



**Doc. 810**  
25 April 1958

## Activities of Western European Union in the cultural field

### Report

#### 1. I Chapter VIII of the Third Annual Report of the Council of Western European Union to the Assembly of W. E. U.

##### **1.1. VIII. ACTIVITIES OF W. E. U. IN THE CULTURAL FIELD**

The terms of reference of the modified Brussels Treaty as far as they concern cultural co-operation have to be borne in mind for a clear judgement of the achievements and programme of work contained in this Chapter: the cultural experts take particular care to ensure that their programme remains always practical and constructive and does not duplicate other international efforts in the same domain.

In fact, their work continues to be a stimulus to projects for cultural co-operation in larger international organisations and a great deal has been learned from experience gained among this limited number of countries with a similar background, heritage and related interests. It is possible not only to pursue and extend co-operation which has been proved to be fruitful, but to eliminate projects which are found to be difficult to realise in practice. The existence of this homogeneous group within larger organisations has again contributed in no small measure to the wider development of cultural relations.

For practical purposes, the cultural activities of the Organisation are referred to under the headings of the Cultural Committee and its subordinate bodies: the European Universities Committee, the Education, Youth and Cinema Sub-Committees.

The Diagram which follows shows the general administrative outline of WEU Cultural Activities. Immediately after will be found the Cultural Calendar, a summary of the meetings of committees, groups and working parties and of the courses which took place during the past year according to a carefully planned rotation system. Each country and each national delegation has thus an opportunity to contribute in turn and in its own way to the general cause. The courses organised by the various committees also follow this same system of decentralised rotation which gives to the WEU cultural activities their co-operative and empirical character.

##### **1.2. 1957 CULTURAL CALENDAR**

9th January

Meeting of the "Working Party on Publications (London).

10th-11th January

Meeting of the Bureau of the European Universities Committee (London).

17th-19th January

Working Party with O.E.E.C. on Shortage of Scientists (Paris)

25th February

Meeting of the Steering Committee for the Dijon Conference (Dijon).



27th February-1st March

Meeting of the Working Party on Physical Education and Sport (Brussels).

24th-25th April

Meeting of the Working Party on Educational Films (The Hague).

26th April

Meeting of the Contacts Committee (The Hague).

27th-29th April

Meeting of the Cinema Sub-Committee (The Hague).

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May Youth course on " Aesthetic training outside school " (Italy).

15th-17th May

Meeting of the Cultural Committee {Strasbourg).

22nd May

Meeting of the Working Party on Publications (Paris).

23rd-24th May

Meeting of the Bureau of the European Universities Committee (Paris).

27th-29th May

Meeting of the Youth Sub-Committee (Bonn).

24th-25th June

Meeting of t h e Working Party on Schoollinking (Paris).

2nd September

Meeting of the Steering Committee for the Dijon Conference (The Hague).

2nd September

Meeting of the Working Party on Publications (The Hague).

3rd-6th September

Meeting of the European Universities Committee (The Hague).

17th-26th September

Teachers course on " Art, music and poetry in school " (United Kingdom).

6th-8th October

Course for Cultural Committee delegates on " Theifpadministration of Italian cultural relations^|with the other countries " (Rome).

8th-10th October

Meeting of the Cultural Committee (Rome).

8th-10th October

Meeting of the Cultural Committee (Rome).

11th-19th October

Youth course on " Traffic education for the young " (Germany).

16th-29th October

Inspectors course on " Audio-visual aids in teaching " (Germany).

21st-29th October

Youth course on " Physical exercise and sport for handicapped children " (France).

6th-8th November

Meeting of the Youth Sub-Committee (Rome).

22nd-23rd November

Meeting of the Steering Committee for the Dijon Conference with the Chairmen of the Working Parties for the Dijon Conference (Brussels).

25th-26th November

Meeting of the Working Party on Educational Films (Brussels).

27th November

Meeting of the Contacts Committee (Brussels).

28th-30th November

Meeting of the Cinema Sub-Committee (Brussels).

9th-12th December

Meeting of the Working Party on Camping (Paris).

### *1.2.1. CULTURAL COMMITTEE AND CULTURAL RELATIONS*

#### *Meetings*

During the period under consideration, the Cultural Committee has held its usual two sessions: a short spring session in May in Strasbourg and the main autumn session in Rome in October. As usual, the latter was preceded by a course on the administration of the host Government's cultural relations with the other member countries. This was the fourth such course, previous ones having been organised in London, Paris and Bonn, forming a kind of synthesis of cultural relations within the WEU countries. The next course in this series will be held in the Netherlands in October 1958.

#### *Cultural Relations*

The Cultural Committee, as previously, held an informal exchange of views at its meetings concerning the co-ordination of international cultural activities in its own and other international organisations. In this way, they have continued to ensure that no avoidable duplication of effort occurs. The exchange of observers and documents, according to previous agreements, has continued during the year. Details of practical co-operation between W. E. U. and organisations such as the Council of Europe, UNESCO, N. A. T. O., O. E. E. C, etc., on specific subjects, will be found under the various committee headings below.

During the year, the Committee has carried out an exhaustive study of the 'Brussels Appeal' submitted by the Intergroupe sénatorial belge des intérêts intellectuels. The results of this study have already been communicated to the Assembly in the Council's Reply to Recommendation. No. 13. They indicate how far the cultural programme of W. E. U. and other international organisations meet the requirements of the Appeal. Further consideration is being given to one of the points to which particular attention had been drawn, namely the conclusion of a multilateral cultural convention.

The Cultural Committee and the film experts have followed with interest the work of the UNESCO meeting of experts which met in Geneva in October on the free circulation of cultural material, a subject which has preoccupied the cultural experts since they first met. Much of the background work for the drawing up of the UNESCO convention on this subject was done by the experts of W. E. U. and their views were clearly put forward at the Geneva conference.

## 1.2.2. EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES COMMITTEE

### *Meetings*

The European Universities Committee has continued to hold annual meetings and its third session took place at The Hague in September 1957. This occasion was a halfway point between the full Conference of European University Rectors and Vice-Chancellors held in Cambridge in July 1955 and the second full Conference which, it has now been agreed, will take place in Dijon in September 1959. The work of the Committee is being pursued in three main directions: preparation for the Dijon Conference ; promotion of closer collaboration between universities ; and the establishment of collaboration with other international bodies.

### *Dijon Conference*

It has been decided that the Dijon Conference should be devoted to two main themes, which have been defined as " Problems raised by the Shortage of Scientists and Technologists " and " Studies relating to Europe in the Universities ". The latter theme will be approached from two angles, with special reference to the humanities and to the social and economic sciences. Working Parties have now been established and will make a preparatory study of these subjects during 1958 with the object of presenting reports and recommendations to the Conference. In setting up these Working Parties, the Committee has called on the services of a number of experts in the field of industry and scientific administration, as well as on Rectors and Professors in universities.

The Council have welcomed the desire of the Assembly Committee<sup>1</sup> to be represented at the Conference in Dijon

### *University Co-operation*

The Committee has had under review all possible means of encouraging movement of teaching staff and students among the different European universities, and has carried out a special investigation of bilateral " linking " arrangements which provide for regular exchanges of staff between universities.

An enquiry has been made into the implementation of the Cambridge Conference Resolutions contained in the Report of the Conference. As a result, three papers have been prepared: CCL (56) 64, September 1956 (Replies on the implementation of the Resolutions have been received from eight of the fifteen countries participating); CCL (57) 1, January 1957 (Draft analysis of the replies to the questionnaire on the implementation of the Resolutions, prepared by the Secretariat); CCL (56) 88, November 1956 (Report on interchange visits of university teachers). The conclusions of this report were transmitted to the Committee of Cultural Experts of the Council of Europe.

As regards the desire of the Committee to be officially informed of the above enquiries<sup>2</sup>, it should be noted that the reports are only in roneoed form. Copies have been sent to the Clerk of the Assembly for the benefit of interested members.

### *Publications*

It has been recognised by the Universities Committee that co-operation depends above all on adequate diffusion of information. For this reason, and in furtherance of the Resolutions of the Cambridge Conference, the Committee has formulated a programme of publications and has set up a special Working Party to deal with this side of its activities. The programme at present envisaged covers several different fields: information for students continuing their studies abroad in Europe, the history and evolution of universities and their relation to the State, and higher technological education. It is hoped, moreover, to provide a regular channel for the exchange of information between universities by means of a European Universities Journal.

It is hoped that the guide for students wishing to study abroad will appear in 1958<sup>2</sup>. In this event, it will be distributed on a commercial basis and will not, as in the case of the Cambridge Conference Report, have any free distribution. Nevertheless, every effort will be made to ensure its distribution to universities and colleges in Europe.

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1. See paragraph 71 of the Texts adopted by the Assembly (May 1957).

2. See paragraph 72 of the Texts adopted by the Assembly (May 1957).

As regards the report, compiled by the Cultural Committee in consultation with the Social Sub-Committee concerned, on social security for students, available in duplicated form (A/1693, July 1952), it should be pointed out that it cannot be certain that this collective report is not now out of date. At the time Avhen it was compiled, it was distributed to the five member Governments of the Brussels Treaty Organisation who undertook to distribute it, where necessary, to the student organisations of their countries.

With regard to the recommendation of the Assembly Committee concerning a general catalogue of theses<sup>2</sup>, it is pointed out that, according to information received in July 1957 from the 'Union federaliste interuniversitaire', Paris, that Organisation is publishing as Volume 6 of their bibliography a catalogue of university theses of European interest.

Although the Assembly question speaks of theses in general, it may be considered that this question is more suitably dealt with by the Union federaliste interuniversitaire. Other organisations such as the International Association of Universities are also known to be concerned with this subject.

#### *Relations with other international bodies*

The contacts already established by the Committee with the O. E. E. C. will be further strengthened by collaboration in the preliminary work on the first of the Dijon Conference themes— the shortage of scientists. The Committee enjoys close co-operation with the Council of Europe which officially recognises it " as the independent body of experts on all questions concerning the European universities of member countries "; and in this capacity the Committee has been consulted on several matters of concern to the European universities. In 1956, the Committee was admitted to associate membership of the International Association of Universities and regular and fruitful working relations between the two bodies have stemmed from that association.

#### **1.2.3. EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE**

This Sub-Committee of the Cultural Committee meets rarely since it does most of its work by correspondence and concentrates largely on the organisation of annual courses for teachers and biennial courses for educational inspectors. In addition, the Sub-Committee regularly exchanges information on educational methods, reforms, etc.

##### *Annual Courses*

In September, the 9th Teachers' Course took place in the United Kingdom on " Art, music and poetry in school " at the University of Cambridge and was attended by some thirty participants.

In October, the 6th Inspectors' Course took place in Germany on the subject of " Audiovisual aids in teaching " and was attended by about thirty delegates.

In the course of the year the Cultural Committee studied the results of the course and exhibition held in the Netherlands and Belgium at the end of 1956 on " School-building ".

#### **1.2.4. YOUTH SUB-COMMITTEE**

##### *Meetings*

This Sub-Committee of the Cultural Committee met in Bonn in the spring and in Rome in the autumn. On the occasion of each of these sessions, the host Government arranged for a meeting between representatives of the youth movements and organisations of the host country and members of the Sub-Committee. Representatives of respective German and Italian youth movements attended a lecture on the activities of the Sub-Committee, followed by general discussion and questions. The Sub-Committee made a point, at each of its sessions, of exchanging information on the programmes of the other international organisations engaged in youth work, both governmental and non-governmental, in order to ensure t h a t any duplication of effort should be avoided. Co-operation between the Youth Sub-Committee of W. E. U. and the Gauting Youth Institute of UNESCO has developed during the past year. Practical arrangements have been made for collaborating by the mutual supply of information on programmes, in particular, the courses organised on both sides, and the presence of observers at courses and meetings.

The Council have examined<sup>3</sup> the possibility and advisability of extending the collective passports scheme for young people to Germany and Italy. They considered that the possibility of a new agreement to include these countries should be examined by the passport experts of the Council of Europe since the question of

collective passports has already been raised within the wider framework. Such a study will provide an opportunity to re-examine the original agreement in the light of five years of experience of the Brussels Treaty collective passports scheme between Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, and with a view to its possible extension to other countries. Meanwhile, the Council has recommended that the existing regulations be interpreted and applied by the authorities concerned as flexibly and sympathetically as possible.

The Sub-Committee is actively engaged in negotiations with the national railway authorities in each country and with the International Union of Railways concerning travel concessions for young people and in order to try to harmonise the different regulations at present in force for these concessions.

#### *Annual Courses*

As one of the main practical tasks of the Sub-Committee is the organisation of annual courses on matters concerning the youth of the member countries, three such courses took place during the year: in May (in Florence) on "Aesthetic training outside school"; in October (in Toulouse and Paris) on "Physical exercise and sport for handicapped children"; and in October (in Bonn and Berlin) on "Instruction in road safety". Each of these courses was attended by between thirty and forty participants.

The programme for the 1958 and 1959 courses is under study, and preliminary arrangements are being made.

#### *Working Parties*

Another main preoccupation of the Youth Sub-Committee is the problem of school-linking. In June, a Working Party met in Paris to examine the difficulties in the way of the formation of satisfactory links between schools in the member countries. A meeting of experts to study the problems of camping for young people met in Paris in December. Another Working Party met in February on the subject of physical education and sport and a second meeting is foreseen for early 1958 to define in detail the possible action in this domain within W. E. U.

#### *Publications*

A factual report on the working of the school-linking scheme in all seven member countries was drawn up; the Youth Sub-Committee is now preparing a brochure which would give information about the scheme to schools, parents and education authorities. The text of this brochure will be put into final form during the coming year.

Before the end of 1957, the French version of a booklet on youth movements in the member countries was published, entitled *Youth in the WEU Countries*. This is to be followed by the English and Netherlands versions; the possibility of German and Italian versions is under study.

A series of travel guides for young people of the seven member countries was completed by the German guide *Spaziergang durch Deutschland* and the Italian guide *Italian Itineraries*.

### **1.2.5. CINEMA SUB-COMMITTEE**

#### *Meetings*

The Cinema Sub-Committee is aided in the task of co-operation on film matters by a Working Party on Educational Films and a Contacts Committee responsible for joint film productions. These three committees met in April in The Hague and in November in Brussels. The two former exchanged information on the production and distribution of cultural, documentary, art, educational and children's films. The films themselves were viewed during committee meetings.

The WEU film experts witnessed in 1957 the results of the first award, at the Berlin Festival, of the Film Prize for which they worked out the regulations at the request of the Council of Europe. They are now submitting a proposal to the Council of Europe that there should be, in addition, a Newsreel Award.

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3. See Assembly Recommendation No. 13, paragraph (c).

Exchanges of information on the production of non-commercial films have continued. As regards exchanges of lists of newsreels shown commercially<sup>4</sup> no further exchange has taken place since 1954 because in that year it was found that the usefulness of these lists varied from country to country and the difficulties of compiling them were sometimes considerable. However, the Cinema Sub-Committee only agreed to discontinue official distribution of these lists to delegations via the Secretariat and, in the case of some of the member countries, the exchanges of newsreels and lists of newsreel items has continued bilaterally. It was stressed at the time that any delegation wishing to receive a list of newsreels from any of the other member countries should apply direct to the country concerned and, wherever possible, these lists would be supplied. It should be remembered that the close contacts established between the commercial companies in the member countries as a result of the meetings of the Newsreel Sub-Committee continue to be in evidence.

### *Film Production*

During the year, the Working Party on Educational Films completed its first series of five educational films on physical geography. (Les glaciers; The Changing Coast; Volcanism; Les eaux souterraines and The Low Coast). The second series on science (Mirror in the Sky; Victory over Pain; Mercaior; Johannes Kepler and his Work; Galvani, Volta and Electric Current; Une tdche difficile and Anloni van Leeuwenhoek and the Microscope) is almost completed. A third series on Great Europeans (Hugo de Grool; Jean-Jacques Rousseau; Rutherford and Cockcroft; Albert Einstein; Houzeau de Lehaie; James Watt and Mazzini) is in its early stages.

A joint film production, December, the Children's Month, the second of its kind, under the direction of M. Henri Storck (Belgium) was completed shortly before Christmas 1957. The Netherlands version has had its première in that country. As the French and English versions of the film were not ready before the end of 1957, the film experts preferred, in view of the subject matter, to await the Christmas season of 1958 before launching the premières of these versions. The Council will arrange<sup>5</sup> for a private showing of the film to Assembly Representatives. Preliminary arrangements have been made in certain countries for distribution.

Meanwhile, various proposals are under discussion by the film experts for the future production of films; these will be further considered at the spring 1958 meetings. A proposal by the Italian delegation for an agreement on the making of long feature films is recommended for transfer to the larger framework of the Council of Europe, in view of its legislative implications.

### *Publications*

The Cinema Vocabulary, a glossary of terms for the use of film experts in the member countries, was to be published in 1957 in a threelanguage edition. In agreement with UNESCO, the publication has now been extended to cover lists of German and Italian terms and will come out in 1958 as a five-language edition covering all the languages of the member countries.

### *Television*

The Council have considered 2 the possibility of extending the activities of the Organisation in the field of radio and television. They have noted the interest taken by the Assembly in the whole subject of television and have resolved t o pursue their action on these matters. They recall that both the B. T. O. and W. E. U. have already engaged in such activities on a fairly large scale. Reference is made in particular to the instructions of the Cultural Committee to the Cinema Sub-Committee to maintain liaison with the European Broadcasting Union for the exchange of cultural and educational films for television (see below). Moreover, the Council recall that a number of international organisations, in particular UNESCO and the Council of Europe, have recently been dealing with problems connected with educational television. It was pointed out at the last session of the film experts that a conference organised by the Edinburgh Festival with the help of UNESCO in the summer of 1957 was a sort of continuation of the UNESCO conferences on television, themselves partly a result of the Working Parties set up under W. E. U. to study the implications of television. The Council note also that the Cultural Committee has at present under study a proposal concerning the possibilities of a better use of existing television services for cultural purposes.

The Council has therefore expressed the opinion that the already existing studies in W. E. U. on the subject of radio and television should be encouraged and intensified in view of the great influence which concerted action can have in this field.

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4. See paragraph 80 of the Texts adopted by the Assembly (May 1957).

5. See paragraph 79 of the Texts adopted by the Assembly (May 1957).

As regards the exchange or purchase of films by member countries for school television, it should be pointed out<sup>6</sup> that under the regular scheme for the exchange of documentary films between member countries, the films exchanged can, in certain cases, be used for television. Furthermore, since the end of 1955, the Cinema Sub-Committee and the Working Party on Educational Films have been authorised by the Cultural Committee to work in close liaison with the European Broadcasting Union for the exchange of catalogues and lists of all those films (cultural, documentary, information, educational, etc.), which may be used for educational television.

## **2. II Report replying to Chapter VIII of the Third Annual Report of the Council**

### **2.1. Preliminary Draft Recommendation**

The Assembly,

Having considered Chapters VIII and IX of the Council Report on the activities of Western European Union in the cultural and public administration fields;

Noting the progress achieved during the preceding year and aware of its importance;

Desirous of seeing the work undertaken pursued,

Recommends that the Council:

1. Implement the proposals contained in the Assembly report on the cultural activities of the Council;
2. Seek to promote effective and harmonious co-operation between the different organisations which have undertaken studies on the shortage of scientists, in particular by the exchange of documents, prior to the meeting of the Conference of University Rectors at Dijon in 1959.

### **2.2. Explanatory Memorandum**

3. The Council has transmitted to the Assembly a substantial report on its activities in the cultural sphere. Attached thereto is a study of the work of the Public Administration Committee which was examined previously in the report on cultural activities. This work is still being dealt with by the cultural section of the Secretariat-General. The present report will cover therefore cultural activities as well as the activities of Western European Union in the public administration sphere.

4. In the past year Western European Union has further extended its multifarious activities in different spheres through the medium of its European Universities Committee and its dependent bodies: the Education, Youth and Cinema Sub-Committees. Some thirty meetings and conferences held in various places have been concerned with cultural activities.

5. The Council study submitted to the Assembly is descriptive. There is no question here of making another study of the same kind. The Assembly's contribution to the cultural activities of Western European Union should be one of critical judgment in conformity with the Assembly's parliamentary role.

#### **2.2.1. PART ONE**

##### ***The role of W. E. U. in the cultural field and the working of its organs***

6. As the Assembly has indicated previously, the role of Western European Union in cultural questions must be an experimental one. The work of the cultural and social sections of Western European Union is to some extent experimental. In carrying out this work the committees feel they may be able to prevent failures and false starts in the larger organisations<sup>7</sup>

7. The homogeneity of the culture of its Member States and the high level of the cultural activities of the Seven enable Western European Union to " explore " cultural questions which are likely to benefit by international co-operation. This exploration should enable a programme of cultural activities to be drawn up which can later be tackled jointly.

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6. See paragraph 81 of the Texts adopted by the Assembly (May 1957).

7. [Document 41](#) , para. 34.

8. Once this programme is completed, the experimental role will emerge to the extent that Member States bring to fruition projects initiated under the programme. An example for other countries will be set if the member countries of Western European Union obtain results in a given sphere. The co-operation achieved in the WEU laboratory can later be taken up on a large scale within the framework of a larger institution. In principle this is the task of the Council of Europe.

9. A place must be reserved for the activities of Western European Union in the public administration field. As well as the experimental role which has just been mentioned, Western European Union has an effective concrete task to fulfil. The affinities existing between Member States impose on it the duty to promote these activities.

10. The importance and the originality of the role of Western European Union in cultural questions must be stressed. Western European Union accomplishes in this sphere what can be accomplished by no other organisation. Since discussion is easier between seven than between fifteen; since it is easier between countries related geographically and sociologically and, finally, since highly-placed Government officials have acquired the habit of working together, know and understand one another, co-operation of major importance emerges as the fruit of the work of the WEU committees. Before making a critical analysis, it should be remembered that without Western European Union, many facets of European cultural co-operation would be impossible to the grave detriment of cultural co-operation in Europe.

11. This is yet another reason for satisfaction with the Council's appraisal of the cultural activities of Western European Union. According to the report in fact, this work is " a stimulus to projects for cultural co-operation in larger international organisations." Work over the last year has brought very much into evidence its ' character of " pilot-zone " if one can judge by the Council's appraisal which stated that: " The existence of this homogeneous group ^within larger organisations has again contributed in no small measure to the wider development of cultural relations " <sup>8</sup>

## 2.2.2. PART TWO

### *Activities of W. E. U. in the cultural field*

12. The Cultural Committee composed of the Directors of Cultural Relations and the Secretaries- General of the Ministries of Education of member countries, noted during its two meetings that there was no avoidable duplication of effort between the cultural activities of the organisation and other international and European organisations working in this sphere. The Assembly notes this fact which confirms its previous opinion. Study courses on the administration of the host country's cultural relations were organised during these meetings. Those participating in the courses obtained valuable knowledge of cultural life in the host country.

13. The Cultural Committee paid greatest attention to the " Appeal to Governments " sent out by the Intergrroupe sénatorial belge des intérêts intellectuels. The different points of its study were submitted to the Assembly last October<sup>2</sup>. Without going into this again in detail, it should be noted that effective co-operation has been established between Western European Union, the Council of Europe and UNESCO extending moreover to N. A. T. O. and O. E. E. C. for certain problems of a special nature. This co-operation goes a long way to meeting the requirements of the authors of the- Brussels Appeal. Three points contained in this Appeal have not yet been dealt with. The Assembly hopes that the Council will turn its attention to them. It notes that while the share of Western European Union in the accomplishment of the programme proposed by the Belgian group can be considered important and sufficient, the fact nonetheless remains that the creation of a European cultural community — the ultimate aim of the authors of the Appeal — will only be achieved if proposals are made with a view to incorporating, within the same framework, those provisions which have been the subject of a survey by the Council in its reply to Recommendation No. 13<sup>9</sup> and which form the basis of a cultural exchange policy in Europe.

14. The Assembly wishes to be kept informed of the work undertaken for the conclusion of a multilateral cultural convention. It could be of great assistance in this field to governmental bodies.

15. The European Universities Committee has the important task of preparing the Dijon Conference which will bring together, as is already known, the Rectors and Vice-Chancellors of the principal European universities. This meeting, which is to be held in 1959, will be of very great importance, both because of the questions to be discussed and because of the eminence of the participants. The shortage of research workers

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8. [Document 79](#) .

9. [Document 65](#) .

in the scientific field is to be discussed at the Dijon Conference, being one of the principal problems which the West has to contend with, and on 16th December last the NATO Heads of Government Conference gave this question priority on its Agenda. Europe has to train scientists not only of high calibre but in sufficient numbers to maintain its position in the world. If Europe no longer had scientists worthy of a Nobel Prize she would inevitably start treading the path of decadence. Her technical and economic advancement is mainly due to the work of her scientists and their genius. Universities have a special responsibility for the training of scientific research workers and, in particular, they must adapt themselves to the requirements of new techniques.

16. The European Universities Committee has established contacts with O. E. E. C. on the shortage of scientists. The Council Report shows that in 1956 the Committee was admitted to associate membership of the International Association of Universities, and that this membership proved to be most fruitful. The Assembly would like to know to what extent this liaison was fruitful. It may also be useful for the Universities Committee to establish contact with the NATO services which are concerned with the shortage of scientists. It may be that this shortage can only be solved with the assistance of the United States.

17. The second theme at the Dijon Conference will be the problem of European studies in the Universities. The training of university youth will be of great importance to European unity in a few years time. The preparation of studies relating to Europe in the universities will, on the one hand, bring life and clarity to a subject which up to now has only been tackled empirically, and, on the other hand, train minds to a conception of Europe and prepare men to grapple with the problems of European unity. The Council Report points out that preparatory working groups have been set up, and the Committee must be congratulated on obtaining the participation of private experts in these groups, whose co-operation is indispensable. The Assembly would like the result of this work to be communicated to its General Affairs Committee.

18. On the question of university co-operation the Cultural Committee has studied the possibilities which may eventually lead to exchanges of professors and students between different universities. The "linking" of universities can lead to a fruitful exchange of staff and it is to be hoped that this "linking" be extended in the future. The General Affairs Committee, however, has received no report on the enquiries made by the Cultural Committee<sup>10</sup>.

19. The Assembly had asked for a general catalogue of theses of European universities to be published under the auspices of Western European Union. It is gratifying to know that the Union federaliste interuniversitaire has completed part of this work in publishing a catalogue of university theses of European interest. The Assembly would like to know if this private organisation is able to undertake the publication of a general catalogue, and whether it would wish to do so.

20. The Council points out that the Cultural Committee is contemplating the publication of A European Universities' Journal. The Assembly welcomes this initiative, and hopes the Council will support the Committee's efforts in this direction.

21. The Education Sub-Committee has continued its activities. On the basis of the information submitted by the Council on the work of this Sub-Committee the Assembly is unable to make any comments. It wishes to know, however, what results have been obtained from the courses organised by the Sub-Committee.

22. The Youth Sub-Committee met twice. The request of the Assembly to extend the system of collective passports for young people has been entrusted to the experts of the Council of Europe. Here is a good example of effective cooperation between the two European Organisations.

23. Annual courses, school-linking and publication of brochures<sup>11</sup> constituted the most tangible activities of the Sub-Committee. The Assembly requests the Sub-Committee to continue these activities.

24. The Assembly has already commented on the production of educational films. The Assembly notes that a private showing of December, the Children's Month will be given to Representatives. It would like to know the outcome of the Italian Delegation's proposal for the production of long feature films.

25. It should be noted that, following a request by the Assembly to develop Western European Union activities in the sphere of radio and television<sup>2</sup>, and after re-examining the problem as a whole, the Council expressed the opinion that study of these questions within Western European Union should be "encouraged and intensified". It now remains to know how. The Council is silent on this question.

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10. The duplicated copies which the Council promised the Assembly have still not reached the Office of the Clerk.

11. The Assembly would like its Committee to receive these different brochures.

26. To conclude, it can be said that these questions, although they are tackled by the Seven, very often go beyond the framework of Western European Union and may eventually be extended to other European countries. Because of the special affinities of Member States, due to their close relationship, cultural co-operation can be set in motion by the Seven. Later it should normally spread out to cover the widest possible European framework. Western European Union has proved that this is really its role. It must now pursue its effort.

### 2.2.3. PART THREE

#### *Activities of Western European Union in the public administration field*

27. The Public Administration Committee is composed of senior officials who are specialists in civil service problems. It is concerned with problems on the practical plane. Following the Council Report, the Public Administration Committee is helping to lay the foundations for effective European co-operation between the seven countries. Furthermore, it is becoming a focus for new ideas; its purpose is to provide a concrete basis for factual study which can serve both to reform and to enrich traditional aspects of administration by approaching them from a new angle bearing in mind the needs of a community which is becoming wider and at the same time more closely knit.

28. In a preceding r e p o r t<sup>12</sup> the Assembly pointed out the importance it attached to the work of this Committee. It welcomed this very original experiment. It asked the Committee to turn its attention inter alia to a harmonisation of local government methods which would give Europeans the feeling of belonging to a single community 2 . The Council replied that contacts, with local Councillors, owing to their political rather than administrative character, were outside the terms of reference of this Committee. However, the Committee will continue to invite local government officials and will pay as much attention to local government as to other questions within its terms of reference.

29. The subjects for the multilateral courses for officials organised by the Committee: (1) on the "adaptation of traditional forms of government to carry out a major development programme" and (2) on the "delegation of authority", are worthy of most careful consideration by the experts. The Assembly wishes to be kept informed of the conclusions the Committee has reached on these subjects.

30. The Assembly notes that the Council intends to send i t the list of exchanges of officials which took place in 1957 between Member States.

31. Replying to another request by the Assembly concerning the study of administrative and legal facilities open to officials of Member States, the Public Administration Committee suggests giving effect to this suggestion by means of bilateral exchanges. The Assembly notes t h a t a private study has given certain advance material for a reply to the question raised. Owing to the absence of references concerning this study, the Council reply is not very satisfactory. The Council is invited to furnish a concrete and detailed reply in its next report.

32. The Council of Western European Union could perhaps propose another problem for joint study by European organisations. It would be the problem of the right of appeal open to officials of European organisations whether or not they belong to national administrations. A study of this kind would be useful for the time when the creation of a European civil service is decided upon.

33. The Assembly reiterates its continuing interest in the work of the Public Administration Committee. It asks the Council to take every possible step to facilitate the work of this Committee and for the results to be made known.

### 2.2.4. CONCLUSION

34. This brief appraisal of the Council's activity in cultural questions calls for one comment. It is certain that the Assembly's recommendations have already borne fruit and that the work of the Cultural Committee has been stimulated by the proposals made in the preceding Assembly reports. At the present stage the main wish of the Assembly is to be kept informed of the problems which face the Council in its cultural activities, and to receive the reports of the Council Committees. It would like Western European Union to be able to extend its cultural rôle in liaison with the other organisations which work in the same direction. It is the

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12. [Document 43.](#)

Assembly's wish that the results of the various activities of Western European Union in the cultural field within the framework of the seven Member States should be made available to the Member States of the Council of Europe not belonging to Western European Union, in order that they may profit thereby.