Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
https://pace.coe.int

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Doc. 573
22 October 1956

Procedure for co-ordinationg the cultural activities of the Council of Europe and W.E.U.

Report[1]
Committee on Culture, Science and Education
Rapporteur: Mr Nigel NICOLSON, United Kingdom

1. 1956 - 8th Session - Second part

A. Draft Recommendation

The Assembly,

Having regard to Recommendation 73 (1955);

Having regard to Resolution (51) 62 of the Committee of Ministers on the concluding of partial agreements;

Having regard to Article 3 of the European Cultural Convention, ratified by ten member countries of the Council of Europe, of which six are Members of Western European Union, providing that "the Contracting Parties shall consult with one another within the framework of the Council of Europe with a view to concerted action in promoting cultural activities of European interest";

Considering that all Members of W. E. U. are also Members of the Council of Europe;

Considering that the present cultural activities of both the Council of Europe and . W . E. U. are directed towards the same goal and inspired by the same political motives,

Recommends to the Committee of Ministers :

that it prepare as soon as possible a plan for the distribution of activities among the various European institutions;

that, in so doing, it take into account the following proposals relating to the cultural tasks of W. E. U. and the Council of Europe.

1. It is desirable that eventually all cultural activities undertaken in Europe at intergovernmental level be carried out within the framework of the Council of Europe in accordance with Article 3 of the European Cultural Convention.

2. In view of the existence now of two different agencies engaged in these activities, it would be advisable for them to be brought in to line by successive stages with a view to their ultimate amalgamation.

(a) First Stage

The WEU committees of experts on cultural matters should immediately join with the experts of countries which are not Members of W. E, U. and who sit on the corresponding committees of the Council of Europe, in examining the possibility of introducing within the framework of the Council of Europe those activities of W. E. U. which have been proved fruitful in previous years.

(b) Second Stage

After a short period of experiment in the first stage every new proposal in the cultural field, initiated by either the Council of Europe or by W. E. U., shall be examined in the first place by the committees of experts of the Council of Europe.

If it is found impossible to carry out a new project in the wider framework of the Council of Europe, it shall next be considered whether it is possible to carry it out on the basis of a partial agreement among a limited number of the countries of the Council of Europe.

If no other members outside W. E. U. are willing to join in the project, it could be carried out within the framework of W. E. U. alone.

(c) Third Stage

Depending on the success of the first and second stages all activities in the cultural field shall take place within the framework of the Council of Europe.

At this final stage those projects in which some but not all member countries wish to participate will be carried out by the interested countries on the basis of partial agreements.

B. I I . Explanatory Memorandum

1. At t h e opening of t h e c u r r e n t p a r t of t h e Session t h e S t a n d i n g Committee referred to t h e Committee on Cultural and Scientific Questions a motion for a Recommendation s u b m i t t e d by M. E r l e r a n d others, proposing t h a t the cultural activities of W. E. U. be r e g a r d e d as being based upon p a r t i a l agreem e n t s concluded w i t h i n t h e framework of t he Council of E u r o p e (Doc. 554).

2. Your C o m m i t t e e s t u d i e d t h i s proposal a t t e n t i v e l y in the light of the debate in t h e W E U Assembly on October 11th 1956, a n d of t h e r e p o r t on t h e r e l a t i o n s b e t w e e n the C o n s u l t a t i v e Assembly and t h e W E U Assemb l y , p r e s e n t e d on behalf of t h e Bureau by M. Kiesinger (Doc. 541), in which he makes a f u r t h e r urgent appeal to t h e Ministers, " to d r aw u p w i t h i n t h i s one-year p e r i o d—a n d a t t he h i g h e s t level—a plan for t h e d i s t r i b u t i o n of work b e t w e e n t h e v a r i o u s E u r o p e a n organisat i o n s ".

3. Your Committee t h o u g h t it advisable n o t t o l a y down a n y r e a d y - m a d e s o l u t i o n on a m a t t e r of such i m p o r t a n c e , but to modify M. E r l e r ' s original R e c o m m e n d a t i o n b y suggesti n g a p r o c e d u r e which might be followed in t he single field of c u l t u r a l r e l a t i o n s , if t h e Assembly a n d t h e Ministers agreed on t h e need for closer c o l l a b o r a t i o n b e t w e e n W. E. U. a n d t h e Council of Europe.

4. Your Committee therefore s u b m i t s the p r e s e n t draft, which suggests a s t e p - b y - s t ep convergence of t h e c u l t u r a l a c t i v i t i e s of W. E. U. a n d of t h e Council of E u r o p e . It in no way concerns t h e s e t t l e m e n t of r e l a t i o n s between t h e two Assemblies which is u n d e r discussion b e t w e e n their Bureaux. Moreover, whatever decision t h e Assembly m a y t a k e on t h i s exper i m e n t in t h e c u l t u r a l field, it will have no affect upon t h e existing r e l a t i o n s h i p between W. E. U. and t h e Council of E u r o p e in other fields, as, for example, the field of social a c t i v i t i e s .

1.