Resolution 993 (1993)[1]

General policy of the Council of Europe

Parliamentary Assembly

1. In Recommendation 1193 (1992) on the future of European construction, the Assembly stressed the need to adapt the Council of Europe to the new situation created by the changes that have taken place in Europe.

2. A new policy should be defined to allow the Council of Europe to assume fully its pan- European role, particularly since the opening of the Organisation to central and east European countries is leading to the admission of a number of new members.

3. The Assembly endorses the position of the Committee of Ministers that states having applied for Council of Europe membership should be gradually involved in the Organisation's activities pending a decision on their request.

4. It considers that its own parliamentary co-operation programme forms an integral part of this involvement.

5. It expresses its firm belief that, in the context of the new Europe, the Council of Europe's own role as the guarantor of democracy should be reinforced.

6. The Assembly considers that it should not only examine the situation in states having applied for membership, but that it has a duty regularly to monitor the human rights and democratic and cultural development situation in all member states as well as in states whose legislative assemblies hold special guest status.

7. The Assembly reaffirms that the Council of Europe is the organisation best placed to develop international legal instruments regarding the protection of minorities as well as on combating racism and xenophobia and protecting social and economic rights in the new democracies.

8. The Assembly will continue to take a close interest in the proper establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly of the CSCE to ensure that the work of both assemblies remains complementary, and to avoid any unnecessary duplication.

9. The Assembly welcomes the readiness of the Committee of Ministers to establish a close cooperation for the preparation of the summit of heads of state and government of member states, to be held in Vienna on 8 and 9 October 1993.

10. It considers that this summit provides a singular opportunity to give the Organisation political impetus, and to adapt its terms of reference to the challenges of the new Europe. This adaptation should include institutional reforms to strengthen the democratic character of the Organisation.

11. It also considers that this summit is a unique chance to strengthen human rights at European level in two ways : firstly, through the adoption of a protocol on the rights of national minorities to the European Convention on Human Rights ; and secondly, through an increase in the effectiveness of the existing legal machinery for the protection of human rights, including the setting up of transitional machinery for the protection of human rights in European states which are not members of the Council of Europe.

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1. Assembly debate on 3 February 1993 (25th Sitting) (see Doc. 6744, report of the Political Affairs Committee, Rapporteur : Mr Szent-Iványi). Text adopted by the Assembly on 3 February 1993 (25th Sitting).

12. The Assembly will endeavour to make specific proposals on the themes that will be on the summit's agenda. It expects that its president will be given the opportunity to present these at the summit itself.