

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

RESOLUTION (75) 13

CONTAINING RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE SOCIAL SITUATION OF NOMADS IN EUROPE

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 22 May 1975
at the 245th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers,

1. Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is the achievement of greater unity between its Members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage and of facilitating their economic and social progress ;
2. Noting that the situation of nomads in Europe has been seriously affected by industrial and urban development and the extension of town and country planning ;
3. Recalling that prejudice or discriminatory practices on the part of the settled population against such persons have not entirely disappeared in member states ;
4. Believing that nomads should benefit from appropriate social protection ;
5. Believing that there should be special measures designed to assist the fuller integration of nomads into society ;
6. Aware that the low level of school attendance of the children of nomads endangers seriously their chances of social and occupational advancement ;
7. Bearing in mind the concern expressed in Recommendation 563 of the Consultative Assembly on the situation of gypsies and other travellers in Europe,
 - I. Recommends the governments of the member states to take all measures they consider necessary to give effect to the principles set out in the appendix to the present resolution, of which it forms an integral part ;
 - II. Invites the governments of member states to inform the Secretary General of the Council of Europe in due course of the action taken on the recommendations contained in this resolution.

APPENDIX

For the purposes of this resolution, the expression "nomads" means persons who for historical reasons are accustomed to following an itinerant way of life, as well as persons of nomadic origin who experience difficulties in integrating into society for sociological, economic or similar reasons.

A. General policy

1. All necessary measures within the framework of national legislation should be taken to stop any form of discrimination against nomads.
2. The prejudices which form the basis of discriminatory attitudes and behaviour against nomads should be countered by inter alia giving the settled population better information about the origins, ways of life, living conditions and aspirations of nomads.
3. The participation of nomads in the preparation and the implementation of measures concerning them should be encouraged and practised under conditions laid down by national legislation.
4. The cultural heritage and identity of nomads should be safeguarded.
5. Appropriate measures should be taken in order to avoid as far as possible a situation whereby nomads' way of life would result in preventing them from enjoying the rights and protection and from fulfilling the obligations relevant to the present resolution ; in particular the possibility of establishing an effective system of practical contact with nomads, to the extent required to fulfil the objects of the present resolution, might be investigated.

B. Camping and housing

1. Camping and residence of nomads on camping sites equipped so as to promote safety, hygiene and welfare should be facilitated and encouraged.
2. As a general rule, the camping sites should be located in the vicinity of towns or villages or, at any rate, be so located as to offer facilities for access to communications, supplies, schools, work and other social contacts.
3. The housing of nomads who wish to settle down in appropriate housing should be facilitated.

C. Education, vocational guidance and vocational training

1. The schooling of the children of nomads should be promoted by the most suitable methods, working towards integrating them into the normal educational system.
2. At the same time general education of adults including literacy should also be promoted, where the need for it exists.
3. Nomads and their children should be enabled to benefit effectively from the various existing provisions for vocational guidance, training and retraining.
4. So far as concerns vocational guidance and training, the greatest possible account should be taken of the natural abilities.

D. Health and social welfare

1. The fullest possible help should be given to nomads in the framework of national schemes for the protection of health and social welfare, and this implies the co-operation of medical and social services of every kind.
2. Where the need exists, social workers should be informed about the problems of nomads and the training of persons from nomadic families as social workers should be encouraged.
3. Action on behalf of nomads should be such as to give them the opportunity to integrate into the educational, cultural, professional and recreational organisations open to the general population.

E. Social security

1. Appropriate measures should be taken to avoid, so far as possible, a situation whereby the nomads' way of life prevents them, in practice, from enjoying those social security benefits to which they are legally entitled ; these measures should aim especially at facilitating their carrying out the necessary administrative formalities for receiving social security benefits.

2. The persons concerned should be given access to adequate information on their rights and duties in relation to social security and they should be assisted to make use of the available services.