Resolution 531 (1972)[1]

Freedom of expression and the role of the artist in society

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Emphasising that freedom of expression is an inalienable right in every truly democratic society ;

2. Considering that the rapid development of the communications media lends a new dimension to the artist's role, and thus responsibility, vis-à-vis society ;

3. Believing that cultural policy must guarantee the artist's freedom of expression and protect his independence ;

4. Believing that the artist is an essential element in the framing and application of any cultural policy ;

5. Desirous of paying particular attention to the problems raised by artistic creativity in the member States,

6. Decides :

a. to direct its Committee on Culture and Education to organise a symposium on freedom of expression and the role of the artist in European society ;

b. to invite to this symposium leading figures from the world of the arts, literature and culture in general, as well as government officials responsible for cultural affairs.

1. Assembly debate on 20 October 1972 (13th Sitting) (see Doc. 3185, report of the Committee on Culture and Education). Text adopted by the Assembly on 20 October 1972 (13th Sitting).