



Resolution 696 (1979)¹

Use of data-processing for parliamentary work

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Taking into account the Report and Final Statement of the Round Table ([Doc. 4249](#)) on the Use of Data-Processing for Parliamentary Work, held in Strasbourg on 18-19 May 1978, pursuant to [Resolutions 576 \(1974\)](#) and [634 \(1976\)](#) ;
2. Welcoming the general endorsement given to the Final Statement of the Round Table by the Conference of Presidents of European Parliamentary Assemblies at its meeting in The Hague on 22-24 June 1978 ;
3. Convinced that national and European parliamentary assemblies should be technically equipped to play a more effective role vis-à-vis the executive branches of government both at national and European levels, and to this end should strengthen their information capabilities by having recourse to computer, communications and data-processing technologies ;
4. Sharing the views of the Round Table that :
 - a. data-processing facilities should be made increasingly available for the work of national and European parliamentary assemblies ;
 - b. national and European parliamentary assemblies should have access by means of terminals to the appropriate data banks and networks of the European Communities- and in particular to the Euronet/ Diane network and to the CELEX (legislation) and CRONOS (statistics) data banks, through which the computerised material of the Council of Europe should also be made available ;
 - c. the development of political co-operation in Europe makes it increasingly important for national parliamentary assemblies to have the rapid access which computer technology can provide to the legislations of and to information on each other's countries ;
5. Noting with satisfaction the development of the activities of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation, established under the auspices of the Conference of Presidents of European Parliamentary Assemblies, and in particular its setting-up of five working parties on data-processing, libraries, research, microfiche recording, and thesauri and terminology,
6. Resolves :
 - 6.1. to continue to work for the introduction of data-processing technology in national and European parliamentary assemblies ;
 - 6.2. to convene, with a view to the co-ordination of parliamentary data-processing policies throughout Europe, further meetings between parliamentarians and experts to discuss information policies and exchange information on new documentation systems ;

1. See [Doc. 4312](#), report of the Committee on Science and Technology. Text adopted by the Standing Committee, acting on behalf of the Assembly, on 28 June 1979.



- 6.3. to call on national parliaments :
 - a. to undertake feasibility studies, if they have not already done so, on the introduction of data-processing facilities, paying due regard to the agreed minimum standards for computer-based aids for parliamentary work of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation ;
 - b. to develop systems, following the example of the GESTA system of the German Bundestag, showing the status of national legislations and indicating when legislation has its origin in European initiatives ;
 - c. to secure and improve access to governmental and appropriate outside data bases, and in particular to arrange for access to the data banks and networks of the European Communities ;
 - d. to reach agreement on minimum standards for methods of documentation, and in particular for the preparation of indices and thesauri ;
 - e. to call on the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation :
 - a. to intensify the activities of its working party on data-processing ;
 - b. to make specific proposals, with a view to their presentation to the Madrid 1980 Conference of Presidents of European Parliamentary Assemblies, for the setting-up of an advisory body to the Centre composed of parliamentarians and information specialists ;
- 6.4. to call on the European Parliament to cooperate closely with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in building up computer-based information services with a common vocabulary for the indexing and computerisation of their respective texts.