



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

6518/88 (Presse 72)

1242nd meeting of the Council
and the Ministers for Culture meeting within the Council
Brussels, 27 May 1988

President: Mrs Irmgard ADAM-SCHWAETZER
Minister of State, Foreign Affairs 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 Valmy FEAUX	Minister, Executive of the French-speaking Community
Mr Patrick DEWAEEL	Minister for Culture of the Flemish Community
Mr Bruno FAGNOUL	Minister for Culture of the German-speaking Community
Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER	State Secretary for European Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr H.P. CLAUSEN	Minister for Cultural Affairs and Communications
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Germany:

Mrs Irmgard ADAM-SCHWAETZER	Minister of State, Foreign Affairs
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Greece:

Mrs Melina MERCOURI	Minister for Culture and Science
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Spain:

Mr Javier SOLANA MADARIAGA	Minister for Culture
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France:

Mr Thierry DE BEAUCE	State Secretary attached to the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, with responsibility for international cultural relations and relations with the French-speaking world
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Ireland:

Mrs Maire GEOGHEGAN-QUINN	Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach with special responsibility for the co-ordination of Government Policy and EEC matters
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Italy:

Mrs Vincenza BONO PARRINO

Minister for the Cultural Heritage
Ministry of Cultural Assets

Luxembourg:

Mr Thierry STOLL

Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr P.R.H.M. VAN DER LINDEN

State Secretary for European Affairs

Portugal:

Mrs Teresa GOUVEIA

State Secretary for Culture

United Kingdom:

Mr Richard LUCE

Minister for the Arts

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Commission:

Mr Carlo RIPA DI MEANA

Member

The Council and the Ministers responsible for cultural affairs meeting within the Council examined the future organization of their work, and future priority actions in the cultural field.

They adopted a Resolution on the first aspect (Annex I) providing in particular for a committee on cultural affairs to be appointed to examine proposals in the field. With regard to the second aspect, they adopted conclusions (Annex II) giving priority to the following areas, without prejudice to actions which they considered desirable in other areas:

- promotion of the European audiovisual sector;
- book sector;
- training in the cultural sector;
- business sponsorship.

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EUROPEAN CITIES OF CULTURE

The Ministers approved the proposals from the Spanish and Belgian delegations that Madrid and Antwerp be designated European cities of culture for 1992 and 1993 respectively.

CREATION OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT THE COMMISSION

The Commission announced that it intended to set up an advisory committee on cultural activities composed of eminent people from the cultural field.

RESOLUTION
OF THE COUNCIL
AND OF THE MINISTERS FOR CULTURE
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL
ON THE FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF THEIR WORK

The Council and the Ministers responsible for cultural affairs meeting within the Council, resolved to intensify their work on cultural affairs and having regard to their conclusions on future priority actions, have agreed that:

1. A Committee on cultural affairs shall be appointed consisting of the representatives of the Member States and of the Commission. The Chairman of this Committee shall come from the country holding the office of President of the Council.

The Committee shall evaluate all proposals relating to cultural co-operation and prepare the work of the Council and/or the Ministers responsible for cultural affairs meeting within the Council on cultural priorities and actions involving the Community and/or all the Member States, without prejudice to the procedure laid down in Article 4 of the Treaty establishing a Single Council and a Single Commission of the European Communities and current practice regarding the preparation of meetings of Ministers meeting within the Council.

The Committee shall also have the task of monitoring the implementation of actions decided on by the Council and/or the Ministers meeting within the Council and of reporting back regularly.

2. The Council and/or the Ministers meeting within the Council may invite European countries that are not members of the Community and organizations concerned with European cultural co-operation, especially the Council of Europe, to participate in specific cultural activities of mutual interest.
3. If, in the absence of a decision or agreement on certain actions at the level of the Council and/or the Ministers meeting within the Council, Member States continue their discussions on such actions, they shall report regularly to the Committee on the progress of their work.
4. Without prejudice to the dispositions of article 155 of the EEC treaty, the Commission shall implement, in close co-operation with the Committee on cultural affairs, actions decided on by the Council or the Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council that are to be implemented at Community level.

The Commission may be invited to assume a co-ordinating function, in agreement with the Committee on cultural affairs, in the implementation of the decisions of the Ministers meeting within the Council. The Commission may also be invited to ensure co-ordination of projects not involving all Member States of the Community and/or projects involving European countries which are not members of the Community.

CONCLUSIONS
OF THE COUNCIL AND OF THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE
FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL
CONCERNING FUTURE PRIORITY ACTIONS IN THE CULTURAL FIELD

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

1. note the Commission communication on the relaunching of cultural action in the European Community and the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, as well as the French Government's Blue Book on Europe in Education and Culture;
2. recalling the discussion at their informal meeting on 10 and 11 December 1987 in Copenhagen, give priority to the following areas, without prejudice to actions which they consider desirable in other areas:
 - promotion of the European audiovisual sector;
 - book sector;
 - training in the cultural sector;
 - business sponsorship,

and accordingly consider that, for an initial pluriannual period, priority should be given to proposals for actions in these areas;

3. On this basis:

- with reference to promotion of the European audiovisual sector, having taken note of the Commission MEDIA programme, they invite the Commission to report on the results of these experimental projects and to make, if appropriate, any proposals arising from the pilot projects carried out.

They also confirm their willingness to consider other actions relating to promotion of the European audiovisual sector with all the attention which the importance of this sector warrants;

- with reference to the book sector, they consider that all aspects of this sector, including national pricing systems for books, reproduction of texts, promotion and distribution, should be examined in depth, and state their readiness to study any proposal on the matter.

They confirm their desire for accelerated implementation of the Resolution of 27 September 1985 on collaboration between libraries in the field of data processing and state their readiness to examine any new proposal in this connection; moreover, the question of conservation should be studied.

They also confirm their desire to see rapid implementation of the Resolution of 9 November 1987 on the promotion of translation of important works of European culture, including works of contemporary European literature, with priority to translations from minority European languages, and in particular the rapid launching of the pilot scheme referred to in the Resolution.

- in the context of vocational training, they stress the growing importance for the cultural sector:

= of sound and vision specialists;

= of restoration specialists for preservation of the cultural heritage;

- with reference to business sponsorship, while recalling that this sponsorship should provide complementary support to public cultural activities, they confirm the importance which they attach to the implementation of the Resolution of 13 November 1986; this implementation should also draw on the texts relative to the financing of culture adopted at the 5th Conference of the European Ministers responsible for cultural affairs (Sintra, 15 to 17 September 1987);

4. agree on the desirability of fully implementing the Resolutions adopted since 1984 in the cultural sector and invite the Commission and the Committee on Cultural Affairs to follow up their implementation and report on it regularly; the Member States could also, at particular times to be determined, furnish information on the implementation of these resolutions at national level;

5. agree that, in accordance with their Resolution on the future organization of their work, the question of the type of actions to be envisaged in the framework of these priorities and the nature of the bodies responsible for implementing them (private bodies, Member States, Community) will be decided in each individual case according to need and in line with the provisions of the Treaty and existing procedures.

The Committee on Cultural Affairs should also prepare the work of the Ministers on each proposal and on these particular aspects, as well as on the financing of the actions. It should ensure that each proposal for an action contains elements allowing for subsequent evaluation of the results of the action.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with the EFTA countries

The Council adopted the Decision concerning the opening of negotiations with the EFTA countries for the reciprocal phasing out of the export restrictions which still exist in trade between the Community and those countries.

Commercial policy and Customs Union

The Council adopted

- a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1736/75 in respect of the recording of mode of transport in the external trade statistics of the Community;
- a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 4134/86 on the arrangements for imports of certain textile products originating in Taiwan, with the aim of adjusting those arrangements to the new "Combined Nomenclature" in force since 1 January 1988.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent, pursuant to Article 55(2)(c) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, to a draft Commission Decision granting financial aid for steel research projects and pilot/demonstration projects.

Appointment

Acting on a proposal from the Netherlands Government, the Council appointed Mr A.A. WESTERLAKEN member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work in place of Mr D. VAN DE KAMP for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 16 December 1988.

Bruxelles, le 26 mai 1988

NOTE BIO (88) 175 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

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(M. Santopinto)

Conseil Affaires Culturelles

Le Conseil des Ministres de la Culture de demain sera un Conseil important, voire décisif pour le démarrage d'une coopération culturelle en Europe.

En effet, deux points seulement figurent à l'Ordre-du-Jour :

- le premier concerne la création d'un Comité des Affaires Culturelles;

- le deuxième - le Programme d'actions prioritaires de la coopération européenne en matière de Culture.

Ainsi demain seront décidées par les Ministres les deux questions-clés qui devront permettre la relance de la coopération culturelle, à savoir : les structures institutionnelles au sein desquelles cette coopération doit se développer et le contenu de la coopération.

Voici les antécédents :

1. La Commission avait adressé au Conseil en décembre 1987 une communication relative à la relance de l'action culturelle dans la Communauté (COM (87) 603 final). Cette communication contient les orientations générales d'une action culturelle d'ensemble qui englobe à la fois l'action communautaire proprement dite (application du Traité au secteur culturel, actions de promotion et d'encouragement des activités culturelles, etc.), la coopération intergouvernementale entre les Douze ainsi que la coopération entre une partie des Etats membres et des pays extérieurs à la Communauté. Sur le plan de la méthode, la Commission envisage la mise en place de structures adéquates permettant d'étudier et de faire avancer les propositions appropriées, en tenant compte des spécificités du secteur, et de préparer les travaux du Conseil. La communication contient également un programme-cadre d'actions prioritaires pour la période 1988-1992.

2. La communication de la Commission a été jugée comme une bonne base de travail par les Ministres de la culture lors de leur réunion informelle des 10/11 décembre 1987 (SI (87) 952). Les Ministres sont convenus de se prononcer à la fois sur le contenu de la coopération et sur les structures institutionnelles de celle-ci lors de la réunion formelle du Conseil sous Présidence allemande. L'Allemagne - avec l'appui de la France - avait proposé de mettre en place une structure institutionnelle ad hoc calquée sur le Comité de l'Education en tant qu'instrument pour la mise en oeuvre de la coopération culturelle (cf annexe au doc. SI (87) 952).

3. Les travaux menés depuis, au sein du groupe des attachés culturels ont abouti à la mise au point par la Présidence de deux documents, à savoir, un projet de résolution du Conseil et des Ministres de la Culture sur l'organisation future des travaux (qui prévoit la création d'un Comité des affaires culturelles) et un projet de conclusions relatives aux futures actions prioritaires en matière culturelle.

Le texte relatif à la création du Comité des affaires culturelles reprend avec certaines modifications de présentation, voire de substance, le texte instituant le Comité de l'éducation (l'élément nouveau étant la possibilité d'associer d'autres pays européens à la coopération culturelle entre les Douze et de mener des actions avec seulement certains Etats membre en l'absence d'accord entre les Douze). Le texte relatif au programme d'action retient les secteurs suivants (audiovisuel, livre, formation dans le domaine culturel et mécénat des entreprises) comme priorités pour une première période pluriannuelle, sans préjudice d'autres actions qui seraient jugées souhaitables.

Amitiés,

G. ANOUIL.



Bruxelles, le 27 mai 1988

NOTE BIO (88) 175, suite et fin, AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

Conseil Affaires Culturelles (M. Santopinto)

Les Ministres des Affaires Culturelles ont trouvé un accord aujourd'hui sur les deux points qui figuraient à l'ordre du jour du Conseil et qui ont fait l'objet de la note BIO de hier.

Les Ministres ont donc approuvé la création d'un Comité des Affaires Culturelles destiné à la mise en oeuvre de la coopération et à préparer les travaux du Conseil ainsi que les futures actions prioritaires (audio-visuel, livre, formation professionnelle dans le domaine culturel et mécénat des entreprises).

En commentant l'issue des travaux du Conseil, M. Ripa di Meana a déclaré que l'accord intervenu soit sur la structure institutionnelle au sein de laquelle devra se développer la coopération soit sur le contenu et les priorités de celle-ci, permettait de décloisonner une situation qui paraissait bloquée depuis longtemps et de créer les conditions pour un travail efficace et dynamique.

Par ailleurs, le Conseil a décidé que Madrid et Anvers seront "Ville Européenne de la Culture" respectivement en 1992 et 1993. (En 1989 Paris, en 1990 Glasgow, pour 1991 la ville reste encore à désigner).


Amilys Ehrmann