



Recommendation 53 (1953)¹

Best means whereby the national or international bodies connected with local government and the local authorities themselves may help in the propagation of the European idea

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

Considering it to be of the highest importance that local communities and their representatives should be associated with the establishment of European unity and, in particular, with the propagation of the cause of European unity,

Recommends that the Committee of Ministers take the necessary steps to ensure :

- a. that the conception of "communal interest", the legal basis for the intervention of local authorities in political matters, should be interpreted broadly by the Ministries concerned and, more specifically, that these Ministries should not oppose any action taken by the municipalities whenever it conforms with the declared principles of the policy of their Governments, such as are laid down in the Preamble and in Article 1 of the Statute of the Council of Europe ;
- b. That the Ministries concerned should in no way obstruct but should, on the contrary, encourage the local authorities to give material and financial assistance to pro-European activities and, whenever possible, support local action, in particular by subsidising such activities as the establishment or maintenance of centres of European studies or the organisation of "Europe Days " ;
- c. That they should authorise and facilitate the establishment of permanent relations and, if need be, organic links among municipalities of different Member countries ;
- d. that the Secretariat-General be empowered to extend all possible assistance to the national and international associations of local authorities and to the communities themselves in connection with " pairings ", inter-municipal meetings and, in general, all schemes for closer relations between the local authorities of member countries ; and, in particular, that it be provided with the necessary funds for :
 - i. the preparation of a document on the " pairing " of municipalities and its distribution to European municipalities seeking to, or in a position to, pair with another ;
 - ii. the annual award of a European Prize to the municipality which has done most to propagate the ideal of European unity ;
 - iii. the holding of periodical meetings of a permanent Working Party, composed of members of the Special Committee on Municipal and Regional Affairs, and representatives of the national associations of local authorities.

1. This Recommendation was adopted by the Assembly at its twenty-second Sitting, on 24th September, 1953 (see [Doc. 210](#), Report of the Special Committee on Municipal and Regional Affairs).

