

European Parliamentary Assembly resolution on the seat of the institutions (21 June 1958)

Caption: European Parliamentary Assembly Resolution, of 21 June 1958, on the seat of the institutions.

Source: Journal officiel des Communautés européennes (JOCE). 26.07.1958. [s.l.]. "Résolution de l'Assemblée parlementaire européenne du 21 juin 1958", p. 210.

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European Parliamentary Assembly resolution of 21 June 1958

'The European Parliamentary Assembly,

I

having noted the request for an opinion on the issue of the seat of the European institutions which was forwarded to it on behalf of the governments by Mr Larock,

aware of the importance of this matter,

firmly committed to assuming fully its responsibility in this regard,

wishing to lay down without delay the principles of a solution and to choose from among the cities proposed,

1. Notes with satisfaction the decision taken by the six foreign ministers at their meeting of 6 and 7 January 1958 in Paris, in which they 'agreed to group all the European organisations of the six countries together in a single place';
2. Wishes this place to be a 'European district';
3. Hopes that the executive bodies of the three Communities will have their respective seats in this same place;
4. Considers that, for important political reasons, the Parliamentary Assembly must also have its seat in the same place, which will be the location both of its permanent departments and of the technical installations for its committee and plenary meetings;
5. Would accept as an alternative that, with regard to plenary meetings, there might be reasons for derogating from the principle established in paragraph 4 above and for holding them elsewhere, provided that such a derogation does not jeopardise the smooth functioning of the Assembly's work;
6. Would accept as an alternative, while asserting the single-seat principle, that the Court of Justice, the Investment Bank and the envisaged institute for scientific research could be established elsewhere if that meant that all the political bodies could, as a result, be located together in a single place;
7. Declares that the seat must ultimately be chosen in order to ensure the proper functioning of the institutions and to promote the maximum effectiveness of their activity, thus furthering the process of European integration;

II

Has decided on the following voting procedure for the secret ballot, to be held on 23 June 1958, on the applications submitted:

First ballot

- (a) Each Member will select five cities from the ten listed on the ballot paper and will number them in order of preference from 5 to 1, without omitting any number; the top preference will therefore bear the number 5 and score five points, the second preference will bear the number 4 and score four points, etc.;
- (b) all the votes cast will then be counted separately for each of the cities, according to their ranking from 5 to 1;
- (c) the result of this count will be logged in a table giving, against each ranking number, the names of the cities in descending order of the number of votes they have each received.

Second ballot

Each Member will select three cities from the five scoring the most points in the first ballot and will number them in order of preference from 3 to 1, without omitting any number; the top preference will therefore bear the number 3 and score three points, the second preference will bear the number 2 and score two points, etc.;

at the count, the cities will be ranked in descending order of the total number of points that they have each scored;

the table setting out the result of the first ballot and the names of the top three cities in the second ballot, ranked in descending order of their scores, will be forwarded to the Council of Ministers.'