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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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PRESS RELEASE

7352/83 (Presse 94)

850th joint meeting of the Council  
- Labour and Social Affairs -

and

- Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council -  
Luxembourg, 3 June 1983

President: Mr Norbert BLÜM  
Federal Minister for Labour  
and Social Affairs  
of the Federal Republic of Germany



The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Mr Daniel COENS  
Minister for Education

Mr Michel HANSENNE  
Minister for Labour and Employment

Denmark:

Mr Ernst GOLDSCHMIDT  
Head of Division at the  
Ministry of Education

Germany:

Mrs Dorothee WILMS  
Federal Minister for Education and  
Science of the Federal Republic of  
Germany

Mr Norbert BLÜM  
Federal Minister for Labour and  
Social Affairs

Greece:

Mr Apostolos KAKLAMANIS  
Minister for Education and  
Religious Affairs

France:

Mr R.G. SCHWARTZENBERG  
State Secretary,  
Ministry for Education

Ireland:

Mrs Gemma HUSSEY  
Minister for Education

Mr Liam KAVANAGH  
Minister for Labour

Italy:

Mr Paolo GALLI  
Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Fernand BODEN  
Minister for Education

Mr Jean-Claude JÜNCKER  
State Secretary, Labour  
and Social Security

Netherlands:

Mr J. de KONING  
Minister for Social Services and  
Employment

Mr W.J. DEETMAN  
Minister for Education and Science

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter MORRISON  
Parliamentary Under Secretary  
Department of Employment

For the Commission:

Mr Ivor RICHARD - Member

The joint meeting began by hearing oral communications from the Presidency on the conclusions relating to the main items on the agendas for the two meetings (Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council, and Labour and Social Affairs) on 2 June 1983 (<sup>1</sup>).

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#### VOCATIONAL TRAINING POLICIES IN THE 1980's

The Council approved the substance of the Resolution concerning vocational training policies in the Community in the 1980's.

This Resolution, which makes an important contribution to combating unemployment in the Community, incorporates guidelines for action to be taken by the Member States and provides for measures to be implemented by the Commission to supplement and back up Member States' action.

The Resolution makes particular provision for specific measures to assist young people in response to the wishes expressed by the European Council.

During the next five years taking account of the responsibilities of the two sides of industry in this area, Member States:

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(<sup>1</sup>) See Press Releases No 7350/83 (Presse 92) and No 7351/83 (Presse 93).

- will do their utmost to ensure that all young people who so wish, and particularly those without educational or vocational qualifications, can benefit over a period of at least six months and if possible one year following full compulsory education from a full-time programme involving basic training and/or initial work experience to prepare them for an occupation;
- moreover, pursue their efforts, in the context of their national policies and practices, to see that for young people without sufficient qualifications, including particularly those who are looking for work, adequate opportunities of vocational training designed to improve their skills and qualifications are available.

#### YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES

The Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council took note of an oral communication from the Commission on the future role of the Community in youth exchange programmes.

#### FAST I

The Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council took note of an oral progress report by the Commission on FAST I (Forecasting and Assessment in the Field of Science and Technology) insofar as it relates to employment and training and guidelines for the future.

TRANSITION OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM EDUCATION TO ADULT AND WORKING LIFE

The joint meeting of the Council (Labour and Social Affairs)/ Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council discussed the results of the first "programme of pilot projects to improve the preparation of young people for work and to facilitate their transition from education to working life" carried out by the European Community between 1977 and 1981 on the basis of its resolution of 13 December 1976.

It takes note of the report from the Education Committee and the final report provided by the Commission. These reports and the available national documentation form a useful contribution to the development in each Member State of responses to the education and training needs of young people. The results of the programme at both national and Community levels should be effectively disseminated in appropriate ways.

The problems which led to the resolution of 1976 in connection with the transition of young people to adult and working life have become even more acute with the unfavourable economic trends since that time.

There is agreement on the fact that unemployment can only be combated by means of a comprehensive strategy covering economic, financial and employment policies. As a complement to this strategy, education and vocational training policies have two main functions in facilitating the transition of young people to adult and working life, namely:

- equipping all young people, in school as well as in supplementary out-of-school measures, with the knowledge, abilities and skills which are a prerequisite for successful access to further vocational training and entry into working life, also helping them to develop the personal and social attributes needed to face with self-confidence and initiative the increasing difficulties of transition and to find their place as young adults;

- providing to all young school-leavers either the opportunity to obtain a supplementary vocational qualification or systematic work experience.

The following conclusions and guidelines from the report of the Education Committee are considered as particularly important for ensuring better preparation of young people for adult and working life.

- (i) In order to formulate a comprehensive strategy for education and vocational training policy, it is necessary to prepare young people as from the final years of compulsory schooling to meet the challenges facing them in the transition phase. The programme of pilot projects has provided a wealth of insights, and many of the ideas have already been put into practice in the Member States. In this connection it is recognised that differing implementation measures may be required because of different national traditions and specific situations in regard to education and employment.
- (ii) Closer co-operation should be established on the part of all the bodies responsible for the transition process, at the level of policy decisions in the Member States at national, regional and local levels, in order to make concerted efforts to facilitate the transition and to ensure close co-operation on everyday matters in the interests of the young people concerned.

Local or regional liaison and co-operation groups, which include education establishments, employment authorities and exchanges, employment advisory services, local business, social services and youth welfare organizations as well as representatives of teachers and parents have proved to be extremely useful. In addition to such liaison groups, experience has also shown the value of a transition tutor - who has specific responsibility for developing links between the school and local community and channelling resources and support for young people in transition.



- (iii) In order to meet the differing abilities and learning needs of young people in the transition phase, a wide range of options is required. Beginning with young people still in compulsory education, areas and places of learning experience outside the school should be used. The industrial and commercial working world and the surrounding social environment can broaden the spectrum of learning activities and experiences and thereby open up new fields of interest for young people, promoting their practical and social abilities as well as their proficiency. Stronger links should be established between schools and local industry and commerce, in order to provide young people with new insights and perspectives in particular through work visits and periods of practical work experience.
  
- (iv) The process of careers education, vocational guidance and counselling should span the whole period of transition from the secondary stage to subsequent training and the initial period of employment and should be closely interwoven with the whole school curriculum.
  
- (v) In the design of educational provision special attention should be paid to the specific needs of girls, with a view to their acquiring vocational training qualifications and widening the range of careers open to them.
  
- (vi) The various possibilities set out in the report for encouraging disadvantaged young people and for motivating under-achieving young people should be explored, so that they too undergo meaningful and purposeful further training.

(vii) In both initial and in-service teacher training stronger emphasis should be laid on improving the teacher's abilities to introduce young people to the social and vocational aspects of their transition to adult and working life, and also to co-operate with instructors and experts in the working world and in employment centres.

In adopting the above conclusions the joint meeting of the Council (Labour and Social Affairs)/Council and the Ministers of Education, meeting within the Council notes that they confirm as key areas for further co-operation at Community level the priority themes set out in the resolution of 12 July 1982 initiating a second programme of pilot projects for the period up to 31 December 1986.

It approves the arrangements made to launch the second series of pilot projects and welcomes the fact that preparation of the next 30 projects is proceeding according to schedule, with the majority of these projects starting up in the current year.

It also underlines the importance of the new measures adopted for co-ordination, monitoring and exploitation of the second programme, as well as for interaction and dissemination within it. These measures should bring about an intensification of the exchange of information and experience between Member States on facilitating the transition of young people from education to adult and working life.

The second programme should be related closely to the experimental activities and policies to be pursued in the fields of employment and vocational training.

It finally agrees to transmit these conclusions, as well as the reports of the Education Committee and the Commission, to the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.