

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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Doc. 1-1328/82/ANNEX

ANNEX

to the report by Mr L. CROUX
on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee
on the draft European Act submitted
by the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany
and the Italian Republic

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- Opinion of the Committee on Youth,
Culture, Education,
Information and Sport -

Draftsman: Miss B. BROOKES

PE 80.043/fin./Ann.

By letter of 9 March 1982, the President of the European Parliament authorized the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport to draw up an opinion for the Political Affairs Committee on the latter's own-initiative report on the draft European Act submitted by the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Italian Republic (cultural aspects).

At its meeting of 24 June 1982, the committee appointed Miss BROOKES draftsman.

It considered the draft opinion at its meetings of 22-23 February 1983 and 16 - 17 March 1983 and at the latter meeting adopted it by 9 votes to 1.

The following took part in the vote:

Mr BEUMER, chairman, Mr HAHN and Mr SCHWENCKE, vice-chairmen, Miss BROOKES, draftsman of the opinion, Mr ALEXIADIS, Mr BØGH, Mr GEROKOSTOPOULOS, Mr HUTTON (deputizing for Mr COTTRELL), Mr PAPAPIETRO (deputizing for Mr FANTI) and Mr SIMMONDS.

I. THE FACTS OF THE SITUATION

1. The authors of the European Act see it as a step towards the attainment of European Union; its aim is to 'consolidate what has already been achieved in the process of European integration and to exploit to the full the inherent opportunities for further development.'¹

The proposals contained in the European Act seek to 'bring us closer to the basic aims of a European Union ... through the mutual support of political, economic and social aspects...', and to ensure that 'cooperation will become more widespread on matters ranging from security to culture and law'² so that new impetus will be given to European integration.

2. This is the first time that a formal declaration from the Heads of State and Government has called upon the Ten, as Members of the European Community, to commit themselves to cultural cooperation as a means of moving towards the achievement of closer union, that is to say European Union.

3. Although the European Council declaration delivered in Copenhagen in 1973 mentioned culture as an element of European identity, and although many fine words preceded, accompanied and followed the preparation of the TINDEMANS report on European Union, it has taken more than ten years for proposals to emerge on institutionalized cooperation between the Member States of the Community and hence for culture to be identified unequivocally as one of the spheres that could be absorbed into the 'complex of the relations of Member States' which must be transformed into a European Union.³

4. Although the Act contains no revolutionary ideas, it nevertheless marks a fundamental change of course which should be endorsed and supported by our committee. The aim is identical to the one pursued by the committee ever since it was set up within the new directly-elected Parliament; it is the aim towards which this committee has worked over the years, both in

¹ Mr Genscher before the European Parliament on 19.11.1981

² Mr Colombo on the same occasion

³ The 1972 European Council in PARIS set itself the major objective of 'transforming, before the end of the decade and with the fullest respect for the Treaties already signed, the whole complex of the relations of Member States into a European Union...' (paragraph 16 of the declaration).

its reports and in its activities.

II. CULTURAL COOPERATION UNDER THE EUROPEAN ACT

The draft European Act¹ makes the following provisions:

'The Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the European Communities, meeting within the European Council',

.....

'desiring to consolidate the political and economic progress already achieved towards European Union, both in the economic and the political field, endorse the following aims!:

.....

'to promote, to the extent that these activities cannot be carried out within the framework of the Treaties::

- closer co-operation on cultural matters, in order to affirm the awareness of a common cultural heritage as an element in the European identity;'

.....

CULTURAL CO-OPERATION

With a view to complementing Community action and stressing that, as members of the Council of Europe, they maintain their firm support for and involvement in its cultural activities, the Heads of State or Government agree to promote, encourage or facilitate the following, taking account of respective constitutional provisions:

- development of the activities of the European Foundation and the European University Institute in Florence;
- closer co-operatoin between establishments of higher

¹ In the version of 8.02.1983

- education including exchanges of teachers and students;
- intensified exchanges of experience, particularly among young people, and development of the teaching of the languages of the Member States of the Community;
 - improving the level of knowledge about other Member States of the Community and of information on Europe's history and culture so as to promote a European awareness;
 - examination of the advisability of undertaking joint action to protect, promote and safeguard the cultural heritage;
 - examination of the possibility of promoting joint activities in the dissemination of culture, in particular as regards audio-visual methods;
 - more extensive contacts between writers of the Member States and wider dissemination of their works both inside and outside the Community;
 - closer co-ordination of cultural activities in third countries, within the framework of political co-operation.

III. ANALYSIS OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT

1. Analysis of these provisions reveals that cultural cooperation between the Member States is seen as complementing Community action and as an instrument for consolidating it. The reference to the Council of Europe amounts to an implicit acknowledgement of the role played by this body in the cultural sector and of the desire to avoid a duplication of activities.

2. The reference to taking account of the constitutional provisions of States should dispel the misgivings of those who are - wrongly - afraid that the Community wants to use European cultural cooperation as a means of imposing on the Member States basic cultural policy choices which in fact fall within, and must continue to fall within, the competence of the individual States.

3. Our committee fully endorses this approach for it has always asserted that cultural cooperation is not only compatible with, but is even implicitly required by, the provisions of the Treaty of ROME.

It is abundantly clear that cooperation in sectors such as those mentioned in the draft European Act in no way amounts to interfering with 'national sovereignty' and claiming at 'supranational' level powers which would then be taken away from Member States. On the contrary, endorsement of the European Act would imply formal recognition of the fact that membership of the Community also commits Member States to cooperation in sectors which, though not always expressly covered by the provisions of the Treaties, nevertheless amount to a logical extension of them in the light of the Community's experience over recent years and the commitments entered into in the European Council.

4. Furthermore, a glance at the sectors involved reveals that cultural cooperation takes place in areas where Member States collaborate either under intergovernmental arrangements (European Foundation, European University Institute in Florence), or pursuant to the provisions of the Treaties (e.g. cooperation between institutes of higher education, youth exchanges, etc.). What is required, therefore, is the codification and consolidation of existing practices rather than profound change.

In the case of some sectors, moreover, the Act simply refers to the desirability or possibility of embarking on certain projects rather than requiring a commitment to specific action.

This applies, for example, to 'promoting joint activities in the dissemination of culture, in particular as regards audio-visual methods' and 'undertaking joint action to protect, promote and safeguard the cultural heritage'.

5. The circumspection, flexibility and realism of the Act, particularly as regards cultural cooperation, seem likely to calm the fears of people who view the cultural sphere as a 'taboo area' which should at all costs be shielded from any form of cooperation at Community level. At the same time, however, these qualities open up new horizons for those within our institution and among the general public in the Member States who believe that culture can provide the Community with a 'new dimension', making it less of a 'Businessman's Europe' and more of a 'Citizen's Europe'.

6. The Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport welcomes the fact that the areas listed in the Act correspond to those which fall within its terms of reference and on which it has either produced reports in the past or is doing so now. (See Annex).

Our committee has repeatedly stressed the close links between cultural problems and those relating to youth, education and information, areas which the Act specifically acknowledges could be brought within the orbit of increased and strengthened cultural cooperation. These sectors could then be developed within an overall framework and from a broader political vantage point that has previously been the case.

7. Formal commitment from Member States would give considerable political back-up to the enterprising initiatives of the Commission of the European Communities, initiatives which reflect our policy objectives and which only recently were the subject of an important communication to the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers entitled 'Strengthening Community action in the cultural sector'. It would therefore be a question of carrying out measures that the Member States, and also the Council, had already committed themselves to politically, which should, moreover, increase the chances of adequate appropriations being granted from the Community budget.

8. The committee hopes that - when the time comes to implement the provisions of the Act - cultural cooperation will, as far as possible, take place within the context of the Community.

9. Regretting that the most recent version of the draft European Act makes no reference to regular meetings of the Council of Ministers responsible for cultural cooperation, our committee would like to see such a practice introduced, so that once a year at least these Ministers, meeting within the Council, could agree on constructive projects to translate their commitments on cultural cooperation into action.

10. On all these grounds, our committee reiterates its total support for those provisions of the draft European Act which relate to cultural cooperation. It believes that the proposals concerned constitute a forward-looking formula in keeping both with the spirit of the Treaty of ROME and with the commitments entered into by the Heads of State and Government meeting within the European Council.

ANNEX

I- List of the reports drawn up by the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport and adopted by the European Parliament.

-Report by Mr SCHWENCKE on the European University Institute (Doc. 1-148/81) adopted on 5.5.1981

-Report by Mrs GAIOTTI DE BIASE on a Community Programme in the field of education (Doc. 1-845/81) adopted on 11.3.1982.

-Report by Mr ISRAEL on the teaching of human rights in the European Community (Doc. 1-483/82/rev.) adopted on 29.10.1982.

-Report by Mrs PRUVOT on youth activities (Doc. 1-826/80) adopted on 12.3.1981.

-Report by Mr HAHN on the possibility of designating 1985 'European Music Year' (Doc. 1-345/80) adopted on 18.11.1980.

-Report by Mrs PRUVOT on the social situation of cultural workers (Doc. 1-558/80) adopted on 16.10.1981.

-Report by Mr ARFE on a Community charter of regional languages and cultures and a charter of rights of ethnic minorities (Doc. 1-965/80) adopted on 16.10.1981

-Report by Mr HAHN on the protection of the architectural and archaeological heritage (Doc. 1-206/82) adopted on 14.9.1982

-Report by Mr SCHALL on the information policy of the European Community, of the Commission of the European Communities and of the European Parliament (Doc. 1-596/80) adopted on 16.1.1981

-Report by Mr HAHN on radio and television broadcasting in the European Community (Doc. 1-1013/81) adopted on 12.3.1982

-Report by Mr BEUMER on the information policy of the European Communities for the 1984 direct elections (Doc. 1-1058/82) adopted on 11.2.1983

II - List of reports in progress within the Committee on
Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport-

- Report by Mr BOCKLETT on the promotion of youth exchanges
(PE 74.871/fin.) adopted by the Committee on Youth, Culture,
Education, Information and Sport on 16 March 1983
- Report by Mr SCHWENCKE on the European Foundation.
- Report by Mrs PERY on higher education in the European
Community.
- Report by Mr SCHWENCKE on the academic recognition of
diplomas and study periods.
- Report by Mr HUTTON on a youth service programme.
- Report by Mrs PRUVOT on the promotion of the European cinema
industry.
- Report by Mr FANTI on strengthening Community activity in the
cultural sector.
- Report by Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE on the promotion of poetry.
- Report by Mrs VIEHOFF on a Community policy on tourism.
- Report by Mr HUTTON on the danger to the pluralism of opinions
represented by the commercialization of new media.
(provisional title).
- Report by Mr BEYER DE RYKE on the use of European languages in
the European Community
- Report by Mr VAN AERSSEN on the foundation of a Euro-Arab
university in Spain.
- Report by Mr MARCK on the international programme for communications
development (IPDC).
- Report on the return of fragments of the Parthenon to Greece
(Rapporteur not yet appointed).

PE 83.081/fin./Ann.