Opinion 15 (1955)[1]

Organisation of a "Europe Day"

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

Having been consulted by the Committee of Ministers on the possibility of celebrating each year a " Europe Day ";

Having considered the motion for a Recommendation tabled in the Assembly calling for the institution of a day of European fellowship;

Having regard to Resolution (54) 7 of the Committee of Ministers concerning multilateral cultural co-operation, which was appended to the Special Message on the programme of work of the Council of Europe;

Considering that a Europe Day could only achieve the purposes set forth in the motion for a Recommendation and in the proposal of the Special Message of the Committee of Ministers if it were to be celebrated simultaneously and with due solemnity in all member countries of the Council of Europe;

Considering that at present public opinion in the various member countries does not appear to support everywhere, to the same degree, the celebration of a " Europe Day ";

Considering that objections have been raised to the excessive number of public holidays already recognized;

Considering that the efforts made up to now by the Information Directorate of the Secretariat-General to encourage the celebration of May 5th, the anniversary of the foundation of the Council of Europe, have given satisfactory results and deserve to be pursued further;

Considering that an extended effort along these lines, with the use of every available means, would help to ensure recognition of the Council's achievements and to draw attention to its aims,

Expresses the opinion that it is not appropriate at present to organise a special " Europe Day " on March 21st of each year.

1. (see Doc. 369, Draft Opinion of the Committee on Cultural and Scientific Questions). This Opinion was adopted by the Assembly at its 6th Sitting, on 7th July, 1955