



Recommendation 607 (1970)¹

Preventive medicine and the institution of a European Health Card

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Noting that, as a result of progress in medicine and hygiene, life expectancy has increased considerably in the last fifty years ;
2. Noting that this increased longevity leads to a higher proportion of the chronically sick and infirm in the population ;
3. Noting that chronic conditions, disabilities and even early death are increasingly due to degenerative processes (the "diseases of civilisation") and to accidents, and less to infection ;
4. Considering that a substantial proportion of the conditions which caused death, disablement or chronic disease will respond to preventive treatment;
5. Considering that full advantage is still not being taken in Council of Europe member States of the possibilities now offered by preventive medicine, and that not enough preventive medical examinations are yet being organised and financed by the authorities ;
6. Believing that, with the use of computers, the results of preventive examinations could be made readily available to science, and that this could bring about improved supervision of public health ;
7. Believing that medical students and also the medical profession as a whole should be encouraged to acquire a fuller knowledge of preventive and social medicine ;
8. Convinced that regular preventive examinations would lead to a substantial reduction in the cost of therapeutic medicine ;
9. Noting that, owing to movements of population, medical practitioners often receive from their patients only vague information about previous vaccinations, medical examinations and treatment,
10. Recommends that the Committee of Ministers :
 - 10.1. Urge member governments :
 - a. to instruct their public health authorities, in close co-operation with the medical profession, to promote and further develop arrangements for making regular preventive examinations more readily available to the population in general and particularly to those most at risk, and to introduce new examinations to allow an early diagnosis of degenerative diseases ;
 - b. to draw the attention of the public, through radio, television and the press, to the growing importance of the examinations referred to under (a) above ;
 - c. to establish Chairs in preventive and social medicine at all universities and medical faculties, and to provide adequate resources for research into the priority aspects of preventive medicine ;

1. Assembly debate on 21 September 1970 (12th Sitting) (see [Doc. 2808](#), report of the Committee on Social and Health Questions). Text adopted by the Assembly on 21 September 1970 (12th Sitting).



10.2. Instruct the European Public Health Committee :

- a. to draw up detailed recommendations regarding the various preventive measures to be put into effect, taking into account the incidence of chronic ailments, disability and premature death, present knowledge of their established or suspected causes, and the available remedial action, especially health education and early detection ;
- b. to prepare a "European Health Card" involving the use of a code, through which the essential particulars of patients would be made available immediately and confidentially to doctors in any member State.