



## Recommendation 1491 (2001)<sup>1</sup>

Final version

# Federal Republic of Yugoslavia – recent developments

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Assembly refers to its [Resolution 1237 \(2001\)](#) on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia – recent developments.
2. It notes the good co-operation existing between the Council of Europe and the other international organisations, particularly the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).
3. The Assembly reiterates that, following the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's application for membership of the Council of Europe, the Council is bound to assist the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in fulfilling the necessary conditions. Consequently, the Assembly believes that the member states should provide, as a priority, funding for Council of Europe activities aimed at reinforcing democratic institutions, human rights and the rule of law in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.
4. In this context, the Assembly is pleased to see that a conference on the functioning of media in a democratic society was organised jointly by the Council of Europe and the network of independent radio and television stations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (ANEM) on 11 and 12 December 2000.
5. The Assembly recommends that the Committee of Ministers:
  - i. draw up and fund co-operation programmes aimed at reinforcing democratic institutions, human rights and the rule of law in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, particularly in the fields of the judiciary, education, combating corruption and organised crime, and combating intolerance and racism;
  - ii. issue a further invitation to the member states to provide massive and rapid humanitarian assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and encourage them to contribute to the stabilisation of the situation in the country, particularly in southern Serbia;
  - iii. invite member states and the United States of America to actively support the genuinely voluntary return of refugees from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by increased financing of reconstruction of the whole region and return-related projects within the framework of the Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe;
  - iv. follow up the conference organised in December on the functioning of media in a democratic society and support media reform;
  - v. back the conference for the promotion of multicultural society in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, organised by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Federal Ministry for Minorities and Ethnic Communities, which will take place in Belgrade on 2 and 3 February 2001;
  - vi. give full support to the Conference on Compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights and other European Standards, organised in conjunction with the federal authorities, the competent authorities of Serbia and Montenegro and non-governmental human rights organisations, which will

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1. Assembly debate on 23 January 2001 (3rd Sitting) (see [Doc. 8928](#), report of the Political Affairs Committee, rapporteur: Mr Frey, and [Doc. 8942](#), opinion of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography, rapporteur: Mr Iwiński). Text adopted by the Assembly on 23 January 2001 (3rd Sitting).



*Recommendation 1491 (2001)*

take place on 16 and 17 February 2001. This conference, which will launch a substantial programme to reform the legislation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, represents a major event in co-operation between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Council of Europe;

- vii. find the necessary resources to ensure that this conference is followed up;
- viii. fully support the work of NGOs like the Humanitarian Law Center, the Helsinki Committee on Human Rights in Serbia, the Center for Cultural Decontamination, the Women in Black, in Belgrade, and the League of Albanian Women in Pristina, which are trying to start a process of reconciliation between Serbs and Albanians from Kosovo;
- ix. participate in work on restoring the federal parliament building, which was badly damaged on 5 October 2000, a date that truly marked the changing of the country's regime. A financial contribution to this restoration would be a powerful symbol of the Council of Europe's determination to participate, in all spheres, in the rebirth of democracy in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.