

EUROPEAN BACKGROUND INFORMATION COMMUNITY

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

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BACKGROUND NOTE

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COMMUNITY REVIEWS EDUCATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT OF THE YOUNG

Concern about the relationship between education and high unemployment among the young kept the European Community members' ministers of education around the conference table until one this morning.

The December 10 meeting ended with agreement to earmark \$750,000 of the Community's 1976 budget as seed money for educational projects to reduce unemployment among the young. Almost a third of the Community's 5,000,000 unemployed are young people who have just left school.

The ministers also passed a resolution stressing that projects receiving Community aid should foster equal opportunities for all and freedom to study in any Community country.

Freedom to Study Anywhere...

Blue collar workers have been able to take jobs in any Community country since 1968, and freedom to practice anywhere is gradually being secured for members of the liberal professions. According to the resolution, the Community's education policy should extend this freedom of choice to students, teachers, and researchers.

Community-sponsored educational activities are to stress the recognition of the validity of every member country's diplomas, of the reliability of every member country's grading system, and of every member country's school term and holiday roster. High priority is to be given to enabling every teacher to spend part of his career teaching in a "foreign" member country. Because the command

of language is the key to international academic exchanges, the Community program will emphasize language learning. The ministers set the goal of giving every pupil the chance to study at least one Community language besides his own.

Equal Opportunities

Activities to secure equal opportunities for all will allow each student to select the type of teaching that meets his needs and abilities.

For migrant workers and their children, instruction in the language of the host country is planned. Migrants' children are also to study their native country's culture to ease their adjustment if they want to go home. Proposals to this effect have already been made to the EC Council of Ministers.

General Policy Lines

The December 10 meeting was the third between member countries' ministers of education. At the last meeting, in June 1974, the ministers drew the general lines of EC education policy and set initial targets:

- o Educational cooperation must recognize member countries' cultural diversity and traditions.
- Priority should be given to: improving educational opportunities for migrants; spurring communication between Europe's educational systems; compiling up-to-date statistics on education; encouraging academic exchanges, and securing recognition of every member state's diplomas and school terms and equal opportunities for every student.