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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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PRESS RELEASE

7351/83 (Presse 93)

849th meeting of the Council
and the Ministers for Education
meeting within the Council

Luxembourg, 2 June 1983

President: Mrs Dorothee WILMS

Federal Minister for Education and Science
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Michael TROMONT
Minister for Education

Denmark:

Mr Ernst GOLDSCHMIDT
Head of Division at the Ministry
of Education

Germany:

Mrs Dorothee WILMS
Federal Minister for Education
and Science of the Federal
Republic of Germany

Greece:

Mr Apostolos KAKLAMANIS
Minister for Education and
Religious Affairs

Mr P.H. PIAZZOLO
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry for Education
and Science

France:

Mr R.G. SCHWARTZENBERG
State Secretary,
Ministry for Education

Ireland:

Mrs Jemma HUSSEY
Minister for Education

Italy:

Mr D. AMALFITANO
State Secretary,
Ministry for Education

Luxembourg:

Mr Fernand BODEN
Minister for Education

Netherlands:

Mr W.J. DEETMAN
Minister for Education and
Science

United Kingdom:

Sir Keith JOSEPH
Secretary of State for Education
and Science

Commission:

Mr Richard BURKE - Member

INTRODUCTION OF NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION

At their meeting on 24 May 1982, the Council and Ministers for Education meeting within the Council stressed that new information technology should be integrated into school systems while respecting the aims specific to education.

At this meeting they had a further exchange of views which enabled delegations in particular to refer to national initiatives in this field.

The Council and the Ministers for Education also noted the announcement by the French delegation with regard to the colloquium being organized in the Autumn in Marseilles on the theme: "Informatics and Teaching". The Ministers and the Commission thanked the French delegation for its invitation to this colloquium.

Concluding the discussion the Council and Ministers for Education approved the work done by the Education Committee since the last meeting and adopted the following Resolution (unrevised text) ⁽¹⁾:

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND THE MINISTERS FOR 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 for Education meeting within the Council of 9 February 1976 comprising an action programme in the field of education;

⁽¹⁾ The United Kingdom delegation maintained its reservation until the new Parliament meets, enabling it to examine the Resolution.

Referring to the Resolution of the Council and of the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council of 12 July 1982 concerning measures to be taken to improve the preparation of young people for work and to facilitate their transition from education to working life;

Referring to the Council Resolution concerning new information technology and vocational training, inviting the Commission to launch Community initiatives in order to supplement and support measures at Member State level in the field of vocational training;

Referring to the other measures decided on by the Council relating to a Community strategy in the field of new information technology, and particularly that relating to preparatory activities for promoting European industrial competitiveness.

Whereas at its meeting in June 1982 in Brussels the European Council laid stress on the development of a Community industrial strategy based on a technology and innovation policy; whereas the European Council, meeting in December 1982 in Copenhagen, emphasized the importance of preparing young people to meet the needs of tomorrow's high-technology industries;

Whereas, in its Resolution of 11 March 1982, the European Parliament considered that the introduction of new information technology in the field of education necessitates co-operation between the Member States and an active contribution from the Commission;

Whereas new information technology will have a significant influence on all the aspects of life for which education must prepare young people;

Whereas the need to provide all young people with a basic knowledge of new information technology and its consequences is a new challenge to the education system which must be met by a joint effort by schools, parents, the media and ultimately also by vocational and continuing training;

Stressing that education thus has an important contribution to make in mastering technological, social and cultural changes and that this contribution not only relates to the needs of future working life but at the same time constitutes a means of development of an independent, creative personality;

Taking note of the report prepared by the Commission,

HEREBY ADOPT THIS RESOLUTION:

- I. The Member States note that it is ever more important for school to familiarize young people with new information technology in order to develop and provide better chances for the future generations. Teaching in this field must introduce pupils to the practical use of new information technology and provide them with a basic understanding of the operation, the possible applications and the limitations of such technology. To ensure adequate preparation for working and private life, it is essential that young people learn not only to use information technology as a tool but also to judge its effects on everyday life and its social significance.
- II. At Community level, and in order to supplement and support the action of the Member States, the initiatives listed below will be implemented during the period up to 31 December 1987:

1. The organization of a series of meetings - seminars and symposia - aimed at pooling the experience of the Member States concerning the introduction of new information technology into the curriculum, particularly on the following points:
 - (i) objectives and appropriate methods for familiarization of pupils with new information technology and its effects;
 - (ii) the possibilities of application of new information technology in the different subjects taught in schools and possible consequences for the organization of teaching;
 - (iii) the potential contribution of new information technology for the education of children with special needs;
 - (iv) strategies leading to greater participation by girls in the school and education activities concerned by new information technology;
 - (v) the relationship between teaching in schools, vocational training and other more advanced training, in respect of the task of promoting familiarization with new information technology and mastery of it.
2. The organization of a programme of exchanges and visits intended mainly for those training teachers, in order to broaden their practical and professional experience.
3. Comparative studies in order to increase the transferability of software and teaching programmes and to identify better the educational value of the various hardware systems.
4. The development of a process for exchanging information and experience, taking into account the utilization up to now of the EURYDICE network.

- III. The initiatives at Community level referred to in point II above will be implemented so as to supplement the Community initiatives undertaken concerning new technology in the field of vocational training and in close liaison with those relating to the transition of young people from education to working life.
- IV. The Education Committee will monitor implementation of the programme on the basis of regular progress reports from the Commission. An overall report will be drawn up by 30 June 1988 by the Education Committee on the outcome of initiatives taken at Community level and in the Member States.
- V. The Community's financing of the measures specified in point II and the volume thereof will be decided in accordance with the Community budgetary rules and procedures.
- VI. This Resolution, together with the report prepared by the Commission, will be forwarded to the European Parliament and to the Economic and Social Committee.

THE PROMOTION OF MOBILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

On the basis of an Education Committee report on the progress accomplished since the last meeting on 24 May 1982 concerning the academic recognition of diplomas and periods of study and the Commission report concerning the further development of joint study programmes and short study visits in the field of higher education in the European Community, the Council and the Ministers for Education approved the following conclusions (unrevised text) ⁽¹⁾:

Since the approval of the action programme in the field of education of 9 February 1976, the promotion of mobility in higher education has been one of the most important objectives of educational co-operation within the Community. For this reason the Council and Ministers for Education meeting within the Council on 24 May 1982 mandated a working party to prepare and present a report on the question of the academic recognition of diplomas and on the social and material situation of students studying in other Member States. The European Council at its meeting of 21/22 March 1983 expressed the expectation that, in order to facilitate mobility between the Member States, efforts towards the mutual recognition of diplomas and periods of study would be intensified both in the academic sphere and in regard to the freedom of establishment.

There remain many obstacles to an increase in mobility of students between Member States. In addition to the problems of recognition, these include in particular difficulties regarding the financing of study abroad, uncertainties about the value of study abroad on returning home, and anxieties about integration in the foreign country.

⁽¹⁾ The United Kingdom delegation maintained a reservation until the new Parliament meets, enabling it to examine these conclusions.

The Council and Ministers for Education meeting within the Council therefore drew the following common conclusions directed towards an intensification and extension of mobility in higher education amongst Member States of the Community:

1. The authorities responsible for the recognition of diplomas and periods of study in the Member States should, in the recognition of qualifications obtained and courses attended in other Member States of the Community, be guided by the principle of greatest possible generosity and flexibility. Particularly in regard to study abroad for a limited period which is relevant to home qualifications, the establishment of higher education in the country of reception should recognize or be encouraged to recognize without special formalities the prior studies and certificates of the student concerned, and the establishment in the country of origin should similarly recognize the study abroad as well as certificates obtained. Bilateral agreements - whether specifically related to recognition rules or within the framework of cultural agreements - on the mutual recognition of diplomas, periods of study and academic performance, as well as corresponding agreements between higher education institutions in different Member States, are well adapted for such purposes.

2. An amelioration of the situation regarding academic recognition and student mobility generally is dependent on the intensification of information provisions in this area. For this purpose, the following measures should in particular be undertaken:
 - regular information exchange between the centres on academic recognition questions designated by the Member States, which with the assistance of the Commission and the EURYDICE information network will ensure the availability - directly or through other organizations - of authoritative advice and information to students, parents and their advisers and to potential employers within the European Community;

- improvement of the opportunities for regular information exchange and meetings between those responsible for the admission of foreign students and for the evaluation of foreign educational qualifications, as well as increased opportunities for such personnel to undertake study visits in other Member States;
 - intensified provision of information material and counselling for students considering a period of study in another Member State - particularly within the establishments of higher education - for which purpose Community publications such as the "Student Handbook" and organizations concerned with the promotion of student mobility in Member States should play a particular role.
3. The Member States should make special efforts to promote study periods abroad of limited duration which as a rule should be relevant to the home qualifications sought by the student. Such action would be based on the assumption that this type of study abroad:
- enables more foreign students to be admitted with the same financial resources and the same number of study and residential places than would be the case with students undertaking an entire course of study abroad;
 - avoids certain problems regarding professional recognition, because the final examinations only take place after the return to the country of origin;
 - makes it easier for the admitting institution to handle admissions, recognition, and fees regulations (where these apply) as flexibly as possible.

These measures do not however preclude the possibility of undertaking a complete course of study in another Member State.

4. The Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council take note of the Commission's report outlining progress in developing the joint study programmes scheme. The instrument of joint study programmes has proved to be particularly suitable in overcoming obstacles to mobility in higher education, thereby contributing significantly to increased co-operation between higher education institutions in the Community. This is particularly true in the case of those programmes which enable students participating to undertake - above all on a reciprocal basis - an integrated part of their course in another Member State. The following measures should therefore be promoted:

- the Commission's grants schemes for the support of joint study programmes and, related to it, for the support of short study visits should be continued, with the aim of making a contribution to the intensification of academic mobility among Member States. The level of the credits to be made available will be decided in accordance with the Community budgetary rules and procedures;
- given the need to ensure that as many programmes as possible are maintained after the period of grant support by the Commission, Member States should encourage the support of such programmes once they have completed their initial development phase;
- understanding and, where necessary, special attention should be given to the particular additional problems faced by higher education institutions in areas which are on the periphery of the Community, whether from a geographical or linguistic or economic point of view. The Commission is invited to report further in this respect in the light of a more extensive examination.

- an appropriate evaluation and as extensive as possible a dissemination of the experience gained from joint study programmes and short study visits are of great importance. For this purpose, the steps recommended by the Commission and already endorsed by the Education Committee at its meeting on 17 September 1982 should be fully implemented and further developed. These steps include in particular the organization of information seminars on national or especially subject-related bases, the publication and wide distribution of the joint study programmes newsletter "Delta", as well as the production of subject-oriented information packages and other material.

5. Twinning arrangements for higher education institutions should increasingly be employed in order to:

- develop and operate joint study programmes;
- solve questions of tuition fee waivers in a mutually acceptable manner, insofar as this is in the competence of the establishments of higher education;
- find satisfactory solutions to questions of accommodation provision for foreign students.

6. The Member States will examine the possibilities of adopting measures, as suggested below, in order to alleviate financial difficulties relating to student mobility among the Member States:

- generous regulations regarding the use of the student support systems in the home Member State for the purpose of a limited period of study in another Member State which is relevant to the student's course as a whole;
- continuation and if possible extension of the scholarship schemes specially created for study abroad;
- appropriate measures to cover the additional costs incurred in study abroad (e.g. for travel between home institution and institution abroad, and higher costs of living in the Member State abroad);

- agreements regarding the levy of tuition fees based on the principle that students from other Member States should not be treated less favourably than home students. In the case of students undertaking a period of study abroad which is relevant to a home qualification, tuition fees should either be waived completely or reduced to the greatest degree possible.

7. For students and teaching staff intending to study or teach (as the case may be) in another Member State, appropriate and flexible arrangements should be introduced to enable them to obtain the foreign language ability necessary in order to make optimal use of their period abroad.
8. Students undertaking a temporary period of study at a higher education institution in another Member State should have the possibility of being given leave of absence, thereby remaining registered and insured (where applicable) at the home institution, so that they are sure of retaining their student place there.
9. In particular in the case of students undertaking study abroad for a limited period which is relevant to a qualification in their home country, restrictive admissions regulations - insofar as these exist - should be waived or applied generously by the establishment abroad.
10. In implementing the above measures concerning study abroad for a limited period, appropriate attention should be paid to the different character of postgraduate studies and the particular needs of postgraduate students; measures in favour of complete courses of study should be taken where necessary to promote mobility in this field.

11. Comparative statistical data on the different categories of study abroad within the European Community should be improved, so as to allow developments in mobility to be more closely. Moreover, information about conditions of living and study of those studying abroad should be improved.

12. These conclusions, as well as the report of the Working Party on academic recognition of diplomas and the report on joint study programmes prepared by the Commission, will be transmitted to the European Parliament and to the Economic and Social Committee.

EDUCATION OF MIGRANT WORKERS' CHILDREN

The Council and the Ministers for Education noted a verbal communication from Mr Burke, Member of the Commission, on progress in implementing the Directive of 25 July 1977 on the education of the children of migrant workers and the execution of a number of pilot projects in this area initiated on the basis of the resolution of 9 February 1976.

The Council and the Ministers for Education had an exchange of views on this subject. This topic will be further examined when the Commission has submitted the two reports at the beginning of next year.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION ON A COMMUNITY PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

At their meeting on 24 May 1982 the Council and the Ministers for Education had agreed to examine the European Parliament Resolution of 11 March 1982 on a Community programme in the field of education.

At this meeting they noted the results of the examination carried out by the Education Committee and approved the text of the position of the Council and the Ministers for Education on certain elements of the European Parliament's Resolution. This position will be presented by the President, Mrs WILMS, to the European Parliament Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport at the latter's meeting on 23 June 1983.

PROBLEMS OF TEACHER EMPLOYMENT

On the basis of a communication from the Presidency, the Council and the Ministers for Education had an exchange of information and experiences relating to the problems of teacher employment.

This exchange of views enabled each delegation to outline the particular situation in its country and to report on the measures taken or proposed in respect of this particular sector.

In conclusion, the Council and the Ministers for Education instructed the Education Committee, in conjunction with the Commission and on the basis of the statements made at this meeting and any additional information which the Member States might wish to forward, to examine this topic in greater detail with a view to a resumption of discussions at a forthcoming meeting.

N O T E I O (83) 245 (SUITE 3) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC: AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE

LUXEMBOURG: LE 3 JUIN 1983

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EDUCATION COUNCIL OF 2 JUNE 1983

THE EDUCATION MINISTERS MEETING AS A COUNCIL IN LUXEMBOURG (2 JUNE),
TOOK SIX HOURS TO COMPLETE DISCUSSION OF THEIR FIVE AGENDA
ITEMS.

ALL THE DECISIONS WENT AS FORECAST AND THE TWO ITEMS ADOPTED
WHICH ARE OF MOST VALUE TO THE COMMISSION IN FACILITATING THE
DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY ACTIONS IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR ARE DEALT
WITH IN IP NOTES BEING SENT TO YOU SEPARATELY: (IP(83) 193 -
COMMISSION WELCOMES DECISIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR, IP(83)
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MR RICHARD BURKE PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION AN INTERIM
REPORT ON THE JULY 1977 DIRECTIVE ON THE EDUCATION OF THE
CHILDREN OF MIGRANT WORKERS. HE NOTED THE OBSERVATIONS OF THE
MEMBER STATE DELEGATIONS WHICH ARE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN
THE PREPARATION OF THE FORMAL COMMISSION REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTA-
TION OF THE DIRECTIVE WHICH WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE COMMISSION
TOWARDS THE END OF THIS YEAR.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, MRS DOROTHEE WILMS, INTRODUCED A
DISCUSSION ON THE PROBLEMS OF EMPLOYMENT AMONG TEACHERS. AFTER A
ROUND TABLE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCE IT WAS AGREED
THAT THE SUBJECT SHOULD BE EXAMINED FURTHER.

THE COUNCIL CONCLUDED WITH THE ADOPTION OF A POSITION PAPER PREPARED
IN RESPONSE TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S RESOLUTION OF 11 MARCH 1982
REVIEWING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION. THIS WILL
BE PRESENTED TO THE PARLIAMENT ON 23 JUNE NEXT AT A MEETING OF
THE PARLIAMENT'S COMMITTEE FOR YOUTH, CULTURE, EDUCATION, INFORMA-
TION AND SPORT.

REGARDS,

NEVILLE KEERY, LUXEMBOURG
3.6.83d

