



Resolution 634 (1976)¹

Co-ordination of computer information policies between parliaments in Europe

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Taking into account the report on co-ordination of computer information policies between parliaments in Europe ([Doc. 3837](#)) of its Committee on Science and Technology ;
2. Recalling [Resolution 513 \(1972\)](#), on the use of computers in national parliaments, [Resolution 576 \(1974\)](#), on computer-based aids to parliamentary work, and [Recommendation 789 \(1976\)](#), on the results of the 4th Parliamentary and Scientific Conference ;
3. Noting that no systematic co-ordination of electronic data processing (EDP) policies among parliaments in Europe is taking place, although the need for more co-operation and co-ordination is generally acknowledged ;
4. Noting that the Conference of Speakers of European Parliamentary Assemblies, which regularly examines questions relating to EDP, recently (Bonn, 9-10 July 1976) decided to institute on an experimental basis a system of parliamentary research and documentation ;
5. Expressing the hope that the Council of Europe will be closely associated with and linked to this system through its own terminal, which should later serve as a clearing house for cooperation relating to EDP-based information and exchange ;
6. Expressing its conviction that a full exchange of information among parliaments about their experiences in the field of EDP, and a minimum of co-ordination of any future measures, would be to the advantage of all,
7. Resolves :

to confirm its earlier decision to organise a Round Table in 1977, consisting of data-processing and documentation experts from national parliaments and, where appropriate, from governmental agencies and ministries and international organisations concerned ;

to invite the Round Table to examine the possibility of setting up a clearing house within the Council of Europe with the functions of :

- a. *collecting, evaluating and transmitting reports and project descriptions in the field of EDP ;*
- b. *collecting information on parliamentary and legislative procedures and practices (statutes, structures and functions) in the member states of the Council of Europe ;*

to invite the Round Table to examine furthermore :

- a. *the advisability of holding regular colloquia with computer experts and librarians of national parliaments in the context of the Parliamentary Assembly ;*

1. Assembly debate on 16 September 1976 (10th Sitting) (see [Doc. 3837](#), report of the Committee on Science and Technology). Text adopted by the Assembly on 16 September 1976 (10th Sitting).



- b. *the extent to which the mandate of the above-mentioned clearing house could also include matters on which co-operation already exists between the German federal and regional assemblies (see paragraph 81 of (Doc. 3837) ;*
- c. *how the Council of Europe should be linked to the computerised information system of the European Communities ;*

to call on national parliaments :

- a. *to mention explicitly in national laws when European initiatives (directives, recommendations and resolutions) have been at their origin ;*
- b. *to reach agreements with other parliaments in Europe on mutual access to conventional and computerised information systems concerning the state of national legislation and generally on all matters of common interest ;*
- c. *to participate in any system for exchange of parliamentary research and documentation which the European Parliament may decide to set up on an experimental basis ;*

to instruct its Committee on Science and Technology to report back in case of new developments.