Resolution 52 (1954)[1]

Reply to the report on the activities of the International Labour Organisation

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly has noted the change of approach adopted this year by I.L.O. in the Report winch it has submitted annually since 1951 to the Council of Europe. This change happily coincides with the increase in the compétence of the Council of Europe in respect of those social problems which are common to ail its member countries, which in turn makes it more than ever necessary to establish close coopération between the I.L.O. and the Council of Europe. The Assembly accordingly welcomes the efforts made in the I.L.O. Report to define the principles on which such co-operation can be based.

The Assembly is, however, studying at the présent moment the gênerai problem of relations between the Council of Europe and inter-governmental organisations, which includes the spécifie question of the relations between the I.L.O. and the Council of Europe.

It would in thèse circumstances appear difficult to express an opinion on the I.L.O. Report before agreement has been reached on the gênerai principles which, in the view of the Assembly, should govern co-operation between the Council of Europe and the various intergovernmental organisations. The Assembly has there-fore decided to postpone its reply until the First Part of its Seventh Session, This postponement will, moreover, make it possible to give to the report the careful and detailed examination which it merits.

In the meantime, the Assembly takes the opportunity of expressing its deep satisfaction with regard to the projected first European Régional Conférence to be held by I.L.O. in March, 1955. It will follow the work of the Conférence and study the conclusions reached with the closest attention.

The Assembly has learnt with satisfaction, that, when considering questions of the financing of social security and old âge benefits, the Conférence will hâve before it the Assembly's Recommendation 28 (1950) calling for the establishment of a European Code of Social Security which would, in Europe, lead to " the raising, by various methods, of social security in every country to an equally high level ". It trusts that the conclusions of the Conférence on thèse two points will duly take into account the gênerai framework into which they might later be inserted and the gênerai principles with regard to thèse two questions which were set out in the Appendix to Recommendation 28 in the following terms[2]:

" Finance :

Benefits rates of eaoh country will be financed either on a contributory or non-contributory basis ; the financial system selected must necessarily be based, on the one hand, on a collaboration between ail the parties concerned and the State, and must take into account, on the other hand, the nature of the risks incurred, the national customs, and the spécifie social, économie or fiscal conditions, peculiar to each country.

Such a System should aim at preventing the oosts from exceeding the potential productive capacity and national income of each country.

1. This Resolution was adopted by the Assembly at its I5th Sitting, on 15th September, 1954 , Report of the Committee on Social Questions).
2. (See Doc. 81, (1950), Appendix " Elementary principles of the European Code on Social Security"

It must aim, above ail, at ensuring the regular payment of the benefits authorised.

Pensions :

Schemes will be established in each country under which cash pensions will be payable for life to workers who hâve reached old âge and hâve retired from ail but casual gainftd employment ; for the duration of the period of substantial incapacity for work, to workers who suffer from long-continued sickness or ehronic invalidity ; and for the duration of dépendent widowhood or of childhood, to the surviving wife and children of a deceased family breadwinner.

As in most of the European countries the retiring âge is 65 years, this âge should be adopted in principle. This principle should, however, not be applied in Buch a way as to affect adversely the more favourable conditions in force in some countries, in particular for workers employed in unhealthy industries, nor to render the ratification of the Code impossible where the retiring âge at présent is higher than 65 years ."