

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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AS/Loc/Prix (23) 17 to 19

CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL PLANNING
AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES



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

Additional information on the candidatures of:

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WURZBURG (Federal Republic of Germany)

- Letter from Mayor
- Outline of European activities in 1971

Letter from Mayor

Since town-pairing is not an end in itself but a course which must constantly be covered afresh, the town of Würzburg pursued in 1971, as in previous years, its untiring efforts and endeavours to strengthen the bonds of friendship with its paired towns. The town has also taken many other steps to foster European integration and understanding.

Würzburg has been a candidate for the Europe Prize and Council of Europe Flag since 6 March 1968. The completed questionnaire was sent to the Council of Europe on 6 March 1968, and the application was renewed on 1 February 1969 and in 1970. Each time the application was renewed it was accompanied by a summary showing how consistently and regularly the municipality of Würzburg has striven in this direction since the early 1950s. A report on action by the municipality of Würzburg was submitted in 1968.

Würzburg is now applying once again for the Europe Prize, and we wish to supplement the existing documents in support of our application with the enclosed survey, which sets out, in chronological order, Würzburg's activities to promote European understanding in 1971. I would draw your special attention to the ceremonies organised for the 10th anniversary of the pairing of Würzburg and Caen, and the numerous measures taken to further international exchanges of young people. A full account of the events organised for the 10th anniversary of the pairing with Caen is also contained in Volume 12 of the enclosed periodical (Würzburg - heute).

The town of Würzburg would consider itself most fortunate if it were numbered this year, among those towns whose action and endeavours to bring about European and international understanding were given recognition and encouragement by the Council of Europe.

Yours etc.

Dr. Klaus Zeitler

Oberbürgermeister

Survey of European activities in 1971

- January 1971 - Series of lectures in the universities of the paired towns
- February 1971 - Establishment of a Franco-German club
- February 1971 - European policemen on duty in Würzburg
- March 1971 - Exhibition of works by 3 painters from the paired town of Caen
- March 1971 - New school-pairing scheme with Grasse
- April 1971 - English students visit Würzburg
- April 1971 - Joint seminar for German and French students
- April 1971 - French school-children learn German and make friends in Würzburg
- May 1971 - French schoolboy spends term at Riemenschneidergymnasium
- 5 May 1971 - Information kiosk manned by Würzburg section of "Europaunion" for Europe Day
- 5 May 1971 - Mayor's Europe Day appeal published in local papers
- May 1971 - French company perform French play at the Würzburg Municipal theatre
- May 1971 - French mayors receive warm welcome in Würzburg
- June 1971 - Delegation from the paired town of Rochester, USA, visits Würzburg
- June 1971 - Mayor of Dundee visits Würzburg
- July 1971 - First visit to the paired town of Rochester
- August 1971 - French conversation course at Municipal Youth Department
- September 1971 - First visit by Würzburg Municipal Council to the paired town of Caen.
The town's ten years' friendship
- November 1971 - Reception for Council of Europe representatives in the "Wenzelsaal" of the Town Hall

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN 1971

German-Luxembourg sports event

German-Austrian youth meeting

Meeting of young people (return visit) under the Franco-German youth exchange scheme

Würzburg-Lucerne sports event

Meeting of young people (exchange of school-children) under the Franco-German youth exchange scheme

School-leavers' study visit to Strasbourg and surroundings

Summer-holiday language-course for French children

Meeting of young Germans and Italians

Exploring in Norway

Youth exchange with families providing hospitality under the pairing arrangement between Würzburg (Germany) and Dundee (Scotland)

"Riverboat shuffle" on the Main for young visitors from abroad and their Würzburg host families

1971 European Youth Rally

Participants from:

Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Austria and Czechoslovakia

Youth meeting under the Franco-German exchange scheme

Working holiday and youth meeting under the pairing arrangement between Würzburg (Germany) and Caen (France)

Youth meeting and study visit in connection with the future bilateral agreement for the promotion of youth exchanges with Rumania.

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BOCHOLT {North Rhine - Westphalia)
(Federal Republic of Germany)

- Report on European activities since 1969

1. "Italian Week" from 9 to 18 May 1969

Events: "Ravenna mosaics" exhibition

"Italian market" with Italian folklore

Italo-German festival

Also Italo-German church services, children's party, open-air music and dancing, receptions, lectures, sports and musical events

Special edition of "Unser Bocholt" prepared by Italians

Participants: Representatives of the municipality of Bocholt, aliens' associations, Italian Embassy and cultural attaché

2. EUROPA-UNION - Bocholt Section

"Anholt Talks" on 27 and 28 May 1970

Participants: Representatives of frontier regions: Regio Basiliensis, Saar/Mosel, EUREGIO, Aachen-Liège-Maastricht, Middle Alsace/Breisgau, representatives of chambers of industry and commerce of these regions,

Chairman of the Europa-Union, Alfred Mozer, Prof. P. Romus, Dr. Carl Mommer.

Content: Lectures and discussions on the importance of co-operation in frontier regions and reports on experience and achievements.

The "Anholt talks" led to the appointment of a preparatory committee to pave the way for a standing committee ("Arbeitsgemeinschaft der europäischen Grenzregionen" - Conference of European frontier regions). The Standing Committee has now been set up, with representatives of 23 European frontier regions.

3. The frontier - dividing line or meeting point? -
19 and 20 August 1970

Ministerial meeting between Mrs. Strobelt, Germany and Mrs. Klompé, Netherlands, in Wasserburg Anholt.

This meeting was marked by the presentation of the report "The frontier - dividing line or meeting point?", a survey conducted by nine municipalities in the German-Netherlands frontier region.

The meeting was organised by the Federal Ministry of Health and Youth and Family Affairs on the initiative of the Municipality of Bocholt.

Participants: Government and local authority representatives and promoters of the European idea from many municipalities of the Netherlands and Germany.

4. Euregio Working Party

Working Party consisting of mayors and senior municipal officials from the Euregio region.

This body meets at regular intervals to discuss structural questions, especially those arising in the Euregio area.

5. Europa-Institute

This institute has its headquarters in Bocholt (93 beds, and rooms for meetings, discussions, etc.).

The institute promotes political education and propagation of the European idea; it organises meetings, seminars and exchanges of young people.

6. Other action

Relations with paired towns

Rawtenstall - England

In 1969, 1970 and 1971 - friendship visits and exchanges of schoolchildren and young people. An official delegation from the paired town of Rawtenstall will be visiting Bocholt in May 1972 for the town's 750th anniversary celebrations.

Enschede - Netherlands

Close co-operation in past years in matters of municipal policy, mutual cultural activities, etc.

Aalten and Gendringen - Netherlands

Friendship visits exchanged in 1969 and 1970.

Bocholt - Belgium

Visits and exchanges of views, visits exchanged at municipal level and by clubs and associations from the two towns.

Bocholt is now trying to arrange a pairing with a French town. This is likely to be achieved by the beginning of the town's 750th anniversary celebrations in 1972.

Dutch courses

To bring about better understanding in the frontier region, the municipality of Bocholt has introduced a beginners' course in the Dutch language for employees, most of whom attend very regularly.

The Dutch language in schools

It is planned to introduce Dutch language lessons, in local schools shortly. Dutch is already an optional subject.

Europa-Institute

Since June 1971 work on the new Europa Institute in Bocholt has been in full swing. When completed on 1 October 1972, the house (90 beds) will be a centre for (international) European meetings and will mainly concentrate on teaching civics with a European slant. In addition to providing the land, Bocholt invested about three-quarters of a million DM in the project.

European sculpture

In September 1971 the town organised a competition for designs for a European Sculpture. The jury met subsequently and awarded the first prize to the Düsseldorf sculptor Friederich Werthmann. The Town Council decided to adopt Werthmann's idea for a European fountain in the shape of the world as a flat disc with a globe encircled by the sun. This work will probably be completed in May 1972. Total cost: about 100,000 DM.

European conversations in Anholt

The second Anholt discussion meeting took place in June 1971 at Anholt/Bocholt castle. The aim of the Conference, in which representatives from 23 frontier areas took part, was only partially achieved. Nevertheless a "permanent European Conference of frontier areas" was set up and began work. It was decided to continue the Anholt conversations. The European Union has agreed that Bocholt should be responsible for the organisation of the event and make a substantial financial contribution.

Transfrontier contacts

In recent months there have been a number of visits and return visits in connection with transfrontier and regional policy questions: visits from Enschede (Netherlands), Belgian-Bocholt and Rawstenstall (UK) in Bocholt. Official delegations from Bocholt visited Gendringen and Aalten (Netherlands) and the English paired town. An official town-pairing agreement with a French town will shortly be concluded. Last year there were once again a large number of exchanges between young people in large and small groups (in all 13 meetings).

Exchange visits between adults were also stepped up (9 meetings). Further meetings are planned for 1972 and will mainly be financed out of municipal funds.

"European Municipality"

The German European Union is shortly to award Bocholt the title of "European municipality" for its outstanding services to the European movement and transfrontier co-operation. The handing over and erecting of the signboards is to take place in June 1972.

Celebrations to mark the 750th anniversary of the town of Bocholt

Arrangements for Bocholt's anniversary are all being made under the slogan "The town with a European vocation". In particular, a number of European events are planned for the main festivities lasting from 2 - 12 June 1971:

European migrant workers' Conference

(Attempt to set up a permanent conference)

European Folklore

European sports event
(including a European sport press festival)

European Music and Song Day, etc.

Invitations have already been accepted. Plans are practically complete.

Exhibitions

A number of art exhibitions with a European slant were organised last year. This year the programme also includes numerous European exhibitions. At present there is an EEC Information Exhibition entitled "Europe belongs to us all". It was organised by the European Action Committee and the town gave financial support and helped to organise it. A competition for school children has also been arranged in that connection.

Final comments

The various events arranged and measures adopted by Bocholt show that the town's efforts in favour of European integration have been extremely successful. Various official bodies (the Government of the Land, the Church, the regional associations, etc.) have recognised and praised the various steps taken by Bocholt to break down frontiers and build up international relationships between human beings. Bocholt is both ready and determined to pursue this course.

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FELDBACH (Styrie - Austria)

- Report on European activities in 1971

Reference to your letter of 22.7.1971, we should be very grateful if the Council of Europe would award the Europe flag to the town of Feldbach in 1972. Last year the Feldbach municipal authorities once again organised a series of European events and thus proved that we are constantly working for the European idea.

The following events are worthy of special mention.

(1) European schools competition 1971

Many pupils from the boys' secondary school and primary school took part in the European school competition. At a small ceremony on 10.3.1971, the Mayor Karl Deutschmann, awarded a total of 13 prizes to pupils who had produced the best work (see also the "Feldbacher Gemeindebrief" No. 3 page 4).

(2) The Feldbach European discussions on 28.4.1971

Many prominent people from all Austria took part in these discussions. Further details can be obtained from the invitation and the report in the "Feldbacher Gemeindebrief" No. 4 page 3.

(3) On 17.5 the Chairman (Bundesobmann) Max Wratschgo gave a lecture to the soldiers in the Feldbach barracks on the need for European integration. It was followed by a showing of the film "Europe - a continent without frontiers"

(4) At the Europe meeting on 16.5.1971 in Radkersburg, at which a Communist country (Yugoslavia) took part for the first time in free Europe in Europe Day, a folk dance group from the Feldbach and many members of the European Federalist Movement and the European Youth Federation together with local Feldbach associations played an active part.

(5) 26-28.5.1971 Friendship Caravan

(For further details see the "Feldbacher Gemeindebrief" No. 4, page 6).

During that period 1,400 Feldbach school children and young people visited Varazdin. This was a return visit within the framework of the "Friendship Caravan" during which 8,000 young people from Varazdin visited Feldbach.

(6) Berlin children action

Within the framework of the "Berlin children" action a total of 107 children and 596 adults from Berlin spent 4 weeks as guests in the Feldbach district.

(7) The 3rd Feldbach International Hiking days (Gemeindebrief No. 5, page 4)

- (8) Large demonstration organised by the European Federalist Movement and the European Youth Federation in the packed Trades Hall at Feldbach on 3.12.1971 (programme enclosed).
- (9) European Economic Seminar organised on 11 and 12.12.1971 by the Federation of European Youth (see enclosure).
- (10) On Europe Day the public buildings in Feldbach were bedecked with Europe flags and numerous posters issued by the Austrian Council for the European Movement were displayed.

The Feldbach local authorities also gave energetic support in 1971 to events arranged by the European Federalist Movement and the European Youth Federation. Both organisations also received subsidies in 1971.

The Mayor

(Karl Deutschmann)