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Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and Education

**on the results obtained to date by, and the future work of, the European
Centre for the Development of Vocational Training in Berlin**

Rapporteur: Mr A. BERTRAND

By letter of 9 March 1979 the President of the European Parliament authorized the Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and Education to draw up an own-initiative report on the results obtained to date by, and the future work of, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training in Berlin.

On 31 January 1979 the committee appointed Mr BERTRAND rapporteur.

It considered the subject at its meetings of 31 January and 22 March 1979; the motion for a resolution was considered on 3 April 1979 and adopted unanimously at the same meeting.

Present: Mr Van der GUN, chairman; Mrs DUNWOODY and Mr NOLAN, vice-chairmen; Mr BERTRAND, rapporteur; Mr ADAMS, Mr ALBERS, Mr BOUQUEREL, Mr DINESEN, Mr KAVANAGH, Lord MURRAY of GRAVESEND, Mr PISONI, Mr POWER, Mr SCHREIBER, Mrs SQUARCIALUPI and Mr VANDEWIELE.

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The Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and Education hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the results obtained to date by, and the future work of, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training in Berlin

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the report of the Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and Education (Doc. 90/79),
- 1. Notes that the Centre required a fairly long starting-up period before producing its first results;
- 2. Notes further that the seat chosen by the Council of Ministers - Berlin - and the size of the Management Board contributed to the delay;
- 3. Nonetheless approves the Centre's activities as conducted at present;
- 4. Urges the Director of the Centre to channel its activities as far as possible towards work that is of practical value in the present social and economic situation;
- 5. Considers it essential that in future the Centre's work should be coordinated even more closely than in the past with the activities of other international organizations, such as the ILO, and with national authorities concerned with vocational training;
- 6. Requests its Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and Education, after the forthcoming direct elections to the European Parliament, to keep under close review developments at the Centre and at the Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions in Dublin, and, if necessary, to draw up a report thereon;
- 7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission and to the Director of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training in Berlin and the Director of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions in Dublin.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

I. Establishment and organization of the Centre

1. The social action programme adopted by the Council in its Resolution of 21 January 1974¹ provides, amongst other things, for the establishment of a common vocational training policy, with a view to the gradual attainment of the programme's main objectives, and in particular, the alignment of training levels, notably, by setting up a European Centre for Vocational Training.

Following a Commission proposal and the opinion of the European Parliament², the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training - the CEDEFOP - was created by Council Regulation No. 337/75 of 10 February 1975³. The Centre's seat is in Berlin.

2. The Centre is administered by a 30-member Management Board, composed as follows:

- (a) nine members representing the governments of the Member States;
- (b) nine members representing employers' professional organizations;
- (c) nine members representing the trade union organizations;
- (d) three members representing the Commission.

The members referred to in (a), (b) and (c) are appointed by the Council on the basis of one seat per Member State for each of the above categories.

The term of office of the members of the Management Board runs for three years. The first members were appointed for the period up to 15 October 1978⁴.

3. The first meeting of the Management Board did not take place until 23 and 24 October 1975. On that occasion a list of candidates for the post of Director of the Centre was drawn up, as provided for in Article 6 of Regulation No. 337/75.

The Director took office on 1 January 1976. For two months the Director and his two deputies only had a single room in the Press and Information Centre of the Communities in Berlin. The first secretary was engaged on 15 March, and the head of administration on 15 April 1976.

¹ OJ No. C 13, 12.2.1974

² OJ No. C 127, 18.10.1974

³ OJ No. L 39, 13.2.1975

⁴ OJ No. C 45, 22.2.1977

The authority to commit and settle payments, authorize expenditure, assess creditors' claims and establish revenue orders was delegated to the Director on 6 February 1976. Prior to that date, this authority was held by the chairman of the Management Board.

The assistance of the Commission departments was extremely valuable during this initial phase. In particular, the duties of accounting officer were covered by the Commission until 30 September 1976.

4. The inevitable delays in appointing the Management Board and Director affected implementation of the 1975 budget: virtually all the available funds (94.27%) were carried forward to the 1976 financial year, after transfer of the amounts not otherwise expended to Article 214 of the budget (installation of premises).

With regard to the budget, Article 11(2) of Regulation 337/75 requires a subsidy for the Centre to be included in the budget of the European Communities each year under a specific heading.

5. Before the creation of the Centre there was no separate institution at Community level concerned with professional training. Consequently the European Communities deliberately sought personnel from outside with experience in this area.

The Director and his deputies immediately made contacts in the nine countries, thanks to the assistance of members of the Management Board, so as to gain a general view of the issues of concern to those responsible for vocational training.

This contact phase was completed in July 1976. On the basis of the information obtained, and the elements contained in the Commission's social action programme, the first programme of work was then drawn up.

6. At the same time, the Director's office was involved in the recruitment of Grade A staff, having encouraged the submission of applications from qualified candidates in the nine Community countries. The Management Board assisted in this area also. The first experts reached the Centre in September 1976, and they too felt the need to broaden their national experience to the Community context.

7. The predominant concern of the Management Board focused on the contribution which vocational training could make in the light of the rising level of youth unemployment.

As early as December 1976 the Centre arranged a seminar on this subject (held in the Netherlands, as the CEDEFOP did not move into adequate premises until January 1977); this trial seminar produced good results.

8. The recruitment of experts continued until mid-1977. The various subjects of work were gradually taken up on the basis of the programme of work.

The Centre's establishment plan was drawn up in advance by the specialist departments at the Commission. A disparity soon became apparent between the volume of work undertaken with great vigour by the Centre's staff and the funds available. This problem must be solved as soon as possible (in particular, there is a lack of grade B and C staff).

The Management Board shares this concern.

this subject, the present committee has been unable, for lack of time, to follow the course of events at the Centre - as also at the Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, in Dublin¹ - sufficiently closely in the past, a situation which should be redressed in future. Because these Community institutions are located on the periphery of the Community area, and because they are of great importance in dealing with current social problems, their work should receive as much encouragement as possible from Parliament.

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The Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and Education therefore urges Parliament to adopt the present motion for a resolution.

¹ See Regulation No. 1365/75, OJ No. L 139/75, p. 1

... the fact that one, at first sight, somewhat lengthy period which the Centre needed to make a start on its activities attracted attention, particularly during consideration of the Budget by the European Parliament in 1978¹. The committee therefore made arrangements to investigate the situation on the spot, at the Centre itself, a decision which incidentally was not sponsored by the Bureau of the European Parliament.

10. This consideration of the budgetary and administrative aspects did not escape the attention of the Director of the Centre and led to a request to the Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and Education to raise matters at one of its meetings.

Thus it was that on 31 January 1979 the committee held an exchange of views with the representative of the European Commission on the Management Board, and on 22 March 1979 with the Director and Deputy Directors of the Centre², so as to apprise itself of the course of events from both sides and to draw the conclusions which, in its view, need to be drawn at the present time, and which are summarized in the attached motion for a resolution.

Two passages in the motion for a resolution deserve particular attention.

11. During discussion of paragraph 4 of the motion, urging the Centre to channel its activities towards subjects which relate as directly as possible to current practical problems of employment, many Members pointed out that in this case attention should be focused primarily on the problems of young people, women and the handicapped (not necessarily in that order). In other words, the categories hit hardest by the present employment situation, for whom solutions must therefore be found as a matter of priority.

12. In addition, particular attention should be paid to paragraph 6.

The present resolution is in a sense an interim resolution, since its purpose is not only to assess the present situation but more especially to provide terms of reference for the successor to the present Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and Education following the forthcoming direct elections.

¹ See Written Question No. 1117/78 by Mr NOTENBOOM, Bulletin of the European Parliament No. 57/78, p. 6 (not yet answered). See also Chapter I and annex to this report.

² A similar discussion took place on 14 December 1978 in the Social Affairs Department of the Economic and Social Committee: see Doc. CES 1238/78, Annex.

Budgetary procedures

The procedure for drawing up the budget and controlling expenditure is as follows (Articles 11 and 12 of Regulation No. 337/75):

- (a) the Management Board sends the Commission an estimate of revenue and expenditure, including an establishment plan;
- (b) this estimate is forwarded by the Commission to the Council with the preliminary draft budget of the European Communities;
- (c) the budget authority draws up the establishment plan of the Centre and determines the level of subsidy;
- (d) the Management Board adopts the estimate of revenue and expenditure, adjusting it to the subsidy granted by the budget authority on the basis of guidelines for the programme of work;
- (e) each year, by 31 March at the latest, the Management Board sends the accounts of all the revenue and expenditure of the Centre for the preceding financial year to the Court of Auditors;
- (f) the accounts and the report of the Court of Auditors, together with the Commission's comments, are submitted to the Council and the Assembly by the Commission by 31 October at the latest;
- (g) the Council and the Assembly give a discharge to the Management Board of the Centre under the procedure laid down in the fourth paragraph of Article 206 of the Treaty;
- (h) the financial controller of the Commission is responsible for checking the commitment and payment of all expenditure and the recording and recovery of all revenue of the Centre.

The above procedures, to which the Centre has always adhered, ensure that the Centre's work is carried out within the framework laid down for every Community institution.

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