

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION

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ACTION PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

The Council and the Ministers of Education, meeting within the Council, held a general discussion on the current situation and the future prospects for co-operation in the field of education in the light of the Resolution of 5 June 1974 on the subject.

In accordance with the above Resolution, the Education Committee submitted to the Ministers, meeting within the Council, a report containing suggestions on the priority spheres of action referred to in the Resolution. Discussions at the Council meeting were centred on finalizing a series of measures -- in the form of a resolution <sup>(1)</sup> -- under the following headings.

- better facilities for the education and training of nationals and the children of nationals of the Member States of the Communities and of non-member countries;
- promotion of closer relations between educational systems in Europe;
- co-operation in the field of higher education;
- compilation of up-to-date documentation and statistics on education;
- teaching of foreign languages;
- achievement of equal opportunity for free access to all forms of education.

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<sup>(1)</sup> the text of which is appended

To co-ordinate and follow up the implementation of the action programme thus laid down, the resolution re-establishes the Education Committee, composed of representatives of the Member States and of the Commission. This Education Committee will also be responsible for preparing the Ministers' discussions in accordance with customary Community procedure, including those concerning future developments in the field of education.

The discussion gave the delegations the opportunity to voice their opinions on the various topics discussed, in particular on existing measures or reserves which are being considered, to prepare young people for work and to facilitate their transition from school to working life. All the delegations emphasized in this connection, that they considered it important that the practical aspects of the transition from school to work and in particular of efforts to combat unemployment among young persons be discussed at Community level within the near future. Various delegations also stressed the importance they attached to the schooling of migrant workers' children.

Upon completion of its discussions, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the wording of the Resolution with a view to publication of the final version in the Official Journal as soon as possible.

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Resolution comprising an action programme in the field of education

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND  
THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

- having regard to the Treaties establishing the European Communities,
- referring to the Resolution of the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council on 6 June 1974, concerning co-operation in the field of education;
- referring to points 5 and 9 of the Communiqué of the Conference of Heads of Government of Member States meeting in Paris on 9 and 10 December 1974;
- recalling the Council Resolution of 21 January 1974 concerning a Social Action Programme and the proposals in favour of migrant workers and their families submitted by the Commission to the Council on 19 December 1974 and on the education of migrant children of 28 July 1975;
- considering that at its sitting on 22 September 1975 the European Parliament stressed the importance of the Community's activity in the field of education;

- considering that at its session on 23 and 24 April 1975 the Economic and Social Committee recalled that "education is central to the full and healthy development of the Community";
- reaffirming their desire to achieve European co-operation in education;
- aware of the contribution such co-operation can make to the development of the Community;
- taking note of the report of the Education Committee,

HEREBY ADOPT THIS RESOLUTION:

- I. The action programme set out under point IV shall be implemented.

11.XII.75

II. 1. An Education Committee shall be set up consisting of representatives of the Member States and the Commission. The Committee's chairman shall come from the country exercising the office of President of the Council of Ministers.

The Committee shall co-ordinate and have oversight of the implementation of the programme, and report on its execution in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 4 of the Treaty establishing a single Council and a single Commission of the European Communities, to the Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council.

It shall in the same way prepare their proceedings, including those concerning future developments in the field of education.

2. The Commission is invited to undertake, in close collaboration with the Education Committee, the appropriate measures to be implemented at Community level.

In implementing at Community level co-operation between the Member States decided upon by the Ministers of Education, the Commission shall act in agreement with the Education Committee, in accordance with the procedure laid down in the second subparagraph of paragraph 1 above.

III. The Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council shall meet regularly to follow the implementation of the action programme, to establish future guidelines, and to compare their policies.

IV. The action programme is as follows:

Better facilities for the education and training of nationals and the children of nationals of other Member States of the Communities and of non-member countries

1. The Council and the Ministers of Education, meeting with the Council, having noted the guidelines submitted to the Council by the Commission on 19 December 1974 within the framework of the social action programme, stress the educational dimension of such a programme.

The Ministers hereby express the willingness of Member States to pursue and develop, on behalf of nationals and the children of nationals of other Member States of the Communities and of non-member countries, suitable measures to improve reception facilities for these children and to enable them to adapt to the host country's school system and way of life. To this end, they agree to support the following measures:

- organizing and developing a reception system which would include intensive study of the language or languages of the host country;
- providing the necessary facilities for teaching these children their mother tongue and culture, if possible in school and in collaboration with the country of origin;
- providing more information for families on the training and educational opportunities available to them.

2. The following action will be implemented at Community level.

- exchange of information and experience concerning the organization of suitable types of teaching, taking the form of a limited number of pilot schemes to enable these types of teaching to be compared and assessed, and of co-operation in the training of teachers required to assume responsibility in this field;
- educational studies and research on the following topics
  - = adapted language-teaching methods
  - = the place and importance of the mother tongue and culture in school curricula
  - = existing conditions and provisions for access to education at all levels, and special needs with regard to educational guidance
  - = present and proposed provisions for educational and language-teaching programmes on radio and television
  - = assessing the need for the setting up of schools in which teaching would be done through the medium of more than one language.

Promotion of closer relations between educational systems in Europe

3. It is necessary to improve mutual understanding of the various educational systems in the Community and to ensure continuous comparison of policies, experience and ideas in the Member States.

4. The following will be organized to this end:

- at Community level, regular meetings between the persons responsible for education policies;
- by the Member States, study visits to the other Member States for local, regional and national administrators of schools and institutions of higher education.

5. In order to give a European dimension to the experience of teachers and pupils in primary and secondary schools in the Community, Member States will promote and organize:
- short study visits and exchanges for teachers, with special emphasis on student teachers of languages;
  - development of the national information and advisory services necessary to promote the mobility and interchange of pupils and teachers within the Community;
  - contacts between the authorities of establishments concerned with teacher training;
  - educational activities with a European content.

Co-operation in these areas at Community level will be developed in the light of the activities and experience of Member States.

6. The following will be studied at Community level:
- extension of the practice of recognizing periods of study abroad;
  - the possibility of enabling teachers to practise their profession for a time in a Community country other than their own;
  - the setting up of European or international-type establishments following specific curricula and using several teaching languages.
7. In order to assist pupils from the Member States moving from one country to another within the Community to make the transition from one educational system to another, the idea and means of introducing a standard school record card will be studied at Community level with a view to taking a decision at the earliest possible date.



Compilation of up-to-date documentation and statistics on education

8. It is necessary to increase and improve the circulation of information between those responsible for education and its recipients at all levels.
9. To this end, an information network will be set up by appointing in each Member State a national information service on education in the Communities. The organization of work at Community level will be studied once the appropriate national measures have been taken.
10. In collecting information, Member States will try out the norms agreed in the framework of EUDISED.
11. In order to enable the Community to bring its specific powers to bear in promoting better mutual understanding of educational systems, a study will be made at Community level of the best way of bringing existing information to the attention of the citizens of the Community. Information handbooks for students will be drawn up.
12. The Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council are desirous of supporting the efforts undertaken by the Statistical Office of the European Communities to expand, as part of a continuing programme, data concerning co-operation in the field of education.

Co-operation in the field of higher education

It is necessary to promote co-operation in the field of higher education.

13. While respecting the independence of higher education institutions, the following action will be undertaken at Community level in order to increase contacts between them:

- the strengthening of links with and between organizations representing higher education institutions;
- the organization of short study visits for specific purposes for teaching and administrative staff and for researchers;
- promotion of joint programmes of study or research between institutions in several Member States;

14. In order to promote the free movement and mobility of teaching staff, students and researchers, the following action will be undertaken at Community level:

- the arrangement of a discussion involving representatives of higher education institutions on the question of developing a common policy on the admission of students from other Member States to higher education institutions;

- the drawing up of a report in order to establish whether and to what extent the national schemes for scholarships, studentships and research and teaching fellowships should be extended to increase mobility in the Community and, where appropriate, the submission of suitable proposals;
- the drawing up of proposals designed to eliminate obstacles to the mobility of students and of university teaching and research staff.

15. To this same end, Member States will invite the competent authorities, when calculating seniority, to take into account periods of service in teaching or research spent in other Member States, and to examine ways and means of enabling periods of teaching or research spent in other Member States to be aggregated for the purposes of calculating pension entitlements.

16. To increase the possibilities for the academic recognition of diplomas and study periods the following action will be undertaken at Community level:

- the drawing up of a report analysing the current situation with regard to the academic recognition of diplomas and containing proposals for the improvement of the situation and, if necessary, for the development of a network of agreements;
- the organization of consultations between those responsible for education policy and of co-operation between higher education institutions to facilitate the recognition of periods of study.

Teaching of foreign languages

17. In order to enable the greatest possible number of students to learn the languages of the Community, the following objectives will be promoted:
- offering all pupils the opportunity of learning at least one other Community language;
  - the principle that before qualifying as a foreign language teacher a student should have spent a period in a country or region where the language he is to teach is spoken;
  - the promotion (e.g. on radio and television) of language teaching outside the traditional school system, in particular to meet the vocational training requirements of adults.
18. As initial measures, the following action will be undertaken at Community level:
- organization of consultation between those responsible for organising language teaching and specialized researchers in that field;
  - examination at Community level of the results of research into the methodology of language teaching and particularly that undertaken in the C.C.C. of the Council of Europe.
19. At the same time, Member States will
- organize regular extended periods abroad for teachers and encourage the exchange system for foreign language assistants;
  - encourage exchanges of pupils or groups of pupils.

Achievement of equal opportunity for free access to all forms of education

20. The achievement of equality of access to all forms of education is an essential aim of the education policies of all the Member States and its importance must be stressed, in conjunction with other economic and social policies, in order to achieve equality of opportunity in society.
21. In addition to the action taken in each Member State, an exchange of views and experience on concepts and trends will be organized at Community level in order to identify specific areas in which joint action might be undertaken. This exchange of views will focus initially on the following questions:
- (a) the organization of nursery education and of its link with primary education as well as the organization of primary education itself in such a way as to give all children the opportunity of benefiting from access to secondary education, with special reference to the interests of underprivileged groups;
  - (b) the organization of compulsory secondary education in such a way as to give all children the opportunity to develop their full potential; adoption of appropriate measures to help them succeed in this, due consideration being given to their personal aspirations and abilities and their vocational opportunities.

22. Without prejudice to the action taken in the Member States, the following will be considered priority matters at Community level:

- (a) the measures to be taken in the field of education to prepare young people for work, to facilitate their transition from study to working life, to improve their chances of finding employment, thereby reducing the risks of unemployment;
- (b) the possibility, in the context of continuous training, of further education to enable young workers and young unemployed persons to improve their chances of finding employment.

To this end, the Education Committee will draw up, before 1 July 1976, a report for the Council of the Ministers of Education, meeting within the Council, which will place particular emphasis on the problems raised by (a) and (b) and on the measures which could help to resolve them under the systems of education."