

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1984 - 1985

26 March 1984

DOCUMENT 1-42/84

Report

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

on the University Institute for Euro-African
Studies in Lecce (Italy)

Rapporteur: Mr G. PAPAPIETRO

PE 89.498/fin.
Or Fr

At its sitting of 6 June 1983 the European Parliament referred the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Lezzi and others on the patronage and support to be given by the European Community to the University Institute for Euro-African Studies in Lecce (Italy) - Doc. 1-351/83 - to the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport as the committee responsible and the Committee on Development and Cooperation for its opinion.

At its meeting of 29 February 1984 the committee decided to draw up a report on the matter and appointed Mr PAPAPIETRO rapporteur.

At its meeting of 21 March 1984 it considered the motion for a resolution and adopted it by 12 votes to 2 with one abstention.

The Committee on Development and Cooperation decided not to deliver an opinion.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Beumer, chairman; Mr Fajardie, Mr Hahn and Mr Schwencke, vice-chairmen; Mr Papapietro, rapporteur; Mr Alexiadis, Mr Bord (deputizing for Mr Geronimi), Miss Brookes, Mrs Buchan, Mrs Cinciari-Rodano (deputizing for Mr Fanti), Mrs Gaiotti de Biase, Mr Gerokostopoulos, Mrs Pery, Mr Simmonds and Mrs Viehoff.

The report was tabled on 22 March 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.

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

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the University Institute for Euro-African Studies in Lecce (Italy)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the resolution on cultural cooperation between the ACP states and the EEC adopted on 30 September 1981¹ by the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly, and in particular paragraph 14 thereof, which concerned the role of non-governmental organizations,
- having regard to the report submitted by Mr Chasle to the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly (Doc. ACP-EEC 49/83) on the ways of including a section on cultural cooperation in the text of the third Convention of Lomé,
- having regard to the resolution on cultural cooperation between the ACP States and the EEC, which was adopted by the European Parliament on 8 July 1983 (Doc. 1-453/83)²,
- having regard to the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Lezzi and others on the patronage and support to be given by the European Community to the University Institute for Euro-African Studies in Lecce (Italy) - (Doc. 1-351/83),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport (Doc. 1-42/84),

- A. considering that the right to culture, learning and scientific knowledge is an inalienable right recognized by all peoples,
- B. considering that the cultural dimension is increasingly recognized as an essential factor in cooperation and development and the aim of development must be the full realization of people's potential,
- C. whereas cultural exchanges between the Member States of the Community and the ACP countries are inadequate and it is necessary to bring about a better balance in these exchanges in the interests of equality and reciprocity,

¹ OJ C 15 of 20.1.1982, p. 22

² OJ C 242, p. 118

- D. whereas the quality of these relations must be guaranteed by the mobility of teachers, students and researchers in both directions,
 - E. whereas certain provisions of the Convention of Lomé touch directly or indirectly on the question of cultural cooperation,
 - F. welcoming the setting up in Lecce (Italy) of a University Institute for Euro-African Studies the aim of which is to develop cultural exchanges between the Member States of the Community and the African states associated with the Community,
 - G. considering that this initiative will further the cause of understanding between African and European peoples and help them to become better acquainted,
 - H. noting the advanced stage that this institute has reached and the guarantees of quality and scientific precision it already offers,
1. Calls on the Commission and the Council to give their patronage and support to this institute;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers, the Council and the Commission.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

At the meeting organized by the Africa Club in Togo on 15-20 November 1982, doubts emerged regarding the 'workability' of the Lomé Convention as regards the creation of a new world economic order and guaranteeing the quality of co-operation between countries with widely varying levels of development. Mr Pisani, the EEC Commissioner responsible for development, himself said that transfers of technology were badly prepared, badly received and badly assimilated, and ended up, contrary to their purposes, by distorting the human reality towards which they were directed.

The meeting called for a strengthening of South-South cooperation and ideas were put forward in the field of what, in a more genuine determination for complete decolonization, might be called 'cultural conversion'. In particular, a vital and enlightening contribution was made by the Senegalese Professor Iba der Thiam, rector of the 'Université des Mutants' of Dakar, who, speaking of the 'role of cultural values in development' insisted on the priority of cultural elements over economic elements. What he actually said was that 'culture takes precedence over and dominates the economy; a nation cannot be developed unless it is first given back its individual and collective cultural values'. In this context ideas were put forward for a Euro-African university, the first indications of a new Community vision with regard to ACP countries which will probably be the pivot of the new Lomé III Treaty.

The University Institute for Euro-African studies in Lecce, in the context of the new strategy for cultural relations advocated by the EEC, aims at reestablishing, on the basis of a historical past, (and in view of its special geographical position, and the problems albeit on a different scale shared in the South-South context), contacts with the opposite shore of the Mediterranean, which this time will be 'European' contacts. To paraphrase Senghor, 'an umbilical cord connects us to Africa' and the new prospect is to look towards the South from the coast of another kind of south and, from inside the economic, social, political and cultural problems of the south of Europe, aim towards an authentic opening towards the south of the world, thus confirming - by analogy with what the rector of the University of Dakar said - that for our south too there is a need for less concrete and more culture.

Apart from any harmful and sterile neo-colonialist tendency every contribution must be considered as part of a new effort towards 'cultural conversion'. Let Europe by all means tell Africa who she is but above all let plenty of space be given to the voice of Africa herself.

The outline of the project for the Institute is as follows. The structures for reciprocal assistance are the Community ones laid down in the Chasle Plan on ACP-EEC cultural cooperation. The attached document (motion for a resolution (Doc. 1-351/83) fully explains the project.

The Institute's general programme is structured along two main lines, training and direct intervention.

Training will be aimed at providing all didactic and research aid, in order to reach the highest possible level of information and culture as regards fundamental ACP problems.

This aid will be organized under various headings, thus forming a useful background on which to base every direct intervention measure rationally and profitably.

Training

- cultural exchanges
- information and communication: school of development journalism
- cultural cooperation
- education and training
- cultural data bank

Aid

- 'microprojects'
- research, rural development and health

Within the framework of financial and technical cooperation between the Community and the ACP countries, the Institute will collaborate on drawing up programmes and carrying out socio-cultural projects in the associated African countries, assessing them on the basis of criteria of both socio-cultural and financial feasibility and profitability, bearing in mind the social advantages and indirect and long-term effects and ensuring the participation of local inhabitants in devising programmes and projects.

Respecting the full rights of sovereignty of the associated African states and at their request, the Institute, whilst offering its support in drawing up and implementing socio-cultural projects and programmes, will carry out interdisciplinary sociological surveys in which African researchers and specialists take part as far as possible.

In its work of cooperation on socio-cultural development in the associated African countries, the Institute acknowledges the central role played by small and medium-sized undertakings, which promote economic growth and decentralization by means of a balanced development, mobilizing local capacities and resources.

Furthermore, the Institute will be able to offer technical assistance on supplying or drawing up teaching materials (and vocational training programmes), also arranging a transfer of specific knowledge, thus creating a link between small and medium-sized undertakings in the Community and in Africa.

The Institute promotes exhibitions of African cultural products and encourages suitable promotional activity to help find outlets in order to increase cultural exchanges towards EEC countries. It also collaborates in carrying out campaigns to inform the public and make them more aware, thus stimulating curiosity and interest and developing receptiveness towards such products in the EEC.

In order to remedy imbalance in the flow of information between ACP and EEC countries and in order to increase the internal capacity for producing information (ACP) and the unprejudiced reception of information (EEC), by establishing the same kind of active and equal participation in the international flow of communication, the Institute is promoting a school of 'development journalism' (designed to be its main didactic project) which will draw attention to the inequalities existing in the present world economic order.

The Institute will also promote:

- exchanges of radio and television programmes, in order to encourage a more adequate and objective representation of the ACP countries at national and regional level (involving a more judicious use of certain private radio and television stations)
- exchanges of students and journalists in both directions, in order to enable them to become better acquainted with present-day reality and problems and thus allow them a more objective mutual exchange of information
- training courses for students and journalists organized by newspapers and press agencies
- encouraging European television channels to broadcast cultural programmes, in order to make viewers better acquainted with ACP countries.

In accordance with the Community project, the Institute will, in principle, endeavour to promote, for the benefit of the ACP states, a more balanced flow of cultural exchanges between these states, Italy and the other Member States, accompanied by an awareness of cultural pluralism and the equality of different cultures. The Institute will be the pivot around which other European socio-cultural organizations - at both national and regional level - will move in spreading the principle of 'cultural conversion'.

Moreover, the Institute will:

- encourage every form of dialogue between artists and those who originate and execute cultural ideas in ACP and EEC countries
- organize festivals, entertainments and exhibitions of works of art and handicrafts
- promote every means of recording existing oral literature and the translation of existing written literature (cf. translation and terminology office)
- see that the heritage, especially the artistic heritage, of the ACP countries is safeguarded, by reporting cases of abuse or infringements
- promote in particular - and this will be a key element in the Institute's whole ideology - the kind of cultural exchanges which are aimed above all at promoting the ideals of peace, friendship among men and international understanding
- develop, as far as possible, exchanges with other institutions, associations and groups pursuing aims of common interest; in particular relations with comparable ACP universities for a two-way exchange of students, teachers and researchers.

The cultural data bank, together with the translation and terminology office, will be an essential back-up for studies and information.

Its aim will be to collect:

- studies, theses, projects and results of research undertaken in European and ACP universities in the disciplines which have a bearing on the culture and development of ACP countries
- all useful information in the cultural sector, such as schedules and conditions for taking part in cultural events open to ACP artists
- the names of all associations or institutions interested in cultural exchanges between EEC and ACP countries.

The cultural data bank, the library, the film library, and the video cassette library, together with the above-mentioned translation and terminology office, will be essential aids in as far-reaching a project as possible for training, information and culture.

Aid to development without economic feed-back - this and nothing else is the aim of the Institute, although the Institute, on its own responsibility, may, apart from normal state channels, be a reference point for documentation and unbiased contacts for economic and financial operators and contractors.

The 'microprojects', subject to the Institute's budget but one of its main functions, will be aimed above all at supporting the efforts of the ACP peoples who are to be in charge of their own future, becoming the agents of their own development.

Types of aid: for food, health, rural hydraulic engineering, living conditions and, above all, education and training.

The Institute will work, supported by a select group (teamwork) whose main characteristic will be to provide swift intervention in a sensible and rational manner.

The Institute will also be a point of reference for every technological cooperation project originating in EEC countries and will see that the projects with which it is acquainted are accompanied by adequate training.

Research must be centred particularly on the needs of ACP countries, defined by them on the basis of their priorities, and will be carried out in close connection with the drawing up of development strategies, programmes and projects.

Within the framework of these criteria, the Institute will promote co-operation between other research institutes, in order to encourage exchanges aimed at comparing methodologies.

In connection with a policy to promote the rural environment, which should help to improve living conditions in the countryside, establish better balance and increase agricultural production, the Institute is promoting measures for agricultural organization, particularly in the sectors of rural history, associations of farmers and animal breeding.

The Institute aims to promote public health measures in ACP countries. It will aim to fight poverty, malnutrition and disease; it will promote every kind of initiative aimed at encouraging self-sufficiency in food supply and real social and cultural development. All this will be achieved bearing in mind the social and cultural realities and the actual potential of the place concerned. The Institute will also promote the development and integration of traditional and modern medicine and pharmacology.

It will promote cultural exchanges with medical institutes on the spot and will study coordinated approaches and methods, so as to harmonize economic development with the overall development of the individual.

Motion for a resolution (Doc. 1-351/83) tabled by Mr LEZZI, Mr MARCK, Mr ABENS, Mr FERRERO, Mr ARFE, Mr PELIKAN, Mr GEROKOSTOPOULOS, Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE, Mrs CINCIARI RODANO, Mr DEL DUCA and Mr TRAVAGLINI, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure on the patronage and support to be given by the European Community to the University Institute for Euro-African studies in Lecce (Italy)

The European Parliament,

- A. Having regard to the resolution on cultural cooperation between the ACP states and the EEC adopted on 30 September 1981¹ by the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly, and in particular paragraph 14 concerning the rôle of non-governmental organizations;
- B. considering that the right to culture, learning and scientific knowledge is an inalienable right recognized by all peoples;
- C. Considering that the cultural dimension is increasingly recognized as an essential factor in cooperation and development and the aim of development must be to fully realize people's potential;
- D. Whereas cultural exchanges between the Member States of the Community and the ACP countries are inadequate and it is necessary to bring about a better balance in these exchanges in the interests of equality and reciprocity;
- E. Whereas the quality of these relations must be guaranteed by the mobility of teachers, students and researchers in both directions;
- F. Whereas certain provisions of the Convention of Lomé touch directly or indirectly on the question of cultural cooperation, and a working party, set up within the Joint Committee of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly, has been instructed to study ways of including a section on cultural cooperation in the new text of the Convention of Lomé;
- G. Welcoming the setting up in Lecce (Italy) of a University Institute for Euro-African Studies the aim of which is to develop cultural exchanges between the Member States of the Community and the African states associated with the Community;
- H. Considering that this initiative will further the cause of understanding between African and European peoples, with a view to mutual acquaintance and in a spirit of equality;

¹ OJ C 15 of 20.1.1982

1. Calls on the Commission and the Council to give their patronage and support to this Institution;
2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers, the Council and the Commission.

Explanatory statement

The University Institute for Euro-African Studies in Lecce is an independent, international, apolitical and non-religious institution, whose legal form is governed by Italian law.

It is intended to provide university or post-university courses in the fields of languages, the humanities, natural and physical sciences and communication sciences.

It would also be able to organize cultural events; promote familiarity with artists and ACP writers; publish books and documents concerning history, the arts and ACP literature; organize colloquies and seminars, promote contacts between artists, writers, researchers, journalists and scientists of the ACP and EEC.

Support for teaching and research envisaged:

- Translation and terminology office
- Specialist library
- Cultural data bank
- Cinema workshop
- Team work on 'Microprojects'