Resolution 649 (1977)

Organisation of a Symposium on the European Social Charter

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Referring to the report of its Committee on Social and Health Questions on the Council of Europe's relations with management and labour (Doc. 3902) ;

2. Considering that it bears a special responsibility by virtue of its participation in the machinery for supervising the application of the European Social Charter ;

3. Observing that, in its twelfth year of application, the Social Charter remains little known to the public in the member states, especially among the sections of the population most concerned ;

4. Regretting that this lack of knowledge is often an obstacle to adequate application of the Charter's provisions, and convinced that the holding of a symposium would help make the circles concerned more familiar with the Charter ;

5. Convinced also that this symposium could improve prospects for accession to the Charter and for the acceptance of more of its provisions, as well as an active participation by management and labour in the supervisory machinery,

6. Resolves :

a. to organise a Symposium on the European Social Charter towards the end of 1977, to be attended in particular by national and international organisations representing workers, employers and the liberal professions, and also a number of experts ;

b. to place on the agenda for this symposium the least widely accepted of the Charter's provisions and those which, although accepted, have given rise to problems in their implementation by the contracting states, for example :

1. the attainment of full employment (Article 1.1),
2. equal pay for men and women workers (Article 4.3),
3. the right to organise (Article 5),
4. the right to bargain collectively (Article 6),
5. the employment of children and adolescents (Article 7.1),
6. the protection of employed women (Article 8.1 and 2),
7. the reunion of migrant workers' families (Article 19.6) ;

c. to instruct its Committee on Social and Health Questions to make the necessary arrangements for organising this symposium and to report back on its outcome ;

d. to invite other committees, in particular the Legal Affairs Committee and the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, to take an appropriate part in the symposium.