

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10519/90 (Presse 214)

**1457th Meeting of the Council
and the Ministers for Education
Brussels, 6 December 1990
President: Mr Gerardo BIANCO**

**Minister for Education
of the Italian Republic**

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

Belgium:

Mr Daniel COENS	Minister for Education of the Flemish Community
Mr Yvan YLIEFF	Minister for Education of the French-speaking Community
Mr GENTGES	Minister for Education for the German-speaking Community

Denmark:

Mr Niels Henrik SLIBEN	Deputy Permanent Representative
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Germany:

Mr Norbert LAMMERT	State Secretary, Ministry of Education and Science
Mr Gerhard KONOW	Chairman of the Conference of Ministers for Education of the "Länder"

Greece:

Mr Haris CARABARBOUNIS	Deputy Permanent Representative
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Spain:

Mr Javier ELORZA	Deputy Permanent Representative
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France:

Mr Lionel JOSPIN	Ministre d'Etat, Minister for Education, Youth and Sport
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Ireland:

Mrs Mary O'ROURKE Minister for Education

Italy:

Mr Gerardo BIANCO Minister for Education

Mrs Laura FINCATO State Secretary for Education

Luxembourg:

Mr Marc FISCHBACH Minister for Education

Netherlands:

Mr Jo RITZEN Minister for Education and Science

Portugal:

Mr Roberto CARNEIRO Minister for Education

United Kingdom:

Mr Kenneth CLARKE Minister for Education and Science

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Commission:

Mrs Vasso PAPANDEOU Member

MEETING WITH MINISTERS FROM HUNGARY, POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA

On the occasion of this meeting of the Council and of the Ministers of Education, a meeting took place with Mr Andrasfavy BERTALAN, Minister for Education for Hungary, Mr Henryk SAMSONOWYCZ, Minister for Education for Poland and Mr PATY, Czech Deputy Minister for Education.

The Ministers from these three countries took the opportunity to explain the problems they were encountering in reforming their respective educational systems.

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RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL AND THE MINISTERS FOR EDUCATION MEETING WITHIN THE
COUNCIL CONCERNING THE EURYDICE EDUCATION INFORMATION NETWORK IN THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY

THE COUNCIL AND THE MINISTERS FOR EDUCATION, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

Referring to the Resolution of the Council and of the Ministers for Education, meeting within the Council, of 9 February 1976 comprising an action programme in the field of education ⁽¹⁾, and the General Report of the Education Committee, which was approved in substance by the Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council on 27 June 1980 and concerned the establishment of an education information network known as EURYDICE, as well as, for an initial stage, the network's intended beneficiaries and its priority topics and operational structure;

Referring to several Resolutions of the European Parliament and in particular that of 11 March 1982 ⁽²⁾ on the implementation of the EURYDICE network;

Whereas the process of political, economic and social integration of the European Community is resulting in a quantitative and a qualitative increase in information requirements concerning education and training systems and specific questions relating to the development of education systems and whereas the EURYDICE network forms part of a whole range of public and private sources of information on education in the Community;

(1) OJ No C 38, 19.2.1976.

(2) OJ No C 87, 5.4.1982.

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Whereas in their conclusions of 6 October 1989 ⁽¹⁾ the Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council, agreed to develop co-operation in education in the run-up to 1993, and whereas they have recognized the value of the EURYDICE network as an instrument of such co-operation, most recently in the conclusions of 31 May 1990 ⁽²⁾ on meetings of senior officials;

Whereas the Council Resolution of 22 January 1990 provides for the development of a programme to set up trans-European networks, of which the EURYDICE network could be regarded as one of the elements;

Welcoming the measures taken by the Commission to develop co-operation with appropriate international organizations, and especially with the Council of Europe for the co-production of the European Education Thesaurus;

Noting the Commission's report on ten years of EURYDICE activities, which points to the need for a better definition and a development of the education information network in the European Community;

HEREBY ADOPT THIS RESOLUTION:

1. In order to intensify and improve co-operation in education between the Member States of the Community, and to assist the preparation of initiatives at national and Community level, it is necessary to reinforce and develop the EURYDICE network as the chief instrument for providing information on national and Community structures, systems and developments in the field of education. The network consists of a European Unit and Units in the Member States. It is designed as a system permitting the mutual exchange of documentary information.

(1) OJ No C 277, 31.10.1989.

(2) OJ No C 162, 31. 5.1990.

2. Development of the EURYDICE network should help to:

- (a) improve, in the first place, the procedure of the question/answer system for the rapid provision of reliable information to the relevant national and Community authorities;
- (b) assist, in the second place, the drawing up of comparative analyses, reports and surveys on common priority topics determined inter alia in the Education Committee and at the regular meetings of senior officials;
- (c) also diversify the dissemination of the products available in the framework of the network, collaborating on this with public and private bodies.

3. Within constitutional and financial limits and in the framework of their own structures and policies, the Member States and the Commission are requested, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, to promote the following activities:

- (a) making the collection and documentary processing of information more systematic and more effective by using the new technologies to the full;
- (b) making the various specialized sources of information more accessible by fostering co-operation between the Units of the network and the information structures and services concerning education and training at both national and Community level.
- (c) conducting a review of working methods with a view of securing improved efficiency and effectiveness.

4. The Member States' Units should be capable of playing a dual role: on the one hand, providing the European network with information on the development of their own education systems; on the other hand, contributing to dissemination at national level with regard to the development of Member States' educational systems and policies and of Community activities concerning co-operation in education matters.

5. To ensure a more systematic provision of information on Community activities, the Member States' Units should liaise with those responsible at national level for Community activities concerning education and training.
6. So that the Member States' Units can perform their tasks within an active European network, national authorities should take adequate measures concerning staff and its training, as well as equipment.
7. The Commission is requested to strengthen the EURYDICE European Unit's vitalizing and co-ordinating role with regard to exchanges of information within the network, in particular by feeding the network's databanks and encouraging the preparation and dissemination of information.
8. The European Unit, assisted by the Member States' Units, should develop a computerized information system in the field of education and facilitate access by those Units to the other Community databanks.
9. The European Unit, assisted by the Member States' Units, should contribute to the provision of information on Community education and training activities, in co-operation with, in particular, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) and the National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC).
10. The European Unit, assisted by the Member States' Units, should provide technical assistance in the preparation and follow-up of meetings of senior officials.

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11. The Commission is requested to continue its co-operation with the international organizations active in this field, especially the Council of Europe and the OECD, and to involve the EURYDICE network in such co-operation.
12. The Commission is requested to strengthen links with the existing scheme of study visits for educational specialists (ARION), which is also concerned with the exchange of information between education systems, and to involve EURYDICE in the preparation of visits and the utilization of information generated by such visits.
13. The Commission is invited to submit to the Council a progress report in particular covering the activities set out in paragraph 3 concerning the exchange of information on education.

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ROLE OF EDUCATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

Ministers debated the role of schools in the fight against drugs, stressing the importance they attached to this campaign including the preventive aspects in their respective educational systems.

At the close of their discussion Ministers invited the Commission, in preparation for the next Ministerial Meeting, to include the fight against drugs in the report which it was in the course of drawing up pursuant to the general resolution on health education in schools adopted in November 1988.

ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS

Ministers held a useful discussion on Community co-operation in assessing educational systems.

They noted that the Presidency was organizing a meeting on this topic to be held in Brussels on 11 and 12 December 1990 and attended by senior education officials from the Member States and the Commission.

Subject to any further considerations which might be raised at that meeting, they approved in broad outline a list of possible subjects for exchanges of information and experience among Member States in this field.

THE NON-UNIVERSITY SECTOR OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Council discussed the non-university sector of post-secondary education on the basis of a note from the Italian delegation.

Following this discussion the President noted the interest shown by the Council and by Ministers in further work on this topic both nationally and by means of exchanges of information and experience among Member States.

The Council also noted a paper delivered by Mrs PAPANDREOU presenting the main aspects of the Commission communication on the amendment of the PETRA program - Community action for the professional qualification of young people and their preparation for adult and professional life.

EUROPEAN SCHOOLS

Ministers heard an oral report from the President on progress in the preparation of a draft convention defining the Statute of the European Schools.



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COMPUTER MESSAGE :

FROM : C.E.C. - G.P.P.
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BRUXELLES, LE 6 DECEMBRE 1990

NOTE BIO590) 388 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

PREPARATION DU CONSEIL EDUCATION DU 6 DECEMBRE 1990

LA REUNION DES MINISTRES DE L'EDUCATION DU 6 DECEMBRE 1990 SERA PRECEDEE D'UN ECHANGE DE VUES INFORMEL AVEC LEURS COLLEGUES DE POLOGNE, HONGRIE ET TCHECOSLOVAQUIE. CES TROIS DERNIERS AURONT AINSI L'OCCASION D'INFORMER LES MINISTRES DES DOUZE DE LA SITUATION ET DES PERSPECTIVES DANS LE DOMAINE DE L'EDUCATION DANS LEUR PAYS. MADAME PAPANDREOU ET LES MINISTRES DE L'EDUCATION COMMUNAUTAIRES PRESENTERONT TANT LES ACTIONS COMMUNAUTAIRES QUE LES INITIATIVES BILATERALES DANS LE DOMAINE DE LA COOPERATION AVEC LES TROIS PAYS EN MATIERE D'EDUCATION.

A 11H30, DEBUTERA LA SESSION NORMALE DU CONSEIL AVEC L'ORDRE DU JOUR SUIVANT :

- ADOPTION D'UNE RESOLUTION CONCERNANT LE RESEAU EURYDICE. CETTE RESOLUTION VISE A RENFORCER ET DEVELOPPER LE RESEAU EURYDICE COMME INSTRUMENT PRINCIPAL D'INFORMATION SUR LES STRUCTURES, LES SYSTEMES ET LES DEVELOPPEMENTS NATIONAUX ET COMMUNAUTAIRES DANS LE DOMAINE DE L'EDUCATION. LA COMMISSISON SERA INVITEE A PRESENTER AU CONSEIL UN

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'PROGRESS REPORT' CONCERNANT UN SYSTEME GLOBAL POUR L'ECHANGE D'INFORMATIONS EN MATIERE D'EDUCATION. EN OUTRE, LA COMMISSION ET LES ETATS MEMBRES SONT INVITES A REVOIR LES METHODES DE TRAVAIL EN VUE D'UNE PLUS GRANDE EFFICACITE DU RESEAU EURYDICE.

- ROLE DE L'EDUCATION DANS LA LUTTE CONTRE LA DROGUE

LES MINISTRES SONT APPELES A AVOIR UN ECHANGE DE VUES SUR UNE NOTE PRESENTEE PAR LA PRESIDENCE CONCERNANT L'IMPORTANCE DU PHENOMENE DE LA TOXICOMANIE DANS LES ECOLES ET LA NECESSITE D'UNE COOPERATION DANS CE DOMAINE.

LE CONSEIL ET LES MINISTRES DE L'EDUCATION POURRAIENT INVITER LA COMMISSION A DRESSER UN BILAN DES ACTIVITES SCOLAIRES ET DES PROGRAMMES D'EDUCATION EXISTANTS ET A LE SOUMETTRE AU CONSEIL.

- COOPERATION COMMUNAUTAIRE DANS L'EVALUATION DES SYSTEMES D'ENSEIGNEMENT

LES MINISTRES SONT APPELES A AVOIR UN ECHANGE DE VUES SUR UNE NOTE DE LA PRESIDENCE QUI POSE DEUX QUESTIONS :

- COMMENT EFFECTUER AU MIEUX L'EVALUATION DES SYSTEMES D'ENSEIGNEMENT ET COMMENT EN UTILISER LES RESULTATS POUR AMELIORER LA QUALITE DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT ?
- COMMENT PARTAGER L'INFORMATION ET L'EXPERIENCE DANS CE DOMAINE DE MANIERE QU'ELLE SOIT UTILE ET ADAPTEE A LA COOPERATION EUROPEENNE ?

LES MINISTRES AURONT ENFIN UN ECHANGE DE VUES SUR LE SECTEUR NON-UNIVERSITAIRE DANS L'ENSEIGNEMENT POST-SECONDNAIRE. A CETTE

OCCASION LA COMMISSION PRESENTERA SA PROPOSITION CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME 'PETRA'.

AMITIES,

C. STATHOPOULOS

SENT BY SPP AT : THU DEC 6 10:08:29 CET 1990

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Bruxelles, le 6 décembre 1990

NOTE BIO(90) 388 (suite 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

CONSEIL EDUCATION DU 6 DECEMBRE 1990

La rencontre des Ministres de l'Education des Douze avec leurs homologues de l'Hongrie, Tchécoslovaquie et Pologne qui a précédé la réunion du Conseil "Education" dans la matinée du 6 décembre, a donné l'occasion d'avoir un échange de vues fructueux sur les besoins des pays de l'Europe centrale et orientale en matière d'éducation.

Le constat des trois Ministres, invités au Conseil, était unanime. "La faillite de (leurs) anciens systèmes d'éducation est complète". "Nous avons entendu", a remarqué un ministre communautaire, "l'histoire d'un désastre". Les contacts avec le monde scientifique occidental étaient presque inexistant dans le domaine des sciences sociales; même chose pour les moyens financiers pour acheter des monographies occidentales (une monographie occidentale par an et faculté selon le Ministre tchécoslovaque). Il n'y avait pas d'autonomie du système éducatif et le problème se pose, comment pourrait-on réintégrer ces pays dans l'Europe.

Interrogés sur leurs priorités, les Ministres tchécoslovaque, hongrois et polonais ont mentionnés :

- la formation des formateurs (requalification des enseignants);
- la formation professionnelle et technique (70% des jeunes de son pays, a dit le Ministre hongrois, reçoivent une très mauvaise formation professionnelle);
- le renforcement, par le biais du système scolaire, de l'identité culturelle de ces pays qui sera, en même temps, un renforcement de la démocratie. Tous ont souligné à cet égard l'importance stratégique de l'éducation, de la culture et de la structure des systèmes scolaires.

Intervenant au débat, le Commissaire Madame PAPANDREOU a esquissé les initiatives communautaires en matière d'éducation dans le cadre de l'opération PHARE. La Commission, a-t-elle dit, a reçu dans le cadre du programme TEMPUS, 1 337 propositions de projets communs européens et plus de 1 000 programmes d'échanges et mesures complémentaires. Seulement 12% des plus que 1 300 projets communs européens pourront être financés, malgré le fait que parmi les projets rejetés il y a certains de valeur. Les 25 MECU disponibles pour TEMPUS ne peuvent pas satisfaire aux besoins. D'autre part, la Fondation pour la formation professionnelle dans les pays de l'Est ne peut pas encore fonctionner faute d'une décision sur son siège. La Commission cherchera de concentrer les crédits disponibles sur un nombre limité de projets afin d'accroître l'efficacité de son intervention. Un effort sera fait de renforcer la coordination, sachant qu'il s'agit là d'une tâche à long terme.

La réunion formelle du Conseil "Education" a été assez brève. La résolution concernant le réseau EURYDICE a pu, comme prévu, être adoptée. Un bref échange de vues a enfin eu lieu sur le rôle de l'éducation dans la lutte contre la drogue et la coopération communautaire dans l'évaluation des systèmes d'enseignement.

Amitiés,
C. Stathopoulos

