

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

6516/90 (Presse 67)

1403rd meeting of the Council
and of the Ministers responsible for Cultural Affairs
meeting within the Council

Brussels, 18 May 1990

President: Mrs Marie GEOGHEGAN-QUINN

Irish Minister
of State for EEC matters

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

Belgium

Mr Patrick DEWAELE Minister for Culture (Flemish Community)
Mr Valmy FEAUX Chairman of the Executive of the French-speaking Community and Minister with responsibility for Culture
Mr Brune FAGNOUL Minister for Culture (German-speaking Community)

Denmark

Mr Ole VIG JENSEN Minister for Culture

Germany

Mrs Irmgard ADAM-SCHWAETZER Minister of State, Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mrs Eva RÜHMKORF President of the Conference of Ministers for Cultural Affairs of the Länder

Greece

Mr Tzannis TZANNETAKIS Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Culture

Spain

Mr Jorge SEMPRUN Minister for Culture

France

Mr Jack LANG Minister for Culture

Ireland

Mrs Maire GEOGHEGAN-QUINN Minister of State for EEC Matters
Mr Brendan DALY Minister of State for Heritage Affairs

Italy

Mr Ferdinando FACCHIANO

Minister for Cultural Assets

Luxembourg

Mr René STEIGHEN

Minister attached to the Ministry of
Cultural Affairs

Netherlands

Mrs Hedwig D'ANCONA

Minister for Culture

Portugal

Mr Pedro SANTANA LOPES

State Secretary for Culture

United Kingdom

Mr Richard LUCE

Minister for the Arts

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Commission

Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Member

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NATIONAL TREASURES POSSESSING ARTISTIC, HISTORICAL OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL VALUE IN THE
LIGHT OF THE ABOLITION OF INTERNAL FRONTIERS IN 1992

The Ministers held a policy debate on the problems which the abolition of controls at internal frontiers in 1992 could entail as regards the protection of national treasures possessing artistic, historical or archaeological value, taking as a basis a Commission communication of 23 November 1989.

The Council and the Ministers for Culture:

- took note of an interim report from the Presidency and a Commission statement that it would await the opinions of the Member States and the results of current proceedings, which would be submitted to the Council and the Ministers for Culture under the Italian Presidency, before continuing work on its plan (on which it consulted the Member States in February 1990) to publish, on its own responsibility, its interpretation of Articles 30 to 36 of the EEC Treaty as regards the conditions for the movement within the Community of goods possessing artistic, historical or archaeological value;
- instructed the Committee on Cultural Affairs and the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the possibility of stronger national measures, measures for co-operation between Member States and measures to make controls at external borders more efficient after 1992, and to prepare conclusions for the next meeting of the Council and the Ministers for Culture;
- asked the Commission to provide the Committee on Cultural Affairs with any preliminary study which could assist it in its work.

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MANNER IN WHICH THE "EUROPEAN CITY OF CULTURE" WILL BE CHOSEN IN FUTURE AND
SPECIAL EVENT FOR "EUROPEAN CULTURAL MONTH"

The Ministers for Culture meeting within the Council adopted the following conclusions:

CONCLUSIONS

OF THE MINISTERS FOR CULTURE MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL

on the manner in which the
"European City of Culture" will be chosen in future and on a special event
for "European Cultural Month"

In regard to the "European City of Culture" Resolution of 13 June 1985, the Ministers for Culture note that designations of cities have been made for the years up to 1996 inclusive and that by then a first round of European Community Member States will have been completed.

They agree that for the years after 1996 not only Member States of the Community but also other European countries basing themselves on the principles of democracy, pluralism and the rule of law should be able to nominate cities for the event. They will begin to make further designations from 1992 onwards.

They note with interest that the current European City of Culture, Glasgow, will call towards the end of the year a meeting of organizers of the different Cities of Culture, with a view to pooling experience. One conclusion which can already be drawn is that greater publicity should be given to the event in the Member States other than the one in which it is taking place.

In view of the widespread interest in holding the event expressed by European cities both inside and outside the Community, the Ministers agree to create a further cultural event, which would be a special European Cultural Month to be held each year in one city (from a European country basing itself on the principles of democracy, pluralism and the rule of law), to be known as "Europe in [name of city], 199..". European Cultural Month should be launched as soon as possible and should in the first instance be for an experimental period.

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European Cultural Month would not affect the standing of the European City of Culture or the support granted to it and would not exclude the city concerned from a possible future designation as European City of Culture. Some linkage between the European City of Culture and the special European Cultural Month of the same year could be made. The Committee on Cultural Affairs should explore further the modalities of the special European Cultural Month, including the contribution which the Council of Europe might make to the event.

They note the willingness of the Commission to be associated with the organization of this new event.

A complementary method of bringing European cities outside the Community into a relationship with the European City of Culture event (already effected or planned in some cases) would be for a European City of Culture, on a voluntary basis, to make a special feature of such a city's culture within its own programme.

The Presidency and the Commission will jointly explore the possibilities for the first years and report to their next meeting on these.

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CULTURAL EDUCATION

The Ministers discussed cultural education on the basis of a Commission paper summarizing its policy guidelines on the matter and the measures being planned to:

- facilitate the movement of cultural workers in the various stages of education;
- improve the general quality of education through better dissemination of information;
- improve access to cultural education;
- facilitate the movement of cultural workers through the recognition of their qualifications.

The Ministers welcomed this paper and asked the Commission to take account of the comments made at the present meeting in its future communication proposing specific measures.

AUDIOVISUAL POLICY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AUDIOVISUAL INDUSTRY - MEDIA 1991-1995

The Ministers discussed two Commission communications:

- one covering all aspects of the Community's audiovisual policy;
- the other containing two proposals on the developments of the audiovisual industry - MEDIA 1991-1995.

The Ministers welcomed the communication containing the two proposals and wanted the cultural considerations mentioned during the discussion to be taken into account when the proposals were examined in detail by an ad hoc Council working party.

PREPARATORY WORK REGARDING CO-OPERATION BETWEEN
LIBRARIES IN THE SPHERE OF INFORMATICS

Mr DONDELINGER, Member of the Commission, reported on progress with regard to co-operation between libraries in the sphere of informatics. He announced that the Commission would be submitting a proposal for a Decision in the context of the third Framework Programme for Research and Development 1990-1994, to make it possible for the programme to be implemented from 1991.

The Ministers hoped that the Decision would be adopted at the earliest opportunity.

EUROPEAN HISTORY OF EUROPE

The Ministers heard:

- a statement by the Greek delegation on an as yet unpublished book entitled "A European History of Europe" by J.B. DUROSELLE;
- a statement by Mr DONDELINGER that the book in question was a private work, which would not be published under the aegis of the Commission, and that it was not within the Commission's sphere of competence to make recommendations as to the choice of school books.

NOMINATIONS FOR EUROPEAN PRIZES FOR LITERATURE AND TRANSLATION

The Ministers examined a list of the works submitted by all the Member States for the European prize for literature and a list of the translations of works selected for the European prize for translation. These prizes would be awarded for the first time towards the end of this year as part of the "Glasgow, European City of Culture" event.

ACCESS TO THE UNITED STATES FOR NON-AMERICAN ARTISTS

The Ministers took note of a statement by the French Minister, Mr J. LANG, on access to the United States for non-American artists and also noted the information supplied by the Commission on the steps it had already taken in this field.
