

Opinion 123 (1985)¹

Draft European convention on recognition of the legal personality of international non-governmental organisations

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Having studied the draft European convention on recognition of the legal personality of international non-governmental organisations, elaborated in the framework of the Council of Europe under the responsibility of the Committee of Ministers ([Doc. 5315](#)) ;
2. Considering that the convention will apply to non-governmental organisations with a non-profit-making aim, of international utility and which carry out activities in several countries ;
3. Considering that, in accordance with the convention, the legal personality and capacity, as acquired by an NGO in the Contracting State in which it has its statutory office, shall be recognised as of right in the other Contracting States ;
4. Considering therefore that the draft convention will enable international non-governmental organisations to enjoy legal personality and capacity abroad on the same basis as they do at home ;
5. Considering the useful role international non-governmental organisations are playing and the important contribution they are making towards the work of the Council of Europe,
6. Welcomes the draft convention and, while believing that certain details require further clarification, approves its provisions in general, and expresses the hope that the convention may soon be opened for signature and ratification by the member states of the Council of Europe, and that the greatest number of them will soon sign and ratify it ;
7. Expresses its appreciation towards the Committee of Ministers for having transmitted the draft convention to it for opinion, while hoping that such transmission may become normal practice in the case of other draft conventions as well.

1. Assembly debate on 26 April 1985 (8th Sitting) (see [Doc. 5381](#), report of the Legal Affairs Committee). Text adopted by the Assembly on 26 April 1985 (8th Sitting).

