Recommendation 892 (1980)[1]

Co-operation with UNESCO

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Reaffirming the democratic values of member states as reflected in the Statute of the Council of Europe :

2. Believing that these values, which relate to the fundamental dignity of man to human rights and to freedom of individual thought and expression, can apply as much to the rest of the world as within Europe ;

3. Welcoming the inclusion of a world dimension in the presentation of the medium-term plan for the intergovernmental work of the Council of Europe ;

4. Recalling its Resolutions 637 (1976) and 683 (1978), on co-operation with UNESCO ;

5. Noting the draft programme-budget for UNESCO for 1981-83, and welcoming the report of its Committee on Culture and Education (doc. 4528) ;

6. Underlining the responsibility of parliamentary representatives at both European and national levels to follow closely the activities of UNESCO and, where appropriate, to participate actively in them ;

7. Welcoming the importance attached by UNESCO to its activities that relate to the developing countries, and believing that Council of Europe member states, in the context of North-South co-operation, have a positive contribution to make to these activities ;

8. Calling attention to the very similar problems that exist for migrants and the very poor in the developed countries ;

9. Regretting the interference of political considerations, and in particular those dividing East and West Europe, on the efficacy of UNESCO's activity in the fields of education, science and culture ;

10. Recognising, however, the important role UNESCO performs in providing an open channel for the free movement of persons and ideas between East and West Europe in the context of follow-up to the CSCE ;

11. Having regard to the next session of UNESCO's General Conference, to be held in Belgrade in September 1980,

12. Recommends that the Committee of Ministers :

a. through its competent committees of intergovernmental experts, and in liaison with the permanent representatives of Council of Europe member states in UNESCO, encourage more regular discussion of the activities of UNESCO, with particular regard to the positive contributions that can be made by Council of Europe member states to UNESCO work for the developing countries in such fields as human rights, communication, and cultural development ;

b. seek means of developing the positive relationship between the Council of Europe and UNESCO through closer collaboration on specific technical projects ;

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1. Assembly debate on 23 April 1980 (4th Sitting) (see Doc. 4528. report of the Committee on Culture and Education). Text adopted by the Assembly on 23 April 1980 (4th Sitting).

c. seek reasons from member governments for the non-ratification, where this is the case, of UNESCO conventions, and report back to the Assembly.