



Recommendation 55 (1953)¹

Help to be given by the Council of Europe to the victims of the Greek earthquake disasters

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

Deeply grieved at the extent of the disaster suffered, as a result of the recent earthquakes, by the three Greek islands of Cephalonia, Zante and Ithaca;

Conscious of the feeling of fellowship which, in face of such catastrophes, unites all the peoples of Europe, who are in duty bound to assist the victims;

Recalling the appeal issued by the Special Committee on Municipal and Regional affairs of the Council of Europe on behalf of the victims of the disasters in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Belgium and Turkey;

In the spirit of the Resolution of the Committee of Ministers, urging the Governments of Member States to give Greece, in the fullest possible measure, whatever assistance it may need for the reconstruction of the devastated areas,

Recommends that the Committee of Ministers :

- a. should adopt without delay such practical measures as it may consider appropriate in order to obtain the effective assistance of all Member States and to organise, under the auspices of the Council of Europe, the collection of funds and gifts in kind to be placed at the disposal of the Greek Government for the permanent reconstruction of the stricken areas, and, to this end, should instruct the Secretariat-General :
 - i. to circulate to the Governments of Member States and to public and private organisations in the free world an account of the catastrophe and of the present needs of the stricken areas of Greece;
 - ii. to ascertain the reconstruction plans of the Greek Government and to communicate them to the other countries of Europe, so as to enable the latter to give the most effective assistance according to the means at their disposal; and, more particularly, to determine what types of gifts in kind would be the most acceptable to Greece;
 - iii. to centralize the assistance provided and the sums contributed, for transmission to the Greek Government on behalf of the Council of Europe;
- b. to decide, in order to give a definite purpose to the effort of the Council of Europe, and thus arouse the particular interest of the donors, upon the adoption of a city or town in the Ionian Islands, such as Ithaca, and to promise all or part of the cost of its reconstruction, on the basis of plans put forward by the Greek Government;
- c. to establish for this purpose a special fund to be built up by the Council of Europe from the contributions of the various Governments and from gifts collected in each country by a public organisation or on institution selected for the purpose;

1. This Recommendation was adopted by the Assembly at its twenty-third Sitting, on 25th September, 1953 (see [Doc. 203](#), Report of the Special Committee to deal with the question of the victims of the Greek earthquake disasters).



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- d. to invite the individual Member States to adopt towns or villages in the Ionian Islands, as has already been done by certain Governments.