

# COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 3 October 1969

Confidential  
AS/Soc (21) PV 4

## CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

### COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH QUESTIONS

#### MINUTES

of the meeting held on 29 September 1969  
in Strasbourg



#### Members present:

MM. BLENKINSOP, Chairman	United Kingdom
WIKLUND, Vice-Chairman	Sweden
Miss BERGEGREN	Sweden
MM. BERTHET	Italy
BOURGEOIS	France
DARDEL	France
DE KEULENEIR (for Mr. de Weert)	Belgium
ENGELS	Netherlands
FOSSUM (for Mr. Naesheim)	Norway
GRUSSENMEYER	France
MEYERS	Belgium
Mrs. ROSS (for Mr. Ove Hansen)	Denmark
MM. SCRINZI (for Mr. Gabriele)	Austria
SIGURJONSSON	Iceland
SPAUTZ	Luxembourg
Dr. SUMMERSKILL	United Kingdom
Mr. TURKMEN	Turkey
Dame Joan VICKERS	United Kingdom
Mr. ZALOGLU	Turkey

Observers:

Mrs. BINZER	European Association of Radiology
Mrs. BOUEE	International Union of Family Organisations
Mr. DERMINE	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
Mrs. FORNOFF	International Association of Medical Laboratory Technologists
Miss GRUNEWALD	International Federation of Social Workers
Mr. JARDINE	International Dental Federation
Mrs. JOUHAUX	International Labour Office
Miss LAVOINE	Catholic International Union for Social Service
Mrs. PICKARD	International Council of Nurses
Mr. RODIE	Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration

Also Present:

Mr. SCHMITT, Robert	France
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Apologised for absence:

Mrs. FIRNBERG	Austria
MM. CLUSKEY	Ireland
CORTI	Italy
GRUTTER	Switzerland
LEMMRICH	Federal Republic of Germany
PACE	Malta
Mrs. PITZ-SAVELSBERG	Federal Republic of Germany
MM. PORTHEINE	Netherlands
SALARI	Italy
SCHALLER	Switzerland
SCHMIDT, Horst	Federal Republic of Germany

The Chairman opened the meeting at 11 a.m.

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Professor Sur, Director of Economic and Social Affairs of the Council of Europe.

1. AGENDA

AS/Soc (21) OJ 47

The agenda was adopted.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 1969 in Paris were approved.

3. SUPERVISION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER

AS/Soc (21) 9  
AS/Soc (21) 127

Professor Sur made a statement on the supervision of the application of the European Social Charter. (The full text of this statement will appear separately in doc. AS/Soc (21) 12).

The Chairman thanked Professor Sur for his very valuable statement. He suggested discussing at the Committee's next meeting the possibility of constituting a special sub-committee which should give preliminary consideration to the conclusions to be submitted by the Committee of Independent Experts. The Chairman asked Professor Sur whether this document would also be circulated among international organisations of employers and trade unions in order to obtain their views.

Professor Sur replied that according to the Charter, the conclusions of the Committee of Independent Experts should be submitted to a governmental committee as well as to the Consultative Assembly which presumably would refer them to the Committee on Social and Health Questions.

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He said that the governmental committee would examine the national reports and the conclusions in the presence of observers from international employers and trade unions organisations, attending the meetings of the governmental committee in a consultative capacity.

The Chairman asked Professor Sur whether he could provide the Committee with some information on the preparation of the European Conference of Ministers of Social Affairs and Labour, as proposed by the Assembly in its Recommendation 467 (1966).

Professor Sur gave some information on the latest developments with regard to this question.

The Chairman said that at present the problem of drug addiction was studied by various governmental committees (governmental Sub-Committee on the Penal Aspects of Narcotics and Drug Dependence, Sub-Committee on Pharmaceutical Problems of the Partial Agreement) and also by a co-ordinated medical fellowship team. He said that although these Committees were studying different aspects of drug addiction, there might be the risk of a certain overlapping of their work.

Professor Sur said that the European Public Health Committee had also included the subject of drug addiction in its agenda.

He informed the Committee that he would make sure that the various studies on drug addiction, carried out within the framework of the Council of Europe, were co-ordinated as much as possible.

Dame Joan Vickers, referring to Article 26 of the European Social Charter, enquired whether ILO had been invited to nominate a representative to participate in a consultative capacity in the deliberations of the Committee of Independent Experts.

Professor Sur replied in the affirmative.

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The Chairman informed the Committee that the Social Affairs Division had prepared a special information meeting, to be held at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, 2 October 1969, to which observers from non-governmental organisations had been invited. The governmental Social Committee would be represented at this meeting by its Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The Chairman said that the presence at this meeting of some members of the Committee on Social and Health Questions would be greatly appreciated.

4. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

[Doc. 2623]

The Chairman referred the Committee to the Communication on the activities of the Committee of Ministers from 13 May to 31 August 1969 (Doc. 2623) and drew the Committee's special attention to the part of this document dealing with social and public health questions. He informed the Committee that on page 19 of the Communication it was mentioned that the Committee of Ministers had authorised a meeting in 1970 of a Working Party on "Problems of introducing fluoridation of drinking water in Europe" and had also authorised the International Dental Federation to be represented at this meeting.

Mr. Sand reminded the Committee that the item Odontological Questions was included in the Committee's programme of activities. He suggested that the Committee, in its report on this question, give political support to the action to be recommended to the Committee of Ministers by the Public Health Committee.

5. EUROPEAN AGREEMENT ON AU-PAIR PLACEMENT

The Chairman informed the Committee that the Committee of Ministers had adopted the final text of the European Agreement on Au Pair Placement and had decided that this new agreement would be open for signature by member governments on the first day of the 183rd meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (21 October 1969). He said that the text of the Agreement could be found in Appendix IX of the Communication on the activities of the Committee of Ministers from 13 May 1969 - 31 August 1969 (Doc. 2623).

Dame Joan Vickers said she was very disappointed in the European Agreement on Au Pair Placement. She gave various reasons for her disappointment on the basis of certain articles in the Agreement.

The Chairman proposed that the members of the Committee should follow the action taken with regard to the Agreement in their own countries and interrogate their governments on the reasons why the text of the Agreement had been weakened as compared with the original text proposed by the Assembly in 1966 (Recommendation 468).

Professor Sur pointed out that the text of the Agreement was a compromise between the countries who send out and those who receive au pair girls. The latter countries had seen more of their points adopted.

Mr. Meyers proposed that in the Assembly debate on the Communication of the Committee of Ministers, one of the members of the Committee on Social and Health Questions should point out to the President of the Committee of Ministers that the European Agreement on Au Pair Placement ought to be considered as a compromise and that the Council of Europe member governments should make it their objective to adopt national regulations which went further than the provisions of the Agreement. He suggested that Dame Joan Vickers put this question to the President of the Committee of Ministers.

Dame Joan Vickers agreed.

#### 6. PROBLEMS OF YOUNG WORKERS

Doc. 2641

The Chairman informed the Committee that the report on the problems of young workers (Doc. 2641) was scheduled to be presented to the Assembly together with the report on European youth problems prepared by the Committee on Culture and Education (Doc. 2610) on Wednesday morning, 1 October 1969.

7. PREPARATION OF THE ASSEMBLY DEBATE

The Chairman informed the Committee about the organisation of the Assembly's debate on Social and Health Questions which was scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 30 September 1969. He expressed the hope that as many members as possible would participate in these debates.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) The position of the gypsies and other travellers in Europe

Mr. Wiklund informed the Committee that the proposals contained in paragraph 8 (ii) of his draft recommendation on the situation of gypsies and other travellers had been criticised in a Swedish newspaper article written by a prominent Swedish gypsy. This criticism was based on the idea that the creation of caravan sites for gypsies, as proposed in paragraph 8 (ii), would lead to "ghetto forming".

Mr. Wiklund enquired whether it was still possible to amend paragraph 8 (ii).

The Chairman replied that it was impossible for the Committee to amend this draft recommendation as it had already appeared in the form of an Assembly document. He suggested that Mr. Wiklund, if he so wished, propose an amendment to paragraph 8 (ii) of the draft recommendation in the Assembly. Personally, however, he was not in favour of such an amendment, as the construction of caravan sites for gypsies and other travellers was an essential matter. The representatives of the International Gypsy Council had stressed the importance of pressing strongly for the construction of caravan sites. The words caravan site had no derogatory meaning in English.

Mr. Sand suggested that Mr. Wiklund raise this question with the President of the International Gypsy Committee who would be coming to the Council of Europe on 30 September 1969 to attend the Assembly debate on the position of gypsies and other travellers in Europe.

Miss Bergegren said that the criticism to which Mr. Wiklund referred was based on Swedish conditions. She was of the opinion that this criticism should not lead the Committee to change the proposals contained in the draft recommendation on the position of the gypsies and other travellers in Europe.

Dame Joan Vickers said that in the United Kingdom 180,000 non-nomadic people were living in caravans.

Mrs. Ross thought that, due to the particular social features of the gypsy communities, it would be difficult for the gypsies to live in houses. However, at a later stage they might show more willingness to live in houses as a result of better education.

(b) Motion for a resolution on alternative methods to experiments on animals presented by Mr. Toncic and others (Doc. 2593)

The Chairman informed the Committee that this motion had been referred to the Committee on Science and Technology for a detailed study and to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Social and Health Questions for an opinion. He also informed the Committee that the Spanish Consul General had addressed a letter on this matter to the Secretary General.

Following this, the Committee appointed Dr. Summerskill, Rapporteur on alternative methods to experiments on animals.

(c) Third Seminar on International Voluntary Service

The Chairman said that the printed version of Mr. Wiklund's report on the Third Seminar on International Voluntary Service held from 4 - 8 November 1968 at the House of Europe had been included in the files for this meeting.

(d) Environmental health

The Chairman informed the Committee that the French version of document AS/Soc (21) 8 containing the address made by Mr. Karl Evang, M.D. at the Committee's meeting from 30 June to 2 July had also been included in the files for this meeting. (The English version had already been distributed at the Committee's previous meeting on 5 September 1969 in Paris).

(e) European economic problems

The Chairman reminded the Committee that in Order 291 the Committee had been instructed to suspend the preparation of its report on European economic problems. (At its meeting on 17 March 1969 the Committee had decided to deal in this report with the harmonisation of regulations and legislation in the fields of social security, family allowances, redundancy payments and industrial organisation). The Chairman said he intended to raise this question in the Assembly, in order to obtain its agreement to the Committee making preliminary arrangements for the preparation of this report.



- (f) Motion for a recommendation on the institution of an annual social report by the Council of Europe member states

The Chairman informed the Committee that he intended to table a motion for a recommendation on the institution of an annual social report by the Council of Europe member states.

9. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee decided to hold its next meeting on Monday 1 December 1969, in Paris.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

LIST OF DECISIONS

The Committee,

- approved the minutes of its meeting held on 5 September 1969 in Paris;
- heard a statement by Professor Sur, Director of Economic and Social Affairs of the Council of Europe, on the supervision of the application of the European Social Charter;
- appointed Dr. Shirley Summerskill, Rapporteur on alternative methods to experiments on animals.
- decided to hold its next meeting on Monday 1 December 1969, in Paris.