeurs généraux DG I et X  
et à M. Christensen, DG VIII

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REUNION DES MINISTRES DE L'EDUCATION

Les Ministres ont adopté la résolution sur point 22 du programme de décembre 1975 (le contenu de cette résolution est présenté en détail dans la première partie de cette note BIO). Toute une série d'actions pour faciliter aux jeunes le passage de l'école à la vie professionnelle sont ainsi à mettre en route par les Etats-membres et par la Communauté. Le rapport du Comité de l'Education sur lequel se base la résolution ainsi que les rapports des Etats-membres sur la situation chez eux en ce qui concerne le passage de l'école à la vie professionnelle, seront publiés au Journal Officiel.

Un plafond de 11,4 MUC a été prévu pour financer les mesures à prendre au niveau communautaire d'ici fin 1980. Pour les projets pilotes, les Etats-membres participeront au financement à concurrence de 50 % environ.

Les Ministres ont, en outre, pris connaissance de la mise en oeuvre des autres points du programme d'action de fin 1975. Ils ont demandé de poursuivre ces travaux en tenant particulièrement compte de l'éducation des jeunes filles et l'égalité des chances pour elles.

Amitiés,



Marcell von Donat