Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Recommendation 1948 (2010)[1]
Final version

Promoting volunteering in Europe

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Parliamentary Assembly refers to its Resolution 1778 (2010) on promoting volunteering in Europe.

2. The Assembly recalls that volunteering is not a means of making up for social and economic shortcomings which are the responsibility of the state and the government, and should not be regarded as a cheap way for society to delegate public responsibilities to the non-governmental organisations handling voluntary service.

3. The Assembly recognises the democratic, humanitarian, social, educational, formative and economic value of voluntary activity. It wishes to emphasise, in particular, the real influence of voluntary service on democratic life, the active citizenship of Europeans, sustainable development and personal fulfilment, and its benefits for the physical and mental health of volunteers, formal and informal training and education, acquisition of skills, production of wealth, intra-European mobility, intercultural and interfaith dialogue, and social cohesion.

4. The Assembly therefore recommends that the Committee of Ministers:

4.1. invite member states to adopt and promote an energetic policy on behalf of voluntary service;

4.2. make a commitment during the year 2011, proclaimed "European Year of Volunteers" by the European Union, through active participation in the information and awareness campaigns on voluntary service, also via the Council of Europe European Youth Centres;

4.3. enjoin member states to sign and ratify the European Convention on the Promotion of a Transnational Long-term Voluntary Service for Young People (ETS No. 175), so that it may come into force in 2011.

1. *Text adopted by the Standing Committee,* acting on behalf of the Assembly, on 12 November 2010 (see Doc. 12430, report of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, rapporteur: Mr Volontè).