

# COUNCIL OF EUROPE

## COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

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### RESOLUTION (74) 33

#### ON THE PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 November 1974  
at the 238th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers,

1. Having regard to Resolution (74) 4 on the future role of the Council of Europe;
2. Having regard to the report of the working party of Ministers' Deputies set up to study the implementation of Section I, paragraph *e*, of Resolution (74) 4 concerning the establishment of general criteria for the selection of the various activities in each sector of the draft Work Programme and for the attribution of priority degrees to each of those activities (Doc. CM (74) 167),

Resolves as follows :

3. The Intergovernmental Work Programme shall be drawn up on the basis of a medium-term plan;
4. The plan shall cover a period of five years and shall be reviewed every two years in the light of political developments, progress in European co-operation and achievements within the framework of the Council of Europe during the intervening period;
5. The first medium-term plan shall be based on the eight spheres of activity specified in Section I, paragraph *a* of Resolution (74) 4, viz. :
  - safeguard and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
  - social and socio-economic problems, such as those concerning migrant workers;
  - educational and cultural co-operation;
  - youth questions;
  - protection and promotion of public health;
  - protection of nature and the management of natural resources, the man-made environment and regional planning;

- local authorities, matters relating to regional and municipal co-operation;

- co-operation in the legal field, including the harmonisation of national legislation and practice in specific legal sectors, the prevention of crime and treatment of offenders;

6. Within the medium-term plan, and in accordance with Section I, paragraph *b*, of Resolution (74) 4, precise sectors and objectives shall be defined according to the procedure and criteria specified in this resolution;

7. For the purpose of achieving the objectives specified in the plan, the Committee of Ministers shall, at the Secretary General's proposals, adopt an annual programme of activities within a previously determined budgetary ceiling;

8. With regard to the general criteria governing the choice of sectors and objectives within the medium-term plan and the selection of activities from the draft annual programmes, the Committee of Ministers adopts the guidelines set forth in the appendix to this resolution and invites the member states, the Consultative Assembly, the Secretary General, the committees set up under Article 17 of the Statute and such other bodies as may be concerned, to bear them in mind when formulating proposals concerning the Intergovernmental Work Programme;

9. As regards the attribution of priority degrees within the annual programme of activities, the Committee of Ministers considers that one effective means of indicating the relative importance and priority of any field, sector, objective or activity lies in the apportionment of available resources;

Decides :

10. to adopt at the 57th Session of the Committee of Ministers in November 1975 a medium-term plan for the period 1976-80;

11. to request the opinion of the Consultative Assembly in good time before the adoption of the plan;

12. to review the activities currently entered in the Work Programme in the light of the general criteria set out in the appendix to this resolution and to discontinue those that no longer conform to those criteria, in accordance with Section I, paragraph *d*, of Resolution (74) 4;

13. to specify priorities at the level of the medium-term plan by indicating the relative scale of resources to be allocated to the different fields and sectors;

14. to specify degrees of priority at the level of the annual programme of activities by giving particulars concerning :

1. the permissible growth rate of the annual budget;

2. general directives regarding the rate of programme increase or decrease;

3. the overall indicative apportionment of the budgetary resources available for major sectors of activity;

4. prior establishment of a rate of increase or decrease within each sector of activities;

Instructs the Secretary General :

15. to prepare for submission to the Ministers' Deputies during the first half of 1975 a preliminary draft medium-term plan for the period 1976-80, taking account *inter alia* of the views which the main intergovernmental committees will have the opportunity to express for this purpose;

16. to keep in mind that the preliminary draft medium-term plan does not necessarily have to reflect the present administrative structure of the Secretariat or the committees set up in virtue of Article 17 of the Statute, nor those of the current programmes;

17. to prepare, in due course, for the Committee of Ministers, an annual programme of activities for 1976 for the purpose of achieving the objectives specified in the medium-term plan, within a previously determined budgetary ceiling, in accordance with paragraph 14 of this resolution;

18. to submit henceforth a progress report at the same time as the draft annual programme of activities and the draft budget. The progress report shall specify all relevant information concerning the progress of activities, the results already obtained or expected and the difficulties encountered;

Invites the governments of member states :

19. to state in writing, in good time before discussion of the draft medium-term plan and the draft programme of activities, the order of priority they wish to assign to the various proposals contained in those two drafts.

## APPENDIX TO RESOLUTION (74) 33

### GENERAL CRITERIA

#### GOVERNING THE CHOICE OF SECTORS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES IN THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORK PROGRAMME

1. The objectives pursued and activities undertaken in the framework of the Intergovernmental Work Programme must conform to the provisions of Article 1 of the Statute, and fall within the scope of the organisation's activities as decided by the Committee of Ministers in Resolution (74) 4, Section I, paragraph *a*. They must serve the interests of all member states and thus help to strengthen their mutual cohesion.

As for those objectives and activities which are of more especial interest to a limited number or a clearly defined group of states, it is important that greater use should be made than in the past of the possibilities of the partial agreement system.

2. The Council of Europe must take account, when drawing up its own programme, of the work achieved or undertaken by other organisations, and especially the European Communities.

3. The work undertaken must be directed towards results of practical value for member states and their residents. The activities in the Work Programme must therefore be of practical interest, not theoretical. The political aspect appears when sectors and objectives are being decided, activities being selected in accordance with considerations of desirability and feasibility.

4. A cost-effectiveness analysis should be an important factor in selecting activities for inclusion in the programme. In particular, an adequate relationship should exist between the means and methods employed on the one hand and the purpose of each activity on the other.

In addition, the cost of an activity or group of activities must not be out of proportion to its value to all the member states, and must not be such as to unbalance the rest of the programme.