Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Resolution 946 (1990)[1]
Final version

Situation in Andorra

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Having been informed of the results of the fact-finding visit made to Andorra by four of its members from 27 to 29 April 1989 ;

2. Stressing that, for geographical, historical and cultural reasons, Andorra is an integral part of Western Europe ;

3. Recalling that during the second world war the Andorran authorities and population made Andorra a country of asylum, thus helping to save many lives ;

4. Taking note of the profound changes - coupled with unprecedented economic growth - undergone by Andorra's economic and social structures over the past three decades ;

5. Aware of the originality and complexity of Andorra's institutions, to which the vast majority of the population remains deeply attached because they are a basic component of its identity ;

6. Convinced that the institutional reforms undertaken in 1981 match the population's wish for the conferment of wider powers on the General Council of the Valleys and the Executive Council, and hence for the gradual assertion of the sovereignty of the people ;

7. Expressing the wish that the reforms should be carried out by mutual agreement between the co-Princes and the General Council of the Valleys, and should mark a qualitative step forward both in terms of the sovereignty of the people and from the standpoint of legal certainty ;

8. Noting that the present electoral system is designed to permit the representation of the principality's ‘‘parishes", but does not ensure the adequate representation of the Andorran electorate ;

9. Taking note with satisfaction of the Act on the Rights of the Individual of 29 March 1989, which incorporates into the principality's legal order the fundamental rights of the individual as laid downin the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of10 December 1948 ;

10. Stressing the need for the adoption of appropriate laws, in accordance with Section 2 of the above-mentioned Act, in order to ensure that all the rights embodied in the declaration are effectively respected ;

11. Concerned in particular at the problems surrounding freedom of association (political parties and trade unions) as well as labour law and social legislation ;

12. Aware that most of these problems can gradually be solved only through a policy of integrating foreign residents,

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1. Assembly debate on 11 May 1990 (8th Sitting) (see Doc. 6146, report of the Political Affairs Committee, Rapporteurs: MM. Pontillon and de Puig). Text adopted by the Assembly on 11 May 1990 (8th Sitting).

13. Invites the co-Princes and the General Council of the Valleys :

13.1. to consider the usefulness of adopting a written Constitution laying down the rights and freedoms of citizens as defined in international treaties on the protection of human rights, as well as submitting it for adoption by the Andorran people in a referendum ;

13.2. to extend and broaden the institutional reforms initiated by the decree of 15 January 1981, in the framework of that Constitution, so as to bring about a gradual transfer of responsibilities to the General Council of the Valleys and the Executive Council for the purpose of making them the true parliament and government of the principality, endowed with appropriate legislative powers ;

13.3. to reform the present electoral law in order to ensure the adequate representation of the Andorran population ;

13.4. to ease the rules on the acquisition of Andorran nationality, in order to secure the progressive integration of foreign residents while preserving the principality's national identity and cultural personality ;

13.5. to implement Section 2 of the Act on the Rights of the Individual of 29 March 1989 as soon as possible by introducing legislation on the various civic rights, providing, in particular, for freedom of association ;

13.6. to endeavour to bring labour law and social legislation into line with European standards.