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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Bureau and Standing Committee (5th July, 1955-15th April, 1956)

Progress report
Rapporteur: Mr Kurt Georg KIESINGER, Germany

1.

Since the Tenth Session opened on 28th April 1958 t h e Bureau has held six meetings : 29th and 30th April and 2nd and 3rd May in Strasbourg during the first part of the Session, 30th June in Paris and 4th September in Brussels.

The Standing Committee, which had met on 2nd May before the end of the 1st part- Session, met in Brussels on 4th September.

2. Date and Agenda of the second part of the Tenth Session

On 3rd May 1948 (9th Sitting of the Tenth Session) the Assembly decided, at the Bureau's proposal, to hold the second part of its Tenth Session from Friday, 10th October to Saturday, 18th October 1958.

The Standing Committee adopted the Agenda for this part-Session at its meeting on 4th September (see Doc. 844).

3. Appointment of members of the Joint Committee

On 2nd May 1958 the Standing Committee appointed the Representatives of the Assembly on the Joint Committee in conformity with Rule 46.

Titular members : MM. Dehousse, Chairman ex officio; Badini Confalonieri, Bichet, Edwards, Kraft, Paul, Toncic (and one seat was reserved for Greece).

Alternate members : MM. von Bismarck, Czernetz, De Geer, Goedhart, Karasan.

4. Institutional reform of the Council of Europe

At its meeting on 19th A p r i l[1] the Bureau had requested the three committees concerned with institutional reform to continue their study of t h e question and to give the Bureau a detailed opinion on the report of the Working Party set up under Order 115 of the Assembly. In accordance with the Bureau's wishes, the Assembly adjourned the discussion of the matter until its October session (see first sitting of the Tenth Session, 28th April 1958).

1. (a) See previous Progress Report, Doc. 807. (6) See 10th Sitting, 10th October 1958 (the Assembly took note of the Report).

At its meeting on 4th September, the Bureau continued its examination of the matter in the light of the final opinion submitted by t h e three Committees. It used as a basis for discussion a draft report drawn up by M. Bichet, appointed rapporteur in replacement of M. Teitgen.

After a full discussion, the Bureau decided to submit to the Assembly the report contained in Doc. 845.

5. Committee meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg or Paris

In accordance with paragraph 3 of the rules adopted by the Standing Committee on 12th February 1955, the Bureau gave its assent to t h e following meetings:

1. Legal Committee at The Hague on 9th and 10th June 1958;
2. Committee on Non-represented Nations in Berlin on 16th and 17th June;
3. Cultural Committee at Munich on 8th and 9th September;
4. Agricultural Committee in Vienna on 12th and 13th September;
5. Legal Committee in London on 15th and 16th September

In view of t he observations made concerning committee meetings with too slight agendas to justify long journeys by their members, the Bureau decided t h a t , in future, requests submitted iby committees in accordance with the rules adopted by the Standing Committee on 12th February 1955 should be accompanied by an agenda and a note by the Clerk explaining the ^object of the meeting.

6. Conversion or abolition of the Standing Committee

Since the Assembly divided its annual Session into three parts, the Standing Committee has had virtually only one purpose, to adopt six weeks in advance the agenda of the next part-Session. The Bureau doubts whether it is necessary to hold a meeting of the 32 members of the Standing Committee three times a year merely to adopt an agenda prepared according to the progress of work in committee.

The Bureau has considered measures to avoid the difficulties due to the large membership of the Standing Committee. One solution would be to reduce the membership of the Standing Committee by transforming it into a Committee consisting of t h e President of t h e Assembly, its seven Vice-Presidents, the eleven Committee Chairmen and the three Chairmen of Political Groups; 22 in all. Another, more radical, solution would be to transfer the duties of the Standing Committee to the Bureau.

At its meeting on 4th September, the Bureau expressed itself in favour of the first solution, but decided to invite the Committee on Rules of Procedure to examine the problem and report as it thinks fit.

7. Reference to committee

At its meeting of 4th September 1958, the Standing Committee referred to the Legal Committee the motion presented by Mr. Cunningham and others, Doc. 843, on the payment of foreign money liabilities (Reference No. 219).