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Role of the Council of Europe in the economic field

taking account, in accordance with Articles 1 (c) and 23 (6) of the Statute, of existing international organisations

Conclusions¹

Parliamentary Assembly

1. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

1.1. PREAMBLE

1. The Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, pledging itself to promote a policy of full employment and a rising standard of life, warns the peoples of Europe that millions among us will soon go hungry and unemployed unless we act at once to re-establish the economic equilibrium between Europe and North America.
2. The most urgent task is to pay for the food and raw materials which at present have to be bought in North America. The necessary dollars can only be found if a fresh effort is made on both sides of the Atlantic. The countries of Europe must increase their productivity and reduce their costs and selling prices, so as to adapt themselves to the hard facts of the post war world. On their side, the U. S. A., which recognises the need for Europe to sell more to them, should encourage these imports by every possible means and in particular by lowering its customs tariffs.
3. The free nations of Europe can do much to save themselves by mutual help. Together with their overseas associates and territories they represent a population which, as regards numbers and skill, is the equal of any other population in the world. If the peoples of Europe are weak to-day, it is because they are divided, but if they have the vision and courage to unite their markets, they can lower their costs and selling prices, sell more to each other and more than recover their lost prosperity.
4. The economic union of free Europe should not create an exclusive trading area. On the contrary, the door would be open to the exchange of goods and services of fair terms with all the world.
5. The economic union of free Europe should not create an exclusive trading area. On the contrary, the door would be open to the exchange of goods and services of fair terms with all the world.
6. This union would include the free circulation of men, goods and capital. It implies the rapid establishment of a multilateral system of payments, leading to the restoration of convertibility of European currencies with one another, subject to the safeguards, necessary to enable movements of capital to be controlled during the transitional period.

1. Adopted 5th September on the conclusion of the Debate. See: Doc. Nos. 10-13, 15, 18, 19, 21, 22, 27-29, Motions; No. 30, Report; Nos. 31-5G, Amendments; No. 64, Text of the Report as amended by the Assembly and Official Reports Nos. 10, 11, 13, 14 and 15.



7. The building up of such a union of free peoples implies central planning, combined with a maximum degree of individual liberty. The central planning must be by consent, and the liberty must be used for the good of all.

1.2. I. PROPOSALS FOR ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY THE MEMBER STATES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND ALSO BETWEEN THE LATTER AND OTHER NATIONS

The Consultative Assembly requests the Committee of Ministers:

1. To invite the Governments to intensify the spread of economic information through existing channels and at the same time to provide for the Council of Europe itself to take direct action by every available means to make the peoples of Europe aware of the gravity of the peril in which they are living, and of the advantages to themselves of uniting their resources in a common effort to regain solvency and reach a new level of prosperity.
2. To take all practical steps to establish as quickly as possible a multilateral system of payments, including the restoration of the inter-convertibility of European currencies, subject to the safeguards necessary to enable the movement of capital to be controlled during the transitional period.
3. To create permanent machinery for consultation on credit policy between central banks of issue, and for the co-ordination of credit policy.
4. :
 - a. To follow up and extend both the work of O. E. E. C. in liberalising inter-European trade, and all studies now being made in regard to the economic relations of Europe and its overseas associates and territories;
 - b. To take all preliminary action for the establishment of a European economic union, which shall retain the preferential systems and economic ties now in existence between certain European nations and the overseas countries and territories associated with them; and to consider their progressive extension to the other Member States of this union.
 - c. To study the development of production within the territories of the members of the conference so that their individual import requirements may be met as efficiently as possible from their combined resources.
 - d. To study appropriate action for the progressive abolition of the obstacles to the free movement of men and for promoting the widest possible employment of labour in the metropolitan and overseas territories of Member States and of their associates.
 - e. To study the conditions under which the investment in their territories of American and other non-European capital could be encouraged.
 - f. To extend and develop a system of guaranteed markets.
 - g. To call an economic conference, representing themselves and their overseas associates and territories, in order to study the above Proposals.
5. To call as soon as possible, industrial conferences representing both employers', workers' and consumers' organisations, as well as government services interested in the main manufacturing and agricultural industries, in order to make concrete Proposals to the Assembly on the organisation of these industries and the increase in their productivity in the common interests of Europe.
6. To draw up a draft European convention for the control of international cartels, which it will present to the Assembly.

1.3. II. The Consultative Assembly also requests the Committee of Ministers:

- a. To submit to it Proposals to meet the Recommendations made above together with a Report on the progress made on these subjects since the Ordinary Session of the Consultative Assembly;
- b. After the Consultative Assembly has considered these Proposals, to nominate a delegation from the Council of Europe which shall enter into negotiations with the Government of the United States of America and with any other Government concerned, in order to express the common policy of the

Member States and to seek through joint agreement the modifications which should be made to existing treaties, and in particular the action to be taken in the matter of lowering customs tariffs in the United States so as to allow of the development of European exports to that country.

1.4. III. PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC QUESTIONS

1. The Consultative Assembly shall decide:
 - a. That the Committee on Economic Questions may sit in the interval between Sessions;
 - b. That it may split into specialised. sub-Committees;
 - c. That these sub-Committees may hear evidence from experts on their own subjects.
2. The Consultative Assembly shall request its President to make contact with the Secretariat of U. N. O., of O. E. E. C. and B. I. S. in order to have access to all documents of O. E. E. C, the Economic Commission for Europe, and B. I.S., and to arrange for the international and national officers of these two organisations to be heard by the Committee on Economic Questions, should the Committee so desire.
3. The Appendix to this Report sets out those questions referred to the Committee on Economic Questions by the Committee of Ministers and by Members of the Consultative Assembly which the Committee has decided should be the subject of study by its sub-Committees.
4. Part III of this Report shall, if necessary, be redrafted so as to conform to any decisions which may be taken with regard to the setting up of a Standing Committee.

Appendix

1. The Committee on Economic Questions has set up four sub-Committees:
 - a. Finance and Currency;
 - b. Commercial Policy;
 - c. Industry, Agriculture and Food;
 - d. Public Works.
2. In addition the Commission has appointed a rapporteur for the study of a European Office of Patents.
3. The following subjects raised by Members of the Consultative Assembly in Resolutions submitted to the Committee have been sent for study to sub-Committees.

A. Finance and Currency sub-Committee

- a. A common currency for the Member States of the Council of Europe;
- b. A European Reserve Bank;
- c. A European Bank for investments;
- d. Co-ordination of investments;
- e. A European clearing system.

B. Commercial Policy sub-Committee

- a. Liberalisation of inter-European trade;
- b. Development of exchanges with the countries of Eastern Europe by means of special agreements between Member States;
- c. Issuing of a European postage stamp;
- d. Development of the Tourist Industry in Europe.

C. Industry, Agriculture and Food sub-Committee

- a. The coal industry of the Ruhr;
- b. Co-ordination of transport, steel and power;
- c. Development and co-ordination of production and improvement in distribution of agricultural products.