

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

6924/85 (Presse 80)

1008th meeting of the Council  
and the Ministers for Culture  
meeting within the Council

Brussels, 28 May 1985

President: Mr Antonino GULLOTTI

Minister for Cultural Assets  
of the Italian Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Ph. MOUREAUX  
Minister - Chairman of the French  
Community Executive

Mr K. POMA  
Minister - Deputy Chairman  
of the Flemish Community Executive

Mr B. FAGNOUL  
Minister - Chairman of the  
German-speaking Community Executive

Mr Marc LEPOIVRE  
Deputy Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mrs Mimi Stilling JAKOBSEN  
Minister for Cultural Affairs

Germany:

Mr Alois MERTES  
Minister of State, Foreign Affairs

France:

Mr Jack LANG  
Minister for Culture

Italy:

Mr Antonino GULLOTTI  
Minister for Cultural Assets

Mr Giuseppe GALASSO  
State Secretary,  
Ministry for Cultural Assets

Netherlands:

Mr L.C. BRINKMAN  
Minister for Welfare, Health and  
Cultural Affairs

Greece

Mr Elias LYMBEROPOULOS  
Deputy Permanent Representative

Ireland:

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

Luxembourg:

Mr Robert KRIEPS  
Minister for Culture

United Kingdom:

The Earl of GOWRIE  
Minister for the Arts

Commission:

Mr Carlo RIPA DI MEANA  
Member

MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF SUPPORT TO THE EUROPEAN FILM AND TELEVISION  
PROGRAMME INDUSTRY

Community aid for non-documentary cinema and television co-  
productions

Pending the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, the Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council held a policy debate on the proposal for a Regulation on a Community aid scheme for non-documentary cinema and television co-productions and on certain suggestions for common measures put forward by various delegations. The purpose of the proposal in question is to encourage the promotion and development of a European programme industry able to meet the demands of the audio-visual media for material.

At the end of its debate the Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Commission to continue their work in the light of the discussion and to submit a report to the next ministerial meeting.

European-produced audio-visual events in third countries

Following the decision taken on 22 November 1984 by the Ministers with responsibility for cultural affairs to intensify cultural co-operation in third countries, particularly by providing audio-visual material for European Film Weeks, the following Resolution was adopted:

"The Ministers with responsibility for cultural affairs consider that European-produced audio-visual events in third countries may have not only a cultural purpose but also an economic and commercial interest.

European-produced audio-visual events can be promoted both by organizing special events and showings and by obtaining special sections at existing international film and television festivals.

They emphasize in this connection the important part to be played at national and European level by the professional organizations.

Alongside the efforts to ensure this European presence in third countries, each Member State will remain at liberty to decide whether or not to participate in particular events, and films from European countries will, of course, continue to feature at international festivals independently of any joint European participation in the same festival.

Other European countries could be invited to take part in this venture.

The Ministers agree to:

1. encourage public and private organizations in the Member States to organize European (cultural and commercial) film and television festivals in third countries, to ensure that films and television programmes produced in their own countries are represented as far as possible and to facilitate the presence of films from Member States with smaller film industries;
2. call upon national institutions with plans to promote their own national productions in third countries to allow other Member States to join in;
3. foster the setting up of sections devoted to European films at international film festivals in third countries. The Presidency, after consultation with its partners, either directly or through its on-the-spot representation in the country concerned, would, if its partners' reaction were favourable, approach the international festival organizing committee with a view to setting up such special sections. Member States' audio-visual productions would be pre-selected on the basis of indications provided by the professional associations of their audio-visual industries."

BOOK PRICE POLICY

The Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council heard a communication from the Commission concerning the establishment of a Community system for pricing books.

At the end of a detailed discussion the President recorded broad agreement on the ideas contained in that communication.

The Commission announced that it would shortly be submitting a proposal on the matter.

COLLABORATION BETWEEN LIBRARIES IN THE FIELD OF DATA PROCESSING

The Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council held an exchange of views on a draft Resolution concerning collaboration between libraries in the field of data processing.

At the end of the exchange of views the President recorded broad agreement on this draft Resolution.

The Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the text of the Resolution with a view to its adoption in the near future.

CULTURAL CO-OPERATION PROJECTS

European City of Culture

Following the decision taken at the meeting of the Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council on 22 November 1984 to nominate a European City of Culture each year and to nominate Athens for 1985, agreement was reached to nominate Florence for 1986, Amsterdam for 1987 and Berlin for 1988. The French Minister, Mr LANG, put forward Paris's candidacy for 1989.

With a view to the organization of this event, the Ministers meeting within the Council adopted the following Resolution:

"Aim and content

The Ministers responsible for Cultural Affairs in the Member States consider that the European City of Culture event should be the expression of a culture which, in its historical emergence and contemporary development, is characterized by having both common elements and a richness born out of diversity; the event has been established to help bring the peoples of the European Community countries closer together, but account should be taken of wider European cultural affinities.

The event should open up to the European public particular aspects of the culture of the city, region or country concerned. It may also concentrate on the city a number of cultural contributions from other Community countries, primarily for the benefit of the inhabitants of the particular region. Between these two poles, a wide variety of emphases can be placed and inter-related themes be chosen so as to suit the city concerned and the particular occasion (if any) which has provided a motive for choosing it.

Criteria for the choice of cities

As a general rule only one European City of Culture should be chosen each calendar year.

Each year one Member State should hold the event, the decision on the city to be taken at least two years in advance, so as to allow proper arrangements to be made. The Member States should in principle follow each other in alphabetical order, but they may alter the order of events by mutual agreement.

In principle, one round of the Member States should be completed before another one is begun.

Organization and finance

The Member State in which the designated European City of Culture lies decides which authority inside the Member State will take responsibility for organizing and financing the event.

Given that the event forms part of cultural co-operation among the Member States, these should be associated with its preparation and kept informed of progress. Other European and, where appropriate, non-European countries may also be associated with the preparation of the event. Ministers responsible for Cultural Affairs in the Member States should if possible attend the opening ceremony.

Member States should take all possible steps to publicize the event widely."



European sculpture competition

The Ministers meeting within the Council adopted the following Resolution:

"In accordance with paragraph 3.3 of the Solemn Declaration on European Union signed in Stuttgart on 19 June 1983, and in the spirit of the conclusions regarding a People's Europe reached at the meeting of the European Council in Fontainebleau on 25 and 26 January 1984,

with the aim of encouraging young European sculptors and intensifying the exchange of works of sculpture throughout the European Community,

THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL declare themselves in favour of the principle of a European sculpture competition open to young sculptors. The technical and financial arrangements for the first competition should be finalized by a Working Party of Experts as soon as possible, on the basis of an outline" submitted to the Ministers.

European centre for information on stolen works of art

The Ministers meeting within the Council noted with interest the statement by the Presidency concerning the establishment of a European centre for information on stolen works of art.

They noted the Commission's intention of collaborating with the Italian delegation in preparing a study on the matter which could be submitted in time for the next ministerial meeting.

Transnational cultural itineraries

The Ministers meeting within the Council:

- expressed their interest in the project, submitted by the Luxembourg delegation, of a transnational cultural itinerary encompassing the Grand Duchy and its adjacent regions, and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining it with a view to enabling the Ministers to take a decision at their next meeting;
- took note of an Italian project to define the broad lines of a system of transnational cultural itineraries covering the whole Community, including Spain and Portugal, and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine this initiative.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PRESIDENCY

The Ministers meeting within the Council acknowledged notes from the Presidency on the following topics:

- School of Restoration of the architectural heritage;
- European cultural passport;
- European Year of Recorded Entertainment;
- European Book Service;
- European Historical Institute.

They instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine these notes.

PRIORITIES AND FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council held an exchange of views on priorities and the future organization of their work on the basis of a note submitted by the United Kingdom delegation.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Netherlands delegation submitted a note entitled "Subtitling of television programmes".

The Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council asked the Commission to examine the problem raised in this note and to submit a report to them in time for their next meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

GATT

The Council approved the exchange of letters concerning imports into Canada of beef and veal from the Community. This agreement on a quota of 10 668 tonnes for exports of beef and veal from the Community to Canada in 1985 was reached in the consultations with Canada under Article XIX of the GATT. Today's approval will make it possible to conclude this agreement formally.

Transport

The Council defined the position to be adopted by the Community regarding the draft Resolution of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) on the facilitation of international removals by road.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent, under Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty, with a view to obtaining financial aid for the implementation and execution of an iron and steel research programme.

---

Bruxelles, le 24 mai 1985

Note Bio 183 (85) aux Bureaux Nationaux  
c.c. aux membres du Groupe du Porte-Parole

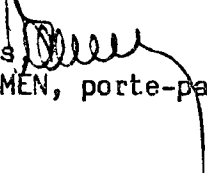
433

-----  
CONSEIL CULTURE (Santopinto)  
-----

Mardi 28 a 10h aura lieu le Conseil Culture avec un ordre du jour particulièrement chargé. Voici quels sont les points qui intéressent plus particulièrement la Commission. Les discussions du Conseil devraient porter notamment sur les questions concernant le système de soutien communautaire aux coproductions cinématographiques et télévisuelles et sur le prix du Livre. En ce qui concerne le système de soutien communautaire aux coproductions cinématographiques et télévisuelles, je vous rappelle que la Commission a présenté ses propositions le 23 avril (voir Note P-26). On ne s'attend pas à des décisions au cours de ce Conseil, mais un premier débat d'orientation. Ce débat ne sera sans doute pas facile. Quelques délégations ayant en effet des réserves sur les propositions de la Commission. Un point cependant nous apparaît déjà acquis à savoir que l'initiative de la Commission a d'ores et déjà suscité un débat aussi parmi les milieux professionnels intéressés. Ceci signifie encore une fois que le problème posé par la Commission existe et qu'il y a une large sensibilité dans l'opinion publique sur ce thème comme le témoignent de nombreux messages de soutien à l'initiative communautaire qui ont été adressés à M. RIPA DI MEANA.

En ce qui concerne le prix du Livre, le Conseil procédera à un débat d'orientation sur base aussi de la communication que la Commission lui a transmise (voir Note P-41). Je vous rappelle que dans cette communication, la Commission avait mis sur la table tous les éléments d'évaluation concernant l'éventuel établissement d'un système communautaire d'encadrement du prix du Livre mais qu'à ce stade elle n'a pas encore pris de position sur les différentes solutions possibles.

Parmi les autres points qui seront discutés, je vous rappelle notamment certains projets de coopération culturelle (ville européenne de la culture, concours européen de sculpture, centre européen d'information sur les vols d'œuvres d'art).

Amitiés   
H. PAEMEN, porte-parole, comeur, 12h30////



Bruxelles, le 29 mai 1985

Note BIO(85) 183 (suite 1 et fin) aux Bureaux Nationaux  
cc : aux Membres du Service du Porte-Parole

-----

Conseil culture du 28 mai 1985 (M. Santopinto)

-----

La session du Conseil "culture" qui s'est déroulée mardi, a permis aux Ministres des Dix de procéder à un débat de fond sur les deux questions principales qui étaient à l'ordre du jour, à savoir le système d'aide communautaire aux coproductions cinématographiques et télévisuelles et les prix du livre.

A. En ce qui concerne le premier point, il est apparu que toutes les délégations considèrent qu'une action de soutien aux coproductions cinématographiques et télévisuelles est nécessaire et urgente. Cependant quelques délégations ont émis des réserves sur l'opportunité d'un système communautaire d'aide financière. Au cours du débat M. Ripa di Meana est intervenu pour illustrer la proposition de la Commission et pour rappeler notamment que cette proposition n'était pas alternative à d'autres formules possibles et souhaitables en Europe. Il a rappelé que les objectifs visés par la Commission étaient notamment :

1. Celui d'augmenter le nombre de coproductions (additionalité donc par rapport aux résultats d'autres formes de coopération qui existent ou qui pourraient exister dans un cadre non communautaire).

2. Réalisation de coproductions de plus grande envergure.

3. Création de nouveaux courants de coproduction avec la participation des pays membres où l'industrie audiovisuelle est moins développée par rapport à celle d'autres pays membres.

B. En ce qui concerne les prix du livre le débat d'orientation a permis de constater qu'une majorité des pays membres pourraient être favorable à un encadrement communautaire du prix du livre selon une formule qui comme l'a dit M. Ripa di Meana devait être "très souple". La Commission présentera prochainement au Conseil une proposition dans ce sens.

C. En ce qui concerne les autres points, le Conseil a :

- confirme la designation de Florence comme ville de la culture pour 1986, d'Amsterdam pour 1987 et de Berlin pour 1988;
- approuve une resolution concernant un concours europeen de la culture;
- en ce qui concerne le centre d'information sur les vols d'oeuvres d'art, le Conseil a invite la Commission a effectuer une etude pour la creation de ce centre. L'Italie garantira le siege et les frais de fonctionnement pour la duree de deux ans lorsque ce centre sera constitue.

Les communications de la presidence feront l'objet de discussions lors du prochain Conseil culture qui aura lieu sous la presidence luxembourgeoise.

Amitiés

  
H. PAEMEN COMEUR///