

Resolution (84) 21 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (21 November 1984)

Caption: On 21 November 1984, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopts Resolution (84) 21 on the organisation's activities in the political field with the aim of strengthening the continuity and effectiveness of exchanges of views on the political aspects of European cooperation, in particular at sessions of the Committee of Ministers, informal meetings of Ministers, meetings of the Ministers' Deputies and meetings of Political Directors.

Source: Committee of Ministers Adopted Texts. [ON-LINE]. [Strasbourg]: Council of Europe, [22.03.2006]. Available on http://www.coe.int/T/CM/adoptedTexts_en.asp.

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Resolution (84) 21 on Council of Europe action in the political field

(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 November 1984 at its 75th Session)

The Committee of Ministers,

1. Considering recent developments in European co-operation and the various initiatives to give it new impetus;
2. Having examined the report on the role of the Council of Europe in the process of European unification prepared by a working party of the Ministers' Deputies, following the report presented by Dr W. Pahr, Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in pursuance of his exploratory mission concerning the future role of the Council of Europe;
3. Having taken into consideration Assembly Resolution 805 of 1 October 1983 on European co-operation in the 1980s and its Recommendation 994 of 3 October 1984 on the future of European co-operation;
4. Recalling its Resolution (74) 4 of 24 January 1974 on the future role of the Council of Europe;
5. Bearing in mind the challenges which, in a changing European society, could jeopardise the common ideals enshrined in the Statute of the Council of Europe;
6. Convinced that increased cohesion and solidarity among the member states of the Council of Europe, in the spirit of its Statute, will help to meet these challenges and accordingly that greater use must be made of the Council of Europe's political potential in all its spheres of activity;
7. Stressing the need both to give more political direction to the intergovernmental activities of the Council of Europe and to intensify and expand its action in the political field as such,

I

Expresses its determination to develop and increase the scope of political dialogue, in particular exchanges of views at Committee of Ministers' sessions, informal meetings of Ministers, meetings of the Ministers' Deputies and meetings of Political Directors, with the aim of promoting cohesion of all the member states, that is, drawing them ever closer together in pursuance of the objectives of the Council of Europe's Statute;

II

Is of the opinion that political dialogue should have the following objectives:

- a. to consider the political aspects of European co-operation with a view to harmonising positions between all member states on the aims and means of this co-operation and its follow-up in the fields where the Council of Europe has acquired special experience or which are of interest to all member states;
- b. to consult together on international problems of common concern and, if possible, to provide member states with pointers for the development of their foreign policies;
- c. to discuss events which uphold or flagrantly violate the principles and ideals on which the organisation is based, in particular human rights, with a view to taking, if possible, a common stand on such events;
- d. to facilitate the taking of practical measures to help deal with major issues facing European society and with threats to democratic ideals and European cohesion;
- e. to contribute, as far as possible and in agreement with the parties concerned, to the solution of problems existing between member states;

III

Agrees to strengthen the organisation of the political dialogue so as to ensure its continuity and to increase its practical usefulness and impact. The choice of themes is particularly important and should include, *inter alia*, specific aspects of European co-operation. The positive consequences of the dialogue should be fully exploited for the benefit of Europe and the promotion of justice and peace in the world. To these ends, a special role is to be played by the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, with the participation of the Secretary General;

IV

Declares itself ready to promote more thorough exchanges of views between representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Committee of Ministers, at Ministerial and Deputy level, on political issues of mutual interest.