

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

30 June 1981

DOCUMENT 1-328/81

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport

on/organizing an information exhibition on the contribution of the Community to the development of Europe prior to establishing a museum of the history of European unification

Rapporteur: Mrs L. WEISS

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The European Parliament, at its sitting of 19 September 1980, referred to the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport, as the committee responsible, the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Bangemann on behalf of the Liberal and Democratic Group, Mr Pedini on behalf of the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democratic Group), Mr Schieler and Mr Seeler on organizing an information exhibition - 'Europe lives' - prior to establishing a museum of the history of European unification (Doc. 1-415/80/Corr.).

At its meeting of 22 October 1980 the committee appointed Mrs Weiss rapporteur.

The attached motion for a resolution was considered by the committee at its meeting of 22 and 23 June 1981 and was adopted by 6 votes to 0 with 1 abstention.

Present : Mr Hahn, vice-chairman and acting chairman; Mr Schwencke, rapporteur (deputizing for Mrs Weiss); Mr Arfé, Mr Hutton, Miss de Valera (deputizing for Mr Israël), Mr Patterson, Mr Papapietro and Mrs Viehoff.

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
A. MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION.....	5
B. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.....	7

<u>ANNEX</u> :	Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Bangemann on behalf of the Liberal and Democratic Group, Mr Pedini on behalf of the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democratic Group), Mr Schieler and Mr Seeler on organizing an information exhibition - 'Europe lives' -prior to establishing a museum of the history of European unification (Doc. 1-415/80/corr.)	9
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The Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on organizing an information exhibition on the contribution of the Community to the development of Europe prior to establishing a museum of the history of European unification

The European Parliament

- convinced that European integration, a process of importance in world history, the motives for which remain valid, is based on the common features of European culture,
- aware that numerous official, semi-official and private organizations and institutions and in particular many eminent European figures have contributed to this process,
- aware of the need to involve the citizens of Europe and, above all, young people in the countries of Europe more closely in the creation of a united Europe,
- sharing in this respect the opinion set out in Mr TINDEMANS' report on European union that 'a strenuous effort must be made by the European Institutions and by governments to improve the way in which our common activity is presented to public opinion and to link the daily decisions of the Institutions to the motivation behind the construction of Europe and to the idea of society which is inherent in it',
- aware that the citizens of Europe will feel their common destiny more strongly by acquiring a knowledge of the historic documents dating from the time of the first steps towards integration in Europe, and of the achievements which have already benefitted the countries of the Community,
- regretting that there is as yet no European centre, particularly in the field of education as a whole, responsible for systematically collecting documents on this process, using them and making them accessible to the public in various ways,
- greatly distressed that any further loss of time would mean that many important documents, notably documents on the antecedents of European union would be lost forever,

- having regard to the motion for a resolution on organizing an information exhibition - 'Europe Lives' - prior to establishing a museum of the history of European unification (Doc. 1-415/80/corr.),
 - having regard to the report drawn up by the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport (Doc. 1-328/81),
1. Warmly welcomes the fact that a number of suggestions have been made and initiatives taken towards organizing an information exhibition on the contribution of the Community to the development of Europe;
 2. Undertakes to organize with the assistance of other institutions and organizations such as the Council of Europe, a major exhibition on this topic in Strasbourg, which should then become a travelling exhibition, prior to the setting up of a museum of the history of European unification;
 3. Counts on the wholehearted support of the Commission of the European Communities in this venture;
 4. Invites the Member States of the Community and of the Council of Europe, and any other official or private bodies, institutions or organizations, including private individuals, to support this venture so that the exhibition can be opened to the public in 1982;
 5. Instructs its Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport to monitor the organization of this project and to submit specific proposals for the establishment of a museum of the history of European unification;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission of the European Communities, to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and to the Member States of the Community and the Council of Europe.

B

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Although the first steps towards the integration of Europe date back to the Second World War, the idea of European integration and its historical necessity are both rooted in European culture.

Amidst the ruins of the post-war period this process has enabled nations which had fought against each other to cooperate in creating their future in peace.

While the European Community in its progress towards European Union may not be the final stage in this process it nevertheless represents the most robust achievement. The creation of the Council of Europe was also a very significant step forward.

This process of integration, for which our Parliament strives in its daily work, is the heritage of a generation of ardent Europeans who believed in a fraternal Europe. They were men of different political persuasion and different nationalities such as Churchill, Schuman, Jean Monnet, De Gasperi, Spaak and many others.

Our generation has a duty to preserve and to pass on to future generations the speeches they delivered, the lofty ideas they advanced, the formal texts which they signed.

Was it not Mr Tindemans who said in his report on European union: 'The aim is to give Europeans of tomorrow a personal and concrete impression of the European reality and a detailed knowledge of our languages and cultures, since these constitute the common heritage which the European Union aims specifically to protect' and did he not conclude by saying that 'a strenuous effort must be made by the European Institutions and by governments to improve the way in which our common activity is presented to public opinion and to link the daily decisions of the institutions to the motivation behind the construction of Europe and to the idea of society which is inherent in it'.

In his inaugural speech Mr Gaston THORN, the current President of the Commission of the European Communities, expressed the same concern.

The young people of our continent do not feel that they are sufficiently closely involved in the achievements of European integration.

They are not encouraged to become involved. They have no knowledge of recent history despite the fact that it has determined their lives. It is regrettable therefore that there is no centre in Europe responsible for systematically collecting documents relating to european integration using them and ensuring that they are disseminated in various ways notably in the educational field. Moreover, the many visitors to the Palace of Europe in Strasbourg who often receive too little information because of a lack of time could profitably visit an exhibition and a museum that would fully satisfy their quest for knowledge and their faith.

We also find that there is a risk of many important documents and papers being lost. They must be collected and preserved.

The most immediate reply to these visitors should be that Europe is being built for them. An initial exhibition in Strasbourg would demonstrate this to them.

Your rapporteur considers that this exhibition could be organized under the auspices of the European Parliament and that it could be held in 1982 to mark the 25th anniversary of the Rome Treaties. The Commission, the Council of Europe and the municipal authorities of Strasbourg should contribute to this.

A further appeal would be made to private individuals to contribute any hitherto unpublished documents in their possession to the venture.

This exhibition would provide the first collection of documents for the future museum of the history of European unification.

Motion for a resolution (Doc. 1-415/80/corr.) tabled by Mr BANGEMANN on behalf of the Liberal and Democratic Group, Mr PEDINI on behalf of the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democratic Group), Mr SCHIELER and Mr SEELER pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure on organizing an information exhibition - 'Europe lives' - prior to establishing a museum of the history of European unification

The European Parliament,

- convinced that European integration is a process of importance in world history based on the common features of European culture,
- recognizing that this process has already brought about a considerable improvement in the lifestyles of the West European community of nations and its citizens,
- aware that numerous official, semi-official and private organizations and institutions, and in particular many eminent European figures, have contributed to this process,
- seriously concerned that not enough has been done as yet to bring these achievements and successes to the attention of the citizens, and above all the young people of our countries,
- deeply regretting that there is as yet no European centre particularly in the field of education as a whole, responsible for systematically collecting documents on this process, using them and making accessible to the public in various ways,
- greatly distressed that any further loss of time will mean that many important documents and other material, notably documents which paved the way for the process, for example those of the European resistance movement will be lost forever,

1. Warmly welcomes the idea of establishing a museum devoted to the European ideal;
 2. Has decided that, as a first step towards establishing a museum, a permanent large-scale exhibition under the slogan 'Europe lives' should be organized in Strasbourg under the aegis of the European Parliament to provide an insight into the process of European unification to date and the activities of the most important European organizations;
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3. Calls on its Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport to concern itself with this project as a matter of urgency, bearing in mind in particular the following activities:
 - collecting and filing important documents and other material

- exhibiting the most important documents and presenting the activities of European organizations and institutions to date, portraying European culture and history and the achievements of European cooperation in all fields;
- establishing a library accessible to the public and film, photographic and audio-visual archives;
- establishing an educational centre to enable the knowledge available to be put to use in the field of research and, in particular, over the whole spectrum of education in Europe;
- organizing a series of special temporary exhibitions covering particular forms and achievements of European cooperation or aspects of life in the countries and regions of Europe and European culture;

4. Calls further on its Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport to begin by setting up an ad hoc subcommittee to see to the speedy organization of the exhibition 'Europe lives' in which representatives of the European Parliament and the following people should be invited to participate:

- (a) a representative of the Commission of the European Communities,
- (b) one representative each from the Secretariat and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe,
- (c) the Secretary-General of the European Parliament,
- (d) a representative of the city of Strasbourg,
- (e) one of the originators of the idea,
- (f) teaching specialist;

5. Looks to its Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport to submit an interim report before the discussions on the 1981 budget have been completed so that the work of setting up the exhibition can be started in 1980 and the exhibition itself opened to the public at the beginning of 1981 at the latest;

6. Calls also on all the Member States of the European Community and the Council of Europe, their governments and other responsible bodies and all official and private European institutions and organizations and individuals to provide moral and material support for this project in the form of:

- assistance
- donations and
- making available to the organizers originals or copies of important European documents and collections of texts;

7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.