

8.

Adoption of Committee of Ministers' Recommendations at  
ministerial level  
(Concl(79)299/XXVII)

The Representative of Switzerland recalled the decision taken by the Deputies at their 297th meeting (item XVI) in connection with the information policy, according to which it had been agreed "to open to signature, whenever appropriate, Council of Europe legal instruments on the occasion of sessions of the Committee of Ministers sitting at ministerial level, and to adopt Recommendations to member States during these sessions".

At the 299th meeting the Committee of Ministers had adopted four Recommendations without the Secretariat having mentioned that decision. His delegation had consequently approved the Recommendations ad referendum. He hoped that in future the Secretariat would draw delegations' attention to this question in the Notes on the agenda items that involved Recommendation.

He realised that not all Recommendations could be adopted at ministerial level - that would have the opposite effect of that intended - and he suggested they be limited to two or three. Nevertheless it should now be considered whether any of Recommendations R(79)1 to 4 should be submitted to the Ministers.

The Secretary to the Committee said the Secretariat had had that decision in mind but had not thought that the Recommendations adopted at the Deputies' 299th meeting were sufficiently important to be dealt with at ministerial level.

In future, whenever a draft recommendation was submitted to the Deputies, the Secretariat would state whether, in its opinion, the text in question merited adoption at ministerial level or not.

The Representative of Switzerland noted this undertaking and said he shared the opinion of the Secretary to the Committee about the importance of the four Recommendations adopted at the 299th meeting; he was therefore able to withdraw his ad referendum vote.