

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 1st February 1966

Restricted
AS/Loc I (17) 41-48

Or. Fr.

CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES



PACCOM029495

Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize and
propagation of the European idea

EUROPE PRIZE

Candidatures:

No. 41)	Aix-en-Provence	(Bouches-du-Rhône)	France	p. 1
No. 42)	Avignon	(Vaucluse)	"	p. 3
No. 43)	Bourg-en-Bresse	(Ain)	"	p. 9
No. 44)	Brest	(Finistère)	"	p. 22
No. 45)	Douai	(Nord)	"	p. 23
No. 46)	Oullins	(Rhône)	"	p. 28
No. 47)	Saint-Avoid	(Moselle)	"	p. 33
No. 48)	St-Sébastien- sur-Loire	(Loire-Atlantique)	"	p. 34

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

28th July 1965

Replies to the Questionnaire

- Reply to Question 1 : The town is a member of the Council of European Municipalities.
- Question 2 : So far, no.
- Question 3 : Since 1960 Aix-en-Provence has been "paired" with the town of Tübingen (Fed. Rep. of Germany). This has led to regular and increasing exchanges of young persons and of adults from the year 1961 onwards.
- Question 4 : There are continuous contacts between the two municipalities, while the educational establishments of Aix and the University of Aix-Marseille maintain permanent relations with Tübingen, Stuttgart and Oxford in particular, and exchanges are organised during the vacations.
- Youth movements, and cultural and sports organisations in Aix have established contacts and arranged exchanges of their members with several European towns, in particular with Tübingen.
- Question 5 : The town of Aix has initiated and facilitated the organisation of international events in the cultural, economic and sporting fields.

During the first half of 1965, the following groups from foreign towns were entertained by the municipality:

- (1) 2nd-10th March: Tübingen "Uhland-Gymnasium". (Uhland Secondary School) (34 persons).
- (4) 23rd-28th May : Würzburg Junge Deutsche Union (German Youth Club) (32 persons).
- (5) 4th-11th June : Tübingen Franco-German Club (32 persons).
- (6) 7th-8th June : Students of the Teachers' Training Colleges of North Rhine-Westphalia (38 persons).

- 7) 5th-10th June : Christian Democrat Students' Association
of the German Federal Republic (40 persons)
- 8) 7th-8th June : University of Munich (40 persons)
- 11) 27th-29th June: Representatives of various Tübingen
associations.
- 12) 16th June-
25th July : Students from Oberlin College (40 persons)
- 13) 17th June-
27th July : University of Stockholm (40 persons)

Question 6 : As in previous years since 1949, Aix was the meeting-place of the international musical élite between 11th July and 1st August, during the International Music Festival, subsidised by the municipality; the programme for 1965 comprised, among others, works of Mozart, Monteverdi, Rossini and Stravinsky.

A V I G N O N

6th December 1965

Replies to the questionnaire

The European activities of our City are carried out, in the first place, through the medium of the town "Pairing Committee", which has offices at the Town Hall and whose Chairman, Mr. Laurent PRIVAT, is Deputy Mayor.

This body was formally declared at the Prefecture of Vaucluse on 3rd March 1960 and has been registered under No. 2219.

1. With the aim of encouraging all movements seeking to promote peace among the nations through the pairing of towns, our City has become a member of the World Federation of Paired Towns and also of the Council of European Municipalities.

2. No, we have not up to the present had occasion to offer any material help towards the activities of these two organisations.

3. Our City is paired with the following towns :

WETZLAR	Fed. Rep. of Germany	24th April 1960
SIENA	Italy	9th April 1961
DIOURBEL	Senegal	15th October 1961

In conjunction with the town of Wetzlar, we are studying a plan for pairing with an English town.

The activities organised in the framework of these pairings fall within the cultural and economic spheres, as well as covering school-life, sport and tourist ventures.

These activities will be reviewed in detail later on.

4. Through the Pairing Committees and the municipal Councils of the towns with which we are paired we maintain permanent contacts with these latter. However, if we were asked to give a percentage figure of "effectiveness" for the relationships, we would put it at:

Wetzlar 90% - Siena 9.5% - Diourbel 0.5%

Most of the public, semi-public and even private bodies of the localities also maintain excellent relations with the leading members of their counterpart bodies, and some of them are even "paired".

5. With the town of Wetzlar, in particular, we organise personal exchanges, in all fields.

Cultural activities:

- Concerts (soloists, chamber music, orchestras, choirs, etc)
- Art exhibitions (painting, sketches, sculpture, the work of school-children of different schools, etc.)
- Public lectures organised by the Committee with the collaboration of the Union Européenne des Enseignants (European Teachers' Union) on exclusively European subjects.
- The projection of European films, with comments, notably films on Germany.

Economic and touristic activities

Each year, during Avignon's International Spring Fair, the Franco-German Society of Wetzlar organises with the help of its Town Council and Chamber of Commerce a stand displaying propaganda in favour of European Union.

The Chambers of Commerce of Avignon and Wetzlar have also organised exhibitions of their regional products (industry, handicrafts, local specialities, agricultural produce, etc.)

Our two towns also endeavour to foster collective tours and visits with guides to monuments, museums, exhibitions, and old quarters of historic and scenic interest.

This propaganda is also helped by the distributions of pamphlets, hand-bills or photos..

Activities in favour of Youth

These are by far the most important object of our efforts.

Under the auspices of the MOUVEMENT EUROPEEN DE VAUCLUSE (registered with the Prefecture of Vaucluse as an association on 11th March 1958 under No. 2114), which was our precursor in regard to pairings and was the initiator of them, we made a start in 1958 by reciprocal group visits. In the same year we also launched INTER-FAMILY SCHCCLCHILDREN'S EXCHANGES - at present 100 children from each town are exchanged between Wetzlar and Avignon, and there are similar exchanges with the following towns:

Kingston (England) - Turin (Italy) - London (England) - Warendorf (Federal Republic of Germany).

For the last 3 years the town of Avignon has invited 10 Wetzlar children of 10-15 years of age belonging to needy families for a free stay of one month at its holiday camps in Villard de Lans and in Boulouris sur Mer; they are accompanied by two leaders, one of each sex, who receive payment for their services at the same rate as the French personnel of the holiday camp. This invitation is also extended to Siena children, but up to now none have accepted it.

The town of Wetzlar in turn invites 3 young boys or girls from Avignon to a free stay in its holiday camps.

Since 1960 Avignon has invited 16 young persons from Wetzlar and 6 from Siena (boys and girls) to free participation in a 7-day meeting of the Rencontres Internationales de Jeunes (40 nations are represented) held in July during the Festival of Dramatic Art at Avignon staged by the TNP (Théâtre National Populaire). All costs of the stay are borne by the Avignon Pairing Committee.

Exchanges of youth groups (French Scout Movement, Eclaireurs, Léo Lagrange Club etc.)

Pairing of schools with their counterparts in Wetzlar, under the patronage of the town of Avignon, the Ministry of Education and the secondary-school Inspectorate (Lycée Frédéric Mistral, Lycée de Jeunes Filles, Collège Technique).

Meeting in Avignon of local secondary-school teachers with colleagues from England, and Germany. Seminars organised with the participation of the Inspector of secondary-schools of Vaucluse. Exchanges of views regarding school curricula and the educational systems proper to each country (Avignon, Kingston and Wetzlar).

AS/LOC I (17) 42

Organisation of tours for the Avignon and Wetzlar national folklore groups. To celebrate our pairing with the town of Siena, for the first time in the history of the traditional "Palio" the Contrades of Siena left their native town to come to Avignon, as an added attraction to an already glittering spectacle.

Organisation in Avignon in 1964 by the Co-ordination Committee for Avignon Festivities under the chairmanship of Mr. Raoul Colombe, Deputy Mayor, of the Rhône Festival, with the participation of about fifty national folklore groups from Switzerland as well as France.

Congress in Avignon, under the patronage of the town, of the Pont à Mousson international foundries group (Budérus from Wetzlar, English and Belgian groups).

Visit to Avignon of the Wetzlar Historical Society with tours of the town and region.

Suitable material help from Avignon and Wetzlar for the building and fitting-out of a youth hostel under the patronage of the YMCA which each year has about 10,000 of its young people passing through Avignon, either individually or in groups under a leader.

Sporting events

For 5 years now there have been annual sports contests between Wetzlar and Avignon, with prizes and cups, etc.

Athletics : Races (100, 200, 400, 800 and 5,000 metres, and 100 metres relay races for teams of 4) - High jump, long jump, pole jump - discus and javelin throwing - putting the weight.

Football, handball, and basket-ball matches between schoolchildren and members of Avignon and Wetzlar clubs, and once with a Spanish team, with return match in Barcelona.

Tennis tournament - and we are thinking of skiing contests and clay pigeon shooting competitions with Wetzlar this year; also of a horse-racing contest.

Other Activities

Over the last 5 years the towns of Avignon and Wetzlar have held official celebrations in honour of the following pairing arrangements:

- Pairing of the ex-Prisoners of War Association
- Pairing of the Veterans of the two World wars
- Pairing of the War Disabled
- Pairing of the Fire Brigades. It is also planned to institute pairing arrangements between associations of local government officials.

Pairing of the single Wetzlar daily, the "Wetzlar Neue Zeitung", with the "Provençal", one of the 4 great dailies of Avignon. Every fortnight these two papers devote a large space in their columns to "L'Air d'Avignon et de Wetzlar" which is a summary of the principal local activities likely to interest their readers.

Contacts have also been instituted between hunting and amateur wireless enthusiasts of our two towns.

Imminent pairing of the Avignon Red Cross with that of Wetzlar, under the patronage of the French and German Red Cross Societies.

AVIGNON was one of the very first towns in the South of France to adopt "pairing". We can even claim that neighbouring towns such as Aix-en-Provence, Nîmes, Orange, Bagnols-sur-Cèze, Saint Ambroix, Sarrians, Cavaillon etc... have followed its example by pairing subsequently with German and other European towns.

At the celebration in Wetzlar of the 5th anniversary of our pairing, honorary citizenship of Wetzlar was conferred upon our Mayor and M.P., the Conseiller Général Mr. Henri Duffaut. This honour had never before been conferred on a foreigner. Four other inhabitants of Avignon are honorary members of the Franco-German Society of Wetzlar and have received the gold medal of that town for their devotion to the European cause.

Lastly, following the example of Wetzlar, Avignon plans to put up on the highways passing through it for Italy and Spain, and also at the entry to and exit from the Station, at the Post Office, Tourist Office, etc., roadsigns bearing the initials of the World Federation of Paired Towns and of the Council of European Municipalities, giving the name of the towns with which it is paired and the dates of the pairings.

We are at your disposal for any further information which may be desired.

We apologise for not having given full details of each of our activities, nor having always given dates. In fact our activities have been going on for 5 years, and even 8, since it was the Mouvement Européen de Vaucluse which instigated this official action of the Avignon Municipality with the encouragement of its Mayor and M.P., Mr. Henri Duffaut.

Avignon, 7th December 1965

For the Chairman : Laurent Privat

Didier Laugier
Secretary

Secretariat Note :

By letter dated 28th January 1966 the mayor of Wetzlar, the German town paired with Avignon, gave his enthusiastic support to this candidature.

BOURG-EN-BRESSE

29th December 1965

SUBJECT : Europe Prize - Candidature of the Town of Bourg-en-Bresse

Dear Secretary General,

Our City, paired with the German town of Bad-Kreuznach (Rhine Palatinate), wishes to apply for the Europe Prize in respect of the year 1966.

May I, therefore, ask you to be good enough to authorise the candidature of our town which, it is my personal conviction, has in the course of recent years exerted a maximum effort to foster the idea of "Europe" and Franco-German reconciliation within the framework of its "pairing".

I leave it to you and to the Committee on Local Authorities to assess our activities in this domain, bearing in mind our very relative size as a town (at the Census of 1962 we numbered 35,640 inhabitants).

Yours etc.

(Signed) P. BARBEROT
Mayor and Deputy (M.P.)

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Extract from the Record of the Deliberations of the Town
Council

Sitting of Friday, 8th March 1963

The Town Council of Bourg-en-Bresse, met together in public session at the Town Hall,

Heard a statement by the Mayor, Mr. Amédé Mercier, who recalled:

- that during 1962, on two different occasions, a delegation of the Municipality of Bourg-en-Bresse had proceeded to the Federal Republic of Germany;

- that each of these encounters had resulted in fruitful contacts with members of Rhineland municipalities;

- that the contacts were particularly cordial with the Municipality of Bad-Kreuznach;

- that they spontaneously opened up perspectives of prolonging and rendering permanent the friendly relations borne of the cordial welcome extended by the German town to our delegates, - marked by the desire of our Rhineland colleagues to see ties of friendship established between the two towns and given concrete form by cultural and economic exchanges, and also by the discovery of numerous points of affinity between the towns of Bad-Kreuznach and Bourg-en-Bresse;

The Town Council

after hearing this account, and

Considering,

- that at a time when the new Europe of economic and political unity is slowly being built, it is of the highest importance that the work of negotiation, so full of difficulties, may find a basis in the will of the populations themselves;

- that the will for unity can best be expressed at the base, notably through the establishment of friendly and confident relationships between municipalities;

- that, if they are to be of the highest value, these relationships should take a practical rather than an official form;

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- that it is most desirable for contacts to be organised in a climate of mutual confidence, so that discussions can take place on the possibility of cultural exchanges, for instance by study tours, exhibitions, conferences or sports contests, schoolchildren's exchanges, economic and technical contacts of a nature to promote mutually fruitful trade between the two towns and their surrounding regions;

RESOLVES:

to give official form to the relationship happily entered into between the towns of Bourg-en-Bresse and Bad-Kreuznach,

to send greetings to the Municipality and population of the latter town;

and hopes that, encouraged by the expressed wishes of their Councils, the populations of the two towns may henceforth develop relations of mutual trust and friendship, for their greater prosperity, the pursuit of the unity of democratic Europe and peace between the nations.

(Signatures of the members present and,

for the Mayor,
his Deputy.)

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN
BOURG-EN-BRESSE AND BAD-KREUZNACH

- 20th May 1962 First contacts between the Mayor of Bourg-en-Bresse and Mr. Schröder, President of the Burgundy - Rhineland Palatinate Friendship Society ("AMICALE BOURGOGNE-RHENANIE-PALATINAT") on the subject of a possible pairing of Bourg and Bad-Kreuznach.
- Beginning of June The town of Bourg-en-Bresse was invited to celebrations organised at Mainz to mark the 2000th anniversary of the town (under the auspices of the Amicale Bourgogne - Rhénanie Palatinat). MM. Roche, Deputy Mayor, and Hincker, Borough Surveyor, delegated by the Town Council for the occasion, entered into contact with the municipal authorities of Bad-Kreuznach during a stay of 48 hours.
- It was agreed that a German delegation should come to Bourg-en-Bresse during the Poultry Show and Competition.
- 13-16th December Arrival in Bourg-en-Bresse of a small German delegation which took part in the festivities organised to mark the 100th Bresse Poultry Show.
- Agreement of the two municipalities on the principle of a pairing.
- 8th March 1963 The Town Council of Bourg-en-Bresse unanimously decided to give official form to the relations happily entered into between the two towns.
- 10th April 1963 The Town Council of Bad-Kreuznach, in turn confirmed the official nature of the relationship.
- 27-30th June Official pairing ceremonies at Bad-Kreuznach.
- A large delegation of the Town Council of Bourg-en-Bresse was received at Bad-Kreuznach where, in the course of a solemn ceremony, "deeds of pairing" were exchanged.

School holidays

School exchanges 1963 -

13th July - 6th August -

6th - 30th August -

12th and 13th October 1963 -

26th, 27th and 28th October
1963

4th, 5th and 6th April 1964

1st, 2nd and 3rd May 1964

21st-25th May 1964

14th-20th June 1964

17th-19th June 1964

School holidays 1964

29th August - 12th September
1964

10th-15th September 1964

26th-29th September 1964

- School exchanges :

3-weeks stay of 7 boy and
girl students from Bad-Kreuznach.

Stay in Bourg-en-Bresse of 8
boy and girl students from
Bad-Kreuznach.

Friendly sporting contest at
Bourg-en-Bresse between the
Tennis Clubs of Bresse and
Bad-Kreuznach.

A regional folklore group of
the Bresse country took part
in the Fruit and Wine Festival
of Bad-Kreuznach.

Visit by "La Renaissance" and
the Bresse Accordionists" Club
to Bad-Kreuznach.

Sports meeting (all classes) at
Bad-Kreuznach.

Official Pairing Celebrations
at Bourg-en-Bresse.

Stay in Bourg-en-Bresse of
German trade-unionists.

Visit of the "Liedertafel" Choir
to Bourg-en-Bresse.

Stay in Bad-Kreuznach from
11th July to 3rd August 1964 of
35 boys and girls. Stay in Bourg
from 4th to 24th August 1964 of
35 boys and girls from Bad-Kreuznach.

The Artists" Association of
Bad-Kreuznach attended the 12th
Salon of the AAA

Stay in Bourg of 13 girls from
the "Lina Hilger Schule".

Visit to Bad-Kreuznach of
Mr. Calvet's musical ensemble.

2nd-5th April 1965	Visit to Bourg-en-Bresse of the "Walter"
30th April to 2nd May 1965	Visit to Bourg-en-Bresse of a selection of judo enthusiasts from Bad-Kreuznach.
23rd May 1965	Release of carrier pigeons from Bad-Kreuznach at Bourg-en-Bresse.
27th-30th May 1965	General Sports Meeting at Bourg-en-Bresse. Reception held in honour of a delegation of members of the Bad-Kreuznach Aero-Club and model aeroplane enthusiasts. Exhibition and visit to Bad-Kreuznach of a delegation of members of the Bourg Philatelic Club. Stay in Bad-Kreuznach of a group of 24 girls from the Lycée E. Quinet.
4th-7th June 1965	Visit to Bad-Kreuznach of the Choir "A coeur Joie".
5th-7th June 1965	Visit to Bad-Kreuznach of a delegation from the Aero-Club of Bourg-en-Bresse.
19th June 1965	Opening ceremony in Bad-Kreuznach of the joint Exhibition of the Arts Clubs of the two towns.
School holidays 1965	Stay in Bad-Kreuznach from 12th July to 3rd August of 23 boys and girls from Bourg-en-Bresse. Stay in Bourg-en-Bresse from 4th to 23rd August of 22 boys and girls from Bad-Kreuznach.
4th September 1965	Chamber music concert given in Bad-Kreuznach by Mr. Calvet's orchestra.

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The town of Bourg-en-Bresse, in the person of its Mayor, Mr. Barberot, is represented on the Honorary Committee which patronises the international campaign: "MAYORS, FLY THE FLAG OF EUROPE" organised by the Committee for the European Flag of the Centre d'action européen.

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Further, the town of Bourg-en-Bresse has taken part each year since 1959 in "European Schools Day" and in this connection prizes are offered by the Town Council to the best competitors.

Lastly, we would mention that in his capacity of President of the Association of Mayors, Mr. Mercier, predecessor of the present Mayor, launched in July 1964 a campaign to encourage all communes of the Department of Ain to become members of the Council of European Municipalities.

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PROGRAMME OF BOURG-EN-BRESSE - BAD-KREUZNACH EXCHANGES FOR 1966

Report of meetings of Working Parties representing the two towns held in the council chamber of the Bourg Town Hall on Thursday 18th November and Friday 19th November 1965

It was agreed that only three or four clubs per town should be officially sponsored and subsidised by the respective municipal bodies.

I. BOURG-EN-BRESSE CLUBS DESIRING TO VISIT BAD-KREUZNACH IN 1966

1) UNION BRESSANE : It will be welcomed by the UNTERHALTUNGS-ORCHESTER (Light Music Orchestra) during the Whitsuntide 1966 festivities (from 28th to 30th May). The total number of persons can be up to 60 or 70, including 40 or 50 musicians (financial help from the town of Bourg for 2 motor coaches).

2) BASKET-BALL CLUBS : (Carriat Sports Group, Non-denominational Youth Club, Post Office Sports Association)

It was decided that in each case of several Clubs carrying on the same sport a selection would take place. If this were not feasible, the Club considered the most deserving would take part in the exchange.

As regards basket-ball, the Municipality of Bad-Kreuznach will contact its Club and let us know what classes of young persons could entertain the idea of matches in Bad-Kreuznach (seniors and juniors, both male and female) and on what dates.

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(3) RIDING CLUB : The Société Bressane (Bresse Riding club) has been invited directly by its German counterpart for a visit from 19th to 22nd May 1966. This Club could welcome about 20 persons (6 or 7 riders, plus persons accompanying), and provide for their accomodation. In this case there will be no financial help from town funds. An identical exchange is proposed for 1967 in Bourg and the Riding Clubs are to come to an understanding between themselves without official intervention.

Furthermore, it is placed on record that private exchanges will take place in 1966. From five to eight Germans, men or women, will take a course in Bourg and vice versa (agreement already reached between the Société Bressane and Herr Kolb, President of the Riding Club of Bad-Kreuznach, at the time of the general sports meeting).

(4) SHOOTING : Twenty to forty persons from the Bourg Shooting Club are invited to Bad-Kreuznach by the German Club from 22nd to 24th April 1966. In this case also the towns will give no financial help.

(5) SWIMMING : There will perhaps be a match in Bad-Kreuznach in September 1966. As the town of Bad-Kreuznach has two Swimming Clubs it will try to form a team in such a way that both Clubs take part in the event. (The Mayor of Bad-Kreuznach will keep us informed of developemnts).

(6) ATHLETICS : Bad-Kreuznach would like to organise an encounter between teams selected from all the schools of Bourg-en-Bresse, and all those of Bad-Kreuznach. Dr. Graeff has sent a letter to Mr. Favier on this matter. The first visit would be to Bourg-en-Bresse in 1966 and the second to Bad-Kreuznach in 1967. Bourg should contact Mr. Favier to plan the meeting, fix its dates, and decide on the composition of the teams for 1966. The return visit to Bad-Kreuznach in 1967 will be subsidised by the town of Bourg.

II. BAD-KREUZNACH CLUBS WHICH HAVE NOT YET VISITED BOURG-EN-BRESSE

- THE CHOIR OF THE PROTESTANT CHURCH OF ST. PAUL : This choir is believed to consist of about 25 persons. The Pastor who is its leader proposes giving a concert of hymns, carols etc. with organ accompaniment in a Catholic Church (for instance the Church of Our Lady (Eglise Notre-Dame).)

For this exchange Bad-Kreuznach suggests two dates, either the week after Easter or during the autumn holidays (10th to 17th October).

Contacts are to be made in Bourg with Pastor Cuche on the matter of accomodation and Canon Guerri for the concert; Bad-Kreuznach will be kept informed.

- THE COLLEGE OF MUSIC : It is formed of young amateurs of 14 to 22, girls and boys, numbering about 20 to 25. This group of musicians (instrumental) could give an evening concert at the Bourg Theatre and an afternoon one at a Hospice of the town (for instance "La Charité"). The date for the visit might be during the autumn holidays (10th to 17th October). Contact should be made on this point with the J.M.F. (Jeunes Musiciens de France) who could welcome the German orchestra and arrange for its accomodation.

- BAND OF THE FIRE BRIGADE : This full brass band would like to come to Bourg in 1966 or failing that in 1967. It comprises about 30 to 35 members, who could perhaps be entertained jointly by the "Renaissance" and the Bourg Fire Brigade.

The Bourg Town Hall will contact these bodies.

- NAHETAL ORCHESTRA (ACCORDIONISTS) : This orchestra (Nahetal-Orchester) could come at the same time as a group of zither-players (Zitherverein "Edelweiss"). The two groups combined would not exceed 35 persons. Contact should be made as regards a date with the "Amicale des Accordéonistes Bressans" who would like to welcome an orchestra in 1966 or 1967.

The four exchanges proposed above are classed in order of the interest they are likely to arouse.

III. SUGGESTIONS OF VARIOUS OTHER CLUBS

- KARTING CLUB
- AIN MOTOR-CYCLISTS' CLUB
- AIN AUTOMOBILE CLUB
- SOCIETY OF THE WAR DISABLED AND VICTIMS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS
- COMMITTEE OF FRENCH SCOUTS AND GUIDES
- BOURG-EN-BRESSE BRIDGE CLUB
- CYCLISTS' CLUB
- "DIANE BRESSANE"
- BRESSE PHILATELIC CLUB
- BAD-KREUZNACH CAMPEING CLUB
- CAIENET GROUP
- "A COEUR JOIE" CHOIR
- FOOTBALL CLUB
- JUDO CLUB
- BRESSE BOWLS CLUB
- FRENCH ALPINE CLUB
- TENNIS CLUB

- BRESSE REGIONAL FOLKLORE GROUP
- SCIENCE CLUB (SOCIETE SAVANTE)
- YOUTH LEISURE CLUB
- PHOTO CLUB AND CAMERA CLUB
- GYMNASTICS CLUB
- BOURG SPELEOLOGISTS' GROUP
- BOURG FENCING CLUB
- "LA RENAISSANCE"

IV. HOLIDAY CAMPS, YOUTH CAMPS

All the suggestions from Clubs having been examined, Mr. Morel Lab proposed discussing the question of youth camps to explore what could be done in 1966.

In the first place it was decided that the young Germans to come to Bourg and the French youngsters to go to Bad-Kreuznach should be between the ages of 14 and 18.

(1) VISIT OF A FRENCH GROUP TO BAD-KREUZNACH :

The group could camp at the open-air school of Mengerschied, where shelter could be had in case of bad weather. The camp should be organised for the holiday period so as to avoid having too numerous a staff kept at the school and thus reduce costs to the minimum.

(2) VISIT OF A GERMAN GROUP TO ONE OF OUR CAMPS :

The fact that the German scheme of things differs here from our own gives rise to problems. Bad-Kreuznach has no federation of holiday camps, but groups belonging to various sectors (e.g. Young Catholics' group, Young Socialists, etc....). Therefore the group of young Germans which came to us should be directed to the holiday camp most akin to their own (either UFOVAL, or USCv) according to its religious denomination. Bad-Kreuznach should be given exact information on the following points :

- date of the camps
- prices
- number of young persons to be sent (about 10)
- number of persons accompanying
- etc.

A letter on these points should be sent to the two Bourg bodies responsible for holiday camps to find out if these principles could be adopted.

V. PRESS CHRONICLE OF "PAIRING" ACTIVITIES

Herr Zisgen expressed the wish that the various regional newspapers of the two towns should introduce a column under the heading "Pairing", which would relate events of interest to both towns. These articles would cover for instance the following fields:

- Municipal news
- Sports
- Festivities
- Other items (serious accidents, fire outbreaks, etc....)

Suitable articles, sorted after scrutiny of the papers, could be despatched say each Tuesday by the two Town Halls so that they could appear the following Saturday in the newspapers of the twin town.

VI. EXCHANGES OF TOWN COUNCILLORS

Another point, that of exchange visits of new Town Councillors elected at the latest elections, was raised by Herr Zisgen. Two alternatives could be considered: Councillors who do not know their twin town could:

- either attach themselves, 3 or 4 persons at a time, to a motor-coach party travelling there for a sports event or cultural reasons,
- or else they could organise a visiting group of their own.

In either case, each member of the delegation should be lodged in the home of one of his opposite numbers on the Bad-Krauznach Council.

VII. WAR VETERANS

Herr Zisgen undertook to explain the problems of Kreuznach's War Veterans and ex-Prisoners-of-War. This Association of "those who come back" would like to find in our town a similar association and make contact with it so as to extend the ties of friendship which so far exist only between the youth of the two towns. Both Herr Zisgen and Mr. Morel Lab feel that it is our duty to "bring together those who were exploited to harm each other during two wars, and turn over a new page".

Herr Zisgen thought, for his part, that it is also "one of our missions to bring together not only the young, but also the oldest citizens. This cannot be forced", he said, "but will come from the heart and calls for much loving-kindness".

It was agreed that the Veterans Association of Bad-Kreuznach will contact M. Morin, Departmental President of the UFAC (Union Française des Anciens Combattants), who will inform the different Associations of Bourg and of the Ain Department of this sincere desire for friendly relations on the part of their Bad-Kreuznach counterparts, with a view to contacts being established between the French and German Associations.

VIII. INDIVIDUAL EXCHANGES OF YOUNG FRENCH PERSONS AND YOUNG GERMANS DURING THE LONG HOLIDAYS

It was decided that all the French or German families whose children would like to take part in "au pair" or paying guest exchanges should apply through their respective Town Halls. For this purpose Frau Hasse will prepare and submit to us a draft questionnaire to be filled in by families interested. For 1966 the time-limit for applications might perhaps be 31st May.

This will be announced in the press.

IX. EUROPE PRIZE

X. GENERAL SPORTS MEETING

It was agreed that it is premature to discuss this. The subject will be taken up in 1967, at the meeting to prepare the 1968 programme, since it is thought that individual contacts between Clubs should first be made and the last meetings of the kind are quite recent (1964-1965).

XI. DETACHMENT OF A MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE FOR A PERIOD FROM
BAD-KREUZNACH

Confirmation was to be given to Bad-Kreuznach before Christmas 1965 as regards the release of Herr Maffeis to work at our Town Hall for a period from 1st February to 15th July 1966. According to M. Morel Lab this question will doubtless be considered by the Town Council.

Herr Katzenbacher told us that two Bad-Kreuznach girls who are learning French and who work at the Town Hall would be glad to come to Bourg to improve their French.

XII. MR. PICHON'S QUESTION

Mr. Pichon of Oyonnax sent a letter to the Mayor of Bourg asking whether he could find work at Bad-Kreuznach in order to improve his knowledge of German.

Frau Hasse, to whom this request has been sent, will try to obtain satisfaction for Mr. Pichon and will keep us informed.

BOURG-EN-BRESSE, 23rd December 1965.

B R E S T

The town of Brest has informed us that it is paired with the town of Denver (Colorado) in the United States and that within the framework of this pairing they have organised exchanges of young persons, sports devotees, trade union representatives, workers, municipal delegations, and other activities such as exhibitions, films, performances of music and national folklore items.

Further, the town has made grants to municipalities abroad which have suffered damage in the wake of catastrophies resulting in Europe-wide campaigns of solidarity.

D O U A I

29th June 1965

Dear Secretary General,

I am very pleased to put forward the candidature of DOUAI. Our town has distinguished itself for many years by a high degree of activity in the endeavour to bring the peoples together and promote European Unity. It is the seat of the first Europe House to be established in France, in 1954.

It claims thus seem to me worthy of consideration.

Yours etc.

(Signed) Charles Fenain
Mayor of Douai

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Replies to the Questionnaire

1. The Mayor of Douai, recently elected, has started to look into the matter of the town becoming a member of the Council of European Municipalities. This membership implicit in its "pairing" policy and in the town's support of its own Europe House, will soon be an accomplished fact.

2. The town of Douai has placed spacious premises at the disposal of its Europe House. The Mayor, as its Honorary President, gives it all possible material and moral support. Numerous foreign delegations passing through the town are officially entertained at the Town Hall, particularly at the time of the traditional Gayant Festival.

The reception rooms of the Town Hall are placed at the disposal of Europe House for the most important meetings.

3. Pairings

- with the town of Twickenham (England); through merely a friendly pairing, the relations between Douai and Twickenham established in 1954 have been very steadily maintained since then.

- with the town of Jemeppes (Belgium)

Ceremonies at Jemeppes on 4th July 1964

Ceremonies at Douai 13th September 1964

- with the town of Recklinghausen (Germany)

Ceremonies at Douai 23rd January 1965

Ceremonies at Recklinghausen 22nd May 1965

In both cases the Mayors of the respective towns have sworn the "pairing" oath of the Council of European Municipalities.

These pairings are the outcome of an already longstanding relationship with these two towns, namely children's exchanges with Jemeppes and the district of Liège, and much two-way traffic with Recklinghausen, particularly between trade unionists and ex-prisoners of war. It is interesting to note that the latter have been among those most enthusiastically in favour of the pairing.

Besides this and outside the pairing system, Douai maintains friendly relations with the town of Meppen (Lower Saxony). For about ten years there have been children's exchanges during the long holidays. The Meppen Town Council is always represented at local festivities in Douai. Douai and its Mayor have likewise wished to associate themselves with Meppen's festivities, particularly those in honour of the 6th Centenary of its establishment as a Municipality.

4. Douai and its Europe House also maintain permanent relations with the Youth Club of Mülheim (receptions being offered for members of the Youth Movements of the two towns). They frequently welcome teams of young athletes and young workers (miners in particular), either visiting or taking training courses in the region.

5. The numerous individual exchanges which have taken place over the last few years were arranged by Europe House (see details enclosed).

6. Lectures and exhibitions on the theme of European unity are regularly organised by the Douai Europe House. The news-sheet Douai-Europe has a circulation of 500 copies, and publications of the various European movements are also in circulation. Documentation is available to the public at the library of Europe House.

7. The various European Movements are "federated" locally at Europe House and thus benefit from the town's support of this institution.

8. Each year Douai offers a prize on European Schools Day, special lessons on whose significance have often been given.

For various other activities, see details enclosed.

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Douai's Europe House was inaugurated in 1954, the first of its kind in France.

At that time a comparatively large number of supporters of a united Europe, belonging to different organisations, were becoming conscious of the need to co-ordinate their efforts. They decided to set up locally an Association within which the goodwill of all, without regard to political affinities, could be united in a single aim.

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At first housed in a modest prefab, it has since 1960 occupied larger and more convenient premises made available by the Town Council in the buildings of the old temporary Lycée, Place Barlet. But however rudimentary its material equipment, Europe House has never ceased over the ten years to be a keen centre of studies, of propagation of the European idea and of international exchanges, particularly within the Europe of the Six.

It has thus remained faithful to the ideal of its founders: to work to achieve a united, fraternal Europe and, with this aim in view, develop a European spirit not only among its members and adherents but among the whole population of the Douai district.

This role it seeks to fulfil by two main methods: the dissemination of information, and exchanges.

Each month, meetings of the Committee enable it to deepen and intensify the understanding and the training of militant members by the joint study of topical questions. We could point to the example of the latest of these meetings which was devoted to the "European Miners' Statute".

Alongside this, the Europe House Youth group employs in its own domain a similar method of training, with talks given by the young members themselves.

In addition, there are meetings and important lectures at irregular intervals, designed to bring information to a wider public. Thus Mr. Dubertret, President of the Chamber of Commerce, recently had a great success with his account of a tour in the Soviet Union to study the steel industry there.

The quarterly bulletin "DOUAI-EUROPE", is sent not only to all members but also to well-wishers outside the region and even abroad, enabling them to follow the activity of Europe House and associate themselves with it.

Lastly, extensive documentation is made available to the public, as well as a library of works dealing with Europe.

But the European spirit can hardly develop without human contacts, hence the proliferation of exchanges and receptions. We will limit ourselves to mentioning the most important regular contacts.

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Each year during the long holidays a group of about 40 young Germans from Meppen (on the Ems, Lower Saxony) comes for a stay of three weeks in Douai, while 40 youngsters from Douai spend in Meppen a holiday which is both enjoyable and profitable through the study of the language and the knowledge thus obtained of a foreign country. The youngsters are accomodated with families, but Europe House arranges meetings and discussion groups for them, as well as tours and excursions to Paris and the seaside. During the summer, exchanges between Douai and Meppen are always very lively.

The Douai Europe House also has a permanent relationship with the Youth Club of Mülheim, whose leaders it receives every year. The representatives of Douai youth movements in turn go and stay in Mülheim where they meet the leaders of the similar German movements. These contacts are particularly profitable, as a means of comparing methods.

For the last several years, there have been excellent relations between Douai and Recklinghausen and doubtless an official pairing will shortly further mark the union of these two towns. In particular the war veterans and the ex-war prisoners have in the course of several visits formed the ties of a very keen friendship.

Each year Europe House welcomes the Town Councils of the friendly towns. It receives and lodges in its premises groups of young sports enthusiasts, craftsmen and trade unionists, thus, in a homely and intimate atmosphere of meals taken together, enabling very friendly relations to be established between the people of Douai and their visitors.

Meetings and discussion groups between trade-unionists are becoming more and more frequent..

Finally, our language courses, which are held every evening (German, English, Spanish) and are destined both for young people and adults, are a further means of working to bring the peoples of Europe together.

October 1964

O U L L I N S

24th June 1965

Dear Secretary General,

I have the honour to submit to you the questionnaire regarding the candidature of the town of Oullins (Rhône) for the Europe Prize.

Yours etc.

for the Mayor

The Secretary General

Replies to the Questionnaire

1. Oullins belongs to the Council of European Municipalities and to the International Union of Mayors.
2. It is paired with Nürtingen in Germany and maintains permanent relations with that town (personal exchanges and meetings of all kinds).
3. It encourages its schools to take part in "European Schools Day".

THE PAIRING BETWEEN OULLINS (RHONE) AND NÜRTINGEN/NECKAR
(WURTEMBERG)

1. The Council of European Municipalities informed us at the beginning of July 1958 that a pairing would be possible with Nürtingen.

After a favourable reply from the Mayor (Oberbürgermeister), the Town Council of Oullins, at its meeting of 8th July 1958, unanimously approved the pairing with Nürtingen in the European spirit.

The decision was taken in view of the affinities likely to provide a bond between these towns of similar size: (Oullins with 26,000 inhabitants and Nürtingen with 22,000, of whom 6,000 have come from the East).

A German town was chosen in order that our children - both German and French - shall never again know and witness war and its atrocities, the scourge of nations.

We have not striven for other pairings - believing that a single one was sufficient to develop the spirit of understanding and of peace.

II. A "Pairing Committee" was set up under a chairman delegated by the Mayor, and comprises representatives of all the local clubs and societies.

A Hospitality Committee with its seat at the Town Hall was also set up to receive the young people or families from Nürtingen wishing to visit Oullins, which is 5 km from Lyons.

Annual visits take place. This year the Corporation of Oullins welcomes a delegation from the Corporation of Nürtingen, and also the Town Band on the occasion of an inter-Canton Music Festival which took place last June.

During the Whitsuntide holidays, Oullins basket-ball and hand-ball teams went to Nürtingen while Nürtingen tennis players were our guests.

25 pupils from our Boys' Lycée were invited by Herr Karl Gonser, the Mayor, and at the present time, thanks to a donation of 10,000 DM granted by the Nürtingen Town Council in aid of "school cultural exchanges", 21 of our children between 11 and 14 are staying in homes in the Neckar Valley.

When these funds are exhausted, our Municipality will certainly in turn provide its share.

III. The only reticent voices we noted prior to conclusion of the "pairing" were those of people or groups who expressed a special preference for a pairing with a town in the Eastern Zone of Germany.

We traditionally receive an excellent welcome in our twin town and we also welcome our guests to the best of our ability...

Each official delegation from Nürtingen pays homage at the column erected to the memory of Claude Jordery - father of the present Mayor -, himself Mayor of Oullins, and Deputy for the Rhône to the French National Assembly, who was deported to the camp of Bergen-Belsen in Germany and died there.

This gesture is appreciated by the population of Oullins.

The population was informed of our projected pairing through the press prior to the Town Council discussions.

The spirit of the pairing is understood and accepted by practically the whole of the population.

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IV. Our aim is to ensure that the pairing is a continuing process in every field. The various cultural groups and sports or tourist clubs have established mutual contacts and are planning international meetings.

However, we are not considering other pairings on account of the inevitable expenditure entailed. Rather have a single pairing, but achieve a successful and efficacious one.

The fundamental purpose of pairings : "To know each other better in the interests of peace" must in our opinion continue to hold good even when political unity in Europe is achieved.

OULLINS - NURTINGEN

Activities under the pairing scheme :

May 1964 - Tennis players, gymnasts, ping-pong players and judoists met each other at Cullins in return matches organised by their counterpart clubs - CASCOL, FRAT and PLC.

Also in May, our basket-ball and hand-ball teams (CASCOL and FRAT) went to Nürtingen for return matches in these sports.

June - The Nürtingen Band accepted the invitation to the inter-Canton Music Festival, which brought together a great many bands of the region as well as the Band of Lorraine-Escaut, one of the foremost in France, invited as guest of honour.

July - 25 pupils of the Cullins Lycée Technique were invited to end their school year on the banks of the Neckar and thus improve their knowledge of German.

August - 21 Oullins children spent enjoyable holidays at the Children's Home run by a private association under the management of Herr Ludwig Knauss, a Councillor of the twin town.

September - 3 delegations from the House of Youth and Culture, Scouts, Old pupils of the Technical College, the Cyclists' Club and all the War Veterans' groups : the most symbolic and moving of all the events so far arranged.

December - The Nürtingen band was applauded during the march-past organised by the U.C.A.O. which drew 15,000 people into the streets, prior to the reception at the Town Hall of the Queen and her Maids of Honour.

At each of these gatherings, the feelings of the participants on both sides frequently revealed, on the one hand a grateful respect for the memory of all those - too many, alas - who suffered and died in defence of freedom and human dignity, and on the other hand a conscious and active popular participation in the aim of building a future of peace and progress, more in line with man's hopes and aspirations and with world evolution.

(Signed) Marc SUC

Deputy-Mayor
and Chairman of the Pairing Committee

S A I N T - A V O L D
(Moselle)

1. The town of Saint-Avold has announced its accession to the Council of European Municipalities and the International Union of Towns and Local Authorities.
2. It is paired with Dudweiler/Saar (Federal Republic of Germany) and has organised exchanges of young people, sports meetings etc. as well as joint exhibitions with the paired town.
3. A pairing with Chesham (Great Britain) is in course of preparation. There has already been an initial exchange of young people.

SAINT-SEBASTIEN-SUR-LOIRE

Replies to Questionnaire

1. The town has belonged to, inter alia, the Council of European Municipalities since 1953.
2. It is paired with Glinde (Federal Republic of Germany) and maintains permanent relations with that town in the form of sports contests, cultural events, meetings of young people and Town Councillors, and exchanges of schoolchildren and workers.
3. It encourages propagation of the European idea in its schools and the creation of a network of inter-school correspondents with its twin town. It has also organised language courses.
4. At the time of the floods in Hamburg and district, the Municipality offered temporary accomodation to German children who had been rendered homeless.