



## Recommendation 850 (1979)<sup>1</sup>

# European cultural co-operation

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Having noted the report of its Committee on Culture and Education concerning European cultural co-operation ([Doc. 4214](#)) ;
2. Recalling its earlier Recommendations 567, 649, 680, 717 and 746, relating to European cooperation in the field of culture and education, and in particular its recent [Opinion No. 81 \(1977\)](#), on the application of Committee of Ministers' Resolution (76) 3 to the cultural field (structures, terms of reference and working methods of intergovernmental committees) ;
3. Drawing attention to the work of the Council of Europe in the cultural field as carried out by the Council for Cultural Co-operation and other parts of the Organisation ;
4. Reasserting its conviction that :
  - 4.1. European cultural co-operation must be conducted on as wide a basis as is compatible with the principles of freedom of expression, of cultural diversity and of recognition of the rights of the individual ;
  - 4.2. the European Cultural Convention is the best available instrument for such co-operation ;
  - 4.3. there is a continuing need for the political assertion of the importance of culture and for political leadership in European cultural cooperation ;
  - 4.4. effective liaison is required, at both national and international levels, to ensure greater awareness and better co-ordination of the activities of organisations working in the cultural field ;
5. Expressing its support for the Standing Conference of European Ministers of Education as a forum in which ministers can discuss the proper direction of European activity in that field ;
6. Welcoming the similar position adopted by the Conference of European Ministers with responsibility for Cultural Affairs which, meeting in Athens in October 1978, resolved to exert its influence to ensure better liaison between organisations working in the cultural field in Europe ;
7. Pointing out that member governments have agreed to the setting up within the last five years of significant programmes in education by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the European Communities, and drawing attention to the 1977 proposals of the Commission of the European Communities for a Community action programme in the cultural sector and for the setting up of a European Foundation, and also to ongoing activity of the European Communities in the cultural field ;
8. Regretting, however, that no adequate procedure yet exists whereby the point of view of the wider Europe, as represented in the Council of Europe, can be taken into account in the elaboration of such proposals of the European Communities and their adoption ;

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1. Assembly debate on 30 January 1979 (20th Sitting) (see [Doc. 4214](#), report of the Committee on Culture and Education). Text adopted by the Assembly on 30 January 1979 (20th Sitting).



9. Recognising that the proposed activities of the European Communities in the cultural sector can be derived from obligations contained in the Treaty of Rome, but anxious that such activities do not interfere with the wider interests of all Council of Europe member states, and that other activities of the European Communities in the cultural field be, wherever possible, open to the twenty-two states adhering to the European Cultural Convention ;
10. Welcoming the positive discussions that have taken place between representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Commission of the European Communities, and the possibilities for closer association with the Commission in the planning and implementation of future activities of the European Communities in the cultural field ;
11. Deciding, through its Committee on Culture and Education, to maintain the relationship established with the Commission of the European Communities and to develop with the appropriate committees of the European Parliament a dialogue, which, whilst recognising the respective roles of the two assemblies, would seek to prevent any overlap, duplication or contradictions in the cultural field,
12. Recommends that the Committee of Ministers :
  - 12.1. reassert the European Cultural Convention as the primary basis of European activity in the cultural field ;
  - 12.2. pursue closer contacts with the specialised ministers with competence in the cultural field (education, culture and sport), both within member governments and in the periodic conferences of such ministers, in order to maintain such liaison and balance of activity between existing organisations as is satisfactory to all member states ;
  - 12.3. endeavour to ensure that, if a European Foundation is instituted :
    - a. the Council of Europe is effectively represented on its Governing Board ;
    - b. the Foundation's activities contribute to cultural co-operation throughout Europe and are not limited to member states of the European Communities ;
  - 12.4. make every effort to ensure that a higher budgetary priority is accorded to cultural activity in the Council of Europe ;
  - 12.5. make every effort to ensure that a higher budgetary priority is accorded to cultural activity in the Council of Europe ;