Recommendation 1129 (1990)[1]

Structures of European co-operation

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Assembly recalls its Recommendations 1124 and 1126 of 8 May 1990 respectively on relations with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and continuation and enhancement of the CSCE process as well as the replies to them of the Committee of Ministers.

2. It notes with satisfaction from these replies that the ministers decided at their 86th Session (Strasbourg, 10 May 1990) to increase the original 1990 budgetary appropriations by 6,5 million French francs in order to extend and strengthen the Council of Europe's programme of assistance for democratic reform in countries of Central and Eastern Europe, while expressing themselves in favour of stepping up the Council of Europe's means of action and resources from 1991 onwards.

3. The Assembly recalls its proposals concerning the missing ‘‘parliamentary dimension" of CSCE and the organisation of regular special debates with full rights for all non-member states signatories of the Helsinki Final Act, a proposal it subsequently decided to implement experimentally on 26 and 27 September 1990.

4. The Assembly welcomes in this connection the support expressed by the NATO heads of state and government in the London Declaration of 6 July 1990 to support the creation of ‘‘a CSCE parliamentary body, the Assembly of Europe, to be based on the existing Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg".

5. It is aware that after multiple references to the Council of Europe were included in the concluding document of the Conference in Copenhagen - where the Council of Europe Secretariat was, for the first time, present on a national delegation (that of San Marino, holding the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers) - the committee which has been meeting in Vienna since 10 July to prepare the Paris Summit (19-21 November 1990) is working to define the relationship between the Council of Europe and CSCE.

6. The Assembly calls upon the Committee of Ministers, taking account of the enlarged CSCE debate on 26 and 27 September, to avail itself of the opportunity to hold, in the first days of October 1990 in New York, its own preparatory meeting before the November summit, and on this occasion to declare before its colleagues of the other twelve CSCE participating states, its unequivocal support :

6.1. for an autonomous role for the Council of Europe at the summit ;

6.2. for a role for the Council of Europe, over the full range of its activities, with special reference to the fields most discussed at the Copenhagen Conference on the Human Dimension, namely in connection with :

a. an enhanced human rights implementation mechanism ;

b. protection of the rights of national minorities, in the context of new procedures likely to be proposed for the peaceful settlement of disputes ;

1. Assembly debate on 28 September 1990 (10th Sitting) (see Doc. 6287, report of the Political Affairs Committee, Rapporteur : Mr Soares Costa). Text adopted by the Assembly on 28 September 1990 (10th Sitting).

6.3. for the principle that the Parliamentary Assembly at Strasbourg should be the basis for an ‘‘Assembly of Europe'', constituting a forum for debate on all fields of activity for which the CSCE will retain competence, as well as being the natural interlocutor of ministers and of any future CSCE secretariat.