

ACP - EEC CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

JOINT COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION

on cultural cooperation between the ACP States and the EEC
(Rapporteur: H.E. Mr Raymond CHASLE)

- adopted unanimously by the Joint Committee on 24 February 1983

The Joint Committee of the Consultative Assembly, meeting in Kingston, (Jamaica) from 21 to 24 February 1983,

- A. HAVING REGARD to the resolutions on cultural cooperation adopted in Luxembourg (30 September 1981), Harare (4 June 1982) and Rome (3 November 1982),
- B. EMPHASIZING that these resolutions were adopted unanimously,
- C. HAVING REGARD to the resolution on the Sixth Annual Report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers, and particularly to points i, n, o and paragraph 119,
- D. HAVING REGARD to the fact that the right to culture is a fundamental individual human right,
 1. NOTES with satisfaction that a decision in principle has at last been reached on the wide dissemination of the report on cultural cooperation, and urges that this decision be put in hand as soon as possible and at the latest by the next meeting of the Consultative Assembly;

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2. WELCOMES the fact that increased importance is attached both to the cultural dimension as an essential part of cooperation and development, and particularly to the socio-cultural sector, and notes with satisfaction the initiatives taken by the Commission in respect of the reorganization of internal structures in the Directorate-General for Development, which will ensure that the value of human resources is enhanced in future, and action taken by the Commission in UNESCO and certain institutions in the Member States;
3. DRAWS ATTENTION in this regard to the recent report of the Court of Auditors¹ which, with regard to projects financed by the European Development Fund, stresses the inadequate nature of preliminary studies, the failure to adapt designs and techniques to local conditions, the unsatisfactory comparison of tenders and a lack of coherence of physical and human resources used in the projects;
4. CALLS in this connection for current and future projects financed by the European Development Fund under the present ACP-EEC Convention to reflect the Commission's expressed willingness to attach greater importance to the specific social and cultural characteristics of the peoples of the ACP;
5. WELCOMES THE FACT that the ACP Council of Ministers has unanimously adopted the report on cultural cooperation and has set up a specialist working party, and urges the EEC Council of Ministers likewise to deliver an opinion on this subject without further delay so that the question may be considered in depth at the next meeting of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers;

¹OJ No. C 344, 31.12.1982, Annual report concerning the financial year 1981 accompanied by the replies of the Institutions

6. EMPHASIZES strongly that real ACP-EEC cultural cooperation will be lacking in credibility unless the situation of ACP migrant workers, their families and students in the Member States of the Community, which is extremely serious, is the subject of a detailed and urgent inquiry, followed by appropriate measures;
7. ASKS that the next report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers to the Consultative Assembly review progress on the implementation of its recommendations, in order to ensure that wider and more effective use is made of the relevant instruments provided for in the Lomé Convention, particularly in the field of intra-ACP cultural cooperation;
8. EMPHASIZES that the Luxembourg resolution is not confined to the socio-cultural sector but contains a large number of recommendations touching on the various other fields of cultural cooperation, which should receive equal attention;
9. REITERATES in the circumstances its request that a joint working party of leading experts finally be established by the ACP-EEC Council to facilitate the integration of the cultural factor into ACP-EEC cooperation;
10. STRESSES, with a view to integrating the cultural dimension into future ACP-EEC relations in an effective manner, that it is important to ensure that such relations should be :
 - (a) founded on national and collective autonomy, which is a cultural process requiring the cultural identity of the ACP countries to be taken into account, and
 - (b) centred upon a strategy of Community support for independent self-development initiatives by the ACP States;

11. URGES the ACP-EEC authorities to consider closely and without delay the ways and means of integrating the cultural dimension into the context of the future ACP-EEC Convention;

12. CONSIDERS that, in order for the negotiators of the forthcoming ACP-EEC Convention to take into account not only the recommendations drawn up by the Consultative Assembly for the inclusion of a chapter dealing specifically with cultural cooperation, but also, where necessary, express provisions in the various other chapters of the Convention, there is a need for :
 - (a) the appropriate points contained in the two reports on cultural cooperation to be closely allied in each section of the forthcoming Convention, and

 - (b) the various instruments and activities of cultural cooperation to be defined in the specific chapter, to ensure that its practical implications are properly coordinated with the other sections;

13. NOTES the oral report presented by the rapporteur and asks its working party to draw up for the next Joint Committee, on the basis of these proposals, a suitable outline to assist the work of the negotiators in drafting the forthcoming Convention.

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