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YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

A Memorandum from the Commission to
the Council
and
the European Parliament

PREFACE

Over the last 18 months, there have been a number of discussions about the definition of more effective ways of associating young people with the development of the Community. The Commission puts forward this Memorandum now as a contribution to this debate - not as a statement of what the Community should necessarily be doing immediately, but as a collection of ideas as to what it might do, without claiming in any way to have covered all the possibilities.

In presenting this Memorandum, the Commission has drawn principally on three sources of ideas: its own previous practice and experience, which is growing year by year in matters affecting young people; the various contacts at all levels, both formal and informal, with Member States, ranging from discussions with those involved in operating programmes to Ministerial discussions, in particular the Paris Ministerial Colloquium "The '93 Generation: the New Frontier"; and contacts with the Youth Forum of the European Communities and with associations and movements of young people.

The Commission's objective in presenting this Memorandum is thus to launch a debate, recognising that some dossiers are further advanced than others: some ideas contained in this Memorandum are made concrete in the proposed revisions to the Youth for Europe programme put forward at the same time by the Commission. Further proposals may be made in the future, as the state of discussions and the Community's circumstances permit.

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1. Introduction

1. There are some 340 million people in the European Community, of whom some 130 million are under 25 years old. Some 70 million of them are in school, higher education or vocational training; several million are seeking work; the remainder are in work or otherwise occupied. In some Member States the proportion of young people in the population as a whole is declining; in others it is still high, reaching around 40 % in Ireland and Spain.
2. It is on these young people that the future of the Community will depend. It is they who will provide the enthusiasm, the resources, the vitality of the Community in the 21st century, and it is to them that society must now turn as it looks beyond the year 2000. Against the background of the Community's development under the impetus of 1992 and the irresistible tide of change sweeping over Eastern and Central Europe, the role of young people, their attachment to the basic rationale of the Community, their sentiment that the Community is interested in them, provides an important framework for their lives, and (ultimately) belongs to them, have never been more important.
3. This Memorandum sets out a number of ideas for future development as to how the Community can play a role in supporting young people as they seek to develop their capacities, their creativity and their initiative, and their understanding of the European context in which they live; and also helping those who work with young people, through training and other related activities.
4. Young people are already actively engaged in a wide range of Community programmes and are of course affected by its policies in a number of sectors. Over the last 4 years in particular, students in higher education especially have been increasingly taking part in the ERASMUS and COMETT programmes. Young people in training are also involved in many operations supported by the Community's Structural Policies and by Community action programmes in the field of vocational training, notably PETRA and the exchange scheme for young workers.
5. This Memorandum, however, deliberately does not address the developments in train in the field of education and vocational training. These aspects were covered in the Commission's medium-term guidelines on education and training (COM(88) 280 final) as well as more recently in its Memorandum on the rationalisation and coordination of vocational training programmes at Community level. The Memorandum therefore addresses youth questions more generally so as to provide a contribution to the forthcoming debate on this subject with Ministers responsible for youth questions from the different Member States.
6. The Commission is at the same time presenting a first set of proposals to implement part of this Memorandum, in the form of the second phase of the "Youth for Europe" programme. In this context, it is important to note that in line with its commitment to rationalise the different programmes for youth initiatives and

exchanges, it is proposed to bring a number of different activities in future under the single umbrella of the Youth for Europe programme. This should simplify and improve the presentation of Community actions involving young people (other than those involved in vocational training activities as such) in out-of-school activities and exchanges.

7. Moreover, the Commission is presenting at the same time its proposals for the further development of the PETRA programme, with a view to increasing significantly the numbers of young people involved in exchanges at Community level during their initial training. In this way, it is hoped to complement the ERASMUS and COMETT programmes for the many young people in training who will not proceed to higher education, but will also wish in the future to improve their career chances in a completed single market.

11. Background

8. This Memorandum takes into account initiatives and discussions that have already taken place, in particular, those taken over the last two years by the Greek, Spanish and French Presidencies. In July 1988 the Greek Presidency organised the first, informal, meeting of Ministers responsible for Youth, at which a wide-ranging discussion was held. As a result, the Commission held a meeting of Senior Officials from Youth Ministries in April 1989 to assist in taking the matter further. A second meeting that year was held in Toledo under Spanish Presidency, and the process culminated in a Ministerial Colloquium "The 93 Generation - the New Frontier" in November 1989, held in Paris under the Presidency of the French Secretary of State for Youth and Sport.
9. At the conclusion that Colloquium, the Presidency summarised the results of the discussions under 7 main heads:
 - the need for an information data-base on young people in Europe;
 - the encouragement of mobility of young people;
 - training of youth workers;
 - mutual information on policies for reducing risks to young people in areas such as health, drugs, etc.;
 - the interest of third countries in the Community's youth programmes;
 - an affirmation of the need for continuity in reflexion on youth policy at European level;
 - the need for a strategy for future action.
10. Furthermore, in accordance with an undertaking given at the Ministerial Colloquium, the Irish Presidency hosted a further meeting of Senior Officials in March 1990. At that meeting it became clear that there was enough common ground for the Commission to initiate further discussions in a Community framework, and to provide machinery for Member States to be able to discuss them in the knowledge that their discussions could lead to Community-wide activity.

11. In putting forward this Memorandum therefore, the Commission is building on a process which is well under way, as well as on growing experience at Community level. It believes there is a growing consensus among Member States that some Community activity in the "youth policy" or "youth work" field would not only be useful, but would bring added European value to what is or can be achieved at Member State level.

III. Responding to the needs of young people

12. The needs of young people in all Member States cover a diversity of areas of policy, which are often the responsibility of different branches or levels of government (national, regional, local). They include: education; training; employment; housing; social policy; youth information and the rights of young people; their status in society; military service; young people in the context of sectoral policies (environment, health, business creation, etc); leisure and recreational activities; their participation in associations and movements; and others.

13. Although Member States handle these arrangements in different ways, there exists generally, throughout the Community, a willingness to encourage objectives which:

a. enable young people to take an active part in society and its institutions, by providing them with information and guidance, and where necessary with the support, to do so.

b. encourage responsibility, initiative and creativity among young people in the whole spectrum of their lives, and in particular in the economic, social and cultural fields.

c. enable them to express their views as to the organisation of society, and to provide structures that allow those views to be channelled into the decision - making process.

d. enable young people to perceive the value of life-long learning, both formal and informal, and encourage them to take part.

e. encourage them to have an understanding of their neighbours, both near and far, and of the value of different cultural traditions and practices.

14. Such objectives concern the promotion of what may be called "active citizenship" among young people - that is, a frame of mind in which young people will seek to develop their own full potential to take responsibility for their own lives and to contribute fully to an "active society". They are the particular concern of those who work with young people outside the formal and institutional structures - schools and colleges, training

Institutions, etc. These informal educators, "youth workers" (i.e. "animateurs") work with young people in youth clubs, in associations and movements, in youth information and guidance centres; on the streets, in hostels for young people and the young unemployed, across the whole geographical and socio-economic spectrum of the Community. Many of them are volunteers, giving freely of their time because of the importance they attach to such work. It is through these "youth workers" that society reaches out to young people who suffer from any form of disadvantage - in particular, from personal, educational or socio-economic disadvantage. Priority is given to ensure that "youth workers" have the training, the information and support to carry on such work, by both public and voluntary organisations in the Member States.

IV. The Community's Role

15. It is essential that young people be closely associated with the process of building the Community. They belong to it and it belongs to them. In addition to the objectives set out in paragraph 13 above, on which it would be useful to share experience on a Community level, several objectives appear important to the Community itself, in particular:
 - to encourage young people to appreciate their role in the development of the Community;
 - to support them in activities which facilitate their understanding of the context provided by the Community and of young people elsewhere in the Community;
 - to ensure that the views of young people are reflected in the policies pursued by the Community generally;
 - to ensure that the needs of young people are fully taken into account in the different sectors of the Community's policy making.

16. In partnership with the Member States, the Community could develop specific activities in support of young people in response to these objectives, as well as seeking to ensure complementarity with initiatives taken in other sectors of its activity which affect young people, such as employment, vocational training, education, health, social policy, support for associations and movements of young people. Initially, the Community could focus on two priorities, which would allow the Community and the Member States to realise the full potential of their cooperation:
 - to benefit from each others' experience in the youth policy field, to learn from each others' experience, and work together on development and innovation within the youth policy field generally;
 - to enable young people to participate in and benefit from joint operations at Community level.

V. Possible Areas of Community Activity

17. Closer links between the youth services of Member States could be encouraged. Within that general aim the Community could encourage and enable exchanges of information or experience between those responsible for youth work in each Member State, and those involved in it. This could be done through activities such as study visits, conferences, studies, cooperative research, the setting up of an information base on young people, etc. The Commission recalls in this connection the interest expressed by Ministers at the Colloquium "The '93 Generation: the New Frontier" in drawing up a report on the situation of young people throughout the Community. The preparatory steps for the elaboration of such a report were initiated by the Commission earlier this year and, once the contributions of all Member States have been received, rapid progress can be made, thus providing a valuable starting point for sharing information and experience at Community level.
18. Secondly, several sectors of Community action that affect young people (such as employment, education and vocational training, health, social policy and freedom of movement) should give appropriate priority to the further analysis of problems faced by young people. An example of such priority may be found in the concern expressed by the Health Council of 17 May 1980 with regard to the protection of young people against drug addiction, AIDS, etc.
19. Thirdly, the Commission suggests that reflexion could be centered on activities in a number of specific areas - five such areas are considered below, namely:
 - a. Promoting the initiative and creativity of young people;
 - b. Exchange and mobility;
 - c. Training of "Youth Workers";
 - d. Informing young people and responding to their needs;
 - e. Links between the Community and young people.

a. Supporting the creativity and initiative of young people
20. Supporting young people as they develop their creativity and initiative is an essential investment in the future. Encouraging young people to take an active part in society means also encouraging them to take an active part in the democratic structures through which society is governed. Such encouragement forms part of the general objectives of youth policy in all Member States.
21. Although there has up to now been no major Community activity in this area, since 1985 the Commission has been making small grants to young people for projects run by young people for young people.

Initially, these grants formed part of the Community's Action Programme on the Transition of young people from School to Adult and Working Life. Since 1985, however, they have formed part of the PETRA Programme, and in 1989, the Commission supported 120 projects. The common denominators were:

- a. the projects were run by young people or involved young people to a significant extent in their management.
- b. the projects were in areas related to the four main themes:
 - employment creation
 - initial training
 - youth information
 - involving the disadvantaged
- c. support from the Commission was available on a one-off basis only, and the young people normally found 50% of the project cost from other funding sources.

22. Since 1989 the Commission has enabled a number of these youth initiatives to form transnational theme-based partnerships. Eighteen projects (including at least one from each Member State) have been chosen in 1989 to work together in partnership groups of 4 or 5 projects on the value of the youth initiative approach to:

- improving information and guidance services;
- improving access to initial vocational training by disadvantaged young people;
- "enterprise education" i.e. developing entrepreneurial skills and attitudes in youth projects;
- opportunities and challenges for young people presented by the Single Market.

These partnerships have proved a particularly valuable way of demonstrating the potential for personal and professional development of projects run and managed by young people with support, but not direction, from adults.

23. The Commission is well aware of the value that these youth initiatives have brought to the young people concerned. This value is not solely related to the project for which the young people have asked for support, since they themselves benefit also through extending their own motivation, their ability to learn, to manage projects, to work with other people. Nor is the financial value limited to the value of the Commission's small grant, since young people can often use the fact that the Community has helped them as a strong argument in their favour with other potential providers of funding.

24. This practice of supporting projects run by young people, which develop their initiative and creativity, should be sustained. The Commission and Member States could usefully review future cooperation in this field. The Commission intends that support for initiatives that relate specifically to vocational guidance or training should form part of the PETRA Programme, and should where possible be integrated into the existing European network of training projects.

b. Exchange and mobility of young people

25. The Community now has exchange and mobility programmes of different sizes addressed to young people in a variety of circumstances - to students (ERASMUS and COMETT); to young workers; to young people in their leisure time (Youth for Europe); to those in vocational training, where the exchanges have a linguistic objective (Lingua, Action IV). The two major occupations of young people for whom little or no provision has so far been made are those in vocational training (apart from linguistic exchanges and the limited activity supported through the first phase of the PETRA programme); and young people in school.
26. During the first part of 1990, at the end of the first full year of operation for the Youth for Europe Programme, the Commission reviewed with Member States how well the programme had operated in its first year; what gaps in provision had been revealed; and what changes, if any, should be brought to the text at its next revision by the Council.
27. These discussions revealed a general satisfaction with the first year of the programme when considered across the Community as a whole, but raised two major points. The first was that a part of the target population of the programme, defined in the Council Decision as being "young people with disadvantaged backgrounds", was not being sufficiently reached. The second was that some limited extensions of the types of exchange and mobility supported under the programme would be desirable.
28. The first concern - that Community programmes should reach out to young people who are at a disadvantage compared with their peers, be it for educational, social, economic or geographical reasons - mirrors a concern of the Commission; and was also one of the priorities expressed at the Ministerial Colloquium in November 1989. It was also at the heart of the Resolution adopted on 16 February 1990 by the European Parliament on the Community's programmes in the field of Education and Training⁽¹⁾. Continued positive action is needed to encourage the participation of disadvantaged young people in the Community's programmes for young people, and specific provision is needed to make this a reality. For example, it may be desirable to provide some other forms of exchange and mobility activity for disadvantaged young people, which provide them with the developmental experience of the European Community and the intercultural learning that their colleagues can find through more classic youth exchanges, while at the same time making sure that access to them is not so complicated that they remain out of reach.

(1) Resolution OJ C68/175 of 19/03/90

29. So far as extension of the programme is concerned, the Commission considers that it would be desirable for the Community to be able to support both young people who have developed a transnational project, and those who desire to give of their time and their commitment for the service of a cause - what may be called "voluntary service"⁽²⁾. So far as "voluntary service" is concerned, some limited activities of this sort do already exist within the Community for young people. However, such schemes are still uncommon; and yet they provide young people with an ideal way to learn about the host population and the host country, while at the same time developing their own skills and self-confidence.
30. At the November 1989 Ministerial Colloquium, there was also discussion about the youth activities that the Community should promote with regard to non-Member States. At present, the only support available for exchanges with non-Member States relates to Eastern and Central Europe.
31. The Council adopted on 7 May 1990⁽³⁾ the TEMPUS programme establishing a Trans-European Mobility Scheme for University Studies. TEMPUS forms part of the Community's contribution to the countries of Eastern and Central Europe under the PHARE operation, carried out jointly within the Group of 24 countries. Within the Complementary Measures of that programme, provision is made for support to "projects involving exchanges of young people and youth organisers between Member States and eligible countries" (Action 3, point 1).
32. The process of German reunification will mean that exchanges between young people in what was the German Democratic Republic and their counterparts in the rest of the Community (other than the Federal Republic of Germany) will be eligible for support under the Youth for Europe programme as from October 1990. Since the Group of 24 countries has decided (on 22 June 1990) that the Phare operation, including the TEMPUS programme, should be extended to benefit Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia in addition to Poland and Hungary. In addition, at the initiative of the European Parliament a small budgetary credit was created in 1989 supporting youth exchanges with those Comecon countries with which the Community has diplomatic relations. In 1990, this credit (for which demand greatly exceeds supply) amounts to ECUs 400,000. The Commission intends that these credits should be used in 1991 to support exchanges with the Soviet Union in particular, and for multilateral exchanges including young people from a number of Eastern and Central European countries, taking into account the complementary provisions of the Tempus scheme.

(2) It should be noted that the phrase "voluntary service", as used in this context, has no particular relation to similar activities which are permitted in some Member States to replace military service

(3) OJ No L 131 of 23/5/90

c. Supporting the training of youth workers

33. At the Ministerial Colloquium "The 93 Generation - the New Frontier", Ministers discussed the possibility of cooperative activity in the general field of training for youth workers. The Community already has some activity in this area, directed through Action E of the Youth for Europe Programme, under which the Community supports a limited number of European-level training operations for youth workers. This activity, however, is solely related to training for youth exchanges. It does not relate in any way to the general training needs of youth workers. There are at present three major problem areas in this field:
- a. some Member States do not have established youth worker training systems; those who work in this sector may have some form of educational or other qualification relevant to the work they do, or they may only have the qualification of experience in the field.
 - b. even in those Member States where there are established youth worker training systems, the curriculum rarely develops an understanding of the European context in which young people live, and which will shape their futures.
 - c. the general question of the comparability and recognition of youth worker qualifications is now being posed by youth workers and youth work training institutions across the Community. Youth work qualifications are very varied in their content and level, in the different Member States, and little comparative information is available.
34. It is clearly not a matter for the Community to establish youth worker training systems in Member States. This is a responsibility of authorities in each Member State. However, it is appropriate for the Community to assist those Member States with less experience, to benefit from that of those Member States who have already established systems of youth worker training; and to promote measures which will bring a European dimension to youth worker training, for example through the development of appropriate training materials, through contacts between training institutions, and through the encouragement of transnational and inter-regional collaborative work. A particular stress should be laid on youth worker training in regard to disadvantaged young people.
35. Equally, so far as the comparability and recognition of youth work qualifications is concerned, it is desirable to note the wide variety of qualifications that exists. These may be specific "youth work" qualifications; they may be "social work" qualifications, with or without a "youth" specialism; they may be other forms of qualification in the formal or informal education area. The types of institution delivering these qualifications also vary: (public authorities, universities, associations, etc), as do the duration of the courses.

36. Where the possession of such qualifications is required by law before individuals can be employed as youth workers, questions of recognition either are covered by Directive 89/48/EEC⁽⁴⁾ establishing a general system of recognition for higher education qualifications required for professional purposes, or will be covered by the second Directive now under discussion on the basis of the Commission's proposal which deals with qualifications of less than 3 years duration in higher education. However, the Commission considers that a greater transparency as to the content of these qualifications would be useful, and that a descriptive, comparative report on this subject, could be prepared.

d. Informing young people and responding to their views

37. Informing young people about the Community and responding to their views is an essential part of the Community's relationship with young people. It is important that each citizen of the Community be enabled to understand and to participate in the process of its construction. This is the role of information - bringing the Community to all its citizens, without excluding those who suffer from any form of disadvantage.
38. Given the importance of the role of young people, their information needs should be considered specifically. These needs relate not only to information about the Community but also to other areas taking into account their interests and aimed at better mutual understanding (e.g. exchanges in the fields of information, sport, culture). Other areas in which they face difficulties, such as employment or health (particularly drugs and AIDS) could also be taken into account. In order to reach young people, information should make the maximum use of the media, and cover a wider age-range than has been the case in the past.
39. The Commission is therefore intending to pursue a specific information action for young people. In this context a comprehensive set of actions in the field of information will be proposed at the end of this year. This should be based on the following objectives:

a) To develop information services at European level

Youth information centres, which respond to the specific needs of young people in a manner which guarantees respect for individual circumstances and for privacy, exist in all Member States. Some have specific "European areas", where young people can find information about the Community and its activities. The Commission considers that the existing network of such centres could be extended, and that electronic links between them could be encouraged. Community exchange programmes for training information officers could be introduced in order to guarantee the success of the network.

(4) OJ N° L 19 of 24/01/89

b) Improving information to young people

Following the establishment of the basic information services, the next stage lies in improving information through a diversification of themes covered and a better use of the media - particularly the specialised press and audiovisual media. Such information could involve specific concrete actions (eg, a directory of youth information centres in Europe) or deal with special subjects (eg, the rights and status of young people).

In this perspective too consideration could be given to setting up a European Youth Information clearing house to assist those working in the field of youth information. This assistance could take the form of providing:

- various kinds of information (documentation, studies, research, surveys, press and audiovisual material etc..);
- training in the information field (for information officers, youth leaders);
- information sessions (for youth leaders, young people, information officers etc..).

c) The younger age group

The opportunity to inform the younger age group (less than 15 years old) on the Community has already been put forward at several occasions, particularly during Parliamentary sessions. In this perspective it could be appropriate to launch a series of pilot projects specially taking into account information means conceived for this category of young people.

e. The Youth Forum, youth associations and movements

40. The Youth Forum of the European Communities was set up by National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations (INGYOs) in 1978 (see Annex 1). It currently brings together National Youth Councils from all Member States (where they exist), and a total of 25 INGYOs. In addition, the National Youth Councils of a number of non-Community European countries, and a number of youth based organisations which do not meet the strict criteria of membership, have observer status.
41. The Youth Forum has no formal status with the Community's Institutions. However, it has established working links with the Commission and with the European Parliament. In the case of the Commission, these links date back to the founding of the Youth Forum, when the then President of the Commission set out the basis of relations between the Commission and the Youth Forum; in the case of Parliament, its Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport (as it then was) decided that the Youth Forum should be invited regularly to attend its meetings, and should have the right to speak on occasion. In addition, the fact that the Community makes substantial financial provision for the Youth Forum, and that this funding is effectively at a rate of 100 %, differentiates the status of the Youth Forum from that of any other similar body.

42. Up to now, the Youth Forum's budget has limited its capacity to act other than as a channel for lobbying. In particular, it has lacked the resources to fulfil three other functions:
- a. to provide training and information sessions and material for the leaders and young people from its own member organisations on matters connected with the Community;
 - b. to carry out its own, independent research and analysis on matters concerning young people, on a Community-wide basis.
 - c. to play a privileged partnership role, in the field of information in a broader sense, thus closely associating all those working with or for young people.

It would be useful to examine ways in which these gaps could be filled.

43. The first of these functions is of particular interest because the Youth Forum has channels to youth organizations, to youth workers and to young people. As far as the second function (research) is concerned the fact is that an enlargement of comparative research at Community level on youth question involving young people directly, would be valuable for the Community and Member States. Finally, in the context of the third function, the Forum could be associated with the European Youth Information clearing house (suggested in § 39 - b above) thus guaranteeing the dissemination of information about the Community and its development in a way reflecting the interests of young people and attractively expressed to them.
44. So far as the youth organisations are concerned, their position is somewhat different to that of the Youth Forum. First, they do not have the same representative role, and secondly, they run activities other than those which directly concern the Community, and have access to sources of finance other than the Community's budget. At present, the Community has two main ways of supporting them: through "infrastructure" support, and on an ad-hoc basis by grant-aiding particular projects which reflect specific Community policies, or which use the networks and facilities provided by youth organisations.
45. In broad terms, the Commission considers that this way of responding to the needs of youth organisations is appropriate. The "infrastructure" support available for European Non-Governmental Youth Organisations, reflects the fact that the costs of coordinating an organisation at European level are significantly higher than at national level (eg, higher travel costs, translation or interpretation costs, etc); and that funding available at national level can normally not be used for such expenses. However, the level of support available will obviously reflect the priorities of the Budgetary Authority and the circumstances of the Community. At the same time, it is to be expected that there will continue to be occasions when youth

organisations or associations offer a particularly valuable or efficient means of reaching a particular objective, and the Community's Institutions (and their services) will continue to take advantage of these. The Community could also encourage youth organisations to participate in Community programmes and activities, and examine with them whether there are particular constraints on their participation which can be overcome.

46. In return for this support, the Community's Institutions expect that youth organisations will accept a role in the transmission of information about the Community, whether through their newsletters or bulletins, through training and information sessions for their members, or in any other way.

f. Third Countries and International Institutions

47. At the Ministerial Colloquium "The '93 Generation: the New Frontier", there was discussion about the interest of Third Countries in the Community's youth programmes, and the extent to which activities launched inside the Community could and should be made available to young people living outside the Community. The question of cooperation with the Council of Europe was also discussed.
48. It is essential that the Community develop a coherent and coordinated approach to the extension of Community programmes to Third Countries. It is important that programmes function correctly within the Community before extension, with reasonably balanced participation between the Member States. There should also be a demonstrable Community interest in the extension of the programme.
49. So far as cooperation with the Council of Europe is concerned, the Commission has especially appreciated the willingness of the Council of Europe to participate in events organised in the Youth for Europe programme, particularly in the training field. It looks forward to continuing this type of cooperation in areas where the Council of Europe has acquired a particular expertise, since it is to the advantage not only of both institutions, but also of young people, that such expertise should be made more widely available. The Commission will continue to develop its cooperation with the Council of Europe and intensify exchanges of information with it, so as to explore the possibility of joint ventures of common interest.

VI. Conclusion

50. The suggestions outlined in this Memorandum are evolutionary in their nature. In each of the areas covered (supporting the creativity and initiative of young people, youth exchange and mobility, training of youth workers, youth information and relations with the Youth Forum and youth associations) they build on existing Community practice, often substantial, or on discussions between and with Member States. The Commission considers that these suggestions represent a way forward for the Community in its development of activities directed specifically to young people, and that they can be implemented in a way which balances the legitimate concerns of Member States with the need for some joint and collaborative activity at Community level.
51. In drawing up this Memorandum, the Commission has taken account not only of its own experience, but of the various elements put forward at the Ministerial Colloquium "The '93 Generation : the New Frontier" which relate to Community actions, and of the wealth of outside comment and ideas it receives. In particular, it has taken account of the need for an increased effort at Community level to reach out to disadvantaged young people, and to design schemes in a way which not only enables but encourages their participation in European projects.
52. In conclusion, the Commission presents this Memorandum as a point of departure for an exchange of views within the Community's institutions on the role that the Community itself could play in supporting young people, and those who work with them. This Memorandum and the proposals for a second phase of the Youth for Europe programme, provide the Community's institutions with an opportunity to define ways in which young people could take an active part in the development of the Community.

THE YOUTH FORUM

1. The Youth Forum was established, by National Youth Councils and by International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations, in 1978. It is a political platform for the expression of their views vis-à-vis the Institutions of the Community. It seeks to ensure that account is taken in the Community's policy making process not only of the contribution which young people and their organisations can make, but also of the needs of young people themselves.

2. Membership of the Youth Forum is open to :

- _ National Youth Councils from the Member States of the Community;
- International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations (INGYOs), provided that they have representative organisations in at least seven Member States.

A list of Youth Forum members (as at 1 October 1990) is given below. In addition to the full members, there are also observer and consultative members. The legal status of Forum is that of an international association under Belgian law.

3. The activities of the Youth Forum are financed by the Community's budget. Its current members are as follows :

Member Organisations

National Youth Councils : Vlaams Platform voor Internationaal Jongerenwerk- VPIJ (Belgium, Flemish Community); Comité pour les relations Internationales de Jeunesse de la Communauté française - CRIJ (Belgium, French Community); Comité pour les Relations Nationales et Internationales des Associations de Jeunesse et d'Education populaire - CNAJEP(France); Comitato Italiano Giovanile per le Relazioni Internazionali- CIGRI (Italy); Conférence Générale de la Jeunesse luxembourgeoise - CGJL (Luxembourg); National Youth Council of Ireland - NYCI (Ireland); Deutsches Nationalkomitee für Internationale Jugendarbeit - DNK (FRG); British Youth Council - BYC (UK); Dansk Ungdoms Fællesråd - DUF (Denmark); Consejo de la Juventud de Espana - CJE (Spain); Consell Nacional de la Juventut de Catalunya - CNJC (Catalonia, Spain); Conselho Nacional de Juventude - CNJ(Portugal); "31" National Youth Council of the Netherlands.

International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations (INGYO) :

ATD-Quart Monde; European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA); Democratic Youth Community of Europe (DEMYC); European Confederation of Youth Clubs (ECYC); European Democrat Students (EDS); European Federation for Intercultural Learning (EFIL); European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS); European Scouting; European Trade Union Confederation - Youth Section (ETUC); European Young Christian Democrats (EYCD); Federation of Youth Hostels in the EC; International Federation of Catholic Parochial Youth Communities (FIMCAP); European Committee for Young Farmers and 4H Clubs; International Federation of Liberal and Radical Youth (IFLRY); International Falcon Movement/Socialist Educational International (IFM/SEI); International Gay and Lesbian Youth Organisation (IGLYO); International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY); International Young Catholic Students/International Movement of Catholic Students (IYCS/IMCS); Young European Federalists (JEF); Young Christian Workers (YCW); Christian Movement for Peace (CMP); International Movement of Agricultural and Rural Catholic Youth (MIJARC); International Young Nature Friends; Youth for Development and Cooperation (YDC); Service Civil International (SCI); World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS); Youth and Environment Europe (YEE); Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).