

European Communities

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DOCUMENT 1-494/83

Report

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

on the establishment of a school textbook commission

Rapporteur: Mr E. H. BROK

PE 83.201/fin.

At its sitting of 17 February 1982 the European Parliament referred the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Brok and others pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure, on the establishment of a school textbook commission (Doc. 1-1015/81) to the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport.

At its meeting of 20 January 1983 the committee decided to draw up a report on the motion for a resolution by Mr Brok and others and appointed Mr Brok rapporteur. It also decided to deal in the same report with the motion for a resolution by Mr Gendebien on the teaching of European history (Doc. 1-774/82) referred to it on 15 November 1982.

The motion for a resolution is self-explanatory and therefore an explanatory statement is not necessary.

The committee considered the draft report at its meeting of 22/23 June 1983 and adopted the motion for a resolution at that meeting by nine votes to one.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Beumer, chairman; Mr Hahn and Mr Schwencke, vice-chairmen; Mr Brok, rapporteur; Mr Beyer de Ryke, Mr Bógh, Mrs Gaiotti de Biase, Mr Marck (deputizing for Mr Pedini), Mr B. Nielsen (deputizing for Mr Gawronski) and Mrs Viehoff.

This report was tabled on 29 June 1983.

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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:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the establishment of a school textbook commission

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council entitled 'Educational activities with a European content: the study of the European Community in schools' (COM(78) 241 final),
- B. having regard to the resolution on a Community programme in the field of education of 11 March 1982¹,
- C. having regard to the motion for a resolution by Mr Brok and others on the establishment of a school textbook commission (Doc. 1-1015/81),
- D. having regard to the motion for a resolution by Mr Gendebien on the teaching of European history (Doc. 1-774/82) which refers to the frequently 'simplified, distorted and even nationalistic interpretations of the history of the Member States of the Community' and to the fact that a large section of the population is inadequately informed about the construction of the Community, and calls for educational measures to improve understanding of European history and broaden knowledge of the European Community,
- E. acknowledging the work of numerous non-governmental organizations aiming to introduce a European dimension into teaching in schools,
- F. whereas through the Kreyssig Fund the Commission frequently supports the production of teaching and educational materials on European subjects,
- G. convinced that the idea of European unity should be further improved throughout the curriculum by the elimination of the national prejudices still frequently propagated in school textbooks, but that this should not mean the blurring of national identities,
- H. having regard to the results achieved by the German-Polish school textbook commission and the positive experiences with bilingual teaching materials

¹ OJ No. C 87, 5 April 1982, p. 90

on the EUREGIO (Rhine, Ems, Ijssel) in schools on both sides of the border,

- J. having regard to the report by the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport (Doc. 1-494/83),
1. Calls on the Member governments and the Commission to provide greater financial support for the non-governmental organizations active in this area and for the existing schemes for the promotion of the European ideal in schools, and therefore to increase the endowment of the Kreyszig Fund in the 1984 budget which is to be used for its original purpose;
 2. Calls on the Commission to initiate and promote greater cooperation and activity amongst the experts concerned in the various Member States by, for example, organizing colloquies on education policy and awarding research contracts, and to commission a scientific institute to examine the treatment of Europe in teaching in schools;
 3. Proposes that the Commission and the Council of Ministers examine whether these activities can be coordinated by a European schoolbook commission, consisting if possible, of independent experts;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission.

ANNEX I

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (Doc. 1-1015/81)

tabled by Mr BROK, Mr PEDINI, Mr HAHN, Mr BEUMER, Mr GEROKOSTOPOULOS, Mr ESTGEN, Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU, Mr BOCKLET, Mr KALOYANNIS, Mr WEDEKIND, Mr PROTOPAPADAKIS, Mr MERTENS, Mr DEL DUCA and Mr SÄLZER

on behalf of the Group of the European People's Party (Christian-Democratic Group)

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the establishment of a school textbook commission

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council entitled 'Educational activities with a European content: the study of the European Community in schools' (COM(78) 241 final),
 - having regard to the fact that through the Kreyssig Fund the Commission frequently supports the production of teaching and educational materials on European subjects,
 - convinced that the idea of European unity must be further improved throughout the curriculum by the removal of the national prejudices which are still often propagated in school textbooks,
 - having regard to the positive experiences that have been made with the bilingual teaching materials on the EUREGIO (Rhine, Ems, Ijssel) in schools on both sides of the frontier,
1. Invites the Commission and the Council of Ministers to appoint a European school textbook commission involving representatives of the Member States, which has the task of producing recommendations on textbooks and teaching materials with the aim of overcoming national prejudices and encouraging and improving teaching in the Community;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (Doc. 1-774/82)

tabled by Mr GENDEBIEN

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the teaching of European history

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the continuing dissemination through certain information channels of simplified, distorted and even nationalistic interpretations of the history of the Member States of the Community,
 - B. whereas a large section of the population of Europe is inadequately informed about the history of Europe and in particular the construction of the Community,
1. Requests
 - (a) that courses on the history of the other Member States, with specific reference to the economic, social, cultural and artistic aspects, be organized at every level in the education systems of each Member State;
 - (b) that these classes give a picture of the history of European construction and the operation of the Community institutions;
 - (c) that the Commission, working together with specialist institutions and the competent authorities in the Member States, publish booklets and brochures for this purpose;
 - (d) that the competent committee of the European Parliament be involved in this work;
 - (e) that all European television stations prepare and broadcast programmes popularizing the abovementioned topics;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the Governments of the Member States.