

Resolution of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe (21 March 1952)

Caption: On 21 March 1952, the General Affairs Committee of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe welcomes the United Kingdom's proposal that the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), the future European Defence Community (EDC) and any other specialised European institutions which might be established should operate under the aegis of the Council of Europe.

Source: Archives historiques du Conseil de l'Europe - Historical archives of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg. Functions and the Future of the C.E. 1949, 00125, Vol. 2, 18/3/52-17/5/52.

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<t1>Resolution concerning the proposals on the future of the Council of Europe made by the British government at the Tenth Session of the Committee of Ministers (21 March 1952)

THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL AFFAIRS,

</t1><ce>A.</ce>

Having taken note of the proposals put forward by Great Britain at the tenth session of the Committee of Ministers, designed to ensure that the Coal-Steel and Defence Communities and such other Specialised Authorities as may be established subsequently shall function within the framework of the Council of Europe;

Calling particular attention to paragraph (e) of the Statement by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom, in which it is stated that: "It might be possible to arrange for countries, like the United Kingdom, whose aim is to establish a close link with the European Community, to be associated in an appropriate way with the parliamentary and ministerial institutions of the Community as well as with the executive organs";

Welcomes the British initiative, and recalls that the Assembly has already in Recommendations 1 and 4 (1950) and in Chapter VII of the Draft New Statute, formally requested that the Specialised Authorities should be developed within the framework of the Council of Europe, and has submitted practical proposals to that end;

Is of the opinion that the British proposals represent a means of achieving the close association of Great Britain and the other Member States of the Council of Europe with the partial "Communities" at present being planned, an association which the Governments and Parliaments have repeatedly emphasised to be absolutely essential;

And considers that the implementation of the British proposals does not entail any modification of the powers already assigned to the organs of the Specialised Communities, but would have the effect only of establishing the organs of those Communities (or certain of them) within the framework of the corresponding organs of the Council of Europe, already existing or to be created, in accordance with the principles laid down in Recommendations Nos. 1 and 4 (1950).

<ce>B.</ce>

Considering that the association with the Specialised Authorities of those Members of the Council of Europe who wish to be so associated, implies the acceptance, within the framework of the Council, of those obligations and responsibilities which result from such association;

Urgently requests the Committee of Ministers to complete the examination of the British proposals with the minimum delay, in order that they may be applied as soon as possible to the Coal and Steel Community, and that they may be taken into account in connection with the Treaty on the European Defence Community, without however delaying the conclusion of that Treaty;

Is convinced that the rapid adoption of such measures will ensure that these Communities receive greater support in the Parliaments concerned and from public opinion, when the Treaties instituting them come to be ratified.

<ce>C.</ce>

Reserving its right to make a detailed examination of the British proposals,

Urges that the Committee of Ministers should keep the Assembly and its competent Committees informed of the progress of the negotiations, and should request them to give their opinion on the results of such negotiations at the May Session of the Assembly;

Requests that the President of the Assembly should transmit this Resolution for information to the Committee of Ministers.