

APPENDIX VIII
(item 9)

Procedure for granting public access to
Council of Europe official documents

1. Documents relating to the creation of the Council of Europe and those of the Committee of Ministers and of its subsidiary committees and of the Secretariat held in the archives of the Council of Europe shall be open to public access after a period of 30 years. However, this rule shall not apply to:

a. documents on which an embargo for a period exceeding 30 years has been imposed by the Committee of Ministers or the Secretary General or requested by the government of a member State through its Permanent Delegation to the Council of Europe. Such requests can be made at any time;

b. documents contained in the personal files of staff members and former staff members and in the files of the Recruitment and Promotions Panels, the disclosure of which would affect the respect for private life as protected by the European Convention on Human Rights and the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data. The other documents contained in these files can be made public after a period of 70 years from the date of the last document in the file.

An embargo imposed under (a) shall be reviewed every five years.

2. In the year before the period of 30 years is completed, the Secretary General shall bring to the attention of the Committee of Ministers information concerning the categories of documents to be opened to public access.

3. This procedure shall come into force on 1 January 1982.