



Recommendation 996 (1984)¹

Council of Europe work relating to the media

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Having noted the resolutions on culture and communications technology, and on the distribution of video-cassettes portraying violence and brutality, adopted by the European Ministers responsible for Cultural Affairs in Berlin in May 1984 ;
2. Sharing the ministers' view that "technological innovation, with all the opportunities and dangers it entails, is producing fundamental changes in communication networks, making communications a major vehicle of further economic and cultural development and greater mutual understanding" ;
3. Aware also of "the need to preserve and develop local, regional and national cultural identities at a time when frontiers are being opened up and production systems are being reorganised as a consequence of the introduction of new technologies" ;
4. Recalling its [Recommendation 963 \(1983\)](#) , on cultural and educational means of reducing violence, and
5. [Recommendation 964 \(1983\)](#), on a European award for non-violence, and welcoming the fact that the ministers in Berlin were equally concerned with media violence ;
6. Noting that the ministers for culture meeting within the Council of the European Communities in Luxembourg in June 1984 placed very similar emphasis on the need for concerted European action in the media field ;
7. Noting also the proposals made by the European Parliament in its resolution on the market of violent and horrific video-cassettes ;
8. In consequence therefore regretting all the more the over-cautious response of the Committee of Ministers to Recommendations 963 and 964, regarding the media,
9. Recommends that the Committee of Ministers reconsider this response in the light of the positions adopted in Berlin and Luxembourg, and on the basis of closer co-ordination of the thinking of the Steering Committee for the Mass Media and of the Council for Cultural Co-operation ;
10. Supports the request of the ministers in Berlin for an intensification of co-operation between Council of Europe member states, and stresses in particular the need for action relating to :
 - a. the production and distribution of European programmes ;
 - b. copyright and other legal questions relating to the media ;
 - c. the quality of programme content and measures to regulate the distribution of video-cassettes portraying violence and brutality likely to have a pernicious influence on children and adolescents.

1. *Assembly debate* on 2 and 3 October 1984 (18th, 19th and 20th Sittings) (see [Doc. 5288](#), report of the Committee on Culture and Education). *Text adopted by the Assembly* on 3 October 1984 (20th Sitting).

