

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

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968th session of the Council
and the Ministers for Cultural Affairs
meeting within the Council
Brussels, 22 November 1984

President : Mr Edward NEALON
Secretary of State,
Department of the Prime Minister
of Ireland

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

Belgium :

Mr Leo TINDEMANS
Minister for External Relations

Mr Ph. MOUREAUX
Ministre-Président de l'exécutif
de la Communauté française

Mr K. POMA
Ministre-Vice-Président de
l'exécutif de la Communauté
flamande

M. B. FAGNOUL
Ministre-Président de l'exécutif
de la Communauté germanophone

Germany :

Mr Alois MERTES
Minister of State,
Foreign Affairs

France :

Mr Jack LANG
Minister for Culture

Italy :

Mr Francesco SISINNI
Directeur Général au
Ministère des Biens Culturels

Netherlands :

Mr L.C. BRINKMAN
Minister for Welfare, Health
and Culture

Denmark :

Mrs Mimi Stilling JAKOBSEN
Minister for Cultural Affairs

Greece :

Mrs Melina MERCOURI
Minister for Culture and Science

Ireland :

Mr Edward NEALON
Secretary of State,
Department of the Prime Minister

Luxembourg :

Mr Robert KRIEPS
Minister for Cultural Affairs

United Kingdom :

The Earl of GOWRIE
Minister for the Arts

Commission :

Mr Gaston THORN
President

CULTURAL WORKERS AND THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

Further to their meeting on 22 June 1984, the Council and the Ministers responsible for cultural affairs approved the following Resolution :

THE COUNCIL AND THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL

draw attention to the pressing need for measures to alleviate unemployment and underemployment of cultural workers;

reaffirm the vital importance of vocational training and retraining opportunities as a basic element in improving employment prospects and in particular aiding the realization of human potential in the cultural sector of the economy;

note, in particular, the importance of measures to help young people to develop their occupational skills and also to improve their social motivation in this sector;

draw attention to the need for improved guidance and counselling regarding the whole range of career opportunities in the cultural sector, especially those careers which combine both technical and cultural skills;

in this context recognize the potential uses of new technology in the cultural sector and the need for a wider familiarity with new developments;

note that the cultural sector is particularly susceptible to action by individual initiative and is therefore an appropriate area for the promotion of employment opportunities for the self-employed, as well as for small enterprises and co-operatives, especially those which meet specific local or regional cultural needs;

draw attention to the need for improved training and employment opportunities for women;

welcome the strengthening of Community vocational training and employment activities, including the introduction by the Council in October 1983 of new rules under the European Social Fund providing for the funding of innovatory projects linked to Community action programmes; particularly those related to the themes mentioned above;

declare their willingness to play their part as fully as possible in the implementation of these action programmes in the cultural sector, in co-operation with the other authorities concerned, at regional, national and Community level;

accordingly draw Member States' attention to the possibility of preparing and submitting projects for European Social Fund aid, and invite the Commission to give careful consideration, within the framework of the existing regulations of the Social Fund, to proposals for the vocational training and the employment of artists and cultural workers in the knowledge that art and culture constitute an important source of income and employment as well as enriching the artistic, cultural and social life of communities.

STRENGTHENING OF EUROPEAN CULTURAL CO-OPERATION

After a lengthy discussion on intensification of cultural co-operation in the framework of the Solemn Declaration on European Union, nine delegations were able to support a Presidency draft Resolution on this subject. It was therefore agreed to refer it back to the Permanent Representatives Committee.

All Ministers agreed in principle on a programme of work on specific cultural projects contained in the draft Resolution: the Commission announced its intention to continue its work in this field and noted the encouragement given to it.

The current projects are as follows :

- European Music Year
- European Community Youth Orchestra and Eurojazz
- Young Theatre companies and young public
- Theatre of Europe in Paris and Milan
- European Festival at Wiltz, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
- European Film Festival
- Itinerant exhibition of contemporary painting
- Support for the translation of contemporary literary works.

Agreement was reached on the naming of a European City of Culture each year, with Athens confirmed for 1985.

It was decided, with the agreement of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs meeting in the context of political co-operation, to intensify cultural co-operation in third countries, particularly by providing material for European Film Weeks, which would be able to combine cultural co-operation with commercial promotion of films ;

It was agreed to examine, at an early date, the possibility of establishing in Florence a European information centre on stolen works of art, on the basis of an Italian government project showing the specific role of such a centre ;

Further preparatory work should be done on the following projects and measures with a view to taking early decisions :

- a European scheme for concerted national sculpture competitions ;
- exchanges among cultural workers, including a proposal for funding visits by artists to residential centres for artists in other Member States ;
- the encouragement of traditional song and dance by appropriate methods ;
- joint action to promote the cultural heritage ;
- promoting transnational itineraries for cultural tourism ;
- measures designed to overcome language barriers, as well as measures aimed at improving knowledge of the other Member States of the Community, and greater information about European history and culture.

MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF SUPPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN FILM AND T.V. PROGRAMME INDUSTRY

The Council and the Ministers of Culture welcomed the progress made by the Working Party of experts on the various possible aspects of a multilateral support system for the programme industry. In this connexion, the meeting also had before it a study from the Commission which will serve as a basis for future deliberations. At the beginning of the debate, Ministers heard a report from the President on his recent discussions with representatives of the European Broadcasting Union.

At the conclusion of the debate it was recognised that further progress had been made and the different positions clarified. Consequently the Working Party was invited to press ahead with its work in the light of today's debate. It is understood that the Commission will make a proposal in due course.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES

The Ministers of Culture took note of a progress report as regards the implementation of three Resolutions concerning : measures to combat audio-visual pirating, rational distribution of films to all media, and measures to ensure that an appropriate place is given to audio-visual programmes of European origin. In the context of the first of these Resolutions, Ministers welcomed the offer of the incoming Italian Presidency to convene, in the first half of 1985, a meeting of the national agencies responsible for combating audio-visual pirating.

PRIVATE COPY

The Council and the Ministers of Cultural Affairs agreed to take up their discussion on private copy after publication by the Commission of a "Green Paper" on this subject.

FREE CIRCULATION OF WORKS OF ART

The Council and the Ministers of Cultural Affairs noted with interest a working document submitted by the services of the Commission on the problems encountered by artists in exhibiting their works in other Community countries. Work on this matter will continue.

BOOK TRADE POLICY

During a discussion the Ministers of Culture expressed their interest in a document from the French delegation concerning the possibility of introducing a pricing system based, among other things, on the possibility of establishing a single price for books.

It was agreed to come back to this subject after the Court of Justice has given its judgement on a relevant case currently before it.

EUROPEAN FOUNDATION

The President reported on progress in regard to the ratification of the agreement establishing the European Foundation. He hoped that it would be able to start its work at the latest towards the end of 1985.

Bruxelles, le 21 novembre 1984

NOTE BIO (84) 435 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE

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PREPARATION CONSEIL CULTURE

Le Conseil de la Culture se reunira jeudi 22 novembre a 10 heures sous la presidence de M. Ted Nealon, ministre irlandais de la culture.

Les points en discussion sont les suivants:

Projet de resolution concernant les travailleurs culturels et
le Fonds Social Europeen.

Il s'agit d'un projet rappelant les possibilites offertes par le Fonds Social pour financer des projets au profit des travailleurs culturels.

Resolution sur l'intensification de la cooperation culturelle
europeenne

Un projet de resolution dans ce sens est soumis au Conseil. Le Conseil examinera certaines activites deja entamees par la Commission dans le cadre de l'action communautaire dans le secteur culturel (dont l'annee europeenne de la musique) et celles qu'elle entend developper. Les ministres discuteront egalement de la realisation periodique d'un projet de "ville europeenne de la culture" (Athenes en 1985 et Amsterdam en 1986) et se pencheront sur une proposition italienne de creer a Florence un centre europeen d'information sur les oeuvres d'art volees.

Systeme multilateral de soutien pour l'industrie europeenne du
film et des programmes de television

Le Conseil est saisi d'un projet de communication d'un tel systeme sur base d'un document de travail de la Commission visant a stimuler la coproduction cinematographique et televisuelle au niveau de la Communaute.

La discussion pourrait conduire a une decision de principe dans ce domaine.

Mise en oeuvre des resolutions des gouvernements des Etats
Membres du 24 juillet 1984

Il s'agit de voir quelle suite il convient donner aux resolutions concernant, d'une part la lutte contre la piraterie audiovisuelle, d'autre part au probleme des delais imposables entre la projection en salle et la projection video televisuelle.

Le Conseil pourrait confirmer la convocation au cours du premier semestre 1985 d'une reunion des responsables nationaux et professionnels pour examiner les moyens de lutte contre la piraterie audiovisuelle.

Discussion sur la copie privée

Il s'agira de procéder à un premier échange de vues sur le statut (notamment fiscal) de la reproduction du son, de l'image et de l'écrit à usage privé.

Libre circulation des œuvres d'art des plasticiens qui transportent leurs œuvres d'un pays de la Communauté dans un autre

Le Conseil prendra acte d'un document de travail des services de la Commission faisant le point sur cette question.

Des facilités existeront à partir du 1 juillet 1985 pour les musiciens, acteurs, chanteurs, danseurs, cinéastes et organismes publics qui participent à des expositions, pour l'importation temporaire d'instruments de musique, de décors et costumes, d'appareil de prise de vues ainsi que d'œuvres d'art appartenant à un organisme public. Pour le moment le Conseil n'a pas accepté la proposition de la Commission pour que les plasticiens bénéficient également de cette réglementation.

Politique du livre

À la demande de la délégation française, une discussion sur la politique du livre dans la Communauté aura lieu.

Amitiés,
P. Cerf



Bruxelles, le 22 novembre 1984

NOTE BIO (84)440 aux bureaux nationaux
c.c. aux membres du groupe du porte parole

OBJET : "CONSEIL" CULTURE DU JEUDI 22 NOVEMBRE 1984
(P.Cerf)

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Les ministres responsables des affaires culturelles, réunis au sein du Conseil sous la présidence de M. Ted Nealon, ministre irlandais de la culture, ont tout d'abord adopté une résolution concernant les travailleurs culturels et le Fonds social.

Dans cette résolution, ils "appellent l'attention sur la possibilité pour les Etats membres d'élaborer et de présenter des projets pouvant bénéficier d'une aide du Fonds social européen et invitent la Commission à considérer attentivement dans le cadre du règlement actuel du Fonds social, les demandes concernant la formation professionnelle et l'emploi d'artistes et de travailleurs culturels, sachant que l'art et la culture constituent une source importante de revenus et d'emploi et qu'ils enrichissent la vie artistique, culturelle et sociale des collectivités locales".

Un projet de résolution sur le renforcement de la coopération culturelle européenne a fait l'objet d'un tour de table exhaustif, et a bénéficié d'un large préjugé favorable, mais n'a malheureusement pu être adopté, par suite d'une réserve danoise.

Le Conseil a repris ses travaux dans l'après-midi avec une discussion sur "Le système multilatéral de soutien pour l'industrie européenne du film et des programmes de télévision" tel que proposé dans une communication de la Commission. Après un débat constructif, le dossier a été renvoyé au Coreper pour examen.

Quant à la question de la mise en œuvre des résolutions des gouvernements des Etats membres du 24 juillet dernier - concernant d'une part la lutte contre la piraterie audio-visuelle et, d'autre part, les problèmes provoqués par des délais imposables entre la projection en salle et la projection vidéo-télévisuelle - le Conseil s'est mis d'accord sur la convocation, sous la prochaine présidence italienne, d'une réunion d'experts nationaux pour discuter de ces questions.

Les discussions ont porté ensuite sur la copie privée, et à cet égard, les ministres ont pris note de l'intention de la Commission de présenter sous peu un "livre vert" sur ce sujet.

Le Conseil a ensuite eu un débat approfondi sur base du document de travail de la Commission concernant la libre circulation des œuvres d'art. La poursuite de ces discussions aura lieu lors du prochain Conseil Culture sous la présidence italienne.

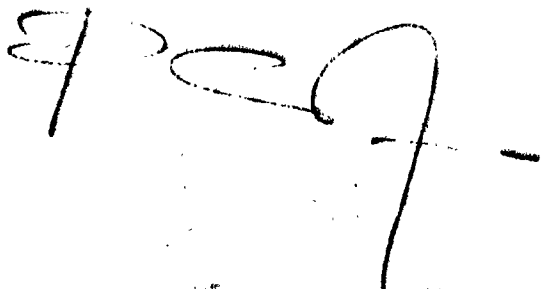
- Le dernier point abordé par le Conseil portait sur la politique du livre et les ministres sont convenus de reprendre ces discussions après l'arrêt de la Cour de Justice dans l'affaire Prix Unique du Livre.

Fondation européenne

Les ministres ont exprimé l'espoir que la Fondation pourrait commencer à travailler vers la fin de 1985.

Amitiés,

Paul CERF. Cœur ///

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul CERF', written in a cursive style. The signature is located below the typed name and extends across the width of the text.