

# COUNCIL OF EUROPE —————

# CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

CONFIDENTIAL

Strasbourg 1 February 1980

AS/Loc/Prix (31) 45

## PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



PACCOM055676

### COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL PLANNING AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

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

#### EUROPE PRIZE

Additional information relating to the  
application of BIETIGHEIM-BISSINGEN  
(Baden Württemberg), Federal Republic of Germany

- Letter from the Mayor

/see also AS/Loc/Prix (27) 11  
AS/Loc/Prix (28) 33  
AS/Loc/Prix (29) 12  
AS/Loc/Prix (30) 147

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Many thanks for your letter of 5 April 1979. We have pleasure in taking up your reminder and applying again for the Europe Prize.

Having submitted a detail report on our town twinning activities every year since our formal application on 20 November 1975, I now enclose a list of the events of 1979 to bring your documents up to date.

The high point was of course the award and presentation of the Council of Europe Flag of Honour by Senator Louis Jung, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Regional Planning and Local Authorities of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Our town's long years of work to promote the European idea were well rewarded at the ceremony in the "Kronenzentrum" on 27 May 1979, a ceremony involving the whole population and young people in particular. Numerous guests of honour from abroad and at home presented their congratulations. Senator Louis Jung won great applause for his very impressive speech enlivened with personal reminiscences. A particular stroke of good fortune was the presence of Minister President Lothar Späth, who as one of the founders of our town partnerships referred to the need for European unity and the importance of town twinning as a practical means to this end. Music was provided by the youth wind orchestra (part of the town orchestra) which gave a series of very successful guest concerts during a tour of the United States last year. The tremendous success of the award ceremony was further enhanced by the contributions of the town's choral societies of songs related to the theme of the day.

In addition to the award of the Council of Europe Flag of Honour, numerous meetings in all the twin towns took place again in 1979, encouraging mutual understanding and friendship in the sense of the obligations laid down in the twinning documents.

The following should be mentioned in particular:

a. In Sucy-en-Brie

1-4 June 1979

Visit of the TSV table tennis section with a programme of sporting events

1-4 June 1979

Ladies' club return visit

8-10 June 1979

First visit of municipal staff from Bietigheim-Bissingen.  
Reception and accommodation by counterparts in Sucy-en-Brie.

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27-30 October 1979

Return visit and production of gala dance evening by the Gymnastikverein Bietigheim-Ludwigsburg e.V. (gymnastics club)

23-25 November 1979

Information visit and discussion of town twinning activities for 1980 in Sucy-en-Brie

b. In Bietigheim-Bissingen

10 May 1979

Discussions to determine partnership programme for 1979

24-27 May 1979

Return visit of adult education German class from Sucy to Bietigheim-Bissingen

2-4 June 1979

Sucy Football Club visits FSV 08 Bissingen with four teams (friendly tournament)

8-10 June 1979

Further visit of group of pensioners from Sucy-en-Brie

9-10 June 1979

Participation by "Stella" majorettes from Remiremont in Bissingen "Holzklobenfest"

11-20 June 1979

Visit of pupils of class 8 S of the CES du Fort to the Ellentalgymnasium, including attendance of classes

2-4 September 1979

Visit of French guests from Sucy-en-Brie to the Bietigheim Horse Fair

20-21 October 1979

Sucy Red Cross visits DRK (German Red Cross) Bietigheim branch. Also visits regional headquarters of DRK in Stuttgart.

1-2 December 1979

First meeting between RC 94 (Rabo-Club Sucy-en-Brie) and Modellsportverein Bietigheim-Bissingen e.V.

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Town twinning activities with Surrey Heatha. In Surrey Heath

20-23 April 1979

10th anniversary celebrations of twinning between  
Sucey-en-Brie and Surrey Heath attended by a delegation  
from Bietigheim-Bissingen

End of October/beginning of November 1979

Visit of pupils of Ellentalgymnasium (classes 10 and 11)  
to Tommlinscote School, Camberley (Surrey Heath) including  
attendance at classes.

b. In Bietigheim-Bissingen

16-22 April 1979

German class from Surrey Heath visits Schiller Volkshochschule  
in Bietigheim-Bissingen

25-28 May 1979

First FC Camberley (Surrey Heath) visits SV Germania Bietigheim  
for sports events

6-10 August 1979

Visit of Surrey Heath scouts to DPSG scouts in Bietigheim-  
Bissingen after camping together in Langenburg/Hohenlohe.

The friendly links with the upper Italian town of Pontelongo  
in the district of Padua were continued. The Bietigheim  
"Kolpingsfamilie" (a Catholic organisation) visited the town  
for the fourth time at Whitsun. These links have made Pontelongo  
the first Italian town outside the South Tyrol to have a branch  
of the "Kolpingsfamilie", putting the mutual friendship onto an  
organised basis and laying a promising foundation for future  
co-operation.

At the working discussions last November mentioned under  
meetings in Sucey-en-Brie it was clear that the town partnerships  
would continue in 1980 to the same extent. It would also be  
possible to develop completely new forms of contact, thus extending  
the range of citizens involved in exchange visits. The results  
of the discussions, which were also attended by the representatives  
of the twin town of Surrey Heath, leads us to hope that the very  
good mutual links on all levels will again be as lively and where  
possible will even be extended.

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Further details about individual exchanges in the past year can be obtained from the enclosed press reports. In addition to the visits listed, once again many informal friendships were founded or continued. In both towns, arrangements were also made for schoolchildren to stay with families. The courses given at the local Schiller-Volkshochschule, in addition to the general educational programme, are also quite deliberately designed to further active relationships between the twin towns and to promote the idea of European unity. In addition to 54 English courses and 34 French courses at all levels - from beginners to conservation classes - we can also offer pupils five Italian and seven Spanish courses. It is very significant, both for improving knowledge of the language and for strengthening links between the towns, that there are both personal and group contacts with German classes in Sucy-en-Brie and Surrey Heath.

Other events aimed at furthering the idea of European unity included talks on Scandinavia, London, Upper Austria, the Georges Pompidou Centre in Paris and the series of talks on "French landscapes and the French" by M Poupet of the Institut Français in Stuttgart as well as study tours to Scandinavia, Zurich, Austria and Hungary.

In this context, mention should also be made of the many ways in which the town authorities in Bietigheim-Bissingen are working to integrate or help the approximately 6,000 foreign inhabitants of the town (18% of the total population). The municipal authorities have presented a detailed report to the town council on the foreigners living in Bietigheim-Bissingen and their problems, which will form the basis for concrete measures in the future. Among other things, the town will launch a pilot scheme for Baden-Württemberg under the title "Foreigners in our midst" in close co-operation with the Bad Boll Academy. This project will last for several years and provide basic information on improving possibilities for better integration.

May I conclude by saying that in 1979 our town continued to make an exemplary contribution to the furtherance of the idea of European unity in 1979. The citizens of our town and our partner towns would be overjoyed, were their European activities to receive international recognition through the award of the Europe Prize. I am certain that we have fully satisfied the criteria laid down in the regulations and further provisions for the Europe Prize. I am therefore confident of a positive response to our application.

/signed: Manfred List/

Enclosed: Folder of photocopies of press reports and descriptions of our activities in relation to town twinning.