

Report by the Committee on a People’s Europe submitted to the Milan European Council (Milan, 28 and 29 June 1985)


Caption: At the Milan European Council of 28 and 29 June 1985, the Adonnino Committee submits its second report on a People's Europe.

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</t1><it>1. Introduction</it>

1.1. The Committee on a People's Europe is hereby submitting its second and final report to the European Council, in accordance with the work programme proposed to and approved by the European Council in Dublin in December 1984. In so doing the Committee has fulfilled the mandate given to it by the Fontainebleau European Council. From the outset the Committee decided to draw up its final report for June 1985, since it was convinced that the best way of responding to the expectations of the people of Europe – on which the European Council in Fontainebleau had focused its attention – was to demonstrate also an ability to take decisions within a short time. The European Council, when approving at its March session in Brussels the first report of the Committee dealing with such matters as facilitating border crossings, right of residence and the recognition of diplomas for the exercise of the right of establishment, lent strong support to this conviction. The Committee therefore requests that the remaining obstacles to the full implementation of each of its recommendations should all be eliminated in due time, as should normally be expected for political decisions taken at the highest level.

This time again, the Committee thinks that the joint efforts of its members have resulted in a set of proposals which do not require further protracted discussion and are likely to meet with the broad approval of the European Council. The Committee therefore asks the European Council to adopt the conclusions contained in this final report and to invite the Community institutions, the Member States and other relevant authorities to implement these recommendations in the most timely and effective manner.

1.2. As the Committee stated from the outset, policies of interest to the European citizen do of course extend to the full range of Community activities and cover fundamental social and economic problems such as employment, technological progress, growth and the environment; wide fields which a report like the present one could not possibly claim to cover, let alone solve. However, the proposals, limited as they are by the nature of the report, deal with important aspects of special rights of citizens, of education, culture and communication, exchanges, and the image and identity of the Community; they are meaningful to the citizen in various aspects of his daily life and are a substantial contribution to the realization of an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe. The Committee has kept in mind that most of what has been achieved until now in Europe has been the work of those who experienced the horrors and destruction of war. Continuation of this venture rests on the assumption that fu

ture generations will also understand and appreciate one another across borders and will realize the benefits to be derived from closer cooperation and solidarity.

1.3. In view of the need for new action of direct benefit to the citizens of the Community, the Committee has tried to make an overall political assessment to overcome the technical difficulties on the various problems it has considered and to reconcile the various needs and interests.

1.4. Several proposals of the Committee build on and aim at promoting work already in hand at Community level, where meetings of the Council and meetings of the Ministers for Education, for Culture and for Health have come to enlarge the scope of common activities in an opportune manner.

1.5. In drawing up its report, the Committee established close contact with the European Parliament, whose work has been a valuable source of inspiration to it. The Committee also benefited from the full support of the Commission. Very useful contributions were provided by the Economic and Social Committee and many other bodies which are developing a considerable amount of activity in this sector.

The European Foundation which has been given the task of encouraging activities in the field of culture, communication, information, education and exchanges, will certainly be able to make a meaningful contribution on several items in the report. The Committee renews its call for the earliest possible ratification of the agreement on the European Foundation.

Care was taken to keep the representatives of Spain and Portugal, whose accession to the Community has been agreed upon in the meantime, informed of proceedings.

Whilst suggesting concrete measures that will strengthen and expand practical cooperation in the Community and between the Member States, the Committee has, at the same time aimed at extending cooperation between the European Community countries and other European countries because of the conviction that in some fields broader cooperation is, in fact, necessary in order to achieve the declared goals. In this context, the Committee has had useful exchanges with the Council of Europe.

1.6. The Committee, in its work, has always taken into account the respective fields of competence of Community institutions and its proposals do not of course affect the right of initiative of the Commission in conformity with the Treaties.

1.7. Throughout its work and in its two reports to the European Council the Committee has taken the view that its best contribution to the People's Europe should be by a combination of specific proposals to be implemented without further delay, and longer term objectives which would make the Community more of a reality for its citizens.

In this context the Committee wants to stress that the task of simplifying administration and restraining over-regulation is a continuous one. But, beyond this objective, the European Community will respond to the views of its citizens only if it fully reflects their wish to work together more closely and provides a channel for their ideas. That is why we now put forward proposals on:

- (i) the special rights of citizens;
- (ii) culture and communication;
- (iii) information;
- (iv) youth, education, exchanges and sport;
- (v) volunteer work in Third World development;
- (vi) health, social security and drugs;
- (vii) twinning;
- (viii) strengthening of the Community's image and identity.

<it>2. The special rights of citizens</it>

On 14 December 1973 at the Copenhagen Summit, the Heads of State or Government adopted a report on European Identity. That report set forth some guidelines and objectives which might be taken as pointers for the development of special rights for citizens in that it gave expression to a determination to defend the principles of repr

esentative democracy, the rule of law, social justice and respect for human rights.

On the basis of the report and subsequent developments in the Community and among the Member States concerning special rights of citizens, in particular the European Council in Paris in December 1974, the Committee submits proposals to the European Council in the following areas:

<ch>2.1. The citizen as a participant in the political process in the Community</ch>

It is desirable to increase the citizen's involvement in and understanding of the political process in the Community institutions. Accordingly, the Committee suggests that the European Council advocate the following as some of the ways in which this might be achieved:

(i) putting all Community citizens in the same position as regards elections for the European Parliament by way of the introduction of a uniform electoral procedure as required by the Treaty. The Committee considers that the provisions of the Treaty and the subsequent Act concerning a uniform electoral procedure should be implemented as soon as possible before the next election in 1989. Failing that, the electoral procedure which will in the meantime remain a matter for individual Member States should ensure either that a citizen should be entitled to vote for candidates from his own country regardless of whether on election day he is temporarily staying or is resident for a period of time in another Member State, or that a citizen residing in another Member State should be allowed to vote for candidates from that Member State. Dual entitlement to vote is ruled out by the Act on direct elections;

(ii) ensuring greater transparency in administration in the Community by the following means:

(a) the European Council should support the European Parliament's efforts to strengthen, in the framework of an interinstitutional agreement, and facilitate, in an appropriate manner, the citizen's right of petition;

(b) it would be for the European Parliament, as a complement to its current efforts, to investigate whether there would be a role for an ombudsman attached to and nominated by it. Such a system could cover the administration and implementation of Community law. If the European Parliament were to follow this path, the Committee's feeling would be that an ombudsman's¹ task could be to investigate complaints, advise citizens on the procedure for complaints and issue regular reports to the European Parliament on his investigations, conclusions and recommendations; ²

(c) Both systems would have to be implemented without altering the existing institutional balance.

<ch>2.2. The citizen as a participant in the political process in the Member States</ch>

The Committee recommends that the European Council invite the Community institutions and the Member States:

(i) to pursue in more depth the discussions begun previously on voting rights and eventually eligibility in local elections³ for citizens from other Member States under the same conditions as for citizens of the host country, subject to a certain period of prior residence in the host country. This question falls within national jurisdiction. Special arrangements should be possible where particular circumstances in a Member State militate in favour of these;

(ii) to ensure, inasmuch as these are not already fully in force at all levels, that all Community citizens enjoy the same rights as nationals to freedom of speech and of assembly;

(iii) to hear the views of resident citizens from other Member States where decisions of special importance to them are to be taken. This should be done by giving them access to information and the possibility of making their views known prior to any decision on such matters as foreign-language teaching, housing conditions and news broadcasts in other languages.

<ch>2.3. Consultation of citizens on transfrontier issues within the Community</ch>

The Committee recommends that the European Council advocate that the population of frontier areas be informed and have the opportunity of expressing their views on both sides of the border prior to the adoption of measures with transfrontier significance such as major public works, environmental issues, transport, and matters having significance for the health and safety of citizens. Such involvement could be achieved by formalizing the right to obtain information and express views prior to a decision.

<ch>2.4. The citizen in relation to Community legal instruments</ch>

The Committee asks the European Council to recommend that steps be taken to accelerate the systematic codification and simplification of Community law, priority being given to those areas of greatest importance to the citizen in his daily life.

It is often difficult for him to determine what is the prevailing law in a particular areas of Community legislation and he may have to look at a number of earlier legal acts, amendments, repeals, etc. Consolidation of Community law, the initiative for which lies with the Commission, would strengthen the legal security of citizens.

The Committee recommends that the European Council express its support for the principle of the gradual abandonment both of Community and national legal acts in areas where they are no longer necessary. Steps should therefore be taken to repeal or simplify certain acts, to appraise strictly whether new laws are necessary at all, and to ensure that new measures are formulated simply. In addition Community law should more frequently be used in such a way that it leads to a simplification by reduction of divergent national laws.

In some cases national authorities implement Community legislation in such a way as to leave citizens in an uncertain legal position. Member States must ensure that their application is in compliance with Community law principles in order to provide citizens with the proper protection. It is crucial for the Community's image that its law be implemented in the Member States without discrimination and without unnecessary formalities and delays, which hamper achievement of the aims of the Treaty and considerably irritate the citizen. The Committee proposes that the European Council call upon the Member States to implement Community law fully, simply, and swiftly.

2.5. The implementation of Council Directive 80/1263/EEC of 4 December 1980 on the introduction of driving licenses of a model Community format will simplify administrative formalities for citizens changing residence. The Committee therefore suggests that the European Council call upon the Member States to do their utmost to ensure that the Community model driving licence provided for in the Directive is in fact available for use not later than 1 January 1986 as foreseen therein. As a next step, when use of the Community model driving licence is more widespread, abolition of the need to exchange the driving licence within the Community in the event of a change of residence will enhance the usefulness of the model licence for the European citizen. The introduction of a truly Community driving licence should be kept in view.

<ch>2.6. The citizen as traveller outside the Community</ch>

A Community citizen in need of assistance during a temporary stay in a third country where his own country is not represented by an embassy or a consulate should be able to obtain assistance from the local consular representation of another Member State. The Committee recommends that the European Council invite Member States to intensify work for such consular cooperation in third countries and to formulate more precise guidelines.

<it>3. Culture and communication</it>

3.1. It is also through action in the areas of culture and communication, which are essential to European identity and the Community's image in the minds of its people, that support for the advancement of Europe can and must be sought. The European cultural heritage is not however confined to the territories of the Member States of the Community, nor, for that matter, to the frontiers of the States of the Council of Europe. We must therefore avoid any exclusivity in this area and seek cooperation with other European countries.

3.2. The Committee is pleased to note that the meetings of the Council and the Ministers for Culture of the Community are continuing on a regular basis and that progress has been made in this area, including the decision on an annual European city of culture, beginning with Athens for 1985.

3.3. The Committee has chosen from amongst the various aspects of culture, four areas of action which deserve the special attention of the European Council.

<ch>3.4. Television ('the audiovisual area')</ch>

Developments in technology will lead to an increase in the number of channels and hours of broadcasting and create a substantial additional need for audiovisual productions. This will present both a challenge the need for increased production - and an opportunity so that the most can be made of the cultural wealth of Europe.

3.5. The Committee proposes that the European Council should invite the Council and the Ministers for Culture to bring the current discussions to a successful conclusion before the end of the year on the best means to encourage at Community level European audiovisual co-productions in order to promote a truly European and competitive industry. This concerns the financing of co-productions when made by European cinema or television producers from at least two Member States.

3.6. The introduction of a system of advances on receipts for Member States' co-productions would be one way of achieving this goal. Schemes which could be started by programming organizations in certain Member States for the allotment of a certain proportion of their general programming funds for European TV co-productions would be of significant assistance in this direction too.

3.7. In celebration of a hundred years of film making, the Committee proposes that 1988 should be declared 'European Film and Television Year'.

3.8. In order to bring the peoples of Europe closer together, the Committee proposes that the European Council recommend to each Member State of the Community and to the Community institutions that they consider which legal and technical steps, taking into account the differing situations that exist in this field, should be taken so that every citizen may have access to the greatest number of programmes broadcast by the various channels of the Community countries, in conformity with the Treaty.

3.9. The Committee has noted with great interest the current initiatives and experiments in joint television programmes.

The Committee proposes that the European Council ask the Ministers for Culture to consider, at the Community level and together with broadcasting authorities and with the European Broadcasting Union, the possibility of building on such experiments or other initiatives, bearing in mind the potential importance for the knowledge of European cooperation and development of a truly European television channel, emphasis being laid on the need for broadcasting to be multilingual.

<ch>3.10. Academy of Science, Technology and Art</ch>

Europe needs an institution with international influence to highlight the achievements of European science and the originality of European civilization in all its wealth and diversity.

To this end, the Committee proposes to the European Council that there should be a European Academy of Science, Technology and Art, having regard to the following considerations:

(i) the Academy should be an independent body; its role should be to award prizes in the main areas of science, technology and art and to give opinions in these fields for the different Community institutions;

(ii) the Academy would be composed of personalities eminent in the various disciplines and independent from political authority. The first College would be composed of two members designated by each Head of State or Government. These members would themselves select their peers to make up the Academy which would comprise about forty members. The Member States, assisted by the Commission and in close cooperation with the group of the first members nominated by the Heads of State or Government, would draw up the framework for the organization of the Academy.

<ch>3.11. Euro-lottery⁴</ch>

To make Europe come alive for the Europeans, an event with popular appeal could help promote the European idea.

The European Council could therefore request the Commission to examine whether there would, for instance, be scope for organizing a Euro-lottery and how it could be set up, taking into account the different laws and practices of the Member States. The lottery would serve to finance projects in the field of culture. The draw and the announcement of results would be public and would be televised throughout the Community. The result might be expressed eventually in ECU.

<ch>3.12. Access to museums and cultural events</ch>

In addition, the European Council should ask Member States to ensure that all special conditions and reductions for admission to museums, similar institutions and cultural events generally available to the young are extended to young people from all Member States.

<it>4. Information</it>

4.1. The Committee believes that the people of Europe do not receive satisfactory information about the construction of Europe. This is a problem for all the Community institutions and for the Member States.

Information about the Community should aim to explain the fundamental themes which underly the crucial importance of the Community for the Member States the historical events which led to the construction of the Community and which inspire its further development in freedom, peace and security and its achievements and potential in the economic and social field. Member States can show how national action is reinforced by Community action. It is also necessary to point out to people what the costs would be if the Community did not exist.[&]

4.3. The Committee proposes that the European Council invite the Community institutions and the Member States to cooperate more closely and to improve the effectiveness of services, particularly at regional and local level, to provide the citizen with information abo

ut the Community.

<it>5. Youth, education, exchanges and sport</it>

5.1. It is essential to involve and interest young people in the further development of Europe. The following suggestions constitute an extension of what has already been achieved in the Community. These achievements are the work of organizations which have proved their worth and whose services should therefore continue to be used.

Without wishing to draw up an exhaustive list, mention must nevertheless be made, in addition to the Community institutions: of the European Foundation, which should soon start its activities, the University Institute in Florence, the College of Europe in Bruges, the Cultural Foundation in Amsterdam, the European Institute of Public Administration in Maastricht, the European Vocational Training Centre in Berlin, the European Schools, and the Youth Forum of the European Communities.

The Committee therefore adopted the following proposals which are aimed at all young people, without singling out particular categories, while respecting equal rights, especially those of men and women.

<ch>5.2. Language teaching</ch>

The languages spoken in the Community form an essential part of its cultural heritage and contribute to its richness and diversity.[&]

The Committee proposes to the European Council the priority implementation of the guidelines adopted on 4 June 1984 at the meeting of the Council and Ministers for Education concerning in particular :

(i) the acquisition by a maximum number of young people, before the end of compulsory education, of a practical knowledge of two languages in addition to their mother tongue, including at least one Community language;

(ii) the possibility for future foreign-language teachers to spend a significant part of their training in a country whose language they are preparing to teach, in particular by recognizing courses of study completed by teachers abroad. With the same aim of improving the quality of teaching, modern technology methods should be exploited to the full. Those already teaching should be encouraged to take refresher courses in the countries whose languages they teach;

(iii) the possibility for the highest possible number of pupils to have the benefit during their compulsory education of an educational visit to another Member State, preferably one where a different language is spoken.

<ch>5.3. Exchanges between schools</ch>

Exchanges between schools can be seen as complementary to the above suggestion. A valuable contribution could be made by twinning schools, possibly in connection with the twinning of towns. The aim is also to promote cultural and human links across frontiers. These exchanges must be viewed as part of the exchanges of young people in general.⁵

The Committee proposes to the European Council the priority implementation of the conclusions of the meeting of the Council and Ministers for Education on 3 June 1985:

(i) to foster school exchanges and meetings between schools and to remove the obstacles in their way;

(ii) in the Member States where this is not yet the case, to establish a centre or department to be given the task of helping schools and teachers to make the necessary contacts and of advising them on the educational and organizational aspects of school exchanges. The Committee considers that to help the realization of these actions, ways must be found to deal for example with the problem of the cost of such exchanges through the medium of special rates, direct or in direct financial assistance and arrangements for providing accommodation with families.

<ch>5.4. Voluntary work camps for young people</ch>

Voluntary work camps where young people of different nationalities and cultures come together, for instance during their holidays, for a shared experience warrant particular attention. Such work camps, both inside and outside the Community, involve work often for social purposes, for the preservation of the heritage, or the restoration of historic buildings.

A Community programme for such camps should aim at promoting more effective information, removing legal and administrative barriers to participation, training leaders and involving new groups of young people.

The Committee proposes that the European Council invite the Commission to submit a proposal for a Community pilot programme for voluntary work camps for young people in cooperation with the organizations concerned.

<ch>5.5. The European image in education</ch>

The past achievements and the future potential of Europe are an integral part of education in the Member States and in many other countries. The Committee suggests to the European Council that it should, pursuant to the conclusions of the meeting of the Council and the Ministers for Education on 3 June 1985, give new impetus to a European dimension in education.

The Committee proposes to the European Council:

(i) the creation by each Member State, wherever this has not yet been done, of centres whose task, as for the centres designated for higher education, it would be to facilitate the work of schools and teachers and inform and help them from an educational viewpoint;

(ii) the preparation and availability of appropriate school books and teaching materials;

(iii) confirming 9 May of each year as Europe Day with a view to creating awareness and giving information in schools in particular as well as on television and in the other media. The date of 9 May, which is of great significance to the Community, will fit in with similar initiatives taken by the Council of Europe;

(iv) the setting-up of a Centre displaying European achievements, and the common heritage, backed up by a collection of documents and works relating thereto.

<ch>5.6. University cooperation</ch>

University cooperation and mobility in higher education are obviously of paramount importance. There already exists, between the Member States, an embryonic form of cooperation which should be developed and built upon, including the Community Joint Study Programme Scheme.

Higher-education establishments and universities enjoy a high degree of autonomy. It is therefore necessary to take as a starting point the fact that a decisive role in the matter must be left to the establishments concerned.

The Committee has noted with interest recent initiatives on cooperation, in particular those taken by the rector of the Academy of Paris, aiming at the promotion of scientific and technological progress in Europe.

The importance for higher education of the European University Institute in Florence should be underlined, and the Committee asks the European Council to ensure that the conclusions of the meeting of the Ministers for Education on 3 June 1985 on the national recognition of the Florence doctorate are implemented without delay.

The Committee proposes to the European Council that:

(i) the discussions in the framework of the meetings of the Council

and the Ministers for Education on inter-university cooperation be pursued and a firm appeal be made to universities and higher-education establishments to establish cross-frontier cooperation aimed at enabling students, and in particular those who are concerned with a knowledge of languages and European studies, to pursue part of their studies in an establishment in a Member State other than their own;

(ii) it request the relevant authorities to:

(a) implement, on the basis of the experience acquired, a comprehensive European inter-university programme of exchanges and studies aimed at giving this opportunity to a significant section of the Community's student population; and

(b) examine the possibility of introducing a European system of academic credits transferable throughout the Community (European Academic Credit Transfer System). This system⁶ would be implemented by means of bilateral agreements or on a voluntary basis by universities and higher-education establishments which, by arrangement with one another, would determine the procedures for academic recognition of such credits.

As a future step towards student mobility, the Committee asks the European Council to

(i) invite the Commission to follow up with the representatives of European Universities its suggestion of the possible introduction of a European Award which would be based on achievement in higher-education establishments in different Member States:

(ii) request the competent academic authorities in the Member States to recognize, where this is not yet the case, in the same way as for their own nationals, certificates and diplomas issued by establishments under their control to nationals of other Member States.

<ch>5.7. Vocational training</ch>

The encouragement of suitable vocational training should make it p

ossible to assist with the transition to working life and hence contribute to a reduction in unemployment. In June 1983 the Council undertook to achieve by the end of 1988 the objective of enabling all young people leaving school to have a basic training programme or an initial period of vocational experience lasting at least six months at the final stage of compulsory education.

The Committee proposes to the European Council that:

the Member States do their utmost, within national policies, whenever possible in association with enterprises and social partners, to ensure that all young people wishing to do so receive one year's, or if possible two years', vocational training in addition to their compulsory education.

<ch>5.8. Exchanges of young people and professional exchanges</ch>

Action at Community level to encourage exchanges of young people between different Member States helps to promote the identity of Europe for young Europeans. Often such planned exchanges are an important aid to personal development. The Council of Europe and the representative organizations of the regional and local authorities in Europe play a prominent part in exchanges in the wider European context. The Commission has already suggested as broad policy outlines the encouragement of information about exchanges and the removal of barriers, training of youth leaders, help for difficult exchanges (e.g. under-privileged young people), and assistance for exchanges in peripheral regions of the Community. The Commission in its further proposals should be invited to give special attention to Community actions to assist initiatives taken by young people, including job seekers, to organize exchanges for themselves. The broad range of European youth organizations, through the Youth Forum of the European Communities made proposals on youth exchanges in the Community; the Committee took these proposals into account.

<se>5.8.1. European Community Exchange Scheme 'Europe Exchange'</se>

Community exchanges include the Young Worker Exchanges Programme and a more recent experimental programme with limited funding, an initiative of the European Parliament. It is time to complement the existing Community exchanges with a new exchange scheme.

The new scheme would multiply exchanges rather than itself fund large numbers of exchanges directly, and progressively give a European direction and focus to exchanges already taking place at national level. It should have a clear Community identity and a distinctive title.

While mainly but not exclusively aimed at younger people, it would promote exchanges and meetings with a distinct European dimension (e.g. journalists who deal with European affairs or junior or middle-managers who need to learn about the internal market). Funding should be available from Community and other sources including the European Foundation.

Accordingly the Committee proposes that a scheme for educational and professional exchange be established to be known as the 'Europe Exchange' scheme.

The Committee proposes to the European Council that it invite:

(i) the Commission, in cooperation with the European Foundation, to make proposals for a 'Europe Exchange' scheme and its operation ;

(ii) the Member States, with the help of the Commission, to ensure that an effective information network⁷ exists in each Member State for informing all young people about exchanges and for coordinating exchanges nationally.

<se>5.8.2. Actions for youth</se>

The Committee proposes that the European Council request the Ministers to highlight International Youth Year by arranging a general policy debate in the last quarter of 1985 to give a concrete follow-up to all proposals made, or to be made, by the Commission and the suggestions presently made by this Committee.

<ch>5.9. Sport</ch>

Since ancient times sport has been an important forum for communication among peoples. It is an important part of the lives of a large number of people within the Community. That is why it is all the more regrettable that the enjoyment of international competitive sport has been drastically marred recently by hooliganism. The Committee has therefore considered both of these important aspects below.

5.9.1. The administration of sport is predominantly the responsibility of sports associations independent of government. The Committee proposes that the sports associations be invited to encourage action where it is consistent with their responsibilities, along these lines:

(i) for certain sectors of sport, organization of European Community events such as cycle and running races through European countries;

(ii) creation of Community teams for some sports to compete against joint teams from geographical groupings with which the Community has special links;

(iii) inviting sporting teams to wear the Community emblem in addition to their national colours at major sporting events of regional or worldwide interest;

(iv) exchanges of sportsmen, athletes and trainers between the different Community countries, to be encouraged by programmes at the level of the Community and the Member States;

(v) support for sporting activities especially for particular categories of persons, such as the handicapped. Student sport activities should be organized in conjunction with the twinning of schools and towns.

<se>5.9.2. Combating violence in and around the stadium</se>

Recent tragic events have demonstrated that a much closer cooperation between the authorities and the sports organizations is indispensable in order to prevent and stamp out hooliganism and to allow such competitions to continue to take place under acceptable conditions.

The recent initiative of several Sports Ministers of Community countries in the framework of the Council of Europe is a valuable starting point for such action. Accordingly, such strengthened and concerted action should cover preventive policies and tight security measures including effective controls and rigorous sanctions for offenders. The objective responsibility of the clubs and their associations should be firmly applied.

The European Council is invited to ask the Ministers responsible in the Member States to meet and to step up concerted action in the appropriate fora as a matter of urgency to this end.

<it>6. Volunteer work in Third World development</it>

6.1. Volunteer development work in the Third World must be based on the real needs of those countries. Mature and professionally qualified personnel are required if effective development work is to be carried out. The average age for Member States' volunteers is about thirty.

Volunteer development workers are represented at Community level through the Liaison Committee of Development Non-Governmental Organizations to the Community and its Subcommittee on Volunteer Development Work. The Committee shares the European Parliament's view on the necessity of securing the full participation and cooperation of the non-governmental organizations. The sending organizations are also represented on the Regional Conference on International Voluntary Service with consultative status with the Council of Europe.

<ch>6.2. Volunteer action to combat drought and famine in the world</ch>

The European Council has on several occasions underlined the nece

ssity for Community action to respond to the great human suffering in regions of the world afflicted by drought and famine, especially in the Sahel region of Africa. The Community is making a major contribution to emergency aid with the NGOs as the main channel. Much more needs to be done. Long-term projects to deal with the root causes are essential.

<ch>6.3. Community trainee volunteer development workers</ch>

The Committee considered the feasibility of involving younger volunteers of about 21 to 25 years of age - in Third World development. There is scope for an action at Community level with trainee volunteers selected on the basis of qualifications, maturity and experience, provided that it is carefully organized and monitored by the Volunteer Development Organizations. Such an action would extend to several professions or skilled trades an opportunity for a first constructive and supervised encounter with the Third World along the lines of the schemes of 'electives' already undertaken by medical students in several Member States. The action would begin on a selective basis as a pilot project. The Commission, in cooperation with the sending agencies and their counterpart organizations in the Third World, should make an inventory of the sectors where the need for such personnel exists. Many electives return later to full time volunteer assignments in the Third World. The Community action would provide training for volunteer development work. It would be co-financed by the Community and the volunteer development organizations.

Volunteer organizations in various Member States successfully use the services of volunteers from several Community countries with the active support of governments. In addition, there is the Franco-German joint initiative to send young volunteers to work in projects in the Third World under the guidance and within the framework of existing volunteer organizations, although by way of a separate scheme. A programme drawn up on a wider European basis could be carried out in the light of such experiences.

6.4. The Committee proposes that the European Council:

(i) confirm its support for volunteer development workers and their organizations;

(ii) ask the Commission to intensify consultation with the volunteer

r sending organizations with a view to:

(a) maximizing the contribution that volunteer workers can make to developing countries and especially to regions stricken by drought and famine;

(b) devising a Community action for trainee volunteer development workers on a pilot basis;

(c) encouraging further concertation among volunteer development workers and their organizations, for instance through joint projects ;

(iii) call on all the Member States to put into effect the Council's recommendation of 13 June 1985 on the protection of the social security of volunteer development workers.

<it>7. Health, social security and drugs</it>

Health and social security are closely linked with the quality of life of the citizens within the Community.

7.1. The Committee proposes that the European Council invite the Ministers for Health to give an appropriate follow-up to the Commission's communication to the Council on cooperation at Community level on health related problems. The Committee considers that it is time that a decision be taken on:

(i) the recommendation on dialysis for kidney patients;

(ii) the programme of action on toxicology, for health protection.

7.2. The Committee also believes that the Ministers for Health and, where appropriate, Community institutions should consider whether there is in the medium term scope for further cooperation:

(i) for the improvement of the living conditions of handicapped persons and of the socially deprived;

(ii) for the encouragement of medical research and technology, for instance in the field of cancer.

7.3. Although public health problems generally fall within national responsibility, the Committee considers that it is a real concern of Community citizens that medical assistance within the Community should be easily available to them even when they are abroad. Because of the different systems of medical care, medical insurance and payment, many people travelling in the Community do worry that there may be unforeseen difficulties or expenditure if they become ill or have an accident away from home.

For this reason the Committee draws attention to two points:

(i) Emergency Health Card: The possibility has been considered of making available to citizens, on a voluntary basis, a card containing certain details (for example, blood group, allergies or specific conditions such as diabetes) which could be helpful in an emergency away from home. Some Member States already offer such facilities for persons with particular medical conditions.

The Committee considers that the European Council should endorse the proposal that the Emergency Health Card to be issued by those Member States which agree to take part in such action should be in a uniform European format.

(ii) Access to medical treatment throughout the Community: Under the Community arrangements, eligible Community citizens are able, when in a Member State other than their own, to claim medical treatment on the same terms as insured nationals of that Member State. The Committee doubts whether very many citizens know that this is the case. From the citizen's point of view, the cumbersome system, which involves - in most Member States - the need to obtain at frequent intervals the E 111 certificate, could be improved. The Administrative Commission of Social Security for Migrant Workers is already actively considering alternatives to the E 111 system.

The Committee proposes that the European Council ask the competent authorities to ensure, as a matter of priority, the simplification of the procedures (for example, the document might be of unlimited duration where national health provisions are equally unlimited), so that the arrangements are readily accessible and comprehensible to Community citizens.

7.4. The Committee has also given particular attention to the drug problem. The need for common action to step up the struggle against the traffic in and use of drugs is evident at a time when it is the aim of the Community to abolish frontier controls on goods and proceed towards the free movement of people. The action should not duplicate work in the fields already covered by international organizations such as the Council of Europe, the World Health Organization, the United Nations, or by specialized institutions Customs Cooperation Council, Interpol. This does, however, not diminish the importance of ensuring optimal cooperation between the Member States at Community level in this sector and the most effective rationalization of existing forms of international cooperation.

The Committee proposes that the European Council call upon the Member States and, where appropriate, the Community institutions to:

(i) cooperate systematically in order to strengthen the Pompidou Group's action pursued within the Council of Europe concerning prevention, research and treatment of drug addicts, as well as to help with the social reintegration of addicts;

(ii) improve cooperation between the different judiciary and police authorities of the Member States, as well as review the existing procedures in order to accelerate delivery and handling of international letters rogatory concerning traffic in narcotics and improve cooperation on information activities covering drug abuse;

(iii) in order to combat drug abuse, establish cooperation at European level with third countries most involved.

<it>8. Twinning</it>

Solidarity between the citizens of the Member States and mutual understanding and cooperation essential for the building of Europe have been widely promoted and facilitated by the twinning of towns and cities, which has in many instances already been organized under the aegis of the representative international organizations of local and regional authorities.

The Committee proposes that the European Council:

(i) encourage such measures, while respecting the autonomy of initiative and organization of the local authorities involved, stressing the need for twinings to be organized between towns or cities with similar features and that all structures and categories of the population, in particular schools,⁸ should take part;

(ii) invite the Commission to contribute by taking initiatives to promote twinning, above all by creating favourable conditions, including more information, for their development.

9. Strengthening of the Community's image and identity

The Committee, taking account of the reference to initiatives of symbolic value in the conclusions of the European Council at Fontainebleau, proposes the following:

9.1. There is clearly a need, for both practical and symbolic reasons, for a flag and an emblem to be used at national and international events, exhibitions and other occasions where the existence of the Community needs to be brought to public attention. A decision on this matter is required in order to avoid misunderstanding and confusion.

The Committee agrees with the European Parliament's idea that a design which could be used for both a Community emblem and a flag should be basically that chosen by the Council of Europe.

However, bearing in mind the independence and the different nature of the two organizations, the Committee proposes to the European

Council that the European Community emblem and flag should be a blue rectangle with, in the centre, a circle of 12 five-pointed gold stars which do not touch, surrounding a gold letter E, of the design already used by the Commission.

The European Council should express the hope that the emblem and flag will be used at appropriate places and on suitable occasions, without of course affecting the use of national flags, and asks the institutions to agree to regulate the use of flag and emblem.

9.2. The music of the 'Ode to Joy' from the fourth movement of Beethoven's ninth symphony is in fact used at European events. This anthem has also been recognized by the Council of Europe as being representative of the European idea.

The Committee recommends to the European Council that this anthem be played at appropriate events and ceremonies.

9.3. Stamps are very widely used both inside and outside each individual country and thus, if suitably designed, can be appropriate vehicles for drawing attention to ideas and events in the Community.

The Committee proposes to the European Council that the postal organizations should be invited to consider national issues of certain stamps in the individual countries bearing identical designs of subjects which highlight the Community or its underlying values, or which commemorate particularly important events in Community history, such as the accession of Spain and Portugal, as was done to mark the first direct elections to the European Parliament. The European Council should invite the competent postal authorities and the Commission to instigate early action on these lines.

The Committee furthermore proposes to the European Council that it request all postal administrations to study the possibility of extending the internal tariff for postcards and standard letters to destinations in all other Member States.

9.4. Even now, neither at the external frontiers nor at internal borders is there any visible sign that the traveller is entering the Community or moving within it. On the contrary, several of the features of border posts are increasingly becoming anachronisms, for insta

nce the sign 'customs' at internal borders, in that they ignore the existence of the common market and thus undermine the credibility of the Community.

The European Council should therefore invite the Member States to remedy the present unsatisfactory and uninspiring state of affairs at the borders, through a concerted effort in the framework of the Community. It cannot indeed be beyond the imagination of a Community which strives for a 'Europe sans frontieres' and which should now endow itself with a common emblem without of course prejudice to the use of national flags to abolish inadequate and obsolete signs at internal borders and devise border signs of a common design correctly reflecting the progress made towards a genuine single market and the unity of the European Community.

<it>Conclusion</it>

The Committee considers that these proposals, together with those outlined in the March report, constitute a balanced whole, implementation of which would give the individual citizen a clearer perception of the dimension and existence of the Community.

To ensure the implementation of this report the agreed conclusions of the representatives of the Heads of State or Government of all the Member States and of the President of the Commission - it is essential that the European Council should now request the Commission, the Council and the Member States to ensure that it is put into effect.

Furthermore, the European Council should ask the Council to make an initial report on the follow-up in December 1985, on the basis of an assessment by the Commission, and a second report in a year from now. Within 12 months decisive progress should have been made on a considerable number of these proposals.

<nbp>(1) Mr Ripa di Meana drew the Committee's attention to the fact that, at its sitting on 10 June, the European Parliament had already adopted a position.

(2) Mr Kranidiotis stated that the institution of Ombudsman could not be transferred to the Community system without legal and instit

utional consequences which would upset the existing balance established by the treaties setting up the Communities. Furthermore, the European Parliament recently responded negatively to the idea of establishing an Ombudsman system.

(3) Mr Kranidiotis stated that this arrangement could not be valid in Greece because the Constitution at present in force laid down that only Greek citizens had the right to vote and to stand for election,

Mr Ripa de Meana pointed out that, as far as the Commission was concerned, the participation of European citizens in local elections, wherever in the Community they lived, was an essential feature of a People's Europe. He considered that an effort had to be made to grant these voting rights speedily.

(4) Mr Williamson stated that this proposal would not be in line with the United Kingdom practice of not operating State lotteries.

(5) See paragraphs 5.8. and 8.

(6) Under this system, which has proved its worth in the United States, each course followed in a higher-education establishment as part of the normal curriculum entitles the student to a credit which can be taken into account in other establishments at a similar level or re-assessed with other credits to entitle him to a diploma or certificate corresponding to the whole of the studies thus undertaken.

(7) For instance through national centres. The various centres referred to in this chapter should be closely coordinated or, where possible, be identical.

(8) See paragraphs 5.3. and 5.8. above.</nbp>