

Letter from Léon Marchal to Eduard Ludwig (Strasbourg, 8 March 1956)

Caption: On 8 March 1956, Léon Marchal, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, sends a letter to Eduard Ludwig, Minister Plenipotentiary and official Observer of the Austrian Government at the Council of Europe, in which he outlines the procedures for Austria's accession to the Council of Europe.

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D/2740

Strasbourg, 8th March, 1956

Mr. Eduard LUDWIG,
Minister Plenipotentiary,
Official Observer of the Austrian Government
to the Council of Europe,
4, rue Lenôtre
STRASBOURG

Sir,

In your telegram of 28th February last you were good enough to inform me that the Federal Government considered the moment had arrived for Austria to become a Member of the Council of Europe.

I have the honour to inform you that on the same day the Deputies of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, duly instructed by their Governments, agreed, in accordance with the statutory text adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe at its eighth session in May, 1951, to seek the opinion of the Consultative Assembly.

The President of the Consultative Assembly, in view of the wish already expressed by the Assembly in its Resolution n° 9 of May 1951, laid the matter before the Standing Committee, which is empowered to act on behalf of the Assembly between sessions.

The Standing Committee having given a favourable opinion, the Ministers' Deputies instructed me to bring to the notice of the Federal Government, through yourself, the attached text of the Resolution of 8th March, 1956, by which the Committee of Ministers notes that the Republic of Austria fulfils the conditions laid down in Article 4 of the Statute and invites it to become a Member of the Council of Europe and to accede to the Statute of the Council.

Article 4 of the Statute reads as follows :

"Any European State, which is deemed to be able and willing to fulfil the conditions of Article 3, may be invited to become a Member of the Council of Europe by the Committee of Ministers. Any State so invited shall become a Member on the deposit on its behalf with the Secretary-General of an instrument of accession to the present Statute."

The instrument of accession must mention the willingness of the Republic of Austria to accept the guiding principles and aims of the Council of Europe as set forth in the Preamble and in Article 3 of the Statute.

Deposit of the instrument of accession and admission of the Republic of Austria to membership of the Council of Europe could take place on 16th April, at 10 a.m., at the opening of the 18th session of the Committee of Ministers.

In pursuance of Article 6 of the Statute, it has been decided that the Republic of Austria will be entitled to six Representatives and six Substitutes in the Consultative Assembly and that its financial contribution will be 22,547,000 francs for the current financial year and 5,400,000 francs for the working capital fund.

The next session of the Assembly will open on 16th April, at 10 a.m., and it has been thought advisable, both by the Ministers' Deputies and by the Assembly itself, that all necessary steps should be taken to enable the Austrian Representatives appointed under Article 25 of the Statute to participate in the work of this

session.

I should be glad if the Federal Government would be so kind as to forward to the Secretariat-General on the attached form, not less than eight days before the opening date of the session, the credentials of its Representatives and Substitutes.

The Secretariat-General of the Council of Europe, in particular the office of the Clerk of the Assembly, the Political Directorate and the Directorate of Administration, are of course at your disposal to provide any information you may require.

I enclose a copy of the Statute of the Council of Europe.

I have the honour to be, Sir
Your obedient Servant

L. MARCHAL

Encl. :

- Resolution (56) 4
- Statute
- credential form