



Recommendation 1411 (1999)¹

Relations with the United Nations

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Assembly recalls its Recommendations 1252 (1994) on the relations between the Council of Europe and the United Nations and 1367 (1998) on the reform of the United Nations, aiming, in particular, at promoting co-operation between the two organisations.
2. Reiterating the validity of the proposals contained in these recommendations, the Assembly regrets that the Committee of Ministers has not given any substantial follow-up to them, mainly as regards recognising the Council of Europe's status as a regional organisation in the meaning of the United Nations Charter, presenting a common position of the Council of Europe member states in the United Nations General Assembly and ensuring Council of Europe representation at the United Nations.
3. The Assembly considers that the current developments in Kosovo and the inability of the UN Security Council to force the Serb and Yugoslav authorities to abide by its relevant resolutions clearly demonstrate the need for a more active role for regional organisations in preventing and solving conflicts.
4. In this connection, the Council of Europe, by providing a legal framework for the protection of human rights and supervising the monitoring of the obligations and commitments stemming from membership of the Organisation, can contribute effectively to strengthening democratic security in Europe.
5. The Assembly underlines that the Council of Europe can also substantially contribute to the work of the United Nations in fields where its expertise is well recognised, in particular as regards building pluralistic democracies based on the rule of law and respect for human rights.
6. Accordingly, the Assembly re-affirms the necessity to step up the co-operation between the Council of Europe and the United Nations with a view to making better use of available resources and avoiding duplication.
7. The Assembly considers it essential that a debate on co-operation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe be included on the agenda of the 1999 United Nations General Assembly.
8. The Assembly stresses the need to ensure increased parliamentary participation in the work of the United Nations and welcomes, in this context, the increasing co-operation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.
9. The Parliamentary Assembly recommends that the Committee of Ministers:
 - 9.1. hold a prior debate on questions of high importance to the Council of Europe which are on the agenda of the UN General Assembly with a view to adopting a common position to be presented in the United Nations General Assembly and its committees by its chairman's representative, in preference from the observer seat attributed to the Council of Europe in the General Assembly;
 - 9.2. ensure the presence of a Council of Europe representative at the UN General Assembly when questions of high importance for the Council of Europe are discussed;

1. Assembly debate on 21 June 1999 (17th Sitting) (see [Doc. 8431](#), report of the Political Affairs Committee, rapporteur: Mrs Severinsen). Text adopted by the Assembly on 21 June 1999 (17th Sitting).



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9.3. asks its chairman to:

- a. formally propose that the item "co-operation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe" be included on the agenda of the 1999 session of the United Nations General Assembly and for all subsequent sessions;
- b. instruct its representative with the United Nations

to ensure co-ordination and consultations among the Council of Europe member states' representatives in New York on questions of high importance to the Council of Europe which are on the agenda of the General Assembly, with a view to presenting a common position on such issues;

to provide material assistance to representatives of the Council of Europe participating in the work of the UN General Assembly;

to provide assistance in distributing selected Council of Europe documents in the form of UN General Assembly documents;

9.4. encourage and further develop co-operation between the Council of Europe and various bodies and specialised agencies of the United Nations;

9.5. call on member states to increase the participation of parliamentarians in their national delegation to the UN General Assembly