



Recommendation 584 (1970)¹

Creation of a European Judicial Information Centre

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Considering that the increase in mobility of population has multiplied the number of cases where a person brought before a criminal court may have a previous record in a state other than that in which he is tried ;
2. Considering that under present circumstances judges may receive information from their own state, the offender's state of residence, birth and nationality but that it may be exceptionally difficult for judges to find out whether the offender has been convicted in other states ;
3. Considering that it is highly desirable that judges be provided with the relevant information on offenders, in order to enable them to decide on the punishment to be imposed, in particular on alternatives to imprisonment, such as suspended sentences and probation, which are more and more frequently applied ;
4. Considering that the information at present being transmitted by Interpol concerns only certain categories of particularly serious offences and that neither the existing bilateral agreements nor the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters can ensure that the necessary information on judicial antecedents becomes known ;
5. Considering that national legislations contain increasing numbers of provisions relating to probation or the suspension of sentence, combined with supervision of the offender, which require far fuller information to be available to law officers than the passing of a sentence ;
6. Desirous of completing and simplifying the existing exchanges by a permanent multilateral information system ;
7. Considering that there is need for a "Judicial Information Centre" within the European framework which would centralise the information on foreigners, having been convicted under criminal law in one of the member states of the Council of Europe of offences other than those of minor gravity ;
8. Expressing the wish that such a "European Judicial Information Centre", if possible, may also centralise other essential information about the offender and relevant to the offence,
9. Recommends that the Committee of Ministers instruct the European Committee on Crime Problems (ECCP) to study whether it is expedient to set up a "European Judicial Information Centre" along the lines set out above, with special reference to the nature and volume of present and estimated future requirements, the costs and benefits of the various technical means available and desirable organisational structure of the Centre, together with the advisability of adding a Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters or of drawing up a new European instrument.

1. Assembly debate on 24 January 1970 (19th Sitting) (see [Doc. 2700](#), report of the Legal Affairs Committee). Text adopted by the Assembly on 24 January 1970 (19th Sitting).

