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(June 1993)

**4th CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN MINISTERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUTH**

Vienna, 13-15 April 1993

**REPORT
FINAL TEXT
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

The Fourth Conference of European Ministers responsible for Youth was held in Vienna on 13, 14 and 15 April 1993 at the invitation of the Austrian Government, which made this proposal in Lisbon at the third conference in 1990.

All the Contracting Parties to the European Cultural Convention - with the exception of Cyprus and Lithuania, which apologised for absence - were represented. Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine attended as observers.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe was represented by the Chairman and several members of the Sub-Committee on Youth and Sport of the Committee on Culture and Education; the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE) was represented by the Chairman of the CLRAE Committee on Social Affairs and the Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Youth.

The Conference was also attended by the Chairman of the Governing Board of the European Youth Centre and European Youth Foundation and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the European Youth Centre and European Youth Foundation.

The Commission of the European Communities was represented by Mr Ruberti, Commissioner for Science, Research and Education.

Several international intergovernmental organisations, UNICEF, the Nordic Council, the Ibero-American Youth Conference, OFAJ, Alpe Adria, and international non-governmental organisations, the European Youth Cards Conference, ERYICA, the Youth Forum of the European Communities, Hope 87 and the United Nations Youth Group, sent observers.

The European Co-ordination Bureau of International Youth Organisations (ECB) and the European Council of European National Youth Committees (CENYC) were each represented by a delegation.

The full list of participants is reproduced in Appendix III.

The theme of the Conference was "Young people in Greater Europe".

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In her opening address, Mrs Lalumière, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, thanked the President of the Austrian Republic for honouring the event with his presence and the Austrian authorities for organising the conference, and renewed her thanks to the Portuguese Government, which had hosted the previous Conference.

She stressed the need to develop an active youth policy in European countries despite the unfavourable situation. She also touched upon the topic of young people's participation in democracy at all levels - local, regional and national - as a means of increasing their sense of responsibility. She told participants that the Council of Europe was preparing a draft convention on the exercise of their rights by children.

She also referred to the following points: youth mobility at a time when migration was proving difficult to control, young people and values in Europe and the setting up of democratic and pluralist youth movements, especially in Central and East European countries. She appealed to the Ministers present to make an added financial effort in favour of youth policies, despite the difficult economic situation, since the task was a very important one: helping young people to integrate in Europe. The extra effort could serve to develop and carry out several ideas such as setting up a second Centre, a network of decentralised centres and even a European Youth Office.

In conclusion, the Secretary General said that one of the main aims of the Meeting of Heads of State and Governments of the Council of Europe to be held in Vienna in October 1993 would be to ward off a great danger: the rise of racism, nationalism and intolerance, which threatened everyone, especially young people.

The President of the Austrian Republic, Mr Thomas Klestil, gave a political address on the future of young people in Europe. He referred to the need to encourage communication between young people and between generations and emphasised that the Council of Europe was the best forum to develop and promote it.

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On a proposal by Portugal, Mrs Maria Rauch-Kallat, Austrian Minister for the Environment, Youth and Family Affairs, was elected Chairwoman of the Conference. The Portuguese and Russian Ministers, Mrs Maria Do Ceu Ramos and Mr Andreï Scharonow, nominated respectively by Switzerland and Belgium, were elected Vice-Chairmen.

In her address the Chairwoman referred to young people's hopelessness and frustration as they looked ahead to a future which held out few prospects for them. She drew attention to their search for values, their need for hope and creativity and their desire for dialogue, the lack of which left them in despair; she insisted that disappointed hopes could drive young people to insecurity, withdrawal and nationalism. That was why they had to be genuinely involved in the framing of youth policies and needed to participate actively and effectively.

Mrs Maria Do Ceu Ramos, Portuguese Minister for Youth, whose country had hosted the third conference in 1990, presented an assessment of the action taken on the recommendations of the previous three conferences.

The assessment showed that the number of bodies responsible for the autonomous management of youth affairs had not increased in Europe and that national interministerial co-ordination in this area was essential to the framing of a comprehensive, integrated youth policy. To make this policy really effective, it was important that future ministerial conferences should enable the Ministers to define the political aims and the senior officials to consider ways and means and see to their implementation.

With regard to the adoption of an international legal instrument on youth mobility, there was no denying that, despite the hopes it had raised among young people in Central and Eastern Europe, the project was now running into serious difficulties because of the difficult economic situation and attendant unemployment problems. This meant that it was important, partly through the work of the Council of Europe and EYC/EYF - especially the setting up of a second Centre - and partly by expanding the Community programmes to develop mobility flows which could be controlled. The CDEJ could also become the focus for negotiating multilateral exchange programmes which would broaden the current scope of bilateral mobility agreements.

Other points referred to were the need to preserve the independence of youth organisations and the achievement of sex equality, which, in the Minister's view, depended on the introduction of education and training policies taking that factor into account.

Other issues remained pending, such as international co-ordination in transport policy matters, access to youth hostels and harmonisation of social welfare for young people. The expansion of the Youth Card and the continued use of the Interrail Card could help to resolve those problems.

The representatives of the CENYC and the ECB presented their own assessment, which showed that the most effective way to carry out youth policies was, as the Council of Europe did, to develop partnership between youth organisations and political institutions at all levels, whether local, regional or national. A youth policy could be effective only if it involved young people and gave them real initiative.

Lastly, Mr Ruberti, Commissioner of the European Communities, talked about the programmes operating in the Community, which were gradually opening up to the Central and East European countries. He underlined the need for a single

exchange programme - mentioned at the Potsdam Conference - and for closer co-operation with the Council of Europe in this area.

At the plenary session on 14 April, Mr Mavromichalis, Permanent Representative of Greece to the Council of Europe and Chairman of the Ministers' Deputies Rapporteur Group on Youth, spoke about the problems posed by youth mobility. He considered it important to take practical steps to facilitate the exercise of a right arising from the fundamental freedoms upheld by the Council of Europe.

He drew attention to the need for co-operation in research on youth matters, which was now essential because it was such a topical issue and because this would provide an overall picture of the underlying problems. The Committee of Ministers had recently granted the funds required for the purpose. Referring to the forthcoming Meeting of Heads of State in Vienna in October, he said that youth organisations would naturally be involved in the planned campaign against racism, intolerance and xenophobia, proposed by the Norwegian Prime Minister in her address to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in February 1993, which would be discussed at the summit.

Lastly, he announced that the Committee of Ministers had decided to set up a second Centre and would soon decide where in Central Europe it was to be located.

Two independent researchers, Mr Henriksson (Sweden) and Mr Zulehner (Austria) then introduced the conference sub-themes as a prelude to the discussion: "Local and regional policies in Europe and participation by young people" and "Values and lifestyles of young people".

In the ensuing statements and discussions all speakers - Ministers and representatives of youth organisations - referred to youth problems such as unemployment, exclusion and housing shortage, which engendered nationalist tendencies leading to racism, anti-semitism and xenophobia and could result in drug addiction, alcoholism and other forms of deviant behaviour. They consequently stressed the need to increase efforts to promote integration and participation as part of a comprehensive youth policy respectful of young people's wishes and legitimate aspirations. They underscored the need for mobility programmes, which were essential to ensure intercultural education, develop tolerance and mutual understanding and counter racism, nationalism and xenophobia. They therefore supported the expansion of the Youth Card as a service card and asked the Secretary General to intervene in support of the continued use of the Interrail system; both instruments needed to be available to all young people, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Other issues were addressed, including youth participation in local, regional and national affairs; access to direct, simple, effective information to help young people gain a foothold in society; renewal of communication between generations; the need for national and international co-operation in research on youth matters; and the need for cultural agreements to be concluded on a multilateral basis, which would have a multiplier effect on European programmes.

It was agreed that co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Community was essential to increase the effectiveness of the planned programmes and reduce their budgetary impact. Numerous references were made to the problem of budgetary restrictions and the need for strict management at a time of recession. However, attention was drawn to the importance of innovation and redistribution of resources according to the priorities and objectives of a youth policy.

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The Final Text (Appendix I) was adopted by all the delegations except the United Kingdom, which presented a declaration (Appendix II) explaining why it had abstained: the United Kingdom would endeavour to implement parts of the Final Text, but could not undertake to do so as part of an all-embracing youth policy. At the delegation's request the declaration is appended to the report submitted to the Committee of Ministers.

The Ministers also adopted a declaration (Appendix A to the Final Text) expressing their grave concern with regard to the future of the Interrail card, an essential aid to youth mobility. They asked that a meeting of all the bodies concerned be held as soon as possible under the auspices of the Council of Europe to devise a lasting, fair and economically viable solution in the interests of all young people in Greater Europe.

Likewise, on a proposal by the Chairwoman, seconded by the Swedish Minister, they adopted a recommendation (Appendix B to the Final Text) on the choice of annual themes by the Contracting Parties to the European Cultural Convention, in close co-operation with youth organisations and in consultation with the United Nations, the European Community and any other interested international bodies.

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During the conference two panel discussions were held to take a closer look at "the gap between young people and politics" and "racism". The two discussions, which brought together Ministers, parliamentarians, local government representatives and representatives of youth organisations, took the form of a frank and fruitful exchange of views.

A youth event was held at the conference venue, combining an exhibition on youth organisations' achievements and the showing of film clips on racism, mobility, marginalisation and the future.

On the Chair's initiative, the conference was closed by a representative of a youth organisation working with the Council of Europe youth bodies.

All the participants warmly thanked the Austrian authorities for their flawless organisation of the conference. They also extended their thanks to the staff of the Austrian Ministry of the Environment, Youth and Family Affairs who had worked to prepare the Conference.

APPENDIX I

FINAL TEXT

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

A. YOUTH POLICY IN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

1. To live in Europe at the end of the twentieth century is to witness a process of constant change from the Atlantic to the Urals.
2. At the dawn of the millennium, to be young in Europe is to be called upon to play an active role in the process of European construction.
3. At the heart of this changing Europe, the Council of Europe has a long tradition of work on behalf of young people, with co-management as its distinctive feature. This tradition was established during the 1970s by the creation of the European Youth Centre and the European Youth Foundation and was consolidated during the 1980s by the expansion of these two establishments as well as by the setting up of the European Steering Committee for Intergovernmental Co-operation in the Youth Field (CDEJ). The intergovernmental activities of the CDEJ and its experts committees are regularly reviewed by the highest body in the youth field, the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth, which also gives impetus to the work programme in the youth field and evaluates the results achieved. Only very recently it was decided to create a research and documentation unit as well as a second European Youth Centre, located in a country of central or eastern Europe. All these structures are now under the administrative umbrella of a department in the Council of Europe's Secretariat, the Youth Directorate, which is responsible for fostering the necessary synergy between the structures so that the future may be faced with confidence.
4. The originality of the youth sector within the Council of Europe remains the system of co-management by governments and youth organisations for the programmes conducted in the EYC and those financed by the EYF. No comparable example of such trust in young people's self-organising ability is to be found in Europe or in other international organisations. Even at national and regional level this model of co-operation between young people and public authorities is unique, and after 20 years it is still proving its worth.

5. In line with the principles governing the Council of Europe's activities, the Ministers responsible for Youth decided on the main priorities for a European youth policy at their three previous conferences (Strasbourg 1985, Oslo 1988, and Lisbon 1990), namely:

- **the participation by young people in society, particularly through youth organisations, and intensification of co-operation in the youth field,**
- **equal opportunities for all young people, particularly in the field of mobility;**
- **constant monitoring of the situation of young people in Europe.**

6. These three priorities adumbrate a European youth policy based on participation by young people in society, constituting one of the foundations of democratic life and a veritable factor for "gradually ensuring the full integration of young people by helping them to find their place in a society within which they may play an effective part" (Oslo and Lisbon Conferences).

7. Six main fields of action in the Council of Europe youth sector have thus grown up:

- i. Active support for youth organisations, forming a genuine social area for youth participation in civic life;**
- ii. Active co-operation between governmental authorities and non-governmental youth organisations;**
- iii. Promotion of a comprehensive youth policy at national, regional and local levels in order to promote the social integration and participation of all young people, particularly those who are underprivileged and marginalised. Since 1988, this sphere of action has been subjected to several studies by the CDEJ on youth participation at local level;**
- iv. Intensification of East-West relations (to promote the balanced enhancement of youth structures) and development of North-South relations;**
- v. Development of counselling and information structures for young people according to their needs on the basis of a code of practice drawn up at European level;**

- vi. **Promotion of high-quality schemes for young people to combat obstacles to mobility (the main theme of the Lisbon Conference) especially through co-ordination at European level. The Partial Agreement on the Youth Card and the multidisciplinary "Greater Europe" project on youth mobility belong to this area.**

8. Ever since the Strasbourg conference, an effort has been made to accommodate these fields of action within a global and integrated youth policy based on the coherent co-ordination of sectorial policies. Such a policy should take account of the various factors enabling young people to achieve successful social and occupational integration. It should seek to ensure the balanced and harmonious development of young people in contemporary society by trying to produce answers and solutions to their circumstances and needs. To that end it should cover education and training, vocational guidance, culture and beliefs, family life and sexual behaviour, housing, leisure and sport, and preventive social and health care. The whole policy should be aimed at and drawn up with young people who contribute to the formulation of sectorial policies by the involvement in society through, for example, youth organisations and/or other participatory structures.

B. THE SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN EUROPE

9. Since the Lisbon conference, Europe has been undergoing an unprecedented transformation as a result of the collapse of the system that shaped the way in which a part of Europe functioned for almost 40 years. However, the period of euphoria based on the values of democracy and freedom that followed the upheavals in Central and Eastern Europe is already over.

10. Now, in Central and Eastern Europe:

- i. **Most young people envisage a European dimension for their lives and are seeking new avenues to explore; having been influenced by the old system, they still tend to rely on the "welfare state". The sudden change of system has generated unrealistic expectations which eventually result in disillusionment.**
- ii. **The transition to the market economy is giving rise to new social relations as well as unemployment : young people are particularly**

affected by difficulties in finding jobs and housing;

- iii. **As youth organisations were for all too long run as quasi-governmental instruments of regimentation, the voluntary sector now needs to be reconstructed on democratic foundations, so as to enable young people to play an active role within the social fabric.**
11. **At the same time, in Western Europe:**
 - i. **The quality of many young people's lives has scarcely improved. Economic, social and/or cultural conditions still reflect a two-tier society.**
 - ii. **This phenomenon is combined with a full-scale crisis of participation in institutional life. Many young people, like many adults, find that political life is losing its credibility; they have a feeling of impotence at being unable to take a genuine part in the transformation of social life. Other forms of participation in community life, such as membership of trade unions and voluntary associations, are affected by the same feeling.**
 12. **Thus, in Europe:**
 13. **While some young people are progressively finding employment and a niche in society, others are coming up against the wall of unemployment and the problem of obtaining decent housing. This situation, which forces many youngsters into a daily life of financial and social dependence, leads to a state of marginalisation devoid of all hope of achieving social autonomy. This is especially true of the most underprivileged sections of our societies.**
 14. **This context is contributing to the disintegration of the younger generation's values and leading many young people to live on a basis without any other recourse than their individual efforts to secure a place in society. Some young people are turning to intolerance, xenophobia, racism and anti-semitism as a solution to their problems of social and occupational integration. They regard a foreigner as someone who lessens their chances of finding a place in society or threatens the place they already occupy. Other young people are seeking a cultural and social identity based on a return to historical roots; this may cause them to withdraw into national or regional isolationism. However, the majority of young people still value solidarity and fraternity and expect political leaders to assert these values in developing a humanist policy offering prospects for a better future.**

15. Young people are anxious about the serious threats to the environment. Being dedicated to ethical values that foster harmonious and humane surroundings, they are aware of the need for a global and transnational policy that will reconcile environment protection with the demands of the economy and the labour market.

16. Lastly, many young people are involved in civic participation schemes. However, the youth sector is encountering real difficulties in promoting a new approach to young people's citizenship based on close attention to their views, the accommodation of their diversified forms of social involvement, their capacity to look to the future and grapple with major societal issues and their ability to fit into institutions where public policies are discussed and constructed.

Because of their participativeness (an important factor for ensuring social cohesion and living democratically within society), young people are perceived by adults as a resource rather than as a problem, and public authorities can learn a lot from their creativity, knowledge and experience.

17. Thus, whereas many young people in Europe are facing formidable economic, social and cultural challenges, others in the same Europe are experiencing tragic armed conflicts. This intolerable situation shocks Europe's youth, for whom the construction of Europe is synonymous with peace and intercultural understanding among peoples.

18. In spite of these tragic conflicts, most young people in Europe aspire to participate in a Europe which:

- i. develops an approach to peace that does not involve slicing peace into segments for reasons of strategic balance but is founded on an advance towards a more united, frontierless Europe with more cohesion among its members, open to the world and allowing a high degree of mobility;
- ii. show active solidarity with the countries of the third world which reject any separate development of the rest of the world and foster rapprochement and solidarity among themselves;
- iii. adopts a genuine community attitude that forges human relations and is accompanied by an economic system with a human face as well as a congenial environment;
- iv. develops an education system based on the full recognition of everyone's abilities and aimed at promoting social and occupational integration through socialisation, the creation of a sense of responsibility and the encouragement of participation.

DECLARATION OF MINISTERS

"YOUNG PEOPLE IN GREATER EUROPE"

- 1. Being attentive to young Europeans' aspirations, open to their problems and conscious of their potential, while reaffirming that young people are a resource for society;**
- 2. Bearing in mind the youth policy conducted within the Council of Europe for over 20 years;**
- 3. Stressing that, at the dawn of the 21st century, young people in Europe are displaying a readiness to shoulder personal and collective responsibility for their lifestyles and values;**
- 4. Rejecting the establishment in Europe of a two-tier society unacceptable to young people,**
 - those who, thanks to their social and occupational integration, can shape the present and have confidence in the future,**
 - those who fight for their daily survival and live in a state of social dependency, afraid of becoming marginalised and having little hope of achieving social autonomy;**
- 5. Being aware that some small groups of young people express their frustration, especially on account of social and economic problems, through violence, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and nationalism;**
- 6. Bearing in mind the actions of solidarity that are developing with young people in other parts of the world, especially in the Ibero-American countries, Africa and the Mediterranean area;**
- 7. Reaffirming that participation by young people in civic life is a decisive factor for securing social cohesion and genuinely practising democracy and the values of a multicultural society in accordance with the European Convention on Human Rights;**

- 8. Conscious of the fundamental role of youth organisations in promoting participation in society as well as educating them in social and cultural life and democracy;**
- 9. Considering that any youth policy should be global and that its principles should be integrated into co-ordinated sectorial policies;**
- 10. Being aware that the youth policies pursued in individual countries and/or regions vary according to young people's needs and aspirations and to local economic, social and/or cultural circumstances;**
- 11. Stressing that co-operation in youth matters among governments, as well as between them and youth organisations, is more than ever necessary because it provides an opportunity to share experience in tackling the difficulties encountered by young people today and to contribute to the European democratic ideal;**
- 12. Recalling that the aims of such co-operation are to promote among young people a sense of fully belonging to Europe and a desire to participate actively in the development of a European democratic conscience, while acknowledging the diversity and richness of cultural and historical traditions, as well as to encourage their creativity, fostering their independence and seek to make mobility possible and available to all young people without any kind of discrimination;**
- 13. Recognising that the potential of intergovernmental co-operation among the Contracting Parties to the Cultural Convention offers a unique chance to give a new dimension to co-operation in the youth field in Europe between countries deprived of regular contacts and opportunities for exchange for more than 40 years;**
- 14. Reaffirming that the distinctive system of co-management operated by the EYC and the EYF is an impressive model for co-operation between youth organisations and governments and an example for conducting activities within civil society;**
- 15. Meeting in Vienna on 14 April 1993, the European Ministers responsible for Youth undertake to continue to pursue a European youth policy aimed at:**
 - making young people aware of their responsibilities as European citizens in the context of the values promoted by the Council of Europe, such as cultural diversity, democracy, solidarity and tolerance,**

- promoting conditions conducive to integration and young people's social participation,
- creating a spirit of solidarity among young people in Europe,
- promoting youth mobility through intercultural exchanges,
- recognising and developing policies for youth participation in local, regional, national and European life,
- taking the appropriate measures to combat racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and exclusion in all its forms as well as promoting tolerance among young Europeans.

16. These aims apply to "youth work" both within and outside formal and institutional structures such as schools and training institutions. They should be pursued in continuous partnership with young people and their organisations.

17. Only a global and integrated youth policy can enable these aims to be implemented and promote the creation of a form of solidarity that goes beyond ad hoc measures. Such a policy concerns the economic, social and cultural situation of young people and their access to information and counselling, vocational training, employment, housing, health care and cultural and leisure activities, as well as the development of their participation in community life.

18. Without replacing the role of the family, such a policy provides for education, training and guidance with a view to the harmonious and balanced development of young people in society. In the field of employment, it tries to take account of young people's interests regarding the quality, safety and salubrity of working conditions, as well as the desire for equality of opportunity with adults and respect for the trade-union rights of all. Policies pursued within the ambit of the "Convention on the Rights of the Child" form part of this global and integrated policy.

19. Any global and integrated youth policy should result in the coherent linkage of several sectors of activity on behalf of young people. Thus, while the Ministers responsible for Youth are primarily concerned with everything affecting young people and their values, life-styles and socio-occupational integration, they stress that one of their main functions is to ensure the co-ordination of the various sectorial youth policies. This should be done at regional, national and European level alike.

20. In the framework of the global and integrated youth policy conducted in the Council of Europe, the European Ministers responsible for Youth recommend that the following objectives be pursued during the next three

years:

- a. **Fostering enterprise and participation among young people through:**
- i. **Active support for exchanges of experience and ideas at European level by youth organisations and by young people themselves. Particular attention should be given to initiatives carried out with a view to solving the societal problems facing young people;**
 - ii. **The setting up of a network of European schemes for disadvantaged young people, mainly in the framework of the policies conducted in the Council of Europe's youth sector as well as other sectors involving activities for or with disadvantaged young people;**
 - iii. **The monitoring of initiatives and schemes concerning youth participation in local and regional life, with particular reference to the follow-up to the Llangollen Charter, "The participation of young people in municipal and regional life" adopted by the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, and the recommendations of the CDEJ's reports on "Participation as a means of integrating young people at risk into society" and "The development of an integrated approach to youth policy planning at local level";**
 - iv. **The drawing up by the CDEJ of a recommendation on "Youth participation and the future of civil society", largely based on the documents and proposals recently produced by the youth sector as well as other sectors of the Council of Europe; the recommendation will then be submitted to the Committee of Ministers for approval;**
 - v. **The creation of conditions conducive to active participation by young people attending schools, universities, and vocational training centres with a view to promoting truly representative structures in educational institutions.**

b. The promotion of youth mobility and exchanges

- i. The monitoring of the implementation of the Council of Europe's instruments on youth mobility and the adoption of concrete measures to overcome obstacles to youth mobility, as decided on at the Lisbon Conference (Recommendations 37-77). The present Conference invites the Committee of Ministers to instruct the CDEJ to continue its work concerning youth mobility. This should lead to the identification of barriers to youth mobility and the definition

of a framework indicating the rules, practical conditions and volume of youth mobility deemed feasible and acceptable by the Contracting Parties of the Cultural Convention in the years to come.

Meanwhile, bearing in mind the promotion of youth mobility, it will be necessary to reduce existing barriers to youth mobility, be they of an administrative or of a financial nature. To this end, youth administrations and services should continue their negotiations with the competent authorities.

At a later stage the schemes carried out by member countries should be assessed, and the progress made within the above-mentioned framework should be constantly monitored by the CDEJ.

- ii. In the framework of the Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe, the development of the Youth Card as a service card aimed at improving the situation of young participants in mobility projects, notably by facilitating the fulfilment of their social-security and other administrative obligations.
- iii. The promotion of a voluntary service for young people, especially long-term at national and European level, and the recognition of a relevant legal status covering the young volunteers' period of engagement.
- iv. The maintenance and expansion of the Interrail system at a reasonable price in Europe as the most tangible means of promoting youth mobility.
- v. The supporting and developing of non-commercial and non-profit platforms actively dealing with the organisation of collective youth exchanges of a cultural and/or educational nature.

c. The training of youth leaders and the supporting of youth organisations through:

- i. The funding of training for youth organisers and leaders within the EYC/EYF with special emphasis on training for young people from Central, Eastern and Southern Europe.**
- ii. The training of organisers of youth mobility and exchange programmes through additional support for training courses conducted either in the EYC/EYF or by the appropriate national and/or regional structures.**
- iii. A study at national and European level of ways in which training received by youth leaders within youth organisations or through international schemes could be recognised for its practical value and used as a basis for proposals.**
- iv. With a view to the development of the voluntary sector in the framework of democratic and pluralistic structures in Central and Eastern Europe, the provision of a second European Youth Centre in Central Europe and the implementation of the training policy expounded in the Recommendation adopted by the Governing Board of the EYC/EYF, taking into account the following aspects:**
 - creation of a European network of decentralised youth centres,**
 - special action by the European Youth Foundation,**
 - increased participation by young people from Central and Eastern Europe in the activities of the EYC/EYF.**
- v. The co-ordination of efforts between the EYC/EYF, the "North-South" Centre for Development Co-operation in its youth programmes and the Euro-Latin-American Centre (CEULAJ), especially solidarity programmes with young people in other parts of the world, notably Latin America and Africa.**
- vi. The specific promotion of a network of trainers/"multipliers" with a view to completing their training, encouraging the harmonisation of profiles and fostering mobility.**

d. Information for young people

- i. Monitoring of the application of the Council of Europe's Recommendation (90) 7 by the CDEJ in liaison with the programmes of the European Community.**
- ii. Promotion of the development of information services at European level, as well as national, regional and local networks, with the participation of young people and youth organisations and, to that end, the improvement of co-operation with ERYICA and its member organisations.**

e. Research and documentation within the Youth Directorate

- i. The development of a network of research correspondents in the youth field and of a data bank on youth research and youth policies in Europe within the research and documentation unit of the Youth Directorate.**
- ii. The intensification of co-operation with existing national and regional research centres, in particular on the following subjects: disadvantaged youth, values and lifestyles, prevention programmes, youth participation, housing, leisure and social and occupational integration.**
- iii. The holding, every two years, of a conference at which the CDEJ can evaluate progress in all the above-mentioned sectors in co-operation with the network of youth research centres and youth organisations.**

21. The Ministers are aware of the current difficult budgetary situation in all member States and have regard to the restrictions on public spending, including the youth field. However, they consider that some scope for action can be created by reviewing priorities without reducing budgets. Similarly, they deem it possible to make joint efforts to promote multilateral activities by opening up bilateral activities. In this case, in order to fund the above-mentioned activities, they propose to widen the powers and progressively increase the financial resources of the European Youth Foundation and the two European Youth Centres.

22. Co-operation with international intergovernmental organisations and the European Community

Aiming at the opening of new prospects to the youth of greater Europe and at the promotion of a spirit of solidarity within this Europe, the Council of Europe and other international intergovernmental organisations as well as the European Community pursue several common objectives of European co-operation in the youth field and recognise that, over and beyond differences in methods and financial means as well as target groups and the diversity of geographical areas, a co-operation system should be developed.

This co-operation which is intended to reinforce the action in favour of youth could be developed especially in the following areas :

- i. The promotion of youth mobility through intercultural exchanges in Europe, especially with the help of national and regional agencies and international and national youth organisations.
- ii. Youth research and documentation, in particular through a pooling of data and a programme of complementary research projects.
- iii. Youth information, with specific reference to European affairs. On the one hand, collaboration could be conducted on the networking and development of existing data banks, by the production of materials designed for young people and by close co-operation with information relays in the specific framework of each organisation. On the other hand, apart from basic information on facts and figures, a process of mutual information and communication could be developed. Such a process would allow young people to be associated with and involved in the development of the European Community and other international organisations - and would also allow these institutions to be made aware of the views of young people. This process of mutual information and communication with citizens - which needs to be developed - creates a participatory momentum.
- iv. Youth leader training through intensified co-operation based on development of intercultural teaching materials, the exchange of exemplary training schemes and the implementation of joint training activities, particularly for young people in Central and Eastern Europe.
- v. Close co-ordination of technical arrangements facilitating youth mobility, such as the European Youth Card system.

In pursuing these objectives, such co-operation should be aimed first and foremost at the European Community, but it might also involve all organisations belonging to the UN system.

23. European Youth Campaign

i. Recognising:

- on the one hand, the very important efforts made by organisations to encourage solidarity, tolerance and understanding between nations - efforts which are being conducted not only at local and regional level, but also at European level and which led to the holding of two conferences on intolerance (EYC - 1980 and 1989),
 - on the other hand, the significance of the proposal presented to the Parliamentary Assembly by the Norwegian Prime Minister to launch an action plan within the Council of Europe against racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance, especially with the participation of young people;
- ii. Having regard to the preparation of the 4th Round Table on "Strategies for combating xenophobia" between representatives of youth organisations and representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, July 1993),**

the European Ministers responsible for Youth express their support for this proposal by the Norwegian Prime Minister, to be discussed at the Summit Meeting of Heads of State in Vienna in October 1993.

In view of their extensive involvement in the promotion of tolerance, solidarity and understanding between nations, youth organisations have an active role to play in a campaign that should inspire young Europeans to seek common objectives for preserving a living democracy, a climate of tolerance and respect for human dignity.

In this context, the European Youth Centres and the European Youth Foundation are among the most important instruments of the Council of Europe and have a central role to play in the preparation and implementation of the action plan.

Thus, the Conference recommends that the Governing Board of the EYC/EYF:

- i. hold a consultative meeting in the youth sector in the near future in order to discuss the preparation and implementation of the decisions of the October 1993 Summit Meeting of Heads of State,**
- ii. make appropriate provisions in the 1994 programme for implementing the action plan,**
- iii. use the funds of the European Youth Foundation to support initiatives taken by youth organisations in this context.**

APPENDIX A

INTERRAIL CARD

Ministers of Youth assembled at the 4th European Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth in Vienna expressed grave concern with regard to the future of the Interrail Card.

This card :

has been in the past the most efficient instrument to promote mobility of young people in Europe

corresponds entirely to the needs and aspirations of young people and needs to be developed into a system that allows travelling for young people at a reasonable price covering all countries of the Greater Europe

Ministers responsible for Youth request the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to invite all bodies concerned to hold a meeting aiming to find a solution and they call on their colleagues, Ministers of Transport, and on the International Union of Railways to find together an enduring solution for the future which must be just and viable.

They underline the necessity for urgent action in the interest of young people in Europe.

APPENDIX B

PROPOSAL OF THE AUSTRIAN MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, YOUTH AND FAMILY, SECONDED BY THE SWEDISH MINISTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The European Ministers responsible for Youth recommend, within the framework of youth policies which they have defined in Vienna, to the member States of the Cultural Convention and in close cooperation with youth organisations to choose annually one central theme. This should be done in consultation with the United Nations, the European Communities or any other interested international body.

For example, proposals for 1994 might be:

- INTOLERANCE AND RACISM (campaign of the Council of Europe)
- the FAMILY (International Year of the United Nations)

proposals for 1995 might be:

- JOINTLY the 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR and the 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
- the EUROPEAN NATURE CONSERVATION YEAR "THE IMPORTANCE OF NATURE PROTECTION OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS" (Council of Europe)
- the European Year of the "100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CINEMA" (Council of Europe)
- the CAMPAIGN ON EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN (Council of Europe).

Other examples could be the participation of young people in public life, solidarity between generations and the integration of minorities.

APPENDIX II

DECLARATION FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM

The United Kingdom recognises that young people have an important role to play as active citizens in helping to develop a cohesive and tolerant society and is in agreement with the broad aim underlying the Declaration of Ministers at the Fourth Conference of Ministers in Vienna from 13 - 15 April 1993: to promote in young people the values of cultural diversity, democracy, solidarity and tolerance and an awareness of their responsibilities as citizens of Europe and the wider world. However, a number of proposals and assumptions enshrined in the Declaration present difficulties for the United Kingdom.

The United Kingdom believes that most opportunities and problems faced by young people are not exclusive to that age span but affect the population as a whole. This is why the United Kingdom does not have a Minister with overall responsibility for youth issues. The United Kingdom accepts the necessity for co-operation in areas between the various services which impact upon young people but does not see a global and integrated policy for youth as such as a realistic objective in its own circumstances. It generally seeks to address the needs of the population as a whole across the range of specific issues.

The United Kingdom will be very willing to explore, through the appropriate international channels, co-operation in respect of the individual strands of the Declaration but it is not able to support the development of an all embracing policy for, or a centralised function in respect of, young people as a separate category of the population.

It would not, therefore, be appropriate for the United Kingdom to subscribe to the Declaration. In order to make its position clear the United Kingdom has formally to abstain.

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