Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
https://pace.coe.int

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Recommendation 462 (1966)[1]

Good offices of ICEM on behalf of national refugees

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Considering the liberal decolonisation policy followed by certain European Governments which has permitted the emancipation of former colonial territories and certain trust or mandated territories and thus led to the establishment of new States ;

2. Welcoming this policy, which is one of the most characteristic features of the period following the second world war;

3. Observing, nevertheless, that it has caused hardship to many nationals of the former trust territories who, as a result of this new political situation, have lost some or all of the benefits and possessions which they had acquired in the course of a hard-working life ;

4. Expressing its deep concern at this development ;

5. Being desirous of providing these distressed Europeans, most of whom are nationals of member countries of ICEM, with such effective assistance as to enable them to resettle in the overseas countries of their choice, and, in thereby contributing to the protection of Europeans who are the victims of a conjunction of political circumstances, accomplishing, in a gesture of European solidarity, a very real task in line with the humanitarian principles of the Council of Europe ;

6. Considering that it is desirable to invite the specialised government services to assist in carrying out this humanitarian task

7. Recommends the Committee of Ministers to request the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) to make available its good offices on behalf of such European refugees ;

a. by assuming responsibility for European refugees who are obliged or who wish to leave their place of domicile as a result of the circumstances described in paragraphs 1 and 2 above ;

b. by discouraging, where possible, on humanitarian and economic grounds, such European refugees from returning temporarily to their countries of origin, in which they do not wish to settle permanently ;

c. by assisting them, with this end in view, to travel direct to the receiving countries of their choice ;

d. by using its specialised employment services to assist in the resettlement of the European refugees, wherever possible within the framework of existing bilateral agreements between European countries and overseas countries.

1. Assembly debate on 6th May 1966 (8th Sitting) (seeDoc. 2048, report of the Committee on Population and Refugees). Text adopted by the Assembly on 6th May 1966 (8th Sitting).