

Conclusions and recommendations adopted at the International Council of the European Movement (Brussels, 25–28 February 1949)

Caption: Conclusions and recommendations adopted at the inaugural session of the International Council of the European Movement in Brussels, held from 25 to 28 February 1949.

Source: The Library of the London School of Economics and Political Science - Archives and Rare Books, London, 10 Portugal Street, WC2A 2HD. <http://www.lse.ac.uk/library/archive/Default.htm>, Ronald William Gordon Mackay papers. European Movement, papers and pamphlets c1949, MACKAY/6/3.

Copyright: All rights of reproduction, public communication, adaptation, distribution or dissemination via Internet, internal network or any other means are strictly reserved in all countries.

The documents available on this Web site are the exclusive property of their authors or right holders.

Requests for authorisation are to be addressed to the authors or right holders concerned.

Further information may be obtained by referring to the legal notice and the terms and conditions of use regarding this site.

URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/conclusions_and_recommendations_adopted_at_the_international_council_of_the_european_movement_brussels_25_28_february_1949-en-85c16975-ad28-48fc-bb27-f86a54dc1228.html

Publication date: 07/09/2012

Conclusions and recommendations adopted at the Inaugural Meeting of the International Council of the European Movement (Brussels, 25-28 February 1949)

Principles of European policy

1. In a world dominated by political and economic units of continental dimensions, the European nations cannot hope to survive on a basis of political or economic independence. Europe must unite, not merely to preserve the peace and the freedom of her peoples, and to recover and augment her material prosperity, but to assert once more those principles which are now menaced and which must be preserved and given new life by being enshrined in a new structure.
2. Love of freedom, hostility to totalitarianism and of every kin, the humble and conscientious search for truth, and, above all, respect for the human personality and for the individual as an individual – there are essential characteristics of the true spirit of Europe. From them there springs, not a grudging toleration of which are the product of two thousand years of civilisation and were reaffirmed in the resistance to Nazism and Fascism, must inspire the organisation of Europe.
3. European culture is expressed through that tradition of democracy which is shared by all our nations. All of us believe in a rule of law which is independent of the State and which at the same time provides the foundations and fixes the limits of State authority. We believe that human personality is sacrosanct and that the fundamental liberties attaching to it must be guaranteed against all forms of totalitarianism. We further believe that the individual exists only in relation to his fellows and as a member of organic communities. Such communities must, within the limits of their competence, enjoy a considerable degree of autonomy, provided always that the necessary collective discipline is maintained. Finally, we believe that the concept of democracy implies freedom of criticism and therefore the right of opposition.
4. An economic and social system or political institution is never an end in itself; it is merely a means of creating favourable conditions in which the human personality can develop and expand. Economic power should be regarded as a responsibility, to be discharged in the best interests of all. The methods employed, as well as the political and economic institutions to be created, must, above all, inspire a sense of personal responsibility and must encourage individual initiative to the maximum.
5. Europe is being born at a time when its constituent nations are undergoing a profound social transformation. Within the new organisms the workers must play their part in management and in the exercise of authority to the full extent of their technical and political capacity.
6. It is not a question of choosing between liberty and authority, nor between a free and a collective economy, but of creating a synthesis of the two, which, far from being in opposition to one another, can be combined for constructive purposes.
7. No State should be admitted into the European Union which does not accept the fundamental principles contained in the Charter of Human Rights, or which does not declare itself willing and bound to ensure their application. In consequence, any European system which may be created cannot, unfortunately, count at present upon the official adherence of certain European nations, whether of the West or of the East. But the barrier which divides the free States from the other European nations cannot be accepted as permanent. Our aim is the union in freedom of all the peoples of Europe.
8. Western Germany must be invited forthwith (and the rest of Germany when possible) to become an integral part of this new community, in which the citizens of all the nations will have the same rights and the same duties.
9. Any Union must take account of the special ties which unite certain nations with countries overseas. The traditional relations linking mother-countries with territories enjoying political autonomy must be preserved and extended for the mutual benefit of all. Europe must also actively help territories which are now dependent to evolve towards a regime of political freedom, permitting them to participate fully in the

political, economic and social benefits of the European association, and to be represented in European organisations according to the constitutional practices in each country.

10. European values can only be preserved in so far as they are given new life and substance through the medium of new political institutions.

In the absence of such new institutions, the European organisations and services, which are already in being, or in process of being created, will soon become ineffective, or will be driven by force of circumstances to usurp the functions of government and set up in their place an uncontrolled technocracy.

11. The International Council of the European Movement notes with satisfaction the decision taken by the Governments of the Five Brussels Powers to create a European Council of Ministers and a European Consultations Assembly following the recommendations of The Hague Congress. This decision constitutes an important step towards the common exercise of certain defined sovereign powers.

12. The European Movement, desirous of making these institutions as efficient as possible, compatible with existing circumstances, has drawn up a separate text dealing with the question of the Assembly.

13. In view of the profound structural alterations in world economy during the past quarter of a century, accentuated by two world wars, Europe cannot find a new stability without adopting a new economic policy. The problems arising out of the integration of the European economy will be considered at the forthcoming Conference at Westminster, and we cannot anticipate the conclusions that may than be reached. But that policy should be directed towards the most harmonious and rational exploitation of Europe's resources with a view to improving steadily the living standard of the European population. Only thus can Europe rehabilitate herself, contribute to universal prosperity, and provide for her own defence. Such a new economic policy, for which the co-operation of the O.E.E.C. at Paris can be of very great assistance, implies at least an overall plan of production for the basic industries of Western Europe, and the progressive removal of the existing national barriers against the free movement of persons, goods and capital. The integration of the heavy industries of Western Europe is urgently required, for it is the necessary foundation of the economy of the Union as a whole. From this point of view, the Ruhr Statute must not remain as an exceptional regime, but should be used as a step towards the creation of Common Institutions for Western Europe.

14. There are, thus, both moral and material considerations which demand the Union of Europe. The tolerance of diversity, which has enabled her to play so notable a part in history, will find expression in a new order in which liberty joins hands with discipline. From this will flow a fresh vitality, which will assure to Europe her independence and continued existence as a vital force for civilisation in world affairs.

Recommendations

A. It is requested that the Delegates to the European Assembly be nominated by the various national Parliaments in such a way as to represent the vital forces in each country.

B. Each Parliament will, however, be free to nominate only those delegates who undertake to contribute loyally to the establishment of democratic institutions in a United Europe.

C. The number of Members should be at least three hundred, to represent the countries which at present enjoy democratic government. It is highly desirable that each national representation should include both Parliamentary and non-Parliamentary elements. The Parliamentarians should be designated in such a way that the parties constituted within each interested Parliament are appropriately represented. Among the non-Parliamentarians, a well-deserved place should be reserved for the promoters of European co-operation.

D. The European Assembly should, from its first Session, include representatives from all European countries enjoying democratic government, including those of Western Germany.

E. Apart from national representations, another form of representation should be provided. The Assembly should elect personalities chosen for their representative European character, including citizens of countries which are at present unable to express themselves democratically. The European Movement should make suggestions in this respect.

F. The nature of the Assembly as representative of the whole of Europe must be affirmed from its First Session, and it is suggested that the Plenary Session Chamber should include a certain number of places reserved for the representatives of the countries which cannot express themselves democratically. These empty places would mark the solidarity of all the peoples of Europe.

G. The European Assembly must have the right to discuss any questions of interest to the European Community; and it should be the duty of the Council of Ministers to refer for discussion to the Assembly any questions affecting the organisation of Europe.

H. The European Assembly should sit for at least 45 days a year, divided into two or three Sessions.

I. The Assembly should set up a certain number of permanent Committees.

J. The Assembly should have at its disposal a well-equipped Secretariat.

K. The European Movement expresses the gratitude of the peoples of Europe to the Governments who have already agreed to participate in the new Institutions, and appeals to all other European democratic Governments to join them.

L. Finally, it asks everyone to consider the importance of these recommendations which, if rapidly executed, are likely to contribute greatly to the urgent union of Europe.

European Court of human rights

The International Council or the European Movement, having met in Brussels from the 25th to the 28th February, 1949,

CONSIDERING that it is of major importance that the rights of man should be affectively ensured in all European countries;

CONSIDERING that judicial protection of these rights can be immediately assured in the countries of the European Union;

(l) RECOMMENDS that a European Court of Human Rights be established by a convention made between the Member States of the European Union, regard being had to the following considerations;

(a) The rights to be ensured by the Court shall be those individual, family and social rights of an economic, political, religious or other nature in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights which it is necessary and practical to protect by judicial process.

(b) The Court shall have jurisdiction to determine all cases concerning the precedent rights arising out of legislative, executive or judicial acts. If the Court determines that there has been an infringement, it may either provide for reparations or require that the national authorities shall take either penal or administrative action in regard to the persons responsible therefore, or prescribe that the invalid act shall be repealed, cancelled or amended.

(c) The Governments of the Member States, as well as all natural or corporate persons, being either nationals of or domiciled in one of these States, shall have the right to appear before the Court. A petition shall not be accepted for consideration by the Court unless all steps established in the national legal system have been taken, provided that there is no unreasonable delay in giving effect to them.

(d) The Court shall be composed of nine members chosen from among persons of high moral and professional character.

(e) A European Human Rights Commission of seven members independent of any Government shall be constituted. The Commission shall be charged with supervision of the observance of the Convention relating to the European Court. It shall present an annual report to the competent organs of the Council of Europe. The Commission shall receive all petitions. It will investigate them and it may conduct an enquiry within the territory of the States concerned which shall afford full facilities necessary for the efficient conduct of such an enquiry. If the Commission determines that the petition should be entertained it may make appropriate recommendations to the parties having in view the possible settlements of the questions by conciliatory methods. If conciliation cannot be achieved, the Commission may, whether it has made a recommendation or not, take proceedings before the Court, or it may authorise any question or issue raised by a petition to be determined by the Court between the parties to such question or issue.

(f) In the event of failure to comply with a recommendation of the Commission or a judgment of the Court the matter may be brought before the competent organs of the Council of Europe. These organs shall call upon the party concerned to comply, and shall, in the event of continued non-compliance, decide upon such measures as may be appropriate.

List annexed to article 2, Para. A.

- (I) Security of life and limb,
- (II) Freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention and exile,
- (III) Freedom from slavery and servitude and from compulsory labour of a discriminatory kind,
- (IV) Freedom of religious belief, practice and teaching,
- (V) Freedom of speech and of expression of opinion generally,
- (VI) Freedom of association and assembly,
- (VII) Freedom from arbitrary interference with the family,
- (VIII) The sanctity of the home,
- (IX) Equality before the law,
- (X) Freedom from discrimination on account of religion, race, national origin or political or other opinion,
- (XI) Freedom from arbitrary deprivation of property,
- (XII) Freedom of petition in respect of any infringement of Part I of this Convention occurring within the territory of any State adhering hereto.