Recommendation 872 (1979)[1]

Industrial archaeology

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. . Having considered the report of its Committee on Culture and Education on industrial archaeology (Doc. 4357) ;

2. Noting the scientific, aesthetic and sociological interest in the subject ;

3. Believing that modern society can, through the study of its industrial heritage, reach a deeper understanding of its immediate origins and many of its present social and industrial problems ;

4. Stressing the need for the individual to see his role in an increasingly industrialised world as something more than a simple cog in a machine ;

5. Welcoming the initiative taken recently, especially by the private and commercial sectors, in preserving evidence of Europe's industrial past, but regretting the absence in most countries of any co-ordinated or structural approach ;

6. Believing that it is necessary for the state and local authorities to assist more actively in the recording of the industrial heritage, in the selection, preservation and maintenance of industrial monuments and objects, and in the proper documentation, analysis and presentation of the continuing industrial record ;

7. Believing that it is the particular role of the Council of Europe to explore new fields of European co-operation, and that industrial archaeology, at present developing differently in member states, presents an ideal subject for constructive interdisciplinary co-operation,

8. Recommends that the Committee of Ministers :

8.1. arrange for an interdisciplinary group of governmental experts drawn from the appropriate steering committees :

a. to establish a workable definition of the precise goals of industrial archaeology in member states ;

b. to propose means for the inventory and classification of the industrial heritage ;

c. to co-ordinate analysis of the industrial record in full co-operation with existing national and international research in this field ;

8.2. call on member governments :

a. to provide greater financial assistance for the preservation of industrial monuments, and, by direct or indirect means, to assist private and commercial initiatives ;

b. to ensure that conservation legislation is, where necessary, extended to include significant monuments of the recent industrial past, and that a fairer weighting is given to industrial monuments ;

1. See Doc. 4357, report of the Committee on Culture and Education. Text adopted by the Standing Committee, acting on behalf of the Assembly, on 28 June 1979.

c. to encourage the preparation of suitable educational material in this field for young people ;

d. to encourage and facilitate, where appropriate, similar action by local authorities.