MJN-INF (95) 1

Strasbourg, 20 September 1995

INFORMAL MEETING OF EUROPEAN MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUTH

Luxembourg, 3 and 4 May 1995

Report by the Secretariat General

At the invitation of the Luxembourg government, a first informal meeting of European Ministers responsible for Youth was held in Luxembourg on 3 and 4 May 1995.

All the Contracting Parties to the European Cultural Convention - except for Belarus, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Moldova and Monaco, which apologised for their absence - were represented.

The meeting was also attended by the Chair of the CLRAE Sub-Committee on Youth and the Chair of the EYC/EYF Advisory Committee.

The Commission of the European Communities was represented by Mr Domenico Lenarduzzi, a Director in DG XXII, and by Mr Tsolakis, a head of unit at the Commission.

The European Coordination Bureau of International Youth Organisations (ECB), the Council of European National Youth Committees (CENYC) and the Youth Forum were each represented by a delegation.

A full list of participants is attached as Appendix I.

The topic of the informal meeting was appraisal of and prospects for youth work at the Council of Europe.

In his opening address, Mr Daniel Tarschys, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, after thanking the Luxembourg authorities for organising the informal meeting, pointed out that it was taking place ten years after International Youth Year and the first Conference of European Ministers responsible for Youth, and then described how the campaign against racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and intolerance had come into being, while emphasising youth organisations' essential role in this campaign.

On a proposal by Austria, Mr Alex Bodry, the Luxembourg Minister for Youth, and Ms Dana Violeta Gheorghe, the Romanian State Secretary for Youth and Sport, were respectively elected Chair and Vice-Chair of the meeting.

Ms Ingunn Yssen, the Norwegian State Secretary, then introduced the ministers' declaration against racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and intolerance. After recalling the origins of the plan of action against racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and intolerance, of which the youth campaign is a corner-stone, she stressed that European ministers responsible for youth must support and encourage youth organisations, thereby guaranteeing the success of this campaign and young people's full involvement in it, and that it was important to reinforce the campaign's results through suitable follow-up activities within the Council of Europe.

The Luxembourg minister said that the key idea behind this declaration was to call on young people to become directly involved in the campaign and to draw attention to the ongoing combat against intolerance.

The Austrian minister, Ms Sonja Moser, emphasised the efforts to promote cooperation between European governments and the need to counter exclusion of young people by developing integration policies. The campaign amounted to one of the first steps in this direction, with the aim of making solidarity and tolerance every-day principles of European society.

A youth organisation representative pointed out that the national committees handling the campaign were having varying degrees of success and that many young people wondered whether the governments were fully committed to it.

All those who spoke attached importance to the activities that should follow the campaign, particularly in the form of preventive and educational measures aimed at promoting mutual understanding, tolerance and intercultural learning.

The declaration was adopted unanimously, following an amendment proposed by the Maltese minister, Dr Michael A. Refalo (see Appendix 2). The Slovene minister, Dr Slavko Graber, tabled a declaration on the situation of young refugees, to be appended to the declaration on the youth campaign. After an exchange of views, the participants decided that this text should be appended to the present report (see Appendix 3). The meeting was then devoted to reports on political evaluation of youth work and the prospects for such work, presented by Mr Daniel Tarschys, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr Alex Bodry, the Luxembourg Minister for Youth, representatives of youth organisations working with the Council of Europe and the European Union, and the representative of the Commission of the European Communities, Mr Domenico Lenarduzzi, a Director at DG XXII.

The Secretary General evaluated the activities of the Council of Europe's youth sector and then launched the debate on the prospects for their development, focusing his observations on youth policy in general, the co-managed activities pursued within the Council of Europe's Youth Directorate, intergovernmental co-operation and co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union. On the subject of intergovernmental co-operation he described the new priorities in this field, as defined by the CDEJ at its most recent meeting, namely development of voluntary service in Europe, promotion of participation, and expansion of youth policies to combat young people's exclusion and relegation to the fringes of society, both results of the worsening economic situation, which led to social tensions and xenophobic attitudes. The follow-up to the youth campaign against racism and intolerance might also constitute one of the means of countering such phenomena, for example through a multi-disciplinary project in line with a global youth policy, as defined by the Conference of European Ministers responsible for Youth held in Vienna (April 1993).

As for co-operation with the European Union, the joint action already initiated must be intensified and include training sessions making use of the facilities offered by the new youth centre in Budapest, research on youth-related subjects and efforts to integrate the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Proposed activities relating to voluntary service, participation and social exclusion, of interest to both institutions, were potential areas for further co-operation.

Alex Bodry, the Luxembourg minister, spoke of the priorities pinpointed at the last four ministerial conferences organised by the Council of Europe and of the measures adopted by the European Union. In his view, the principal concern at the meeting was to ensure the institutions' activities were complementary. He also explained that the proceedings would be organised so that the discussion centred on two subjects - participation by and exclusion of young people - and proposed that these should be dealt with through two topics, social cohesion in Europe and construction of a multi-cultural Europe with a view to achieving democratic and cultural cohesion.

In taking stock of ten years' youth policy at the Council of Europe, the youth organisations confirmed their support for the implementation and development of integrated youth policies, co-management, participation, mobility, training and intercultural education. They pointed out the progress made in these areas, as a result, inter alia, of government commitment and backing, but were sorry to note that many of the ministerial conferences' recommendations had come to nothing and expressed the wish that agreements and resolutions adopted at European level should actually be put into practice at national level.

They reiterated their commitment to the campaign against racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance and highlighted the need to muster all the available forces, including governments and politicians, to fight this battle.

They informed participants that a European youth organisation, representing the national and international structures existing in Europe, would shortly be set up and should make it possible to enhance the contribution made by youth organisations and young people themselves to the development of a European youth policy.

They asked that the Council of Europe's Youth Directorate should expand on the issue of young people's participation in the community, making it the fulcrum of an integrated youth policy. Such a policy, based on dovetailing of sectorial policies, should be consistent not only with an overall European approach, but also with the individual requirements of the countries of Europe. A policy of this kind could in fact only be implemented within the framework of a closer partnership between youth organisations, governmental structures and international bodies, inter alia by making the Council of Europe and the European Union work together more closely. Furthermore, co-operation with existing bodies within the European Union or the Council of Europe, such as the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, should open up new prospects for the development of youth policies at the local and regional levels.

Mr Domenico Lenarduzzi, a Director at the Commission of the European Communities' DG XXII, observed that a positive view of youth, perceived as a chance for Europe, should be founded on an innovative policy of European cooperation in a changing society. To this end, new kinds of participation had to be developed, together with a consistent approach to youth information, which should be disseminated by suitably qualified personnel. Lastly, voluntary service should be considered as a new model for integration in the community, a social and intercultural learning experience, and should accordingly be governed by an appropriate legal instrument. In his view, co-operation with the Council of Europe should concentrate on specific activities, selected on a case by case basis.

In the ensuing general debate, the Portuguese State Secretary, Ms Maria Do Ceu Ramos, stressed the importance of giving in-depth consideration to new forms of youth associations and backed the idea of a European convention on youth. She also referred to the difficulties encountered by the young in obtaining their own home, a long-standing problem, often raised but never discussed, with direct implications for young people's integration.

Mr Jean Deroy (France) expressed the view that development of youth information networks and of high-quality training courses for those in charge of disseminating such information were important means of combating racism and all forms of exclusion. He also reminded participants that the Youth Card had been relaunched. France was in favour of a convention on youth and was ready to take part in discussions on this subject.

Mr Emanuele Scammacca, Italy's State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, insisted on the need for intergovernmental co-operation and backed the idea of a convention on youth. He spoke of the need to publicise more widely the work of the Council of Europe, which contributed to promoting youth activities and to furthering the solution of related problems; to set up or strengthen specialised structures dealing with the young at national level, since these were essential for the proper development of youth policies; and to give priority to participation by and accommodation for young people.

The Chair of Bulgaria's Committee for Youth and Children, Mr Vesselin Valchev, said it was necessary to follow up the campaign against racism and to develop preventive measures in this field. He also considered that training of those in charge of youth organisations was indispensable as a basis for spreading democracy.

Lastly, the German minister, Ms Claudia Nolte, considered that encouragement of direct youth exchanges was essential for the establishment of a solidarity-oriented Europe.

Some contributors expressed a preference for short-term practical measures, placing priority on the use of existing instruments and focusing on very precise objectives for the EYC and EYF in terms of research and training, rather than the drafting of comprehensive policy proposals or of standard-setting instruments in the youth field. Nevertheless, many participants, among them the chair, several ministers and representatives of youth organisations launched and favoured the idea of an outline-convention on youth, separate from the European Cultural Convention.

The meeting continued with discussions on two topics: "Towards better social cohesion: voluntary service, participation" and "Towards the construction of a multicultural Europe: youth mobility, information, training, research and documentation". Many participants intervened in these discussions.

The discussion on social cohesion was introduced by Ms Claudia Nolte, the German Minister for Youth, who spoke out in favour of the development of voluntary service, inter alia in the form of participation in international activities with more than one year's duration. She put forward the idea of giving young volunteers a recognised status, similar to that conferred under the "au pair" agreement, and of drawing up an outline convention on voluntary service rather than a general convention on youth.

The various speakers pointed out the educational and intercultural facets of

voluntary service in an international context and were in favour of the measures recommended by the German minister.

Voluntary service constituted a social learning process, which was of great importance for young people's personal development and acquisition of experience. However, it was stressed that such service must be a free choice and should not replace social measures to help the unemployed.

The topic of participation by young people was introduced by a youth organisation representative, who stated that participation was essential if young people were to become active, responsible citizens. All over Europe, young people should be afforded equal opportunity of taking part in community life; this meant enabling them to choose this path, improving their social status and supporting their youth organisations.

In this connection, the State's role was to do the groundwork to establish situations conducive to local initiatives, support the voluntary sector and thereby further participation, encourage young people to organise themselves to fight intolerance and xenophobia, promote the ideas and values of tolerance and solidarity and develop continuous education systems, to help with training. Encouragement of participation by young people inevitably also necessitated a change of attitude among adults, who had to learn to share responsibilities and power with the young and to acknowledge them as partners rather than a problem. Investment in youth organisations had to be regarded as an investment in democracy.

Several participants, in particular those from Central and Eastern Europe, pointed out the difficulties encountered by young people in the countries of that region during the current period of transition to a market economy and raised the more general issues of the lack of prospects for the young; unemployment leading to extreme poverty, a precarious existence, exclusion and relegation to the fringes of society; the problem of conflicts between young people and adults, and hence the need for a participation-based culture, a spirit of solidarity among young people, freedom of expression and a concept of citizenship; and the scope of a legal framework for participation at the national and European levels, which was an essential factor in establishing comprehensive, integrated youth policies.

Those taking part in the debate highlighted the exemplary nature of participation as practised within the Council of Europe's youth sector and the need to apply similar methods in all areas and to boost their impact, inter alia by opening the Budapest centre and by establishing a European network of decentralised youth centres, as recommended by the ministers responsible for youth at their Vienna Conference (April 1993). Some contributors were in favour of a recommendation on participation by young people.

Ms Dana Violeta Gheorghe, the Romanian State Secretary for Youth, and a youth organisation representative then launched the debate on democratic and cultural cohesion. In her analysis of the situation with regard to mobility of young people in Europe, the State Secretary described the difficulties encountered in establishing a legal instrument and emphasised the lack of a consistent Europe-wide strategy in this area. It was unconvincing to wish to encourage the emergence of a multicultural Europe while depriving young people of mobility, a building block for such a Europe.

The youth organisation representative said that, far from being eliminated, obstacles to the mobility of young people had even increased when the Schengen Agreement came into force, particularly with regard to the problem of visas for young nationals of Central and East European countries.

The participants expressed the view that mobility could not be considered an end in itself, but was a means of achieving objectives such as European integration and the victory over racism. It was a prime necessity for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and those on the continent's rim. It helped disadvantaged young people, such as the disabled and drug addicts, find a new place in society and must be an essential component of any youth policy. Mobility was also a means of establishing and sustaining a dialogue between communities, such as the Euro-Arab dialogue, which should be intensified as part of the campaign against racism - the possibility of opening a third youth centre for the Mediterranean basin was even mentioned, as was the organisation of seminars bringing together young people from the Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus.

The debate on youth information was introduced by Mr Joël Balavoine, head of the Youth and Voluntary Organisations Department at the French Ministry of Youth and Sport, who reminded participants of the resolution on youth information proposed during the French presidency of the European Union. A number of suggestions were made during the debate: conducting field surveys of the situation of young people in different countries of Europe, involving ERYICA in the work on information, developing information on youth mobility, installing electronic bulletin boards at the EYC to facilitate the exchange of information between youth organisations, strengthening co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union in the field of staff training, improving collaboration between documentation centres and libraries with the backing of youth organisations.

Ms Ulla Helsingius (Finland), who presented the topic of research and documentation, emphasised the importance of this area as a component of national and international youth policies. She put forward a number of proposals for action to lay the foundations of a European research and documentation activity in the youth field: comparative studies (with updates) on young people in Europe, appointment of groups of experts specialised in studying and analysing youth-policy issues, development of a variety of easily implemented assessment methods, youthpolicy surveys similar to those conducted on educational and cultural policies in the Council of Europe's member States. These proposals were based on the development of a research and information network at European level, a project currently being carried out within the Council of Europe's youth sector, and on cooperation between the Council of Europe and the European Union in this field. A youth research structure, common to both institutions, could be envisaged. On this subject, Mr Tsolakis of the Commission of the European Communities confirmed the advantages to be derived by the two institutions from combining their strengths and expertise. He suggested that, to begin with, available statistics on the subject of youth should be pooled.

Lastly, with regard to training, the Italian representative pointed out the crucial importance of this issue for young people in Central and Eastern Europe and said that co-operation between the European Union and the Council of Europe was a prime necessity.

During this informal meeting, Ms Dana Violeta Gheorghe, the Romanian State Secretary for Youth, reiterated her government's invitation to hold the next Conference of European Ministers responsible for Youth in Romania.

The Chair, Mr Alex Bodry - Luxembourg's Minister for Youth - closed the meeting by presenting the conclusions resulting from the proceedings, as set out below.

CONCLUSIONS FROM THE CHAIR

1. Context

The meeting, which took place ten years after the first Conference of European Ministers responsible for Youth, the first European Youth Week and International Youth Year, brought together 27 ministers, deputy ministers and State secretaries.

Thirty-six States parties to the Council of Europe's European Cultural Convention were represented. The Commission of the European Communities, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe and the youth organisations working with the Council of Europe took part in the meeting.

A key event at the meeting was the report by Mr Daniel Tarschys, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, on the political evaluation of and prospects for youth work at the Council of Europe. The representatives of the youth organisations and the Commission of the European Communities likewise expressed their points of view.

The ministers adopted a declaration on racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance, stressing the need for a follow-up to the current campaign.

The proceedings were conducted with special emphasis on development of co-operation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the European Union.

After four formal conferences, this first informal meeting was an opportunity for more spontaneous discussion, since the ministers were not obliged to take any formal decisions.

2. The situation of young people

Many people spoke on the subject of the situation of young people in Europe, characterised, inter alia, by a degree of instability due to the risks of unemployment and marginalisation and the precarious housing situation. Such situations could lead to insecurity, intolerance, deviant behaviour and violence.

3. Objectives of the Council of Europe's activities in favour of young people

The ministers stressed the importance of working towards improved **social cohesion** and the construction of a **multicultural Europe** to ensure **democratic and cultural cohesion**, thereby maintaining and strengthening peace in Europe.

In order to achieve improved social cohesion it was necessary to inculcate a **spirit of solidarity** in young people, to further young people's participation in community life and to combat exclusion and intolerance.

Building a multicultural Europe involved strengthening **cultural and democratic cohesion**. There was a need to invest in young people and their organisations.

Several ministers and youth organisations launched the idea of a **separate convention on youth**, which should allow for full recognition of all youth activities. The CDEJ and the statutory bodies of the EYC/EYF should **examine this possibility**.

The ministers confirmed their support for the concept of a **comprehensive**, **integrated policy** in the youth field and the need for an effective **partnership** with **young people's associations**.

4. **Resources**

A) Towards improved social cohesion

1. The ministers drew attention to the need for an effective follow-up to the European youth campaign against racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and intolerance, transforming it into an ongoing activity.

Participation by young people should be encouraged through:

- implementation of the European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Municipal and Regional Life;
- finalisation of the draft recommendation on participation by young people;
- development of youth policies to counter marginalisation at the local, regional and national levels;
- encouragement of European initiatives against exclusion;
- development of measures to promote equality of opportunity and of projects aimed at mediation in situations of exclusion.

A multidisciplinary project on young people's access to accommodation was

proposed.

B) Towards the construction of a multicultural Europe through improved democratic and cultural cohesion

1. Implementation of the recommendation on promotion of **mobility of young people**, in accordance with the terms of reference to be given by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers to the European Steering Committee for Intergovernmental Co-operation in the Youth Field.

In this area, it was necessary to take into consideration the opening of Central

and East European countries' borders and the repercussions of the Schengen Agreement.

2. Several ministers regarded long-term international **voluntary service** as a priority issue. The aim was to give a more precise definition of voluntary service's objectives, to take stock of the problems and obstacles encountered and to analyse young people's motives, with a view to drawing up one or more appropriate legal instruments. With this aim in mind, the participants considered the drafting of an agreement similar to that on "au pair" placement.

3. The ministers stressed the importance of making increased use of the Council of Europe's youth structures: the youth centres in Strasbourg and Budapest, the European Youth Foundation, the Interrail Fund and the Partial Agreement on the European youth card. Through the two youth centres and the youth foundation the Council of Europe had acquired recognised experience in the training field. This educational action was complemented by development of research and documentation activities on youth-related subjects. Training, research and documentation were conceived as multidisciplinary, across-the-board activities.

C) Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union

Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union, a subject which drew much comment from the ministers, must be developed under existing instruments and programmes (for example, the Youth for Europe III programme and Article 22 of the Final Text of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth held in Vienna in April 1993), while maintaining the specific roles of the two institutions, so as to avoid duplication of work, have a clear view of the allocation of functions and make rational use of resources.

Such co-operation should concentrate on the following key areas:

- **high-quality training for youth leaders**, inter alia in the form of long-term courses making use of the Council of Europe's centres, particularly the one in Budapest; and

- **research and documentation**, by means of a partnership agreement to set up a European co-ordination unit, possibly linked with Eurostat.

The youth sector's group of national correspondents and researchers should work in conjunction with youth organisations to co-ordinate research initiatives on all levels, with the aim of obtaining results that were suitable for comparison and combined assessment, thereby providing subject matter for youth policies at European level.

- **youth information**, in the light of the CDEJ working group's proposals, particularly with regard to training. Partnership agreements or a partial agreement with ERYICA and the European Union, such as that concluded for the Youth Card, should be considered.

- transformation of the **Youth Card** into a service card, particularly in the context of co-operation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe;

- the fight against racism;

- **voluntary service**, particularly long-term forms;

- **co-operation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe**, particularly through the Council of Europe's Demosthenes programme and the European Union's Youth for Europe III programme, by means of training sessions and study visits in those countries, the provision of technical assistance in defining their youth policies and drafting legislation in this area - the study on national youth policies and legislation conducted by the Council of Europe Secretariat would be of great interest in this context - and the translation of publications.

To guarantee the development of a comprehensive, integrated youth policy at European level, it was necessary that the ministerial meetings and conferences should be given a suitable follow-up.

A meeting of the enlarged CDEJ Bureau should be held to prepare for the implementation of the recommendations, the measures to follow up the campaign against racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and intolerance and the refocusing of intergovernmental activities on two priorities, namely improved social cohesion and the building of a multicultural Europe, thereby ensuring greater cultural and democratic cohesion.

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<u>APPENDIX 1</u>

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APPENDIX 2

Declaration

by the European Ministers responsible for Youth on the European Youth Campaign against racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance

The European Ministers responsible for Youth,

Concerned at the signs of hatred and violence which are continuing to manifest themselves in Europe,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on combating racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance, adopted by the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe,

Recalling the Declaration by youth organisations, adopted at that same Summit in Vienna,

Emphasising that their work and the Council of Europe's programmes in the youth sector have always set out to promote respect for others and mutual understanding as a means of combating these hateful phenomena,

Noting that young people aspire to find their place in a society which is sensitive to their needs, but that some young people are vulnerable and tempted by violence directed particularly against people who are, in some way, different from themselves,

Confident in the desire of young people to forge links of solidarity, co-operate across frontiers, and so help to build a democratic, intercultural Europe, particularly through their associations,

Reaffirming that implementation of a vigourous youth policy, giving young people a voice and promoting participation for the purpose of eliminating marginalisation in all its forms, is an essential element in developing social cohesion and action to combat intolerance,

Stressing the importance of the manifold dialogue to be established with young people, and of the support to be provided for their initiatives,

Emphasising the need for appropriate legislative measures relating to youth policy in general and prevention of racism and intolerance in particular,

Recalling that, at their meeting in Vienna on 14 April 1993¹, they undertook to pursue an integrated youth policy and, among other things, take appropriate action to combat racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and exclusion in all their forms, and promote a spirit of tolerance among young Europeans,

Recognising, in this context, the importance of the efforts made by the Council of Europe to foster mobility, participation, information and training of the young, as advocated at their previous conferences,

Drawing particular attention to the value of CDEJ work to promote young people's participation and combat their exclusion,

Welcoming the implementation of the European Youth Campaign, "All Different, All Equal", as part of the Council of Europe Plan of Action against racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance which they supported at their meeting in Vienna,

- 1. undertake, for their part
- to intensify their efforts to secure implementation of an integrated youth policy, covering education, training, housing, employment and social integration, and to work together to prevent exclusion of a growing number of young people and develop new forms of solidarity,
- to do everything possible to co-ordinate the youth policies developed by the Council of Europe and the European Union,

2. consider that the Campaign is not an end in itself, but should find practical medium and long-term expression in the programmes of the Council of Europe and its member states,

- through increased co-operation between the Council of Europe and the international organisations concerned,
- in particular, through closer collaboration between youth, anti-racist and minority organisations on the one hand, and the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe on the other,
- 3. ask the Committee of Ministers

¹ The UK position, set out in our Statement appended to the Final Text of the 4th Conference of European Ministers responsible for Youth (Vienna, April 1993), is that policies affect young people in a range of areas: education, training, etc. and are not in the United Kingdom drawn together into an integrated youth policy.

- to ensure that the dynamic process of co-operation initiated between national and international youth organisations and anti-racist and minority organisations by the European Campaign, "All Different, All Equal", continues at international and national level,
- to see that action against all forms of intolerance remains one of the Council of Europe's priority activities,
- to take practical action making it possible to give the European Youth Campaign an effective follow-up,

particularly in respect of school and out-of-school education, civil society, the development of intercultural learning and support for the non-governmental organisations concerned,

- for this purpose, to take account of the proposals which will be made during European Youth Week (Strasbourg, July 1995) and of evaluation of the Campaign, "All Different, All Equal",

b) to instruct the CDEJ to intensify its work on the role of youth policy in action to combat intolerance, and particularly

- to implement the conclusions of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance with a bearing on its own activities,
- to start working on the living environment of young people and measures to prevent their marginalisation and exclusion from society,

4. decide to make action to promote tolerance and solidarity a permanent item on their agenda.

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a)

APPENDIX 3

SLOVENIAN PROPOSAL CONCERNING THE ITEM "ADOPTING THE DECLARATION ON THE EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN"

I. Initial positions

- * regarding the provisions of the Vienna Declaration which calls upon all European nations, groups and citizens - and young people in particular - to resolutely engage in the struggle against all forms of intolerance and to actively participate in constructing a European society founded on common values such as democracy, tolerance and solidarity;
- * regarding the plan of action from the same declaration, which **envisages** a broad youth campaign through which people will mobilise for a tolerant society and a restoration of mutual understanding and **trust** between people through the Council of Europe's cooperation and assistance programmes;
- * considering that in Europe we are witnessing the development of various forms of intolerance in its worst manifestation (the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina), where people are losing their faith in European associations and the principles of a European society;
- * considering that Europe now has many persons refugees who have found shelter here and have brought with them new religions, languages and habits;
- * questioning whether the horrors of their ruined homes will infect us with a similar contagious hatred, or whether we will be able to preserve their human dignity, and with it our own, and together with young Europeans create a new life for them;
- * being deeply convinced that the European Youth Campaign provides us with an opportunity for the Council of Europe to contribute, in a very real way, to the diminuation of xenophobia and intolerance in non-member states (such as Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia); and
- * on the basis of our positive bilateral experiences with Bosnia-Herzegovina and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and of the European Youth Campaign programme in Slovenia which includes various forms of assistance and cooperation we, the Slovenian delegation, hereby

PROPOSE the following:

European ministers responsible for youth accept at the Informal Meeting in Luxembourg (3-4 May 1995) and **on the adoption** of the Declaration against Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Intolerance **the following recommendations**:

- 1. to the Committee of Ministers:
- a. that, as part of the activities of the European Youth Campaign, all countries who signed the Cultural Convention of the Council of Europe participate in and support:
- * **integration** of the refugees into the formal education system;
- * activities for refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina with the intention of actively **involving them** in the programme of promoting faith in the values of multicultural understanding and tolerance;
- * bilateral and multilateral exchanges of youth from Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia connected with the promotion of tolerance;
- * a removal of obstacles hindering the mobility of young refugees, participants in the aforementioned programmes and activities.

b. that a recommendation is made to countries which signed the Cultural Convention of the Council of Europe to provide young refugees opportunities, within legal regulations, to participate in medium-term and long-term forms of voluntary work and to receive training for cooperation in such projects.

2. To the European Steering Group to include in its campaign an offer of assistance to Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia through:

- * translations of European Youth Campaign documents;
- * free promotional material;
- * translations and **adaptations** of TV sports;
- * participation of youth representatives at larger events at the European level;
- * involvement in the EYC educational and training programmes, etc.