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COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, REGIONAL PLANNING  
AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Proposals for the 1989 Europe Prize, Plaque of Honour,  
European Diploma and Flag of Honour

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Secretariat memorandum  
prepared by the Office of the Clerk  
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Forty years  
Council of Europe  
Quarante ans  
Conseil de l'Europe

I. 1989 EUROPE PRIZE AND PLAQUES OF HONOUR

1. Since its creation, the Flag of Honour has been awarded to 619 municipalities or territorial authorities. Amongst them, a small number (42) were then awarded the Europe Prize, a distinction attributed every year to the European municipality which has made outstanding efforts to propagate the ideal of European unity.

2. Among the remaining 580 municipalities which can expect to be awarded the Europe Prize after attribution of the Flag of Honour, some withdrew voluntarily from the competition, considering that they were satisfied with the Flag of Honour but more often municipalities no longer send us the requested additional information about their European activities during the past year, a prerequisite to remaining on the list of candidatures. Other towns, after a long period of silence, inform us that they want to be on the list again.

3. The creation of the Plaque of Honour last year raised great interest among all municipalities applying for the Europe Prize. They are conscious of the difficulty of getting the Europe Prize and are now willing to compete for the Plaque of Honour. This new distinction will probably help to reduce discouragement and frustration among the municipalities that were applying year after year without success for the Europe Prize.

4. The Secretariat has shortlisted the following 13 candidates, one of which should be awarded the Prize, the others the Plaque of Honour.

1. Mayrhofen (Austria)
2. Beersel (Belgium)
3. Bourg-en-Bresse (France)
4. Livry-Gargan (France)
5. Plouguerneau (France)
6. Rambouillet (France)
7. Lünen (F.R.G.)
8. Mülheim an der Ruhr (F.R.G.)
9. Rendsburg (F.R.G.)
10. Lucca (Italy)
11. Swansea (United Kingdom)
12. Canterbury (for Herne Bay) (United Kingdom)
13. Zwolle (Netherlands)

5. MAYRHOFEN (Austria)

Mayrhofen is a small Tirolean town in the Zillertal with 3,000 inhabitants. It celebrated the award of the Council of Europe Flag of Honour with considerable panache in 1973.

In 1956, it was one of the first municipalities to conclude a twinning arrangement when it joined the first twinning association, the "Partnerschaftsring", comprising the municipalities of Bad Homburg (FRG), Cabourg (France), Chur (Switzerland), Bad Mondorf (Luxembourg), Terracina (Italy) and Mayrhofen. Since then, representatives of each of these municipalities have met every year to take stock of their twinning activities.

A tourist town, holding the fourth position in Austria for the number of overnight stays, Mayrhofen has turned its tourist attractions to account and for 40 years has accommodated students from all over the world attending the summer courses organised by the University of Innsbruck.

Moreover, it is more than a little proud of its "Europe House", opened in 1980, where every year conferences and events with international participants are held.

While there are many contacts between sport and cultural associations (in particular voluntary firemen) the most extensive are with Bad Homburg and Coire, mainly for language and geographical reasons. Exchanges with the French town of Cabourg are mainly between young people.

But Mayrhofen also enjoys close contacts with Bavarian towns (Bad Tölz and Kreuth).

The award of the Plaque of Honour to Mayrhofen would reward this small Austrian municipality for its efforts on behalf of Europe.

6. BEERSEL (Belgique)

The Flemish municipality of Beersel, situated on the outskirts of Brussels, has taken part since 1968 in the building of Europe. It was in fact twinned in 1968 with the municipalities of Blokker in the Netherlands and Wormeldange in Luxembourg, and in August 1988 the twinning committee organised a series of events to celebrate the two decades of European understanding in a suitable fashion. But the family, originally within the Benelux context, was enlarged in 1973 with the arrival of 21 municipalities from the canton of Mirebeau in Burgundy.

Links between the municipalities are strengthened mainly through annual twinning celebrations, but the very active twinning committee also encourages contacts between local associations which are not short of initiatives. To encourage them the Council of Europe awarded the Flag of Honour to Beersel in 1984. Contacts between families, exchanges of children, celebration of Europe Day with the releasing of balloons, taking part in the grape harvest festival, and especially the commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the twinning with Mirebeau and of the 20th anniversary with Blokker and Wormeldange were included in the 1988 programme.

Mention should also be made of Beersel's excellent contacts with the municipalities of Osthofen (FRG), of Cadorago (I) and of Viehhofen (A).

As in the case of many small-sized municipalities, it is by means of twinings that their citizens can learn to have respect for each other beyond national, language and ideological barriers.

7. BOURG-EN-BRESSE (France)

The twinning between Bourg-en-Bresse and the German town of Bad-Kreuznach, in Rhineland-Palatinate, covers all sectors (education, sport, culture and economy) and involves between 1,500 and 2,000 people a year. The first contacts date back to 1962, and the Flag of Honour of the Council of Europe was awarded to Bourg-en-Bresse in 1967. 1988 was the year of celebration of the 25th anniversary of this model twinning arrangement. The bulky press file we have received shows how strong this twinning is after 25 years. To give a special panache to the celebration of the 25th year of the twinning, the Bourg-en-Bresse committee embarked two years ago on a programme to save on expenditure and made considerable efforts to arouse the interest of the eighty or so associations concerned with exchanges. It was able in this way to set aside 900,000 francs to cover the cost of the events in which more than 1,200 Germans took part.

The Twinning Committee, set up in 1983 specially to encourage and co-ordinate the activities of the various bodies, enabled more than 80 Bourg-en-Bresse associations to forge ties of friendship with their counterparts in Germany. Every year about twenty trips of Bad-Kreuznach take place, and 20 or so receptions are held in Bourg-en-Bresse, involving more than 1,500 people in all. The Twinning Committee's funds, which come principally from a municipal subsidy (FF 400,000 a year) are made available to applicant associations, mainly to cover their travel expenses.

In addition, independently of its continuous contacts with numerous humanitarian associations, Bourg-en-Bresse has for two years been contributing to the financing of the Zym Basin project in Haiti.

This, then, is a highly active twinning which shows no signs of ageing after its 25 years of existence.

8. LIVRY-GARGAN (France)

Despite its relatively small size (36,000 inhabitants), Livry-Gargan (Seine-Saint-Denis) has no fewer than four twin towns (Fürstenfeldbruck in the Federal Republic of Germany, Cerveteri in Italy, Haringey in England and Almunecar in Spain), two of these twinnings dating back more than ten years. Exchanges cover sport, music and education and are particularly well developed at family level. They are aimed at young people as well as old, public services (police, finance, post office, fire brigade, Red Cross, etc) as well as private associations (the "Friends of Haringey" group, ex-servicemen and ex-prisoners of war, etc.). Livry-Gargan was awarded the Flag of Honour of the Council of Europe in 1981.

The twin towns also meet to exchange experience in economic matters (exhibition at the Paris Food Fair) or take part in international events (conference on water supplies at Abidjan). Technical co-operation with two of the twin municipalities (Almunecar and Fürstenfeldbruck) led to Livry-Gargan being awarded the Europe Prize of the CEMR (Council of European municipalities and regions) and the Gold Star for European Initiative in 1988.

In its efforts to facilitate the integration of foreigners and foster contacts between young people, the municipality has set up two reception centres for foreigners, which can accommodate 30 young people or adults, as well as a Municipal Centre for Youth, Culture and Leisure.

Livry-Gargan is thus a good example of a small municipality's dynamism which does not stop at the frontiers of Europe since it has also led to the creation of ties of friendship with a town in Quebec and with two schools, one in Louisiana and the other in the province of Ontario.

9. PLOUGUERNEAU (France)

The Breton municipality of Plouguerneau has been twinned since 1967 with Neckarhausen (Baden-Württemberg, FRG). Following an amalgamation, Neckarhausen became in 1975 Edingen-Neckarhausen and the links between Plouguerneau and Neckarhausen were transferred to the new municipality in 1977.

A very large number of meetings have taken place during this twinning over a period of twenty years as shown by the various volumes of the "Story of the Plouguerneau-Edingen Neckarhausen twinning" published by the town hall of Plouguerneau. Two recent examples should be mentioned : the celebrations of the XXth anniversary of the twinning in 1987 and 1988 provided an opportunity for 362 Germans and 352 French to visit their twin towns.

This twinning has often been described as exemplary by the press (in 1979 the French television channel FR3 broadcast a programme called "Europe from Plouguerneau to Neckarhausen") ; however, it has never been restricted to an elite, far from it. The very close links between the authorities of the two towns have certainly enabled the maximum number of people to participate in the various encounters, while the work of the twinning committee deserves to be underlined.

Moreover, the Council of Europe recognised Edingen-Neckarhausen's merit by awarding it the Flag of Honour in 1980. Plouguerneau received the same honour in 1981.

The award of the Plaque of Honour would undoubtedly give new encouragement to its work for the construction of Europe.

10. RAMBOUILLET (France)

The application of Rambouillet (France) that was awarded the Flag of Honour in 1977 places special emphasis on the recent twinning (1986) with Waterloo in Belgium. After seeking a twinning arrangement with a French town for ten years, Waterloo found its ideal partner in Rambouillet, another imperial town willing to engage in dialogue and exchanges. Since true twinings are, above all, the work of ordinary citizens, many activities have already been initiated in Rambouillet to consolidate the arrangement. They cover not only sport, school and cultural exchanges but also events of a more official kind. In all, 70 associations are already involved in exchanges with Waterloo.

The "historic symbol" aspect of the twinning with Waterloo should not, however, obscure Rambouillet's longer-standing European activities, for it is also twinned with Great Yarmouth (UK) - the 30th anniversary of this twinning was celebrated in style in 1986 - and Kirchheim-unter-Teck (FRG), with which the 20th anniversary was celebrated last year. These twinings have become an integral part of Rambouillet life, involving all social strata and age groups : senior citizens, the physically disabled and schoolchildren, to name but a few. Every year, between 800 and 900 people take part in trips between Rambouillet and its twin towns. Exhibitions and concerts bring the three twin towns together from time to time, and the quarterly municipal newsletter ensures continuous liaison between them. The Twinning Committee even publishes a Rambouillet/Kirchheim-unter-Teck liaison bulletin. Reciprocal invitations are issued to all popular festivals, and joint holidays involving some 30 to 50 people of all ages from Kirchheim and Rambouillet have been taking place for nine years.

Although Rambouillet has not renewed its candidature for the 1989 Europe Prize, it seemed appropriate to propose this excellent candidature.

A detailed press file accompanies this outstanding application.



11. LÜNEN (Federal Republic of Germany)

Lünen is an industrial town of about 90,000 inhabitants between the Ruhr and Münster, in North Rhine-Westphalia.

It was twinned in 1963 with Zwolle in the Netherlands and in 1966 with Salford in Great Britain, and very quickly exhibited considerable vitality in its meetings with its twin towns. In 1978 more than a thousand people took part in 31 meetings, an enthusiasm which continues to grow, as shown by the very regular and full annual reports sent to us by Lünen since 1979, together with a very detailed press file. Lünen was awarded the Flag of Honour in 1981.

Nearly 850 people from Lünen and Zwolle met in 1987 and the variety of these exchanges is highlighted by the fact that they involve the mayors and municipal councillors of the towns, as well as sportsmen and women, senior citizens, schoolchildren, police officers, housewives, firemen, choir members, foreign workers, journalists, etc.

The celebration of its 25th anniversary in 1988, represented the high point of this exemplary twinning, and the activities report shows the record figure for 1988 of 107 encounters with the town of Zwolle alone in which more than 6,000 citizens of both towns took part. During this jubilee year a number of original activities organised by the town are noteworthy : a calendar-poster was distributed to all the public bodies in the two towns, a Christmas card was sent to former residents of Lünen living abroad, and a coin commemorating the twinning was awarded to all persons who had been involved in the twinning. A number of citizens of the town of Zwolle have been awarded decorations by Lünen for their efforts in favour of Europe.

Although the exchanges with Salford are less numerous, they are nevertheless on the increase. This year, nearly 150 people from the two towns took part in the twinning activities.

Since 1952 Lünen has also been twinned with the Polish town of Cammin, which has received inhabitants from Lünen and contacts have been made with the Russian town of Panewejis (Lithuania) with a view to twinning. An official delegation is to go to Panewejis next spring to make preparations for the twinning.

The original and highly successful initiative of arranging exchanges between journalists from Zwolle and Lünen is particularly noteworthy, enabling the inhabitants of the two municipalities to get to know each other that much better.

Since Zwolle also holds the Flag of Honour and has been applying for a number of years for the Europe Prize (see description page 15) should not the opportunity be seized to award the Plaque of Honour jointly to each of these towns, so united in their European commitment ?

12. MÜLHEIM AN DER RUHR (Federal Republic of Germany)

Mülheim an der Ruhr, which was shortlisted for the Europe Prize in 1985, 1987 and 1988, has made outstanding efforts in the field of European activities. The town was awarded the Flag of Honour in 1977. The report on its activities in 1988 illustrates the European commitment of this industrial town in the Ruhr.

Even in the early stages of Mülheim's twinning activities (official twinning agreements were signed with Darlington (United Kingdom) in 1953, Tours (France) in 1962, Berlin-Tiergarten in 1965 and Kuusankovski (Finland) in 1965), the town made the necessary financial provision for organising annual international exchanges of young people between the twin towns. Thus, in addition to the annual subsidies granted by the town (between 1980 and 1987 the municipal budget included an average of DM 50,000 annually for fostering twinning activities, especially exchanges between schoolchildren and sports associations). This budget was more than doubled in 1988, reaching DM 110,000. It should be noted that an additional post was established for organising twinning activities. A series of language courses, as well as courses to prepare the twinned towns' visits, have been organised by the local adult education college.

To look after the interests of the 12,400 or so foreign residents in Mülheim, the town council set up a "Foreign Inhabitants' Advisory Committee", to which representatives of the local foreign community belong.

The town council has presented a particularly detailed file, entitled "Städte schliessen Freundschaft" (Towns create friendship), which bears witness to the joint efforts made to propagate the European spirit. It has also published a booklet giving information about each of the twinned towns.

In 1987 Mülheim celebrated its 25th twinning anniversary with Tours and signed a resolution aimed at further expanding twinning activities in the technical, cultural and social fields. In 1988, more than 52 encounters brought together nearly 2,000 people.

Mülheim's longest-standing twinning arrangement, with Darlington, dates back 30 years, and the summary of 1988 activities reflects the healthy state of this partnership. The same goes for Berlin-Tiergarten and Kuusankovski.

Mülheim has also begun twinning negotiations with the Polish town of Opole and has set aside the necessary funds for concluding an arrangement in 1988. The official celebration is planned for 1989.

Mülheim's regular reports, presented in the form of illustrated albums, reveal the extent of the whole population's commitment to the idea of European twinning.

13. RENSBURG (Federal Republic of Germany)

Rendsburg, a medium town of 40,000 inhabitants in the Land of Schleswig-Holstein, was awarded the Flag of Honour in 1972. It stopped sending annual reports to the Council of Europe for a long time but resumed contact in 1984 and has applied regularly for the Europe Prize since that date.

We have a very detailed list of the meetings between Rendsburg and its three twin towns : Vierzon (F) - twinned in 1954, Lancaster (UK) - twinned in 1955, and Aalborg (DK) - twinned in 1976 and winner of the Europe Prize in 1988. The list goes back to the beginnings of the respective twinings.

The town of Rendsburg also encourages, in addition to official twinings, contacts between associations and between schools. Meetings have taken place with the towns of Partille and Pitea in Sweden, Kuopio in Finland, Dronninglund in Denmark, Ghent in Belgium, Halstead in the United Kingdom.

In addition, contacts have been made with a town in the Democratic Republic of Germany and a town in Poland with a view to twinning.

The initiative by the Senate of Rendsburg in 1982 to celebrate Europe Day each year by focussing on one European country during events lasting a number of days is noteworthy. In 1985, for example, Denmark held that position, France in 1986 and the United Kingdom in 1988 which was the occasion for celebrating simultaneously the 20th anniversary of the twinning between Lancaster and Rendsburg.

Clearly, therefore, it is because of its undoubted international commitment that Rendsburg is applying for the Europe Prize or the Plaque of Honour of the Council of Europe.

14. LUCCA (Italy)

If the Europe Prize or the Plaque of Honour is to be awarded to an Italian town, Lucca, a town in Tuscany to the west of Florence, deserves to be selected. It holds the Flag of Honour since 1965 and for more than 25 years has had close relations with its twin towns : Colmar (F), Schongau (FRG) and Sint-Niklaas (B). The twinning with Abingdom (1972) is a little more recent. In addition, it has been twinned since 1978 with the city of South San Francisco.

The twinning committee, consisting of representatives of the five towns, meets every year in each of the five towns in turn to draw up the programme of activities covering all types of exchanges : annual exchanges of young people in each of the twin towns on a reciprocal basis, folklore and sporting events, cultural, musical, business and even culinary exchanges. Courses in Italian are very popular and are re-transmitted on television in the twin towns.

Several initiatives by Lucca in 1988 should be noted, in collaboration with its twin towns and with the participation of its Chamber of Commerce, designed to make the town better known abroad : an Italian language course retransmitted from Lucca by Belgian and Netherlands television, resulting in an influx of tourists in the summer ; a festival of typically Italian dishes for the inhabitants of Sint-Niklaas ; a one-week event organised in Sint-Niklaas to promote Lucca's cultural and commercial attractions, with lectures, concerts, exhibitions of local products and handicrafts.

Lucca also hosts every two years the International Festival of Cartoons and Cartoon Films and participates actively in the celebration of European Schools' Day.

The five twin towns also decided to jointly finance a third world aid project. Two years ago they selected the town of Gourcy in Burkina Faso, and their aid is concerned in particular with improving living conditions for the woman in the family and with the sinking of wells. They have also initiated an aid programme for Senegal in the irrigation sector.

15. SWANSEA (United Kingdom)

Even though reports on activities in the last two years have not reached us, Swansea's candidature for the Plaque of Honour deserves nevertheless to be examined with care.

This town in Wales hosted an international conference of the Council of Europe in 1980. Moreover, the Swansea Lower valley was one of the five demonstration sites selected by the United Kingdom for the European Campaign for Urban Renaissance launched by the Council of Europe in 1980.

Awarded the Flag of Honour in 1982, the town celebrated the 30th anniversary of its twinning with Mannheim (FRG) (also awarded the Flag of Honour) in 1987 and this twinning has continued without running out of steam, as is testified by the reports sent to us. Exchanges of young people, exhibitions, lectures, sporting competitions with mutual visits, the list of activities shows the variety of the links from municipalities to architects and bee-keepers. Special mention should be made of the close relations between the two universities and the regular exchanges of students and academic staff.

The twinning with Ferrare (I) goes back to 1978 and has certainly been encouraged by the local twinning association founded in 1974 to promote and co-ordinate the activities of a number of cultural, sporting and professional associations. Contacts have been very frequent in this case too, even though they have not yet reached the level of those with Mannheim.

Following the success of its first two twinings, Swansea turned to France to arrange its third twinning. It chose the town of Pau in 1983 and exchanges of young people and encounters between folklore groups from the two towns followed quickly.

But many other activities are included in the programme of Swansea and its twin towns enabling each year more than 1,000 people to get to know each other, exchange views and meet each other again on a regular basis.

16. CANTERBURY FOR HERNE BAY (Great-Britain)

Herne Bay is a little town of 26,000 inhabitants that in 1974 became part of the newly formed district of Canterbury City Council and has made, as shown in its regular reports, outstanding efforts to propagate the European idea.

Twinned with the German town of Waltrop since 1976, after more than twenty years of close contacts, Herne Bay has greatly developed its activities in all sectors of both towns. The high importance attributed to sports fixtures, students meetings (the annual visit of 1,000 French students is now in its 33rd year) and musical events as well as the leading role played by the Herne Bay - Waltrop Twinning Association in co-ordinating all these encounters, should be particularly underlined.

Herne Bay was awarded the Flag of Honour in 1971 but the Flag is now in the Council Chamber at Canterbury since Herne Bay lost its identity as a municipality in its own right in 1974.

Canterbury was also awarded the Flag of Honour in 1983 but afterwards never applied for the Europe Prize.

Could it be possible to envisage for this year or next year to award the Plaque of Honour to Canterbury but specify that through this distinction the Committee wishes to underline and reward the merits of Herne Bay.

17. ZWOLLE (Netherlands)

Zwolle is a Hanseatic town with 90,000 inhabitants to the east of Amsterdam and has developed an exemplary twinning since 1963 with Lünen (FRG).

In view of the many encounters which have involved more than 6,000 people in the past year alone (see details on page 9), it is proposed to award these two very closely linked towns the Plaque of Honour of the Council of Europe.

## II. 1989 FLAGS OF HONOUR AND EUROPEAN DIPLOMAS

As last year, there is a certain levelling-off in the number of applications from municipalities for a Flag of Honour (174 in 1988, 184 in 1989), with a slight decline in the number of new applications. This is probably due to the award of the European Diploma, pending the award of the Flag of Honour.

### AUSTRIA

Five applications have been recorded, four of which are new ones.

It is suggested to award for the first year, a Diploma to WELS, town with 55,000 inhabitants and perhaps also to TRIEBEN which encounters more difficulties in its contacts with foreign towns, due to its small size.

### BELGIUM

Four applications, out of which only one is new.

Only the file of POPERINGE seems to deserve a Flag of Honour. This Flemish town of 20,000 inhabitants submitted an excellent report on its 1988 activities.

We did not get any news from Linkebeek and Etterbeek and we could not assess the twinning of Liege due to the lack of information about this town that is nevertheless twinned with nine European towns.

#### 1 Flag of Honour :

Poperinge.



## FRANCE

Thirty-six applications, including fourteen new ones.

Among the towns which have renewed their applications, several have stepped-up their European activities. These are :

- Annonay (Ardèche) twinned for many years (since 1966) with Backnang (Germany), which holds a Flag of Honour. Press cuttings and literature back up this application.
- Joinville-le-Pont (Val-de-Marne) twinned since 1960 with Bergisch-Gladbach (D) and Rennymede (GB). The twinings have been reactivated by the twinning committee in 1985.
- Marvejols, a little town situated in the Department of the Lozère, with only one twinning that concerns many young people, despite the distance between both towns (1,200 km). The Department of Lozère has only three twinned towns.
- Department of Mayenne that sent us very copious documentation. The twinning with Swabia is recent (1987) but several German and French municipalities belonging to these two territorial authorities have already been twinned for many years. Moreover, the Department of the Mayenne is the first French Département that was awarded the Golden Star of the European Initiative in 1988.
- Mennecy, (Essonne), has submitted an excellent file, very well documented with several interesting initiatives : telephone boxes symbolising Europe as an area of communications.
- Montbéliard, (Doubs), which was the first town involved in Franco-German exchanges.
- Saint-Priest, (Rhône) in addition to its lively twinings with Mühlheim and Arezzo, has exchanges with Tunisia (exchanges of school pupils and young people) and has developed with Mühlheim a programme of humanitarian aid in Lima (Peru).
- Saint-Etienne (Loire) had very impressive twinning activities in 1988. They concern as well Europe with three twinings with Ferrare (I), Coventry (GB) and Wuppertal (FRG) as Asia with Vorochilovgrad (URSS) and Xu Zhou (China) and America with Windson and Granby in Canada.

Several other municipalities, less active, seem to deserve the encouragement of the European Diploma :

- Guipavas (Finistère) which maintains good contacts with the English town of Callington.
- Saint-André (Nord) twinned with the German town of Dormagen, that was awarded the Flag of Honour last year.
- Villeneuve-les-Sablons, twinned since 1966 with Altenburschla, a small municipality next to the East-German border which tries, despite the distance between them, to organise meetings, in particular between young people.

It is proposed to award :

8 Flags of Honour :

- Annonay
- Joinville-le-Pont
- Marvejols
- Département de la Mayenne
- Mennecy
- Montbéliard
- Saint-Priest
- Saint-Etienne

3 European Diplomas

- Guipavas
- Saint-André
- Villeneuve-les-Sablons

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

As usual the greatest number of applications for flags of honour came from the Federal Republic of Germany. We are faced with 75 applications, of which 16 are new ones.

The following municipalities might be selected for a flag of honour :

- Bad Ems (Rheinland-Pfalz), already proposed in 1988 and winner of the European Diploma last year ;
- Stadtbezirk BONN (Nordrhein-Westfalen) with one of the oldest twinings in Germany but still very active, with Oxford ;
- BÖNNIGHEIM (Baden-Württemberg) which will commemorate the 25th anniversary of its twinning with Rouffach (F) this year ;
- Emmendingen (Baden-Württemberg) with relatively recent but very active twinings, priority being given to school exchanges ; winner of the European Diploma last year ;
- Euskirchen (Nordrhein-Westfalen) which has developed exchanges since 1961, especially at school level, with the French town of Charleville-Mezières and has many contacts at association level with the British town of Basingstoke ;
- Friedberg (Hessen) with a very large programme of exchanges in 1987 and 1988, especially with Villiers-sur-Marne (F) ;
- KONZ (Rheinland-Pfalz) with an excellent report on its activities in 1988 underlining the associations' work in all four twin towns ;
- Langenfeld (Nordrhein-Westfalen), winner of the European Diploma last year, with a population concerned by the European idea and which will celebrate in May 1989 the 20th twinning anniversary with Senlis(F) ;
- Memmingen (Bayern) has very friendly contacts with the Province of Teramo (I) that deserve to be encouraged ; has also excellent relations with the French town of Auch ;
- Verbandsgemeinde PUDERBACH (Rheinland-Pfalz) has been applying since 1981 for the Flag of Honour and financially contributes to the exchanges with its twin town of Barenton, which holds a Flag of Honour ;
- RÜDESHEIM (Hessen), which was already proposed last year ; has very good contacts with its four twin towns, with priority given to exchanges with Meursault and Swanage (GB) ;

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(1) The towns written in block capitals should be given priority for the award of Flags of Honour.

Federal Republic of Germany (cont'd)

- Remscheid (Nordrhein-Westfalen) submitted a good report on its activities in 1988 and last year was awarded the European Diploma ;
- Singen (Baden-Württemberg) which is very active in integrating its numerous foreign workers has submitted an excellent report on its 1988 activities ;
- the District of Steinfurt (Nordrhein-Westfalen) with a well-developed twinning with the "London Borough of Ealing" specially concentrated on sports activities and school meetings ;
- Amt Tritttau (Schleswig-Holstein) which has been applying since 1986 for the Flag of Honour ; the former Mayor largely contributed to the development of its twinning activities, mainly in the field of school exchanges ;
- WACHENHEIM/Weinstrasse (Rheinland-Pfalz), winner of the European Diploma last year, regularly applies for the Flag of Honour since 1986 ; increasing activities with its twin town of Cuisery (F) ;
- Waltrop (Nordrhein-Westfalen) which has developed since 1976 excellent contacts with the British town of Herne Bay, also holder of the Flag of Honour ; the twinning with Cesson is also well expanding ;
- WÜRSELEN (Nordrhein-Westfalen), winner of the European Diploma last year, and now presenting its application for the fourth time with many activities and the creation of a three-way twinning involving Würselen, Morlaix and a town in Burkina Faso.

For the award of diplomas, the following towns might be considered :

- Beerfelden-Olfen (Hessen)
- Bonndorf im Schwarzwald (Baden-Württemberg)
- Erftstadt (Nordrhein-Westfalen)
- Gladbeck ( " " )
- Gründau (Hessen)
- Hamm (Nordrhein-Westfalen)
- Herbstein (Hessen)
- Herdorf (Rheinland-Pfalz)
- Hürth (Nordrhein-Westfalen)
- Linkenheim-Hochstetten (Baden-Württemberg)
- Neuwied (Rheinland-Pfalz)
- Raunheim (Hessen)
- Reinheim ( " )
- Seligenstadt (Hessen)
- Waldstetten (Baden-Württemberg)

In conclusion, 18 Flags of Honour and 15 European Diplomas.

## IRELAND

No new candidature and no renewal of application.  
In this case it is difficult to award a Flag of Honour. A European Diploma might be awarded to Clonmel as encouragement.

## ITALY

28 applications out of which 7 new ones.

Even if they have not yet reached the level of the German applications, several towns seem to deserve the Flag of Honour. It is the case of :

- Monte San Biagio (Provincia di Latina) with a very recent twinning with Saint Romain Le Puy (F) encouraged by the twinning committee ;
- Rivoli (Provincia di Torino) with three twinings and a very well documented file testifying of their solidity ;
- Verona (Regione Veneto) very concerned by the the European idea and the Federalist movements.

and possibly also to :

- Montebelluna (Provincia di Treviso) to be encouraged in its new twinning with Dannemarie-les-Lys (F) ;
- Montemarciano (Provincia di Ancona) which also entered into twinning arrangements very recently with Quincy-sous-Senart (F) with several exchanges that took already place.

For the Diploma, five to six municipalities could be considered:

- Atina (Prov. di Frosinone)
- Baschi (Prov. di Terni)
- Battaglia Terme (Prov. di Padova)
- Guardea (Prov. di Terni)
- Montescudaio
- Porano (Prov. di Terni)

#### LIECHTENSTEIN

As the Secretariat did not receive the Questionnaire relating to the application of Vaduz, there was no possibility to assess this candidature.

#### LUXEMBOURG

Dippach is the only town in Luxembourg that applied for the Flag of Honour. As an encouragement for the development of its contacts with Landiras (F), the Flag of Honour could be attributed to it.

#### NETHERLANDS

15 applications out of which 4 new ones. The following three seem to deserve the Flag of Honour :

- Brunssum with contacts at all levels of the population ;
- Roermond, winner of the European Diploma last year, is preparing a great aquatic tournament in 1989 ;
- Sleen with a twinning with the German town of Aumühle since 1968 also holds a flag of honour.

For the Diploma, two municipalities could be selected among the following ones :

- Aardenburg
- Bathmen
- Beek
- Beek en Donk.

PORTUGAL

Two applications, one of which is a new one : Vila Nova de Foz Coa that did not communicate enough information about the nature of exchanges. As an encouragement, the European Diploma could be awarded.

SPAIN

The Secretariat received two excellent applications : Barcelona and San Sebastian. It is proposed to award the Flag of Honour to one of them, the European Diploma to the other.

SWITZERLAND

We received only one application, that of Plaffeien which deserves the Flag of Honour.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

The Secretariat received eleven applications, eight of which are first-time ones. Four applications seem to deserve the Flag of Honour ;

- Alnwick that submitted an excellent report on its links with its three twin towns ;
- Leicester twinned for many years with Strasbourg ;
- Tonbridge and Malling with exchanges mainly at association level ;
- The Vale of White Horse and Abingdon T.C., two territorial authorities that submitted a joint application and that are twinned with five towns ;
- Wellington twinned for many years with Lillebonne (F) and more recently with the German town of Immenstadt.

The European Diploma could be awarded to :

- Hornsea
- Kenilworth
- Motherwell

#### TURKEY

Contrary to last year when we had awarded the Flag of Honour to the town of BURSA which had submitted an excellent report, we did not receive any applications from this country this year.