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REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Youth, Culture,
Education, Information and Sport

on the proposal from the Commission of the European
Communities to the Council (Doc. C2-12/85 - COM(85) 116
final) for a decision laying down the procedure for
appointing those members of the Board of the European
Foundation to be chosen by the Community

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WG(2)1900E

PE 97.732/fin.
Or. Fr.

By letter of 10 April 1985 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision laying down the procedure for appointing those members of the Board of the European Foundation to be chosen by the Community.

On 15 April 1985 the President of the European Parliament referred the proposal to the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport as the committee responsible.

At its meeting of 24, 25 and 26 April 1985 the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport appointed Mr Fajardie rapporteur.

It considered the Commission's proposal and the draft report at its meetings of 24, 25 and 26 April and 22 and 23 May 1985.

At the last meeting the committee decided by 14 votes to 1 with no abstentions to recommend to Parliament that it approve the Commission's proposal, subject to the following amendment.

The committee then adopted the motion for a resolution as a whole by 14 votes to 1 with no abstentions.

The following took part in the vote: Mrs EWING, chairman; Mr FAJARDIE, vice-chairman and rapporteur; Mr BARZANTI (deputizing for Mr Fanti), Mr BAUDOUIN, Miss BROOKES, Mr HAHN, Mr HÄRLIN (deputizing for Mr Klöckner), Mr HOWELL, Mrs LARIVE-GROENENDAAL, Mr MIZZAU (deputizing for Mr Pomilio), Mr Mc MAHON, Mrs PEUS, Mrs SEIBEL-EMMERLING, Mr SCHINZEL (deputizing for Mr Gallo) and Mr TRIPODI.

The report was tabled on 24 May 1984.

The deadline for tabling amendments to this report will be indicated in the draft agenda for the part-session at which it will be debated.

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
Amendment to the Commission's proposal	5
A. MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION.....	6
B. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	8

The Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport hereby submits to the European Parliament the following amendment to the Commission's proposal and motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

Proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision laying down the procedure for appointing those members of the Board of the European Foundation to be chosen by the Community

Text proposed by the Commission
of the European Communities

Amendment tabled by the Committee on
Youth, Culture, Education, Information
and Sport

Preamble and recitals unchanged
Article 1 unchanged

Article 2

In preparing its proposal the Commission shall choose persons eminent by reason of their competence and experience. It shall ensure that the independence of the persons proposed is beyond doubt.

Amendment No. 1

The list of names proposed shall include those of Members of the European Parliament.

The list of names proposed shall include at least three Members of the European Parliament.

Article 3 unchanged

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

closing the procedure for consultation of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision laying down the procedure for appointing those members of the Board of the European Foundation to be chosen by the Community

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Agreement establishing the European Foundation which was signed on 29 March 1982 by the Member States of the European Community and in particular Article 10 thereof which defines the composition of the Board of the Foundation,
 - having regard to the Commission proposal for a Council decision laying down the procedure for appointing those members of the Board of the European Foundation to be chosen by the Community¹,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 235 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. C2-12/85),
 - recalling its previous resolutions on the subject of the European Foundation,²
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport (Doc. A2-47/85),
 - having regard to the result of the vote on the Commission's proposal,
- A. whereas the Agreement establishing the European Foundation provides for the possibility of ten members of the Board of the Foundation being appointed by the European Economic Community,
 - B. sharing the Commission's view that the internal procedures to enable the Community to appoint ten members of the Foundation's Board once the ratification procedures have been completed should be initiated now,
 - C. confirming the need for adequate representation of the European Parliament on the Board of the Foundation,
 - D. convinced that such representation will enable the European Parliament to be more closely involved in defining the aims and in the management of the Foundation, bearing in mind that the Foundation is financed by funds from the Community budget,

¹ OJ No. C 112, 7.5.1985, p.4

² Doc.1-156/82, 17.6.1982 - OJ No. C 182, 19.7.1982
Doc. 1-757/83, 28.10.1983 - OJ No. C 322, 28.11.1983

- E. considering it therefore essential that representatives of the European Parliament be included among the members of the Board appointed and co-opted,
 - F. recalling its request that the Council open negotiations with the European Parliament and the Commission on the conclusion of a supplementary agreement institutionalizing relations between those two Community institutions and the European Foundation,
 - G. recalling its request that, in view of the intergovernmental nature of the Foundation, close cooperation be established between it and the Community institutions in order to avoid firstly, any overlapping of work and secondly, the risk of weakening the Community's powers or preventing their future extension or integration in other Community policies,
 - H. whereas Spain and Portugal will become full members of the European Community on 1 January 1986 and, it is therefore to be hoped, will accede to the Agreement establishing the European Foundation,
1. Approves in principle the Commission's proposal for a decision laying down the procedure for appointing those members of the Board of the European Foundation to be chosen by the Community;
 2. Requests that three of the ten members appointed by the Council be Members of the European Parliament;
 3. Therefore asks the Commission to include at least three Members of the European Parliament in its list of persons chosen as eminent by reason of their competence and experience;
 4. Calls on the Commission to establish contact with the European Parliament and in particular its Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport before drawing up the list of Community nominees for membership of the Board of the Foundation;
 5. Calls on Spain and Portugal to accede to the Agreement establishing the European Foundation once they become full members of the Community;
 6. Instructs its President to forward to the Council and Commission, as Parliament's opinion, the Commission's proposal as voted by Parliament and the corresponding resolution, and also forward the latter to the Spanish and Portuguese Governments.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Agreement establishing the European Foundation signed on 29 March 1982 can be expected to enter into force this year; seven Member States have already ratified it and the other three have initiated ratification procedures.

In anticipation of the entry into force of the Agreement, the Commission has submitted to the Council a proposal for a decision laying down the procedure for appointing those members of the Board of the Foundation to be chosen by the Community.

Under Article 10 of the Agreement (on the basis of the present Community of Ten), there will be three categories of members of the Board of the European Foundation:

- 20 members (2 per country) chosen by common accord by the countries party to the Agreement;
- 10 members chosen by the Community;
- 10 members co-opted by the above 30.

The procedure for appointing members of the Board of the Foundation dealt with in the proposal for a Council decision concerns the second of these three categories.

The Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport agrees with the Commission that the procedures to enable the Community to appoint ten members of the Foundation's Board should be initiated now to avoid additional delays in setting up the Foundation.

In its proposal, the Commission takes the view that the European Parliament should be suitably represented on the Foundation's Board, but does not state how many Members of Parliament should be on the Board.

Our committee shares the Commission's objective of enabling Members of Parliament to be involved in the management of the Foundation and feels that the Council decision should specify the number, i.e. at least three.

Although very small, this number is justified by the fact that the Foundation will be financed mainly from the funds that come from the Community budget, and that Parliament must be represented on the Board by virtue of its budgetary powers.

It should also go some way towards ensuring that the activities of the Foundation - which is intergovernmental in nature - do not overlap with those of Parliament or weaken the Community's powers or prevent their future extension or integration into other Community policies.

It is also for these reasons that the European Parliament must repeat the call it made in the SCHWENCKE report of 17 June 1982 for close cooperation between the Community institutions and the Foundation, taking account of the activities of the Council of Europe and the Cultural Foundation in Amsterdam.

The European Parliament would also like some of its members to be co-opted to the Foundation's Board. It would also be a good idea for the Council to open negotiations with the European Parliament and the Commission on the conclusion of a supplementary agreement institutionalizing relations between them and the European Foundation, as expressly requested by Parliament in the SCHWENCKE report.

The Commission should also establish contact with the European Parliament and in particular its Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport before drawing up the list of Community representatives on the Board of the Foundation, which will include three Members of Parliament.

Lastly, it is to be hoped that Spain and Portugal will accede to the Agreement establishing the Foundation as soon as possible after they become full members of the Community on 1 January 1986. That, at least, is what the European Parliament hopes, and an invitation to this effect should be sent to the governments of both applicant countries.

Parliament is convinced that this new body, advocated by Mr TINDEMANS in his report on the European Union, will be able to embark on its activities and submit its programme of activities to the European Parliament and its bodies as soon as the Agreement establishing the European Foundation enters into force and the members of its bodies, particularly its Board, are appointed.

It is in the interests of both the Foundation and the European Parliament that close links of cooperation and mutual enrichment be forged not only in view of the objectives assigned to the Foundation but also because of the political and cultural as well as budgetary powers and responsibilities of our institution. Parliament will have an opportunity to take stock of the Foundation's activities and assess its achievements each year when a decision is taken on the funds to be allocated to the Foundation from the Community budget.

