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Activities of the Council of Europe

1997 report



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I. The Council of Europe in 1997

A wealth of events took place in 1997 which strengthened the Council of Europe's role in promoting pluralism, the rule of law and respect for human rights as basic conditions for democratic stability. The highlight of the year was the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, held in Strasbourg on 10 and 11 October.

Second summit

The second summit brought confirmation of the new-found unity of our continent and set the seal on the rapid transition to democracy that has taken place with remarkable success in a large part of central and eastern Europe. It also outlined the new agenda for pan-European co-operation.

The summit – the second since the Organisation was founded forty-eight years ago – was attended by the heads of state and government of the forty member states of the Council of Europe, as well as the leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia. Canada, Japan, the United States, the Holy See, the European Union and the OSCE were also represented.

The heads of state and government adopted a Final Declaration setting out the Organisation's tasks in the light of the challenges facing Europe at the dawn of the twenty-first century. In that declaration the heads of state and government asserted their commitment to promoting human rights and strengthening pluralist democracy as contributory factors to stability in Europe, and acknowledged that social cohesion is one of the foremost needs of the wider Europe and must be pursued as an essential complement to the promotion of human rights and human dignity.

They shared the concern of individuals about the new scale of threats to their security and the dangers which these threats pose to democracy, and stated their awareness of the educational and cultural dimension of the main challenges facing Europe in the future, and of the essential role of culture and education in strengthening mutual understanding and confidence between peoples.

The heads of state and government also adopted an Action Plan based on four main themes:

- Democracy and human rights,
- Social cohesion,
- Security of citizens,
- Democratic values and cultural diversity.

Among the practical measures proposed, the heads of state and government welcomed the proposal to institute a human rights commissioner to promote respect for human rights in the member states. They also resolved to ensure that the commitments accepted by the member states are effectively honoured, and reiterated their determination to work together to solve the problems some member states might have to face and to provide practical Council of Europe assistance where necessary.

With regard to social cohesion, the heads of state and government undertook, *inter alia*, to promote the social standards deriving from the Social Charter and other Council of Europe instruments, and decided to boost the activities of the Social Development Fund. In order to improve public security, the Action Plan calls for the adoption of further measures to prevent terrorism, step up the fight against corruption, organised crime and drug abuse, and protect children. Finally, the plan envisages several activities to promote democratic values and cultural diversity, in particular through education for democratic citizenship, the enhancement of the European heritage and the pursuit of a European policy on the application of the new information technologies.

For the purpose of adapting the Organisation to its new tasks and its enlarged membership, the heads of state and government instructed the Committee of Ministers to carry out the structural reforms required. Subsequently, at its 101st Session on 6 November 1997, the Committee of Ministers set up a Committee of Wise Persons charged with making proposals to adapt the Organisation to its new tasks and its enlarged membership – taking account of its role and its specific contribution to European construction – and improve its decision-making process. The Committee of Wise Persons is chaired by Mr Mario Soares, former President of Portugal.

The second summit also provided an opportunity to assess progress made in implementing the Vienna Declaration adopted at the First Council of Europe Summit in 1993.

Human rights

One of the most important results of the action taken on the Vienna Declaration is the completion of the ratification procedure for Protocol No. 11 to the European Convention on Human Rights, which provides for the setting up of the single Court to replace the existing Commission and Court. Following its ratification, in 1997, by all the member states of the Council of Europe, the Court will come into operation on 3 November 1998 and will have jurisdiction to deal with all cases; the individual petition procedure will become compulsory for all member states. The purpose of this reform is to rationalise the existing machinery, streamline procedures and maintain the present high standard of human rights protection. The Committee of Ministers will no longer have jurisdiction to rule on the merits, but will

continue to play an important role in supervising the execution of the Court's judgments so as to ensure that the states act to compensate applicants and avoid further violations.

Considerable progress has been made in fulfilling the mandate given to the Council of Europe by the Vienna Summit with regard to the protection of national minorities. In 1997, thirty-six member states signed the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and twenty have ratified it. It came into force on 1 February 1998.

Progress was also made in 1997 in the procedure for ratifying the Council of Europe's Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. This text came into force in eight member states on 1 April 1998.

1997 witnessed the opening of the Council of Europe's human rights site on the Internet which provides information on the European Court and Commission of Human Rights, the Committee for the Prevention of Torture, and the Council of Europe's human rights activities in general. Since its launch in 1997 this site has grown rapidly and has become an indispensable source of information for journalists, researchers and legal experts.

Monitoring

Monitoring the commitments entered into by the member states when joining the Organisation has become an essential task of both the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly. In 1997 the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly continued to monitor the honouring of member states' commitments through the established machinery, in order to ensure that the Council of Europe's standards and conventions are fully implemented, where appropriate through co-operation programmes for the consolidation of democracy in Europe.

In April 1997 the Parliamentary Assembly greatly strengthened the procedure for monitoring the obligations and commitments entered into by all the member states, by setting up a "Monitoring Committee". This committee ensures that member states comply with the Organisation's Statute and with any conventions to which they are parties, as well as honouring the commitments entered into at the time of accession. In cases of persistent failure to honour the obligations and commitments entered into, or of failure to co-operate in the monitoring process, the Assembly may refuse to ratify the credentials of a national parliamentary delegation or may annul its credentials. If the member state in question continues not to honour its commitments, the Assembly may send a recommendation to the Committee of Ministers asking it to expel that state from the Organisation.

New conventions

Four important legal instruments of the Council of Europe were adopted in 1997. At the Diplomatic Conference held in Lisbon from 8 to 11 April 1997, the joint Council of Europe/Unesco European Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region was adopted and opened for signature. It is the first convention to be drawn up and sponsored jointly by the Council of Europe and Unesco. It will gradually replace various international texts drawn up by the two organisations separately. The purpose of the convention is to facilitate the recognition of qualifications obtained by a student in one country when he/she moves to another country. It is designed to harmonise the European legal framework, and replaces and updates six conventions already in force in this field.

Another major event was the opening for signature of the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, on 4 April 1997 in Oviedo (Spain). It was signed by twenty-one member states. The aim of this convention is to lay down general principles and rules for the protection of human beings with regard to the application of biology and medicine. In November 1997 a protocol prohibiting the cloning of human beings was added to the convention. Other protocols concerning organ transplants, the protection of the human embryo and foetus, biomedical research and human genetics are currently in preparation.

On 14 May 1997 the Committee of Ministers adopted the European Convention on Nationality. This convention, which was opened for signature on 6 November 1997, has the merit of dealing with all the problems of nationality in a single text, and should be considered as a veritable European nationality code. Some of the fundamental principles underlying this text are the need to avoid statelessness, non-discrimination and respect for the rights of those who habitually reside on a territory.

Co-operation and assistance

In 1997, co-operation activities with central and east European countries involved all the countries in transition to democracy which have become members of the Council of Europe since 1989, and the applicant countries that have special guest status with the Parliamentary Assembly (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia). The Caucasian countries are the latest to benefit from these programmes. In 1997 an increasing number of activities were organised as part of the joint programmes between the European Commission and the Council of Europe (for Albania, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine). Two joint multilateral programmes (for the protection of national minorities and against corruption and organised crime) were also completed in 1997.

With regard to the crisis in Albania, the Council of Europe reaffirmed its commitment to helping this member state. In response to the grave threats to democracy and stability in Albania, the Council of Europe demonstrated its willingness to provide practical assistance, in co-operation with the OSCE and the European Union, in re-establishing democracy – including the preparation and monitoring of elections – and the rule of law. The Council of Europe also stepped up its contribution to the efforts of the international community to promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which has applied for membership of the Organisation. The Council

of Europe is represented in both Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Two new Council of Europe documentation and information centres were opened in 1997, in Moldova and Slovenia. There are now fourteen of these centres in the central and east European countries which have joined the Council of Europe since 1989.

Co-operation with other institutions

In 1997, significant progress continued to be made in relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union. Two quadripartite meetings were held in April and September, bringing together the Chair of the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the one hand and the Presidents of the Council of the European Union and the Commission on the other. These meetings provided an opportunity to examine progress to date on the Intergovernmental Conference and preparations for the Second Council of Europe Summit, and to improve co-ordination of action on the situation in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Belarus. These two meetings also afforded an opportunity to step up co-operation on assistance to the central and east European countries under the joint co-operation programmes.

The Council of Europe and the European Union were also actively engaged in a co-operation agreement between the Council and the Observatory on Racism and Xenophobia, scheduled to take effect in 1998.

Further progress was also made in 1997 in Council of Europe/OSCE co-operation. The annual high-level "2+2" meeting between the Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the Chair of the Council of Ministers of the OSCE and the Secretaries General of the two organisations was held in February 1997 in Oslo. Co-operation was pursued mainly with regard to joint activities in Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina. A "targeted meeting" on the Caucasus between Council of Europe, OSCE, United Nations and European Union representatives took place in Vienna in November 1997.

Youth

1997 was also the year in which the European Youth Centre and the European Youth Foundation celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversaries. This was an opportunity to highlight the Council of Europe's expanding involvement in the youth field, based on the principles of democracy, tolerance and solidarity. The aim of this work is to encourage and prepare young people to play an active role in social life, at both regional and international level, in order to compare ideas, help society to progress and promote intercultural dialogue and learning. In 1997 the second European Youth Centre, in Budapest, became fully operational and organised a large number of activities in young people's main spheres of interest. The study sessions at the two centres enabled over 1 500 youth leaders to participate, either in Strasbourg or Budapest, in discussions concerning the role of their organisations in building Europe.

Although preparing the summit was the highlight of the year, the Council of Europe continued its many activities in 1997 in the priority areas of democracy, human rights, social protection, health, education, culture, legal co-operation, protection of the environment and co-operation between local and regional authorities. These activities are described in greater detail in the following chapters. ■

II. Committee of Ministers

1. 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 10-11 October 1997)

1997 was marked by a series of top-level political meetings, each of which represented a major advance in the gradual construction of the new European architecture:

– the OSCE Summit in Lisbon on 2 and 3 December 1996,

– the European Council in Amsterdam on 15 and 16 June,

– the Nato Summit in Madrid on 7 and 8 July 1997,

– the two European Councils in Luxembourg (21 November and 12 and 13 December 1997).

The Council of Europe took its share in this series of European summit meetings by organising, following an initiative by the Parliamentary Assembly, its 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government, held on 10 and 11 October 1997 in Strasbourg at the invitation of the President of the French Republic.

After the Vienna Summit (8-9 October 1993), which confirmed the Council of Europe's role as "the pre-eminent European political institution capable of welcoming, on an equal footing and in permanent structures, the democracies of Europe freed from communist oppression", the Strasbourg Summit marked, eight years after the fall of the Berlin Wall and fifty years after the division of Europe into two blocs, the continent's recovered unity, bringing together forty-six heads of state and government representing nearly all the states of Europe.

In adopting the Final Declaration, the heads of state and government:

– solemnly founded that European unity on the fundamental principles of the Council of Europe – pluralist democracy, respect for human rights, the rule of law – and reaffirmed their determination to ensure that all member states of the Council complied fully with the requirements and responsibilities of membership;

– gave the Council of Europe their full support, with a view to intensifying its contribution to cohesion, stability and security in Europe, and stressed the importance of developing its co-operation with other European and transatlantic organisations, particularly the European Union and the OSCE.

Supplementing this Final Declaration with an Action Plan, the heads of state and government defined four priority fields of action for the Council of Europe – democracy and human rights, social cohesion, citizen security, democratic values and cultural diversity – and launched a process for structural reform of the Organisation, looking ahead to its fiftieth anniversary in 1999.

Preparation and follow-up to the summit

At their 581st meeting, in January, the Deputies took note of the information given by the French Permanent Representative concerning the date and place proposed by the French authorities for the holding of the second summit and the material aspects of the summit's preparation. At the same meeting, they adopted a reply to Assembly Recommendation 1303 (1996) on this subject.

The *Ad hoc* Working Party to prepare the Second Summit held its first meeting on 15 April. As a result of the meetings of the *ad hoc* working party (including a joint meeting with the Bureau and *ad hoc* committee of the Assembly in St Petersburg on 9 June 1997, addressed by Mr Igor Ivanov, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation), the Deputies, at their 595th and 596th meetings, in June, agreed on the guests and speakers to be invited to the summit.

The *ad hoc* working party continued its work (including a joint meeting with the Bureau of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe on 3 July 1997) until October, when, at their 604th meeting, the Deputies adopted the draft Final Declaration and Action Plan for the attention of the heads of state and government.

The Ministers having decided to keep follow-up to the summit on the agenda for their forthcoming sessions, the Deputies, at their 608th meeting, in November, created a "Follow-up Committee on the Second Summit (GT-SUIVI)" which held three meetings, resulting notably in the adoption by the Deputies, at their 613th meeting, in December, of terms of reference for the Committee of Wise Persons, whose composition and chairman (Mario Soares, former President of the Republic of Portugal) were confirmed at the same meeting. ■

2. Sessions of the Committee of Ministers

100th Session of the Committee of Ministers (Strasbourg, 5-6 May 1997)

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe held its 100th Session[1] on 5 and 6 May, with Mrs Tarja Halonen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, in the Chair.

The formal ministerial session was preceded on 5 May by an informal session, restricted to participants of ministerial rank and devoted to the situation in Albania, introduced by Mr Franz Vranitzky, the former Austrian Chancellor, the Personal Representative to Albania of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE.

At the formal session on 6 May, the Ministers held an in-depth exchange of views on the general outline and aims of the second Council of Europe summit. The discussion was introduced by a presentation by the then Minister for Foreign Affairs of France, Mr Hervé de Charette, representing the country chairing the summit.

The Ministers indicated that they expected the summit to be action-oriented. They agreed that the event should give a clear profile to the specific contribution of the enlarged Council of Europe in the reconstitution of the unity of the continent, as well as its role in the European institutional framework. The Strasbourg Summit should mark new developments in this direction, making it possible to take full advantage of the decisions taken since the Vienna Summit concerning the enlargement of the Council of Europe, and in so doing launch the preparation of the 50th anniversary of the Organisation in 1999.

The Ministers stressed the importance of the future single court as a fundamental instrument in protecting and promoting human rights in Europe in this regard. They urged the parliaments of the states that had not yet done so, to complete the process of ratification of Protocol No. 11 before the summit.

The Ministers also reaffirmed their determination to ensure compliance with commitments accepted, and to reach concrete results through their monitoring.

Concerning the crisis in Albania, the Ministers reaffirmed their solidarity with this member state. They expressed their appreciation for the rapid deployment of a multinational European protection force. They confirmed the readiness of the Council of Europe to contribute actively to the restoration of democracy, including preparation and observation of elections, and the rule of law. In their view, the Council of Europe's contribution should be made in co-operation with the European Union and the OSCE and within the co-ordinating framework provided by the latter.

The Ministers also expressed their determination to continue and intensify the Council of Europe's contribution to the efforts of the international community to promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a candidate for membership of the Organisation.

101st Session of the Committee of Ministers (Strasbourg, 5-6 November 1997)

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe held its 101st Session on 6 November 1997, under the chairmanship of Mr Pierre Moscovici, Minister responsible for European Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (France).

The Ministers held an exchange of views on the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, and drew the main conclusions.

They concentrated on the decisions taken by the summit, contained in the Final Declaration and Action Plan.

In conformity with the tasks entrusted to them by the heads of state and government concerning the Action Plan, the Ministers adopted:

– an additional Protocol to the Oviedo Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine prohibiting the cloning of human beings, opened for signature on 12 January 1998 in Paris;

– the guiding principles to be applied in national legislations for the fight against corruption.

The Ministers gave policy guidelines to their Deputies on each of the summit's main themes: democracy and human rights, social cohesion, security of citizens, democratic values and cultural diversity. They also gave policy guidelines to their Deputies concerning structural reforms for the Council of Europe and decided to create for this purpose a Committee of Wise Persons, with limited membership, which should report to their 103rd Session (November 1998).

At an informal meeting on 5 November, the Ministers discussed national minority questions, on the basis of a presentation by Mr Max van der Stoel, High Commissioner on national minorities of the OSCE, and on 6 November, following the close of the 101st Session, Minister of State Helmut Schäfer presented to the Deputies the programme of the German chairmanship in the course of an exchange of views. ■

1. The book *The Committee of Ministers: 100 Sessions* was published to mark the occasion.

3. Relations with the European Union

On 28 April, the 9th informal quadripartite meeting took place in Luxembourg. It was attended, on the Council of Europe side, by Mrs Tarja Halonen, Chairman of the Committee of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, and the Secretary General, and on the European Union side, Mr Hans van Mierlo, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and President of the Council of the European Union, and Mr Jacques Santer, President, and Mr Hans van den Broek, member of the European Commission.

The following questions were discussed:

– Intergovernmental Conference – state of progress;

– Preparation of the second Council of Europe summit;

– Assistance to the countries of central and eastern Europe;

– Other subjects of major interest:

- racism and xenophobia,
- compliance with commitments,
- culture and education,
- justice and home affairs,
- Barcelona process,
- assistance for democratisation in the former Yugoslavia and independent media,
- Albania,
- Belarus,
- public health.

The Deputies, at their 593rd meeting, in May, welcomed the positive results of the 9th quadripartite meeting, as well as the tendency for such meetings to be held on a twice-yearly basis.

At their 596th meeting, in June, the Deputies adopted a reply to Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1299 (1996) on European cultural co-operation: activities of the European Union and relations with the Council of Europe.

At their 600th meeting, the Deputies took note of the draft agenda proposed by their Rapporteur Group on Relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union (GR-EU) for the 10th quadripartite meeting (Brussels, 15 September 1997):

– preparation of the second summit of the Council of Europe: presentation of the themes and organisation of the summit and consideration of the follow-up to the summit, in particular as regards:

- the contribution of the European Union to the implementation of some of the decisions on the action plan (social aspects, employment, protection of youth against drug addiction, assistance for democratisation);
- reinforcement of co-ordination as regards crises (for example, in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, handling of the Belarus file);

– strengthening co-operation as regards assistance to countries of central and eastern Europe, in the light of existing joint co-operation programmes;

– co-operation in the fight against racism, xenophobia and intolerance: reflection on the aims and modalities of the nascent co-operation between ECRI and the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia.

At their 601st meeting the Deputies took note of the press release issued at the close of the 10th quadripartite meeting.

They also gave the Secretariat a mandate to open negotiations with the European Commission on the draft agreement with the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia.

At their 613th meeting, in December, the Deputies marked their agreement with elements of the draft agreement on co-operation between the European Union's Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia and the Council of Europe and instructed the Secretariat to convey their agreement to the Commission of the European Communities and to continue to work for the conclusion of a formal agreement at the earliest possible date. ■

4. Relations with the OSCE

At their 581st meeting, in January, the Deputies took note of the results of the OSCE's Summit (Lisbon, 2 and 3 December 1996) and invited their Rapporteur Group on Relations between the Council of Europe and the OSCE to continue to follow the relevant aspects of its follow-up, and particularly the aspect calling for co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE, such as the proposed nomination of an OSCE representative for the freedom of the media.

The Chairman-in-Office of the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General were accompanied, at the 4th informal high-level ("2+2") meeting, held in Oslo on 4 February, by the Chairman of the Deputies and the Chairman of the Rapporteur Group on Relations between the Council of Europe and the OSCE. The discussion on Bosnia and Herzegovina led to the two Chairmen-in-Office issuing a new joint appeal for voluntary contributions for the Human Rights Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At their 601st meeting, the Deputies:

– noted with satisfaction the holding on 8 September 1997 of an exchange of views between the Rapporteur Group on the OSCE

and Ambassador Stoudmann, Director of ODIHR (Warsaw);

– gave their support to the efforts of the Secretariat, in contact with the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office, to ensure that the mandate of the future OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media would not duplicate the activities of existing organisations and bodies;

– approved the Secretariat proposals for the organisation, jointly with the OSCE, of a second regional seminar on: "How can education strengthen civil society?" (Bucharest, 2-4 December 1997);

– decided, in the interests of enhancing the exchange of information with the OSCE, to authorise the Secretary General to give the heads of OSCE institutions a password for accessing the Committee of Ministers' non-public site, and to encourage delegations to communicate their Internet password to colleagues in capitals in charge of OSCE affairs and to delegations in Vienna. ■

5. Relations with the United Nations

At the Deputies' 584th meeting, in February, the traditional annual informal exchange of views on questions relating to human rights with the participation of experts from capitals took place.

Subsequently, at the 586th meeting, in March, an exchange of views took place with Mrs Elisabeth Rehn, Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights for the former Yugoslavia. ■

6. Relations with central and eastern European states

To mark a new emphasis, and evolution in the activities concerned, the Deputies, in the context of the budget (611th meeting, in December) adopted a new title for Vote IX co-operation activities: "Activities for the consolidation of democratic stability (ADACS)", opened to all Council of Europe member states and applicant countries.

Albania

At their 586th meeting, in March, the Deputies, in addition to adopting an interim reply to Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1316 (1997) on the state of emergency in Albania, authorised the Secretary General to pursue his discussions with the OSCE and the European Union, with a view to defining the objectives, modalities and content of a pluri-institutional mission to Tirana and to preparing for an appropriate Council of Europe contribution in terms of expertise, concerning in particular elections, the media, the new constitution, justice and law enforcement and the fight against organised crime, corruption and money-laundering, making use of resources available in the budget and voluntary contributions, as well as in the joint Council of Europe/European Union programme for Albania.

The Deputies, in line with the solidarity expressed in the final communiqué of the 100th ministerial meeting, kept the situation under constant review, confirming (at their 595th meeting) the high priority they attach to the implementation of the Council of Europe contribution to the multi-institutional action to help Albania overcome the present political crisis, in particular for the preparations and observation of the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

At their 596th meeting, in June, the Deputies invited their chairman, together with the Secretary General, to issue an appeal expressing the support of the Council of Europe in favour of the elections and democratic reconstruction in Albania.

At their 600th meeting, in September, the Deputies authorised the Secretariat – within the limits of available resources – to implement a number of co-operation activities with Albania for the post-election period and instructed the Secretariat to inform the special representative of the chairman of the OSCE of its activities.

At their 609th *bis* meeting, in November, the Deputies authorised the visit to Tirana (at a date early in 1998) by their Chairman, the Chairman of the GREL and the Secretariat to examine with the competent Albanian authorities and the representatives of the international community in Tirana, the various aspects of the planning, implementation and evaluation of the Council of Europe co-operation programmes with Albania.

Belarus

At their 581st meeting, in January, the Deputies noted that the Secretary General would issue a declaration expressing concern about the situation in Belarus, in the light of their discussion.

They also instructed the Secretariat to prepare a revised programme of co-operation with Belarus, giving priority to support for civil society and the functioning of independent media.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Following the adoption in December (579th meeting) of the 1997 budget reflecting this

priority, the Deputies, at their 581st meeting in January, authorised a mission of their Chairman to Sarajevo, accompanied by the Chairman of their Rapporteur Group for Relations with the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe (GREL), with the aim of:

– firming the availability and the political interest of the Council of Europe to co-operate with Bosnia and Herzegovina, a candidate for accession to the Council of Europe;

– evaluating the co-operation projects already initiated and assessing needs for further assistance in the priority fields of action of the Council of Europe;

– evaluating the possibilities of co-operation with other international organisations and identifying the risks of possible overlapping.

They also authorised the prolongation of the regular presence of a representative of the Council of Europe Secretariat in Sarajevo until 31 December 1997.

At their 588th meeting, in April, the Deputies authorised the Secretariat to implement (or, in some cases, continue to implement), on a priority basis, a number of co-operation activities with Bosnia and Herzegovina, drawn up following, in particular, the recent contacts with the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina (high-level mission by the Chairman of the Deputies and the Chairman of the Rapporteur Group GREL, from 6 to 9 February, and the visit of the Directors of Legal Affairs and Human Rights, from 10 to 14 March).

At the same meeting they decided to invite the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Jadranko Prlić, to an exchange of views, in the framework of their political dialogue, at their 592nd meeting (May).

At their 584th meeting, in February, the Deputies, in conformity with the Agreement on Human Rights in Annex 6 of the Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, appointed Professor Viktor Masenkó-Mavi (Hungary) as member of the Chamber of Human Rights of Bosnia and Herzegovina, replacing Professor Adam Zielinski (Poland) who had resigned.

At their 592nd meeting, in May, the Deputies held an exchange of views, in the context of their political dialogue, with Mr Jadranko Prlić, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Mr Husein Zivalj, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

After an exchange of views with the members of the Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina in the framework of the Rapporteur Group GREL (on 28 May), the Deputies, at their 595th meeting, in June, instructed the Secretary General to raise the question of the financing of the Human Rights Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina (in particular the Human Rights Chamber), as well as the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the light of the conclusions of the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council (PIC) in Sintra on 30 May 1997, with both the Steering Board and the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

They also (at their 592nd meeting in May) reaffirmed their support for the ongoing programme of assistance promoting the establishment of human rights, democracy and the rule of law and decided to keep these programmes under permanent review.

At their 606th meeting, in October, the Deputies designated Mrs Michèle Picard as President of the Chamber of Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina with effect from 22 October 1997, replacing Professor Peter Germer, who had resigned. They also nominated Mr Andrew Grotian as member of the chamber.

At the same meeting the Deputies adopted an interim reply to Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1337 (1997) on the functioning of the institutions for the protection of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Caucasian states

At their 581st meeting, in January, the Deputies invited Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to accede to the European Cultural Convention.

At their 589th *bis* meeting, in April, the Deputies held an exchange of views, in the framework of their political dialogue, with the three Ministers for Foreign Affairs, MM. Alexander Arzoumanian (Armenia), Hassan Hassanov (Azerbaijan) and Irakli Menagarishvili (Georgia).

On the same day, the three ministers signed the European Cultural Convention, a fact whose significance was noted in the final communiqué of the 100th Ministerial Session.

Croatia

At their 581st meeting, in January, the Ministers' Deputies authorised the Secretary General to reply favourably to a request from Mr Jacques P. Klein, Head of the Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium, concerning the prolongation until the end of the mandate of the Transitional Administration (15 July 1997) of the secondment to the Transitional Administration of the Head of the Division for Higher Education and Research at the Council of Europe, as a special adviser for "education and culture" questions.

At their 588th meeting, in April, the Deputies authorised the Secretariat to implement co-operation activities with Croatia (Eastern Slavonia). Previously, at their 584th meeting, in February, they had authorised the implementation of a number of urgent co-operation activities with the United Nations Transitional Administration of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium in the fields of rule of law and preparations for the local elections of 13 April.

At their 592nd meeting, in May, the Deputies, after consultation with the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), as well as the Croatian authorities, appointed two international advisers (and three substitutes) to participate in the procedures for the protection of the rights of minorities in the Constitutional Court of Croatia.

At their 611th meeting, in December, they took note of a final report by the Special Adviser for Education and Culture of the United Nations Transitional Administration in Eastern Slavonia (UNTAES), the Head of the School and Higher Education Department of the Secretariat, whom they had seconded, on a part-time basis, following a request by UNTAES.

Moldova

At their 586th meeting, in March, the Deputies authorised the Secretariat to make all the necessary arrangements for creating an information and documentation centre on the Council of Europe in Chişinău, at the National Library of Moldova.

Slovenia

At their 596th meeting, in June, the Deputies authorised the Secretariat to conclude an agreement with the National and University Library in Ljubljana concerning the creation of an information and documentation centre on the Council of Europe. ■

7. Monitoring compliance with commitments

In the framework of their confidential, co-operative and non-discriminatory mechanism for monitoring compliance with commitments accepted by member states, the Deputies devoted their 581st *bis* meeting, in January, to the subject of freedom of expression and information.

The Deputies held meetings devoted respectively to the functioning and protection of democratic institutions, including matters relating to political parties and free elections (584th *bis* meeting in February) and to general stocktaking of the first two-year cycle (589th meeting in April).

On 10 March, a meeting with experts from capitals and permanent delegations from Strasbourg and Vienna took place, devoted to exchanging information on the various monitoring mechanisms of the Council of Europe and the OSCE.[1]

1. The documents for this meeting have been published as *Methodology for implementing mechanisms for monitoring by member states of the Council of Europe and the OSCE*, Council of Europe Publishing, 1997, ISBN 92-871-3466-9.

At their 591st meeting, in April, the Deputies approved their chairman's conclusions on the "Committee of Ministers' Monitoring Procedures instituted in November 1994" in three sections dealing, respectively, with stocktaking of the monitoring exercise, themes under consideration and subjects retained for monitoring during 1998, namely "functioning of the judicial system" and "local democracy".

Subsequently, at their 592nd meeting, in May, the Deputies approved an outline of basic issues concerning the subject "functioning of the judicial system", as well as timetables for dealing with that subject as well as that of "local democracy".

At their 598th meeting, in July, the Deputies approved the outline of basic issues concerning the subject of "local democracy", which they had previously selected as one of the subjects for their monitoring exercise in 1998.

The Deputies devoted their 608th *bis* meeting, in November, to "Functioning and protection of democratic institutions, including matters relating to political parties and free elections" and "Freedom of expression and restrictions included in the Penal Code and other legal texts". ■

III. Parliamentary Assembly

1. Political questions

a. 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe

Recommendation 1324 (1997) on the Parliamentary Assembly contribution to the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe

The Assembly proposed that the Organisation's summit on 10 and 11 October 1997 should take action on social cohesion and equality and boost the fight against racism, organised crime, terrorism and corruption. It recommended that the summit should establish the Organisation as the main forum for pan-European political dialogue and consultation. It should be given increased responsibility for carrying through practical aid programmes, to strengthen democratic security.

The Assembly adopted numerous proposals. It also insisted that governments should provide adequate funding for the Organisation to fulfil its new tasks.

Recommendation 1342 (1997) on the Parliamentary Assembly contribution to the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe

The Assembly recommends that the second summit should give fresh political impetus to the Organisation.

It considered that the Committee of Ministers should develop political dialogue and respond more rapidly to crisis situations, notably also on the ground. Furthermore, heads of state and government should formally undertake to co-operate in the monitoring procedures of the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly, of which the European Union should also take systematic account.

The Assembly also underlined that social rights need to be given particular emphasis and that the Action Plan should be consistent with the principles of the summit's declaration.

b. Albania

Recommendation 1316 (1997) on the state of emergency in Albania

A state of emergency was declared in Albania on 2 March 1997. This caused the President of the Assembly to consult urgently with political group leaders, with a view to sending an immediate mission of inquiry.

The Assembly recommended that the Committee of Ministers take an initiative to form a tripartite task force (Council of Europe, European Union, OSCE) to give immediate international support to the new coalition government.

It also requested the leaders of its political groups to make further visits to Albania in support of the reconciliation process between Albania's political parties.

Recommendation 1328 (1997) on the state of emergency in Albania

The Assembly took note of the improvement of the political climate. Following agreement between the political parties, a "national reconciliation government" was formed. A European multinational protection force was deployed to provide for humanitarian aid, and allow legislative elections to take place.

The Assembly welcomed the concerted efforts of Europe's international institutions, in the form of a multi-institutional initiative to which the Council of Europe is making a significant contribution.

It recommended the Committee of Ministers to give the highest priority to its monitoring of developments in Albania and to redirect its programmes of assistance to Albania.

Resolution 1133 (1997) on the situation in Albania

Despite some improvements, the political situation in Albania remains confrontational. International assistance can only be continued, and be effective, if government and opposition work together in a spirit of reconciliation.

The Assembly recalled that a new constitution must be based on a wide political consensus.

The government should ensure proper security throughout the country, the normal functioning of elected local and regional authorities, and full freedom of the media. Recruitment to public services should be based on merit. New legislation should be in conformity with the Council of Europe's standards and principles.

The opposition should fully participate in the work of the new parliament.

The Assembly resolved to continue to monitor closely the situation in Albania and to pursue political dialogue with Albanian political forces, in particular with the new Albanian parliamentary delegation to the Assembly.

It reiterates its readiness to provide assistance to the Albanian Parliament in the framework of the interparliamentary co-operation programme.

c. Cyprus

Resolution 1113 (1997) on the situation in Cyprus

Negotiations on a global peaceful settlement of the situation in Cyprus were at a standstill. The Assembly called for a resumption of inter-community talks under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary General. It also expressed its unreserved support for the demilitarisation of the island of Cyprus.

Cypriot membership of the European Union would bring in its wake important economic and political benefits for both communities. The Assembly therefore called on all political leaders to demonstrate vision and seize this opportunity to move forward.

Noting that the treatment of Greek Cypriots living in the Karpass area was a source of concern, the Assembly called on the Turkish Cypriot administration to alter policies which were tantamount to human rights violations, and to implement the measures recommended by the United Nations Secretary General within a period of six months.

As a way of improving dialogue, the Assembly invited representatives of the two communities to enter into negotiations on the possibility of providing genuine Parliamentary Assembly representation for all the Cypriot people.

d. Bosnia and Herzegovina

Resolution 1116 (1997) on the implementation of the Dayton Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The elections of 14 September 1996 have opened the way for the setting up of common political structures.

The Assembly expressed condemnation of interference with the outcome of local elections in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Assembly also took note of serious allegations made against the Croatian Republic in regard to its policies and actions in Mostar and the Mostar region, and decided, under its monitoring procedure, to examine these allegations.

Besides, it also called for a stronger mandate and additional resources for the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It also decided to explore the question of special relations between the Council of Europe and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Resolution 1130 (1997) on the implementation of the Dayton Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Assembly noted signs of improvement in the functioning of the joint political structures in Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, strengthening Bosnia and Herzegovina's relationship with the Council of Europe will require further progress, in particular on respect for human rights, co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and free movement, including the re-establishment of telephone and postal communications, between the two entities. Besides, the Assembly notes that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia should, together with the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its two entities, contribute actively to the creation of proper conditions for the holding of municipal elections.

e. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Resolution 1110 (1997) on the situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

The Assembly called on the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to:

– implement without delay the recommendations of the special delegation of the OSCE and recognise the victories of the opposition at the second round of the local elections held in November 1996;

– refrain from using force against the opposition demonstrators;

– establish a genuine dialogue with the opposition with a view to introducing democratic reforms;

– respect fully the principles of pluralist democracy, human rights – including freedom of the media – and the rule of law, notably in Kosovo, Vojvodina and Sandjak;

– observe strictly the Dayton Agreement including co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia.

The Assembly also calls on the opposition to commit itself clearly to respect for democracy and human rights in Kosovo, Vojvodina and Sandjak, and to the full implementation of the Dayton Agreement.

f. Canada

Resolution 1125 (1997) on the request by the Canadian Parliament for observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly

Canada had enjoyed observer status with the Council of Europe since May 1996, when the Assembly found it met the requirements of statutory Resolution (93) 26.

The Canadian Parliament formally requested observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly and the Bureau expressed itself in favour.

The Assembly decided to grant observer status to the Canadian Parliament and attribute six seats to the observer delegation, which should be composed so as to ensure the equitable representation of the political parties or forces present in its parliament.

g. European Union

Resolution 1108 (1997) on the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference of the European Union

The Assembly presented some observations on the agenda and context of the Intergovernmental Conference established to revise

the Union treaties as foreseen in the Treaty of Maastricht.

It considered that there should be no competing human rights protection mechanisms in Europe. It furthermore considered that the opportunity should be taken to adjust the treaties to permit the European (Community) Union to accede to the European Convention on Human Rights.

Recommendation 1347 (1997) on enlargement of the European Union (EU)

The Assembly considered that the first wave of EU enlargement negotiations should include the widest possible number of applicant states which are close to meeting the criteria agreed at the EU summit meeting in Copenhagen in June 1993.

Council of Europe membership and the Organisation's monitoring reports should constitute evidence of compliance with the political criteria for EU membership. Multilateral consultations between EU members and applicant states on foreign, security, justice and home affairs can be carried out through existing mechanisms and closer co-operation with the Council of Europe.

Applicant countries should also be consulted on the EU institutional reforms, to be undertaken without delaying the enlargement. Applications from countries not participating in the first enlargement wave should be reviewed at six-month intervals.

h. CIS

Resolution 1126 (1997) on the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and its interparliamentary assembly

The Commonwealth of Independent States provides a framework for setting the bilateral relations of twelve countries of the former Soviet Union in a balanced, coherent multilateral perspective. As an intergovernmental structure it is undertaking significant peacekeeping initiatives.

The Assembly called for enhanced co-operation between the Council of Europe and the CIS with regard to human rights. The Assembly considered that the Council of Europe should provide expert opinions on CIS model laws, if so requested.

It further resolved to instruct the Bureau to examine the modalities for inviting the CIS interparliamentary assembly representatives to its plenary sessions.

i. National minorities

Recommendation 1345 (1997) on the protection of national minorities

The protection of national minorities continues to be a crucial element for peace and security in Europe. There is no shortage of international legal and political instruments, but there is still insufficient political will to accept and implement these.

Too often, the protection of minorities remains an issue of foreign, rather than domestic, policy.

The Assembly considered that member states should ratify and implement the Council of Europe's legal instrument: the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

The European Union should systematically take account of the results of the Council of Europe's monitoring mechanisms when assessing applicant countries' compliance with membership requirements. ■

2. Economic affairs and development co-operation

Resolution 1109 (1997) on the implications for Europe of economic and monetary union

The report called the European Union's Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) a major crossroads in modern European history. The introduction of a single currency under the management of a European central bank was, it said, an essentially political project which would require, and therefore soon lead to, common economic policies and the formation of a federal Europe. The report examined the expected advantages of EMU and raise a number of basic questions concerning its likely consequences for participating and non-participating European countries.

Resolution 1122 (1997) on the progress of economic reform in central and eastern Europe

The report drew the main conclusions from a conference held in Warsaw in co-operation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on the state of economic reform in central and eastern Europe, and tried to chart a direction for further efforts in this domain. It was essential, it said, that there be no let-up in the transition process and that western Europe do everything in its power to assist in its realisation.

Resolution 1124 (1997) on European air transport policies – civil aviation in transition

The report described European air transport as being in a state of flux, with rapid deregulation promising even stiffer competition in Europe and beyond. It emphasised the role of the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC), for which the Assembly serves as a parliamentary forum, as it expands both its membership into central and eastern Europe and its mission in order to cope with these challenges. The report examined the situation and made numerous recommendations, including

in environmental protection, air security and safety. It called in particular for a ban on aircraft or air carriers which did not respect agreed air safety standards.

Resolution 1128 (1997) on the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions (World Bank and International Monetary Fund)

The report recognised that the emphasis in the development of the poorer countries may be moving from government aid to private investment and that the world may have largely abandoned fixed exchange rates in favour of floating ones. None the less, it argued, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as leading United Nations lending institutions established after the war, still have important roles to play in the world economy, although some reforms in their functioning were deemed advisable.

Resolution 1129 (1997) on the activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

The report examined the activities of the sixty-member European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which was established in 1991 to foster the transition towards open market-oriented economies and promote private and entrepreneurial initiative in the central and east European countries. The reform of the bank's internal structure, working methods and operations begun in 1994 under the presidency of Mr de Larosière continued, the report said, permitting it to fulfil a useful role in assisting the transition in its twenty-six countries of operations.

Special attention was paid in the report to the bank's activities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine. It said that over the past few years certain of these countries had made strong efforts to reform – for instance in the liberalisation of prices, external trade and currency exchanges – but major challenges remained. If capitalism had become the all-dominant "hardware" of the world's economy following the demise of communism, then the "software" of genuine democracy, human rights, the rule of law and social protection of the weak in society was all the more necessary to achieve a functioning market economy producing increased wealth.

Resolution 1134 (1997) on the OECD and the world economy

This report, presented at the enlarged debate of the Assembly on the activities of the OECD, examined the general economic situation in the OECD area and the world, covering the overall outlook for OECD member countries. Four themes dominated the report: the prospect for economic growth and a reduction in unemployment; the need for continued structural reform; the growing importance of electronic commerce; and further trade liberalisation under the World Trade Organisation.

Resolution 1135 (1997) on the implications for Europe and the world of the "Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act" (Libertad) of the United States Congress

The report took strong issue with the so-called "Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act" (CDA) of the United States. It particularly regretted the law's extraterritorial character, affecting also non-United States companies and individuals, expressing the hope that the law could be either revoked or modified in a satisfactory manner.

Resolution 1137 (1997) on the Council of Europe's North-South Centre: internal reform, role and achievements

The report reaffirmed the Parliamentary Assembly's support for the Council of Europe's North-South Centre, established following its proposal in 1990. It welcomed the Centre's efforts to streamline its activities and focus them more on its original mandate of enhancing European awareness of North-South matters, and to review its organisational structure and working methods. Finally, it expressed the hope that all Council of Europe member and observer states would ultimately join the Centre, and that it would be equipped with the necessary material resources to accomplish the tasks entrusted to it.

Resolution 1138 (1997) on promoting small and medium-sized enterprises in central and eastern Europe

The report built on an earlier colloquy in Budapest devoted to measures to be taken to encourage the creation and growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in central and eastern Europe. It considered such measures essential to the success of transition itself. It called, among other things, for less red tape, simpler legislation for SMEs and open pan-European trade and investment opportunities to help central and east European SMEs and, by prolongation, the region as such to develop.

Finally, in co-operation with the Romanian Parliament, the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development also held a hearing in Bucharest in May 1997 on the progress of economic reform in that country. ■

3. Social affairs

Recommendation 1317 (1997) on vaccination in Europe

The Assembly urges European countries to boost health measures if they are to avoid the return of life-threatening contagious diseases, and to plough more resources into public vaccination programmes and to guarantee funding to bodies such as the World Health Organisation and Unicef who carry them out.

Diseases once thought to be scourges of the past – such as polio and tuberculosis – could make a comeback if countries were to ignore warnings. Diphtheria – a disease many thought had been wiped out – is said to have reached epic proportions in central and eastern Europe, with tens of thousands of cases reported since 1990. Ease of travel means such diseases spread more easily – with wide-scale vaccination the only guarantee against epidemics.

Transition in central and eastern European countries has brought unemployment, unhealthy lifestyles and a breakdown in state health provisions, and in western Europe the vaccination programme has fallen into decline. The Assembly calls for international co-ordination to stamp out the diphtheria epidemic and for an adequate supply of vaccines and trained medical staff.

Recommendation 1336 (1997) on combating child labour exploitation as a matter of priority

The economic exploitation of children is a worldwide and alarming problem, which is on the increase both in Europe and in the rest of the world.

The Assembly urges European governments to undertake immediate action to stop child labour.

It calls for national action plans to combat economic exploitation of children and for governments to bring national laws into line with European and international standards. It urges countries to combat child labour in developing countries through special programmes to control the worst excesses, rather than by economic sanctions.

The issue is so vast and its causes so deep that concerted international action is needed – especially to combat the worst cases, such as child prostitution. The Assembly urges action on several fronts, and a pooling of efforts of other international organisations such as Unicef and the ILO.

A multipronged approach is needed, including a sustained attack on poverty and unemployment, compulsory education, effective application of international labour standards, public awareness campaigns, training for those working with children, helping local communities to monitor the conditions in which children work, and more efficient labour and school inspections.

Global action against child labour is based not only on unilateral action and trade sanctions, but on multilateral voluntary action and moral pressures, on co-operation rather than confrontation.

Resolution 1127 (1997) on the health effects of the Chernobyl nuclear accident

The Assembly calls for European governments and international organisations such as the European Union to do more to help the victims of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident, and in particular to increase technical assistance and financial aid to Belarus, Russia and Ukraine to help boost inadequate health-care facilities in those countries.

The link between nuclear contamination and the rise in cancer is indisputable. The number of thyroid cases affecting children in Belarus has increased from two in 1986 to 90 in 1994, and on average the cancer rate in children has increased tenfold.

But health-care equipment and treatment resources are woefully inadequate. Hospitals cannot carry out isotope treatment because they lack Iodine 131, and there are almost no isolation wards. The state of the economy in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia means that hospitals are dependent on foreign donations.

The Assembly calls on governments to boost aid, and to make sure that it is equally distributed between the three countries. It asks them to open the doors of their own hospitals to sick children and to do more to raise public awareness on nuclear health risks.

Recommendation 1340 (1997) on the social and family effects of detention

Imprisonment involves many social issues. The Assembly urges the member states to bring in measures to reduce social problems faced by prisoners and their families, and especially advocates greater family contact for prisoners.

A more human approach to prison life is required. Detention disadvantages the prisoner as well as the prisoner's family, which is subjected to secondary effects such as its financial situation and emotional hiatus.

Some measures could be implemented to remove the effects of imprisonment and improve later prospects for social reintegration. Good prison management could help to build family stability, give prisoners more confidence in themselves, enable them to obtain employment skills and, if paid, a way of supporting their family during detention.

The Assembly also calls for:

– a greater use of non-custodial sentences such as community service to allow prisoners to keep jobs and family contacts,

– social benefits, welfare services and emergency aid to help prisoners' families,

– making visiting conditions for spouses and children more humane, with places provided where prisoners can spend time alone with their visitors,

– better medical and psychiatric services within prisons,

– prison programmes against addiction that could help break cycles of alcohol or drug abuse,

– boosting vocational rehabilitation with effective education and training matched to labour market opportunities,

– special measures for foreign prisoners, such as interpretation and translation, freedom of worship and contact with their consulates.

Other activities

The Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee held a Colloquy, "Towards a better social cohesion in Europe: today and tomorrow" in Bratislava on 16 and 17 September 1997. The main aim was to examine how unemployment and poverty can exclude people and destabilise

socioeconomic conditions in Europe, and to define conditions for better social integration of individuals, as well as practical government action for strengthening social cohesion. Poverty and social exclusion constitute a denial of basic human rights and combating them is a challenge for European governments. ■

4. Legal affairs and human rights

Opinion No. 200 (1997) on the draft European Convention on Nationality

The Parliamentary Assembly fully supported the draft European Convention on Nationality which was submitted for opinion in advance of the final adoption by the Committee of Ministers.

It invited the Committee of Ministers to adopt the convention as soon as possible taking into account a number of amendments, including:

– changing the title of the draft convention to "Convention on Citizenship", since the term "nationality" could lead to confusion in countries with significant "national" minorities;

– including social or ethnic origin or membership of a national minority as grounds for discrimination (which the convention seeks to prohibit);

– limiting both the scope and the duration of any reservations which states are entitled to make.

Moreover, the Assembly also said the convention should be developed in three areas:

– state succession, with a more proactive approach, particularly concerning the guarantees and rights of nationals of predecessor states;

– international co-operation, for which arrangements, structures and methods are not specified;

– the potential effects of common citizenship on the European Union, failing which the convention could quickly become obsolete if the Union were to broaden its powers in this field.

The Assembly also considered that the text did not give applicants for nationality sufficient protection against administrative delay and uncertainty. It therefore proposed an amendment specifying that the period concerned may not exceed one year.

Resolution 1111 (1997) on the honouring of the commitment entered into by Russia upon accession to the Council of Europe to put into place a moratorium on executions
and
Resolution 1112 (1997) on the honouring of the commitment entered into by Ukraine upon accession to the Council of Europe to put into place a moratorium on executions

The Parliamentary Assembly condemned Ukraine and Russia for having failed to act on their commitment to impose a moratorium on capital punishment.

In a resolution adopted after an urgent debate, the Assembly called on the two countries to honour their commitments without delay and stop any further executions still pending.

The Assembly reminded Ukraine and Russia that they had made a solemn promise on joining the Council of Europe to introduce a moratorium on capital punishment with effect from the date they joined (November 1995 for Ukraine and February 1996 for Russia). It condemned them for having violated their undertakings and deplored the executions already carried out.

During the first six months of 1996, eighty-nine executions took place in Ukraine and fifty-three in Russia according to information obtained by the Assembly.

The Assembly also warned Ukrainian and Russian authorities that it intended to take all necessary measures to monitor compliance with the undertakings they have entered into. It warned that, for example, it could refuse to ratify the credentials of the two parliamentary delegations concerned at the next session if capital punishment were to continue to be carried out after the adoption of this resolution.

The Assembly reiterated its support for all efforts undertaken in these two countries to reduce the scope of capital punishment and abolish the death penalty.

Recommendation 1312 (1997) and Resolution 1114 (1997) on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Albania

The Parliamentary Assembly called upon the government and the opposition parties in Albania to end the political crisis in the country.

The Assembly called on the government to provide sufficient guarantees on normal functioning of the opposition parties and on the opposition to take part in parliamentary work.

It asked for a parliamentary constitutional commission to be set up composed in accordance with the results of the October 1996 local elections, with a vice-chair appointed by the opposition. This commission and the round table of all Albanian political parties should continue their work in close co-operation with the Council of Europe, the Assembly said.

The Assembly also called for a new constitution. This would create the necessary framework for the correct functioning of future elections.

Since its accession eighteen months earlier, Albania had made considerable progress, ratifying among others the European Convention on Human Rights, a number of its protocols, and the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture. Albania had also brought in a moratorium on the death sentence.

But the Assembly regretted that Albania had limited the right to free elections. A reservation to the Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms means that for five years elections will be governed by Albanian laws, which exclude some people from participating in national and local elections. These laws were incompatible with the principles of a state governed by the rule of law and should be abolished or considerably changed in the near future, the Assembly said.

The Assembly recommended that the Committee of Ministers step up financial and expert aid to Albania on legislative process, protection of human rights and reform of judicial institutions and law-enforcement bodies.

Recommendation 1313 (1997) and Resolution 1117 (1997) on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Estonia

The Parliamentary Assembly said it was satisfied with Estonia's progress towards fulfilling obligations and commitments it entered into on becoming a member in 1993. But it considered that the Baltic state must make more efforts on abolition of the death penalty, treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, granting Estonian nationality, and conditions of custody and detention.

Over a period of four years, Estonia had ratified the European Convention on Human Rights, the Convention for the Prevention of Torture and the Framework Convention for the Protection of Minorities, and signed various other conventions in the criminal law field. The Estonian authorities had stated their intention to abolish the death penalty by 1 February 1998, and said that there should be a moratorium on executions in the meantime.

The resolution called on the Estonian authorities to refrain from detaining refugees and asylum seekers and to comply with internationally recognised standards, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Protection of Refugees.

It recommended integration of the "non-historic" Russian-speaking minority (people who came to reside in Estonia after the second world war) and advocated that teaching of Estonian as a foreign language be improved by offering free or reduced-rate courses to citizenship applicants.

Estonia had honoured its most important obligations and the Assembly decided to end the monitoring procedure, keeping a careful watch on outstanding issues.

Recommendation 1325 (1997) on traffic in women and forced prostitution in Council of Europe member states

The Parliamentary Assembly called for a European convention on traffic in women and forced prostitution and measures to combat the trade – especially by harmonising laws and co-ordinating police and legal action at European level.

The Assembly said it was alarmed at the considerable growth in trafficking, a phenomenon which bordered on slavery. During 1995, at least 500 000 women were thought to have been the victims of trafficking towards member states of the European Union. Since 1989, the number of women coming from central and eastern Europe had more than tripled.

The trade was so lucrative and the level of conviction so low that a number of criminal groups had become involved, allowing them to develop other criminal activities such as drugs or arms alongside, said the Assembly. It was an alarming development that must be combated as a matter of urgency, it said.

The Assembly called on the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers to combine the drawing up of a convention with the adoption of a recommendation setting out measures that member states could take immediately. These could include strengthening police co-operation – particularly by setting up specially trained police units that were aware of the problem; involving the immigration services, consulates and embassies which gave out visas and work permits; providing legal, medical, and psychological aid, along with physical protection, to victims of trafficking, especially those willing to give evidence to a court (granting temporary residence permits, for example), and closing establishments where sexual exploitation took place.

Recommendation 1326 (1997) and Resolution 1123 (1997) on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Romania

The Parliamentary Assembly presented an encouraging report on Romania's respect for the obligations and commitments it accepted when it joined the Council of Europe in October 1993.

Considering that Romania had honoured its most important undertakings, it decided to end the monitoring procedure. It nevertheless retained the option of reopening the procedure if Romania failed to honour its obligations and commitments as a Council of Europe member state.

In the resolution adopted, it noted that Romania had ratified the European Convention on Human Rights and all its protocols, including Protocol No. 6 (abolishing the death penalty) and Protocol No. 11 (establishing a single court), the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and the Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

The Assembly also took note of Romania's intention to ratify in the near future the European Charter of Local Self-Government, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and several conventions in the field of criminal law.

However, the Assembly found that progress still had to be made in a number of areas. It

therefore asked Romania to fulfil the following conditions:

– amend those provisions of the Penal Code and legislation on the administration of justice which conflicted with the principles of the European Convention on Human Rights;

– improve detention conditions;

– develop a policy to prevent the abandonment of children and encourage adoption, while at the same time improving material conditions and educational facilities in orphanages;

– modify legislation on the restoration of confiscated or expropriated property;

– take resolute action to combat racism, xenophobia and intolerance, particularly towards the Roma population.

The Assembly also asked the Committee of Ministers to help Romania, particularly under the joint Council of Europe/European Commission programme of co-operation, to carry out prison reform, organise a campaign against the abandonment of children and combat racism, xenophobia and intolerance.

Recommendation 1323 (1997) and Order No. 530 (1997) on strengthening the machinery of the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

The Parliamentary Assembly proposed a set of measures aimed at strengthening the effectiveness and credibility of the Council of Europe Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) in the face of continued expansion of its activities into central and eastern Europe. The Assembly called for a boost in resources and for a more balanced composition in the committee in terms of professional training, sex and age.

The Assembly underlined the role played by the CPT in improving detention conditions in member states. The ratification of the convention by a growing number of states was an increasing burden for the CPT. Ratification by the Russian Federation and Ukraine will more than double the prison population which is subject to the CPT's mandate.

The Assembly also called for authorities and law-enforcement agents such as police, prison officers, judges, magistrates and health personnel to be made more aware of the CPT's actions and its tasks and powers under the convention.

Recommendation 1337 (1997) on the functioning of the institutions for the protection of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Assembly unanimously adopted a recommendation on the functioning of the human rights protection institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The recommendation stressed the financial difficulties faced by these institutions, the lack of political goodwill and the malfunction of the authorities, which all threaten the very existence of the state. The Assembly said they were in favour of sending more staff to the human rights institutions and in the creation of an ombudsman for the Republika Srpska to create a balance between the two entities.

Resolution 1132 (1997) on the organisation of a parliamentary conference to reinforce democratic systems in Europe and co-operation in the fight against terrorism

The Parliamentary Assembly forcefully and unreservedly condemned acts of terrorism and expressed satisfaction at the French initiative to include on the agenda of the summit of heads of state and government (10 and 11 October 1997) the fight against terrorism, corruption and organised crime.

It decided to hold a parliamentary conference, so as to gain a better understanding of this problem in all its complexity and to give thought to ways of stepping up the fight against terrorism while respecting the rights and freedoms recognised in the European Convention on Human Rights.

The face of present-day terrorism has changed and revealed the inadequacies of standard methods of judicial and police co-operation. Organised in international networks, it plays on the legal flaws of the territoriality of proceedings and often enjoys powerful logistical and financial support.

The conference will therefore have to consider methods of prevention, protection and surveillance, or suppression, and examine the measures intended to strengthen international co-operation. It will, in particular, have to study the amendments to be made to the 1977 European Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism in order to adapt it and make it more effective. ■

5. Culture and education

Recommendation 1315 (1997) on the minimum age for voting

Various Council of Europe bodies have had occasion to discuss the issue of lowering the minimum age for voting. To extend and reinforce democracy in our countries and bring younger voters into the electorate, to give young people new rights and in particular new responsibilities and in order to make them fully fledged citizens, it is proposed:

– that the minimum age for the right to vote and stand for election be harmonised at 18 years for all elections and in all countries,

– that attention be given to the preparation of young people for civic life through education and the promotion of community involvement.

Recommendation 1318 (1997) on the Council of Europe and Expo '98

The last world exhibition of the twentieth century will take place in Lisbon in 1998 on the theme "The oceans, a heritage for the future".

Alongside other major international organisations, the Council of Europe should be represented at Expo '98 in a stand of its own.

The Assembly proposes that the Committee of Ministers should start considering the modalities of such participation as soon as possible.

Recommendation 1333 (1997) on the Aromanians

The Assembly draws attention to the critical situation of the Aromanian language and culture. These have been present in the Balkans for over two thousand years, but face today a serious risk of extinction.

To prevent such a cultural loss for Europe as a whole, the Assembly would encourage the Balkan states, where the Aromanians live, to support their language in the fields of education, religion and the media. In particular the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages should be implemented. Other member states and the Council for Cultural Co-operation are also called upon for assistance.

Recommendation 1346 (1997) on human rights education

The European Convention on Human Rights was adopted by the member states of the Council of Europe almost fifty years ago. However, problems concerning human rights still exist in Europe.

The Assembly points out that ignorance is at the base of most of such problems and therefore recommends that higher priority be given to human rights education.

Other activities

The committee held two hearings on religion and democracy successively in Turkey and France with invited experts. The rapporteur, Mr de Puig, will prepare a report on the subject.

The chairman, Lord Russell-Johnston, took part in a European Parliament Symposium on "Remembering the origins of the process of European integration" (Strasbourg, 17 September).

The Sub-Committee on Youth and Sport:

– held consultative meetings on sports legislation (jointly with the CDDS Bureau): on 10 and 11 April in Sarajevo and on 18 November in Vilnius;

– took part in the conference organised by the International Institute for Democracy and the Hellenic Parliament for young parliamentarians from the eastern Mediterranean (Rhodes, 13-15 April);

– supported, together with the European Steering Committee for intergovernmental co-operation in the field of youth and the Governing Board of the EYC/EYF, the International Conference "Europe 2000: Young people and their towns: what involvement?", organised in Budapest from 23 to 25 October 1997 by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe.

The Sub-Committee on Media:

– organised a hearing on the audiovisual landscape in central and eastern Europe and on new communication technologies, with Euronews, the Institut Aspen France and the Fonds européen pour la liberté d'Expression (Lyons on 22 and 23 May); it took part in the 5th European Ministerial Conference on Mass Media Policy "The information society: a challenge for Europe" (Thessaloniki, 11-12 December).

The Sub-Committee on the Cultural Heritage:

– was represented at the closing conference of the Bronze Age Campaign (Berlin, 17-19 March), at the General Assembly of *Europa Nostra* (Madrid, 4-5 April) and at the Council of Europe Conference on New Technologies and the Use of Ancient Places of Performance (Verona, 29-30 August);

– held an exchange of views with a delegation from the European Heritage Group (Paris, 9 December).

The Council of Europe Museum Prize was awarded to the Children's Museum in the Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam. ■

6. Science and technology

Recommendation 1311 (1997) on the safety of nuclear installations in the countries of central and eastern Europe

Four years after adopting Recommendation 1209 (1993) on nuclear power plants in central and eastern Europe, the Assembly is again addressing the specific problem of nuclear safety in this part of Europe.

The international context and the national situations of the countries concerned have changed since 1993. There is broad agreement that the utmost must be done to achieve a uniform level of nuclear safety throughout the continent. Unfortunately, despite the increasing number of international initiatives on the political, legal and economic fronts, no very convincing results have yet emerged.

If we are to improve nuclear safety appreciably in the countries of central and eastern Europe, and therefore throughout Europe, we must intensify international co-operation in this field; the west must show clear political determination and implement a consistent strategy, backed by unambiguous, goal-specific financial commitments while, in central and eastern Europe itself, tangible measures are needed at national level.

Recommendation 1314 (1997) on the new technologies and employment

The mass introduction of new technologies is generally leading to major economic and social change, and one of the most negative effects of this is unemployment. Only much later, when the new "techno-social" model has been established, will a period of expansion and growth set in as a result of the widespread use of the innovations facilitated by such new technologies.

A new revolution, similar to the old steam and electricity revolutions, is under way, tied up with the history of the new information and communication technologies (ICT). While they hold the promise of a rich harvest of attractive and interesting jobs for many Europeans, their quantitative effects on employment in the short and medium terms have to be assessed. For this reason, the authorities must endeavour, in their actions, to strike a balance between social solidarity and the urgent need for the system to adapt itself.

Switching over to an information society presupposes a forecasting exercise (technology watch) and an effort to update education in order to prevent mismatches between technological and social development. Introducing new methods and strategies in the human resources field can help improve the use of ICT at local and regional levels.

In-depth social dialogue, the drafting of collective agreements tailored to the new working methods and occupations and the measures necessitated by the advent of the new ICT might be accompanied by a reflection on working time.

Recommendation 1332 (1997) on the scientific and technical aspects of the new information and communications technologies

The impact of the rapid development of information and communications technologies on society is already making itself felt and will become ever more apparent. A proper understanding of the scientific and technological aspects of their development is essential to a clear view of any other problems that might accompany them.

Economic growth will depend in future on access to information on the one side and on the skills developed to exploit that information on the other, Coherent political measures, on a continental scale, are necessary to ensure that Europe remains one of the lead players in the information society, which is developing very swiftly. Measures and policy strategies concerning scientific and technological development in this field to be supported by the governments of Council of Europe member states are proposed.

Resolution 1131 (1997) on the Energy Charter Treaty

The Energy Charter Treaty is designed to improve energy security in Europe, to stimulate trade and transit of energy on the continental scale, as well as to promote economic recovery and growth in the countries of central and eastern Europe and the CIS.

As a binding document of international law, the Energy Charter Treaty represents a major step forward in regulating investments, transit, trade and the transfer of profits in energy-related issues, as well as introducing a mechanism for the enforcement of obligations and dispute settlement. Signed by forty-nine countries, the treaty provides a legal framework for east-west pan-European co-operation in a branch of vital importance for the world economy and politics. Follow-up activities are well under way, including negotiations on further documents to deal with problem areas not sufficiently covered by the treaty, such as the environment.

Member states of the Council of Europe are asked to intensify their co-operation in the energy sector both within and beyond the framework of the Energy Charter Treaty. The rapid ratification and enforcement of the treaty is a necessary step in that direction, although not the last.

Opinion No. 202 (1997) on the draft additional protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine on the prohibition of cloning human beings
and
Order No. 534 (1997) on research and the cloning of human beings

The reproductive cloning of humans through the use of biotechnology can today be done by embryo splitting or by the replacement of the cell nucleus. The first results in identical "one-egg" twins (or higher multiples), the second is an asexual reproduction technique, which has received considerable attention following the production of the now famous lamb named "Dolly" by using a cell nucleus of an adult sheep, implanted to replace the nucleus of an egg cell.

Any intervention seeking to clone human beings should be prohibited and subjected to penal sanctions. The draft additional protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine on the prohibition of cloning human beings (see Doc. 7884 rev.) is to be rapidly adopted. This protocol explicitly prohibits any intervention seeking to create a human being genetically identical to another human being, whether living or dead ("genetically identical human being" meaning "human being sharing the same nuclear gene set").

The main reason for this is the conviction that the deliberate production of genetically identical human beings violates the dignity and integrity of human beings, both as individuals and as members of the human species. Therefore, such acts must be prohibited in accordance with Article 1 and other provisions of the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine.

Recommendation 1341 (1997) on European space policies

The Assembly's tradition of studying European space policies and their importance for member states is continued. The main developments in the activities of the European Space Agency

since 1992, when the last Assembly report was presented, are described. Reflecting the fact that Russia is now a full member of the Council of Europe, for the first time a general outline of that country's vast space programme is given. Both the ESA and Russia have significant scientific and technological capacities in the area, and the involvement of the private sector is important for both.

Space exploration has direct and indirect effects on the economy, making the industry a powerful source of technological innovation. Governments should continue their efforts in the area to ensure that European technology is compatible. Meanwhile, to strengthen European positions on the world market, it would be useful to provide for a more competitive approach both within national space programmes and ESA, including a partial liberalisation of the principle of industrial return.

At present, space projects are becoming progressively more international, involving the efforts of the ESA, Russia, as well as the United States, Japan and other countries. Numerous multilateral initiatives have been undertaken, although co-ordination is still insufficient. European space programmes may gain much from extensive co-operation in terms of both increased knowledge and higher competitiveness. Some policy measures to this end are suggested. ■

7. Environment, regional planning and local authorities

Recommendation 1330 (1997) on the draft European charter of the Danube basin

The Danube has always contributed to economic, social and cultural links among different peoples living in its basin. Political developments in Europe since 1989 offer new opportunities for co-operation and development in this region and the river could play a unifying role. Increased use of the Danube as a transport route will have a beneficial impact on the economic development of the surrounding regions while reducing the volume of goods transported by land routes and the damage to the environment.

However, strong water, air and soil pollution in the Danube basin threatens the environmental balance of this part of Europe and has significant implications for the Black Sea, which makes necessary properly co-ordinated co-operation between the various regions concerned.

While recognising the importance of various sectoral mechanisms and initiatives addressing specific problems of the region (environment, navigation, transfrontier water management, tourism, etc.), the Assembly believes that only a comprehensive and integrated approach to the various sectoral policies and co-operation at all levels, that is, international, national, regional and local, can ensure sustainable development of the basin.

It was with this in mind that the Assembly has drafted a European charter of the Danube basin, which would provide an appropriate framework for permanent co-operation in the region and for effective co-ordination of the existing initiatives. It recommends that the Committee of Ministers examine the draft with a view to permitting its adoption.

Recommendation 1331 (1997) on establishing international standards for assessing the environmental impact of industrial enterprises

Industrial enterprises, which represent one of the major factors in the deterioration of the environment, should be more actively involved in environmental management. To supplement existing compulsory standards, some countries and the European Union have already taken various initiatives to encourage voluntary measures by enterprises to protect the environment. However, if limited to only part of Europe, such measures may be less effective and lead to unfair competition.

It is therefore advisable that measures of this kind be harmonised and introduced progressively in all European countries, in particular in the central and east European countries where environmental "culture" has not yet taken root and where firms may, under the pressure of reforms, yield to the temptation of "ecological dumping".

The Parliamentary Assembly invites member states to raise economic operators' awareness of the problems of environmental management and thus encourage them to take active, voluntary measures to protect natural resources and to harmonise their laws and their systems for evaluating environmental data.

The Assembly also invites central and east European countries to take greater account of environmental factors when implementing economic reforms and industrial reorganisation by giving preference to schemes which further sustainable development.

Recommendation 1349 (1997) on the draft European charter of regional self-government of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE)

After three years' work, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE) approved at its fourth plenary session in June 1997 a draft European charter of regional self-government.

The Assembly, which has taken part in the drafting of this text, fully supports this initiative, the appropriateness of which is confirmed by the regionalisation process in certain member states. It is sure that the drafting of a Council of Europe convention on this subject will make possible the provision of an international legal guarantee to existing European

regions and a reference point for states which have started to give thought to reforming their political and their local and regional government structures.

What is more, a draft European charter of regional self-government would, like the European Charter of Local Self-Government, soon add to the Council of Europe's record of achievement and help to better define the features of the democratic state, which the Organisation advocates and represents.

The Assembly recommends that the Committee of Ministers examine the draft in order to make it a binding Council of Europe convention. It also requests that the Assembly and CLRAE be associated with the intergovernmental work to prepare for the final decision of the Committee of Ministers on this matter.

Other activities

The Committee on the Environment, Regional Planning and Local Authorities organised a "Parliamentary Conference for a pan-European policy for mountain regions" which took place from 11 to 13 September 1997 in Rodez (France).

The participants – members of parliament, local and regional elected representatives and experts in mountain economy and the conservation of ecosystems – discussed means of mending the handicaps of mountain regions while respecting their natural and cultural heritage. They supported the draft European charter of mountain regions prepared by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe in order to provide an integrated approach to the problems specific to mountain regions. ■

8. Migration, refugees and demography

Recommendation 1327 (1997) on the protection and reinforcement of the human rights of refugees and asylum seekers in Europe

In response to the vast increase in the number of asylum applications between 1985 and 1992, the European states introduced a series of changes to their asylum laws in order to make them more restrictive. These measures resulted in a considerable decrease in applications and in the numbers of claimants granted refugee status after 1992. However, certain deficiencies in the asylum-determination procedure and asylum laws in different countries can result in the violation of the human rights of refugees and asylum seekers.

In this recommendation, the question of minimum standards for asylum procedures is addressed. In general, they should provide greater protection for the human rights of refugees, and safeguard the most important of them – the principle of non-refoulement. There is a need for a concerted all-European approach which would include policy coordination and harmonisation of asylum legislation. A binding agreement should be developed among Council of Europe member states.

Steps should also be taken to improve detention and deportation conditions, and to counter any acts or signs of racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance.

Recommendation 1329 (1997) on the follow-up to the Mediterranean Conference on Population, Migration and Development (Palma de Mallorca, 15-17 October 1996)

This recommendation represents a follow-up to the Mediterranean Conference on Population, Migration and Development held in Palma de Mallorca from 15 to 17 October 1996. Organised by the Council of Europe's European Population Committee, the conference was the result of a Parliamentary Assembly initiative motivated by the need to find solutions to the daunting problems of demographic imbalance, disparities in social and economic development, and resulting migration pressures that characterise the Mediterranean region. The recommendation underlines the importance for the Council of Europe of framing a comprehensive strategy for the Mediterranean region, since developments there, no less than those in central and eastern Europe, will be decisive for Europe's future.

Recommendation 1334 (1997) on refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

It is estimated that nine million people have moved within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) since 1989, most of them involuntarily. This situation has had various causes: economic, social and ecological problems, armed conflicts, violent nationalism, violations of human and minority rights, insecurity and so on. These movements have very serious humanitarian consequences and could also affect stability and peace in the region.

The Assembly considers that the Council of Europe has an important role to play both in guaranteeing observance of the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons in the CIS countries – at least those which are members of the Council of Europe or have applied to join – and in helping to remove the causes of displacement. Accordingly, the Assembly makes recommendations to the CIS European countries concerning the protection of the refugees', asylum seekers' and displaced people's rights and calls on the Committee of Ministers to monitor closely the observance of these rights. Furthermore, it invites the member states to contribute generously to the funding of assistance programmes for these countries and the Committee of Ministers to launch specific programmes in this field.

Recommendation 1335 (1997) on the refugees and displaced persons in Transcaucasia

Transcaucasia is a region which has around one and a half million refugees and displaced persons living in very difficult humanitarian conditions, many of whom have been in this position for eight years. As Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia do not have adequate resources for dealing with this influx of people, the three countries are still largely dependent on international aid, both for humanitarian purposes and for development projects. At the same time, the repatriation of the displaced persons is being held up by the lack of progress in finding solutions to the conflicts in Abkhazia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Assembly wishes to draw attention to this humanitarian crisis which is going largely unnoticed in the rest of Europe. It recommends that the Committee of Ministers, in co-operation with other relevant international organisations, take steps to boost the programmes for these countries, which are currently moving towards membership of the Council of Europe. It urges the member states to contribute generously to aid for the states in the region and calls on the Council of Europe Social Development Fund to set up a task force to examine what possibilities it has for action in Transcaucasia. Lastly, it recommends that the three Transcaucasian republics give priority to repatriation in their peace negotiations, while strictly respecting the human rights of the refugees and displaced persons, including the freedom to choose their place of residence.

Recommendation 1343 (1997) on anti-personnel landmines and their humanitarian implications

The use of anti-personnel landmines ("mines") as weapons of war is a global humanitarian tragedy. The indiscriminate use of these weapons has long-lived consequences and has aroused immense distress throughout the world. This report is aimed at exposing the dimensions of the problem of anti-personnel mines and their humanitarian implications, with a view to reinforcing the call for a global ban on the manufacture, use, stockpiling and transfer of anti-personnel mines. The report demonstrates that mines are no longer indispensable weapons of war, examines their compatibility with international humanitarian law and describes the numerous national and international efforts to eliminate them.

The Assembly recommends that the Committee of Ministers should adopt a recommendation to member states condemning the manufacture, use, transfer and stockpiling of anti-personnel mines, declare these activities contrary to the Council of Europe's principles and draw up a list of companies producing mines in the member states. It calls on the member states, *inter alia*, to subscribe to international commitments aimed at totally banning anti-personnel mines or limiting their use, to adopt national legislation in that respect, to promote the establishment of a mine-free zone in Europe, to support international mine-clearance programmes and to increase aid to mine victims.

Recommendation 1348 (1997) on temporary protection of persons forced to flee their countries

In Europe, the granting of temporary protection to people forced to flee countries beset by war, civil strife, widespread violence or natural disasters is not governed by any international legal instruments and is a matter for the receiving countries to decide.

Temporary protection is a necessary complement to the Geneva Convention of 1951 relating to the status of refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto. To gear the use of this protection tool both for the maximum benefit of the persons forced to flee and with respect to the European countries' receiving capacities, the Assembly recommends that the Committee of Ministers adopt common guiding principles for the member states' legislation and practice in this field and set up a rapid reaction system to cope with cases of massive influx. Further, the Assembly addresses to the member states a series of recommendations which the latter should respect in implementing their national temporary protection policies. ■

9. Agriculture and rural development

Report on global challenges for agriculture (including aquaculture, fisheries and forestry) (Resolution 1139 (1997) and Recommendation 1350 (1997))

The report draws attention to the present use of resources, combined with an increasing world population, which is causing severe damage to the environment and to biodiversity and is changing the world's climate, which may threaten food security.

The Assembly regrets that, in spite of conventions and agreements (European Soil and Water Charters of the Council of Europe, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and Agenda 21 (adopted in 1992, in Rio de Janeiro), etc.), the destruction of biotopes and biodiversity continues throughout the world.

The primary sectors of agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry have partly contributed to this negative development. The report recognises that these sectors can, however, be used in reversing present trends. Sustainable technologies offer possibilities for improving air, soil and water quality and could help preserve biodiversity. The advancement of biological and other natural sciences offers alternative ways of assuring adequate food production levels in conformity with the principle of sustainability.

The Assembly therefore recommends in its resolution that the governments of member states and the European Union introduce relevant incentives for the promotion of sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry; favour the maintenance of local markets as a complement to increased world trade for the enhancement of food security, for the benefit of rural economies and for the maintenance of a living countryside; take concerted action for introducing in a significant way renewable non-polluting energies to promote the production of quality food.

In its recommendation, the Assembly calls on the Committee of Ministers to review the European Soil and Water Charters, with the purpose of updating them and to consider strengthening their legal force.

Report on the role of farmers' professional organisations as partners of governments in developing and implementing policies (Resolution 1141 (1997))

The report underlines the importance of the role of farmers' organisations (farmers' unions and federations, chambers of agriculture, co-operatives, mutual credit and insurance companies) in the development of agriculture in Europe.

In central and eastern Europe, in particular, these organisations have only been in existence for a relatively short time and they need to work with governments in order to continue the current structural reforms, aiming at developing a modern and competitive agriculture.

The report recommends international, European and national agricultural organisations to co-operate, in particular with their counterparts in the countries of central and eastern Europe, to help them adapt to legal and economic reforms, notably through exchange programmes and the recruitment of consultants from within the farming movement and to provide support and assistance to young farmers' organisations, especially in the countries of central and eastern Europe.

The Assembly therefore calls upon member states to establish a political, institutional and regulatory framework which provides a legal and administrative basis for and removes obstacles to the creation of professional agricultural organisations and permits them to play a role as partners of government in framing and implementing agricultural and rural policies. Furthermore, it asks them to create fair and supportive legal and financial conditions for representative professional agricultural organisations, especially in the countries of central and eastern Europe.

Report on food supply in the world (Recommendation 1351 (1997) and Resolution 1140 (1997))

The report is a follow-up to the World Food Summit, organised by the FAO in Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996.

One billion people still suffer from hunger and, at the advent of the year 2000, this situation is intolerable. Poverty and structural problems still remain the main causes of hunger, but political considerations in certain developing countries could also be implicated. In order to guarantee food security, not only should these countries implement new economic policies and set up democratic governments, but the industrialised countries and international organisations should also develop and improve the efficiency of international co-operation.

Another important factor for the eradication of hunger is the emancipation of women and their integration into the political life and economy of a country; young people also have an important role to play in developing agriculture and great importance should be attached to their education and training. The Assembly therefore recommends that the Committee of Ministers invite the governments of member states to help countries which are at present unable to produce the necessary minimum food supply to develop their agriculture so that they are capable of meeting at least the basic food requirements of the population; to pay special attention to the development of local agriculture and family production in these countries. They should also set up, under the auspices of the United Nations and in co-operation with the authorities in the beneficiary country(ies), a form of sponsorship and partnership aimed at co-ordinating development, in particular in sustainable agriculture, providing advice and at the same time promoting respect for democratic principles in this (these) country(ies).

In its resolution, the Assembly supports the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action adopted by the heads of state and government, and in particular the declaration adopted on 15 November 1996 by the parliamentarians who met in Rome on the occasion of the summit.

Furthermore, the Assembly invites the Food and Agriculture Organisation to draw up an international convention on the free movement and delivery of food and medicines intended for civil populations, in particular in emergency situations, allowing food and medical aid, under certain conditions, to be exempt from international trade rules and agreements ■

10. Monitoring

Recommendation 1338 (1997) on the obligations and commitments of the Czech Republic as a member state

The Czech Republic became an independent state in 1993, on the dissolution of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. It joined the Council of Europe on 30 June 1993. The Assembly welcomes the progress which has been made by the Czech Republic to consolidate the rule of law, to promote respect for human rights, to bring both law and policy into

line with the principles of the Council of Europe, and to establish good relations with neighbouring countries. It notably underlines the improvement of the legislation on citizenship. However, additional efforts should be made, in particular in the public service.

The recommendations made by the Assembly to the Committee of Ministers concern the implementation of the citizenship law, the fight against racism and intolerance and the public service.

The Assembly considers the monitoring procedure, opened in June 1995 as closed. It will pursue its dialogue with the Czech authorities on certain issues, with a view to reopening the monitoring procedure, if further clarification or enhanced co-operation should seem desirable.

Recommendation 1339 (1997) on the obligations and commitments of Lithuania as a member state

Lithuania joined the Council of Europe on 14 May 1993. The Assembly welcomes the progress, which has been made by this country to consolidate the rule of law, to promote respect for human rights, to bring both law and policy into line with the principles of the Council of Europe, and to establish good relations with neighbouring countries. The Assembly notes a positive evolution, notably in the fields of local administration, of legal and judicial systems, of police training and prison system, on the abolition of the death penalty and the protection of minorities.

The Assembly recommends to the Committee of Ministers to maintain the priority areas determined for Lithuania within the framework of the Council of Europe's co-operation and assistance programmes, to sustain the present level of resources allocated to those programmes and to address, under its monitoring procedure, the question of the implementation of Lithuania's new law on the prevention of organised crime, having regard to Lithuania's commitment to the protection of human rights.

The Assembly considers the monitoring procedure, opened in March 1995 as closed. It will pursue its dialogue with the Lithuanian authorities on certain issues, with a view to reopening the monitoring procedure, if further clarification or enhanced co-operation should seem desirable. ■

11. Parliamentary and public relations

Interparliamentary co-operation

Resolution 1120 (1997) on the impact of the new communication and information technologies (NCIT) on democracy

Conscious of the fact that the new communication and information technologies are of major importance in the evolution of all aspects of daily life: work, economic exchanges, modes of production, culture, information, education, and as such, have an impact on the functioning of democracy, the Assembly calls upon national parliaments to promote policies which:

at the legal level

– take legislative action in order to ensure the most effective use of these technologies for the benefit of the public and to reconcile technological progress with respect for democratic principles and human rights;

– avoid the introduction of complex and unworkable rules which would hamper the evolution and development of the NCITs necessary for the common good. Whenever it is necessary to regulate, the proportionality principle must be applied so as to strike a proper balance between the measures taken and the objectives pursued, between respect for freedoms, the protection of privacy and the fight against crime;

at the social level

– organise training in the NCITs from the earliest age in the public and private education system; and

– provide the people with universally accessible and affordable computer facilities that cover all the possibilities offered by national and international networks.

The Assembly also recommends promoting appropriate national legislative measures so as to set a legal framework for the preservation of private data, the protection of young people and respect for ethical rules and human rights.

Resolution 1121 (1997) on instruments of citizen participation in representative democracy

Preoccupied by the disillusionment with politics, the Assembly analyses the opportunities offered by representative democracy for direct participation by citizens, namely the different types of referenda in Europe.

This analysis takes account of the danger of such consultations turning into plebiscites when used by the executive to reinforce its own power.

To minimise this risk, the resolution establishes the basic principles for selecting, launching and implementing means of consultations.

Seminar on participatory democracy in central and eastern Europe (Vilnius, 3-5 July 1997)

This seminar falls within the framework of interparliamentary co-operation developed by the Assembly to enable the new democracies of central and eastern Europe to improve and consolidate the reform of their institutions.

How can the sovereignty of the people be fostered? To answer this question, the participants in the seminar looked for a balance

between direct democracy and representative democracy. Before falling prey to a totalitarian system, the Baltic states' experience of direct democracy served as a background to the exchange of views that took place at the seminar.

Over and above the question which will need to be analysed further, one certainty emerges from the seminar: direct democracy has to be exercised within certain limits. It is an adjunct to representative democracy and its function is to energise it. Representative democracy remains the foundation of pluralist democracy.

Resolution 1136 (1997) on the European partnership of national parliaments with the Parliamentary Assembly

The Parliamentary Assembly has the advantage of gathering in its midst representatives from forty national parliaments. Their role in the European construction should be reinforced to allow them wider access to the people. The development of the European partnership of national parliaments is a *sine qua non* condition of their respective roles.

The resolution proposes a series of criteria and measures aiming at taking greater account of the work of the Assembly by the national parliaments.

Resolution 1142 (1997) on parliaments and the media

In this text, the Assembly examines the reasons why parliamentary work is not well known by the public and particularly the reasons for the lack of media coverage. To remedy this situation, the Assembly suggests practical solutions favouring better access to documents, be it for consultation purposes or for ensuring that they are intelligible for non-specialist readers, more open committee work and an improvement in the working conditions of journalists in parliaments and the use of modern means of telecommunications. ■

IV. Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE)

1. Special guests and observers with the Congress

At present, only Bosnia and Herzegovina and Armenia enjoy special guest status with the Congress; they have had this status since 1996.

Since 1995, nine international associations of local and regional authorities have obtained observer status with the CLRAE, along with two national associations: the Union of Local Authorities in Israel and the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR, Japan).

In 1997, the Arab Towns Organisation was granted observer status. ■

2. Texts adopted in 1997

The following texts were adopted, either at the plenary session from 3 to 5 June 1997 or at the Standing Committee meetings in March and November 1997:

- Recommendation 28 (1997) and Resolution 45 (1997) on the state of local and regional democracy in Albania;
- Recommendation 29 (1997) and Resolution 50 (1997) on the state of local and regional democracy in Turkey;
- Recommendation 30 (1997) and Resolution 51 (1997) on the state of local self-government and federalism in Russia
- Recommendation 31 (1997) and Resolution 53 (1997) on the preliminary draft European Landscape Convention;
- Recommendation 32 (1997) on the contribution of the CLRAE to the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe Member States;
- Recommendation 33 (1997) and Resolution 56 (1997) on the local democracy embassies: instruments for peace and democracy in Europe;
- Recommendation 34 (1997) on the draft European Charter of Regional Self-Government;
- Recommendation 35 (1997) on the implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in Italy;
- Recommendation 36 (1997) and Resolution 57 (1997) on crime and urban insecurity in Europe;
- Recommendation 37 (1997) on the 3rd Economic Forum of the Regions of Europe for Economic Co-operation, Security and Sustainable Development;
- Resolution 43 (1997) on opening Europe to the young: towns and regions in action;
- Resolution 44 (1997) on towards a tolerant Europe: the contribution of Roma;
- Resolution 46 (1997) on the verification of procedures for appointing national and special guest delegations to the CLRAE and the verification of delegates' credentials;
- Resolution 47 (1997) amending the Rules of Procedure of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe;
- Resolution 48 (1997) amending the Rules of Procedure of the Chamber of Regions;
- Resolution 49 (1997) amending the Rules of Procedure of the Chamber of Local Authorities;
- Resolution 52 (1997) on federalism, regionalism, local autonomy and minorities;
- Resolution 54 (1997) on sustainable development at local and regional levels;
- Resolution 55 (1997) on local and regional financial instruments for the environment in Europe;
- Resolution 58 (1997) on the situation of local democracy in member countries;
- Opinion No. 6 (1997) on the preliminary draft of the European Charter of the Danube Basin, prepared by the Committee on the Environment, Regional Planning and Local Authorities of the Parliamentary Assembly;
- Opinion No. 7 (1997) on the draft Protocol No. 2 to the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities concerning inter-territorial co-operation.

At the 4th Plenary Session of the Congress, the following personalities were invited to speak:

- Mr Sysuev, Deputy Prime Minister, Russian Federation;
- Mr Voronin, Deputy Minister for Nationalities and Federal Relations, Russian Federation;
- Mr Opris, Deputy Minister responsible for the General Secretariat of the Government and the Department of Local Public Administration, Romania;
- Mr Berthelot, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe;
- Mrs Fischer, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- Mr Ratti, Chairman of the Governing Board of the Social Development Fund. ■

3. Study of local and regional democracy in states applying for Council of Europe membership, and monitoring of local elections

During the period in question, the Congress continued to play a significant role in monitoring local and regional democracy in member states and in states applying for Council of Europe membership. The Congress decided to study local and regional democracy in all member states in turn, in accordance with paragraph 11 of its Resolution 31 (1996).

In 1997, the Congress discussed reports on local and regional democracy in the following countries (at its plenary session and Standing Committee meetings):

– Italy (CPL (4) 4 Part II) + (Recommendation 35 (1997));

– Russian Federation (CG (4) 4 Part II) + (Recommendation 30 (1997)) + (Resolution 51 (1997));

– Turkey (CG (4) 3 Part II) + (Recommendation 29 (1997)) + (Resolution 50 (1997)).

The Congress is also drafting reports, to be discussed by the Standing Committee or at the 1998 session, on local and regional democracy in Bulgaria, Croatia, Latvia, Moldova, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

For the purposes of preparing those reports, the working groups on the situation of local democracy in member states and on regionalisation in Europe set up a joint working group to discuss the reports. It held its first meeting on 19 December 1997.

In 1997, the Congress continued to monitor local and regional elections in certain member states, as well as in states applying for Council of Europe membership.

Elections were monitored in Bosnia and Herzegovina (in co-operation with the OSCE) (CG/BUR (4) 69 and Addendum) and in Croatia (CG/BUR (4) 2 rev.).

The monitoring resulted in the adoption of reports by the Congress Bureau and Standing Committee, which were made public. ■

4. Working groups

At the end of 1997, the Congress had twenty-five working groups: five belonged to the Chamber of Local Authorities, four to the Chamber of Regions and sixteen groups were common to both chambers.

In addition, there exist two working groups which are twin groups with eleven delegates from each chamber, which can meet either separately or on a joint basis:

– Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development;

– Culture, Education and the Media.

The following new groups were set up in 1997:

– "Euro-Med" Co-operation in Local Democracy (Chamber of Local Authorities),

– The Local and Regional Information Society (mixed group),

– The Political Integrity of Local and Regional Elected Representatives (mixed group).

The following groups were disbanded:

– Twinnings and Partnerships,

– Working Group responsible for the Preparation of a Report on the State of Local Democracy in Italy,

– Provisions for Roma in Municipalities,

– Working Group responsible for the Preparation of a Report on the State of Local and Regional Democracy in Turkey,

– Working Group responsible for the Preparation of a Report on the State of Local and Regional Democracy in the Russian Federation,

– "North-South" Working Party.

It was decided that the Working Groups on the European Charter of Regional Self-Government and on Regionalisation in Europe might hold joint meetings.

The Congress is also represented, by elected representatives, on a number of steering committees and their specialised groups. In addition to the steering committees concerned, this applies to the Committee of Advisers for the Development of Transfrontier Co-operation in Central and Eastern Europe, where the Congress is represented by Mr Olbrycht (Poland, Chamber of Local Authorities), and the ENTO Bureau (European Network of Training Organisations for Local and Regional Authorities), where it is represented by Mr Paour (France, Chamber of Local Authorities). ■

5. Conferences and symposia held in 1997

In addition to meetings of the working groups, the Congress organised a number of seminars, conferences and hearings in 1997, which were open not only to local and regional authorities of Europe but also to a wider audience:

– 26-28 February in Erfurt (Germany): Conference on Crime and Urban Insecurity;

– 27-28 February in Florence (Italy): Hearing of the Italian Regions on the European Charter of Regional Self-Government;

– 10-11 March in Wroclaw (Poland): Hearing on the European Charter of Regional Self-Government;

– 26-27 March in Strasbourg: 2nd Congress of Cities of Asylum;

– 3-5 April in Poznań (Poland): Pan-European Conference on Regional/Spatial Planning;

– 24-26 April in Barcelona (Spain): Conference on the Implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Government by Courts of Justice;

– 24-26 June in Gothenburg (Sweden): Colloquy on Nuclear Safety and Local/Regional Democracy;

– 9-11 September in Vienna (Austria): 4th Economic Forum of the Regions of Europe;

– 2-3 October in Bari (Italy): Conference on Local and Regional Authorities confronted with Migratory Flows in the Mediterranean Region: a move from intolerance to development;

– 13-14 October in Vienna (Austria): Seminar and General Assembly of ENTO;

– 23-24 October in Pardubice (Czech Republic): Hearing on Roma in the Municipalities: Housing/Sites, Health, Social Affairs;

– 23-25 October in Budapest (Hungary): International Conference on Young People and their Towns: What involvement? Comparing policies;

– 13-15 November in Messina (Italy): Seminar on "The protection of citizens by non-judiciary institutions in Europe (Ombudsman-mediator)".

One of these events was organised in conjunction with the Parliamentary Assembly: the Hearing on the problems of the countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean and arrangements for North-South co-operation (23-24 October in Montpellier). ■

6. Co-operation with the European Union and its Committee of the Regions

The Congress maintained its special relations with the European Union Committee of the Regions (CoR). The contact group responsible for co-ordination met twice in 1997: in Gothenburg on 26 June and in Brussels on 30 October.

The European Conference on Nuclear Safety and Local/Regional Democracy, held in Gothenburg from 24 to 26 June 1997, was organised jointly by the CLRAE and the CoR.

A major hearing was also held in Strasbourg on 24 and 25 November 1997, in co-operation with the European Parliament (Committee on Regional Policy), on the theme "Cohesion and Enlargement". Its purpose was to discuss with local and regional representatives from applicant countries the arrangements envisaged for helping those countries in connection with their accession to the European Union. ■

7. Participation in Council of Europe activities

The Congress was invited to attend the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe. President Claude Haegi delivered a speech at the summit, and the Presidents of the two Chambers, Mr Van Cauwenberghe for the Chamber of Regions and Dr Hofmann for the Chamber of Local Authorities, were also invited.

The Congress has indicated its readiness to participate actively in implementing the action plan adopted by the heads of state and government.

The Congress also played an active part in preparing the fiftieth anniversary of the Council of Europe. Congress Bureau delegations attended joint meetings with the Ministers' Deputies' working group and the group set up by the Assembly to prepare the fiftieth anniversary, as well as some joint meetings.

Finally, the Congress is drawing up proposals concerning the Council of Europe's future structures in the local and regional authorities sector in preparation for a discussion with the Committee of Wise Persons set up by the Committee of Ministers as a result of the summit. ■

8. Other developments

In 1997, on the occasion of the 4th Session of the Congress, a third political group was created within the CLRAE: the Independent, Liberal and Democratic Group. ■

V. Co-operation with the European Union

1. Political dialogue and quadripartite meetings

In accordance with the declaration adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 5 May 1989, the development of relations with the European Community constitutes one of the main lines of the Council of Europe's action. The Political Declaration of the Committee of Ministers of 5 May 1989 and the 1987 Arrangement between the Council of Europe and the European Community still remain the basis and the framework for the development of the extensive co-operation between the two institutions. A supplementary exchange of letters was signed on 5 November 1996 by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the President of the European Commission. This was followed by a decision by the Ministers' Deputies in December 1996 fixing the modalities for the practical implementation of the new exchange of letters. The Commission now participates in meetings of the Committee of Ministers at Ministerial, Deputy and working party level.

Quadripartite meetings

At the political level, dialogue between the Council of Europe and the European Union shall, in accordance with a procedure instituted in 1989, be pursued through the holding of quadripartite meetings between, on the one hand, the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General and, on the other, the President of the Council of the European Union and the President of the Commission of the European Communities. The purpose of these meetings is notably to create reciprocal awareness of programmes, mutual interests and scope for joint projects.

In 1997 two quadripartite meetings were held, the first on 28 April, the second on 14 September. The first meeting focused on assistance to central and eastern European states, the countries of south-eastern Europe and co-operation with regard to the fight against racism and xenophobia. The practice of an informal dialogue between the relevant committees in the Council of the European Union and the Council of Europe in the field of culture and education and of justice and home affairs was welcomed and will be continued in the future, as it proved to be useful for both sides to compare programmes and avoid duplication. The participants held an exchange of views on public health which was considered as a very important issue for pursuing active co-operation at operational level. The second meeting concerned mainly the preparations of the second Council of Europe summit and the possible contribution of the European Union to certain aspects of the action plan. The reinforcement of co-ordination as regards crises, like the one in Albania, and the joint programmes for central and eastern Europe were also discussed.

Second summit

The Commission was represented at the second Council of Europe summit by its President, Mr J. Santer, and by Mr H. van den Broek, the member of the Commission responsible for relations with the Council of Europe. In his statement at the summit, Mr Santer fully associated the Commission with the draft texts to be adopted by the summit and said that the Commission, within its competence, would see to their implementation. In their declaration the heads of state and government expressed, among other things, their full support to the Council of Europe with a view to intensifying its contribution to cohesion, stability and security in Europe, and welcomed the development of its co-operation with other European and transatlantic organisations, in particular the European Union and the OSCE.

Rapporteur group

In May 1997 the Ministers' Deputies decided to change the title of the *ad hoc* working party to assist the chair and the Secretary General in establishing the position of the Council of Europe with a view to strengthening its co-operation with the European Union (GR-EU) to "Rapporteur Group on relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union".

Committee of Ministers and Ministers' Deputies

The senior Commission official responsible for relations with the Council of Europe attended the sessions of the Committee of Ministers in May and November. The Commission also regularly attended meetings at Deputy and working party level. ■

2. Implementation of the co-operation agreement

The implementation of the exchange of letters of 16 June 1987 between the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the President of the Commission of the European Communities and the supplementary exchange of letters of 5 November 1996 continued in 1997.

Co-operation was principally conducted with the European Commission, which represents the Community in its external relations. It took the form of contacts between the services of the Commission and the Council of Europe and mutual invitations to committee meetings, conferences and other events, especially in the fields of human rights, legal affairs, media, health, education, culture, heritage, social affairs, environment and youth.

Under the 1987 agreement a senior official shall be appointed by either side to ensure close liaison and co-operation between officials of the Council of Europe and the Commission. This task has been given to the Director of Political Affairs of the Council of Europe and to a Director in the Commission's Directorate General for External Relations with Europe and the NIS, CFSP and external service. The Council of Europe's Liaison Office in Brussels and the special unit set up by the Commission for co-operation with the Council of Europe have ensured the day-to-day contacts and a two-way flow of information. The Commission is considering strengthening its presence in Strasbourg, but has not yet a permanent delegation.

During 1997 one of the main subjects of discussion with the Commission was the possibility of a Community contribution to the Council of Europe's co-operation and assistance programmes with regard to central and eastern Europe and in particular the extension of such co-operation to the countries covered by the Community's TACIS programme.

Representatives of the Council of Europe Secretariat participated regularly in the Phare and TACIS Democracy Programme Advisory Group meetings in Brussels.

The joint programme for support to legal system and local government reform in the Baltic states was prolonged to the end of 1997, without additional financial resources. Activities in all main areas of co-operation continued until December 1997, including support to police and prison administrations and local government.

A new covenant for assistance with the integration of populations of foreign origin was signed in June 1997. This joint programme is operational for a period of one year and is built upon two major components. There will be support for the Estonian and Latvian naturalisation authorities and, as a second component, assistance with language and history testing for citizenship purposes.

A second covenant for the implementation of a joint programme between the European Commission and the Council of Europe to strengthen the federal structure, to introduce human rights protection mechanisms and legal system reform in the Russian Federation was signed in February 1997. The programme financed by the second covenant will run until the end of January 1999.

Implementation of the joint programme between the European Commission and the Council of Europe for legal system reform, local government reform and the transformation of the law-enforcement system in Ukraine continued in all areas in 1997. In addition to the two covenants, established in1995 and 1996, a third covenant for the continuation of the programme was signed in November 1997. This contract will last until October 1999.

A covenant establishing a joint programme for legal reform and the promotion of independent media in Moldova was signed in September 1997. This contract will last until March. A launching conference for the programme was held in Chişiňau in November 1997. It was attended by the representatives of the Council of Europe Secretariat, the European Commission and the Moldovan authorities responsible for the implementation of the programme.

In September 1997 the Council of Europe Secretariat proposed a joint programme for the legal system reform, reinforcement of human rights and the promotion of independent media in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Implementation of the joint programme "Minorities in central European countries" continued successfully. An interim report was submitted to the Commission in September 1997. A proposal for another programme in the field of national minorities has been submitted to the European Commission.

Following its inauguration at a multilateral conference in Sofia, Bulgaria, in December 1996, the implementation of the joint project on the fight against corruption and organised crime (Octopus Project) continued in 1997. An evaluation of the results of the project took place at a meeting with the national experts held in Strasbourg in December 1997. The extension of the Octopus project (Octopus 2) was discussed with the European Commission at a meeting in September 1997.

A target-orientated meeting on the Caucasus between representatives of the Council of Europe, the OSCE, the United Nations and the European Commission took place in Vienna in November 1997.

The confidence-building measures programme is financing, in principle, only activities that are submitted to the Steering Group on Confidence-building Measures in the form of projects. Therefore, normally, the applicants carry out such activities independently. However, a number of these applicant NGOs are cofinancing their structures with contributions from the European Union, thus achieving a *de facto* complementary support both from the Council of Europe and the European Union. ■

3. Intergovernmental activities

The Commission was invited to participate in the meetings of all the Council of Europe's steering committees and in the activities of most of its committees of experts. It was also represented at the conferences of specialised ministers held in 1997, in particular

the Conferences on Family Affairs (June), Justice (June), Education (June), Regional Planning (October), Equality between Women and Men (November) and Mass Media Policy (December).

a. Human rights

The Treaty of Amsterdam for the revision of the European Union Treaties, which was signed in October 1997, contains several references to the European Convention on Human Rights. The protection of fundamental rights in the European Union will be strengthened after the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty, in particular:

– Any individual can then take European Union institutions to the European Court of Justice (ECJ) over any action which they consider a breach of their fundamental rights.

– If the European Council determines the existence of a serious and persistent breach of the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law by a European member state, then the state in question may see some of its rights, including voting rights, suspended.

– The European Union may also take appropriate action to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion and belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

The treaty also includes a declaration on the abolition of the death penalty with reference to Protocol No. 6.

Lord Kirkhill, member of the Parliamentary Assembly, put a question to the Committee of Ministers on the effect of the clause in the new Amsterdam Treaty which widens the competence of the Court of Justice of the European Communities with respect to fundamental rights as guaranteed in the European Convention on Human Rights. After the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty, the ECJ will have jurisdiction over violations of human rights by European Union institutions. In its reply of 17 September, the Committee of Ministers acknowledged the importance of the question, but did not wish to express its views on the possible effects of the Amsterdam Treaty on the case-law of the ECJ and added that contacts between the ECJ and the European Court of Human Rights have to be determined by those two bodies.

In its resolution of 8 April 1997 on respect for human rights in the European Union (1995), the European Parliament reiterated its desire to see the Communities and the Union adhere to the European Convention on Human Rights.

European Social Charter

The Treaty of Amsterdam includes a new Article 117 establishing the European Community in the chapter on social policy which makes reference to the European Social Charter.

It is recalled that all member states of the European Union are parties to the Social Charter of the Council of Europe.

Equality between women and men

In the field of equality between women and men, co-operation between the two organisations was again marked by participation in each other's committee meetings, seminars and conferences and the intense exchange of information. Co-operation concerned in particular the fight against trafficking in women for sexual exploitation.

Racism and xenophobia

The Council of the European Union adopted, in June 1997, the regulation establishing a European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia. Given the experience of the Council of Europe in the field of combating racism and xenophobia, the regulation provides for the Community's entering into an agreement with the Council of Europe for the purpose of establishing close co-operation between the latter and the centre, and for the appointment by the Council of Europe of a person to sit on the centre's management board.

In autumn 1997 meetings between the Secretariat and the Commission were held with a view to developing wording which might facilitate the conclusion of the draft agreement. The Ministers' Deputies examined in December the text which emanated from these meetings. The Deputies marked their agreement with this text and instructed the Secretariat to convey their agreement to the Commission and to continue to work for the conclusion of a formal agreement at the earliest possible date.

The Council of Europe was represented at the meetings of the Consultative Commission on Racism and Xenophobia of the European Union.

In July the Council of the European Union declared 1997 as "European Year against Racism". This European Year will be an element in the development of a global strategy against racism. A representative of the Secretary General participated in the meetings of the European Commission's Advisory Group of Independent Experts established in the framework of the European Year against Racism. The Council of Europe was likewise represented at the opening and closing conferences of the European Year against Racism.

The European Commission has continued to be represented at meetings of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) of the Council of Europe.

b. The media

Following the adoption of the revised "Television without frontiers" Directive of the European Union in June 1997, the Standing Committee on Transfrontier Television stepped up its work aimed at amending the European Convention on Transfrontier Television in order to maintain coherence between this instrument and the revised directive. Two issues remain outstanding. It is hoped that the work on the revision of the convention will be finalised in spring 1998. The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Transfrontier Television participated in the meeting of the "Television without frontiers" Contact Committee organised in October 1997 by the European Commission.

Furthermore, the Steering Committee on the Mass Media (CDMM) and its subordinate bodies continued to follow closely the work undertaken within the European Union on issues which are also dealt with in the Council of Europe. The first area concerns new communications technologies. The CDMM has, in particular, taken note of a number of recent initiatives of the European Commission on this topic: preparation of a proposal for a recommendation on the protection of minors and human dignity in audiovisual and information services, the publication of a green paper on the convergence of the telecommunications, media and information technology sectors. The second area concerns copyright and neighbouring rights, where it was noted that a number of initiatives are under way within the European Commission.

c. Social and socio-economic problems

The European Commission participated in Council of Europe activities relating to demography, social security, social policy, social exclusion, childhood policies, population and migration, in particular in view of developments in and assistance for central and eastern European countries. The Council of Europe Secretariat had contacts with various departments of the European Commission with a view to improving mutual knowledge of each other's work and to organising joint activities.

The Commission was regularly represented at the meetings of the steering committees (CDSS, CDPS, CDMG, CDPO) and their subordinate committees.

In November a meeting took place between the President of the European Investment Bank, the Chairman of the Governing Board of the Social Development Fund and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. Some fields of possible co-operation between the EIB and the CEF were identified:

– following the European Summits of Amsterdam and Luxembourg and the 2nd Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, both institutions have mandates for the creation of additional employment in Europe;

– financing of projects in the central and eastern European countries, such as the co-financed urban district heating project in Bucharest, especially with a view to preparing those countries for accession to the European Union.

In November 1997 the Administrative Council of the Social Development Fund approved a project to be co-financed with the European Investment Bank (EIB) for reconstruction of the Umbria and Marche regions in Italy.

d. Education, culture, heritage and sport

Education

In the framework of the Joint Programme between the Council of Europe and the European Union on In-Service Teacher Training in Human Rights Education and Education for Democratic Citizenship in Bosnia and Herzegovina, some five hundred primary and secondary school teachers in both the Federation and in the Republika Srpska were trained in August 1997.

After the first informal meeting in December 1996, the second informal meeting between the Education Committee and the Higher Education and Research Committee of the Council of Europe and the Education Committee of the Council of the European Union took place in December 1997. The Austrian delegation stated its intention to hold an informal meeting under its European Union Presidency in autumn 1998, and the pattern of annual informal meetings now seems to be confirmed. This brings co-operation a significant step forward. The informal meeting noted with satisfaction that practical, concrete co-operation was already established in several areas, such as the recognition of qualifications and the European dimension of education (including educational documentation and research). The discussion suggested that, in developing future co-operation, special emphasis could be given to modern languages (including new technologies), citizenship education and educational policy and legislation (building on the experience of the legislative reform programme, but applied to all fields of education).

The joint management and updating of the European Education Thesaurus has continued throughout 1997.

The European Community participated at the Diplomatic Conference (Lisbon, April 1997) where the Council of Europe/Unesco Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region was adopted and opened for signature. The European Community may accede to it after its entering into force following a request by its member states.

Culture

An informal meeting of the Cultural Affairs Committee of the Council of the European Union with representatives of the Council of Europe Secretariat was held in July 1997 in Luxembourg. The aim of this meeting was to establish a concrete basis for co-operation with the Cultural Affairs Committee of the Council of the European Union and, *inter alia*, to examine a list of Council of Europe projects likely to be the subject of co-operation and/or co-ordination, such as cultural routes, books and archives, cultural policy reviews and European cultural networks.

Following the wish of the Cultural Affairs Committee of the Council of the European Union to set up an *ad hoc* working group, composed of the presidency and the future presidency of the Cultural Affairs Committee of the Council of the European Union, the Culture Committee of the Council of Europe, as well as staff from the secretariats of the two institutions and the European Commission, this group met in September 1997 and considered what possibilities there were for concrete co-operation, in two of the above-mentioned fields, for example, and started to establish a work schedule.

The Council of Europe attended a consultation meeting in Brussels in view of the elaboration of a Commission proposal for a cultural framework programme for 2000-05 (November 1997).

Cultural heritage

The European Commission is continually involved in the activities of the Cultural Heritage Committee (CC-PAT).

The European Union is represented by the European Parliament on the Governing Board of the European Foundation for Heritage Skills (FEMP). Several activities were run in conjunction with or funding from the European Union.

The European Commission provided funding for the European Heritage Days 1997 and the HEREIN (Heritage Information Network) project to develop a computerised, multimedia information tool.

Sport

Regular meetings between the European Commission, the Council of Europe Secretariat and members of the CDDS Bureau have ensured co-ordination of activities since 1993. At the co-ordination meeting in March 1997, apart from the regular review of ongoing co-operation in the fields of anti-doping education and information (the *Clean Sports Guide*), the meeting considered the possibility of preparing a new large-scale co-operative project, to be jointly financed, along the lines of those in the Secretary General's "New Initiative", on Regeneration through Sport: the modernisation of the numerous but neglected sports facilities, the training and retraining of facility managers, the creation of new job opportunities in the field of sports and the promotion of sport and health-related fitness programmes, aimed particularly at Belarus, Moldova, Russia and the Ukraine. The project could be based on the idea of creating an open or summer university.

Sport has been included in the Amsterdam Treaty of the European Union, which will give the Commission competence in this sector.

Eurimages

The Board of Management of Eurimages has paid specific attention to the evolution of Media II in order to maintain the complementarity between Eurimages and the media.

European Audiovisual Observatory

The European Commission is a member of the European Audiovisual Observatory. The Observatory also co-operates closely with Eurostat in matters relating to cultural and audiovisual statistics.

European Centre for Modern Languages

The Second Annual Colloquy of the European Centre for Modern Languages (February 1997) on the theme: "Modern Language Learning and Teaching in Central and Eastern Europe: which diversification and how can it be achieved?" was co-organised with, and co-financed by, the European Commission. Besides this, the Centre had numerous contacts with the Commission.

e. Youth

The Youth Directorate continued the process of creating a more formalised and steady system of co-operation with the European Commission. A representative of the Commission is invited to participate in the meetings of the European Steering Committee for Intergovernmental Co-operation in the Youth Field (CDEJ) and its working groups. The Council of Europe was represented at the meetings of the European Commission's "Youth for Europe" Advisory Committee. Both youth services mutually participated in their seminars and conferences.

As a result of the meeting between the operational sectors of DG XXII and the Youth Directorate in March 1997 in Budapest, some concrete co-operation projects were envisaged:

– European Year against Racism: Training course for Roma youth leaders;

– Training courses for trainers in youth exchange programmes with a view to helping newly established Youth for Europe agencies in central Europe;

– Further staff training on youth programmes of the European Union.

Co-operation between the European Union and the Council of Europe in the field of youth research has been stable. It consists mainly in exchanges of information and experts.

f. Health

Public health

An education for health programme in schools, started in 1991, is jointly run by the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the WHO (Europe). The aim is to create a European network of health promoting schools (ENHPS) to promote health amongst young people. Over thirty countries have joined the network and have chosen the schools in their countries which will participate in the programme. The first European conference of the ENHPS urged the governments of all European countries to adopt the concept of the "Health-promoting school" (Thessaloniki, May 1997).

The Commission has been invited to participate as a full member in the Committee of Experts on the use of medical examinations for employment and insurance purposes and in the Committee of Experts on quality assurance in health care.

A computerised network between organ transplant centres for the rapid exchange of livers, largely financed by the European Communities will be put on trial for a period of two years as from January 1998. France, Switzerland and Italy will participate in the scheme.

At the Council of Europe/European Union quadripartite meeting (Luxembourg, April 1997) the participants held an exchange of views on public health and felt it was very important to pursue active co-operation at the operational level. Particular attention was to be given to co-operation and co-ordination in relation to human organs, tissues, blood and blood products and to an examination by the European Commission of the 1995 Technical

Protocol to Agreement No. 26 of the Council of Europe on the Exchange of Therapeutic Substances of Human Origin.

A delegation of the European Health Committee had a meeting with representatives of the European Commission in February 1997 in Luxembourg, to discuss future relations between the Commission and the Council of Europe in the area of blood transfusion with a view to ensuring that common standards are met within the two organisations.

The CDSP carried out an inquiry into the collection and usage of blood and plasma in 1997 in the non-Community states using a questionnaire drawn up by the European Commission for use by the Community states.

Partial Agreement in the Social and Public Health Field

The European Commission actively participated in the various meetings organised under the Partial Agreement. The Secretariat was invited to take part in a session of the Pharmaceutical Committee of the European Union.

European Pharmacopoeia

The European Community is a party to the Convention on the Elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia and takes part regularly in its activities.

The Technical Secretariat of the European Pharmacopoeia Commission is represented as observer and scientific adviser at all meetings of specific working parties organised by the Commission. The Secretariat also participates as observer in meetings of the technical groups of the Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products and the Committee for Proprietary Veterinary Products of the European Medicines Evaluation Agency.

The application of the contract on biological standardisation signed between the Community and the Council of Europe is progressing satisfactorily.

Pompidou Group

Co-operation with the Phare programme has continued in a number of fields. In particular the Phare service participated in the Demand Reduction Staff Training Programme and numerous contacts have been made with consultants and national co-ordinators involved in various Phare projects.

The Pompidou Group Secretariat attends regularly the meetings of the Management Board of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).

The Commission and the EMCDDA were represented at the meetings of the Permanent Correspondents and of the experts in epidemiology.

g. Environment and regional planning

Environment

The European Community is a Contracting Party to the Bern Convention and, as such, takes part in all the convention's activities.

The European Commission regularly invites the Council of Europe as an observer to the Scientific Working Group of the Habitats Directive. The Nature Centre of the European Environment Agency regularly invites the Council of Europe Secretariat to take part in its technical meetings.

The European Commission took part in the meetings of the executive bureau (STRA-BU) of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy.

Regional planning

The Council of Europe Secretariat was represented at the informal meeting of Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning and Regional Policy of the European Union (Noordwijk, June 1997).

The European Commission was represented at the 11th Session of the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning (CEMAT) (Limassol, October 1997).

A Council of Europe representative participated in November in a preparatory meeting for the conference on the sustainable development of the European continent in the coming century, which will be held in Berlin in April 1998. Subject of the conference: "Preparing the future: a policy strategy for the European continent".

Open Partial Agreement on Major Hazards

In the framework of the implementation of Resolution No. 2 on "The use of space technologies to assist risk management," adopted by the Ministerial Conference of the Agreement on 6 October 1994 in Brussels, and of the conclusions adopted by the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the Agreement on 2 July 1996 at the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Ispra instructing the Executive Secretary of the Agreement to present proposals to set up a "European system on space information to assist risk management", co-operation between the European Commission and the Executive Secretariat of the Agreement has been pursued with increasing intensity.

In order to contribute to carrying out this instruction, a technical co-ordination unit has been set up at the Joint Research Centre in Ispra. This unit comprises representatives from the Commission, the European Space Agency (ESA) and the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement of the Council of Europe.

A resolution on the use of space technologies to assist risk management (STRIM programme) was adopted at the Ministerial Session of the Agreement (Monte Carlo, November 1997) underlining present and future co-operation with the Commission for the implementation of this joint activity. The European Commission and the Joint Research Centre in Ispra actively participated in this session.

h. Local democracy

The European Commission participated in a number of committee and steering committee meetings.

i. Legal co-operation

Exchanges of views between the Troika of the K4 Committee of the Council of the European Union (co-ordinating committee of senior officials in the fields of justice and home affairs) and a delegation from the Council of Europe took place in March and October 1997 in Brussels. Matters of common concern, in particular work being carried out in the field of judicial co-operation both in the European Union and in the Council of Europe, were discussed. The Council of Europe's purpose was to establish practical formulae for working relations between the committees or other structures working in the same fields.

Inter-service meetings between the Legal Service of the European Commission and the Directorate for Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe took place in May and November 1997.

The Council of Europe was represented at a conference on the rule of law organised by the Netherlands Presidency of the European Union in co-operation with the European Commission and the Council of Europe (Noordwijk, June 1997).

Legal co-operation concerning private and public law

The European Commission was represented at the meetings of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) and, in particular, played an important role concerning the adoption by the CDCJ of the revised text of the recommendation on the protection of medical data.

Public international law

The European Commission is regularly invited to the meetings of the Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI). The European Commission was represented at the first meeting of the Committee of Experts on efficiency of justice (CJ-EJ in June 1997).

Bioethics

The Council of Europe Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, which was adopted in November 1996, is open for signature by the European Community.

The European Union continued its active participation in the work of the Steering Committee on Bioethics (CDBI).

The Council of Europe Secretariat is an observer at meetings of the Embryo and Foetus Protection Committee, set up by the European Commission.

The European Commission granted financial support for the Council of Europe's Demo-Droit Ethical Review of Biomedical Research Activity (DEBRA) to assist central and eastern European countries in the establishment and development of independent and multidisciplinary ethics committees for the review of biomedical research.

Corruption

The European Commission is actively participating in the work of the Multidisciplinary Group on Corruption (GMC) and its working groups.

The Council of the European Union, in autumn 1997, adopted common positions on the negotiations in the Council of Europe and the OECD concerning the fight against corruption. The Council of the European Union noted that, in the interest of the good application of the conventions of the Council of Europe and of the OECD, it would be necessary to install an efficient follow-up and co-ordination mechanism with a light structure and clearly defined competencies. The GMC welcomed and took into account this common position when drafting the text of a partial agreement establishing the follow-up mechanism.

The Council of Europe and the European Commission (Phare programme) have set up jointly the Octopus project on corruption and organised crime in central and eastern Europe. This project aims at co-ordinating legislation and practical action against organised crime in states in transition. It falls into the context of the draft programme of action against corruption of the Multidisciplinary Group on Corruption (GMC). The European Commission participated in the evaluation conference of the Octopus Project for the fight against corruption and organised crime in states in transition, which was organised by the Council of Europe (December 1997).

Territorial asylum, refugees and stateless persons

The European Commission was represented at the meetings of the *Ad hoc* Committee of Experts on Legal Aspects of Territorial Asylum, Refugees and Stateless Persons (CAHAR) in April and October 1997.

Data protection

A decision of the Council of the European Union of 17 February 1997 authorising the member states of the European Union, acting within the bodies of the Council of Europe, to adopt on behalf of the Community for matters falling within its competence Recommendation No. R (97) 5 on the protection of medical data. Another such decision of September authorises them to adopt Recommendation No. R (97) 18 on the protection of personal data collected and processed for statistical purposes.

The Commission applied in October 1997 for the opening of negotiations for the accession of the Communities to the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (ETS No. 108).

Animal protection

The European Community is Party to the Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes (ETS No. 87) and participates very actively, at the level of the Commission, in the work of the Standing Committee.

The European Community has signed the Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for Experimental and other Scientific Purposes (ETS No. 123).

In accordance with the decision of the Commission to invite the Secretariat of the Council of Europe to the meetings of the competent authorities for the Directive 86/609/EC, a representative of the Secretariat will be invited to participate in the next meeting on statistics concerning laboratory animals.

The Council of the European Union and the European Commission participated very actively in the working party for the preparation of the Multilateral Consultation of Parties to the European Convention for the Protection of Animals during International Transport (ETS No. 65).

Crime problems

The Council of the European Union as well as the European Commission are regularly represented in the European Committee on Crime Problems and the Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions in the Penal Field.

In the course of 1997 a series of consultations took place with the European Commission on possible joint projects with the countries of central and eastern Europe in the area of justice and home affairs.

The Council of Europe and the European Commission negotiated an agreement on the financial contribution of the Commission to the mutual evaluation programme of the Council of Europe for anti-money laundering measures in member states not covered by the evaluation procedures of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The Commission's support will in particular relate to the participation of the twelve Phare countries.

European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)

The European Commission is regularly represented at the plenary meetings of the European Commission for Democracy through Law.

The European Commission has granted a sum of 50 000 ecus to the European Commission for Democracy through Law, to contribute to its activities for the development and consolidation of democracy and human rights through constitutional reforms for the period December 1997 to December 1998. ■

4. Relations between the Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament

Co-operation between the Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament takes the form of annual meetings of their respective Presidents and delegations of their Bureaux, joint committee meetings on specific subjects and a constant exchange of information (see above under Parliamentary Assembly).

In November 1997, the European Parliament adopted an amendment to its Rules of Procedure, dealing with co-operation between the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The new text provides that:

> "Parliament's bodies, particularly the committees, shall co-operate with their counterparts at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in fields of mutual interest, with the aim in particular of improving the efficiency of their work and avoiding duplication of effort."

This replaces a provision which required the Bureau of the European Parliament to appoint a rapporteur each year to prepare a report to the Parliamentary Assembly on the activities of the European Parliament.

In December 1997, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly met the President of the European Parliament. They identified a number of matters of common interest, which should be taken up at their next common meeting. ■

5. Relations between the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe and the Committee of the Regions

Co-operation between the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe and the Committee of the Regions of the European Union continued in 1997. The framework for co-operation includes, in particular, mutual invitations to plenary sessions and conferences, annual meetings of the Presidents and the appointment of one administrator on each side for continuous contacts and exchange of information. A contact group composed of the three Presidents and other members of the Congress and members of the Committee of the Regions meets regularly to identify fields of co-operation and compare agendas. It was agreed that the Committee of the Regions should prepare an opinion on the draft European Landscape Convention, which had been prepared by the Congress and which was adopted at its 4th Plenary Session.

A European Conference on Nuclear Safety and Local/Regional Democracy was jointly organised by the Congress and the Committee of the Regions (Gothenburg, Sweden, June 1997).

The Congress was represented at the Summit of Regions and Towns, organised by the Committee of the Regions in Amsterdam in May 1997.

A member of the Committee of the Regions participated in the Pan-European Conference on Regional Planning (Poznań, 3-5 April 1997).

The Congress also maintains contacts with the European Commission, in particular DG XVI and the services responsible for the Phare and Tacis programmes. The Lode Programme of local democracy embassies, which was initiated by the Congress, received financial support from the Phare Democracy programme. The Commission is regularly invited to attend the CLRAE plenary sessions.

The Congress participates regularly in the European Parliament's intergroup on minority languages in view of the demands of some European Parliament members for an accession of the European Community to the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages. The European Parliament was represented at the CLRAE plenary session.

In co-operation with the Committee for Regional Policy of the European Parliament and the Committee of Regions, the Congress organised a hearing on "enlargement and cohesion" on 23 and 24 November 1997 in Strasbourg. The aim was to gather the opinion of local and regional authorities from applicant countries on the modalities and programmes foreseen in Agenda 2000 for accession and pre-accession. ■

6. European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity

The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity) co-ordinates its activities closely with the European Union which is represented on the Centre's Executive Council by a representative of the European Commission and two members of the European Parliament. The European Union makes a financial contribution to all the North-South Centre activities.

The North-South Centre also participates in activities run by the European Commission, such as the development of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, through the organisation, for example, of an international colloquy on "Intercultural dialogue in the Mediterranean: a basis for co-operation" (April 1997, in Malta). ■

VI. Assistance with the development and consolidation of democratic security in Europe

The co-operation activities with central and east European countries, deployed under various programmes[1], covered in 1997 all the member states which joined the Council of Europe after 1989 (except Andorra), and candidate countries benefiting from special guest status with the Parliamentary Assembly (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia). Co-operation with Belarus was frozen (except for activities in support of independent media and civil society) as a result of the institutional crisis in that country. Geographical priority was given to the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the countries of south-eastern Europe, where a special effort was needed to help Albania overcome the terrible damage done by the spring 1997 crisis. The countries of the Caucasus region became, in 1997, the latest beneficiaries of the programmes.

The 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government, in Strasbourg in October 1997, gave "full support to the Council of Europe with a view to intensifying its contribution to cohesion, stability and security in Europe" and pledged "to continue active support for democratic development in all member states and to increase [their] efforts to promote an area of common legal standards throughout Europe".

On the basis of the aforementioned experience, the Committee of Ministers, in adopting the 1998 budget, decided to rename the Vote IX programmes "Activities for developing and consolidating democratic stability (ADACS)". As well as removing all geographical references from Vote IX's title, they decided to open up the programmes to all member or applicant states. The programmes should gradually become a means of helping any state which has difficulties – as revealed in particular by the various procedures for monitoring compliance with obligations – meeting the statutory obligations and special undertakings given as members of the Council of Europe.

In 1997, a growing number of activities was organised within the framework of joint programmes between the European Commission and the Council of Europe (for Albania, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine). Two multilateral joint programmes (for the protection of national minorities, on the one hand, and on the fight against corruption and organised crime (Octopus programme), on the other hand), concluded in 1996, were fully implemented in 1997.

A detailed report on the co-operation activities undertaken by the Council of Europe is available for further information: *Assistance with the development and consolidation of democratic security – Annual report 1997* (SG/INF (98/1)).[2]

Albania

The activities of the Council of Europe in Albania were marked by the serious political crisis this country suffered throughout the year.

The Council of Europe became an important part of the international efforts to overcome the crisis, as expressed in the decision of the Permanent Council of the OSCE dated 27 March 1997.

Within this framework the Council of Europe co-operated closely with the OSCE and other international organisations in the political as well as the legislative preparation of new parliamentary elections.

It also participated with the OSCE and the European Parliament in the preparation and realisation of the monitoring of the Albanian parliamentary elections of 29 June and 6 July 1997.

Within the framework of its co-operation activities carried out since 1993 in all its fields of competence, the Council of Europe had accumulated valuable expertise which it put at the disposal of the international community in an attempt to overcome the crisis. This was in particular true of the report on the structure of the Albanian police drafted under the second joint programme between the European Commission and the Council of Europe for Albania. This report helped shape the action of

1. "Demosthenes" for member states and "Demosthenes-*bis*" for candidate countries – programmes covering practically all fields of activity of the Council of Europe: human rights, media, legal co-operation (Demo-Droit), education, culture, sport, youth, civil society and minorities;
"Themis" – programme for the training of legal professionals: lawyers, judges, attorneys, notaries, policemen and prison staff;
"Lode" – programme for the development of local democracy and the training of local authorities' elected representatives and officials;
"New Initiative of the Secretary General" – a supplementary co-operation programme for the European countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in the fields of history teaching, human rights education, the fight against urban insecurity, the twinning of prisons, mediatic and civil society initiatives;
"Medium-Term Training Programme for Media Professionals" – activities for journalists and media professionals;
"Legislative Reform Programme" – a programme to assist in the transformation of higher education systems;
"Democratic Leadership Programme" – training programme for young political leaders (initiated in 1997).

2. See also addenda to the annual report 1997 (SG/INF (98/1): *Synopses of activities in 1997* and *Report on the activities of the Information and Documentation Centres of the Council of Europe.*

the WEU/MAPE with a view to assisting in the reconstruction of the Albanian police.

After the elections the Council of Europe co-operated with other international donors within the co-ordinating framework of the OSCE with a view to rebuilding institutions in Albania. It was the first international organisation to make a concrete contribution in that respect, supporting the setting up of the Albanian School of Magistrates, which was inaugurated on 9 October 1997 in the presence of the Albanian President, the Albanian Prime Minister and the diplomatic corps.

Soon after the elections the new Albanian Government launched a project to give the country a definite constitution. The Council of Europe, through its Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), has from the very beginning worked in co-operation with the OSCE in an international effort to assist with the drafting. A member of the Secretariat of the Venice Commission was dispatched to Tirana to liaise continuously with the international donors and the Albanian authorities.

The Council of Europe also resumed its expertise on the Law on Electronic Media as well as on the Law on the Organisation of Justice, adopted by the Albanian Parliament on 18 December 1997.

The second joint programme between the European Commission and the Council of Europe for assistance to the legal system reform in Albania, which had started in 1995, came to an end on 30 September 1997. Given the evident needs of institutional reconstruction in Albania after the political unrest, preparations for the setting up of a third joint programme started in autumn 1997. ■

VII. External relations

1. Relations with non-European countries

a. Countries with observer status

Under Committee of Ministers Resolution (93) 26, states enjoying observer status are entitled to appoint permanent observers to the Council of Europe and send observers to the meetings of its committees of experts. Their observers may also attend conferences of specialised ministers, upon invitation by the relevant host country. The Committee of Ministers may also invite observer states to take part in certain working groups that come under the Ministers' Deputies. The parliaments of the three states that have been granted observer status to date regularly take part in the Parliamentary Assembly's annual enlarged debates on the activities of the OECD.

Canada

Canada was granted observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly on 28 May 1997 (Resolution 1125 (1997)). Among the three states with observer status, only Canada has observer status with both the Council of Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly. A delegation of Canadian parliamentarians accordingly participates in the sessions of the Parliamentary Assembly and in the work of its various committees on a regular basis.

Representatives of the Canadian Parliament also participate regularly in the Parliamentary Assembly's annual enlarged debates on the activities of the OECD and the EBRD.

In February 1997 the Secretary General of the Council of Europe paid an official visit to Canada at the invitation of the Canadian Government. On this occasion the Secretary General discussed with members of the Canadian Government and Parliament ways and means of strengthening relations between the Council of Europe and Canada under the new observer status.

Other important events in 1997 were:

– the working visit by the deputy director of the division responsible for relations with the European Union and the Council of Europe of the Canadian Ministers for Foreign Affairs on 4 June;

– the participation by a member of the Parliamentary Assembly, Senator Jacques Legendre, in the Parliamentary Conference of the Americas in Quebec City from 18 to 22 September;

– the participation by a delegation of Canadian observers, led by Mr Richard Thompson, Associate Deputy Minister, Legal Operations Sector, Department of Justice, in the 2nd Council of Europe Summit in Strasbourg on 10 and 11 October;

– the participation by Canadian representatives in the Seminar on "Political and social participation of immigrants through consultative bodies", in Strasbourg from 26 to 28 November.

Canada actively participated in the work carried out in the framework of the Pan-European Strategy for Biological and Landscape Diversity.

The Council of Europe was represented at the International Conference on Privacy: the new frontier, held from 23 to 26 September, in Montreal.

Social and economic affairs

Canada sends observers to various steering committees, working parties, committees of experts and conferences of specialised ministers, in particular in the fields of human rights, culture, education, the heritage, crime and corruption and especially:

– the European Committee on Migration (CDMG) in Geneva from 14 to 17 April, and from 5 to 7 November;

– the 15th Session of the Steering Committee on Social Policy (CDPS) in Strasbourg from 22 to 25 April;

– the 3rd meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials responsible for preparing the 7th Conference of European Ministers responsible for Social Security (MSS-7-HF), in Strasbourg, from 3 to 5 June;

– the Working Group on Employment Strategies for Persons with Disabilities (P-RR-SEH), Strasbourg, 15 to 17 September;

– the 49th and 50th meetings of the European Social Security Committee (CDSS), in Strasbourg from 28 to 30 May and from 25 to 27 November.

Canada also contributed to the elaboration of the two following publications:

– *Comparative tables of social security schemes.*

– *Developments in national social security legislation.*

Culture

Canada actively participates in the activities of the Culture Committee (CC-CULT) in the framework of the projects "Culture, communication and new technologies" and "Review of national cultural policies", and it was represented at the meetings from 15 to 17 April and from 30 September to 2 October of the CC-CULT.

Education

Canada participated in the CDCC's final conference of the Language Learning for European Citizenship Project, entitled Language Learning for a New Europe (Strasbourg, 15-18 April) and as a member of the team of experts in a joint Council of Europe-European Union Seminar on Basic Concepts and Core Competencies for the CDCC's Project on Education for Democratic Citizenship (Strasbourg, 11-12 December 1997).

Canadian experts and administrators attended occasionally international workshops organised by the European Centre for Modern Languages of Graz, especially on issues such as bilingual education or language policy ("Introduction to language policy: methods of analysis and evaluation, fields of intervention").

Canada attends Higher Education and Research Committee (CC-HER) meetings as an observer and has generally been represented by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC).

Recognition of qualifications and mobility

Canada participated in the Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the Council of Europe/Unesco Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region, in Lisbon from 8 to 11 April 1997.

On 4 November 1997, Canada acceded to the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region.

Canada is also an active participant in the joint Council of Europe/Unesco ENIC network of national information centres on recognition and mobility. Canada was represented at the 1997 annual meeting of the ENIC Network in Helsinki from 8 to 11 June.

Conferences of specialised ministers

Canada participated in the following conferences:

– the 21st Conference of European Ministers of Justice, in Prague, on 10 and 11 June;

– the Standing Conference of European Ministers of Education "Education 2000: Trends, Common Issues and Priorities for Pan-European Co-operation", in Kristiansand, Norway, from 22 to 24 June;

– the European Ministerial Conference on Equality between Women and Men, in Istanbul, on 13 and 14 November;

– the European Ministerial Conference on Mass Media Policy, in Thessaloniki, on 11 and 12 December. Canada was represented by Mrs Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage.

Legal co-operation

Canada participated in the work of the following bodies:

– the 14th meeting of the Committee of Experts on Nationality (CJ-NA) from 24 to 27 February;

– the 67th meeting of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) from 27 to 30 May;

– the Committee of Experts on Crime in Cyberspace (PC-CY): Canada took part in the first plenary meeting in April;

– the 12th and 13th meetings of the Steering Committee on Bioethics (CDBI) from 17 to 19 June and 1 to 4 December;

– the Venice Commission on 11 and 12 December;

– the Second International Conference on Federalism, in Moscow, on 16 and 17 December.

Moreover in 1997 Canada took part in the following meetings:

– the Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions in the Penal Field (PC-OC);

– the Multidisciplinary Group on Corruption (GMC);

– Committee of Experts on Intimidation of Witnesses and the Rights of the Defence (PC-WI);

– the Project Group on Data Protection (CJ-PD);

– the *Ad hoc* Committee of Experts on Legal Aspects of Territorial Asylum, Refugees and Stateless Persons (CAHAR);

– the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC);

– the 12th Conference of Directors of Prison Administration (CDAP).

Youth

Canada was represented at the meeting of the European Steering Committee for Intergovernmental Co-operation in the Youth Field (CDEJ), from 14 to 16 October.

Media

Canada sends observers to the meetings of the Steering Committee on the Mass Media (CDMM) and its Group of Specialists on the Impact of New Communications Technologies on Human Rights and Democratic Values (MM-S-NT). It was represented at the 45th, 46th and 47th meetings of the CDMM, held respectively from 10 to 13 June, 28 to 31 October and on 10 December.

Cultural heritage

In the framework of the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Programme – Specific Action Plans for Latvia and the Russian Federation:

– Canada was represented in various missions and technical workshops with high-level experts;

– Canada was represented at the plenary session of the Cultural Heritage Committee, on 20 and 21 March.

– Canada was represented by Mrs Susan Scotti, Director-General for Citizen Participation and Multiculturalism of the Department of Canadian Heritage, at the CDCC's Final Conference for the Project on Democracy, Human Rights, Minorities: Educational and Cultural Aspects (Strasbourg, 21-23 May 1997).

Health

Canada played an active part at the following meetings:

– the 20th meeting of the Select Committee of Experts on Automation and Quality Assurance in Blood Transfusion Services (SP-R-GS), in Innsbruck, from 4 to 7 February;

– the 18th meeting of the Committee of Experts on the Organisational Aspects of Co-operation in Organ Transplantation (CTO) on 17 and 18 April;

– the 20th meeting of the Committee on the Rehabilitation and Integration of People with Disabilities (CD-P-RR), in Bled (Slovenia) from 10 to 13 June;

– the 2nd session of the Working Group on Employment Strategies for Persons with Disabilities (P-RR-SHE) from 15 to 17 October;

– the first meeting of the Working Group on the Assessment of Person-Related Criteria for Allowances and Personal Assistance for People with Disabilities (P-RR-ECA), from 12 to 14 November.

Canada was granted observer status with the European Pharmacopeia Commission in 1992. A representative of Canada attended the Commission's three sessions in 1997 and participated in a meeting of the European network of Official Medicines Control Laboratories (OMCL).

Sport

Canada participated as a contracting party in the 8th meeting of the Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention, in Strasbourg on 28 and 29 May.

Japan

Japan was granted observer status on 20 November 1996 (Committee of Ministers Resolution (96) 37).

Japan was represented at the second Council of Europe summit by Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Ambassador to France, in Strasbourg on 10 and 11 October.

Japan takes part in the Parliamentary Assembly's annual enlarged debate on the activities of the OECD.

The Sub-Committee on International Economic Relations of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe held a meeting in Tokyo from 14 to 17 January.

Moreover, Japan was represented at the meeting of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE), and at the meeting of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission).

Japan takes part in the meetings of various intergovernmental committees and committees of experts, in particular in the field of legal co-operation:

– the 68th meeting of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ);

– the 12th and 13th meetings of the Steering Committee on Bioethics (CDBI);

– the Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI);

– the Committee of Experts on Intimidation of Witnesses and the Rights of the Defence (PC-WI);

– the Multidisciplinary Group on Corruption (GMC);

– the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC);

– the 12th Conference of Directors of Prison Administration (CDAP);

– the Committee of Experts on Crime in Cyberspace (PC-CY).

Japan is invited to the biannual meetings of the Education Committee.

Japan made a financial contribution to the following Council of Europe activities:

– the 13th, 14th and 15th meetings of the Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men (CDEG), in Strasbourg from 26 to 28 February, 29 September to 2 October, and in Istanbul on 12 and 13 November;

– the 4th European Ministerial Conference on Equality between Women and Men, in Istanbul on 13 and 14 November;

– the Seminar on the Execution of Court Decisions in Civil Cases, Demo-Droit Programme, in October;

– the evaluation Conference on corruption and organised crime in the transition states, Octopus, in December;

– the 2nd International Conference on Federalism, on 16 and 17 December.

Japan participated in the International Conference on Harmonisation (ICH) in the area of the licensing of medicines. Japan also participates in regular meetings of the secretariats of the Japanese, European and United States pharmacopoeias within the framework of the "Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group".

In 1997 Japan also participated in the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH).

United States of America

The United States was granted observer status with the Council of Europe on 7 December 1995 (Committee of Ministers Resolution (95) 37). The United States takes part in various intergovernmental committees and committees of experts, in particular in the fields of health, legal co-operation and cultural affairs, as well as in conferences of specialised ministers.

At the 2nd Council of Europe Summit in Strasbourg on 10 and 11 October, the United States was represented by Mr John Shattuck, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, and Mr Felix Rohatyn, Ambassador to France and Permanent Observer to the Council of Europe.

Representatives of the American Congress also participate regularly in the Parliamentary Assembly's annual enlarged debates on the activities of the OECD.

Mr Hillel Weinberg and Mr David Weiner, advisers to the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives, paid a visit to the Council of Europe on 28 and 29 January and, on the occasion, attended Parliamentary Assembly debates. A delegation of parliamentarians from Congress led by

Mr Benjamin A. Gillman, Chairman of the Committee on International Relations of the Congress, visited the Council of Europe in February.

Mrs Shirley E. Barnes, Director of the Bureau of European Affairs of the State Department, visited the Council of Europe on 7 March.

The United States participated in the Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the Council of Europe/Unesco Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region, (Lisbon, 8-11 April 1997). The United States signed the convention on 11 April.

The United States is also an active participant in the joint Council of Europe/Unesco ENIC Network (European Network of National Information Centres on Academic Recognition and Mobility). The United States was represented at the 1997 annual meeting of the ENIC Network in Helsinki from 8 to 11 June.

The United States participated in the 3rd Multilateral Consultation of the Parties to the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for Experimental and other Scientific Purposes (ETS No. 123), from 27 to 30 May.

In 1997 the United States was represented at the following meetings:

– 20th meeting of the Select Committee of Experts on Automation and Quality Assurance in Blood Transfusion Services (SP-R-GS), Innsbruck, from 4 to 7 February;

– 13th and 14th meetings of the Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI), on 4 and 5 March, and 9 and 10 September;

– 13th Colloquy on Legal Data Processing in Europe, in Vienna, from 15 to 17 April;

– Committee of Experts on Blood Transfusion and Immunohematology (SP-HM), from 22 to 24 April;

– Pompidou Group ministerial meeting in Trømso, on 15 and 16 May, and the Group of Epidemiology Experts in Drug Problems;

– 8th Meeting of the Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention as an observer by right, in Strasbourg on 28 and 29 May;

– 21st Conference of European Ministers of Justice, in Prague, on 10 and 11 June;

– 12th and 13th meetings of the Steering Committee on Bioethics (CDBI), in Strasbourg from 17 to 19 June and 1 to 4 December;

– Standing Conference of European Ministers of Education "Education 2000: Trends, Common Issues and Priorities for Pan-European Co-operation", in Kristiansand, Norway, from 22 to 24 June;

– Consultation meeting on Assistance for Developing and Consolidating Democratic Security (ADACS), attended by two representatives of the State Department, Mr William Spencer of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labour and Mr Brian Walsh of the European Union and Regional Affairs Bureau, from 29 September to 1 October;

– Seminar on the procedure for certification of conformity with the monographs of the European Pharmacopoeia, organised by the European Department for the Quality of Medicines (EDQM) on 10 December. The United States also participates in regular meetings of the secretariats of the Japanese, European and United States pharmacopoeias within the framework of the PDG "Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group";

– 5th European Ministerial Conference on Mass Media Policy, in Thessaloniki on 11 and 12 December.

The United States also participated in the work of the following committees:

– Project Group on Data Protection (CJ-PD);

– Committee of Experts on the Role of the Public Prosecution in the Criminal Justice System (PC-PR);

– *Ad hoc* Committee of Experts to Exchange Views on the Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights (CAHNU);

– European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC);

– Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions in the Penal Field (PC-OC);

– Committee of Experts on Crime in Cyberspace (PC-CY);

– Multidisciplinary Group on Corruption (GMC).

The United States actively participates in the work carried out in the framework of the Pan-European Strategy for Biological and Landscape Diversity.

The Council of Europe was represented at the 5th International Judicial Conference, organised by the Centre for Democracy (Washington) in co-operation with the Council of Europe and the Furth Family Foundation on the theme of "Courts of ultimate appeal: judicial independence in constitutional and supreme courts", on 3 and 4 November.

The Council of Europe also participated in the Symposium on the international theft of works of art, organised by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the United States Department of Justice, from 10 to 14 November.

b. Other states participating in the Parliamentary Assembly's annual enlarged debate on OECD activities and the intergovernmental activities of the Council of Europe

Australia

Australia participates regularly in the Parliamentary Assembly's enlarged debates on the activities of the OECD.

In 1997, Australia sent observers to various intergovernmental committees of experts and working parties:

– 13th and 14th meetings of the Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI), on 4 and 5 March and 9 and 10 September;

– Steering Committee on Migration (CDMG), from 14 to 17 April and from 5 to 7 November;

– European Social Security Committee (CDSS), from 28 to 30 May and from 25 to 27 November.

Australia acceded to the Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime on 31 July.

Australia was granted observer status with the European Pharmacopoeia Commission in 1993. A representative of Australia attended the Commission's three sessions in 1997 and participated in a meeting of the European network of Official Medicines Control Laboratories (OMCL).

Australia participated in the Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the Council of Europe/Unesco Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (Lisbon, 8–11 April 1997).

Australia attended the 1997 annual meeting of the ENIC Network (European Network of National Information Centres on Academic Recognition and Mobility, served jointly by the Council of Europe and Unesco) in Helsinki from 8 to 11 June.

New Zealand

New Zealand participates regularly in the Parliamentary Assembly's enlarged debates on the activities of the OECD.

New Zealand was represented at:

– the 49th and 50th meetings of the European Social Security Committee (CDSS), on 29 and 30 May and from 25 to 27 November;

– the 1997 annual meeting of the ENIC Network (European Network of National Information Centres on Academic Recognition and Mobility, served jointly by the Council of Europe and Unesco) in Helsinki, from 8 to 11 June, as an observer;

– the 8th meeting of the Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention, on 28 and 29 May.

Mexico

Mexico also participates regularly in the Parliamentary Assembly's annual enlarged debates on the activities of the OECD and the EBRD.

Mexico participated in the 21st Conference of European Ministers of Justice on the theme of "Links between corruption and organised crime" in Prague, on 10 and 11 June. A Mexican representative also took part in the work of the ad hoc group on corruption.

c. Other observers with the Parliamentary Assembly

Israel

Since 1956 the Parliament of Israel has enjoyed observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly.

The Political Affairs Committee paid a visit to Jerusalem and Ramallah on 2 and 3 April to discuss the crisis in the peace process with Mr Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister, Mr Dan Tichon, President of the Knesset, Mr Dore Gold, political adviser to the Prime Minister and Mr Harry Knietal, Deputy Director for Policy Planning in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Furthermore, the rapporteur on the situation of the Palestinian refugees of the Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography visited Israel during a fact-finding visit to the countries of the Middle East from 8 to 18 September.

At the intergovernmental level, Israel was represented at the following events:

– the seminar on the procedure for certification of conformity with the monographs of the European Pharmacopoeia, organised by the European Department for the Quality of Medicines (EDQM) on 10 December;

– the Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the Council of Europe/Unesco Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region, Lisbon, from 8 to 11 April;

– the 1997 annual meeting of the ENIC Network (European Network of National Information Centres on Academic Recognition and Mobility, served jointly by the Council of Europe and Unesco) in Helsinki, from 8 to 11 June.

Israel signed the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region, on 24 November.

Israel acceded to the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons on 24 September.

Israel participates in the work of the following bodies:

– biannual meetings of the Education Committee, CC-ED;

– Culture Committee, CC-CULT, from 15 to 17 April;

– in 1997, for the first time, Committee for the Development of Sport, CDSS, on 5 and 6 March;

– Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions in the Penal Field (PC-OC).

Israel actively participated in the work carried out in the framework of the Pan-European Strategy for Biological and Landscape Diversity.

Israel also attended the 19th Session of the Standing Conference of European Ministers of Education, "Education 2000: Trends, Common Issues and Priorities for Pan-European Co-operation" (Kristiansand, 22-24 June 1997).

d. Other countries

Argentina

There is co-operation between the Council of Europe's Publishing and Documentation Service (SEDDOC) and the comparative law division of the Argentine Supreme Court in terms of exchanges of information and publications.

Argentina participates as an active observer in the work of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission).

Brazil

A parliamentary delegation from Brazil attended the Assembly's enlarged debate on the activities of the OECD, in September 1997, and related committee meetings.

Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso is a contracting party to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), and attended the meetings of the Standing Committee and some groups of experts set up under this convention.

China

China participates as an observer in the activities under the Convention on the Elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia.

The Secretary General met the Consul General on 14 November following the opening of a new Consulate General in Strasbourg.

China attended the 8th meeting of the Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention as a guest observer, on 28 and 29 May.

Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan participated in the Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the Council of Europe/Unesco Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region, Lisbon, from 8 to 11 April 1997. Kazakhstan signed the convention on 11 April.

Kyrgyzstan

Since 1993 Kyrgyzstan participates as an observer in the meetings of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission).

Kyrgyzstan continues its participation in the Council of Europe's activities in the field of nationality under the Demo-Droit Programme and attended the 14th meeting of the Committee of Experts on Nationality (CJ-NA) from 24 to 27 February.

Kyrgyzstan actively participated in the work carried out in the framework of the Pan-European Strategy for Biological and Landscape Diversity.

Lebanon

In 1997, Lebanon acceded to the Open Partial Agreement on the Prevention of, Protection against, and Organisation of Relief in Major Natural and Technological Disasters.

Malaysia

In 1997, Malaysia was granted observer status with the European Pharmacopoeia Commission.

Morocco

In October, a group of senior Moroccan officials visited the Council of Europe.

The Consul General of Morocco visited the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on 25 November.

In 1997, Morocco obtained observer status with the European Pharmacopoeia Commission.

Peru

Peru attended the 8th meeting of the Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention, on 28 and 29 May.

Senegal

Senegal is a Contracting Party to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), and attended the meetings of the Standing Committee and some groups of experts set up under this convention.

Syria

In 1997, Syria was granted observer status with the European Pharmacopoeia Commission.

Tunisia

The Council of Europe organised a seminar with the Tunisian Government on the theme of "Tunisian women and social development in Tunisia and Europe" in Strasbourg on 27 June.

A delegation of sixteen senior Tunisian officials took part in a conference on "The challenges of Greater Europe – the role of the Council of Europe", on 17 December.

In 1997, Tunisia was granted observer status with the European Pharmacopoeia Commission.

Tunisia is a Contracting Party to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), and attended the meetings of the Standing Committee and some groups of experts set up under this convention.

e. Relations with sales agents and bookshops in non-European countries

Apart from direct sales, Council of Europe publications are sold throughout the world through a network of twenty-seven sales agents. As far as non-European countries are concerned, there are Council of Europe sales agents in the United States, Canada, Australia and Israel.

The Council of Europe also has numerous contacts with bookshops and customers in Japan, South Africa, Australia and North America and somewhat rarer contacts in other countries in South Asia, Africa, the Middle East or South America.

In 1997 the American sales agent, Manhattan Publishing Co., sold some 10 000 books worth approximately 600 000 FF, representing a net income for the Council of Europe of about 250 000 FF.

f. Relations with depositary libraries in non-European countries

SEDDOC deals with a network of thirty-three depositary libraries, four of which are in non-European countries.

These four depositary libraries which receive the Council of Europe's publications are in India (Bangalore), Japan (Kyoto), Israel (Tel Aviv) and Egypt (Alexandria).

In 1997, the publishing and documentation service set up an exchange of publications with

the High Court of Justice of the Republic of Argentina in Buenos Aires.

The Alexandria library (Bibliotheca Alexandrina) was granted the status of Council of Europe depositary library in 1996. The project for the re-establishment of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina is financed by Unesco, although the building itself is only in the process of construction. The work should be completed and the new Bibliotheca Alexandrina inaugurated towards the end of 1998; the collection is already being established. The publications depositary contains one copy of every publication listed in the Council of Europe Publishing's catalogue, in each of the Organisation's official languages.■

2. Relations with the Holy See

The Holy See participates fully in the intergovernmental activities in the fields of education and sport. It also sends observers to committees in several other fields:

– Steering Committee on Migration (CDMG), 14-17 April and 5-7 November;

– Steering Committee on Social Policy (CDPS), 22-25 April;

– European Social Security Committee (CDSS), 28-30 May, 25-27 November;

– European Population Committee (CDPO), 25-27 June.

– European Health Committee (CDPS), 22-25 June, 25-26 November.

The Holy See joined the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region, 11 April 1997.

The Holy See was involved in the elaboration of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being, which was opened for signature on 4 April 1997.

The Holy See actively participated in the work carried out in the framework of the Pan-European Strategy for Biological and Landscape Diversity. ■

3. Relations with other international organisations

a. European organisations

Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Co-operation and co-ordination between the Council of Europe and the OSCE intensified to a great extent during 1997. The two organisations consolidated their patterns of co-operation, which involves relevant structures and bodies on both sides, at the political as well as operational level. The said patterns of co-operation include regular meetings between representatives of the two organisations, participation in each other's meetings, co-operation in the field, joint missions, seminars and conferences, exchange of views, consultations on programming and planned action, as well as daily contacts and exchange of information and frequent working visits.

In particular, the Council of Europe co-operated closely with the OSCE and other international organisations to assist Albania overcome the serious political crisis undergone by the country this year. Throughout 1997, the Council of Europe had the opportunity to participate in and contribute to the OSCE's work on a "Common and comprehensive security model for Europe for the twenty-first century".

At the second summit of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, October), heads of state and government of member states gave their full support to the Council of Europe with a view to intensifying its contribution to cohesion, stability and security in Europe and welcomed the development of its co-operation with other European and transatlantic organisations, in particular the European Union and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The OSCE participates in the meetings of the Steering Committee on the Mass Media (CDMM) as an observer.

The OSCE was also represented at the 5th European Ministerial Conference on Mass Media Policy, in Thessaloniki on 11 and 12 December.

Meetings between the Council of Europe and the OSCE

The fourth annual High-Level Council of Europe/OSCE "2+2" Meeting (Oslo, February) brought together the Chairmen-in-Office – the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland for the Council of Europe and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark for the OSCE – and the Secretaries General of the two Organisations. The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) participated as well.

The participants expressed their satisfaction with the present non-formalised, multilevel liaison between the organisations and agreed on ways of further developing relations, including in the field.

As to Bosnia and Herzegovina, support for the Human Rights Commission (Chamber and Ombudsperson) was expressed and questions related to election monitoring were discussed. Other agenda items were free media (in

particular the mandate for an OSCE representative on freedom of the media) and the forthcoming meeting of Council of Europe/OSCE experts on the monitoring of commitments undertaken by member states.

The "tripartite" consultation process between the Council of Europe, the OSCE and Geneva-based UN institutions, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Organisation for Migration, developed further in 1997, on three main tracks:

– the sixth annual high-level tripartite meeting took place in Geneva in January. The Council of Europe delegation, led by the Secretary General, contributed to the meeting during which multilateral co-operation regarding the following issues were discussed: former Yugoslavia, follow-up to the CIS Conference on refugees and displaced persons, developments in the Caucasus, activities of various international organisations in Central Asia and extension of the tripartite consultative machinery to economic issues;

– the "target-oriented meeting" on the Caucasus took place in Vienna in November. The participants, joined by the European Commission, compared notes and exchanged views on their activities in the Caucasus;

– on the fringes of both the high-level tripartite and the target-oriented meetings, experts on electronic information exchange of the organisations involved discussed possibilities of enhanced co-operation in this realm.

A meeting between the Council of Europe and the OSCE, aimed at exchanging views and experience on the methodology of implementation of commitments made by member states and the various monitoring mechanisms of the two organisations, was held in Strasbourg in March. Participants included Permanent Representatives to the Council of Europe and the OSCE in Strasbourg and Vienna, respectively, experts from capitals, as well as representatives of various OSCE institutions and the Council of Europe.

Contacts and exchanges of views

Throughout 1997, representatives of the Council of Europe and the OSCE found the opportunity to address each other's high-level meetings and to have exchanges of views. Notably, the Danish OSCE Chairman-in-Office addressed the 2nd Summit of Council of Europe Heads of State and Government, held in Strasbourg in October. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe, for his turn, addressed the OSCE Ministerial Council held in Copenhagen in December.

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe also addressed the OSCE Permanent Council twice during 1997. The Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to Albania participated in an informal meeting with the ministers on the occasion of the May session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities had an exchange of views with the ministers on the eve of their November session.

As to contacts with the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, the Danish OSCE Chairman-in-Office as well as the Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed the Assembly during 1997.

At the working level, daily contacts, consultations and exchange of information continued, and mutual working visits on an *ad hoc* basis intensified further.

Structures for co-operation and liaison

The Ministers' Deputies Rapporteur Group on Relations between the Council of Europe and the OSCE continued its regular meetings to deal with topical issues.

The Council of Europe Secretariat maintained close relations with all OSCE bodies and structures. The Secretary General appointed a Council of Europe-OSCE Liaison Officer who regularly attended meetings of the OSCE Permanent Council and its subsidiary bodies, represented the Council of Europe at political seminars and meetings of the OSCE and established contacts with delegations in Vienna.

The flow of information in both ways was further improved by the development of possibilities of electronic information exchange.

Contribution to the OSCE's work on a security model

The Council of Europe participated in and contributed to the extended meeting of the OSCE Security Model Committee with the participation of other security-related organisations, concerning the idea of a "platform for co-operative security" that would tackle interaction and co-operation between these organisations and mutual reinforcement of their action.

The Council of Europe also contributed to the Security Model Seminars organised by the OSCE, on "Specific risks and challenges" and "Regional security and co-operation", as well as "Implications for the Mediterranean basin".

Co-operation with OSCE bodies

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Close contacts and mutual visits between the Council of Europe Secretariat and the ODIHR accelerated in 1997. It was decided to organise Council of Europe/ODIHR consultation and co-ordination meetings twice instead of once a year, in order to discuss ongoing co-operation and identify areas of potential co-operation, as well as to compare notes in activities in the fields of mutual interest.

Throughout the year, Council of Europe officials and experts participated in several seminars and meetings organised or co-organised by the ODIHR, including the OSCE Human Dimension Seminar on the Participation of Women in Society (Warsaw, October), where two Council of Europe experts acted as moderator and as keynote speaker respectively.

At the request of the ODIHR, the Secretariat of the Council of Europe prepared the background paper on combating intolerance and racism for the OSCE Human Dimension

Implementation Meeting (Warsaw, November), and also participated actively in most of the working sessions of the meeting.

The Council of Europe and the ODIHR also worked together in the organisation of several seminars. For example, in Georgia, a joint ODIHR/Council of Europe/UNHCR workshop was organised on the restoration of dwelling rights to refugees and internally displaced persons (Tbilisi, November). The 2nd Council of Europe/ODIHR Regional Seminar "How can education strengthen civil society?" (Bucharest, December) focused on south-east Europe.

Another component of intensive co-operation and contacts was the realisation of joint missions (for example, assessment mission on the needs of the prison system in Albania) or participation of Council of Europe staff in ODIHR missions (for example, fact-finding mission to Albania; assessment mission to Eastern Slavonia, Croatia, etc.).

In the field of Roma/Gypsies, the Council of Europe Secretariat and the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues continued their close co-operation not only by participating in each other's events but also through joint activities. Notably, a meeting of representatives of national consultative mechanisms on Roma/Gypsies was organised by the Council of Europe in co-operation with the ODIHR Contact Point (Helsinki, October).

As to election monitoring, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE) co-operated with the ODIHR in the field as well as exchanging information prior to the elections in Chechnya (January), Croatia and Bulgaria (April), Albania (June and July) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (September: municipal elections, and November: parliamentary elections in Republika Srpska).

ODIHR participated in the 68th meeting of the European Committee on Legal-Co-operation (CDCJ), from 25 to 28 November.

High Commissioner on National Minorities

The Council of Europe Secretariat and the High Commissioner on National Minorities continued their regular informal contacts on themes of mutual interest. In 1997, informal co-operation concerned in particular education in, and the use of, minority languages, as well as citizenship questions.

Co-operation in the field

Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE Field Missions has steadily grown over the years. The following examples have been chosen because of the significant scope of co-operation.

Albania

The Council of Europe has actively contributed to help Albania overcome its political crisis, also within the "co-ordination framework" put in place by the OSCE for this purpose.

The Council of Europe, including its Parliamentary Assembly, co-operated closely with the OSCE and other international organisations in the political and legislative preparation of the parliamentary elections (June-July) as well as their observation. The observation "Troika" which reported to the OSCE was composed of three prominent parliamentarians representing the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe and the OSCE respectively.

Within the framework of international assistance to Albania in rebuilding democratic institutions in the post-election period, the Council of Europe and the OSCE co-operated in a number of fields. Work on a definite constitution, reform of the prison system as well as the establishment of an ombudsman institution can be given as examples. In this regard, both sides made use of intensive daily contacts that the Council of Europe Office in Tirana and the OSCE Presence in Albania have established on the ground.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Co-operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina continued, notably in co-organising concrete activities or contributing to each other's work. Their main fields of activities were legal issues, human rights, education, local democracy and observation of elections.

Taking the promotion of local democracy as an example, the Council of Europe and the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina co-operated in the organisation of training seminars in relation to the municipal elections of September. Candidates to the local elections, including young candidates, were the target group. A Council of Europe/OSCE joint programme on training for elected officials and administrators was also elaborated. Most activities under this programme will be implemented during 1998.

The Council of Europe participated actively in the OSCE Seminar on "Co-operation among international organisations and institutions: the Bosnia and Herzegovina experience" (Portoroz, September).

Croatia

The Council of Europe continued to be a reference organisation for the OSCE Mission to Croatia as concerns evaluation of Croatian legislation with regard to European standards.

The Council of Europe also participated in the OSCE's work on the establishment of priorities for projects to be implemented in Eastern Slavonia after the withdrawal of UNTAES.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

A visit by the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development was made to EBRD headquarters to prepare the report on EBRD activities, in London on 17 and 18 February.

At the bank's annual meeting, the Council of Europe was represented by Mrs Josette Durieu, member of the Parliamentary Assembly's Bureau, Mr Hans de Jonge, Head of External Relations at the Directorate of Political Affairs, representing the Secretary General, and by a member of the Social Development Fund.

The President of the EBRD and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe met on 25 June.

European Science Foundation

The European Science Foundation participated in the 12th and 13th meetings of the Steering Committee on Bioethics (CDBI) from 17 to 19 June and from 1 to 4 December.

b. The United Nations system

General information

Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the United Nations was further deepened in 1997. The constant mutual interest in specific domains was manifested by the means of active participation in various activities organised both by the Council and by the United Nations. The exchange of relevant documentation regarding each of these institutions has continued. In addition, high-level tripartite meetings between the Council of Europe, the OSCE and the United Nations Office in Geneva were held on 24 January in Geneva, and on 4 November in Vienna. Moreover, the UNDP launched the 1997 Human Development Report at a meeting of the Sub-committee "North-South: Europe's role", on 24 September, Strasbourg.

The Council of Europe was represented at the:

– 53rd Session of the UN Commission on Human Rights (March, Geneva);

– 41st Session of the UN Commission on Women's Status (10-21 March, New York);

– 6th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (28-30 April, Vienna);

– 3rd Committee of the United Nations General Assembly at its 52nd Session (24-28 November, New York);

– meeting of the Steering Committee of the UNDP on Support for democracy, governance and participants (DGP) (13-14 September, Bratislava).

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe was represented at the following conferences co-sponsored by the UNDP:

– "Democracy and Development: The Role of International Organisations" (4-5 April, Yale University, United States);

– 3rd "Conference of New or Restored Democracies" (2-4 September, Bucharest, Romania).

In October, a representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights participated in the meeting of the *ad hoc* committee of experts to exchange views on the follow-up to the programme of action of the World Conference on Human Rights (CAHNU).

The United Nations participated in the Seminar on Bosnia and Herzegovina "Return of refugees and displaced persons", on 16 October, in Sarajevo, and was represented at the 4th European Ministerial Conference on Equality between Women and Men, on 13 and 14 November, Istanbul.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE)

The UN/ECE attended, in October 1997, an intersecretariat meeting (with the Council of Europe and Eurostat) aimed at harmonising between international organisations the collection of data from the National Statistical Offices.

A representative of the UN/ECE took part in the co-ordination meeting organised by the Parliamentary Assembly Committee on the Environment, Regional Planning and Local Authorities in order to prepare a report on the state of the environment in Russia, on 10 December, in Strasbourg.

The UN/ECE actively participated in the work carried out in the framework of the Pan-European Strategy for Biological and Landscape Diversity.

United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)

The Pompidou Group was represented at the sessions of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

The UNDCP secretariat participated in:

– the Pompidou Group ministerial meeting, in Trømso;

– meetings of Permanent Correspondents;

– the management committee of the Demand Reduction Staff Training Programme;

– the Committee of Experts in the Epidemiology of Drug Abuse.

A second joint Pompidou Group/UNDCP epidemiology training programme was launched in six countries of central and eastern Europe.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The UNHCR maintains a permanent representation in the European institutions in Strasbourg. The UNHCR representative takes part in various Council of Europe meetings and events and ensures a permanent liaison between the two organisations.

The Council of Europe's concern with regard to human rights and its experience in monitoring activities have allowed it to acquire a high level of expertise which is of use when various issues related to refugees are addressed. Hence, the Council's representatives took part from 5 to 8 November 1997, in a joint Council of Europe-ODIHR-UNHCR mission to Tbilisi. Its aim was to look into the restoration of dwelling rights to refugees and internally displaced persons, as a result of the Georgian-South Ossetian conflict, who are now returning to their places of habitual residence. Similarly, the Council of Europe attended the Prgiska Expert Group meeting which took place in Kyiv, from 8 to 10 December 1997.

Representatives of the Council of Europe attended the meetings of the UNHCR on 23 April and 10 September, as well as the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the UNHCR meeting on 13 October and the 48th Session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner Programme, from 13 to 17 October, in

Geneva, and the Humanitarian Issues Working Group (HIWG) of the Peace Implementation Council (PIC), in Geneva. A representative also participated in the preparation of a UNHCR handbook for NGOs working in the CIS.

UNHCR had regular contacts with the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography of the Council of Europe (participating in meetings and colloquies organised by the committee, exchanges of information, *ad hoc* consultations on problems of common interest, etc.).

A delegation of the UNHCR attended the UNHCR Seminar on "UNHCR and Human Rights in the European Context", organised by the Council of Europe, on 17 and 18 November, Strasbourg.

The UNCHR participated in the following meetings:

– 14th meeting of the Committee of Experts on Nationality (CJ-NA), 24-27 February;

– 1st and 2nd expert meetings on citizenship legislation in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 12-14 March and 17-19 December;

– European Committee on Migration (CDMG), 14-17 April;

– 10th and 11th meetings of the Working Group of the Committee of Experts on Nationality (CJ-NA-GT), 28-30 April and 5-7 November;

– Demo-Droit multilateral meeting on practical issues relating to the granting of citizenship, 13-14 November;

– CAHAR plenary sessions and working groups.

The UNHCR Office in Warsaw took part in a workshop on "European standards for the protection of refugees' rights" in Kazimiers Dolny, in Poland from 12 to 14 December, organised in co-operation with the Lublin Regional Advocates Council. A seminar for non-governmental organisations in Azerbaijan on "The protection of human rights in Europe" was organised in co-operation between the Council of Europe and the UNHCR in Baku on 25 and 26 July. In Bosnia and Herzegovina a workshop was organised together with the UNHCR for Bosnian lawyers working in the UNHCR Legal Advice Centres, focusing on selected aspects of the European Convention on Human Rights. Similar meetings were organised in Athens and Komotini, Greece.

Mr Hans de Jonge, Head of External Relations, represented the Council of Europe on the Nansen Committee which confers the Fridtjof Nansen award. Following a proposal made on 2 September by a representative of the Council of Europe at the Nansen Committee meeting, the 1997 Nansen medal was awarded to Sister Hermana Joannes Klas.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

A representative of the UNEP took part in the hearing organised by the Parliamentary Assembly Committee on the Environment, Regional Planning and Local Authorities in order to prepare a report on the state of the environment in Russia, on 17 March, Strasbourg.

In connection with several international conventions drawn up within the framework of UNEP (such as the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Animals and its agreements, the Rio Convention on Biological Diversity, the Barcelona Convention on the Protection of the Mediterranean Specially Protected Area), UNEP has many contacts with the Council of Europe and collaborates closely in the framework of the Bern Convention.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco)

There exists intensive co-operation between the Council of Europe and Unesco.

Unesco has observer status with the Cultural Heritage Committee (CC-PAT). It is regularly associated with meetings and events organised by the Council of Europe in the cultural heritage field. Close co-operation is being developed between these organisations, in particular in the following fields:

– moveable heritage and decorative complexes; combat against unlawful trafficking in cultural property;

– Technical Co-operation and Consultancy Programme: the CC-PAT is implementing its Specific Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina in co-ordination with Unesco, which is itself involved in action on this country's behalf, with an eye to the Concerted Action Programme to be presented at the end of 1998.

Unesco is a statutory member of the FEMP's Governing Board.

Unesco is involved in the programmes managed by the European Foundation for Heritage Skills (FEMP) under the specialised professional networks (such as the European Network of Ancient Places of Performance) and Euro-Mediterranean co-operation (the European Union's MEDA Programme).

The Council of Europe Secretariat was represented at the:

– International Scientific Advisory Board, 20 January, Paris;

– 5th meeting of Directors of Human Rights Institutes, 6-7 March, Paris;

– International Congress on Ethical, Legal and Societal Aspects of Digital Information, Monte Carlo, 10-12 March;

– Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), 17-21 March, Paris;

– 5th Annual Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Decade of Cultural Development, 21-25 April, Paris;

– Meetings of the Group of Specialists on the protection of rights holders in the media sector (MM-S-PR) in an observer capacity. The Secretariat was represented at an information seminar on the identification of network-distributed digital works organised by the Group in Paris, 23-24 April 1997;

– 151st and 152nd Sessions of the Executive Board of Unesco, 26 May-12 June and 6-17 October, Paris;

– 16th Ordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Committee established under Article 32 on the International Convention for the Protection of Performances, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organisations (Rome Convention), 30 June-2 July, Paris;

– Information meeting on the Implementation of Agenda 21 by Unesco, 1 September, Paris;

– European Seminar on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Media (representative of the Media Section), organised by the United Nations and Unesco, 10-13 September, Sofia, Bulgaria;

– Regional Conference on "Human Rights Education in Europe". 18-21 September, Turku/Åbo (Finland);

– 29th General Conference of Unesco, 21 October-12 November, Paris;

– 11th General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 27-28 October, Paris;

– Cultural event in support of displaced women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, "Knitting together nations", 3 December, Paris;

– Information meeting on: International Year of the Ocean, and Unesco action on disaster prevention, 18 December, Paris.

Unesco participated in the Conference on the links between Europeans living abroad and their countries of origin, 10-11 June, Paris, and in the Seminar on Bosnia and Herzegovina, "Return of Refugees and Displaced Persons", 16 October, Sarajevo.

Unesco Secretariat has been represented in meetings of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (cultural heritage and social sciences).

Unesco participated in the 12th meeting of the Steering Committee on Bioethics (CDBI), in Strasbourg, from 17 to 19 June.

Activities in the field of equality between women and men

Unesco has observer status with the Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men (CDEG) and was represented at the International Seminar "Promoting equality: a common issue for men and women", 17-18 June 1997, Strasbourg, and at the 14th and 15th meetings of the CDEG, 29 September-2 October, Strasbourg, and 12-13 November, Istanbul, and at the 4th European Ministerial Conference on equality between women and men, Istanbul, 13-14 November, and at the International Information Forum on national policies in the field of equality between women and men, 27-29 November, Tallinn.

The secretariat of the Equality Section of the Council of Europe participated in the following events:

– 41st Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, in New York from 10 to 21 March;

– Unesco Expert Group Meeting on "Male roles and masculinities in the perspective of a culture of peace", in Oslo from 24 to 28 September.

Education

Unesco representative, Mr Sanki, indicated his organisation's great willingness to engage in closer co-operation with the Council of Europe at the 16th meeting of the Education Committee (18-20 March). The committee took note with great interest of his statement and expressed its desire to deepen and expand the fruitful co-operation that already existed between the two organisations.

Unesco participated in the Conference organised in Strasbourg on 11 and 12 December on "Education for democratic citizenship: basic concepts and key competencies".

The activity on "Tools and policies for academic recognition and mobility" is carried out jointly with Unesco. The new Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region, adopted on 11 April 1997, was also elaborated jointly with Unesco. A more detailed description of this activity will be found under point III.1.b of this report.

The Project "Culture, Creativity and the Young" closely linked to the major themes of the Council of Europe: freedom of individuals, cultural diversity, social cohesion, etc. also responds to the work and expectations of the World Commission on Culture and Development of Unesco. In 1997, therefore, the Culture Committee participated in the Unesco World Congress on the condition of the artist and in this context it contributed to the preparation of the Final Declaration in which the guiding principles of support for the artistic creativity sector were defined, particularly in terms of training strategies and type of financial support.

"Culture and neighbourhoods": co-operation has developed with Project No. 117 (Culture in neighbourhoods) of the World Decade which has led to exchanges between experts of the two institutions.

Activities concerning legislation for the book world of the Electronic publishing, Books and Archives Project have been developing with the Books and Copyright Section of the Cultural Industries Division of Unesco during 1997. Joint activities concerning Book Policy Reviews in central and eastern Europe were initiated in 1997. These reviews are taking place within the framework of the initiative "Governments love books (electronic books, too!)" – in collaboration with the *Börsenverein*, Germany.

An international conference dealing with the issue of "Language teaching and peace", in Graz from 23 to 25 September 1998, will be jointly financed and organised by the European Centre for Modern Languages of Graz and the Unesco Linguapax Programme which will contribute valuable know-how and experience in this field.

Higher education

Following the consultations held during the previous year, the Council of Europe/Unesco Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region, was signed at the Lisbon Diplomatic Conference, held from 8 to 11 April.

Mass media

Unesco participates in the meetings of the Group of Specialists on the Protection of Rights Holders in the Media Field (MM-S-PR) in an observer capacity. It was represented at the 4th meeting of the group, held on 24 and 25 April, as well as at the information seminar on the identification of network-distributed digital works, organised by the group in Paris on 23 and 24 April.

Unicef

In social policy, a representative from Unicef attended the Planning Meeting "A European Strategy for Children", 27-28 February 1997.

The Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe had a joint meeting with Unicef on 30 May in Florence.

World Health Organisation (WHO)

The Council of Europe, the European Commission and the WHO, Regional Office for Europe, co-operate jointly in the European Network of Health-Promoting Schools (ENHPS). A first European conference of the ENHPS was held in Thessaloniki, Greece, from 2 to 5 May, in which professionals from forty-three countries participated. The conference urged the governments of all European countries to adopt the concept of the "Health promoting school".

The Secretariat participated in the World Health Organisation's Expert Committee meeting on Biological Standardisation and the nomenclature of chemical substances, representing the European Department for Quality of Medicines of the Council of Europe. The purpose of the meeting was to consider all items for which WHO Requirements and International Standards are required.

The WHO has participated as an observer in the meetings of the European Pharmacopoeia Commission.

The Council of Europe Secretariat participated in the following meetings of WHO:

– meeting on the activities concerning blood security in central and eastern countries, 18-19 February in Copenhagen;

– consultation on the development of patients' rights in Europe, 18-19 August, Gothenburg;

– Regional Committee, 15-19 September, Istanbul;

– Workshop on Healthy Prisons, 1 October, Helsinki;

– meeting of the Task Force on Transplantation, 9-10 October, Annecy;

– consultation on xenotransplantation, 28-30 October, Geneva;

– Workshop "Inequity and Health: from Research to Policies", 9-14 November, Balatonlelle, Hungary;

– consultation on Health and Human Rights, 4-5 December, Geneva;

– Conference on Aids and Tuberculosis in Prisons, 13 December, Warsaw.

The WHO was represented at the following meetings:

– 20th meeting of the Select Committee of Experts on Automation and Quality Assurance in Blood Transfusion services (SP-R-GS), 4-7 February, Innsbruck;

– hearing organised by the Parliamentary Assembly Committee on the Environment, Regional Planning and Local Authorities in order to prepare a report on the state of the environment in Russia, 10 December;

– 4th European Ministerial Conference on Equality between Women and Men, 13-14 November in Istanbul;

– 42nd meeting of the European Health Committee (CDSP), 25-26 November, Strasbourg;

– The International Information Forum on National Policies in the Field of Equality between Women and Men, 27-29 November, Tallinn.

Partial Agreement in the Social and Public Health Field

The World Health Organisation participated in the 39th Session of the Committee of Experts on Pharmaceutical Questions (P-SP-PH) in Mondorf-les-Bains, 22-24 April.

Pompidou Group

The WHO participated in:

– the Pompidou Group Ministerial Meeting, Trømso, 15-16 May;

– Meetings of Permanent Correspondents;

– the Management Committee of the Demand Reduction Staff Training Programme;

– the Committee of Experts in the Epidemiology of Drug Abuse;

– the Working Group on Prevention of Drug Abuse.

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

An observer of the ILO participates in meetings of the Committee of Independent Experts of the European Social Charter.

The ILO was represented at the 49th and 50th meetings of the European Social Security Committee (CDSS), 28-30 May, Strasbourg, at the Council of Europe-Unicef joint meeting, 30 May, Florence, as well as at the meetings of the Committees of Independent Experts on the Application of the European Social Security Conventions (SS-AC), 23-25 June and 12-14 November, Strasbourg.

Migration

The ILO was represented at the following meetings:

– Specialist Group on Integration and community relations (MG-S-INT), Strasbourg, 24-25 November;

– Seminar on political and social participation of immigrants through consultative bodies (Strasbourg, 26-28 November).

Partial Agreement in the Social and Public Health Field

The International Labour Organisation participated in the 2nd Session of the Working Group on Employment Strategies for Persons with Disabilities (P-RR-SHE), in Strasbourg, 15-17 October.

Pompidou Group

The ILO participated in the management Committee of the Demand Reduction Staff Training Programme.

World Bank

The Committee on Economic Affairs and Development's rapporteur on the activities of the IMF and the World Bank had meetings with the heads of these two organisations from 5 to 8 January, Washington, DC.

A representative from the World Bank participated for the first time in the meeting of the Committee of Education (CC-ED).

Under the Specific Action Plan for Georgia, the Cultural Heritage Division is working in co-ordination with the World Bank, which is itself involved in a programme entitled "Cultural Heritage Initiative". Furthermore, the Council of Europe has joined the Cultural Heritage Action Network at the World Bank's invitation.

The World Bank actively participated in the work carried out in the framework of the Pan-European Strategy for Biological and Landscape Diversity.

World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)

The WIPO participates in the meetings of the Group of Specialists on the Protection of Rights Holders in the Media Field (MM-S-PR) in an observer capacity. It was represented at the 4th meeting of the Group, held on 24 and 25 April, as well as at the Information Seminar on the identification of network-distributed digital works, organised by the group in Paris on 23 and 24 April.

A representative from the European Audiovisual Observatory attended the meeting of the Committee of Experts on a Protocol concerning Audiovisual Performances, 15, 16 and 19 September.

Information exchange

The Council of Europe has exchanged documents and publications with the various bodies and specialised institutions of the United Nations since 1953.

The main library has received working documents, sales publications, periodicals, reference works and bibliographies both in English and French. The increasing amount of paper used led to a revision of our exchange agreement and we have now access to the on-line full text collection of:

– working documents produced in New York beginning 1993,

– parliamentary documents produced in Geneva,

– all the resolutions and decisions taken by the United Nations General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council from 1946, and

– the United Nations treaty collection.

Apart from the main United Nations collection we have partial exchange activities with other specialised United Nations agencies such as: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organisation, International Monetary Fund, World Health Organisation, Unesco, etc.

c. Others

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The Parliamentary Assembly acts as a parliamentary forum for the OECD. Delegations from all OECD member countries participate in these debates on an equal footing. In September 1997, the enlarged debate on the OECD took place in Strasbourg, on which occasion the OECD Secretary General and Mr Daniel Tarschys addressed the Assembly.

The Secretariat of the Council of Europe was represented at the following meetings:

– Expert Group on Economic Aspects of Biodiversity (3-4 February);

– Committee for Information, Computer and Communications Policy (27 February);

– Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy (17-18 March);

– Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee (26-27 March, 14-15 October);

– Fisheries Committee (2-4 April, 6-8 October);

– Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions/CIME (7-8 April, 7-9 July, 6-10 October);

– Committee for Agriculture (21-23 April, 30 September-2 October);

– University research liaison mission (22-23 April);

– Tourism Committee (24-25 April);

– Education Committee (28-30 April);

– Group on Urban Affairs (12-13 June, 15-16 December);

– OECD Conference on education policies in the Russian Federation (Moscow, 16-17 June);

– Seminar on setting up businesses in rural areas (24-25 June);

– OECD Conference on Approaches to Content and Conduct on the Internet (Paris, 1-2 July);

– Joint Working Party of the Committee for Agriculture and the Environmental Policy Committee (23-25 September);

– Colloquy on ethics in the public services (Paris, 4-5 November);

– Working Party on Social Policy (18-21 November);

– OECD Conference on dismantling the barriers to global electronic commerce (Turku, 19-21 November).

The Parliamentary Assembly was represented at the Committee on Global Food Security, in Rome (15-18 April), and at the Conference on Tourism in Rome (27-28 October).

Meanwhile, the OECD was represented at the following meetings:

– Parliamentary Assembly debate on nuclear safety in central and eastern Europe (January part-session);

– Pan-European Parliamentary Conference on Rural Development (Bratislava, 5-6 May);

– Project Group on Data Protection (CJ-PD) in May and October;

– Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law/CAHDI (4-5 March, 9-10 September);

– Colloquy on social cohesion, organised by the Parliamentary Assembly (Bratislava, 16-17 September);

– Enlarged Parliamentary Assembly (25 September);

– European Committee on Migration (CDMG) from 5 to 7 November.

An OECD representative took part in the hearing (17 March) and in the co-ordination meeting (10 December) organised by the Parliamentary Assembly's Committee on the Environment, Regional Planning and Local Authorities to draw up a report on the environment in Russia.

The OECD was represented at the 5th European Ministerial Conference on Mass Media Policy in Thessaloniki on 11 and 12 December.

The OECD attended the meetings held in Vilnius (Lithuania) and Riga (Latvia) on 8 and 9 September by the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato)

On 30 January 1997, the Secretary General of Nato visited the Council of Europe. He addressed the Parliamentary Assembly, and held a joint meeting with the Secretary General and the Chairman of the Ministers' Deputies of the Council of Europe.

The Council of Europe was represented at the meeting of the Nato Political-Military Steering Committee on Partnership for Peace on "Civil-Relations and the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces", Brussels, 24-25 April.

The Nato secretariat was represented at a co-ordination meeting organised by the Parliamentary Assembly Committee on the Environment, Regional Planning and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe, in order to prepare a report on the state of the environment in Russia, on 10 December 1997.

International Criminal Police Organisation (ICPO-Interpol)

Interpol participated in the following meetings:

– Pompidou Group Ministerial Conference in Trømso, on 15 and 16 May;

– 2nd meeting of the Working Group on the Harmonisation of Autopsy Rules (CDBI-AR) from 17 to 19 November;

– Airport Group.

The Secretariat of the Council of Europe attended the meeting of the heads of European drug control services.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

A member of the Parliamentary Assembly's Bureau visited the IOM's headquarters prior to the presentation of the IOM's activity report for 1994-97, to be made at the Parliamentary Assembly's April 1998 part-session, in the presence of Mr Purcell, Director General of the IOM.

The secretariat of the Equality Section participated in the IOM action against trafficking in human beings, organised in the framework of the STOP programme of the European Commission.

IOM participated in the meeting of the European Committee on Migration (CDMG), Strasbourg, from 5 to 7 November 1997.

Nordic Council of Ministers

Mr Hans-Peter Furrer, Director of Political Affairs, attended the Conference on Security in the Nordic Countries and Neighbouring Regions, held in Helsinki on 25 and 26 July. The Parliamentary Assembly also took part in this conference.

The Conference on "Regional Co-operation in Higher Education" was arranged jointly between the Council of Europe and the Nordic Council of Ministers, in Reykjavík, from 10 to 12 September.

A member of the Directorate of Education, Culture and Sport attended the meeting on co-operation between the Council of Europe and the Nordic Council in the education field (Reykjavík, September 1997).

The Nordic Council of Ministers was represented at the 4th European Ministerial Conference on Equality between Women and Men, in Istanbul on 13 and 14 November.

The Nordic Council of Ministers has observer status with the Steering Committee on the Mass Media (CDMM) and participated in its 47th meeting (10 December). It also participated in the 5th European Ministerial Conference on Mass Media Policy (Thessaloniki, 11-12 December).

The Parliamentary Assembly's Bureau decided to invite the Praesidium of the Nordic Council to hold a joint meeting during the January 1998 part-session.

Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)

The Directorate of Human Rights contributed to the 2nd European meeting of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights and supported the travel and subsistence of fifteen participants from central and eastern Europe. The meeting took place in Copenhagen from 20 to 22 January and was organised in co-operation with the Commissioner of the Council of Baltic Sea States, on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, including the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities; and the meeting of the Danish Centre of the CBSS member states on "Procedural rules for the treatment of complaints before the European Court of Human Rights and the European Commission of Human Rights" was held from 6 to 8 March in Copenhagen.

A conference on security in the Baltic Sea will be held in Warsaw in March 1998.

European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

Mr Mikko Elo and Mr Alex Sceberras Trigona, members of the Parliamentary Assembly's Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, attended the Conference on Integration and Trade in Europe and Beyond (Berne, 30-31 October).

The Parliamentary Assembly, through its Sub-Committee on International Economic Relations, met Mr Kjartan Johansson, EFTA Secretary-General, in Geneva, on 9 December.

Central European Initiative (CEI)

The Secretariat of the Council of Europe attended the meeting of foreign ministers of CEI member states, which took place in Sarajevo on 6 and 7 June, with a view to preparing the November summit. The Council of Europe contributes to the CEI's work with a view to strengthening stability in Europe.

The Council of Europe also participated in the CEI Summit of Heads of State, held in Sarajevo on 28 and 29 November.

Unidroit

Unidroit participated in:

– the 67th and 68th meetings of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ), Strasbourg, 27-30 May and 25-28 November;

– the 30th meeting of the Committee of Experts on Family Law (CJ-FA), Malta, 17-19 September.

The Hague Conference on Private Law

The Hague Conference on Private Law participated in:

– 67th and 68th meetings of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ), Strasbourg, 27-30 May and 25-28 November;

– 4th meeting of the Group of Specialists on Incapable and other Vulnerable Adults (MJ-S-MI), Strasbourg, 14-17 October.

The International Commission on Civil Status

The International Commission on Civil Status participated in:

– 3rd and 4th meetings of the Group of Specialists on Incapable and other Vulnerable Adults (CJ-S-MI), Strasbourg, 21-24 January and 14-17 October;

– 14th meeting of the Committee of Experts on Nationality (CJ-NA), Strasbourg, 24-27 February;

– 67th and 68th meetings of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ), Strasbourg, 27-30 May and 25-28 November;

– 12th and 13th meetings of the Steering Committee on Bioethics (CDBI), Strasbourg, 17-19 June and 1-4 December;

– 30th meeting of the Committee of Experts on Family Law (CJ-FA), Malta, 17-19 September. ■

4. Relations with non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

The development of relations between the Council of Europe and NGOs was underscored by close and fruitful collaboration during the period under review.

The following events deserve mention:

In his communication of 15 October 1997, the Secretary General communicated to the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly that twenty-four international non-governmental organisations would be granted consultative status with the Council of Europe from 15 January 1998.

In this document, the Secretary General also noted that a number of consultative NGOs have failed to comply with some of their obligations, under the rules set out in Resolution (93) 38 of the Committee of Ministers, to contribute to the work programme of the Council of Europe or to make known its activities among the European public. Therefore, the Secretary General has decided to remove a number of NGOs from the list of consultative NGOs.

As regards relations between the Council of Europe and NGOs, at their meeting of 27 and 28 May 1997, the Ministers' Deputies:

1. called upon the Secretary General:

– to apply scrupulously Committee of Ministers Resolution (93) 38 on relations between the Council of Europe and international non-governmental organisations in order that the Council may take greater advantage of its relations with NGOs in the pursuit of its aims;

– to ask the NGOs Liaison Committee to make proposals for improving NGO co-operation with the Council of Europe's various bodies, with a view to enhancing awareness of the Council of Europe and its activities amongst citizens;

– to make use of the Council of Europe's Information and Documentation Centres to increase co-operation with local NGOs in central and eastern European countries which are not affiliated to international NGOs;

– to supply them with written information on NGO involvement in activities funded by Vote IX of the ordinary budget, as well as by the programmes of confidence-building measures, for later discussion in their appropriate subsidiary body;

– to look into the possibility of setting up a civil society fund, for later discussion in the Deputies' meetings;

– to envisage appointing an NGO-liaison officer in each directorate of the Secretariat;

2. invited their Rapporteur Group on Relations between the Council of Europe and NGOs to re-examine the question of access of sectoral groupings of NGOs with consultative status to the intergovernmental co-operation bodies, once the areas of interest of these groupings have been redefined;

3. encouraged their relevant rapporteur groups and working parties to be open to initiatives from selected NGOs regarding issues of common interest;

4. agreed to draw their governments' attention to the European Convention on the Recognition of the Legal Personality of International Non-Governmental Organisations (ETS No. 124).

The following meetings were organised by the Secretariat for NGOs with consultative status:

– plenary conference for NGOs in January 1998;

– a general information meeting on the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, in September 1997.

NGOs were represented at the sessions of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE).

Within the framework of the Council of Europe's Demosthenes programme the NGOs Section of the Directorate of Political Affairs, in co-operation with the Liaison Committee of NGOs having consultative status, organised three seminars on "the role of NGOs in the transition to a democratic society" in Tallinn (Estonia), from 30 May to 1 June 1996.

Discussions in these seminars focused on the following themes:

– the role of NGOs in the transition to a democratic society;

– the legal and financial basis of NGOs;

– current situation/legislation concerning NGOs, Tallinn (Estonia) from 3 to 5 April 1997, Chişinău (Moldova) from 16 to 18 October 1997, St Petersburg (Russia) from 13 to 15 November 1997;

– relations between state authorities and NGOs;

– statute and role of NGOs at European level;

– confidence-building measures: the role of NGOs in the field of national minorities.

Following extensive consultations taking place since December 1995, at their 87th meeting (April 1997), NGOs having consultative status with the Council of Europe and interested in human rights, decided to set up a "grouping" of NGOs represented at the Council of Europe and expressing an interest in human rights. This group held its first meeting in June, chaired by the representative of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues. The Directorate of Human Rights continues to contribute materially to these meetings.

Immediately prior to the May 1997 colloquy "The Social Charter of the Twenty-first Century", the Directorate of Human Rights convened a forum for NGOs involved in work on social rights to discuss a campaign aimed at raising awareness about the European Social Charter, the collective complaints mechanism under the Additional Protocol to the Charter, and how NGOs can use these instruments to secure social rights in Europe. A special *ad hoc* meeting, involving NGOs and parliamentarians, was facilitated by the Awareness Unit to discuss an initiative launched by *Pax Christi* and supported by the Quaker Council of European Affairs, on the question of children in situations of armed conflict.

Work was also carried out on a guide for NGOs to the human rights work of the Council of Europe, which was presented in draft form to NGOs in consultative status with the Council of Europe at their annual information meeting in September 1997 for their comments and input.

In carrying out activities to promote awareness of human rights, particularly in the countries of central and eastern Europe, the Council of Europe relies heavily on co-operation with the non-governmental sector, encouraging and supporting their efforts as far as it can in a range of education, training and awareness activities, as well as in the convening of meetings, issuing of publications, facilitating of translations, supply of documents, and so on. Examples of such co-operation in 1997 were many and ranged from a workshop organised with the Urals legal aid clinic *Sutyazhnik* for NGOs and trades unionists from the Urals region on how to use the complaints procedures of ECHR (Yekaterinburg, April 1997) to seminars for judges on the application of the ECHR, as part of an attempt to introduce well-targeted and continuous training for practising lawyers in Bulgaria, organised in conjunction with the Plovdiv Bar Association, the Bulgarian Association of Young Advocates and Interights (Plovdiv, October 1997). Such co-operation is not limited to NGOs enjoying consultative status with the Council of Europe. ■

5. Relations with European management and labour organisations

The Committee of Ministers decided in 1983 to set up a Liaison Committee between the Council of Europe and Management and Labour (LCML) represented by the Union of Industry and Employers' Confederations of Europe (UNICE) and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC). Annual consultations take place within the LCML, complemented by hearings with governmental committees of experts.

The 14th annual consultation meeting of the LCML took place on 30 January 1998 with the following main agenda items:

– exchange of views on the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe;

– exchange of views concerning a Council of Europe strategy for social cohesion:

- promoting social rights (European Social Charter and other "relevant" Council of Europe instruments, such as the European Code of Social Security);
- creation of a European Committee on Social Cohesion;
- setting up the "Resource Unit";

– discussion on the activity programmes concerning social cohesion and the quality of life;

– perspectives for co-operation with the countries of central and eastern Europe.

As regards hearings with governmental committees of experts during 1997, UNICE and the ETUC were kept informed by the European Social Security Committee (CDSS) on Council of Europe activities in the social protection field. They were invited to give their comments concerning the draft recommendation on social protection and dependence. These comments joined those established by the member states/ participants. As for the Steering Committee on Social Policy (CDPS) project "Human dignity and social exclusion", the ETUC was invited to participate in the colloquy on "Social cohesion today and tomorrow" (Bratislava, 16-17 September 1997).

Furthermore, UNICE and the ETUC were kept informed of activities in the migration field by the CDMG, with which they have observer status.

As regards activities on equality between men and women (CDEG), Management and Labour were invited to participate in the International Seminar on "Promoting Equality: a Common Issue for Men and Women" (Strasbourg, 17-18 June 1997).

According to Article 27 of the European Social Charter, the representatives of UNICE, IOE (International Organisation of Employers) and the ETUC participated, in 1997, in the four meetings of the Governmental Committee of the Charter and in both meetings of the Working Group. Furthermore, two information sessions on the Social Charter were organised in Strasbourg, following the request of Management and Labour at the 13th meeting of the LCML:

– on 12 and 13 May 1997, for members of the ETUC, during the international colloquy on "the Social Charter of the 21st century" which took place in the Human Rights Building from 14 to 16 May;

– on 17 and 18 November 1997, for members of UNICE, on the occasion of a meeting of the Working Group of the Governmental Committee.

In conformity with the decisions made at the 13th LCML meeting concerning the modalities foreseen to enable Management and Labour to be informed or involved, particularly through hearings, in the preparation and/or participation at conferences of specialised ministers, Management and Labour were invited to participate at the 4th European Ministerial Conference on Equality between Women and Men (Istanbul, 13-14 November 1997).

Finally, as part of the review by the Ministers' Deputies' Rapporteur Group on Social and Health Questions (GR-SOC) of the aims and objectives and the associated working methods and organisational arrangements of the Council of Europe's activities in the field of social affairs, information was sent to UNICE and the ETUC about the Council of Europe's strategy for social cohesion. Management and Labour were asked to submit their written or oral comments to the Chair of the aforementioned Rapporteur Group, Mrs Tovornik, Permanent Representative of Slovenia at the Council of Europe. An informal meeting on this matter between the Chair of the Rapporteur Group and the ETUC took place in Strasbourg on 12 September 1997. ■

VIII. European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre)

The aim of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe is to increase awareness in Europe of global interdependence. To this end, it runs three main programmes.

1. Public information and media relations

One World activities

"One World" is a group of broadcasters who co-produce programmes to increase public awareness of global interdependence and solidarity. The North-South Centre offers advice and liaises between "One World" and the quadrilogue partners (representatives of governments, parliaments, civil society and local and regional authorities).

In co-operation with "One World", it was involved in the Europe Prize in Vilanova (Spain) and a workshop on tolerance and solidarity (5 September).

Other media activities

Seminar on information and development

A working meeting on information and development (organised with the aid of the United Nations Development Programme, the OECD Development Centre and the Foreign Affairs Committee) was held at the Portuguese Parliament on 24 November 1997. Around fifty participants discussed different ways of generating public support for international co-operation and reducing poverty.

North-South Media Encounters

The Centre took part in the North-South Media Encounters (Geneva, 26-29 May) and awarded the North-South Prize (for the best southern production) to *Ghetto Diaries: Across the Divide*. A representative of the North-South Centre chaired the festival jury.

International Media Day against Racism

The North-South Centre sent over 6 000 media professionals an information letter to mark International Media Day against Racism on 21 March.

Publications

The Interdependent

The Centre continued to produce its monthly bulletin, *The Interdependent*. In the course of the year, the Centre published a special issue on Africa and completely overhauled its mailing list, which can now be accessed by database.

Terra Viva Monthly

The first issue of *Terra Viva Monthly*, a sixteen-page monthly produced in co-operation with the IPS news agency, was published in January 1997 and followed by ten other issues throughout the year.

Other publications

The Centre republished *Education for Global Citizenship*, a collection of good examples of global education teaching material (also available in French). In addition, it published a report entitled *Remaking the case for development co-operation* (in English and French, on the seminar held in co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme in Brussels in June 1996), *Drugs: Dependence and Interdependence* (in English and French, report on the conference held in Lisbon in March 1996), a report on migration and decentralised co-operation in the western Mediterranean (in French, concerning the seminar held in Nice in May 1995) and, in co-operation with the Council of Europe, *Human Rights at Stake*, a collection (in English) of the speeches delivered at the North-South Lisbon Prize award ceremonies. The North-South Centre also published an information brochure on its activities in English and French.

The North-South Centre took part in the Frankfurt Book Fair (15-20 October) in order to promote its publications. ■

2. Global education and youth

Global education programme

"Africa-Europe: dialogue on education for change"

In connection with Worlddidac '98 Basel, the teaching material trade fair to be held in Basel, Switzerland, from 12 to 15 May 1998, the North-South Centre joined with the Swiss Development and Co-operation Agency, the Swiss Foundation "Education and Development" and the "Worlddidac" Association to develop the project "Africa-Europe: dialogue

on education for change". This will involve an exhibition of African teaching material at the fair, as well as meetings between African and European publishers. Work on the project continued throughout 1997.

International workshop "Partnership and global education in secondary schools"

This second workshop on "Partnerships in global education" was held in Soesterberg (Netherlands) from 9 to 12 October in co-operation with the Secondary Education Management Committee, PMVO, from the Netherlands Education Ministry, and the Netherlands Organisation for International Development Co-operation (NOVIB). The participants considered the question of how secondary schools could devote greater attention to global education.

Youth programme

North-South training course for youth organisations

For the fourth year in succession, the North-South training course for youth organisations was held in Molina (Spain), from 12 to 17 August. Twenty-seven young people representing organisations from all over the world took part in the course, whose aim was to increase young people's involvement in international co-operation and make them aware of North-South interdependence. ■

3. Dialogue for global partnership

Programme on human rights in the North-South dialogue: European Conference on Conflict Prevention

The North-South Centre took part in the European Conference on Conflict Prevention in Amsterdam on 27 and 28 February, which ended with the signing of the Amsterdam Appeal (ten recommendations to the European Union).

North-South Lisbon Prize

The North-South Lisbon Prize was awarded on 16 May to Mary Robinson, then President of Ireland, and Patricio Aylwin, former President of Chile, at a prestigious ceremony held in the Senate Chamber of the Portuguese Parliament in Lisbon.

Annual meeting of the Lisbon Forum on Human Rights in the North-South dialogue

The Lisbon Forum, which was set up in 1994 and has no political bias, is designed to provide early warnings of serious human rights violations and to co-ordinate bodies and networks in Africa and Europe. It is aimed at representatives of international NGOs concerned with human rights, governments, parliaments and the media. The meeting, held on 15 and 16 May 1997, focused on "The Great Lakes region: towards new North-South dialogue".

Second workshop on improving regional systems of human rights protection

This workshop (Lisbon, 17-18 November) involved a working meeting and exchanges of experiences between the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the European Commission and Court of Human Rights.

Transmediterranean programme

Mediterranean Charter

In its capacity as a member of the drafting committee for the Mediterranean Charter, the North-South Centre took part in the working meeting in Madrid on 10 and 11 January.

Press Forum

"Freedom of the press in the Mediterranean: action strategies" was the theme of the workshop organised by the North-South Centre on 30 January at the general meeting of the COPEAM (Permanent Conference of Mediterranean Audiovisual Operators), on whose board the Centre is represented.

Intercultural dialogue as the basis for co-operation

An international colloquy on "Intercultural dialogue in the Mediterranean: a basis for co-operation" was held in Malta from 11 to 13 April, bringing together around one hundred participants in the run-up to the inter-governmental conference also held there.

Mediterra

A special issue of *Mediterra* on intercultural dialogue in the Mediterranean was published at the time of the colloquy in Malta on the subject.

Seminar on women and migration

This seminar held in Nice from 18 to 21 June 1997 in conjunction with the European Institute for Higher International Studies (IEHEI) comprised two workshops, one focusing on legal issues and the other on socio-cultural issues.

Seminar on press management in the Maghreb and Europe

This three-day seminar organised in Lisbon in October by the Euro-Maghreb Media Training Network (REMFOC) with the support of the North-South Centre was attended by press bosses from Europe and the Maghreb.

Cultural capitals – intercultural task force

An international round table on "Culture and development in the Mediterranean" (28-29 November) brought together around twenty experts in the framework of Thessaloniki, European Cultural Capital.

Decentralised dialogue

"Your city in the world"

The North-South Centre has been taking part in the "Your city in the world" initiative launched by the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) since 1996, and continued distributing documents concerning this campaign aimed at local awareness of interdependence in 1997. ■

4. Cross-dimensional events in 1997

Preparation of the campaign on global interdependence and solidarity

In preparation for the 1998-99 campaign on "Global interdependence and solidarity: Europe against poverty and social exclusion", a brainstorming session on raising public awareness of international development and global interdependence was held in Strasbourg on 13 November 1997.

Conference on the role of civil society and its support for international development

Conference held in Paris (4 and 5 July) in co-operation with the OECD Development Centre. ■

IX. Confidence-building measures in civil society

1. Background

The Vienna Summit laid down an ambitious mandate for the Council of Europe concerning the protection of national minorities. The various measures envisaged were essentially of two kinds.

The first category of measures was legal standard-setting. The recent coming into force of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities testifies to the significant progress already made in carrying out this part of the summit's mandate.

Secondly, the summit called for confidence-building measures aimed at increasing tolerance and understanding between peoples. This objective is based on the realisation, firstly, that, in addition to its activities which are of general European scope, the Council of Europe must be ready to assist in the solution of specific minority problems; moreover, in the field of minorities, if changes in the law are to achieve their purpose effectively, they must be accompanied by changes in the attitudes of those concerned.

Consequently, the Confidence-building Measures Programme was created in 1994 with a view to providing moral and financial support to projects of which the primary objective is to foster good relations between minorities and the majority "on the ground". ■

2. The concept of confidence-building measures in civil society

It is clear that much of the work of the Council of Europe is relevant to the general objective of promoting a climate of mutual understanding, tolerance and respect for different cultures. This is true, for example, of activities in the field of education, culture, the mass media, migration and transfrontier co-operation.

Although some of these activities involve a variety of partners, they remain to a considerable extent within the traditional conception of intergovernmental co-operation. The increasing prominence of minority problems, especially in central and eastern Europe, revealed, however, that such activities needed to be supplemented by specific initiatives on the ground undertaken in close collaboration with the communities concerned. This is the motivation behind the programme of confidence-building measures in civil society.

This programme consists of supporting activities which are of a preventive nature, that is they are designed to defuse tensions which could otherwise lead to serious conflict. They are essentially practical in character and help to break down barriers between different communities at the grass roots through dialogue and opportunities to learn or work together on specific projects. Such shared experience is seen as the most effective way of promoting mutual knowledge and understanding.

Confidence-building measures may be undertaken in a wide variety of fields, for example the media, education, culture, human rights, democracy, transfrontier co-operation, youth and local and regional democracy. Their primary distinguishing characteristic, however, is that the activities to be supported will involve above all non-governmental partners.

Necessarily, the direct impact of such projects will generally be felt at a local level only. They are therefore conceived as pilot projects which, if successful, can have a multiplier effect and stimulate others to follow the example given.

By the same token it would be realistic to expect results in the medium and long term rather than immediately. Creating a climate of confidence is a gradual process requiring patience and perseverance. ■

3. The successive stages of pilot projects

Who can apply

A project can be submitted from a variety of non-governmental sources, such as NGOs, the media, educational establishments or local or regional authorities.

How decisions are taken

A team based in the Directorate of Political Affairs is in charge of the management of the Confidence-building Measures Programme. It works in close co-operation with the relevant departments in the Council of Europe, acting as a focal point and ensuring co-ordination.

This team receives the applications and carries out a preliminary selection. It then consults the different Directorates concerned and, if need be, arranges inter-departmental meetings. If appropriate, interviews with the project designers can be held in order to clarify particular aspects of the projects, improve their design and determine the type of support to be provided.

Once the Secretariat has finalised the assessment, and if its conclusion is positive, projects are submitted to the Steering Group, consisting of the Permanent Representatives of the member states of the Council of Europe, which meets twice a year. It is the Steering Group which takes the final decision both as to the selection of the projects and about the kind of support to be given. After their approval by the Steering Group, projects are either directly funded from the special account of the Council of Europe or are circulated to member states for possible voluntary contributions.

Implementation

The role of the Council of Europe is not limited to the provision of the necessary funding to enable each pilot project to get off the ground. In order to ensure that the project is carried out in the form in which it has been approved and continues to correspond to the objectives of the confidence-building measures, its implementation needs to be followed and supported by the relevant department of the Council of Europe. The latter maintains a constant dialogue with those responsible for the project and assists where appropriate with resolving problems which may arise.

Evaluation

Following the completion of projects, an evaluation of the project may be made. The purpose of such evaluation is to measure to what extent the implemented activities have achieved the objectives of the project. This evaluation is the result of close co-operation between the project manager and the Secretariat.

Such an evaluation should enable better selection criteria for future projects. It is particularly important in relation to those projects which are intended to furnish models of good practice. ■

4. Projects approved in 1997

A total of 70 projects were approved in 1997, 34 of which are to be financed through the Special Account for Confidence-building Measures and the remaining 36 to be financed through voluntary contributions.

Projects approved in 1997 have principally covered the sectors of culture, education and the media. ■

X. Human rights and fundamental freedoms

1. European Convention on Human Rights

a. Application of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its protocols

Signatures and ratifications (1997)

Thirty-nine of the forty member states of the Council of Europe (Russia excepted[1]) are parties to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and recognise the competence of the European Commission of Human Rights to receive individual petitions, as well as the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court.

Protocol No. 11, which provides for a reform of the system of collective guarantee, was ratified by the following states in 1997:
- Belgium, 10 January 1997,
- Croatia, 5 November 1997,
- Greece, 9 January 1997,
- Italy, 1 October 1997,
- Latvia, 27 June 1997,
- Moldova,12 September 1997,
- Netherlands, 21 January 1997,
- Poland, 20 May 1997,
- Portugal, 14 May 1997,
- "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", 10 April 1997,
- Turkey, 11 July 1997,
- Ukraine, 11 September 1997.

Protocol No. 11 will enter into force on 1 November 1998.

Declarations on the basis of Articles 25 and 46 of the Convention (acceptance of the competence of the Commission to receive individual petitions and of the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court) and of its Protocols Nos. 4 and 7:
- Austria, 3 September 1997,
- Belgium, 30 June 1997 (Article 25) and 29 June 1997 (Article 46),
- Croatia, 5 November 1997,
- Denmark, 5 April 1997,
- Greece, 20 November 1997 (Article 25) and 24 June 1997 (Article 46),
- Italy, 1 January 1997,
- Latvia, 27 June 1997,
- Liechtenstein, 8 September 1997,
- Malta, 1 May 1997,
- Moldova,12 September 1997,
- Norway, 29 April 1997
- "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", 10 April 1997,
- Ukraine, 11 September 1997.

Other ratifications

Protocols Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8:
- Croatia, 5 November 1997,
- Latvia, 27 June 1997,
- Moldova,12 September 1997,
- "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", 10 April 1997,
- Ukraine, 11 September 1997.

Protocol No. 6:
- Croatia, 5 November 1997,
- Moldova,12 September 1997,
- "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", 10 April 1997.

b. Activities of the European Commission of Human Rights

In 1997, the Commission registered 4 750 applications and rejected as being inadmissible or struck off 3 088 applications. It declared 703 applications admissible, communicated 1 364 to the respective respondent governments, adopted 468 reports on the merits (Article 31 ECHR) and 45 reports on friendly settlements.

c. Activities of the European Court of Human Rights

In 1997, 119 cases were referred to the Court, including 38 cases referred by private parties under Protocol No. 9. Only two of the latter cases were examined by the Court on the merits, 50 were rejected by the Screening Panel composed of three judges, including some cases pending since 1996, and the remainder had not yet been considered by the Screening Panel at 31 December 1997. During this year the Court delivered 106 judgments. It found a violation of the Convention in 53 cases and no violation in 42. Two judgments concerned only the award of just satisfaction and two others the interpretation or revision of previous judgments. Six cases were struck off the list and one case was not examined on the merits.

d. Activities of the Committee of Ministers under Articles 32 and 54 of the Convention

During 1997, the Committee of Ministers has been seized of 401 new cases under Article 32 of the Convention (cases accordingly not referred to the European Court of Human Rights). The Committee made public its conclusions on the question of whether or not there was a violation of the Convention in 559 cases (this figure includes cases referred to the Committee of Ministers before 1997).

1. The Russian Federation ratified the Convention on 5 May 1998.

With regard to the Committee's control of the proper execution of the cases in which either the Court (Article 54 cases) or the Committee itself (Article 32 cases) have concluded that there has been a violation of the Convention, the Committee expressed its satisfaction with the measures taken by the authorities of the respondent states in 25 Article 54 cases and 144 Article 32 cases.

Further information regarding the work of the Committee of Ministers under the Convention is found in Appendix H. ■

2. Intergovernmental activities

a. Human rights

i. Human rights of persons deprived of their liberty

The Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) resumed its consideration of the draft protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) securing certain additional rights to persons deprived of their liberty and held a general discussion on the advisability of continuing its work in this area, in the light in particular of the opinions of the European Commission and Court of Human Rights. The CDDH agreed to revert to the question of persons deprived of their liberty at its meeting in the spring of 1998 in the form of an exchange of views on the need to recognise new rights in this area. The CPT (European Committee for the Prevention of Torture) and the NGOs directly concerned might be associated with this exchange of views.

ii. Equality between women and men/Legal instrument against racism and intolerance

In September 1997, the Committee of Experts for the Development of Human Rights (DH-DEV) elaborated a final activity report on equality between women and men/legal instrument against racism and intolerance.

In the light of this report, the CDDH concluded in October 1997 that an additional protocol to the ECHR was advisable and feasible, both as a standard-setting solution regarding equality between women and men and as a legal instrument against racism and intolerance. Therefore, it agreed to request from the Committee of Ministers fresh terms of reference to draw up, before 31 December 1998, an additional protocol to the ECHR broadening, in a general fashion, the field of application of Article 14 of the ECHR, which would contain a non-exhaustive list of discrimination grounds.

iii. National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

On the basis of the preparatory work carried out by the CDDH, the Ministers' Deputies adopted on 30 September 1997 Recommendation No. R (97) 14 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the establishment of independent national human rights institutions. On the same day, they also adopted Resolution (97) 11 on co-operation between national human rights institutions of member states and between them and the Council of Europe. By means of this resolution, the Ministers' Deputies decided, in particular, to institute, in the framework of the Council of Europe, regular meetings with these institutions to exchange views and experience.

iv. Improvement of procedures for the protection of human rights

The Committee of Experts for the improvement of procedures for the protection of human rights (DH-PR) examined the draft model rules for the new Court prepared by the Informal working party and finalised the following documents, aiming at facilitating the implementation of Protocol No 11 to the ECHR:

– a separate document containing the proposals and comments of the DH-PR;

– a document containing a summary of discussions and exchanges of views on the rules of the new Court.

In October 1997, the CDDH agreed to forward these three documents to the Secretary General, with a view to their further transmission to the judges of the new Court, the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly.

v. Other activities

The CDDH prepared a text on a right to the satisfaction of basic material human needs and decided to send it to the Conference on Human Dignity and Social Exclusion (Helsinki, May 1998), accompanied by an information document presenting, in particular, the relevant international and national case-law and practice in this field.

Furthermore, the CDDH decided to create the following three groups of specialists:

– Group of Specialists on conscientious objection to military service (DH-S-CO),

– Group of Specialists on access to official information (DH-S-AC),

– Group of Specialists on democratic strategies for dealing with movements threatening human rights (DH-D-DEM).

At their 613th meeting (18-19 December 1997), the Ministers' Deputies endorsed the proposals of the *ad hoc* committee of experts to exchange views on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights (CAHNU). These proposals concern a regional colloquy to be held from 2 to 4 September 1998 as a Council of Europe contribution to the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 1998 review of the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights.

b. Protection of national minorities

International legal standards

At the Vienna Summit of Heads of State and Government (8-9 October 1993) the Committee of Ministers was instructed *inter alia*:

"i. to draft with minimum delay a framework convention specifying the principles which contracting states commit themselves to respect, in order to assure the protection of national minorities. This instrument would also be open for signature by non-member states;

ii. to begin work on drafting a protocol complementing the European Convention on Human Rights in the cultural field by provisions guaranteeing individual rights, in particular for persons belonging to national minorities."

Framework convention

The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities was adopted at the 95th Ministerial Session of the Committee of Ministers on 10 November 1994. It was opened for signature on 1 February 1995 and entered into force on 1 February 1998. By March 1998 it had been signed by 36 (of the 40) member states of which 19 (Romania, Spain, Slovakia, Hungary, Cyprus, Moldova, San Marino, Estonia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Germany, Denmark, Finland, Croatia, Italy, Liechtenstein, Czech Republic, United Kingdom, Ukraine and Malta) have also deposited instruments of ratification. One non-member state, Armenia, has also signed the framework convention.

Over the period from summer 1996 to September 1997 extensive negotiations took place concerning the composition of the advisory committee under the framework convention and the procedure to be followed in performing the monitoring functions. In September 1997 the Committee of Ministers was able to adopt Resolution (97) 10 entitled "Rules adopted by the Committee of Ministers on the monitoring arrangements under Articles 24-26 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities".

Additional protocol

On the basis of the report prepared by CAHMIN the Committee of Ministers decided in January 1996 to suspend work on the additional protocol, but to continue reflection on the feasibility of further standard-setting in the cultural field and in the field of protection of national minorities, taking into account the Vienna Declaration. Furthermore it decided to declassify the working documents of the CAHMIN concerning the additional protocol. No developments took place over 1997.

Intergovernmental programme of activities

In 1997 information meetings on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities were organised in co-operation with national authorities in Prague (Czech Republic), Bolzano (Italy) and Kyiv (Ukraine).

In December 1997 the Committee of Ministers approved the terms of reference of the Committee of Experts on Issues Relating to the Protection of National Minorities (DH-MIN). This new intergovernmental committee will function under the auspices of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) and will act as a forum for exchanging information, views and experience on policies and good practices for the protection of national minorities at the domestic level in the context of international instruments, as well as identify and assess ways and means of further enhancing European co-operation in the field.

Co-operation and assistance

In July 1996 the implementation commenced of a joint programme between the European Commission (Phare Programme) and the Council of Europe entitled "Minorities in central European countries". This programme encompassed meetings of Government Offices for National Minorities (in Bucharest, Bratislava and Skopje), thematic seminars on minorities and media, minorities and education and the participation of minorities in decision-making processes as well as study visits for officials from the seventeen participating countries.

Strasbourg Summit

At the second summit (Strasbourg, October 1997) the heads of state and government asserted their determination to step up co-operation in respect of the protection of all persons belonging to national minorities and in the Plan of Action, taking account of the (then) imminent entry into force of the framework convention, resolved to complement the Council of Europe's standard-setting achievements in this field through practical initiatives, such as confidence-building measures and enhanced co-operation, involving both governments and civil society. ■

3. European Social Charter

The European Social Charter, which was signed in Turin on 18 October 1961 and entered into force on 26 February 1965, was conceived as the counterpart to the European Convention on Human Rights in the social field. It aims at guaranteeing the effective exercise of nineteen fundamental social rights and promoting harmonisation in the development of social policies in Europe.

The rights protected by the Charter include the right to work, the right to safe and healthy working conditions, the right to a fair remuneration, the right of men and women to equal pay for work of equal value, the right to organise and the right to bargain collectively (including the right to strike), the right to social security, to social and medical assistance and social welfare services, as well as protection of

the family, of disabled persons, migrant workers and their families, children and adolescents, etc.

Four new rights were added to this list following the adoption, on 5 May 1988, of the Additional Protocol to the Charter: the right to equal opportunities and equal treatment in matters of employment and occupation, without discrimination on the grounds of sex; the right of workers to information and consultation within the undertaking; the right of workers to take part in the determination and improvement of the working conditions and working environment in the undertaking; and the right of elderly persons to social protection.

During 1997 Poland became the twenty-first Contracting Party to the Charter.[1] Latvia and Slovenia signed the Charter in 1997, taking the number of states which have signed but not yet ratified to nine (the others are the Czech Republic, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Switzerland and Ukraine).

The 1988 Additional Protocol is in force with respect to Denmark, Finland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. Latvia and Slovenia became signatories in 1997 and altogether fourteen states have signed the Additional Protocol, which entered into force on 4 September 1992.

The revised Social Charter

The revised Social Charter was opened for signature on 3 May 1996 and was signed in 1997 by Lithuania, Romania, Slovenia and the United Kingdom. It has now been signed by thirteen states, the others being Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Sweden.

The rights guaranteed by the 1961 Charter have been retained in the new text, with a certain number of amendments. Important changes have been made, for example, to the right to just conditions of work (Article 2), the rights of disabled persons (Article 15) and the rights of children and young persons (Article 17). The revised Charter also incorporates the rights guaranteed by the Additional Protocol of 1988 as well as eight new rights:

– the right to protection in cases of termination of employment (Article 24);

– the right of workers to the protection of their claims in the event of the insolvency of their employer (Article 25);

– the right to dignity at work (Article 26);

– the right of workers with family responsibilities to equal opportunities and equal treatment (Article 27);

– the right of workers' representatives to protection in undertakings and facilities to be accorded to them (Article 28);

– the right to information and consultation in collective redundancy procedures (Article 29);

– the right to protection against poverty and social exclusion (Article 30);

– the right to housing (Article 31).

The revised Charter will enter into force after three ratifications.

System of supervision of the European Social Charter

A system of international supervision has been introduced to ensure the effective implementation of the various provisions of the Charter by the contracting states (Articles 21 to 29 of the Charter). This system was changed by the Protocol amending the European Social Charter, opened for signature on 21 October 1991 in Turin. The Protocol, currently ratified by thirteen states (Austria, Cyprus, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal and Sweden) and signed by nine other states, will not enter into force until it has been ratified by all states party to the Charter. However, in compliance with the final resolution of the Turin Ministerial Conference during which this Protocol was opened for signature, and the decision taken by the Committee of Ministers on 11 December 1991, certain measures of the amending protocol applied "before its entry into force, in so far as the text of the Charter will allow".

Since 1992, the control mechanism, which is based on the national reports that contracting parties to the Charter submit at regular intervals, is the following:

– firstly, it falls to the Committee of Independent Experts to analyse and assess from a legal standpoint the compliance of national law and practice with the obligations arising from the Charter;

– then the Governmental Committee prepares the Committee of Ministers' decisions. In particular, in the light of the reports of the Committee of Independent Experts and of the contracting parties, it selects, on the basis of social, economic and other policy considerations, the situations which should, in its view, be the subject of recommendations to each contracting party concerned;

– finally, on the basis of the Governmental Committee's report, the Committee of Ministers adopts a resolution on the whole of the supervision cycle and the individual recommendations to be addressed to the contracting parties concerned.

Furthermore, following an exchange of letters between the President of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers in September 1992, the Parliamentary Assembly decided to abstain on the control mechanism of the Charter and to organise periodical social policy debates on the basis of the conclusions of the Committee of Independent Experts (Order No. 482 of 7 October 1992).

Under the new system for presentation of reports, which took effect in 1997, contracting parties will have to submit, by 30 June of odd years, a report on all the provisions of the hard core (with a reference period of two years) and, by 31 March of even years, a report on

1. The contracting parties are: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands (including the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba for some provisions), Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

half of the provisions outside the hard core (with a reference period of four years). States have the option of submitting both of these reports together at the start of the reference period. New contracting parties to the Charter and to the Additional Protocol of 1988 will none the less submit two full reports at two-year intervals before applying the new arrangements.

The revised Charter will be subject to exactly the same supervisory procedure.

On 9 November 1995, the Additional Protocol to the Social Charter providing for a system of collective complaints was opened for signature. Cyprus became the first state to ratify this instrument in 1996, while Italy and Norway ratified it in 1997. It has been signed by Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Portugal, Slovenia and Sweden. This protocol, which will enter into force after ratification by five states, aims to strengthen the control procedure of the Social Charter, since it will entitle certain national and international organisations of employers and workers as well as certain non-governmental organisations to lodge collective complaints with the Committee of Independent Experts alleging violations of the Charter.

The following documents issued in 1997 concern the supervisory procedure:

– 13th report (III) of the Governmental Committee,

– Conclusions XIII-5 of the Committee of Independent Experts,

– Fifth report on certain provisions of the Charter which have not been accepted. ■

4. European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

The European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was opened for signature on 26 November 1987. It entered into force on 1 February 1989. To date, thirty-eight member states of the Council of Europe are bound by the convention. In 1997, the convention was ratified by Andorra, Croatia, Moldova, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Ukraine.[1]

The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), set up under the convention, met for the first time in November 1989. It is composed of one independent member in respect of each party to the convention, elected by the Committee of Ministers and serving in his or her individual capacity. The members are drawn from a variety of backgrounds: lawyers, medical doctors, prison experts, persons with parliamentary experience, etc.

In 1997, the Committee of Ministers elected new members in respect of Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The members in respect of France, Liechtenstein, Norway, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey were re-elected. The CPT presently has twenty-nine members, the seats in respect of Albania, Andorra, Croatia, Moldova, Portugal, Slovenia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Ukraine being vacant.

In November 1997, the CPT elected a new President, Mr Ivan Zakine (French), President of the Court of Cassation 2nd Civil Chamber, who replaced Mr Claude Nicolay (from Luxembourg), Chief Public Prosecutor at the Supreme Court of Justice in Luxembourg, whose term of office as a member of the CPT had come to an end. At the same time, the CPT elected a new second vice-president, Mr John Olden (Irish), formerly Assistant Secretary in the Department of Justice. The other member of the CPT's Bureau is Mrs Ingrid Lycke Ellingsen, a Norwegian psychiatrist (first Vice-President).

The CPT's task is to examine the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty by a public authority (for example, in prisons, police stations, mental health institutions, etc.) with a view to strengthening, if necessary, their protection from inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment. For this purpose, the CPT carries out both periodic visits and visits which appear to it "to be required in the circumstances". It may also organise follow-up visits.

In 1997, the CPT carried out visits to Albania, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the Netherlands Antilles, Norway, Spain (twice), Turkey and the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man.

The CPT envisages carrying out periodic visits to Andorra, Croatia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Moldova, Spain, Sweden, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Ukraine in the course of 1998. Visits to other countries may be organised if circumstances so require.

The reports drawn up by the CPT after visits are, in principle, confidential. However, a considerable number of these reports have been made public by the states concerned. In 1997, the committee's reports on visits to Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Norway, Slovakia and Switzerland were made public. Moreover, during the same year, the governments of numerous countries (Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovakia and Switzerland) made public their own interim or follow-up reports in response to CPT visit reports.

Finally, it should be recalled that two protocols amending the convention were opened for signature on 4 November 1993. Protocol No. 1 "opens" the convention by providing for the

1. Latvia ratified the convention on 10 February 1998 (entry into force: 1 June 1998). The Russian Federation ratified the convention on 5 May 1998 (entry into force: 1 September 1998).

Committee of Ministers to invite any non-member state to accede to it (at present only member states of the Council of Europe may become parties to the convention). Protocol No. 2 introduces amendments to the convention of a more technical nature. Provision is made for members of the CPT to be placed into one of two groups for election purposes, the aim being to ensure that one half of the committee's membership is renewed every two years. Protocol No. 2 also provides for members of the CPT to be re-elected twice, instead of only once as at present.

The two protocols will enter into force when all parties to the convention have agreed to be bound by them. To date, they have been ratified by thirty-two (Protocol No. 1) and thirty-three (Protocol No. 2) of the thirty-eight parties to the convention[1], and signed by six (Protocol No. 1) and five (Protocol No. 2) other states[2]. ■

1. That is by Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France (Protocol No. 2), Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
2. That is by France (Protocol No. 1), Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

5. European Commission against Racism and Intolerance

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) was confirmed in its role by the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and of Government of the Member States of the Council of Europe, which took place in Strasbourg in October 1997. The heads of state and of government acknowledged the importance of ECRI's work and called for an intensification of its activities.

Throughout 1997, the ECRI continued its multidisciplinary approach to combating racism and intolerance by means of its country-by-country approach and its work on general themes. It also paid particular attention to raising the visibility of its work and to strengthening its links with civil society.

Through its country-by-country approach, the ECRI examines the situation as regards racism and intolerance in each member state of the Council of Europe in order to formulate concrete and tailor-made proposals which might help governments to solve the problems they are facing. A part of this country-by-country approach is the process of confidential dialogue which the ECRI initiates with national authorities on the basis of its draft texts: for this purpose a national liaison officer is nominated by each member state. The ECRI made public its first series of country reports in September 1997, dealing with: Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta and Poland. The intention is to finish the first series of country reports, covering all forty member states of the Council of Europe, by the end of 1998.

As regards its work on general themes, the ECRI published its second general policy recommendation, dealing with specialised bodies in member states to combat racism and intolerance, and setting out guidelines as to how such bodies might be created or strengthened. It also worked on its third and fourth general policy recommendations, due to be published in 1998, dealing respectively with combating racism and intolerance against Roma/Gypsies, and the use of national surveys on the experiences and perceptions of racism and discrimination from the point of view of potential victims.

The launch in October 1997 of the ECRI's Internet site on combating racism and intolerance marked an important moment. The Internet site makes available to a wide audience all of the ECRI's published work to date, as well as a wide range of relevant international texts and educational and other material produced by the Council of Europe's Youth Campaign against Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Intolerance. The site also provides a forum where interested parties can exchange views. In parallel with this activity, the ECRI is making widespread efforts to strengthen its links with civil society. An informal consultation with relevant NGOs was held in December 1997, and ECRI has prepared a policy and action statement in this field which it will implement in 1998. ■

6. Equality

The Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men (CDEG)

In 1997, the CDEG continued to define, stimulate and conduct action to promote equality between women and men, assisted by groups of specialists on specific themes.

The committee held three meetings in 1997. The major part of its work was concentrated on the preparation of the Seminar on the role of men in achieving equality (Strasbourg, 17-18 June 1997), the 4th European Ministerial Conference on Equality between Women and Men (Istanbul, 13-14 November 1997) and the Information Forum on National Policies in the Field of Equality between Women and Men (Tallinn, 27-29 November 1997).

The CDEG gave its opinion on two Parliamentary Assembly recommendations: Recommendation 1321 (1997) on improving the situation of women in rural society and Recommendation 1325 (1997) on traffic in women and forced prostitution in Council of Europe member states. It also examined the sixth annual report of the Secretary General on equality between women and men in the Council of Europe and formulated observations and comments thereon.

Democracy and equality between women and men

The 4th European Ministerial Conference on Equality between Women and Men was held in Istanbul on 13 and 14 November 1997 and dealt with the following themes:

– General theme: Democracy and equality between women and men,

– Sub-theme 1: Equality between women and men as a fundamental criterion of democracy,

– Sub-theme 2: Promoting equality in the democratic process: the role of men.

A "Declaration on equality between women and men as a fundamental criterion of democracy" and a "Statement on equality between women and men in the context of the 50th Anniversary of the Council of Europe" were adopted by the conference. The ministers underlined the importance of strengthening intergovernmental co-operation within the Council of Europe in the field of equality between women and men and in particular the role of men in this process.

Achieving equality in all walks of life

The CDEG discussed the follow-up to be given to the Information Forum on national policies in the field of equality between women and men, held in Warsaw in November 1996, on the theme: "Equality in the labour market and the reconciliation of family and professional life". The conclusions were forwarded to the Committee of Ministers for subsequent transmission to the relevant Council of Europe bodies and social partners.

A Seminar on "Equality between women and men in the political decision-making process" was organised on the initiative of Ms Tarja Halonen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, in her capacity as Chair of the Committee of Ministers. Held in Helsinki on 11 March 1997, it provided an opportunity for political decision-makers to discuss and exchange views on how to promote the full participation of both women and men in political life.

Mainstreaming the gender perspective

The 3rd and 4th meetings of the Group of Specialists on mainstreaming (EG-S-MS) were held in April and November respectively. The group had in-depth discussions on the structure and content of its draft final report on gender mainstreaming, and organised a hearing with a representative of the European Commission. A 5th and final meeting will be held in February 1998 to finalise the text.

Following a request from the Committee of Ministers, the CDEG prepared a draft message which might be addressed to the various committees of the Council of Europe, encouraging them to integrate an equality dimension into their programmes of activities.

Combating violence against women

The CDEG published the final report of activities of the Group of Specialists on combating violence against women, which finished its work in 1996. As a follow-up to the plan of action included in this report, the CDEG adopted terms of reference for a new group of specialists on the protection of women and young girls against violence, which will start work in 1998.

Trafficking in women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation is another form of violence which is gaining momentum throughout Europe. On the basis of previous work carried out by the Council of Europe in this field, a Multisectoral Group on action against trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation (EG-S-TS) was set up and held its first meeting in December. The group discussed the possible content of a draft recommendation on this subject and will continue its work in 1998.

Free choice in matters of reproduction and lifestyles

The multidisciplinary Group of Specialists on the right to free choice in matters of reproduction and lifestyles (EG-S-RP) finished its work in 1997. During its two meetings it finalised a draft recommendation and explanatory memorandum on the right to free choice in matters of sexuality and reproduction. This text will be submitted to the CDEG and the other committees involved in this work for approval, before being forwarded to the Committee of Ministers.

The annual Information Forum on National Policies in the Field of Equality between Women and Men took place in Tallinn (Estonia) from 27 to 29 November 1997, with, as its general theme: "Guaranteeing freedom of choice in matters of reproduction, sexuality and lifestyles in Europe: trends and developments". Sub-themes discussed were: "Adolescents and their right to reproductive health", "Contraception and abortion", "Reproduction and lifestyles: trends and developments".

The conclusions highlighted, among other things, the increasing importance of the themes discussed and the necessity to establish that the right to free choice in matters of reproduction and sexuality should be regarded as an integral part of human rights. The ability of women to control their own fertility was considered to be fundamental for the enjoyment of other rights and constituted the basis for real equality between women and men. The participants also proposed a range of more specific recommendations and activities to be undertaken as a follow-up to the forum which could be developed both at national level and in the framework of the Council of Europe in various fields, such as information and education, awareness-raising, services, legal framework, research and statistical data, civil society.

The role of men in achieving equality

An International Seminar on "Promoting equality: a common issue for men and women" was organised in Strasbourg on 17 and 18 June 1997. The following main themes were discussed:

– Equality: a factor for the positive development of men's roles and of society,

– Men and violence: the logic of inequality.

The main objective of the seminar was to spread knowledge among men on equality issues and to raise awareness of the fact that equality must be achieved by women and men working together. Government representatives, parliamentarians, representatives of NGOs and independent experts met to discuss such questions as paternity, the reconciliation of work and family life, the sharing of unpaid work; how to combat sex stereotypes, sharing responsibility in political and public life, participation of women in the labour market and in decision-making; men's violence against women and children; patriarchy, the traditional male structures of society and militarism.

Intolerance and equality

The Joint Group of Specialists on intolerance, racism and equality between women and men (EG-CDEG/ECRI) held its 3rd meeting in April and its 4th and final meeting in September. Its Final Report of Activities was adopted and is available as a public document.

Activities for the development and consolidation of democratic stability

Nine bilateral seminars were held in new member states of the Council of Europe on a wide variety of questions relating to equality between women and men. Ten study visits were organised for officials from these countries to study legislation on gender equality and existing national equality machinery.

Future priorities

A Group of Specialists on future priorities, strategies, and working methods in the field of equality between women and men (EG-S-FP) held its first two meetings in May and December respectively, during which it pinpointed certain priority areas for future work. The group will continue its work in 1998. ■

7. ADACS

One of the principal activities in the programmes of co-operation and assistance between the Council of Europe and the countries of central and eastern Europe in the field of human rights is providing assistance to new, or prospective, member states in examining the conformity of their domestic law and its implementation with the requirements of European human rights standards. In this context the focus of attention is the European Convention on Human Rights (the ECHR). Such compatibility exercises have been completed in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", the Russian Federation and Croatia, and work has now been started for the three Transcaucasian republics, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. A renewed initiative in Albania is under way. First steps have also been taken to start up a compatibility exercise for Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a working group for each of the entities. An example of the successful involvement of experienced new member states in efforts towards ensuring conformity of domestic legislation with the requirements of the ECHR was a multilateral seminar held in Tallinn on 16 and 17 June 1997 for the three Transcaucasian republics on the methodology of examining the compatibility of domestic law, based on the experiences of Estonia and Hungary.

As in previous years, many activities aimed at providing practical training on the ECHR for legal professionals were held, with a view to preparing them for the application of the ECHR in practice and the bringing of cases before the Strasbourg organs. Such events were organised in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia/Eastern Slavonia, Latvia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Romania, to name but a few. A large number of study visits have also been carried out for relevant key figures in the administrations of the new member states, both to the Council of Europe headquarters and to other member states.

More intensive training on the application of the ECHR has been provided through multilateral training courses/summer schools organised with such partners as the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg, the Institute of European Law of the University of Birmingham, the University of Turku/Åbo and the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights in Warsaw.

An important element of raising public and professional awareness of the Council of Europe instruments is the translation and publishing of documentation in the languages of the new member states. Projects in 1997 have included support towards translation of local materials into the relevant languages, commissioning experts to write materials specifically aimed at a given country, and translating the documents of the Council of Europe (documentation available in translation is listed in Document H (96) 17) and, in particular, the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights into local languages.

An ambitious human rights programme for Bosnia and Herzegovina is up and running and is focused around five main axes: deepening the knowledge of human rights standards (in particular the ECHR) and practice for, amongst others, judges, prosecutors, lawyers and the police; harmonisation of legislation with European human rights standards; support for human rights institutions in Bosnia and

Herzegovina; promotion of a human rights culture through support for non-governmental human rights organisations; support for and strengthening of pluralistic and independent media as well as establishing public sector broadcasting. As part of this programme a major initiative is under way to translate and prepare relevant materials in the local language.

Activities under the joint programme between the Council of Europe and the European Commission for Russia were focused on the compatibility exercise (see above) and a range of activities for lawyers and journalists in the subjects of the Federation, including also events for public officials responsible for nationality issues and for officials on the presidential human rights commission. An extensive campaign of translating and commissioning works in Russian is also under way. An important element of this will be the translation into Russian of a collection of key judgments of the European Court of Human Rights. In order to reach out to the subjects of the Federation, a network of eleven Human Rights Library Centres established in various locations throughout the Russian Federation has been extended to a further seven locations. A similar joint programme with the European Commission for Ukraine has focused on training judges and lawyers.

Joint programmes have also been elaborated for Albania, Moldova and the Transcaucasian republics (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia). The joint programme for Moldova became operational at the end of the year, focusing on domestic implementation of European human rights standards, assistance to the Magistrates' School and promoting independent media. Following the elections in Albania and the formation of a new government, a revised programme of co-operation has been agreed upon. This includes provision of expertise in connection with the drawing up of a new constitution, support towards the establishment and running of the School of Magistrates, and assistance with police training. ■

8. Human Rights Information Centre

a. Information and documentation

The year 1997 was marked by the opening of the human rights website of the Council of Europe. The site brings together information about the European Court and Commission of Human Rights, the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and information about the human rights activities of the Council of Europe in general. From its launch in the summer of 1997 the site quickly developed into an essential information source for journalists, researchers, and legal practitioners.

The site also provides a knowledge base for the Human Rights Information Centre staff handling requests for information. In 1997 the Centre handled over 7 200 requests for information concerning the Council of Europe's activities in the field of human rights, human rights case-law and reports of the Council of Europe's human rights protection machinery.

The case-law databases continued to expand and now hold almost 14 000 case-law documents in full text in English or French. At the same time efforts have continued to make these databases available on the Internet.

The Human Rights Library continued to develop its activities with a view to attaining a service level that will meet the requirements of the single Court. Efforts were directed towards building up the domestic law collections, in particular through electronic sources. Generous donations of collections of domestic law and legislation from a number of member states have enabled the library to greatly expand its geographical scope. The on-line catalogue now contains 11 500 entries of which over 5 500 refer to the European Convention on Human Rights.

b. Human rights awareness programmes

Promoting awareness among the general public, including young people

While various materials were produced over the year aimed at promoting awareness of human rights among the public at large, increasing attention was given to the production of existing materials in a greater number of European languages.

Bosniak, Hungarian, Latvian and Slovak versions of the human rights education video, *Stand Up NOW for Human Rights!*, were produced in collaboration with Unesco, the Hungarian Centre for Human Rights, the Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies and the Bratislava Information and Documentation Centre. In addition, a support pack to guide teachers and trainers in the use of the video was produced and brought out in several languages. The booklet *Human rights everyday: the impact of the Council of Europe's work in the field of human rights* was issued in a Turkish version, in co-operation with the Human Rights Research and Documentation Centre, Ankara, with copies enjoying a wide circulation among the relevant authorities within Turkey.

All of these materials were widely used, not only by Council of Europe staff, but by non-governmental organisations and others in seminars and workshops during the course of the year. The Directorate of Human Rights contributed particularly actively to the Master's Course in Human Rights and Democratisation launched in Venice in 1997 by ten universities from different parts of Europe, led by the University of Padova with the support of the European Union.

The human rights calendar for 1998, this year focusing on social rights, enjoyed a massive distribution among government representatives, parliamentarians, national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, human rights institutes, other intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations working in this field.

Promoting awareness within key target groups

Special attention is given by the Council of Europe to human rights training programmes for professional and other target groups. These have included not only those centrally involved in law enforcement, and thus on the front line of human rights protection, including police and prison administrators, but also others, such as doctors and social workers, who also have a special responsibility in this area. Particular attention is also paid to reaching out to particularly vulnerable groups.

Professional groups

Legal profession

The majority of information meetings, seminars and so on organised by the Council of Europe, both within the different member states as well as in Strasbourg, continues to be for practising lawyers, judges and law students. On an annual basis, between ten and twelve "information meetings" are organised across Europe for practising lawyers, chiefly on the use of the European Convention on Human Rights. During 1997 such meetings were organised for lawyers in or from Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom (Wales). Support was also given in 1997 to the production by the Turkish Foreign Policy Institute of a quarterly bulletin for members of the legal profession containing Turkish translations of significant judgments of the European Court of Human Rights.

Police

Another key target group for the Council of Europe has always been law-enforcement personnel. Following a seminar convened in December 1995, which focused on programmes and materials for police training in human rights, a major, new, comprehensive programme "Police and Human Rights 1997-2000" was developed and put into operation in 1997. A basic premise of the programme is that training alone will not suffice: it must be accompanied by other, broader efforts if human rights awareness is really to take root. Three core initiatives make up the new programme: building a communications and network structure with police human rights co-ordinators in every member state of the Council of Europe; support for and development of training activities; and measuring performance and progress in human rights within the police as part of internal quality control.

In October the Committee of Ministers authorised the opening of a special account to finance implementation of the programme which was officially launched at a working conference convened in Strasbourg from 10 to 12 December 1997. Entitled "Policing and Human Rights: a Matter of Good Practice", this conference brought together more than a hundred participants from police services, government ministries, intergovernmental organisations, professional associations and non-governmental organisations from forty states.

Visits to a number of states, including Turkey and Hungary, took place during the course of the year, to discuss with different police authorities their participation in the programme. As a result of these missions, working parties were established to identify further activities. Following discussions in Bilbao, the Basque police decided to contribute to the programme by conducting scientific research into the question of if and how internal control mechanisms can affect the human rights awareness of police officers. The programme was also introduced in many other fora, including the Annual Conference of the European Heads of Police Training in Rome in June, a seminar in London in September on the Prevention of Torture and Ill-treatment in northern Europe, an expert meeting in the Netherlands "Policing for a multiethnic society", a seminar in Germany organised by the International Police Association and a training course on human rights and law enforcement organised by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva in November.

The programme was welcomed by the Minister of the Interior of Albania during a visit by staff in October. A national co-ordinator was nominated and a working group established. The group proposed a number of realistic steps on the theme of Policing and the public, to be launched in January 1998 with a special day for the police to present their activities to the public. Arrangements were made whereby the Multinational Advisory Police Element (MAPE) and the Council of Europe's Directorate of Human Rights will be working together to facilitate such activities.

A number of visits were made to Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1997 for consultations with the International Police Task Force (IPTF), other international organisations and representatives of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a view to preparing awareness and training materials for the police there. A joint drafting committee, composed of Council of Europe experts, IPTF and local police academy staff, set about elaborating a workbook for practice-oriented teaching for the police academy in Sarajevo. An essential feature of such materials are concrete examples of instances of typical human rights violations which can be used as case studies.

At an early stage, a comprehensive database was established containing addresses of police and police-related institutions in the member states of the Council of Europe. The proceedings of the December 1995 seminar on Human Rights and the Police were issued in English and French and distributed to more than four hundred contacts on the basis of this list. As another outcome of that December 1995 seminar, human rights posters for the police were produced, in co-operation with national police services, in several more languages, including

Basque, Bosniak, German and Turkish. These posters present the police officer's central role as protector of human rights.

So far as possible, the Council of Europe works in co-operation with other organisations active in this field in Europe. For example, staff regularly contribute sessions on human rights to training courses for police officers from central and eastern Europe at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Budapest. In 1997, the Awareness Unit contributed to three such sessions, in which members of police forces from Poland and Ukraine, from the Czech Republic, Hungary and Russia, and from Moldova, Romania and again Russia participated. The Council of Europe's contributions focused on understanding, respecting and protecting human rights in the daily practice of the police. The time devoted in sessions to discussion of the Council of Europe's standards in this area has now been extended to allow for a more in-depth exchange.

Vulnerable groups

Roma

Special attention continued to be given over the year to the Roma community. Following on from a 1996 initiative, a second study session for legal representatives and others working with Roma was convened at the Human Rights Building in Strasbourg in June 1997. Participants came from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Romania, Spain and Ukraine as well as the European Roma Rights Centre with whose collaboration and that of the Directorate of Social and Economic Affairs the meeting had been organised. The aim was to give participants a practical, working understanding of how to make use of European human rights standards and mechanisms, in particular the European Convention on Human Rights, at both domestic and regional levels, in their work on behalf of members of the Roma community. It is hoped that those trained in the two sessions conducted to date will be able to pass on their knowledge to co-workers in different parts of Europe.

Refugees

Attention was also turned to those working in the field of human rights and refugee protection. In co-operation with the UNHCR, support was given in 1997 to the organisation of two colloquies on "The European Convention on Human Rights and its role in the protection of refugees and asylum seekers", in Athens and in Komotini, Greece, for lawyers working with refugees. The colloquies were attended by a number of legal practitioners specialising in refugee law, representatives of the Greek Government and NGOs working with refugees and asylum seekers. A chapter on the standards and mechanisms of the Council of Europe of direct interest to NGOs working in the CIS on the protection of refugees and human rights was contributed to a handbook being compiled by the UNHCR as a training aid and the Unit participated in the work of an editorial committee set up to review the overall contents of the handbook which would be issued at the beginning of 1998.

Issues of special focus

Combating racism

Since the 1st Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Council of Europe (Vienna, 1993), the human rights education and information programmes of the Council of Europe have concentrated to an even greater degree than in the past on combating racism and intolerance. During the year-long European Youth Campaign which followed, a range of materials was developed, among them a book of comic strips for use with young people in programmes and activities to combat intolerance. On the basis of reactions from youth groups and trainers to the comic strips, in 1997 a booklet was produced to give teachers and those working with youth groups a range of ideas for their use.

Social rights

Another area to which special attention continued to be given in 1997 was that of economic and social rights, about which there is little awareness across Europe, and yet a great desire to know. Working together with a range of non-governmental organisations – from the International Commission of Jurists and the International Movement-ATD Fourth World to the Siberian NGO Support Centre – ideas and materials were developed for promoting knowledge about the rights guaranteed under the European Social Charter and the use of the Charter to secure social rights across Europe. Among these, the booklet *Securing Social Rights across Europe*, drafted by Oxfam UK/I, was issued in English and French. At the end of the year, in conjunction with the Centre for Human Rights of the University of Ankara, a Turkish version was also produced and enjoyed a wide distribution among government officials, academics, workers' and employers' associations in Turkey.

Immediately prior to the May 1997 Colloquy "The Social Charter of the twenty-first century", a forum was convened for NGOs involved in work on social rights. Discussions centred around a plan of action and draft materials for a concerted campaign aimed at raising awareness about the European Social Charter, the collective complaints mechanism under the Additional Protocol to the Charter, and how NGOs can use these instruments to secure social rights in Europe. Participants in the forum drafted for presentation to the colloquy a letter calling on all member states of the Council of Europe to ratify without delay both the (revised) European Social Charter and the Additional Protocol providing for a system of collective complaints. This letter was formally presented to the Deputy Secretary General immediately before the colloquy began.

Other instances of co-operation with NGOs

Following extensive consultations taking place since December 1995, the 87th meeting of NGOs having consultative status with the Council of Europe and interested in human rights, April 1997, was devoted to consideration of how NGOs could organise their own meetings on human rights issues in order to render them more effective. Proposals were put forward by the Directorate of Human

Rights concerning, *inter alia*, improved circulation of information and more focused and informed discussions and consultations. At the conclusion of discussions, participants decided to set up a "grouping" of NGOs represented at the Council of Europe and expressing an interest in human rights. This group held its first meeting in June, chaired by the representative of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues, and met again in September 1997. The Directorate of Human Rights continues to contribute to these meetings, particularly in respect of information and documentation.

A special *ad hoc* meeting, involving NGOs and parliamentarians, was facilitated by the Awareness Unit during the week of the Parliamentary Assembly's September session, in order to discuss an initiative launched by *Pax Christi* and supported by the Quaker Council of European Affairs, on the question of children in situations of armed conflict. A resolution on the subject, extensively circulated for comment among NGOs in previous months, was then adopted and undersigned by a large number of NGOs.

Work was also carried out on a draft guide for NGOs to the human rights work of the Council of Europe. This was presented in draft form to NGOs in consultative status with the Council of Europe at their Annual Information Meeting in September 1997 for their comments and input.

Co-operation with IGOs

In September 1997, the Unit participated in a regional conference in Turku/Åbo, Finland, on "Human Rights Education in Europe". Convened by the Finnish National Commission for Unesco, the Institute for Human Rights at Åbo Akademi University and Unesco in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the conference focused on the establishment of national plans of action in the field of human rights education in every European country. (The Unit had earlier contributed to the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the establishment of guidelines for such national plans of action.) The Council of Europe's programmes and activities of relevance in this field were outlined and all pertinent materials made available to the meeting.

In March, a representative of the Unit accompanied the Director of Human Rights on a visit to the 53rd Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. The director made a presentation of current developments in the human rights activities of the Council of Europe of direct relevance to the Commission's agenda, as well as holding consultations with appropriate delegates and Secretariat officials from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. As in previous years, documentation related to issues on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly were forwarded to all permanent missions of member states and observer states at the United Nations in New York.

Other

From 3 to 4 March, the 4th biennial meeting of Directors of Human Rights Institutes in member states of the Council of Europe was convened in the Human Rights Building. Discussions focused on programmes and materials developed in the field of human rights education and training. The Unit was also represented at the 8th meeting of Directors of Human Rights Institutes convened by Unesco at its headquarters in Paris, on 6 and 7 March, where participants exchanged ideas as to how the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights could be commemorated.

Nominations were invited before 1 December 1997 for the European Human Rights Prize 1998. Honorary in nature, this prize is intended to "uphold the merits of a person, group of persons, institution or non-governmental organisation which has been active in promoting or protecting human rights in accordance with the principles of individual freedom, political liberty and the rule of law". Starting in 1980, the prize has been awarded six times. The 1995 Prize was awarded jointly to Sergei Kovalev, Russia, and Raoul Wallenberg, Sweden. Reflection began on ways to enhance the impact of the prize in the years to come.

Materials

Programmes and activities of the Directorate of Human Rights in the field of human rights awareness and education; information note, document H (97) 15 (English, French)

Starting points for working with young people on responses to intolerance; brochure to accompany the Cartoon books against Intolerance, 1997 (English, French)

Stand up NOW for human rights!, 1995; 40-minute video film introducing the history and contents of the European Convention on Human Rights and showing examples of action undertaken by youth groups around Europe to fight for and promote human rights (Bosnian, Hungarian, Latvian and Slovak versions)

Stand up NOW for human rights! – Video support pack, 1997; educational materials for use with youth groups in conjunction with the video, document H (97) 2 (Bosnian, English and French)

Human rights every day – The impact of the Council of Europe's work in the field of human rights, 1996; describes how human rights principles are put into action throughout the Council of Europe (Italian and Turkish versions)

Human rights and the police: Proceedings of a seminar, December 1995 (1997), ISBN 92-871-3296-8 (English, French)

Set of two posters for the police on human rights, 1996-97 (Basque, Bosnian, Turkish versions)

T. Kenny, *Securing social rights across Europe: How NGOs can make use of the European Social Charter* (Dutch, English, French, Turkish). ■

XI. The Media

Media activities are conducted under the overall responsibility of the Steering Committee on the Mass Media (CDMM), assisted by a number of smaller subordinate bodies mandated to examine specific issues within the Steering Committee's sphere of competence. ■

1. New communications technologies

The activities carried out by the CDMM and its subordinate bodies in 1997 were to a great extent structured around the preparation of the 5th European Ministerial Conference on Mass Media Policy (Thessaloniki, 11-12 December 1997), the general theme of which was "The information society: a challenge for Europe".

The political texts adopted by the conference have fixed a number of basic principles which member states should follow so that the new communications services can be fully used by individuals (principles concerning access to the new communications services, freedom of expression and information, political and cultural pluralism, participation of individuals in public life, etc.), while ensuring respect for human rights and democratic values.

Furthermore, an action plan appended to the political declaration adopted by the conference has defined a number of areas where the CDMM should pursue and intensify its work with a view to assisting member states in the implementation of the aforementioned principles: monitoring of the development of new communications services, promotion of access to such services, encouragement of self-regulation by providers and operators of new services, etc. ■

2. Media concentrations and pluralism

With a view to assessing the evolution of media concentrations at the level of the continent, and to determine whether any initiatives should be taken at the national or European level so as to safeguard political and cultural pluralism in the framework of the media, the Steering Committee on the Mass Media set up a committee of experts responsible for examining this issue.

On the basis of information collected in the course of 1997 by a network of national correspondents appointed by the different member states of the Council of Europe, the committee of experts has decided to embark on the preparation of a recommendation which would define, for the attention of member states, a number of lines of action to guarantee the maintenance of pluralism. In this context, the committee has decided to pay particular attention to the impact of the development of new communications technologies on the media concentration phenomenon, in particular conditional access systems to television services. This initiative is expected to be completed in 1998. ■

3. The media in a pan-European perspective

Since an increasing number of media law and policy issues have a pan-European dimension, the CDMM established a group of specialists responsible for developing activities geared towards deepening the commitment of all states to freedom of expression exercised through free, independent and pluralistic media.

In view of the importance of the media at the time of elections, the group of specialists undertook, in 1997, the preparation of a draft

recommendation on media and elections aimed at defining a number of basic principles which member states should comply with in order to ensure the free and impartial coverage of elections by the media. In addition, the group has decided to commission a consultant to prepare an information handbook on how various issues concerning the regulation of the media in election time are addressed by states, so as to offer points of reference to the different circles concerned: policy makers, regulatory authorities for the broadcasting sector, public bodies responsible for organising and monitoring elections, media professionals. These two initiatives are expected to be completed in 1998.

Furthermore, the group organised in November 1997 a contact meeting with national regulatory authorities for the broadcasting sector, in order to promote an exchange of information and experience on different complex issues concerning the regulation of the radio and television sector: procedures for granting licences to broadcasting services, monitoring of compliance by broadcasters with the conditions set out in the law and their licence, definition and implementation of guidelines to broadcasters concerning the broadcasting of violent programmes, advertising and sponsorship, among others.

Finally, the group has decided to organise in 1998 a seminar on media self-regulation, so as to promote a better understanding of media self-regulatory systems in those member states where such mechanisms are less developed and less familiar, in particular in central and east European countries. ■

4. The media and intolerance

Following the plan of action on combating racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance which was adopted at the 1st Summit of Heads of State and Government of the member states of the Council of Europe (Vienna, October 1993), the CDMM established in 1994 a group of specialists on the media and intolerance. The group was mandated to examine the role which the media may play in propagating racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance as well as the contribution which they may make to combating these phenomena.

The work of the group of specialists led to the adoption by the Committee of Ministers, on 30 October 1997, of two recommendations, one dealing with "hate speech" and the other with the media and the promotion of a culture of tolerance. The first recommendation sets out a number of measures which member states should take in order to combat the dissemination of racist and intolerant views via the media, while the second enumerates different strategies which could be implemented so as to promote, in particular, awareness and training for media professionals on the contribution which they might make to combating intolerance. ■

5. The media and the portrayal of violence

In the context of the Action Plan adopted at the Prague Ministerial Conference (December 1994), the Committee of Ministers was invited to "prepare, in close consultation with media professionals and regulatory authorities, possible guidelines on the portrayal of violence in the media" as a response to the concerns expressed by the Ministers over "the undue prominence given to the portrayal of violence in some media".

Following this request, the CDMM set up in 1994 a group of specialists whose work led to the adoption by the Committee of Ministers, on 30 October 1997, of a recommendation on violence in the electronic media (radio, television, new communications services). This recommendation sets out, in the form of guidelines, measures which member states should apply or promote in order to restrict the gratuitous portrayal of violence in the electronic media, while respecting the right to freedom of expression and information and the editorial independence of these media. ■

6. Media law and human rights

The CDMM established in 1997 a group of specialists on media law and human rights mandated to examine the following issues: media reporting in the context of legal proceedings and the protection of the confidentiality of journalists' sources including, where relevant, the disclosure of information in the public interest.

The group of specialists has embarked on the preparation of a draft recommendation on the protection of journalists' sources of information, aimed at fixing a number of basic principles which states should comply with in their domestic law and practice: rules concerning the circumstances and conditions under which journalists may be required to disclose their

sources, guarantees which should be offered to journalists in case of disclosure. This initiative is expected to be completed in 1998.

Furthermore, on the basis of the results of a hearing organised in September 1997, the group of specialists has drawn up a preliminary list of basic principles which should govern access by media professionals to legal proceedings, as well as the coverage of such proceedings by the media. ■

7. Protection of copyright and neighbouring rights

The CDMM's group of specialists on the protection of rights holders in the media field organised in April 1997 in Paris, in co-operation with the French authorities, an information seminar on network-distributed digital works.

In addition, the group of specialists has supervised the preparation of a handbook listing the various initiatives and existing techniques for the identification of rights holders in the digital context.

It may be noted that the group of specialists has also decided to examine, within the framework of its future work, the issue of the impact of convergence between the telecommunications, media and information technology sectors on the protection of copyright and neighbouring rights, as well as problems encountered by broadcasters in exploiting their audiovisual archives, in view of the copyright protection of the works stored and the difficulties in identifying the rights holders. ■

8. European Convention on Transfrontier Television

The European Convention on Transfrontier Television was in force in fifteen European countries at the end of 1997. The Standing Committee composed of representatives of the Contracting Parties adopted in 1997 an opinion on advertising addressed to children and advertising for alcoholic beverages, as well as a recommendation concerning the use of virtual advertising notably during the broadcast of sports events.

Following the adoption of the revised "Television without Frontiers" Directive of the European Union in June 1997, the Standing Committee has stepped up its work aimed at amending the Television Convention so as to maintain coherence between this instrument and the revised directive. Two issues remained outstanding at the end of 1997. It is hoped that the revision of the convention will be completed in spring 1998. ■

XII. Social cohesion and quality of life

A. Social policies

1. Social welfare and family policy

The major multisectoral project on "Human Dignity and Social Exclusion" carried through the major part of its activities in 1997. This project involves most of the steering committees in the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly, as well as international governmental and non-governmental organisations. It is also carried out exceptionally in partnership with a number of foundations, which have cofinanced many of the activities. Member states have also organised days on specific themes covered within the project. In this way, five thematic days on employment, social protection, health, housing and education were held. Reports from correspondents in a number of countries were prepared, and used as the basis for the work of the research director, who delivered a report on the first part of the project at the end of 1997. A conference co-organised by the Finnish authorities and the Council of Europe in Helsinki in May 1998 is to present the results of the work so far and to make proposals for future work, particularly as follow-up to the Action Plan of the second summit.

A Planning Meeting for a European Strategy for Children met in Strasbourg in February 1997. It brought together representatives of eight Council of Europe steering committees with members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament, as well as representatives from Unicef, the European Commission and some NGOs. The general rapporteur from the closing conference of the Council of Europe's multidisciplinary Childhood Policies Project, held in Leipzig, Germany, in 1996, also took part. The purpose of the meeting was to determine what framework would be appropriate for implementing proposals made in the Parliamentary Assembly's Recommendation 1286 (1996) on a European strategy for children.

The Council of Europe has been co-operating in the setting up of a European documentation and information base on childhood policies and children's rights in the Centre for the Study of the Child and Society at the University of Glasgow.

The Group of Specialists on Innovatory Social Policies in the City met twice in 1997 and is continuing its work of establishing a network of correspondents throughout Europe to assist it in identifying innovatory social policies in the city.

At its meeting in April 1997, the CDPS (Steering Committee on Social Policy) set out specific terms of reference for a group of specialists on social workers with a mandate to draft a preliminary draft recommendation on social workers.

Within the general framework of its activities concerning social welfare and family policy, and as contributions towards the furtherance of the major projects it is responsible for, the CDPS also maintains a series of co-ordinated research programmes in the social field, a new subject being chosen annually. The comparative study then takes two years to be completed, and is subsequently examined by the Steering Committee on Social Policy prior to publication.

During 1997 these programmes progressed as described below:

i. The Study Group of the 1995-96 Programme on "The social and family consequences and costs of the unemployment of young people" presented its report to the CDPS in April 1997 and the CDPS agreed to the publication of the report.

ii. The Study Group of the 1996-97 Programme on "The crisis of the welfare state: how to respect and guarantee the social rights of individuals whilst controlling costs" held its final meeting in 1997 and will be submitting its report to the CDPS in 1998.

iii. The Study Group for the 1997-98 Programme on the theme "Parenting, support for parents" held two meetings during 1997, prepared a questionnaire for member states on the subject and visited a number of countries to prepare detailed reports.

iv. The CDPS, at its meeting in April 1997, set up the Study Group for the 1998-99 Programme on "Elderly people within their family – Legal and social responsibilities".

The 25th Session of the Conference of European Ministers responsible for Family Affairs took place in Vienna, Austria, in June 1997. The theme of the session was "Adolescence: a challenge to the family (educational and supportive measures for parenting)". ■

2. Social security

a. The European Code of Social Security

At its 49th meeting (May 1997), the European Social Security Committee (CDSS) took note of the report and conclusions of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), on the application of the code, and where appropriate, its protocol by Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom. These conclusions showed that, with some rare exceptions, the Contracting Parties satisfied their obligations under the code. These conclusions formed the basis of the resolutions adopted by the Committee of Ministers in April 1998.

b. The European Code of Social Security (revised)

The (revised) code, which was opened for signature on 6 November 1990, has been signed by the following states: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Turkey.

c. The European Convention on Social Security

The optional protocol aimed at widening the personal scope of the convention was adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 1994 and has been signed by three member states (Austria, Greece and Luxembourg).

d. 7th Conference of European Ministers responsible for Social Security

Upon invitation from the Maltese authorities, the 7th Conference will take place in Malta on 13 and 14 May 1998, on the general theme "Social security and its transition into the twenty-first century". The Committee of Senior Officials responsible for preparing the conference held one meeting in 1997.

e. Social security training course

The 9th social security training course organised by the Council of Europe took place in Strasbourg in November 1997. Twenty-five participants from twenty-three countries took part in this course which concerned in particular the co-ordination instruments of the Council of Europe in the field of social security.

f. Legislative developments

The annual report on developments in national social security legislation for the period 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 is being prepared and will be published in the first quarter of 1998. The specific theme of this report is: "Social protection and minimum income". ■

3. Population

The European Population Committee (CDPO) and its groups of specialists continued in 1997 their study of demographic developments in the forty member states of the Council of Europe and their impact on policies regarding the family, the labour market, internal migration and national minorities.

A group of specialists completed a study of the demographic characteristics of the two communities in Northern Ireland and of national minorities in Hungary, Romania and the Slovak Republic. These reports will be published in 1998 in the Council of Europe population series, together with the results of a survey on sources of information on religion, language, national/ethnic group. A second volume, to be published in 1999, will include studies on the demographic characteristics of ethnic groups in Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland and Switzerland, as well as of Roma/Gypsies in a number of European countries.

The study of internal migration and regional population dynamics in ten member states (the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania and the United Kingdom) has been completed. A synthesis report will be presented to the European Population Committee in June 1998 and will presumably be published. In the meantime, the ten case studies concerning the above-mentioned countries will be published fully or partially by the National Statistical Offices concerned.

A group of specialists responsible for examining the impact on fertility of the new patterns of family and household formation began its work in 1997. This activity will be completed in 1999 with the adoption and publication of a report. The results should make it possible for policy makers and researchers to better understand the impact on trends in fertility of the major changes which have occurred during the last few decades in the area of family formation and dissolution.

A new activity began in 1997 aimed at studying the impact of demographic developments, and notably the strong reduction in childbirth, on the structure of European labour markets in the medium and long term. The results, expected by the end of 1998, should, in particular, indicate whether shortages of manpower are to be expected in the medium and long term in certain sectors and, in the affirmative, how to cope with them.

The above activities are intended to provide policy makers with reliable information enabling them to make relevant decisions in the areas concerned.

The main demographic characteristics of the populations of forty-five European states are included in the 1997 issue of the report *Recent demographic developments in Europe*, which was published in September. It is a 400-page volume highlighting, *inter alia*, developments in fertility, mortality, life expectancy, marriage/divorce, migration, etc. This publication is highly appreciated by all those who are concerned with the demographic developments in European populations. ■

4. Migration and community relations

a. Integration of immigrants

Tensions and tolerance: building better integrated communities across Europe

Launched at the 6th Conference of European Ministers responsible for Migration Affairs in 1996 following a review of community relations policies in selected member states, this new project is implemented by the Specialist Group on Integration and Community Relations which has the mandate to:

– prepare with a view to publication good practice guidelines and studies on new issues for integration policy;

– provide practical assistance to countries seeking to develop or review their integration policies ;

– promote networking and exchange of experience between practitioners in the various fields of integration policy.

The methodology adopted by the new group consists of the following elements:

– expert meetings leading to the publication of good practice guidelines;

– promotion and development of integration and community relations activities within the member states;

– encouragement of networking among persons and organisations involved in the practical implementation of integration and community activities;

– reflection on new issues arising in the area of integration and community relations.

The following activities were implemented in 1997:

Seminar on the political and social participation of immigrants through consultative bodies (Strasbourg, November 1997)

The aim of the seminar was to evaluate the effectiveness of the various consultative bodies set up by the authorities at national level (or at regional level in the pertinent cases) with a view to drawing up a typology of existing consultation machinery, singling out a number of reference models. In their conclusion, the participants noted that all European societies are becoming increasingly intercultural. In the light of this evolution, it has been welcomed that virtually all countries of Europe now practise certain forms of individual and group consultation. The participants also discussed the right of immigrants to vote in local elections and the possibility of acquiring dual nationality. Concerning the tasks and modalities of functioning of consultative bodies, the importance of organising the consultation at the beginning of the decision-making process was underlined. Consultation mechanisms for immigrants and minorities should primarily express themselves on issues that are of direct relevance for the people and the communities involved. Concerning membership of consultative bodies, participation should include not only immigrants, but also representatives of political or administrative bodies and other relevant institutions (trade unions, for example). Finally, it was also agreed that there was a continuing need to promote immigrant and minority participation in all sectors of society, irrespective of the existence of consultative bodies and of their impact.

Round tables on identity and integration (Strasbourg, June and October 1997)

In the framework of this activity, the group of specialists called upon experts from different disciplines and organised a debate on identity questions and on the existing link between the concepts of identity and integration on the basis of a summary of already existing reference texts on identity-related issues. This debate and its results led to practical considerations on the cultural dimension of integration policies and the diversified religious situation, including also some conclusions on necessary legal measures.

Comparative study on administrative arrangements for dealing with the integration process, including specialist bodies and units responsible for co-ordination

The specialist group started a study on the administrative arrangements set up in certain member states which should provide an informative overview in order to single out a number of representative models for the organisation and operation of those structures and to define a sample group of models.

Draft matrix of integration measures outlining the political action required at specific stages or in particular areas

The specialist group decided to develop a matrix that would attempt to map out the type of action needed at various stages of the integration process. The matrix would offer guidance to "new" immigration countries, and to newer member states. It will also be used as a reminder or checklist for the "older" countries of immigration.

National round tables on community relations in the newer immigration countries

A series of national round tables was organised in the newer countries of immigration. They brought together, often for the first time, representatives from governments, international organisations, academics, non-governmental actors and the refugee or immigrant communities with a view to exchanging opinions, on the basis of a list of questions, on the various aspects of integration policies and the legal framework aiming to ensure the legal position of migrants and refugees and to promote equal treatment of these persons and protect them against racial discrimination.

b. Migratory movements

Reflection Group on Managing Migration in the Wider Europe

The setting up of this group came as a response to the call to the Council of Europe by the European Ministers responsible for Migration Affairs, at their 6th Conference in Warsaw, in June 1996, to play a role in developing a comprehensive approach to migration questions affecting the European continent as a whole. The European Committee on Migration accordingly decided to set up a small "think-tank" of highly experienced officials and other experts in order to do some strategic thinking about migration policy in Europe.

The reflection group was anxious to be realistic about migratory flows. In the world as it is, it was clear to them that Europe will attract significant numbers of migrants and that the effect of ever more restrictive policies can often simply be to increase illegal immigration. The aim should be not to stop immigration but to control and manage it. This does not rule out rather strict control measures where appropriate, and indeed a more robust approach to returning people without the right to stay, but the starting-point should be freedom to travel and the positive impact of controlled migration on European countries.

The reflection group held three meetings in 1997 and adopted its report, which has now been forwarded to the CDMG for examination. The intention of the CDMG is to organise a seminar in 1998 to test reactions to the proposals contained in the report, and so to move towards consensus on the principles which should underlie a realistic and modern approach to migration in Europe. ■

5. The European Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers

Eight member states (France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey) have ratified this convention so far; four others have signed it. It guarantees equal treat-ment between migrant workers and nationals (notably in such areas as the right to work, the right to social security and trade union rights), as well as an important number of other rights specifically connected with the condition of migrants or of members of a migrant worker's family. This includes the right to information, to a work permit and a residence permit, family reunion, housing, etc.

A consultative committee responsible for monitoring the application of the convention has asked each contracting party to submit a national report every two years on legal and other measures to implement the various provisions of the convention. The last series of such national reports on the application of the convention was examined in April 1997. ■

6. Activities regarding Roma/Gypsies

The Specialist Group on Roma/Gypsies, which started work in 1996, held two meetings. The autumn meeting was held in Ploiesti, at the invitation of the Romanian Government. This provided an opportunity for an intensive dialogue with the Minister and the senior staff of the recently created Department for the Protection of National Minorities. The group also held an extensive hearing with a wide range of representatives of Romani associations in Romania, as well as visiting practical projects in the field. In addition to this, the group commissioned a legal expert to carry out a study visit to Valdemingomez, on the outskirts of Madrid, where the housing conditions of the Romani population had attracted widespread international criticism. The report is now under examination by the competent local and regional authorities.

Thanks to generous contributions from Finland and the Netherlands, the new project on Roma/Gypsies in central and eastern Europe moved ahead rapidly. Among the many activities of the project in 1997 were the following:

- Human rights study session for persons involved in legal assistance to Roma/Gypsies;
- Round table on Roma in Croatia today;
- Exchange of experience on Roma images and positive action;
- Romanian police reform assessment on inter-ethnic relations;
- Reflection meeting with the Romanian Department for the Protection of National Minorities;
- Second meeting of national consultative bodies between governments and Roma/Gypsies;

– Series of teachers' seminars in Bulgaria on intercultural education;

– Seminar on education and training of children from socially disadvantaged environments, Slovakia;

– Seminar on Perspectives for Roma in Bosnia;

– Round table on strategies for implementing minority rights for Roma and Sinti;

– Evaluation of the Gypsy self-government system in Hungary;

– Assessment of community relations affecting Roma in Brno (Czech Republic).

Many of these activities were carried out in partnership with other bodies. Particularly close working relations have been built up with the OSCE (ODIHR, Warsaw) and the Project on Ethnic Relations (a United States-based NGO).

This work is the responsibility of the Co-ordinator of Activities on Roma/Gypsies. He also maintained extensive contacts with Roma/Gypsy organisations throughout Europe and carried out a number of contact missions to discuss Roma questions with senior officials and ministers in various capitals. ■

B. Health

1. Equity and patients' rights

The 5th Conference of European Health Ministers underlined that the state has a responsibility to ensure a favourable social and economic environment for all, to provide the structure and mechanisms to prevent illness and promote health and to guarantee equal access to health care, with special regard to the more vulnerable groups of the population, and diminish discrimination on the grounds of the state of health of the individual. It stressed that patients' rights were an integral part of health systems in European democracies.

At the same time the conference pointed out people's own responsibility for keeping in good health in so far as their lifestyles will determine to a certain extent their health. The exercise of rights and obligations requires the participation of citizens and patients in the process for decision making on health matters.

Committee of Experts on the Organisation of Health Care for the Chronically Ill

Life expectancy is increasing in many western and central and east European countries. There is a shift in an epidemiological pattern towards non-communicable and degenerative disease.

It is followed by changing health needs and increasing demand, not only for cure but also for care. In particular, elderly people are more prone to chronic illnesses which diminish their quality of life and autonomy. This calls for a reorganisation of health services and a shift in health policy priorities.

A recommendation on the organisation of health care for the chronically ill is under preparation.

Study Group on the development of structures for patient/citizen participation in the decision-making process affecting health care

In democratic societies it is natural that citizens increasingly influence the priorities of health policies and that patients co-decide on the course of their treatment. There is, however, a deficiency of rules and tools to enable informed, responsible participation. The group will develop models of institutional structures for the democratic participation of patients and citizens in decision-making on health care matters. Study visits were made by the study group members to eighteen member states and reports on the situation in these states are being prepared. These reports will be used as a basis for a report and recommendations to member governments on how to create a supportive organisational and legal environment for patients' empowerment.

Committee of Experts on the Management of Waiting Lists

Increasing waiting times and long waiting lists are visible signs of an imbalance between health care demand and supply of services. This phenomenon is inextricably linked to implicit rationing and invites corruption. Transparency and fairness decrease while doctors are stressed and patients are frustrated. The committee started work in 1997 and is developing criteria for the management of waiting lists based on principles of equity, non-discrimination and economic efficiency. The methodology is being elaborated to prepare guidelines for eliminating avoidable causes of waiting and managing the unavoidable ones better. ■

2. Quality assurance

a. Blood transfusion

On blood transfusion, the Council of Europe has produced three European agreements on the exchange of therapeutic substances of human origin, of blood-grouping reagents and of tissue-typing reagents.

Numerous recommendations and reports aimed at promoting blood donation, self-sufficiency and high quality have been made within the framework of these agreements. Particular mention should be made of Recommendation No. R (95) 15 on the preparation, use and quality assurance of blood components. The technical appendix to this recommendation, better known as the "*Guide*", is revised annually and the fourth edition has just been published. The Council of Europe is also co-operating with the European Community to promote non-commercialisation and self-sufficiency and is actively encouraging the countries of central and eastern Europe to follow these principles.

With regard to self-sufficiency, the report on the collection and use of human blood and plasma in the non-European Union Council of Europe member states in 1995 was published in 1997.

A task force, set up to assist central and eastern European countries in the restructuring of their blood transfusion services, has carried out expert missions to Latvia and Estonia.

A research study on the activities of blood banks related to bone marrow transplantation has been published and a recommendation was adopted.

b. Organ transplantation

The first work dates back to 1978 with a resolution, which dealt mostly with ethical issues. The 3rd Conference of European Health Ministers held in Paris in 1987 reconfirmed the principle of non-commercialisation of organs and extended the area of study to legislative and organisational aspects.

This conference demonstrated the urgent need to improve the organisational aspects of organ transplantation.

The Council of Europe is therefore attempting to set up a computerised network of transplant centres for exchanging livers in extremely urgent cases.

With regard to xenotransplantation, the Council of Europe has adopted Recommendation No. R (97) 15 and published a state-of-the-art report.

A draft recommendation on liver transplantation from living related donors has also been adopted.

A state-of-the-art report on serological screening methods for the most relevant microbiological diseases of organ and tissue donors as well as a state-of-the-art report on screening for oncological diseases have been published.

A report examining options for meeting the organ shortage will be examined for adoption later in 1998.

Work was started on quality assurance in organ and tissue transplantation with a view to drawing up an appropriate legal instrument in 1998.

c. Orientation of quality assurance policies

Recommendation No. R (97) 17 on the development and implementation of quality-improvement systems (QIS) in health care and an explanatory memorandum thereto was adopted in 1997 by the Committee of Ministers.

A Course on Health-Care Technology Assessment was held in December. Leading European experts from academia and national agencies proposed ways and means to develop national policies, legal instruments and organisational infrastructure.

The Council of Europe believes that prevention and health promotion are basic in a health policy and attaches great importance to education for health for young people.

Until recently the rigorous scientific criteria were applied only to assess new curative procedures and technologies. There is a need to expand an evidence-based approach to the policy development field. A Committee of Experts on Criteria for Preventive Medicine started work in 1997 with a view to proposing criteria to be taken into consideration in setting up a prevention policy in the context of scarce financial resources.

Already in 1985, the Council of Europe, together with the WHO (Europe) and the Commission of the European Communities, carried out pilot projects in eleven European cities to test out a methodology for education for health programmes. The methodology is based on the development of healthy lifestyles through global education programmes during the school years and adolescence.

The three organisations set up the Health-Promoting Schools Network following a European conference in 1990. In this pan-European network, each participating state selects a group of schools for the implementation of education for health programmes under the responsibility of a national centre, led by a national co-ordinator. Thirty-eight countries have joined the network.

A first International Conference of Health-Promoting Schools took place in Thessaloniki (Greece) from 2 to 5 May 1997, in which professionals from forty-three countries participated. The conference urged the governments of all European countries to adopt the concept of the "Health-promoting school". ■

C. Council of Europe partial agreements in the social and public health fields

1. Partial Agreement in the Social and Public Health Field

a. Protection of public health

Flavouring substances

With regard to intentional food additives, the main activity of the Partial Agreement in the Social and Public Health Field is to draw up lists of flavouring substances the use of which is permissible in foodstuffs and does not involve risks for consumers' health.

The toxicological re-evaluation of more than 1 000 chemically defined flavouring substances was completed and published in 1994. Work is being done on the toxicological evaluation of 700 or so natural sources of flavouring substances.

Food contact materials

Studying the health impact of food additives originating from packaging materials intended to come into contact with foodstuffs, as well as the components used in the manufacture of such materials, is an important aspect of consumer protection.

A resolution on ion exchange and adsorbent resins used in the processing of foodstuffs was adopted in 1997 by the Committee of Ministers as Resolution AP (97) 1.

Other resolutions, guidelines or toxicological reports on silicones, paper and board, printing inks, metals and alloys, colorants, solvents, etc. are under preparation.

Nutrition, food safety and consumer health

The Public Health Committee established in November 1997 a new expert committee whose aims are to prepare resolutions, guidelines, toxicological and technological reports and to organise hearings and international fora on nutrition, food safety and consumer health. The new committee will replace the expert committees on foodstuffs and pesticides.

Hearings

The whole work programme carried out by the various committees of experts necessitates a virtually continuous dialogue between national experts and the industry concerned in order to achieve practical results of political significance. The dialogue takes the form of hearings between experts and industrial representatives on precise subjects covered by the work programme.

Pharmaceutical questions

The activities on this topic are intended to improve the rational use of medicines, dealing with the harmonisation of regulations, which is based on a regular exchange of information in several fields: consolidated annual list of new molecules or NTI, pharmacovigilance, generic medicines, vitamin products, importation of unregistered medicines, pharmacists' role in the choice, use, validation and vigilance of medical devices, clinical pharmacy, new information technologies applied to pharmacy, and on the development of national legislation and practices concerning pharmaceutical monitoring and good manufacturing practices.

As every year, the partial agreement carried out the annual revision, for publication purposes (1997 edition, published in January 1998), of the appendices to Resolution AP (95) 1 on the classification of medicines which are obtainable only on medical prescription; these appendices set out, on the one hand, an alphabetical list of active principles, their pharmaco-therapeutic classification and their anatomical-therapeutic-chemical classification and, on the other hand, recommendations on their classification as regards the renewal of medical prescription.

Updating the list of warning phrases for certain categories of medicines and the list of excipients to be declared (updating of Resolutions AP (95) 2 and AP (96) 1) is another important aspect of the continuous work on this subject.

On the issue concerning the training of pharmacists, after the completion of the proceedings and the "stocktaking" of 1995's Seminar on "The pharmacist and the challenge of new social trends", Resolution AP (97) 2 on the "development of the function of pharmacists and the adaptation of their initial training" was adopted by the Committee of Ministers at its 602nd meeting held on 30 September 1997 in Strasbourg. This resolution is intended to become an instrument of European harmonisation on some themes relating to public health.

Following on this line of activity, a new seminar is to take place in 1999, focused on the general guiding idea of "pharmaceutical practice and optimum health security"; an *ad hoc* organising committee was set up.

Cosmetic products

The final report on the classification of "borderline" products (cosmetic products, medicines, foodstuffs) is being drafted, and the report on "Plant and plant preparations used as ingredients of cosmetic products", classifying

these substances in three categories, is under revision.

The current work programme includes several new activities, such as, the studies on drugs and other active substances used in cosmetics and on allergenic reactions caused by cosmetic ingredients, the report on the use of essential oils in cosmetics, as well as the proposal for harmonisation of regulations on advertising and claims on cosmetics.

b. Rehabilitation and integration of people with disabilities

The Committee on the Rehabilitation and Integration of People with Disabilities reviewed the activities of its sub-bodies in the following fields: legislation against discrimination, on the one hand, and employment strategies for people with disabilities, on the other hand.

It continued its exchange of information on the cochlear implant and on violence towards people with disabilities and authorised the publication of a text on vocational training and rehabilitation of people with disabilities.

It also suggested the holding of a second pan-European conference of ministers responsible for this field.

Legislation against discrimination of people with disabilities

The working group has discussed the draft comparative analysis of the national replies to the questionnaires concerning legislation against discrimination of people with disabilities in member and observer states and the draft report on the practical situation. In order to study the views of organisations of and for people with disabilities, the group held a hearing with NGOs in December 1997. The preparation of the final report is under way.

Employment strategies for people with disabilities

A questionnaire was drawn up and circulated to the member and observer states of the Partial Agreement in the Social and Public Health Field on their employment strategies for people with disabilities. The replies collected were analysed in order to draft proposals.

Assessment of person-related criteria for allowances and personal assistance for people with disabilities

The working group had its first session in autumn 1997 and established its work programme, provisional timetable and a questionnaire, which was sent out to member and observer states' governments. The replies will be discussed in 1998.

Impact of new technologies on the quality of life of persons with disabilities

This committee of experts was created in June 1997 and will take up its activities in the course of 1998.

International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH)

As an outcome of the work of this committee of experts, which completed its terms of reference in 1996, the following texts were published in 1997:

- Resolution AP (95) 3 on a charter on the vocational assessment of people with disabilities, and glossary;
- Report on the use of the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH) in relation to elderly people;
- Report on the use and usefulness of the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH) for the education of children with impairments or disabilities. ■

2. Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group)

The ministers of the Pompidou Group met in Tromsø, Norway, on 15 and 16 May 1997 for a conference on the theme of "New trends in drug abuse". Participation was extended to all Council of Europe member states plus, for the first time, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The ministers adopted a political declaration and a new work programme for the group for the period 1997-2000. Portugal was elected to the chair of the group for this period.

New trends in drug abuse, in particular the growth in abuse of synthetic drugs, are a particular focus of the new work programme alongside the existing priorities of balanced integrated multidisciplinary policies and co-operation with central and eastern Europe. Specific new areas of activity include the social reintegration of ex-addicts and drug abusers, the economic and social costs of drug abuse and issues related to driving under the influence of drugs.

In the field of epidemiology, in addition to the annual trend reports from the city network, for which thirty cities now provide data, a report was published containing comparable school survey data from twenty-three countries (the ESPAD survey). This project was co-ordinated by the Swedish institute CAN with support from the Pompidou Group. Another survey among the target groups for the epidemiology data looked at the use made of data on drugs and drug problems in Europe. A second epidemiology training and assistance programme in six countries of central Europe started in October in collaboration with the United

Nations International Drug Control Programme. It concentrates on strengthening city data-collection capacities and on training in qualitative research methods.

In the field of supply reduction, the annual meeting of the services responsible for controls at European airports gave particular emphasis to the possible threat from general aviation and launched two specific risk-assessment missions.

A bilateral seminar in Slovakia looked at penal drug legislation and its implementation, stressing the role of alternative sanctions to imprisonment for drug-using offenders.

In the field of demand reduction, a seminar was held in March on pregnancy and drug abuse, bringing together treatment professionals and researchers. Recommendations were adopted concerning epidemiological monitoring, treatment and care modalities and research needs. In addition, a consultant study was published on the special needs of children of drug misusers.

The working group on prevention completed its pilot-testing of a draft handbook on the planning and implementation of certain types of primary prevention projects. The handbook was drafted by experts from the Jellinek Centre (Netherlands) with support from the Dutch Ministry for Social Affairs and Employment and pilot-tested in eleven countries. The English version of the revised handbook was published in March 1998 and will be followed by several other language versions.

The working group on minorities has examined a preliminary report on the available information concerning minorities and drug-related problems and aspects of national drug policies with special relevance for minorities.

The three-year demand reduction staff training programme, which is training policy-makers and practising professionals in twelve countries in central and eastern Europe moved into its final phase with national training seminars in each country, including trained key-professionals as lecturers alongside western experts, as well as short consultancy visits to assist in preparing national training programmes. The programme will end in March 1998 after a final evaluation and follow-up planning conference. A first multidisciplinary demand reduction seminar for policy planners was also organised in November for Moldova, Ukraine and the Caucasian republics. ■

3. European Pharmacopoeia

The European Pharmacopoeia Commission, created in 1964, by virtue of the Convention on the Elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia, elaborates specifications and quality control methods for the entire range of currently available therapeutic substances for human and veterinary use, including pharmaceutical preparations.

The third edition was published in 1996 and implemented on 1 January 1997 for a period of five years. It will be regularly updated by annual supplements. It should be noted that the *European Pharmacopoeia* comprises general methods of analysis and monographs. The first part contains all the general methods of analysis (about 250), general notices on the interpretation of texts and the quality criteria for reagents, along with a number of general texts such as chapters on statistical analysis and limiting residual solvents in substances and medicines; the second part contains fascicules of monographs on medicinal substances, auxiliary substances, certain pharmaceutical preparations and other articles (about 1 300).

On 31 December 1997, twenty-five countries were participating in the work of the European Pharmacopoeia and directly applying its specifications on their territories: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey and the United Kingdom, as well as the European Community. The Community signed the convention on 21 June 1994. Moreover, the WHO and nine European countries, Albania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Romania, the Czech Republic, Ukraine and seven non-European countries, Australia, Canada, China, Morocco, Tunisia, Malaysia and Syria, are observers to the European Pharmacopoeia Commission.

The activities of the Pharmacopoeia are growing with the needs of its users, that is, the licensing authorities and the pharmaceutical industries that produce the medicines. In response to the globalisation of markets, the European Pharmacopoeia has helped set up a harmonisation programme with the pharmacopoeias of the United States and Japan.

The procedure for certification of suitability of monographs for the European Pharmacopoeia has been operating since 1 April 1994; more than 200 certificates have been granted. The programme for co-operation with the European Community in the area of biological standardisation, set up in 1992, is proceeding to the satisfaction of all. This programme for co-operation has been extended to all categories of medicines for human and veterinary use by the creation of a European network of official control laboratories. This network is also open to non-European member states (particularly central and eastern European countries and observer states at sessions of the European Pharmacopoeia Commission). Proficiency studies within the framework of the quality-assurance programme have involved more than sixty laboratories. Collaborative studies to control the quality of commercially available medicines are also carried out (market surveillance studies). ■

4. Social Development Fund

The Council of Europe's Social Development Fund was set up on 16 April 1956 by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to provide solutions to the problems of refugees. Since then, the Fund has adapted to changes in social priorities in Europe. All of its activities are focused on strengthening social cohesion within Europe.

The Fund grants loans according to well-defined criteria. Priority is given to projects which "help in solving the social problems with which European countries are or may be faced as a result of the presence of refugees, displaced persons or migrants consequent upon movements of refugees or other forced movements of populations" and the social problems posed by "victims of natural or ecological disasters".

Over the forty years since its creation, the Fund has gradually broadened its fields of action. They now include funding of job creation projects in small and medium-sized enterprises, social housing, health, education, protection of the environment, rural modernisation, rehabilitation of disadvantaged urban areas and protection and rehabilitation of the historical heritage.

1997 marked an important stage in the development of the Fund and in the implementation of its strategic options. Sustained growth in activity, stabilised profitability, fulfilment of the orientations contained in the Development Plan, emphasis on social cohesion following the decisions of the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, reinforcement of the global risk control: these were the major trends that characterised the year.

In 1997, the Fund showed very significant growth in its activity: the volume of approved projects amounted to over 2.1 billion ecus, representing the highest level ever achieved since its inception and an increase of almost 50% over the previous record registered in 1996. Disbursements increased by 40% compared with last year, reaching over 860 million ecus. In all, in parallel with a heightened effort on project quality, the Fund's activity has doubled in two years.

Projects approved in 1997 covered nine fields of action, the most prominent of which were: protection of the environment (29.9% of the total amount approved), aid to victims of natural disasters (21.4%), social housing (17%), health protection (10.9%), job creation in small and medium-sized enterprises (9.5%) and education (6.9%).

Most of the projects approved in 1997 were located in Germany (33.3% of the total amount approved), Italy (19.9%) and France (19.8%). Loan applications were also filed, to a lesser extent, by traditional borrowers such as Cyprus (0.2%) and Greece (7.8%) and by banks and regional authorities in Spain (9.8%) and Portugal (0.5%). The Fund's geographical sphere of action continued to broaden during the year. Five other countries will be able to benefit from Fund loans: Finland (4.64%), Slovenia (2.43%), Romania (1.49%), Bosnia and Herzegovina (0.05%) and Bulgaria (0.02%).

Loans disbursed in 1997 totalled 862 million (619 million in 1996) ecus, shared among 38 projects and 14 global disbursement loan programmes. This represented a 39% increase over 1996.

As at 31 December 1997 loans outstanding amounted to 5 844 million ecus, up 4% on the previous year-end figure of 5 629 million ecus. The significant efforts to rebalance the loans portfolio in terms of both quality and quantity therefore had the expected positive results in 1997.

The financing of global disbursement loan programmes, an instrument introduced by the Fund in 1995, accounted for 76% of all loans disbursed during the year. This instrument permits wider geographical distribution of loans and allows the Fund to take action in a variety of sectors with a high social impact. The Fund closely monitors the use made of the loan tranches disbursed.

Loans disbursed in 1997, by country (in ecus)

Country	000 ecus	%
Belgium	6 049	0.70
Bosnia and Herzegovina	906	0.11
Cyprus	53 000	6.15
France	189 046	21.93
Germany	303 595	35.21
Greece	45 748	5.31
Italy	68 152	7.91
Lithuania	906	0.11
Malta	5 796	0.67
Spain	143 379	16.63
Turkey	45 423	5.27
Total	**862 000**	**100.00**

Loans disbursed in 1997, by sector (in ecus)

Priority sectors	**000 ecus**	**%**
Aid to refugees and migrants	11 819	1.37
Aid to regions affected by natural disasters	93 428	10.84
Other sectors		
SMEs	244 696	28.39
Social housing	101 242	11.75
Health	116 718	13.54
Education	28 728	3.33
Protection of the environment	177 108	20.55
Rural modernisation	63 424	7.35
Infrastructure facilities	3 276	0.38
Disadvantaged urban areas	15 124	1.75
Multisector	6 437	0.75
Total	**862 000**	**100.00**

At 80.2 million ecus, 1997's operating profit was fairly close to the 1996 figure (-2.2%), even after a 1.8 million ecus increase in structural expenses. 1997's net profit before allocation was 81.6 million ecus, down 5% on the previous year's result.

At year-end the subscribed capital stood at 1 326 million ecus, of which 11.2% had been paid up by the member states. Taking into account accumulated reserves and 1997 earnings, the Fund's own assets amounted to 2.1 billion ecus.

Croatia and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" joined the Fund in 1997, as well as Hungary and Estonia in early 1998, thus bringing the number of member countries to twenty-nine. ■

XIII. Education, culture, heritage and sport

Council for Cultural Co-operation (CDCC)

The CDCC held its 65th plenary session from 21 to 23 January 1997 and two enlarged Bureau meetings on 4 and 5 June 1997 and 5 and 6 November 1997 with Ms Margaretha Østern (Norway) in the Chair.

Throughout 1997, the CDCC continued to play its statutory role in providing the political and budgetary orientations to the programme of activities financed by the Cultural Fund and implemented, in the vast majority of cases, by its four specialised committees (see below). More specially, the CDCC focused its work on the following issues:

– preparation of its contribution to the 2nd Summit of the Heads of State and Government (Strasbourg, 10-11 October 1997). In this context, the CDCC, at its 65th plenary session, devoted its general policy debate to a discussion on the nature and content of its contribution to the preparatory work on the second summit "Respect for diversity, the search for common values and the development of democratic cohesion: which objectives for European cultural co-operation in the third millennium?";

– co-ordination and direction of follow-up action to the second summit focused on three specific projects included in the Action Plan adopted by the heads of state and government:

- Education for democratic citizenship,
- Enhancement of the European heritage,
- New information technologies;

– starting the process of increasing the share of the budget, within the Cultural Fund, allocated to the education sector in line with the priorities of the Committee of Ministers;

– preparation of the CDCC symposium on "Promoting freedom of expression in the cultural field" to be held in Oslo on 15 and 16 June 1998, in close co-operation with the Norwegian authorities;

– completion of the CDCC project on "Democracy, human rights, minorities: educational and cultural aspects" with a final conference (Strasbourg, 21-23 May 1997) and first dissemination of results (see below);

– further development of its co-operation with the European Union in the field of education and culture.

The CDCC and its Bureau have also adopted:

– an opinion on criteria which could guide the Committee of Ministers when examining any requests by non-European states to obtain observer status with the CDCC;

– an opinion on Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1291 (1996) on the Yiddish culture;

– an opinion on CLRAE Recommendation 17 (1996) on the responsibilities and initiatives of cities in respect of education and on CLRAE Recommendation 19 (1996) on the aspects of urban policies in Europe. ■

1. Democracy, human rights, minorities: educational and cultural aspects

The Project "Democracy, human rights, minorities: educational and cultural aspects" came to a conclusion at the final conference, which was held in Strasbourg, from 21 to 23 May 1997, and a first dissemination of the results took place. ■

2. Events, workshops and conferences

– Second and final in-service workshop on the theme "Ethnic minorities, language teaching and in-service training: an intercultural exchange of experiences and developments", held in Graz (Austria), from 21 to 25 April 1997;

– activity "Graffiti, sound and video", final presentation of all "Cultural Boxes" (prepared by each participating youth centre or youth initiative, consisting of pictures, a music cassette and a video illustrating the concrete problems linked to the coexistence of minorities and the resulting intolerance), held in Budapest, from 8 to 10 May 1997;

– more than 120 participants attended the final conference organised in Strasbourg, from 21 to 23 May 1997.

A core file (available upon request) of formal conference documents was given to each participant. It included:

– a general presentation of the work by the general rapporteur;

– four consolidated reports on project results – on theoretical and political evolution, diversity in education, diversity in culture and the media, and the methodology of the project itself;

– a chronological survey by the Council of Europe Secretariat of all the work carried out at the Council or in the general context of European co-operation from 1949 to 1996 in the field of human rights, especially the educational and cultural aspects;

– a summary of all documents published in the framework of the project made by Daphné Leclef (DECS/SE/DHRM (97) 11);

– the Final Declaration (DECS/SE/DHRM (97) 8);

– finally, the general report "Synthesis and conclusions of the final conference of the Project democracy, human rights, minorities: educational and cultural aspects", by Etienne Grosjean, general rapporteur (DECS/SE/DHRM (97) 13).

The initial dissemination of the results of the project began at the final conference and during the conference organised in Thessaloniki by the Committee of Regions of the European Union on 29 and 30 September 1997. Dissemination will continue in 1998. ■

3. Decisions

The participants of the final conference adopted a final declaration in plenary session. At its meeting on 4 and 5 June 1997, the Bureau of the CDCC took note of this final declaration and discussed the Secretariat's proposals concerning the dissemination of the project's results at its November meeting.

Five international dissemination seminars are planned: in Estonia, Greece, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom, between April and November 1998, each one on a different subject. ■

Education Committee

The Education Committee held its 16th and 17th meetings from 18 to 20 March and on 30 September and 1 October 1997 in Strasbourg with Mr Klaus Eichner (Germany) and Mrs Jurga Strumskiene (Lithuania), respectively, in the Chair and Vice-chair.

The major events which took place in 1997:

– the 19th Session of the Standing Conference of European Ministers of Education which was held in Kristiansand (Norway) in June. The theme was "Education 2000: trends, common issues and priorities for pan-European co-operation";

– the launching of two new projects in the framework of the medium-term plan 1997-99: "Learning and teaching about the history of Europe in the twentieth century in secondary schools" and "Education for democratic citizenship".

19th Session of the Standing Conference of European Ministers of Education (22-24 June 1997)

The committee expressed its satisfaction with the organisation and the conclusions of the Standing Conference of European Ministers of Education which held its 19th Session in Kristiansand (Norway) in June. Not only were the ministers able to discuss and endorse the conclusions of the completed projects but they were also able to give policy direction for the medium and long term, which would allow the new medium-term programme to be drafted, taking account of the currently existing political priorities in the member states. The ministers also stressed the exceptional quality of the social and cultural environment of the conference which permitted numerous bilateral contacts between the ministers and the delegations in an informal and convivial atmosphere. The committee particularly thanked the Norwegian delegation for the quality of their welcome and organisation.

The ministers adopted two resolutions on:

– "Trends and common issues in education in Europe: conclusions of projects that have come to an end";

– "Fundamental values, aims and the future role of educational co-operation in the Council of Europe".

In the perspective of the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Governments of the Member States of the Council of Europe, the ministers sent a message to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the key role of education co-operation in the new European context.

The committee welcomed with great interest the offer of the Polish delegation to host the next session of the Standing Conference in Poland in the year 2000.

1998 programme

The committee, in studying its budget-programme for 1998, expressed satisfaction that, in a context of zero growth, the budget for the programme of the Education Committee could have been increased by 6.8% by means of internally reorganising the Cultural Fund budget.

The committee expressed satisfaction on the implementation of the "Education for democratic citizenship" project. It was agreed that the implementation of decisions taken during the second summit should not affect the specificity and efficiency of this activity.

The committee discussed at length the proposal of the Secretariat to launch a new project on modern languages. The committee agreed with the broad lines of this project and expressed its satisfaction regarding the measures taken to ensure a good relationship between the activities of this project and those of the European Centre for Modern Languages in Graz.

In the framework of the "Democratic security, social cohesion and educational policies", the committee has retained the following points for next year: violence in school, the impact of new technologies in schools and current problems in educational reforms.

The committee was informed of recent developments and ideas concerning the in-service training of teachers. ■

1. Modern languages

The initiatives undertaken in 1997 were aimed at consolidating the activities of the "Language learning for European citizenship" project, which ended with a final conference in April 1997. The aim of the project was in particular to support the implementation, on the basis of common principles, of current reforms and innovation in language teaching and teacher training.

a. Language learning for European citizenship

Final conference "Language learning for a new Europe" (Strasbourg, 15-18 April 1997)

This conference brought together nearly 250 participants from the member states of the CDCC as well as representatives from the European Union, Canada, NGOs, amongst others, to evaluate the "Language learning for European citizenship" project and formulate draft recommendations. Its conclusions and recommendations formed the basis of the preliminary draft recommendation of the Committee of Ministers concerning modern languages.

Common European framework of reference

The framework is a planning instrument which provides a common basis and language for describing objectives, methods and assessment in language teaching. It was presented to the final conference which recommended that this document should be piloted in use, on a large scale, for planning language syllabuses, examinations, textbooks and teacher training programmes throughout Europe.

In order to optimise its use, a series of ten specialised guides has been produced for various user groups (policy deciders, teachers, trainers, examiners, curriculum planners, textbook authors etc.).

European language portfolio

A portfolio is a personal document in which learners can record their qualifications and other significant linguistic and cultural experiences in order to give value to lifelong language learning in an internationally transparent manner.

Guiding principles and draft proposals for a European language portfolio were prepared and presented at the final conference. There was general agreement that the portfolio should be further developed and piloted on a small scale.

Publications

Sixteen publications were produced in 1997 (in English, French and other languages in the case of specific publications). They are based on the results of the project which has just ended. The publications include:

- the final report of the Languages Project Group;
- a series of compendia summarising the main results from workshops in areas such as foreign language teaching in primary schools, language learning for vocational purposes, new technologies, the sociocultural and intercultural dimension and learner autonomy;
- studies on plurilingual and pluricultural competence as well as on sociocultural competence;
- threshold level specifications for four national languages: Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian and Maltese.

In addition, a number of articles on the results of the Project have appeared in specialist journals.

b. Modern languages and linguistic policies

Proposals for a new medium-term project entitled "Language policies for a multilingual and multicultural Europe" (1998-2000) were submitted to the Education Committee. These were mainly based on the conclusions and recommendations of the project group and the final conference, which were confirmed by Resolution No. 1 adopted at the 19th Session of the Standing Conference of European Ministers of Education, held in Kristiansand in June 1997.

Common European Framework of Reference

A general guide was elaborated to complete the series of *User Guides* to the "Framework". Piloting the "Framework" was initiated to improve this reference instrument as well as the accompanying *User Guides* and to disseminate them more widely. The European Union (DG XXII) is co-operating in the Framework project through its Socrates programme. A meeting took place in November 1997 concerning the piloting of the "Framework" in adult language learning. The "Framework" has been made available on the Internet site of the Council of Europe.

European language portfolio

Versions of a European language portfolio are to be tried out in a small-scale pilot programme and issues concerned with the introduction of a portfolio on a wider basis are to be examined. A first meeting on this subject took place in December 1997.

Offers have been received from a number of countries to host seminars to prepare and implement the pilot scheme. The first seminar will take place in Ticino in January 1998 with the generous assistance of the Swiss authorities.

Dissemination of the project's results

- 8 September 1997, Nicosia, Cyprus: information seminar for teachers, teacher trainers,

inspectors and philologists for the purpose of disseminating the project's results and analysing the Common European Framework together with a view to piloting it in use;

– from 26 to 28 September 1997, Southampton, United Kingdom: seminar for disseminating the results of the work to teacher trainers (CILT), in particular the Common European Framework;

– 7 October 1997, Prague, Czech Republic: seminar for disseminating the results of the work to teachers and teacher trainers;

– from 24 to 26 October 1997, Thessaloniki, Greece: presentation of the project's results at the meeting of the International Federation of Teachers of French (FIPF);

– on 7 and 8 November 1997, Uppsala, Sweden: seminar for disseminating the results of the work and preparing the piloting of the Common European Framework;

– (Vote IX) 21 November 1997, Budapest, Hungary: dissemination seminar for Hungarian specialists in language learning strategies as well as other experts (Polish, Czech, Slovenian, Romanian, Slovak and Croatian) invited by the Hungarian authorities;

– 28 November 1997, Dublin, Ireland: dissemination seminar for multipliers;

– (Vote IX) on 2 and 3 December, Moscow, Russian Federation: seminar for disseminating the results of the work and examining the European language portfolio project.

Several other seminars were organised nationally, and Council of Europe experts were invited to attend a number of them.

In addition, information on the project has been made available on the Internet site.

Threshold level specifications

In 1997, advice and expert assistance were given to groups of authors commissioned by the national authorities to produce threshold level descriptions for the following languages:

– Greek: 9 September 1997, Nicosia, Cyprus (joint Greek-Cypriot team);

– Czech: 6 October 1997, Prague;

– Hungarian: 20 November 1997, Budapest;

– Irish: 27 November 1997, Dublin.

Vote IX activities

Regional seminars aimed at disseminating the results of the "Language learning for European citizenship" project were organised with financial support from the Demosthenes and Demosthenes *bis* programmes, and the following were among the subjects addressed: curriculum reform, new technologies, the Common European Framework and the European language portfolio. These activities are outlined above.

The first joint programme between the European Commission and the Council of Europe for assistance with the integration of populations of foreign origin in Estonia and Latvia was completed. This programme, in which over thirty activities were carried out with a budget of 1.2 million FF had principally aimed to help the Estonian and Latvian authorities develop fair and reliable systems for assessing the language proficiency of applicants for citizenship in Estonia and Latvia. It had also facilitated preliminary discussion on language policy issues, particularly in relation to bilingual education. The programme was extended with the aid of a voluntary contribution during 1997 and the second joint programme was launched in autumn 1997.

Publications

The report on the final conference *Language learning for European citizenship* was published in October 1997 (in English and in French).

A *Guide for the school management team on school links and exchanges* was published in co-operation with the school links and exchanges programme.

Co-operation with the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML Graz)

Agreed guidelines have been drawn up to facilitate effective co-operation and complementarity between the activities of the CDCC project and those of the ECML. Further co-operation is planned in 1998 concerning the piloting of the Common European Framework (two workshops on this theme will be jointly organised). Cross representation at major meetings will be assured and a joint brochure describing the specific activities and complementarity of both bodies of the Council of Europe has been drafted. This will be examined further in reports being prepared by independent experts on behalf of the Committee of Ministers.

Draft recommendation concerning modern languages

A draft recommendation, based on the results of the previous modern languages project and its final conference, was submitted to the Education Committee, which approved the text with certain amendments. The text was submitted to and approved by the CDCC in January 1998 and was adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 17 March 1998. The recommendation will provide guidance in developing policies to promote more extensive and diversified language learning in member states.

Report on CDCC modern languages projects

At the request of the Committee of Ministers a report on the activities of the projects is being prepared by external consultants. It will be examined by the Committee of Ministers in spring 1998. ■

2. Democratic security, social cohesion and educational policies

The actions set up in the framework of this activity in 1997 were mainly devoted to the dissemination of the results of the project "A secondary education for Europe". Dissemination seminars were organised in the Russian Federation from 8 to 12 October 1997, in Slovakia, from 25 to 27 November 1997 and in Latvia from 18 to 20 December 1997. Expert missions took place in Croatia and in the Russian Federation.

An enlarged seminar on "the European dimension in the school: objectives and practices" took place in Poland (12-14 October 1997). The objectives were defined as follows:

– to disseminate the results of the "A secondary education for Europe" project as regards the introduction of a European dimension in secondary education;

– to review current educational policies at national level and draft recommendations concerning the introduction of the European dimension in:

- school curricula;
- school life;
- teacher training.

Participants at this seminar were:

– teachers and those in charge of education in Poland;

– experts who have worked on the project, on the theme of the seminar or as authors of teaching materials;

– those responsible for the European dimension in education at national level.

The most recent monographs on the European dimension and the secondary education guides have been published:

– the summary report of the policies of secondary education *Secondary education in Europe: problems and perspectives* by D. Kallen;

– the summary report of the *European dimension in secondary education* by R. Ryba, D. Barthélémy, C. Bîrzéa and J. M. Leclercq;

– the report of the final conference *What secondary education for a changing Europe? Trends, challenges and prospects* (Strasbourg, 2-6 December 1996) by P. Luisoni.

A working group has been charged by the Education Committee to define more precisely the themes to be dealt with in 1998 and 1999. This group met in Prague (28-29 November). It proposed concentrating its work on violence in schools, the impact of the new information technologies, the great issues of current reforms and the challenges of science education. ■

3. Education for democratic citizenship

Meetings of the project group in plenary

The new CDCC project "Education for democratic citizenship" was launched on 11 and 12 February, 1997 when the newly established project group met, at the Council of Europe headquarters in Strasbourg, to discuss its preliminary programme of activities, and modalities of operation.

An *ad hoc* meeting of the project group was held on 12 December 1997, following a seminar at the Council of Europe where all members of the project group were present.

Meetings of the sub-groups of the project group

– Group A concerned with "conceptual issues" met for the first time in Vienna on 14 April 1997 (document DECS/CIT (97) 7).

– Group B concerned with "Sites of citizenship, or strategies for implementing education for democratic citizenship" met for the first time in Paris on 5 May 1997 (document DECS/CIT (97) 10).

– Group C concerned with "Training and support systems for EDC" met for the first time in Stuttgart (Germany) on 5 September 1997 (document DECS/CIT (97) 20).

Conferences, seminars, workshops, study visits, training courses

– Hearing "Youth and the Barriers to the Practice of Democratic Citizenship", Elsau, Strasbourg, 23 June 1997 (document DECS/CIT (97) 30);

– Study visit to Fife (Scotland), September 1997 (document DECS/CIT (98) 5);

– Seminar on "Foundations of a Vital Democracy", 6-7 September 1997, Baden-Württemberg (Germany), (document DECS/CIT (97) 25);

– Co-operation with the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science in the development of a seminar on "Education for Human Rights and Democracy in Schools", Sofia and Primorsko, Bulgaria, 21-25 September 1997 (document DECS/CIT (98) 3);

– Training Seminar on "Learning and Teaching for Democratic Citizenship: critical approaches to the media in civic education", Budapest, Hungary, 7-12 October 1997. Training seminar carried out in co-operation with the Hungarian Ministry of Education and the Council of Europe In-Service Training Programme for Teachers (document DECS/CIT (98) 6);

– Seminar on "Citizenship Study" in co-operation with the European Union, Brussels, Belgium, 16 June 1997 (document DECS/CIT (97) 16);

– Information exchange and planning meeting between representatives of the Scottish site of citizenship and the Alsace site of citizenship; European Youth Centre, Strasbourg, 13-15 November 1997;

– Training Seminar on "Training of Youth for Relay Mediation to Facilitate the Practice of Democratic Citizenship", Strasbourg, 9, 10, 15 and 16 December 1997. Activity carried out in co-operation with the Themis Association;

– Conference/seminar on "Education for Democratic Citizenship: basic concepts and core competences", Council of Europe headquarters, Strasbourg, 11-12 December 1997 (document DECS/CIT (98) 7). ■

4. Learning and teaching about the history of Europe in the twentieth century

This has been the first year of the implementation of the project, which did not really take off until mid-May at the first meeting of the project group. The principal aims and fields of action were specified: to introduce general principles for the learning and teaching of history in Europe in the twentieth century in secondary schools. The particular target group of this project are young people from 14 to 16 years of age who are completing their last three years of compulsory schooling.

The content of the project will not be limited to only the political, economic and military aspects of history, but should also take into account spiritual, artistic, cultural, scientific and technological parameters as well. Controversial issues and positive mutual influences should not be neglected.

The Mediterranean dimension of twentieth century history should also be included.

Lastly, links between local, regional, European and world history should also be taken into account.

First meeting of the project group

The first meeting of the project group in charge of the setting up of this project took place in Strasbourg on 13 and 14 May 1997. The group took note of its mandate, established its specificity and set up an activity programme for the year. The report on this meeting can be found in Document CC-ED/HIST (97) 36.

Simulation for secondary school students in Europe

The simulation of the Paris Peace Conference of 1919 and the Treaty of Versailles (Cambridge, 16 to 19 February 1997) was an extremely positive event. This simulation exercise can serve as a basis for a similar activity involving participants from different groups of countries. (The report on this activity can be found in document CC-ED/HIST (97) 8).

Meeting of experts on the experimental teaching units/resource packs

The aim of this meeting, held on 15 September 1997, was to propose the criteria and the directions to be taken with regard to the content and structure of the teaching units, which should be prepared around the following themes:

– human rights and pluralistic democracy in Europe in the twentieth century;

– women in Europe in the twentieth century;

– nationalisms in Europe in the twentieth century;

– population movements in Europe in the twentieth century.

(The report on the meeting can be found in document CC-ED/ HIST (97) 40.)

European seminar for teachers: Seminar on Women in the Twentieth Century, Donaueschingen, from 6 to 11 October 1997

The aim of the seminar was to define a preliminary approach to the preparation of the teaching unit on the same subject.

Study carried out by the Georg Eckert Institute on the different ways in which twentieth century history in Europe is presented in secondary school textbooks

This study, the aim of which was to determine how much of the content of textbooks used by compulsory secondary schools in diverse European countries is devoted to a European dimension of history, was one of the principal working documents for the seminar mentioned below (document CC-ED/HIST (97) 41).

Seminar on the Teaching of History in Europe in the Twentieth Century: Approaches and Problems (Budapest, Hungary, 11-13 December 1997)

This seminar was organised jointly with the Hungarian Ministry of Education. The forty participants, representing most of the CDCC member states, tried to find common approaches to school curricula for the teaching of twentieth-century history, and made proposals on the form and content of teaching material and teaching programmes for history in Europe. They identified innovative approaches and projects which are currently in use in the member states (document CC-ED/Hist/Eur (98) 1). ■

5. The European dimension of school education

a. In-service training programme for teachers

In 1997, this programme was developed in accordance with the guidelines set and the decisions reached during the meeting of the liaison officers which took place in Estoril in April 1995.

Nine hundred and eight teachers have participated in a hundred and twenty-five training courses/seminars held in twenty-three member states of the CDCC where the main themes had a direct link with the educational and cultural programme of the Council of Europe: the fight against racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance; human rights education and education for democratic citizenship; history teaching; school links and exchanges; language teaching; environmental education.

In addition, "linked workshops" have been developed and followed this year and three follow-up seminars have been organised: "History and identity", in Budapest, in conjunction with the project "Democracy, human rights, minorities"; "School links and exchanges", in Lisbon, in conjunction with the programme "A secondary education for Europe"; "School in the fight against intolerance and xenophobia", in Donaueschingen.

Also, new administrative measures have been instigated since 1 January 1996, for example, for the reimbursement of expenses based on a second-class train ticket which allows for a better use of funds available and also the publication, twice a year, of the list of training courses/seminars offered by the member states.

The Secretariat of the Council of Europe has given its support to the organisation of twenty-two training courses and seminars which have been organised for the in-service training programme for 1997 (selection and funding of lecturers, general rapporteurs, etc.).

Finally, the vademecum for the liaison officer is being revised and should be available before the end of the year.

Since March 1996, the team in charge of the "In-service training programme for teachers" has been reinforced by a temporary assistant: this has allowed for better management of the workload and for a more satisfactory development of the programme.

A meeting of the national liaison officers took place in Strasbourg on 2 and 3 July. They discussed issues concerning the development of the programme.

b. Network for school links and exchanges

In 1997, teacher-training courses were organised in Cyprus, Lithuania and Romania, in close co-operation with the authorities in these countries.

The first phase of an extended training course took place in Moscow in November 1997. The second phase is planned for May 1998.

The production *Vis-à-vis*, with versions for primary schools and for colleges, was published before the summer and a manual for senior school management teams, prepared in collaboration with the Section of Modern Languages, is currently being printed.

c. "Europe at school" competition

Europe at school gained new members in central and eastern European countries, raising the total number to thirty-two participating national committees. The theme for this year: "Information – communication – freedom of expression" attracted entries from over 800 000 young people. A prizewinners' gathering took place in the European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe in Budapest and the Hungarian Parliament. The ceremony was attended by the Director of the Centre, Mr Peter Lauritzen. ■

Higher Education and Research Committee

The Higher Education and Research Committee (CC-HER) held its plenary meeting from 19 to 21 March 1997. Its Bureau met on 18 March, on 17 and 18 September and on 24 and 25 November 1997. The committee's terms of reference define its main task as promoting "the development of European higher education on the basis of common democratic principles and of the values of the European university heritage, including the freedoms of learning, teaching and research, and the self-government of academic institutions within a democratic society". The mandate also reflects the CC-HER's role of advising national governments and higher education institutions on important policy matters. The committee's double membership of both government and academic representatives is a key factor to its success in this area.

In 1997, the CC-HER completed the reorganisation and simplification of its activities around three pillars and improved their coherence:

– building the university of tomorrow: Policy and practice for higher education in Europe;

– counsel for the renewal of higher education in the new member countries;

– higher education for a democratic society.

The CC-HER now presents a streamlined, well-structured programme which is both ambitious and realistic, even if the budget is tight.

In addition to the successful restructuring of its programme, the CC-HER registered several major achievements in 1997:

– 11 April, the new Council of Europe/Unesco Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region was adopted at a diplomatic conference in Lisbon;

– the first joint, tripartite project with the European Commission, the Council of Europe and Unesco was launched through a pilot project on a revised Diploma Supplement;

– a draft recommendation on access to higher education was elaborated. It was approved by the CDCC on 22 January 1998 and adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 17 March 1998 as Recommendation No. R (98) 3;

– the completion of the activity on regional co-operation in higher education, with a major conference in Reykjavík from 10 to 12 September, organised in partnership with the Nordic Council of Ministers;

– the continued high demand for and political relevance of the Legislative Reform Programme, which will run through to the year 2000. In this second period of its mandate, the programme has been successfully streamlined to continue a high level of activity in spite of a reduction in the level of voluntary contributions;

– the development of the activities constituting the third pillar of the CC-HER programme, covering its specific contribution to the Council of Europe's political priorities. The third pillar activities should be seen in context as an overall contribution to the follow-up to the second summit on the role of higher education in promoting democracy, tolerance and human rights.

The Higher Education and Research Committee has made pioneering efforts in seeking partnerships with other organisations. Among the most prominent results are a joint convention and the joint ENIC network of national information centres on recognition and mobility with Unesco, a close co-operation with the European Commission in the fields of recognition and educational research, and a joint conference on regional co-operation with the Nordic Council of Ministers. Within the Council of Europe structure, co-operation with the Education Committee has been developed further.

Text adopted by the Committee of Ministers

Recommendation No. R (97) 1 on the recognition and quality assessment of private institutions of higher education was adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 4 February 1997. ■

1. Building the university of tomorrow: policy and practice for European higher education

a. Redefining the research mission of the university in a democratic society

The university's traditional role as a centre of scientific development is challenged in Europe today by the large proportion of first-class research that takes place elsewhere, and by mass higher education, which creates strong pressures to concentrate on teaching. However, without quality research the universities will be unable to carry out the tasks of critical

and systematic reflection and the continuous renewal of intellectual competence. Failure here would pose a threat to democratic societies in a fast-changing and competitive world in which knowledge is the critical resource.

The European vision of university research linked to academic teaching and grounded in a human scientific culture calls for a redefinition of the research mission of the university.

Meetings were held on the role of fundamental research in Europe (Strasbourg, May 1997), research in central and eastern European universities (Cracow, June 1997) and research training (Wachtberg-Niederbachem bei Bonn, November 1997). A study on research funding patterns was tabled in December 1997.

The working party set up to implement this activity produced:

– the first elements of a synthesis report describing current problems and trends;

– the first draft of a policy recommendation to be submitted for adoption in 1999.

b. Tools and policies for academic recognition and mobility

This activity has two focal points: the legal framework and its practical implementation. In addition, the activity comprises an element of training and information.

Legal framework

The major event of 1997 was the adoption of the new Council of Europe/Unesco Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region in Lisbon on 11 April. This is the first convention ever elaborated and sponsored jointly by the two Organisations. The convention will gradually replace several existing conventions elaborated in the separate framework of each organisation[1].

Some major features of the convention are:

– a clear statement of the principle that applicants are entitled to a fair examination of their qualifications, without discrimination with regard to such factors as the applicant's gender, race, colour, disability, religion, political or other opinion;

– a requirement that applications be considered within a reasonable time-limit;

– a statement of the need for transparent, coherent and reliable recognition procedures;

– a reformulation of the guiding principle for the recognition of qualifications, exemplified by Article IV.1:

"Each Party shall recognise the qualifications issued by other Parties meeting the general requirements for access to higher education in those Parties for the purpose of access to programmes belonging to its higher education system, unless a substantial difference can be shown between the general requirements for access in the Party in which the qualification was obtained and in the Party in which recognition of the qualification is sought."

Similar provisions are included for the recognition of periods of study and of higher education qualifications. In each case, parties are encouraged to make explicit what they consider as substantial differences:

– a requirement that the competent recognition authorities state the reasons in cases where recognition is refused;

– a provision giving applicants the right to appeal a recognition decision, within the procedures set up by the party concerned;

– a section containing provisions for information on the assessment of higher education institutions and programmes. This section introduces the new concept of "institutions belonging to the higher education system of a Party", and the parties undertake to specify which institutions fall into this category;

– a strong emphasis on the importance of information on recognition matters and on the implementation of the convention. The ENIC Network (see below), another joint Council of Europe/Unesco operation, will play a key role in this respect, as will the intergovernmental committee.[2]

As of 1 June 1998, thirty-four states had signed and three had ratified the new convention, which will enter into force with the fifth ratification. The convention and the explanatory report were adopted in four languages: English, French, Russian and Spanish. The text of the convention and the explanatory report may be found on the websites of the Council of Europe (http://www.culture.coe.fr) and of Unesco (http://www.cepes.ro).

Framework for practical implementation

The ENIC Network (European Network of national information centres on academic mobility and recognition) was established in June 1994 by a merger of the two previously separate networks of the Council of Europe and Unesco. The ENIC Network is served jointly by both Organisations and is widely seen as a good example of practical co-operation between two international organisations. The ENIC Network plays an important role in developing policy and practice for the recognition of qualifications, and it will also play an important role in promoting the application of the new convention. The annual meetings of the ENIC Network are held jointly with the NARIC Network of the European Commission. The 1997 meeting was held in Helsinki from 8 to 11 June.

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1. In the Council of Europe framework: ETS No. 15, European Convention on the Equivalence of Diplomas leading to Admission to Universities (1953); ETS No. 49, Protocol to the European Convention on the Equivalence of Diplomas leading to Admission to Universities (1964); ETS No. 21, European Convention on the Equivalence of Periods of University Study (1956); ETS No. 32, European Convention on the Academic Recognition of University Qualifications (1959); ETS No. 138, European Convention on the General Equivalence of Periods of University Study (1990).

In the UNESCO framework: Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the States belonging to the Europe Region.

2. The Committee of the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region.

Between the annual meetings, the network is served by a bureau and working parties appointed to make recommendations on specific recognition and mobility topics. Until June 1997, the Bureau consisted of Mr Kees Kouwenaar (Netherlands, President), Mr Andrej Kotnik (Slovenia, Vice-President) and Ms Maria dos Anjos Caseiro Cohen (Portugal, Vice-President; resigned in December 1996). From June 1997, the Bureau consisted of Ms Marianne Hildebrand (Sweden, President), Mr Andrej Kotnik (Slovenia, Vice-President) and Mr Andrejs Rauhvargers (Latvia, Vice-President).

In 1997, a joint project was launched on the revision of the Diploma Supplement. This is the first joint project involving the Council of Europe, the European Commission and Unesco. The Diploma Supplement aims at providing information on the holder's higher education qualifications, as an addition to the original credential, that will make these qualifications more readily understandable and thus facilitate fair recognition.

The project is divided into two parts: the activities of a group of experts and a pilot project to test the new version of the Diploma Supplement. The working party, chaired by Ms Jette Kirstein of the Danish ENIC/NARIC, held four meetings in Brussels (December 1996; February 1997; July 1997; November 1997). Professor Stephen Adam, University of Westminster, as the rapporteur of the working party, prepared the final draft of the text. Following the finalisation of the text of the revised Diploma Supplement, the pilot project is designed to test the new model.

The pilot project comprises a limited number of institutions appointed in consultation with the Confederation of European Union Rectors' Conferences, the Association of European Universities (CRE) and national rectors' conferences.

The pilot project will run in several stages and was launched at a conference in Brussels on 22 September 1997. By the end of October 1997, the selected higher education institutions produced a limited number of completed Diploma Supplements conforming to the new pattern. These were then exchanged in order to test them in terms of how they provide information that allows accurate judgments to be made by the receiving institution/assessing body. Each recipient will complete a questionnaire to gauge how practical and useful they found the supplement. A second questionnaire will be used to gather general feedback from all participating bodies. The results of this process will then be analysed to measure the overall effectiveness of the supplement.

This part of the pilot project will be completed by 15 February 1998. The responses by the participating institutions will then be analysed, and the final conference of the pilot project will be organised in May 1998 when all participating institutions will receive the findings. By the end of June 1998, following a final meeting of the working group and its recommendations, the relevant authorities of the European Commission, the Council of Europe and Unesco will consider the revised Diploma Supplement with a view to giving it an official status. If the final project is adopted, the new version of the Diploma Supplement will be widely distributed and its implementation encouraged at national level.

Further information on the pilot project may be found at the Unesco/CEPES website (http://www.cepes.ro).

In 1997, the Council of Europe continued to serve a working party on the criteria and procedures for the evaluation of foreign qualifications. It met for the first time in 1995 and held further meetings in Lisbon in April 1996, in Strasbourg in September 1996, in Helsinki in June 1997 and in Strasbourg in November 1997. A draft recommendation being elaborated by the working party could be submitted for adoption to the new intergovernmental committee to be set up by virtue of the new Council of Europe/Unesco convention. A revised draft of the recommendation was the subject of debate at the 1997 ENIC/NARIC meeting.

Through the work on the convention and ENIC activities, there is an increasing awareness among European credential evaluators of the need for co-operation within the international recognition community. European recognition policies, and especially the new convention, have also attracted attention outside of Europe. Both the Council of Europe and Unesco co-secretaries and members of the network are increasingly asked to present recognition issues and policies at national and international seminars.

On 6 and 7 November 1997, the Council of Europe and the University of Zagreb arranged a training seminar for Croatian credential evaluators and policy-makers from higher education institutions. The seminar attracted participants from all Croatian universities as well as from Poland and Slovenia.

The third edition of the *Student Handbook* was published by Verlag K. H. Bock in November 1997. The handbook is a directory of courses and institutions in higher education for twenty-nine countries which are not members of the European Union.

c. Innovation in regional co-operation in higher education

The major event of this activity was a large conference held in Reykjavík from 10 to 12 September 1997 in partnership with the Nordic Council of Ministers. The conference was attended by representatives of thirty-three states as well as of Nordic institutions and NGOs. It was prepared by a working party chaired by Dr Johannes Reiff (Netherlands).

The aim of the conference was to provide an overview of regional co-operation in higher education in Europe with an emphasis on its function in different contexts (such as confidence building, the sharing of resources and co-operation in geographically limited areas) and the variety of working methods.

In addition to a background report, case studies were presented covering:

- Nordic co-operation;
- co-operation in the Mediterranean area;

– the Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies (CEEPUS);

– co-operation in geographically limited areas (Upper Rhine and Pyrenean areas);

– co-operation between the Netherlands, Flanders and three German *Länder*.

The conclusions of the general rapporteur contain a number of recommendations addressed to:

– the Council of Europe, the Nordic Council of Ministers and other international organisations;

– national, regional and local authorities;

– higher education institutions.

The recommendations cover different levels of ambition, ranging from the publication of the papers for the conference in print and on Internet via the construction of an Internet site on regional co-operation with links to the sites of existing schemes to organising information seminars on regional co-operation in areas where this is lacking and establishing a small number of pilot projects.

The studies prepared for the conference will be published jointly with the Nordic Council of Ministers. ■

2. Counsel for the renewal of higher education in the new member countries

a. Legislative Reform Programme (LRP)

The Legislative Reform Programme in higher education and research, originally set up in 1992, had its mandate revised and renewed in 1996 until the year 2000. The main aim of the LRP is to assist the newer member states in the crucially important reform of their higher education systems and institutions, through advice on new legislation and its implementation. Secondarily, it aims to draw on this dialogue to deepen understanding of the reform process in the whole circle of member states.

The 1997 programme shows the continued high level of demand by new member states for well-focused and expert advice and discussion on reform issues.

Thirteen advisory missions were held[1]. Particular attention was given to the Council of Europe's priority regions of south-east Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, including the Caucasus. For example, as a result of earlier missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a seminar was held in Graz from 2 to 4 June 1997, bringing together for the first time representatives of all six higher education institutions operating in the country at that time. In "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", two written opinions were prepared on the extremely sensitive drafts for a higher education law. A mission in Albania planned for March had to be postponed due to civil unrest, but was carried out successfully in October.

The topics of these missions showed a certain evolution. The priority countries are still establishing the basic structures of a modern higher education system in governance, finance, and quality assurance. A group in central Europe and the Baltic is now facing the problems of a "second generation" of law and policy-making, such as the setting up of a sector for shorter professionally-oriented higher education and strategic planning of the system. The prospect of accession to the European Union has become a driving force behind the reforms in this group.

The complementary multilateral activities are designed, in the spirit of European cultural co-operation, to promote the perception of shared problems and destinies as can be seen from the following:

– the 9th LRP workshop was held in Dubrovnik in October on professional higher education. The workshop is linked to a publication being prepared jointly with the European Union's European Training Foundation;

– the 9th study visit was held in Lisbon in April on quality assurance;

– for its 10th study visit, the LRP co-organised a workshop in Bonn, in November, on models of research training, together with the CC-HER's regular activity on "The Research Mission of the University";

– the 11th study visit was held in December in Ireland on the topic of professional higher education policy, legislation and structures.

The second volume of the series of book-length publications "Legislating for Higher Education in Europe" was completed. It will be published in February 1998 under the title *Democracy and Governance in Higher Education.*

The management of the LRP has had to face the problem of declining resources, which no longer match the demand. In response, the Bureau of the CC-HER, the Steering Group of the LRP and the Secretariat started work on an action plan for the LRP up to the year 2000. A technical and political evaluation will be an important component of this plan. Possibilities for partnerships are being actively explored.

b. Special support for rebuilding higher education in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia

The CC-HER was the first specialised committee to earmark funds for action in favour of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Both in 1996 and 1997, action was undertaken not only for

1. Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Poland, the Russian Federation, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (2) and Ukraine. A regional advisory mission was held for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

displaced Bosnian students and staff abroad, but also for higher education in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In 1997, 60 000 French francs were set aside for travel grants to be given through World University Service to increase mobility of academic staff and students. Other action in favour of higher education in Bosnia and Herzegovina is described under the Legislative Reform Programme (see point III.2.a above). ■

3. Contents and methods of higher education: a specific contribution to the democratic mission of the Council of Europe

a. Helping the social sciences meet the challenge of transition

Recommendation 1264 (1995) of the Parliamentary Assembly on social sciences and the challenge of transition called for urgent action in support of social sciences, often censored or marginalised by the former political system in central and eastern Europe. The Committee of Ministers referred the recommendation to the CC-HER with the mandate to take account of it in its future activities.

Following exploratory work in 1996, the CC-HER adopted at its plenary session in March 1997 a project with the title "Helping the social sciences meet the challenge of transition" within the third pillar of its work programme.

The working party set up to steer the activity met in Strasbourg on 11 and 12 March and on 7 and 8 July 1997.

Activities in 1997 have been focused mainly on gathering more information on the situation of the social sciences in the countries in transition, on collecting relevant documentation on ongoing projects and other activities in this field and on creating contacts and pools of expertise.

At its second meeting in July 1997 the working party finalised guidelines for the preparation of reports on the situation of the social sciences in the countries in transition. Fourteen national reports were drafted by experts appointed by the national delegations of the new member states.

A general report summing up the national reports has been prepared. It will serve as a background document for discussions and for policy recommendations at a workshop to be held from 11 to 13 June 1998 in Slovenia at the invitation of the Slovenian Ministry of Education and Sport.

Special attention has been attributed to the work on social sciences by other organisations. Co-operation with the European Science Foundation (ESF) has been established in the form of a reference panel of experts, set up under the Standing Committee of the Social Sciences, which would act as a resource for the project. The Secretariat has undertaken some concrete steps for co-operation with several actors in this field: information exchange with the Civic Education Project, discussions for partnership with the Central European University in Budapest, the Vienna Institute of Human Sciences and the Regional Phare Unit in Bratislava are under way.

b. Redefining European studies

c. Training for democratic leadership

At its plenary session in March 1997 the Higher Education and Research Committee (CC-HER) decided to merge the closely related activities (3.b) and (3.c.) included in the Cultural Fund work programme into a new project on "European studies for democratic citizenship".

As part of the third pillar of the CC-HER's work programme, the project is expected to make an important contribution to the political objectives of the Council of Europe as stated in the Action Plan adopted by the second summit.

The working party appointed to implement the activity met in Strasbourg on 30 June and 1 July and on 22 and 23 December 1997. When defining the objectives it underlined that the project was building a bridge between two aspects: redefining European studies as a university discipline and clarifying some concepts relevant to democratic citizenship.

Within the first issue, the working party decided to collect information and to identify examples of good practice with a view to working out a typology of existing European studies programmes and to selecting some models for policy makers at government institutions and higher education establishments.

Four studies treating different aspects of the theme have been prepared. One of them, written by a French expert, gives a general overview of the situation in western Europe underlying the lack of coherent and reliable information on the existing European studies programmes. The case study presenting the Polish perspective corresponds to a large extent to the situation of the subject in central and eastern Europe: lack of suitably trained staff, deficiency of teaching materials, need of advice on practical problems and the desire to establish networks of expertise. A third case study gives an overview of the European studies programmes currently offered at the College of Europe in Bruges. The fourth study concentrates on the teaching of European studies by using new technologies offered by open and distance education institutions and provides a view on European studies within the lifelong learning perspective. A survey carried out by the Secretariat offers additional information on the situation of European studies at some non-European universities.

The above-mentioned documents will serve as a background to discussions at a colloquy focusing on the main problems faced by European studies, which will be held in October 1998 in Strasbourg.

To carry out its mandate with respect to the second part of the project, the working party asked a small study group to make proposals for work on the "democratic citizenship" issue. The study group met in Strasbourg on 6 November 1997 to discuss ideas and make proposals for research networking. At its second meeting in December 1997, the working party agreed to set up an *ad hoc* group of experts to address some of the theoretical issues of the project. The first meeting of the *ad hoc* group will be held in Strasbourg on 27 February 1998 and the first results of the work will be discussed at a colloquy financed and organised by the Luxembourg authorities by the end of 1998. ■

4. Collection and dissemination of selective educational research data for decision-makers (Thesaurus and EUDISED Database)

European Education Thesaurus

The *European Education Thesaurus* is a multilingual list of keywords for indexing, to be used by documentation centres and other information processing services. It exists in eighteen languages. The Thesaurus is intended for researchers, teachers, administrators and, generally speaking, anybody seeking information on education.

Developing and updating the Thesaurus is the joint responsibility of the Council of Europe and the European Commission, since the Thesaurus also serves the Eurydice network.

The Thesaurus is available from the Publications Office of the European Communities in Luxembourg, on tape or in book form, in nine languages (Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish). An updated version in eleven languages (including also Finnish and Swedish) was made available by Eurydice in Brussels in 1997. Versions in Czech, Croat, Hungarian, Norwegian, Polish, Slovene and Turkish are available from the relevant ministries. Further language versions (Bulgarian, Romanian, Russian and Slovak) are in preparation.

Specialised vocabularies concerning language teaching and special education have been compiled to supplement the Thesaurus. Care is taken to achieve compatibility with other thesauri (that is ILO and Unesco) and thesauri in neighbouring fields (for example the CEDEFOP Thesaurus).

EUDISED Research and Development (R & D) Database

The EUDISED R & D database comprises information about 22 000 ongoing and completed educational research projects in Europe, and about certain Council of Europe publications. Online access is provided by the Information Retrieval Service of the European Space Agency (ESA) at Frascati, Italy (ESA will soon be replaced by CINECA, Italy) and the Educational Documentation Library in Florence. EUDISED is also available on Internet via the library in Florence. Thirty-four states represented on the Council for Cultural Co-operation (CDCC) contribute to the database.

The amendments on the database are also available in book form: the *EUDISED European Educational Research Yearbook*, published by Saur Verlag GmbH, Munich.

In 1997, 1 842 project descriptions were added to the database.

At present, EUDISED is under evaluation. The CC-HER will consider the continuation of EUDISED in March 1998. ■

Culture Committee

The Culture Committee's continuous efforts for programme concentration and definition of realistic objectives were rewarded: one of its programme headings – new technologies – was taken up in the declaration and Action Plan of the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government.

The committee is concerned with ensuring the survival of a diversified and participative European culture in a world mostly run according to economic priorities and where, due to budgetary restrictions, governmental support for culture is ever diminishing. Its vision is that of a culture capable of putting its mark on the electronic media rather than merely enduring their consequences.

The first chapter of the programme, "Cohesion in cultural diversity", offers, with its cultural policy reviews, a helpful methodological instrument to learn how to tackle the cultural decision-making process in this changed political environment. Concrete follow-up action in the form of information workshops and training sessions on items of particular relevance – such as privatisation in the cultural sector or modern cultural management – gives the programme the necessary down-to-earth approach. The promotion of active participation and commitment on the part of individuals and groups in the process of cultural policy development adds to the programme the necessary and essential "civil society" dimension. It is indeed an absolute priority to stimulate and strengthen the citizens' commitment to take individual responsibility for cultural life within their own community.

The second heading, "Access to the new world of learning", is concerned with freedom of cultural expression and endeavours to ensure that everybody has active and passive access to those two media which are our world's most powerful instruments of expression and knowledge growth, the books and the electronic media. This chapter ranges from the creation and editing of books-in-print catalogues in countries where such facilities never existed before, to the "new technologies" which lead us into the third millennium and were a focus of attention at the second summit. The new information society opens up virtually unlimited opportunities for creativity and contacts and represents a major economic asset, on the condition that Europe's cultural and economic actors are given a chance to make use of this potential.

The third heading, "Globalisation and creativity", is linked to both the above headings. It is concerned with promoting quality cultural products and with encouraging the creativity of young people – a precondition for an active and dynamic cultural life and a way of asserting the individual's place and role in society. The programme involves active participation of over two-thirds of the delegations to the CDCC.

The last heading, "Visions of Europe", includes the Council of Europe Art Exhibitions which have for over forty years been illustrating successfully the role of the Council of Europe in culture. They have contributed to the recognition of the Organisation, both within the most ambitious professional circles concerned with art and history and within public opinion, thanks to their strong media impact and to the genuine interest shown by a large public in Europe and even outside Europe. It is one of our oldest and most continuous Council of Europe flagships, and this well beyond our frontiers. ■

1. Cohesion in cultural diversity

a. Cultural policy development in member states: analysis by country/ sector and technical assistance

Since 1985, through its "European programme of cultural policy reviews", the Culture Committee has been analysing how the key principles of cultural policy, that is the promotion of cultural identity and diversity, support for artistic creativity and enhancement of participation, have been put into practice by member states. By the end of 1996, the following member states had had their cultural policy reviewed: France, Sweden, Austria, the Netherlands, Finland, Italy, Estonia, the Russian Federation and Slovenia; Bulgaria and Lithuania joined the group in 1997, and work was initiated to review the cultural policies of Latvia, Croatia and Portugal.

The debate on Bulgarian cultural policy took place during the 14th meeting of the Culture Committee, in the presence of the Bulgarian delegation led by Mr Emil Tabakov, Minister for Culture. The discussions at the committee meeting focused on a list of items which were of interest not only for Bulgaria but also for

most of the transition countries. A follow-up seminar was organised in 1997 in Bulgaria with a view to preparing a major national debate on cultural policy in 1998. The debate on Lithuanian cultural policy was held during the 15th meeting of the Culture Committee. Mr Saulius Saltenis, Minister of Culture, led the Lithuanian delegation. The debate at the committee meeting centred around financial aspects of cultural policy, decentralisation, the role of civil society and participation in the decision-taking process. A debate at national level took place in Vilnius at the end of 1997. In addition, a major national cultural policy debate took place in Slovenia as a follow-up to the 1996 review, and follow-up seminars were organised in Russia.

Following the decision taken at its 13th meeting to include thematic reviews as part of the cultural policy review programme, the Culture Committee agreed on the theme for its first transversal review, which will be carried out in five or six countries in 1998. The theme will be "Privatisation and 'desetatisation': transformation of major cultural institutions as consequence of this process". As to the 1999 transversal review, it will focus on the management of cultural diversity. National reviews will be continued according to requests from member countries.

b. Resource centre for cultural policy in partnership with the networks

To maximise the efficiency, policy relevance and information flow of the work carried out by the Division in the field of European cultural policies, the Culture Committee approved in 1997 the functions of a new structure. A voluntary contribution by Austria helped to set up the basic facilities necessary for communication and information. Over the year the concept of this new initiative within the Cultural Policy and Action Division has been further elaborated which has implied, *inter alia*, its renaming as the "Cultural Policies Research and Development Unit". According to the brief, internal tasks consist of memorisation, processing, analysis, evaluation, update and follow-up of Culture Committee projects/ research and other information and activities on European cultural policy relevant to the work of the division, as well as comparative research into areas of interest to the Culture Committee. External tasks include the dissemination of policy-relevant information (for example via "policy notes") and liaison with information providers (such as research institutions, networks) and users (priority will be given to governments/cultural ministries). In 1997, the unit developed the methodology for the production of a "Compendium of Basic Facts on European Cultural Policy" which will provide summary information and an update of the "National Cultural Policy Reviews" which have been carried out so far. This manual, also available in electronic form, will be set up in collaboration with two networks of cultural information and research centres in Europe (CIRCLE and IRMO). In order to be able to take into account the latest trends in scientific thinking and practices in the field of cultural policies, the CDCC collaborated with both networks in 1997. A round table on "Privatisation in the field of the arts and culture" was held by CIRCLE with the support of the Council of Europe in Amsterdam in June, in association with the Dutch Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the European Union. A new publication series of "policy notes" was also created in 1997 by the unit which offers short synoptic and/or comparative reports on topical cultural policy issues. Two notes are available in draft form on the subjects of "Cultural Policy for the Young" and "VAT and Book Policy". As regards publications, the unit further elaborated the methodology for both a "Compendium of recommendations" (forthcoming in 1999) and the first comparative sectoral study ("Transversal Study") on "Privatisation" to be carried out in 1998 in the division. Other activities of the unit in 1997 included the establishment of a network of corresponding partners which will complement the close contacts maintained with culture ministries through the Culture Committee. This network is made up of cultural research institutions in each member country of the European Cultural Convention, European cultural research networks, as well as relevant and interested associations and institutions. Liaison with these partners, information services, current documentary activities, the creation of a modern address management system including information on experts, and two meetings of the Advisory Group on the Research and Development Unit held in February and December respectively in order to help define its brief and plan the 1998 activities completed the work carried out by the unit in 1997.

Partnership with the networks

In order to promote exchanges and dialogue between networks and the dissemination of the results of its own work, the Council of Europe organised a meeting for a consultative platform of cultural networks and NGOs in Strasbourg in January 1997.

Support was also given to enable professionals from central and eastern Europe to participate in meetings of specialised networks during the year (Informal European Theatre Meeting, *Res Artis*, Biennale Giovani Artisti, Gulliver, Eu Net Art, and European Council of Artists).

The general assembly of the Forum of European cultural networks was held in Brussels from 19 to 21 September 1997 with the support of the Council of Europe; among the themes discussed was the issue of updating the Arc et Senans Declaration on cultural development.

Artistic exchanges with the countries of central and eastern Europe

Following the wish expressed at the Vienna Summit that the Council of Europe establish partnerships in the cultural domain, the Culture Committee and the Alsace FRAC (French Regional Contemporary Art Funds) initiated a project in 1995 to promote artistic exchanges in Europe and notably with central and eastern European countries. The National Association of Directors of the FRAC (ANDF) and the Alsace Regional Cultural Department (DRAC)

immediately lent their support and became active collaborators in this operation.

The first phase of this project was completed at the end of 1996. It consisted of establishing strong ties between those in charge of the visual arts in France and their counterparts in central and eastern European countries, and raising awareness of the artistic potential which exists in these countries.

In this way, and thanks to the welcome extended by the authorities of the different states, a large number of French experts were able to visit seventeen central and eastern European countries.

These experts (Directors of the FRAC, directors of arts centres and visual arts advisers to the DRAC – Regional Cultural Departments) visited the workshops of more than 250 artists, met more than 30 directors of artistic institutions, presented and discussed this project with representatives of the Ministries of Culture, and met representatives of the Open Society Foundation in most of the countries concerned who, in all cases, were willing to support the exchanges.

The first contacts thus made were collated in a guide to the central and east European art scene and published by the FRAC-Alsace and the Council of Europe in October 1997 under the title *Apollonia*. Further, as a direct result of the project and with a financial grant from the Culture Committee some twenty-two artists from these countries were able to participate in the biennial contemporary art show "Sélést'Art" (14 September to 12 October 1997).

Preparations then began for extending the *Apollonia Guide* and stimulating networking by making it accessible on the Internet. Work also began on several concrete artistic exchanges involving Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Russia and Slovakia to be carried out in 1998-99.

c. "Culture and neighbourhoods"

This action-research project, initiated in 1993 in order to explore how culture shapes or could shape the future of our cities, has now come to the end of its operational phase. Set up to raise awareness among cultural and urban policy makers of the interdependence between culture, creativity and social solidarity, the project was conducted in eleven European cities and twenty-four inner city and outlying neighbourhoods. It addressed questions such as infrastructure for culture, participation and access to culture, decentralisation and financing of culture, social exclusion, multiculturalism and people-based cultural policies. Both the series of publications evolving from the project, as well as the various meetings and conferences held on the project, provided a broad picture of cultural life and innovative trends in European neighbourhoods. In 1997 the project achieved the preparation of two more volumes of the publication series, one a collection of essays and interviews with contemporary specialists who give their views on the subject of neighbourhood culture and the other a manual on the training of cultural agents in urban neighbourhoods. With the completion of the attractive publication series in early 1998, efforts will now concentrate on the dissemination of the findings of the project, for example of good practices and policy proposals. In this respect the database on neighbourhood cultural practices, which was established at the University of Deusto, Bilbao, the "Culture and neighbourhoods" network, which was incorporated into the existing "Banlieues d'Europe" network, and last but not least the newly established Cultural Policies Research and Development Unit of the Culture Committee will prove to be helpful tools. Under the umbrella of this unit (see also 1.b) the follow-up to the project will be ensured, through, *inter alia*, the production of a "Policy Note" in 1998 on "Culture and Neighbourhoods" which will be co-financed by the Swiss Government. ■

2. Access to the new world of learning

a. Books and archives

Initially scheduled to come to an end in 1997, the Electronic publishing, Books and Archives Project was first extended until 1999 and, at the 15th meeting of the Culture Committee in September 1997, it was prolonged again until 2001 with an assessment planned in 2000.

This decision reflects the development of the project's mandate which, with regard to books, was initially to help the creation of a "healthy" book sector in central and eastern European countries, and which has now been extended to include the rapidly growing cultural concerns of globalisation, privatisation of cultural institutions, creative employment and shaping up of the "Intelligence Society". The change of the project's title from "Books and archives" to "Electronic publishing, Books and Archives" also reflects the "New technologies" priority, set in the cultural field at the second Council of Europe summit (October 1997).

New Book Economy – BIS (Building up the Information Society) is a project initiated by the Council of Europe and funded by the European Social Fund – Community Initiative ADAPT. The project intends to requalify and train the entire book chain in its shift towards electronic publishing and to investigate issues linked with the emergence of the new knowledge chain. The Electronic publishing, Books and Archives Project ensures the transnational link of this project. In 1997, Germany, the Netherlands and Italy ran New Book Economy projects. The overall budget was 2.9 million ecus and training was provided to over 2 000 professionals. Five transnational events including conferences and presentations at the Frankfurt Book Fair (October 1997) and some twenty national workshops and seminars were organised on issues such as new professional profiles, market analysis and reading habits. Training packages for the electronic publishing field have been developed. In 1997, the New Book Economy –

BIS Project was approved in Austria, France, Netherlands (two projects), Germany, Sweden and Finland with an overall budget of approximately 10 million ecus.

Concerning democratic and ethical issues within the information chain, a report on "Freedom of expression: issues linked to its respect within the communication networks" has been prepared and support was given to the *"Salon du livre anti-fasciste"* held in Gardane, France, in November 1997. Links with the Directorate of Human Rights have been established in order to work together on this issue.

Following the major Conference on Legislation for the Book World, held in November 1996, 1997 was devoted to implementation activities concerning the conclusions and recommendations of this conference. Awareness seminars were held in Bulgaria on the VAT rate (over 20% in that country) and in Ukraine where a new law on publishing which reduces publishers' independence has recently been approved. Likewise, thanks to contacts made with the Portuguese authorities, the new legislation introduced in Portugal for books as well as for audiovisual matters has been inspired by our work. Links with Unesco have been strengthened and activities are carried out jointly with this organisation. A report on "VAT and book policies: impact and issues" was produced jointly with the Cultural Policies, Research and Development Unit.

Work has continued in 1997 to support the development of Books in Print catalogues in countries of central and eastern Europe. With the support of the Council of Europe, a pilot version of the Bulgarian Books in Print catalogue has been published in printed and CD-Rom form. A feasibility study for a Croatian Books in Print catalogue has been prepared and work is continuing on this issue in the Baltic republics, Russia and Ukraine.

As in previous years, in 1997, fourteen translation bursaries were provided to translators from central and eastern Europe to translate a book for which they have a contract with a publisher.

The first meeting of the Book Cultural Route took place in Strasbourg in December 1997. The management structure and the first activities of the route were established. These include the development of a European guide to organisations concerned with the book and the production of a CD-Rom on the history of the book in Europe.

Activities concerning archives continue to be central to the Electronic Publishing, Books and Archives Project. In 1997, work continued on the draft recommendation on a European policy on access to archives which was presented at the 15th Session of the Culture Committee. Following suggestions made by some delegations and by the different instances of the Council of Europe, a revised draft recommendation is being prepared for eventual submission to the Committee of Ministers for approval.

Work on the computerisation of the *Komintern* archives continued in 1997 in order to create a comprehensive database of the information contained in these archives. The agreement for its implementation was signed in 1997 between the International Council on Archives and the Archival Service of the Federation of Russia (*Rosarhiv*) under the aegis of the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe has also supported training activities for Russian archivists working on this project. A brochure presenting this activity has been produced and a press conference held in Moscow in November 1997.

b. New technologies: cultural co-operation and communication

The year 1997, rich in events, has witnessed the development of the project dedicated to the reflection on the society of tomorrow and the emergence of new information technologies. The theme of new technologies was considered sufficiently important to be taken up in the Final Declaration of the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government (Strasbourg, 10-11 October 1997) and to be included in its Action Plan. The project group, in the light of the outcomes of the meetings in Montbéliard, Amsterdam and London (see below) and the summit's directives, is currently developing the different elements of the project "New information technologies".

The starting point was the study of new relationships between culture, education and industry as they are created by the new technologies. Particular account was taken of original co-operation between public and private institutions in this field. Moreover, the creation of networks of all those who daily construct the information society – artists, researchers, programmers, teachers, trainers, producers and diffusers of information, cultural administrators and policy-makers, was encouraged and developed.

The central theme of action in 1997 has been the role of the citizen as the principal actor in the process of creation, production, development and interrogation of the transformations currently taking place. A European study on "The Artist, the Citizen and the Entrepreneur" was prepared and accompanied by two seminars of discussion and forward thinking – in May in Montbéliard (France) and in November in London (United Kingdom) during which more than five hundred experts from all over Europe, from Canada and from the United States came together.

With a care for developing precise suggestions and recommendations for cultural policies in this field, a Conference "Towards a European culture of new media – From practice to policy" took place in October in Amsterdam (Netherlands). More than a classic conference, this conference was a great celebration of European culture, with presentations of projects, projections and concerts which animated the Dutch capital over three days. The event finished with the publication of the *Amsterdam Agenda* containing an analysis of the guiding principles of a future policy for the new media.

Pursuing the efforts to develop new partnerships, a seminar for specialists in the arts and industry was organised last summer in Souillac (France) with the aim of establishing the basis for a dialogue between artists and manufacturers in the field of telecommunications, in a

relationship with governments and important international organisations. The meeting resulted in the presentation of the first version of a "Charter for Arts and Industry" during the Telecom Interactive '97 organised by the International Union of Telecommunications in Geneva.

One should also note the publication, by Editions Odile Jacob (France), of a version "for the general public" of *Cyberculture* by Pierre Lévy (philosopher and professor at the University of Paris VIII) which presents the new technologies and their use in a clear and accessible fashion and explains the challenge which they represent.

Another collaboration – with the Czech authorities – resulted in the publication of the proceedings of the Prague Conference (1996) or *New Ideas in Science and Arts*. A special number on this theme is planned with Culturelink in Zagreb in 1998. ■

3. Globalisation, creativity and young people

a. Culture, creativity and young people

This new project was launched by the Culture Committee in November 1996, after a one-year preliminary phase. The aims of the activity, which is to be carried out over a three-year period (1997-99), are:

– to facilitate regional, national and international debate on provision for the cultural and creative development of young people both inside and outside the formal education system;

– to stimulate networking, the setting up of partnerships and the exchange of information between both governmental and non-governmental organisations;

– to identify and encourage good practice in this field in the member states both through analyses of existing provision and through selected pilot projects.

In 1997, the survey on arts education provision in Europe which was carried out in twenty-two member states during the preliminary phase was published and widely disseminated. Thematic studies were commissioned on four key issues which emerged from the survey (young people and commercial culture; culture and the arts as an element to foster cultural diversity and intercultural understanding; funding of youth activities in cultural and artistic organisations; training of teachers and artists to the use of arts and culture as a development tool).

Two regional meetings were organised in Bratislava (Slovakia) on 24 and 25 October 1997 and in Helsinki (Finland) on 21 and 22 November 1997 to discuss the interim reports of the thematic studies; identify national interests and priorities within this field; discuss the aims and design of the pilot projects; identify potential partnerships between member states in the design and conduct of the pilot projects; create active networks. These regional meetings were attended by some eighty participants from twenty-eight countries, from governmental and non-governmental sectors.

b. European cinema: a cultural heritage for young people

According to the wishes expressed by the European Ministers responsible for Cultural Affairs during their 8th Conference (Budapest, October 1996), the Culture Committee set up an activity relating to young people and the cinema. A survey instigated by member states allowed the gathering of a dozen detailed replies and this information has been completed by detailed research, particularly on the Internet. This work was entrusted to an expert who acted as general rapporteur at the conference. His work was completed in January 1997 and, given the numerous propositions for action in favour of young people, it will be submitted to the next session of the Culture Committee which will decide whether this activity should be pursued.

The activity relating to the protection of the audiovisual heritage remains another important part. The draft convention has been placed on reserve whilst waiting for a more specific task on the problems relating to the audiovisual field. If a protocol can be drawn up, or if the propositions of the working group created for this purpose allow the incorporation of certain arrangements to the draft convention, this delay in the opening for signature of the draft convention will not have been useless. It should be noted that the draft protocol is being prepared by a working group consisting of four representatives of the CDCC and four representatives of the CDMM.

Finally, there is no doubt that the new technologies will have an effect on the cinema, particularly on the distribution of films. The first elements for a discussion have been accumulated and a contribution to the project desired by the heads of state and government during the second summit is planned. ■

4. Visions of Europe

a. Cultural routes

1997 has been an important year for the development of the Cultural Routes Project as it marks the creation of the European Institute of Cultural Routes in Luxembourg. A draft agreement has been drawn up between the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and

the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and the institute can become operational as soon as the draft agreement has been adopted by the Committee of Ministers. The institute will manage the ever-growing number of requests for inclusion in the project as a cultural route and, in particular, will prepare a report on new proposals and provide an opinion on the viability of proposed projects. These proposals will be examined by an advisory council which is made up of representatives of the Culture and Cultural Heritage Committees. At the end of the examination a category and certification will be proposed by the Culture Committee which will decide on the type of certification according to criteria clearly laid down in a regulation and protocol agreement.

It must be underlined that, thanks to this co-operation with the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Cultural Routes programme can make a new start and participate fully in strengthening an awareness of our European citizenship. It will no longer just indicate a European space by sign-posting the great common paths of our history, but rather will highlight influences, exchanges and evolutions which have formed European identity. In particular, it will work to create awareness amongst young people of the different currents of European thought.

A detailed presentation of the criteria and functioning of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe can be found in document CDCC (98) 12.

The meeting of the Advisory Council (Strasbourg, June 1997) was devoted to the eligibility of three new routes: the Heritage of Al-Andalous, Northern Lights Route and Popular Festivals and Rites in Europe.

In parallel, meetings and presentations have taken place throughout the year. Amongst the most important, the meeting of the College of European Citizenship on Monastic Influences (Sylvanès, October 1997) should be mentioned and the events linked to calendar festivals (Popular Festivals and Rites in Europe and Northern Lights Routes: meetings in Norway and France, December 1997).

Several meetings have been held which aim to allow old-established projects to transform their activities more easily into ones which correspond to the newly established criteria. For example, a meeting was held to redefine new policies for the Baroque Network for which different partners currently cover the financing (Eichstätt, September 1997).

b. Art exhibitions

This activity, initiated in 1954, has contributed more than most to the Council of Europe's prestige in the cultural field. The exhibitions are very well known and well attended. They are held approximately every three years and are aimed at enhancing knowledge and appreciation of European art in its unity and its diversity.

Over some forty years the series has succeeded in illustrating most of the great epochs: byzantine, romanesque, gothic, humanist, classical, baroque, rococo, neo-classical, romantic, modern and contemporary. Some exhibitions have focused more particularly on people who left an indelible mark on their time: for instance, Charlemagne, Queen Christina of Sweden, the Knights of Malta, the Medici or King Christian IV of Denmark.

The exhibitions of recent years, while presenting art of the highest quality, have largely dealt with movements of people and ideas which have modelled Europe as we know it: the ancient civilisations of Anatolia, the Vikings, the Portuguese discoveries, the French revolution and the republican ideals (Emblems of Liberty), while the latest two "Art and Power – Europe under the dictators 1930-45" (1995-96) and "The dream of happiness – the art of historicism in Europe" (1996) illustrate the powerful interplay between society and its art and artists.

The preparation and organisation of the exhibitions are a remarkable example of partnership. While the country hosting the exhibition is obviously responsible for its organisation, the other participating countries provide the host country with technical assistance and lend it works of art from their museums. The bulk of the cost of foreign loans is defrayed by the Council of Europe's art exhibitions account funded by states' voluntary contributions; however, some states cover the costs of their loans themselves. This gives every country, regardless of its size or wealth, access to the resources of the whole of Europe in order to organise one of the exhibitions in the series.

The themes of the exhibitions are proposed to the Secretary General by the states parties to the European Cultural Convention. The inclusion of a theme in the series is decided by the CDCC after it has received the opinion of a group of consultants made up of directors of eight major museums in Europe. This group works in close co-operation with the Secretariat and the directors of the public or private museums or institutions on which the availability of the works to be exhibited depends.

Once a theme has been approved for inclusion in the series, a European organising committee – composed generally of museum professionals and art historians – is set up to assist the authorities of the country in mounting the exhibition and particularly in selecting and obtaining the loan of works of art from abroad.

The exhibitions give a stimulus for scientific, historical and art-historical research into the period concerned while the catalogues provide an invaluable and lasting series of reference works. In some cases the holding of an exhibition has led to the creation of new museums and restoration workshops as in the last decade in Florence, Lisbon and Istanbul. The exhibitions are held normally every three years and remain open normally for a period of three to four months.

Exhibitions in 1997

The 24th exhibition, "The dream of happiness – the art of historicism in Europe", opened on 12 September 1996 in the presence of the Austrian Minister of Education and Culture, Ms Elisabeth Gehrer, and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr Daniel Tarschys,

remained on show at the Künstlerhaus and the Academy of Beaux-Arts in Vienna until 6 January 1997.

Drawing inspiration from a highly idealised vision of the past and simultaneously holding out the promise of a new golden age, the nineteenth-century historicist movement created an unprecedented "dream of happiness". Its legacy of art and styles in most major European cities remain popular attractions while its intoxicating mythology mixing nostalgia with unshakeable trust in progress continues to thrive. After "Art and power" under the second world war dictators, the Council of Europe thought fit to take a fresh look at this more distant but equally fascinating period of our history where art played a decisive part in the forming of mentalities and public adhesion to a given model of society.

Council of Europe auspices were also granted to the exhibition "Rudolf II and Prague – the imperial court and residential city as the cultural and spiritual centre of central Europe", which was opened by the Czech President, Václáv Havel, at Prague Castle. The exhibition remained open to the public from 30 May 1997 until 7 September 1997.

The exhibition illustrated the European character of Prague around the year 1600 and Emperor Rudolf's role as a patron of international art. Some 2 000 objects, lent by prestigious European and American collections, were on display in the five locations chosen for their historic relevance to the theme.

Exhibitions in preparation

Two exhibitions in the series are being actively prepared and further projects are being considered by the group of consultants.

The 25th exhibition: "Europe at the time of Ulysses" will be held in Copenhagen, from 26 December 1998 to 5 April 1999; in Bonn, from 7 May to 15 August 1999; in Paris, from 30 September 1999 to 5 January 2000, and in Athens, from February to April 2000.

Designed for a very wide public, this exhibition will present life in the societies of the first Europeans. Through reconstructions of dwellings and shrines and a large number of exceptional art works and treasure troves, visitors will recognise the existence of common beliefs and techniques, the affinities and the diversity of the early inhabitants of this continent. On display will be the splendours of the Cretan and Mycenian palaces, the golden sun-chariots and the intriguing treasures sunk in the northern marshes or deposited close by the market towns of central Europe. Of special interest in this period, and running through the whole exhibition, is the cult of the heroes – grand figures who founded the societies of the Greeks, the Celts, the Thracians, the Etruscans – the direct heirs of the Europe of Ulysses.

The 26th exhibition: "1648 – War and peace in Europe" is to be shown in Münster and Osnabrück, from 24 October 1998 to 17 January 1999.

The exhibition will present the developments that led up to the Thirty Years' War in Europe, its ending with the Peace Treaty of Westphalia (signed in 1648) and the subsequent effects it had. The aim is further to confront the beginnings of the modern age in the seventeenth century with the shape of Europe 350 years later in the last decade of the twentieth century, both eras preceded by bloody conflicts and tremendous upheavals. The principal art-historical subjects of the exhibition will be war (Rubens, le Lorrain, Mertis, Callot, G. de la Tour, Teniers, de Vries, Velazquez), visions of peace (Rubens, Jordaens, Giordano, van Nieulandt), the Treaty (Terborch), portraits (Bernini, Ph. de Champaigne, Velazquez), as well as the art of peace celebrations and monuments to peace (such as city hall of Amsterdam). ■

5. Training of cultural administrators

Launched in 1992, this programme is intended to respond to the need to train a new generation of cultural administrators, who are sensitive to local needs, but also have a European vision, and are able to meet the high standards of professionalism required today in cultural management.

In 1997, this activity included the following:

Travel bursary system

A total of 160 bursaries for trainees and experts were granted through this system, which is designed to promote mobility and exchanges in the field of arts management training.

Support for the European Diploma in cultural project management

This course is attended every year by some twenty-five European professionals working in the cultural field and wishing to acquire specialised skills and knowledge in arts management and in European cultural co-operation. In 1997, the training sessions were held in Italy (March) and the United Kingdom and France (September/October).

Support for the European Network of Cultural Administration Training Centres

The network, which now has a membership of about eighty-five training centres across Europe, held its annual general assembly in Bilbao (Spain) on 16 and 17 May 1997. In 1997, the network also published issues 13 to 16 of its *Newsletter*, distributed to some 500 contacts throughout Europe and continued work on the interactive database of cultural administration training centres, to be made available as a CD-Rom. Two publications compiled within the network were published by the Council of Europe in 1997: the *Directory of cultural administration and arts management*

courses in Europe, and *Challenges for cultural policy and management in central and eastern Europe* (the proceedings of an international symposium organised by the network in Zittau, Germany, in September 1996).

Seminar on internationalisation of cultural projects and cultural co-operation in Europe

The Secretariat organised a training seminar on the "Internationalisation of cultural projects and cultural co-operation in Europe" at the Council of Europe's European Youth Centre in Budapest from 14 to 16 November 1997. The seminar was attended by eighteen cultural administrators and arts managers from central and eastern European countries. ■

Cultural Heritage Committee

The Cultural Heritage Committee held its plenary session on 20 and 21 March 1997. In accordance with the guidelines set out in the final declaration of the Vienna Summit and the political criteria established by the Committee of Ministers, the 1997 work programme in the cultural heritage field concentrated on follow-up to the 4th European Conference of Ministers responsible for the Cultural Heritage (Helsinki, 30 and 31 May 1996), development of technical and professional co-operation programmes (which have become the mainstay of the CC-PAT's work), particularly with our Organisation's new member states, and follow-up to the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government (Strasbourg, 10 and 11 October 1997).

The summit reaffirmed the importance of protecting and heightening awareness of the cultural and natural heritage in Europe. The heads of state and government decided to launch a campaign on the theme of "Europe, a common heritage" in 1999, respecting cultural diversity and drawing on existing or new partnerships between government departments, educational and cultural institutions and industry. The campaign will cover the years 1999 and 2000.

The work of informing and educating the public about the heritage was greatly intensified: some 18 million citizens attended the 1997 European Heritage Days in 43 states; Russia and Bosnia and Herzegovina took part for the first time.

The Cultural Heritage Committee continued to provide the technical and professional co-operation requested by member states, but concentrated more especially on:

– arrangements for implementing a mechanism for protecting and enhancing the built heritage and archaeological sites reflecting the historical cultural diversity of one particular territory, whatever its current political situation;

– preparation of a Committee of Ministers recommendation to member states on tourism to promote the cultural heritage as a factor for sustainable development;

– preparation of a compendium of financial and legal guidelines likely to help create jobs in the field of the utilisation, maintenance and restoration of the built heritage, and development of a European methodology for heritage management from the sustainable development point of view;

– combating unlawful trafficking in cultural property. Preparatory work has already been launched in order to set up dialogue and wide-ranging consultations, involving all the relevant partners: governments, police and customs departments, representatives of the art market, religious institutions, etc. ■

1. Heritage and society

Heritage and identity

This part of the programme ties in directly with the 4th European Conference of Ministers responsible for the Cultural Heritage (Helsinki, 30 and 31 May 1996). In the follow-up to Resolution No. 1 of the conference on " the cultural heritage as a factor in building Europe", a project is under way to identify the main national and regional territories which have an architectural heritage reflecting the cultural diversity which has emerged there throughout history – whatever the current political context – and to gather together all the documentation needed to obtain as comprehensive a picture as possible of the situation in this area in Europe today. A select group of experts met in December 1997 to examine the practical proposals with a view to drafting a recommendation.

Heritage and sustainable development

This Conference of Ministers adopted Resolution No. 2 on cultural heritage as a factor of sustainable development. In this respect, a select group of experts has begun work on a draft recommendation on sustainable cultural tourism. It examined the preliminary draft recommendation in December 1997.

With a view to producing a European methodology for heritage management directed towards sustainable development, information is being compiled on the various projects conducted throughout Europe with regard to sustainable production and consumption.

Another aspect stressed at the 4th Conference was the need for specific legal and fiscal measures to encourage the creation of jobs in connection with the use, upkeep and

restoration of the built heritage. Existing documentation is now being collated with a view to the submitting proposals to the Committee of Ministers on the establishment of an inter-ministerial European working party, in keeping with the *ad hoc* terms of reference assigned to the CC-PAT by the Committee of Ministers.

European Heritage Information Network

In accordance with the resolutions of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference (1996) and the CC-PAT's programme priorities, the project to develop a computerised, multimedia information tool was the subject of an application for support to the European Commission (DG XIII – Programme "Telematics Applications Programme"). The project entitled HEREIN (Heritage Information Network) was favourably examined by the authorities in Brussels and the application was finalised at a meeting of the Management Committee for the HEREIN Project on 23 and 24 September 1997 in Paris, so that it should be possible to launch the project in 1998.

Furthermore, the whole *Report on cultural heritage policies in Europe* as published in 1996 will be available on the "Europe of cultural co-operation" Internet site in March 1998.

Heritage education and awareness-raising programme

In the field of heritage education, the preliminary draft recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states concerning heritage education has been submitted to the CC-PAT. In view of its transverse character, the preliminary draft was also submitted to the Education Committee (CC-ED), with which it works in close co-operation. A select committee of experts was instructed to finalise the text of this preliminary draft, which was then forwarded to the CDCC for adoption in 1998 and for submission to the Committee of Ministers. Consideration is being given to the possibility of setting up a joint Council of Europe/European Union working group on heritage education. A network of resource sites common to heritage teaching and the cultural routes is being established.

Training seminars were held for teachers and cultural operators on European heritage classes in co-operation with the School and Out-of School Education Section of the Directorate of Education, Culture and Sport in: Donaueschingen (Germany, 11-15 May 1997), Hvar (Croatia, 26-31 July 1997) and Lisbon (Portugal, 28 October-1 November 1997).

Because of the elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the official launch ceremony for the 1997 European Heritage Days (EHD), to be held in Sarajevo, was unable to take place. A press conference was chaired by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. In 1997, this activity (EHD) was carried out in forty-three states (Russia and Bosnia and Herzegovina participated for the first time). European Heritage Days are organised with the help of the King Baudouin Foundation (Belgium) and receive support from the European Union. The Chair of the CC-PAT participated in the national opening ceremonies in Latvia and Norway and the Head of the Cultural Heritage Division attended the ceremony in Russia.

Most of the co-ordinators attending the Annual Assembly of National Co-ordinators in Strasbourg (4 and 5 December 1997) agreed on the choice of the theme for the campaign on "Europe, a Common Heritage" as a unifying theme for the 1999 European Heritage Days.

A specific Internet site for the European Heritage Days was created in 1997. ■

2. Professional co-operation

Action against unlawful trafficking in cultural property

In the context of efforts to combat unlawful trafficking in cultural property, a number of sectoral meetings have been prepared. A preliminary meeting with representatives of the art market was held in London on 18 June 1997 (the sectoral meeting being scheduled for 7 to 9 January 1998). The Secretariat attended the International Art Theft Symposium, organised by the FBI, which was held in Washington from 10 to 14 November 1997.

Preliminary work has been carried out to organise sectoral meetings with customs and churches representatives. Due to the fact that sectoral meetings must take place before the organisation of the international forum, this forum has been postponed to 1998.

Vocational training and further training programme

A vocational workshop on training in heritage skills was held in Riga (Latvia) from 9 to 11 October 1997.

Several operations in the field of further vocational training were conducted in 1997 by the European Foundation for Heritage Skills (FEMP), under the auspices of the CC-PAT, under the programmes supported by the European Commission:

– MINOTEC programme (use of new technologies in ancient places of performance): meeting to prepare the Verona International Colloquy on New Technologies and the Enhancement of Ancient Places of Performance (Messene, Greece, 30 May-1 June 1997); Colloquy (Verona, Italy, 29-31 August 1997).

A draft charter on the use of ancient places of performance is currently being prepared;

– AGESA programme (European workshop on the management of archaeological sites): three vocational seminars in Pompeii (Italy, 16-23 September 1997), Messene (Greece, 16-22 October 1997) and Arles (France, 8-15 December 1997);

– Transnational Pilot Project for the further training of historic building site managers: the management committee held a seminar in London from 13 to 15 November 1997.

The FEMP and various partners have forwarded several applications for support for activities starting in 1998. These activities are included in the CC-PAT's working programme:

– HERCULE Project (archaeology and major development works). The first seminar on this subject was held in Burgundy (France) from 11 to 13 September 1997, in liaison with the French Ministry of Cultural Affairs (Heritage Directorate) and the Mont Beuvray European Archaeology Centre; this was the first stage in the project;

– SALAMBÔ Project (further vocational training in decorative heritage arts);

– Transnational long-term project on inventory and documentation techniques in the architectural heritage field. Another course will be organised in 1998 in close co-operation with the Belgian authorities;

– CARAVELA Pilot Project (educational and careers guidance regarding heritage skills).

Lastly, the FEMP has conducted other activities on the CC-PAT's behalf:

– the first European colloquies on vocational guidance in the field of skills relating to the architectural heritage, decorative complexes and movable heritage items (Paris, Carrousel du Louvre, 27 September 1997);

– meeting of the HEREIN Programme Management Committee (see "Heritage and society") in Paris, 23 and 24 September 1997;

– MASTRO vocational further training course for master craftsmen, run by the Venice European Centre for Architectural Heritage Conservation Skills.

Protection of the cultural heritage against physical deterioration

In the field of preventing damage to the cultural heritage, the draft Committee of Ministers recommendation to member states on sustained care of the cultural heritage against physical deterioration due to pollution and other similar factors was adopted by the Committee of Ministers as Recommendation No. R (97) 2 on 4 February 1997. A seminar on "Sustained care of the cultural heritage against deterioration due to pollution and other similar factors – assessment, risk management and public awareness" was held in Stockholm from 24 to 26 April 1997. During this event, which was jointly organised with the *Rikssantikvarieämbetet* (Swedish Heritage Directorate), Recommendation No. R (97) 2 was officially presented and expanded. A project to set up "laboratory sites" is currently being considered, and should facilitate follow-up to the three Committee of Ministers recommendations to member states on protection against physical deterioration of the cultural heritage. A select group of specialists met in Strasbourg in November 1997 to prepare the ground for this project.

Archaeological activities

In 1997 the (revised) European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, which came into force on 25 May 1995, was ratified by two further member states, namely Ireland and Romania, bringing the total to thirteen: Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden and Switzerland.

Campaign on "The Bronze Age, the First Golden Age of Europe'"

The campaign was officially closed with an international conference in Berlin in March 1997. Twenty-seven speakers from seventeen European countries took stock of the activities and identified new prospects for scientific research into and promotion of archaeology as a component part of the present-day social environment. The 500 or so participants launched an appeal to the Council of Europe to continue its work on behalf of the archaeological heritage by organising public awareness activities, incorporating archaeology into sustainable development policies and promoting the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage. An exhibition entitled "Offerings for the Gods – Treasures of the Bronze Age" was organised alongside the conference. The results of the campaign are to be published in a report, accompanied by a wealth of illustrations. A joint publishing venture is currently being negotiated. A large number of colloquies, encounters and exhibitions were organised in the member states as part of the campaign.

Several member states decided to continue the campaign at national level, using travelling exhibitions to reach a wide audience. The Council of Europe's 25th Art Exhibition, which is currently being prepared, will be on the theme of "Gods and Heroes in the Bronze Age – Europe at the Time of Ulysses" (exhibition to be opened in Copenhagen in December 1998). Poland is intending to organise an exhibition, which will also go on tour after its inauguration at the Council of Europe, on recent rescue excavations under a project on archaeology and major development works.

Urban archaeology

The steering group set up in 1994 continued its updating work with a view to publishing the "Report on the situation of urban archaeology in Europe". Germany recently submitted its contribution, bringing the number of national summaries to twenty-three. The report will complement the one on cultural heritage policies in Europe, and is about to be published.

Apart from the situation analysis, the steering group's terms of reference include defining a methodology for conserving and enhancing the archaeological heritage in town planning. The group held two meetings to give practical form to their approach, and began formulating a working instrument entitled "Code of Best Practice" in town planning, intended for all the partners involved. A draft code will be presented at an international seminar in Thessaloniki (Greece) in April 1998. ■

3. Technical co-operation and consultancy programme

The technical co-operation and consultancy programme on the integrated conservation of the cultural heritage is geared to helping any requesting national, regional or local authorities to solve the complex problems involved in the integrated conservation and enhancement of their cultural heritage.

The implementation of this programme takes the following forms:

– technical co-operation missions, possibly continuing with follow-up programmes. The latter programmes offer the authorities in question a fixed period of support in implementing the recommendations formulated by the experts during the technical co-operation missions. Vocational or multipurpose workshops may be organised under the follow-up programmes;

– specific action plans, offering a comprehensive approach to the various aspects of implementing heritage policies, based on interaction among the activities on the CC-PAT's programme. These plans may give rise to pilot projects enabling participants to develop, on a medium- and long-term basis, a complete process that is exemplary and can therefore be regarded as a project of Europe-wide importance. They may also give rise to pilot operations aimed at analysing a site of national interest in order to create a technical framework for exchange with the national professionals. Lastly, they may lead to legislative support missions, providing expert assistance in the discussions of authorities involved in a legislative or administrative reform process.

The Working Group on Technical Co-operation and Consultancy, which manages this programme within the Cultural Heritage Committee, held a plenary session in Strasbourg (France) on 9 December 1997. The decisions taken at this meeting confirm the developments in the programme and the diversification of facilities for action, while fostering substantive discussion on the achievements of the programme with an eye to follow-up to the Strasbourg Summit, particularly the "Europe; a Common Heritage" Campaign.

In 1997, for the second year running, the Secretariat convened the Board of Experts in Paris on 12 and 13 June and in Bruges (Belgium) on 2 and 3 December. This informal group, which was set up by the Secretariat and operates under the working group's control, is made up of experts involved in the missions organised under the programme. This board, or "forum", is mandated to advise the Secretariat in its technical and methodological decision-making, while the working group is the statutory body responsible for managing the programme in administrative and political terms.

In 1997 the programme, which is set out in detail below, gave rise to 60 activities in 14 different countries; 97 experts participated, 38 of them from central and east European countries. The activities were as follows:

Technical co-operation missions

Three such missions were carried out in 1997:

– Carcassonne (France), 27-29 October;

– Lisbon (Portugal), 12 and 13 December;

– Zeijtun (Malta), 28 and 29 August.

Follow-up programmes

In 1997, the two programmes, which had been proceeding since 1994, continued in:

– Banskká Štiavnica (Slovak Republic): co-ordinating meeting in Banskká Štiavnica from 2 to 4 April;

– Telč (Czech Republic): co-ordinating meeting in Telč on 5 and 6 April; professional exchange in Paris from 11 to 14 June; meeting in Quebec (Canada) from 1 to 5 September; meeting in Evora (Portugal) from 17 to 20 September; contract for Mr Koleika; subsidy for Telč Centre XXI; Secretariat mission to Telč from 5 to 7 September.

Specific action plans

The eight specific action plans currently in hand continued and the results are, as follows:

– Albania: political events prevented any action being taken;

– Belarus: technical co-operation mission to Minsk-Grodno from 6 to 10 September;

– Bosnia and Herzegovina: thanks to voluntary contributions from Norway and the Flemish Region of Belgium and the participation of the European Commission, a special effort was made to foster the planned Concerted Action Programme. In 1997, during the first part of the preliminary phase, effective co-ordinating structures were set up, together with mobile technical teams. These teams are supervised by the project leader and project assistant appointed by the Council of Europe, and have done a great deal of investigative work on the situation of the cultural heritage in the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina: co-ordinating meeting in Strasbourg on 21 February 1997; setting up of a working group in Sarajevo; contract for a consultant; preliminary visit to Sarajevo from 6 to 11 March 1997 with a view to concluding the project leader's contract; co-ordinating meeting in Sarajevo from 12 to 15 May 1997 with a view to concluding the project leader's contract; co-ordinating meeting in Bruges on 5 and 6 June 1997; co-ordinating meeting on 25 and 26 June 1997 with a view to concluding the project leader's contract; creation of two mobile teams; contract for analysis of the data collected by mobile teams; contract awarded to the project leader; contract awarded to the project assistant; contracts awarded for contributions to the final report; contracts for the preparation of the report; co-ordinating meeting in Bruges from 16 to 21 September 1997; co-ordinating meeting with the project leader in Brussels on 18 September 1997; co-ordinating meeting with the project leader in Bruges on 18 November 1997;

– Croatia: co-ordinating meeting in Osijek on 6 and 7 March; technical co-operation mission to Osijek from 8 to 12 March;

– Russian Federation: technical co-operation mission (preliminary visit) to Moscow-Rostov from 14 to 16 April; professional exchange in Rochefort (France) from 14 to 18 June; technical co-operation mission to Moscow-Rostov from 21 to 25 September; EHD launch from 12 to 15 September 1997;

– Georgia: the projects have developed quickly in the favourable context created by the World Bank's "Cultural Heritage Initiative", which has been implemented in consultation with the Council of Europe, and by the support of the highest state authorities: Secretariat mission to Washington from 12 to 16 January; technical co-operation mission (preliminary visit) to Tbilisi-Signaghi from 19 to 22 February; co-ordinating meeting in Tbilisi from 9 to 12 April; technical co-operation mission from 14 to 19 April; technical co-operation mission to Tbilisi from 2 to 7 June; professional exchange in Paris, Bordeaux and London from 12 to 18 June; vocational workshop in Tbilisi from 8 to 12 November; Secretariat mission to Washington from 8 to 12 November; vocational workshop in Strasbourg from 19 to 21 November; translation of fundamental texts;

– Latvia: co-ordinating meeting in Strasbourg on 19 March; Secretariat mission to Riga on 17 April; technical co-operation mission to Riga on 8 and 9 May; preliminary mission to Riga from 9 to 14 June, in order to take stock of resources for training in ancient built heritage skills; Secretariat mission to Riga from 20 to 24 June; co-ordinating meeting in Brussels on 10 July; technical co-operation mission to Riga from 13 to 17 September; vocational workshop in Riga from 17 to 27 September; translation of texts for the Legislative Support Unit; meeting of experts on vocational training in heritage skills/Secretariat mission from 9 to 11 October; Secretariat mission to Riga from 30 October to 2 November;

– Slovenia: no action was taken because of the need to redefine the content of the plan.

Furthermore, an investigatory mission was carried out in Malta in order to discuss arrangements for implementing a specific action plan in 1998. Contact was also made with the Bulgarian and Romanian authorities in order to organise investigatory missions with a view to launching specific action plans in 1998 and 1999.

Lastly, several activities provided the opportunity for testing new action tools, which are to be fully operational in 1998:

– Legislative Support Unit, which is to satisfy the increasing numbers of requests for legislative assistance under the Technical Co-operation Programme;

– the Community involvement programme, which was tested in the form of a "Heritage and involvement" programme in co-operation with the King Baudoin Foundation, in the projects at Rostov Veliky (Russian Federation), Telč (Czech Republic) and the Abava valley (Latvia). ■

4. European Foundation for Heritage Skills (FEMP)

The European Foundation for Heritage Skills (FEMP) was set up in 1996 at the Council of Europe's initiative. It is responsible for:

– helping with further vocational training for operators working on the heritage either by assisting with training programme design (training engineering) or by helping with the technical and financial organisation of international pilot projects, dealing with new, untapped fields and encouraging innovation;

– acting in the information and networking field by facilitating data exchange between institutions and professionals from different European countries by using computer resource centres and identifying new modes of information dissemination;

– broadening public awareness and making heritage-oriented manuals and artistic skills more attractive to young people, including emphasising their potential in terms of providing jobs.

In 1997 the FEMP conducted a wide range of activities at the CC-PAT's request (see Section V.2.2). ■

Sport

This report claims to be no more than a straightforward account of the activities of the Sports Sector during 1997. A brief introduction deals with those events in 1997 which took place in the work of the Council of Europe and which have special significance for the work of the Steering Committee for the Development of Sport (CDDS). The main body of the report will detail the work undertaken throughout 1997, area by area, following the structure already adopted for the programme of activities financed by the Sports Fund in 1997. A short final section will attempt to draw some conclusions and pointers for 1998. ■

1. The Council of Europe in 1997

In 1997 preparations for the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Strasbourg on 10 and 11 October 1997, dominated much of the planning in the Organisation, not least in the area of sport. A serious effort was made throughout the year to ensure that sport was mentioned in the final declaration, issued at the close of the meeting. The following text appeared:

"We, the Heads of State and Governments of the member States of the Council of Europe, ... Aware of the educational and cultural dimension of the main challenges to be faced by Europe in the future as well as of the essential role of culture and education in strengthening mutual understanding and confidence between our peoples: ... recognise the role of sport in promoting social integration, particularly among young people."

Both the Final Declaration and accompanying Action Plan, designed to put flesh on the skeleton of the declaration, were particularly orientated towards social questions, continuing the fight against intolerance, racism and xenophobia in Europe and the reform of the structures of the Council of Europe. In the area of sport the concerns of the Action Plan can translate into activities in a number of ways some of which are already taking place and others that, although already marked out, have yet to be explored in depth (see CDDS (97) Misc. 16).

Over a period of years prior to the summit there had already been work on the social significance of sport. Furthermore "Sport for All" has always meant just that – sport for everyone including such specified target groups as people with physical or mental disabilities, migrants, prisoners, as certain texts indicate, for example:

– the Declaration on the Significance of Sport for Society: Health, Socialisation, Economy (8th Conference of European Ministers responsible for Sport, Lisbon, 17-18 May 1995);

– European Charter for Sport for All: Disabled Persons;

– Recommendation No. R (88) 8 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on sport for older persons (adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 18 April 1988);

– Women in Sport, report of the 20th meeting of the CDDS, Appendix 7.

These and similar texts can act as reference points for the CDDS and its Bureau, when designing and planning future activity in the follow-up to the summit.

A further initiative resulting from the second summit concerns the appointment of a Committee of Wise Persons. This group is charged with the task of examining ways to restructure and update the Council in time for the twenty-first century. All areas are bound to come under scrutiny. In the past the sports sector has demonstrated flexibility and readiness to take action when faced with vital concerns. It does, however, need to stay at the forefront of political discussion and delegations are asked to keep in close contact with their permanent representatives during the coming months.

Apart from the summit other events which have ramifications for the CDDS can be found in document CDDS (97) Inf.12, which details the decisions of the Committee of Ministers. The signature of the European Cultural Convention by the three Caucasian republics on 27 April 1997, whereby they became full members of the CDDS, should however be specially noted. ■

2. The CDDS and its Bureau

At its 20th meeting in March (see CDDS (97) 15) the CDDS elected Mrs Raija Mattila, the acting Chair, to act as Chair until March 1998. The CDDS held a policy debate on "Changing sport. How to strengthen democratic values" and submitted an

opinion to the Committee of Ministers on the Parliamentary Assembly's Recommendation 1292 (1996) on young people in high-level sport. It set out guidelines on the future orientation of the CDDS programme with regard to gender equality in response to the Committee of Ministers' request to all steering committees to ensure that work programmes take into account priorities identified in the course of the follow-up to the 4th United Nations Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995).

The Bureau held three very full meetings, accounts of which can be read in the reports (CDDS (97) 35, CDDS (97) 54, CDDS (97) 76).

Besides keeping abreast of the activities of the project groups the Bureau, in collaboration with the Cypriot authorities planned the 15th Informal Meeting of Ministers, to be held in Nicosia, 14-15 May 1997 (see CDDS (97) 76, Appendix III). It also met the Deputies' Rapporteur Group on Culture, Education and Sport and discussed the 1998 programme. It maintained active links with the European Union and international organisations and NGOs ■

3. Programme of activities for 1997

Compliance with commitments

This new project, adapted from an initiative of the Committee of Ministers, was designed to monitor the extent to which member states were respecting the commitments they made when signing and ratifying those Council of Europe conventions and texts which are concerned with sports issues. The exercise is seen as one where help and assistance are offered. Only countries which offer to take part are involved in the project.

In 1997, three countries volunteered to take part in the project. The first visit of an examining team of specialists was to Spain in December 1997, to look at difficulties and successes which this country has encountered in the application of the Spectator Violence Convention. The visit was well organised and has provided a practical model for future activities. It will clearly have repercussions, not only for the Council of Europe but also domestically for the country concerned. The next visits during 1998 will be to Norway (for the Anti-Doping Convention) and Switzerland (for the European Sports Charter and Code of Ethics). Portugal, the United Kingdom and Italy have already volunteered to take part in the second round of visits. ■

4. Democracy and sport

The concern for democratic sports systems underpins the work of the CDDS and is manifest throughout its activities. The continuing emphasis on "Sport for All" translates into a concern for the provision of sporting opportunities for all sectors of the community. In recent years a consistent effort has been made to mainstream the concerns of women in sport into the programme. It will be recalled that the Sprint programme was especially designed to help in the building of a democratic sports movement in all the new member states.

It is apparent that the foundation of any democratic sports system is sound sports legislation. During 1997 countries were asked to send in studies on their sports legislation and an expert is now engaged in preparing an analytical study. ■

5. Tolerance through sport

Following the letter, approved by the CDDS at its 20th meeting, and sent out by the former Deputy Secretary General, Peter Leuprecht, to Sports Ministers in May, some twenty countries appointed national ambassadors on sport, tolerance and fair play. The group of ambassadors met in Strasbourg in December 1997 for an exchange of views and information on national programmes which have been set up to encourage tolerance and fair play in the sports arena. ■

6. Spectator behaviour and safety

Standing Committee of the European Convention on Spectator Violence

During the 17th meeting, held in Strasbourg on 5 and 6 June 1997, the committee:

– adopted a recommendation on the use of standard forms, adopted by the Council of the European Union, for the exchange of information between police services on hooligans;

– adopted a statement on barriers which incorporated the lessons learnt from the European Football Cup in 1996;

– decided to set up an *ad hoc* Working Group for the World Cup (France, 1998). It met for the first time on 20 January 1998 in Strasbourg. The items on the agenda were the preparations for the World Cup, notably the provisions for security, sale of tickets, the barriers in the stadiums. There is also the question of international co-operation and the exchange of information on the movements of supporters;

– took note that the *ad hoc* Working Group on Stewarding is continuing to study training for stewards. This group will examine particularly the needs, and possibilities for a common training scheme at the European level for stewards;

– decided to continue co-operation with the Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI) with a view to organising the European Architectural Prize for sporting complexes. The rules for the fourth competition for the prize will be sent out in 1998. ■

7. Implementation of the Anti-Doping Convention

The Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention (T-DO)

The group held its 8th meeting on 28 and 29 May 1997 in Strasbourg. During this meeting it:

– adopted a resolution approving a new reference list of prohibited substances. In the framework of this, several members of the monitoring group contended that it was necessary to shorten the procedure between the adoption of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) lists (end of January) and the list of the monitoring group. At its next meeting the group will discuss an amendment to its interior rules which will allow states, signatories to the convention, to have recourse to the procedure of written consent;

– examined the question of the use of prohibited substances outside of sport. The Chair was asked to send an official letter to the Committee of Ministers presenting the issue of non-sports use of prohibited substances. Following the Chair's letter, the Committee of Ministers decided to set up an *ad hoc* interdisciplinary working group to examine the extent and repercussions of the problem;

– expected to concentrate its activities in the short term on the questions relating to doping in minors, the use of blood samples for anti-doping controls, the quality control and the harmonisation of anti-doping procedures and sanctions. The four working groups with responsibility for studying the legal, technical, scientific and educational aspects of the activities undertaken by the monitoring group have continued their work. Each group held two meetings in 1997;

– noted that Peru wished to adhere to the convention. Peru's application will be examined in line with the evaluation criteria and submitted to the Committee of Ministers;

– was pleased to note the attendance of China as an observer at the meeting. ■

8. Mutual assistance for new member countries (the Sprint programme)

a. Hearings and visits

There were parliamentary hearings in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo and Pale, April 1997) and Lithuania (Vilnius, November 1997) with the participation of members of the Parliamentary Assembly's Committee on Culture and Education and the CDDS Bureau. These hearings are designed to look at the questions which surround the drafting of new sports legislation and the setting up of a democratic sports system.

An informative and useful visit, financed by a grant from the Finnish authorities, was made to Armenia and Georgia (December 1997). This provided some invaluable background information which will be useful in planning future co-operation.

b. Multinational seminars

Four multinational seminars were held in the context of the Sprint programme, details of which are given below.

i. Topical problems of doping control patterns and analysis (Madrid, 18-20 September 1997)

Organisers

Council of Europe
Consejo Superior de Deportes – Laboratorio Control de Dopaje

Themes

– Topical problems of doping control patterns and analysis;

– The organisation and functioning of the Doping Control laboratory;

– Setting up new methods for analysing samples (visit to laboratory).

Participants: 36

Conclusions: CDDS (97) 53

The conclusions:

– outlined the important role which laboratories play in the fight against doping;

– invited the parties signatories to the Anti-doping Convention to evaluate the cost of establishing a laboratory in their country and/or investigate the possibility of setting up regional partnerships;

– underlined the urgent need for laboratories to use common methods and invest in scientific research.

ii. Physical activity and health (Antalya, 2-4 October 1997)

Organisers

Council of Europe
Turkish General Directorate of Youth and Sport

Themes

– Sports for all = Injuries for all;

– Health-related fitness; concept, assessment and current status;

– Promotion of health-enhancing physical activity in Finland;

– National Fitness Survey; Research, design, implementation and evaluation of a national physical activity promotion strategy and campaign;

– Coronary risk factors in Northern Irish children – Implications for the classroom ;

– The Northern Irish Fitness Survey.

Participants: 25

Conclusions: CDDS (97) 58

These conclusions stressed that, on balance, the benefits of moderate intensity physical activity outweighed the risks of sports injuries and that, therefore, promotional programmes should be initiated to motivate the public to participate in physical activity.

iii. The contribution of sport to a stronger democratic society (Lisbon, 24-26 October 1997)

Organisers

The State Secretary for Sport: CEFD – *Centro de Estudos e Formacao Desportiva* (Centre for Sports Studies and Training)
Council of Europe

Themes

– How a democratic sports system works – Structures:

- the role of the state;

- the role of the local authorities;

- the role of sports federations and clubs;

- the influence and value of the voluntary sector;

– Ways of promoting democracy through sport;

– The actors in a democratic sports system:

- Sport for children – physical education and sports training both in school and sports clubs. Learning democracy through sport. Sport, tolerance and fair play;

- Trainers and their responsibilities as educators in a democratic system. Models for sports training and model codes of ethics;

- Women and sport;

- Overcoming barriers to accession to sport. Ethnic minorities, immigrant communities, disabled people.

Participants: 25

Conclusions: CDDS (97) 62

In their conclusions the participants underlined the importance of well-drafted sports legislation and suggested that the newly appointed ambassadors for sport, tolerance and fair play should look at the problems facing certain sectors of the population with regard to sport. Particular emphasis was placed on the needs of children for care and protection in the sports arena.

iv. Sport and law (29-31 October 1997)

Organisers

Council of Europe
CONI (Italian National Olympic Committee)

Themes

– Common Law and Sports Law;

– European co-operation in the fight against violence in sporting events. Compatibility of different national legislative measures;

– European co-operation in the fight against doping. Compatibility of different national legislative measures;

– Risks in doing sport. Prevention and legal protection.

Participants: 46

Conclusions: CDDS (97) 67

All participants considered the harmonisation of the norms in the field of sport as an essential aim and an obvious necessity for effective European co-operation in this area. ■

9. Mobile seminars

The following mobile seminars were held at national level in 1997:

- Legal, economic social aspects of collaboration between sports organisations and local authorities (Sochi (Russian Federation), 15-18 April 1997);
- Sports management and sports law (Chişinău (Moldova), 9-10 October 1997);
- Sports management and sports legislation (Bucharest (Romania), 6-8 November 1997).

The reports of all three seminars can be found in the document CDDS (98) Inf. 9. ■

10. Action plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina: rehabilitation through sport

During 1997, the Action Plan got properly under way. The first seminar for forming trainers in disabled sport was held in Tuzla (November 1996) and was followed by a second seminar in Zenica (April 1997). A third seminar to complete the training is planned for March 1998.

In August 1997, a camp for children and young people with disabilities, mostly war injuries, was held at Lake Modrac near Tuzla. Some forty-one children attended for a week of activities and games.

Recommendation No. R (97) 8 on rehabilitation through sport for people with disabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina was adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 June 1997 and recommended that governments of member states both give help to the Action Plan and bring it to the attention of various bodies, such as universities, sports organisations.

The list of specific projects for which help was sought from the member states of the CDDS was revised in September 1997. It had become apparent during the year that some of the bigger building projects were unlikely to find sponsors. Most of the other projects have now had some help. Apart from member states of the Council of Europe, help had come from Unesco, the International Council of Military Sport (CISM), the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) and been promised by the International Olympic Committee. There had been assistance in ways other than those specified in the Action Plan, for example, books and periodicals for the library of the Physical Education Faculty at the University of Sarajevo, provision of office equipment, etc.

There have been two areas which have caused concern. To some extent activities have been hampered by the lack of a specific project co-ordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but it is hoped that the post will be occupied in 1998. Secondly, there has been considerable contact with the Republika Sprska, but no suggestions for help have been expressed and no participants have taken part in any of the activities proposed. In 1998 a determined effort will be made to involve the Republika Sprska in the Action Plan. ■

11. The regeneration plan

This interesting plan was drawn up during 1997 and is described in detail in the document, CDDS (97) 21 rev. It is concerned with the development of training programmes for sports managers in the new member states.

Although this a necessary programme for which there is a clear need, the expense entailed makes it important to find partners able to contribute funding. ■

12. Sharing sports information and research

One important development during 1997 was the setting up of the sports pages on the Council of Europe website. The address of this website is www.culture.coe.fr.

There was continuing co-operation with the Clearing House. One of the more important developments in the area of sports information would be the development of a synergy between the Network of National Sport Information Officers (SIONET), the Network of National Sport Research Officers (SRONET) and the Clearing House which is being explored.

A study on sport and the environment was carried out by two experts in 1997 and a panel to discuss the report and adopt a position paper will be held in 1998. ■

Conclusions

Looking back it can be seen that 1997 was a very full year. As for the future, although recognising that change is inevitable and a fact of life, it might be concluded that at present the CDDS is operating from a sound basic structure. In the aftermath of the budget cuts in 1995, lines of action have been established to make for an efficient use of resources. The restructuring of the Sprint programme, the adoption of "Guidelines for future policy" with the Clearing House, together with constant adaptability means that, to a large extent, the last drop of possible juice is being squeezed out of the finite orange. While avoiding complacency there is a saying in English which could perhaps be borne in mind – "if it ain't broken, don't fix it."

The shape and amplitude of the 1998 programme may carry the signal that care should be taken not to overextend. ■

Council of Europe partial agreements in the fields of education and culture

1. Eurimages

a. Objectives

The pan-European fund Eurimages was established as a partial agreement of the Council of Europe under Resolution (88) 15, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 26 October 1988.

Its aim is to promote in its member states through financial assistance the co-production, distribution, exhibition and other forms of exploitation of creative cinematographic and audiovisual works.

The fund has therefore two complementary objectives:

– cultural, in that it endeavours to support works which reflect European cultural diversity;

– economic, in that, through the support of artistic creation, it invests in an industry which operates according to market trends.

b. Member states

On 31 December 1997, Eurimages was composed of the following twenty-four member states: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey.

c. Results

In 1997, Eurimages assisted 79 feature film co-productions and creative documentaries, and awarded 108 supports to 68 distributors for the distribution in 9 different member states of the fund.

In 1997, films supported by Eurimages were honoured by awards at festivals, among them:

César 1997

– Best producer, best film editing, best soundtrack, best cinematography, best film score: *Microcosmos*, by Claude Nuridsany and Marie Perennou

– Best foreign language film: *Breaking the waves* by Lars von Trier

International Film Festival, Berlin, 1997

– Silver Bear (Best director): *Port Djema*, by Eric Heumann

– Silver Bear (Best Soundtrack) and special mention for the young Jordan Kiziuk for his screenplay: *The Island on Bird Street* by Søren Kragh-Jacobsen

– Grand Prix "Blue Engel": *Secretos del Corazon* by Montxo Armendáriz

Oscars, March 1997

– Best foreign language film: *Kolya*, by Jan Sverák

Nastri d'Argento 1997

– Best soundtrack and "Prix spécial film d'animation": *La Freccia Azzurra* by Enzo Alò

– Best supporting actress: Cristina Comencini, in *Va' dove ti porta il cuore*

International Film Festival, Cannes, 1997

– Prix François Chalais and Prix Cannes-Junior: *Le cercle parfait* by Ademir Kenovic

David di Donatello, 1997

– Best film, best producers, best director, best film editing: *La Tregua*, by Francesco Rosi

– Best director of photography, best sets, best costume design: *Marianna Ucria*, by Roberto Faenza

– Best film score: *La freccia azzurra*, by Enzo d'Alò

Karlovy Vary Film Festival (summer 1997)

– Cristal Globe: *Ma vie en rose*, by Alain Berliner

– Special Prize of the Jury: *La Buena Vida*, by David Trueba

Prix Joseph Plateau, Belgium, 1997

– Best film, best direction, best actress and special prize for best box-office (*ex-aequo* with *Ma vie en rose*): *La Promesse*, by Luc et Jean-Pierre Dardenne

54th Mostra Internazionale d'Arte Cinematografica, Venice, 1997

– Best photography: *Ossos*, by Pedro Costa

World Film Festival, Montreal, 1997

– Special Grand Prix of the Jury, Best screenplay, Fipresci Prize: *Nel profondo paese straniero*, by Favio Carpi

– "Prix de Montréal" 1997 for best first fiction feature film of all sections of the festival: *Romani Kris*, by Bence Gyöngyössy

International Film Festival, Tokyo, 1997

– Grand Prix and best direction: *Le cercle parfait*, by Ademir Kenovic

Sarajevo Film Festival, 1997

– Grand Prix of the Fipresci and Audience award: *Ma vie en rose*, by Alain Berliner

Geneva Film Festival, 1997

– Best actress: Charlotte Silvera, in *C'est la tangente que je préfère*

European Film Awards, Berlin, 1997

– Best screenplay: *Ma vie en rose*, by Alain Berliner

Los Angeles Film Critics, 1997

– Best foreign language film: *La Promesse*, by Luc et Jean-Pierre Dardenne

Louis-Delluc Prize, 1997

– *On connaît la chanson*, by Alain Resnais

Cairo Film Festival, 1997

– Golden Pyramid for best film, best director, best script: *La femme de chambre du Titanic*, by Bigas Luna

Golden Globe, 1997

– Best foreign language film: *Ma vie en rose*, by Alain Berliner

Since its establishment, Eurimages has assisted the co-production of 606 European feature films and documentaries, involving over 1 500 European producers for a total amount of 1 065 045 million French francs.

Eurimages has also assisted 110 distributors in the distribution of 276 European films throughout its member states.

Eurimages has given financial assistance to 21 cinemas for the programming of European films: 3 in Bulgaria, 3 in Cyprus, 2 in Poland, 2 in the Czech Republic, 5 in Switzerland and 6 in Turkey for a total amount of 8 850 000 French francs. ■

2. The European Centre for Modern Languages (Graz)

a. Member states

As of December 1997, the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the European Centre for Modern Languages had 23 member states: the Principality of Andorra, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

Negotiations are under way with several other countries.

b. 1997 workshops

In 1997 the centre organised twenty-two workshops and a colloquy. These covered a broad variety of themes. Three workshops were decentralised (to Warsaw, Budapest, St Petersburg). The 1997 programme of activities is attached to this document (see 2.c).

Workshop 22/97 was specially meant for the nominating authorities of the member and partner states of the European Centre for Modern Languages.

The 1997 programme of activities reflects a considerable diversification in the activities of the European Centre for Modern Languages.

Specific assistance was provided to countries with urgent needs: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

Upon the recommendation of its Governing Board, the European Centre for Modern Languages devised a specific programme of assistance for modern language multipliers from Bosnia and Herzegovina in the field of modern languages; a follow-up workshop (to workshop 16/96) was attended in April 1997 in Graz by thirty-four teachers/multipliers from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Another workshop is planned to take place in Sarajevo in May 1998. It will gather around ninety participants; it will be co-organised and co-financed by the European Centre for Modern Languages, *KulturKontakt* Austria, Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation), the Ministry of Education, Sarajevo, and possibly other local partners.

The European Centre for Modern Languages also provides specific assistance for the reform of modern languages curricula in Albania and is planning a special workshop to fulfil the needs of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" in the area or early language education.

The European Centre for Modern Languages in Graz hosted the following activities of the 1996-97 programme of the CDCC of the Council of Europe:

– within the framework of the Project "Minorities, language teaching and in-service training: an intercultural exchange of experience and developments", new-style Workshop B, (22-26 April 1997);

– a follow-up workshop on "Syllabus definition and evaluation of proficiency at the end of upper secondary education: diversity and comparability in objectives and approaches to assessment" (20-24 May 1997);

– the workshop entitled "10th Multilateral Workshop of the Council of Europe's Legislative Reform Programme for Higher Education and Research" (2-4 June 1997) for experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The objectives of the workshops

The workshops are designed to:

– offer a platform for the exchange of information, experiences and ideas on good practice in the area of modern languages teaching and learning;

– disseminate good practice with a sound theoretical grounding;

– disseminate new teaching methods in the area of modern languages and new learning strategies;

– provide opportunities to create links for networking and follow-up projects between the

participants in order to carry out follow-up projects within a co-operative framework, combining multilateral and bilateral resources.

A workshop should be considered as one element of an ongoing learning process. The themes of the workshops take account of the priority areas of states in central and eastern Europe.

The workshops were attended by 583 regular participants from the member and partner states of the enlarged partial agreement, and facilitated by twenty-two co-ordinators and sixty-four co-animators.

Preparation and planning of workshops

Workshop preparation and planning meetings have become a prominent feature of the Centre's work.

The workshops are prepared and co-ordinated by "co-ordinators", experts in the field of the topic of the workshop. They are recruited in concertation with the member states, the members of the Governing Board and the Executive Director of the Centre. The Executive Director of the Centre ensures the quality and continuity of the workshops. It is of utmost importance for the good functioning of the workshops to bring together the co-ordinator and the other animators before the workshop takes place in order to carefully plan the workshop; for this reason, almost each workshop is now preceded by a preparatory meeting.

At the end of each workshop, the participants evaluate the content, presentations and organisation. Six months after the workshop, the participants are invited to take stock of the event and the results of their participation by means of a questionnaire. These questionnaires were evaluated during the summer of 1997. The participants have to send a report on their participation to their national institutions. Copies of these reports are often forwarded to the Centre as well.

The fact that, on average, about thirty participants meet at each workshop, creates a unique opportunity to integrate the European dimension of intercultural learning. The co-ordinators of the workshops have to be aware of this while preparing the programme and methods of the workshop.

Follow-up activities and networking

Two series of workshops were particularly successful in terms of follow-up activities: workshops 1/96 and 5/97 (didactic materials based on the use of video) and workshops 7/95 and 9/97 (publication of two booklets for teachers and teacher trainers).

In order to strengthen the multiplying effect of the workshops, a long-term training programme in the form of "linked activities" similar to those of the Modern Languages Project Group's activities within the Project "Language learning and European citizenship" is being planned.

The Bureau of the Governing Board and the Executive Director closely monitor the organisation of follow-up activities.

One of the main objectives of the Centre is the formation of networks of experts in the area of modern languages and the dissemination of the results of the work of the Centre, as well as the dissemination of good practice in the area of language learning and teaching. A certain number of professional networks are already functioning with participants from the workshops and the two colloquies.

Workshop reports

Each co-ordinator writes a report on the proceedings and results of the workshop, along the guidelines formulated by the Secretariat. The Centre has to publish these reports as soon as possible after the workshops.

The workshop reports are widely disseminated to workshop participants, national authorities from member and partner states, European organisations and networks (bilateral and multilateral). The results are also disseminated by the participants themselves who are encouraged to publish articles on their participation in the bulletins of their teachers' organisations and other specialised journals in their countries. The Centre has received a large number of such articles.

For the time being, twenty-seven workshop reports are available. In due time, all the reports will be available on Internet.

Co-operation with the European Commission

The 2nd Annual Colloquy "Modern language learning/teaching in central and eastern Europe: which diversification and how can it be achieved?" was organised at Graz University from 13 to 15 February 1997. It was co-organised and co-financed by the Directorate General XXII of the European Commission.

One hundred and forty-four participants from forty states met in Graz on this occasion.

The third annual colloquy will be held in December 1998, during the Austrian presidency of the European Union. It will again be co-organised and co-financed by the European Commission. The theme is "Living together in Europe in the twenty-first century: the challenge of plurilingual and multicultural communication and dialogue".

Negotiations are under way on a co-operation project between the European Centre for Modern Languages and Directorate General XXII of the European Commission on the theme of new technologies within the framework of language learning in a vocational educational context.

Co-operation with the Modern Languages Section of the CDCC, Strasbourg

A meeting took place on 1 August 1997 between the two Secretariats of the Council of Europe, working in the area of modern languages, the Modern Languages Section of the CDCC, in Strasbourg, and the European Centre for Modern Languages, in Graz. A document was prepared, defining the modes of co-operation between the two sets of activities (document CC-ED/GRAZ (97) 41 rev.; see 2.d).

The content of this document was approved by the Governing Board of the European Centre for Modern Languages and adopted by the Education Committee of the CDCC at its 17th meeting (30 September and 1 October 1997).

Two workshops on the piloting of the Common European Framework of Reference are planned in the 1998 programme of activities of the European Centre for Modern Languages.

Evaluation of the European Centre for Modern Languages

At the 578th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (18 November 1996), the Deputies decided to extend the trial period of the European Centre for Modern Languages until 31 December 1998.

The evaluation of the activities of the European Centre for Modern Languages was commissioned in July 1997. Five independent experts, appointed by the Governing Board, carried out this evaluation and prepared the evaluation report which was submitted on 15 January 1998.

At its 6th meeting (23-24 February 1998), the Governing Board of the European Centre for Modern Languages will adopt the evaluation report and prepare recommendations to be forwarded to the Committee of Ministers.

The evaluation report and the recommendations will be forwarded to the Committee of Ministers, who at their meeting in spring 1998 will decide on the continuation of the Enlarged Partial Agreement after the end of its trial period (31 December 1998).

The secretariat of the European Centre for Modern Languages

The creation of an additional A2/A3 post was authorised in autumn 1996. It is a post of "Director of studies" in charge mainly of the annual workshop programme, the publication of workshop reports, dissemination of workshop results, networking and follow-up activities; this post is crucial for the evaluation of the Centre's activities. It was filled on 1 September 1997.

The secretariat of the European Centre for Modern Languages is now composed of six members.

c. 1997 programme of activities

"How to promote learner autonomy in the adult language classroom" (Graz, 21-25 January 1997)

Working languages: English and German

Facilitators: Matilde Grünhage-Monetti, Gareth Hughes, Andreas Klepp, Annapaola Rolf-Bianchi

"Theme-based foreign language teaching to young learners: integrating language, culture and content through learner involvement in the teaching and learning process" (Graz, 4-8 February 1997)

Working language: English

Facilitators: Marianne Nikolov, Helena Ilonka Curtain, Renate Gangl

2nd Annual Colloquy: "Modern language teaching and learning in central and eastern Europe: which diversification and how can it be achieved?", in co-operation with Directorate General XXII of the European Commission (Graz, 13-15 February 1997)

"Language and culture awareness in language learning/teaching (L2 and L1) for the development of learner autonomy (age 11-18)" (Graz, 4-8 March 1997)

Working languages: English and French

Facilitators: Michael Byram, Antoinette Camilleri, Josef Huber

"Foreign language teaching and learning in central and eastern European countries: towards common principles for European FL curricula for children of 9 to 11" (Warsaw, 6-9 March 1997)

Working languages: English and Russian

Facilitators: Ewa Niezgoda, Peter Doyé, Opal Dunn, Stuart Simpson

"Audiovisual media and language teaching. Strategies and methods of understanding, using and producing videos" (Graz, 18-22 March 1997)

Working languages: English and French

Facilitators: Jean-Noël Rey, Elspeth Broady, Lis Kornum

"New trends in foreign language learning and teaching for Bosnian-Herzegovinian foreign language multipliers (for French language educators and educators of another modern language)" (Graz, 9-13 April 1997)

Working languages: French and English

Facilitators: David Newby, Nicole Bucher, Mireille Cheval, Marina Štros.

"Minorities, language teaching and in-service training: an intercultural exchange of experience and developments (New-style Workshop B) (Graz, 22-26 April 1997)

Working language: English

Facilitators: Georg Gombos, Peter Gstettner, Dietmar Lacher, Mart Rannut, Euan Reid, Ferdinand Stefan

"Aspects of teaching methodology in bilingual classes at secondary school level" (Graz, 6-10 May 1997)

Working languages: English and French

Facilitators: Antoinette Camilleri, Zuzanna Dziegielewska, Elisabeth Fleischmann

"Syllabus definition and evaluation of proficiency at the end of upper secondary education: diversity and comparability in objectives and approaches to assessment" (Graz, 20-24 May 1997)

Working languages: English and French

Facilitators: Michael Byram, Manuel Tost-Planet

"Teacher training and relevant aspects of the development towards learner autonomy in foreign language teaching in secondary schools in Europe" (Graz, 10-14 June 1997)

Working languages: English and German

Facilitators: Arjan Krijgsman, Ludmila Khomenko, Jan Mulder

"Content, design and methodology of seminars, workshops and congresses" (Graz, 17-21 June 1997)

Working languages: English and French

Facilitators: Gerard J. Westhoff, Monika Clalüna

"Introduction to language policy: methods of analysis and evaluation, fields of intervention" (Graz, 23-28 June 1997)

Working languages: French and German

Facilitators: Claude Truchot, Michel Candelier, Georgy Khruslov, Georges Lüdi, Angéline Martel, Alex Monaghan, Miguel Siguan

"Developing intercultural communicative competence in foreign language teaching; curriculum planning and policy" (Graz, 7-12 July 1997)

Working languages: English and French

Facilitators: Michael Byram, Albane Cain, Leah Davcheva, Christopher Wightwick, Colin Williams

"The role and tasks of language teachers' organisations" (Amsterdam, 3-8 August 1997)

Working language: German

Facilitators: G. J. Westhoff, Michelle Brenez, Monika Clalüna, Roland Goll, Andrea Károlyi, Claus Ohrt, Brigitte Ortner, Claus Reschke

"From authentic video document to multimedia hypertext. How to design and use specific pedagogical materials for language teaching and learning" (Graz, 1-6 September 1997)

Working language: English

Facilitators: Guy Arquembourg, Milan Hausner, Irmeli Kaustio, Violeta Tsoneva

"Implementing and managing European educational projects. Exchange of experiences and development of skills necessary for successful implementation of European educational projects in a multilateral environment" (Budapest, 9-14 September 1997)

Working languages: English and French

Facilitators: Eva Kelemen, Anna Butašová, Eckhart Hötzel, Tamás Lajos

"Establishing principles and guidelines for publishers and authors of FL textbooks in the context of the aims of the ECML (St Petersburg, 23-27 September 1997)

Working languages: English and Russian

Facilitators: David Newby, Olga Afanasyeva, Brit Fenner, Ruxandra Popovici

"Redefining formal foreign language instruction (FL) for a bilingual environment" (Graz, 21-25 October 1997)

Working languages: English, German

Facilitators: Glenn Ole Hellekjaer, Peter Bierbaumer, Anikó Bognár, Ralf Nyström

"Teaching partner languages in border areas (*Fremdsprachen-Grenzdidaktik*)" (Graz, 12-16 November 1997)

Working languages: German and French

Facilitators: Albert Raasch, Ruud Halink, Brigitte Sorger, Armand Zimmer

"Content and language integration in vocational and professional education – Towards a multilingual workforce" (Graz, 25-29 November 1997)

Working language: English

Facilitators: David Marsh, Anikó Bognár, Do Coyle , Sauli Takala

"A reflective model of language teacher education: an integration of theoretical with competency-based training in an awareness-raising context" (Graz, 5-9 December 1997)

Working language: English

Facilitators: Krassimira Dimitrova Sharkova, Hanna Kryszewská, Marina Štros

"From nomination to dissemination – how to achieve more efficient dissemination of the ECML activities" (Graz, 11-13 December 1997)

Working languages: English and French

Facilitators: Gábor Boldizsár, Danica Bakossová, Dagmar Heindler, Dan Ion Nasta

d. The respective roles of the Modern Languages Section and the European Centre for Modern Languages

In view of the need to develop the necessary synergy between the Modern Languages Section and the European Centre for Modern Languages so as to avoid duplication of work, and to ensure programme coherence and the best use of resources, a division of labour is proposed based on distinct but complementary functions. The Modern Languages Section should promote the development of language policies through a policy-oriented approach, while the ECML should support the implementation of policies through a practice-oriented approach.

Main functions

The Modern Languages Section should be responsible for policy issues:

– the development and updating of European reference instruments to enhance standard setting, policy dialogue, decision-making and co-ordination with a view to more effective and more diversified language teaching and learning;

– the promotion and further development of language policy instruments (for example, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, policy recommendations and guidelines).

The European Centre for Modern Languages should be responsible for practice-oriented activities:

– the training of key multipliers in the practice of language teaching and the provision of support to international networks of practitioners;

– the collection and dissemination of good practice in innovation.

Co-ordination and synergy

Many of the conclusions of the reports on the Modern Languages Section and the ECML could be taken into consideration in so far as they are compatible with the rules in force within the Organisation.

Where the European Centre for Modern Languages is concerned, reference may be made to paragraph 1 of Resolution (96) 36

establishing the criteria for partial and enlarged agreements of the Council of Europe, which stipulates that "all future agreements shall be founded on political priorities as defined by the Committee of Ministers", and paragraph 5, which states that "agreements shall seek the necessary synergy with other bodies ... notably in order to avoid duplication ...".

Moreover, the conclusions of the reports on the Modern Languages Section and the European Centre for Modern Languages recommending the continuation of their activities, as well as those of the ECML's Governing Board calling for the Centre's continued existence, should be supported.

It seems desirable that distinct, but nevertheless complementary identities should be developed. In this connection, provision could be made for the establishment of a mechanism within the Directorate of Education, Culture and Sport to see to this clear and precise division of missions, objectives and tasks between the CDCC's Modern Languages Section, which currently covers forty-seven member states, and the ECML, which at present represents twenty-four states parties to the Enlarged Partial Agreement.

In addition to practical co-operation measures within the Secretariat, it is recommended that:

– cross-representation be assured at key meetings (Modern Languages Project Group/ECML Governing Board, and relevant co-ordinating or expert meetings);

– programme planning and implementation take account of possibilities for shared or complementary activities in order to link policy development and implementation in specific areas of common interest (for example, co-operation in implementing and widely disseminating the Common European Framework and European language portfolio being developed by the Modern Languages Section).

Furthermore, it is recommended that the Statute of the European Centre for Modern Languages include an appropriate mechanism to ensure maximum complementarity and synergy between the activities of both bodies.

Summary of main functions

Modern Languages Section *Policy development*	**European Centre for Modern Languages** *Policy implementation*
Strategy-oriented, that is, primarily concerned with: – international policy co-ordination and dialogue; standard-setting and the promotion of diversification and quality in language teaching through common European reference instruments; – international standards on language policies in legal instruments, recommendations, guidelines.	Practice-oriented, that is, primarily concerned with: – policy implementation through training activities with a didactic focus, dialogue and exchange between key multipliers, networking and related research projects; – documentation and dissemination of good practice in language teaching.

XIV. Youth

Celebrations were held in 1997 to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Strasbourg EYC and the EYF, and of the youth sector's work in general at the Council of Europe: "Twenty-five years of experience of youth work at the Council of Europe":

Although the first EYC Statute was approved by the Committee of Ministers in December 1969, the EYC was not established until 1972; as for the EYF, its Statute was adopted in 1972 and it became operational in 1973. As intergovernmental co-operation increased, 1987 saw the setting up of the CDEJ (European Steering Committee in the Youth Field) to replace the CAHJE, an *ad hoc* committee. Since 1988, the Youth Sector's operation has been overseen by the Youth Directorate. Finally, in December 1995 the Budapest EYC became operational. The 25th anniversary celebrations, which also marked these important steps in the Youth Sector's development, once again highlighted the values which underpin the Council of Europe's youth policy and are still the basis for the activities supported and run by the sector:

– democracy, which is upheld by recognising the representative nature of youth organisations, by encouraging and training European young people to take part in their activities at local, regional and international level, and by promoting youth citizenship;

– tolerance, which is promoted through support for intercultural dialogue and through intercultural learning as a key educational element of youth activities;

– solidarity, which is embodied in the system of support for youth organisations, the way activities supported by the sector are organised and run, and the promotion of youth projects enabling the most disadvantaged to participate and play an active role in European society.

A salient feature of 1997 was the challenge of restructuring the Youth Sector following the "Study on the policies and activities in the Youth Sector of the Council of Europe". During the year, debate involved the different Youth Sector organs as well as a series of meetings by the Committee of Ministers Rapporteur Group on Youth. And the debate continues.

– As the sector develops, it must try to meet the challenges of European society today.

– Young people in the 1990s are not the same as those who built the Youth Sector in the 1960s. How can they be persuaded to endorse the participatory model during a period of economic and social difficulties in Europe? New forms of youth participation in the community and in cultural life have been emerging for around ten years; but how should they be taken into account in the activities and the decision-making process of the Youth Sector? Proposals for restructuring are an attempt to answer these questions and ensure that participation, citizenship and community involvement will maintain their place in European young people's view of society.

– At a time when young people in particular are facing the problems caused by deep-seated changes to society, the youth organisations and partner governments in the Youth Sector are concentrating their efforts on the issues of unemployment, poverty and exclusion in all its forms. The will of those behind the Council of Europe's youth policy to meet these new challenges is clearly reflected in the programmes run in 1997 by the EYCs, the EYF and the CDEJ. However, one area still at stake in the restructuring process is co-operation between the Youth Sector, youth organisations and groupings and local, regional and national youth services in restoring mechanisms for social cohesion.

The co-management procedure is a means of encouraging European youth organisations to participate and is the principle underlying the work of the EYCs and EYF. Not only do youth organisations, the CDEJ and the directorate recognise co-management as the operational model for participation in the Youth Sector, talks on restructuring aim at a more effective role for the management organs and political bodies overseeing the sector's operation. Such restructuring is necessary because the transformation of CAHJE into a steering committee (CDEJ) has progressively created, within the Youth Sector, a second programming body for youth policy alongside the existing co-managed organs. Lastly, policy-making on youth affairs is not limited to the Youth Sector; there appears to be a need for institutional consultation between Council directorates as part of a coherent intersectoral youth policy. This is another important issue to be dealt with in restructuring the sector.

Finally, 1997 was the year when the role of the Budapest EYC came of age. In addition to activities funded as part of the programme of the Youth Directorate, the Budapest Centre organised twenty-four activities that were either self-financing and on topics directly linked to youth affairs, or run in conjunction with other Council of Europe sectors or international organisations on themes of some relevance to young people. In accordance with the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers, these activities significantly broadened the scope of Youth Sector work by involving new partner associations and institutions whose contribution to the work of the Council, above all in youth affairs, can only be a positive one. ■

1. Activities of the European Youth Centres

a. Study sessions

In 1997, fifty study sessions were held at the European Youth Centres (twenty-eight in Strasbourg and twenty-two in Budapest) in co-operation with youth organisations on topical themes related to the concerns of young people in society and, more generally, to the work of the Council of Europe.

Each study session lasts a week and requires one or two preparatory meetings with the teams of tutors. The programme is constructed around four main themes:

– democratic and cultural values: youth participation and citizenship (6 sessions), community involvement and youth organisations (4), European integration (5), new information technologies and the role of the media (3), the multicultural society (1), voluntary work, European exchanges and mobility (2);

– social cohesion and the quality of life: employment and fresh approaches to work (7 sessions), social exclusion (2), student movements (2), human work and leisure (1), the consumer society (1), the integration of the visually-impaired and the hard-of-hearing (1);

– democracy and human rights: democracy and citizenship for young people (2 sessions), reconciliation and community life (1), inter-religious dialogue and homosexuality (1), trends towards extremism in Europe (1), gender equality (1);

– security for citizens: education for peace and non-violence (4 sessions), peace and stability in Europe (1), children's living conditions (2), preventing drug abuse (2), prostitution (1), mediation as a means of resolving conflict (2).

The study sessions provided an opportunity for 1 568 young leaders from youth organisations to spend one week of 1997 in either Strasbourg or Budapest participating in discussions relating to issues affecting their organisations, in the framework of the European construction.

b. Training courses for youth leaders

Each year, the Youth Directorate implements a training programme aimed at young leaders of youth organisations with a view to teaching them the skills they require in their involvement in international youth work. Five courses were held in 1997:

– a course on the organisation of international youth activities (Strasbourg, in June);

– a course on work in international youth structures (Strasbourg, August and September);

– a course for trainers (Budapest, in September);

– a seminar to assess the 1996-97 long-term training course for organisers of local projects with a European dimension (Budapest, in April);

– the introductory seminar of the 1997-98 long-term training course (Strasbourg in September).

All these training courses showed a clear increase in the participation of leaders from central and eastern European youth organisations. There was also a high level of participation from civil servants working in youth services in countries of central and eastern Europe, as well as an increased interest in the courses on the part of young people from new forms of youth organisations. This situation is addressing one of the Directorate's current concerns regarding the restructuring of the Youth Sector.

Two courses were organised as part of follow-up to the Campaign against Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Intolerance:

– a long-term training course aimed at minority youth leaders on participation and citizenship; the introductory seminar was held in Budapest in May, and the evaluation seminar took place in Strasbourg in December;

– a training course for Roma youth leaders in Finland in October.

c. Language courses

In 1997, the Strasbourg EYC marked the thirtieth anniversary of the programme of language courses for European young people by issuing a publication entitled *Learning a language differently – Thirty years of EYC experience*. The teams teaching on all the courses collaborated in putting this publication together.

The programme aims not only to teach linguistic skills, but also to promote international youth work, intercultural learning and knowledge of the host country and local youth organisations. Twelve courses were held in 1997:

– two intensive English courses in London;

– a course for young workers in Ireland;

– two intensive French courses, one in Belgium and one at the Strasbourg EYC;

– one course each in German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish in each of the countries concerned;

– a French refresher course in Paris;

– a Portuguese refresher course in Setúbal.

Note that the Portuguese refresher course and the Russian course are new activities on the programme.

For the Council of Europe, costs vary from one course to another depending on the generosity of the host country.

d. Research and documentation

The Youth Directorate's work in this area gives great support to the Council of Europe's youth policy, both for the educational activities run by the EYCs and the EYF and for those run as part of the intergovernmental co-operation programme. The basic aims of activities in this area are:

– to encourage both interdisciplinary and intercultural research into the theory of youth work and intercultural co-operation in this area;

– to promote the co-ordination of youth sector research, policy and activities, and operational follow-up projects;

– to facilitate the spread of information on Youth Directorate activities and achievements in the field of youth research and make relevant studies available in support of the Directorate's programmes.

The key to the successful operation of the research and documentation unit is the Network of National Youth Research Correspondents, which liaises between the statutory bodies of the Youth Directorate and research workers in the various countries. The network held its 1997 annual meeting in April.

The unit has continued to work on the Directory of Youth Research in Europe, which will contain a wide variety of information on studies and research projects, institutions and research workers in the youth field. A European bibliographical database on youth research will be accessible on the Internet in June 1998.

Two studies have been initiated:

– an examination of the impact of the programme of co-operation with new member states;

– a study of the feasibility of introducing a European standard for statistical information on youth.

At the same time the Youth Directorate's library has continued to support the various youth activities, particularly by providing documentation, bibliographies and advice to people using the centres, especially to participants in study sessions and training courses.

The Youth Directorate has been pursuing a publishing policy and programme with the following results in 1997:

– the first European report on youth;

– publication of an issue of the Directorate's newsletter *SCOOP*;

– production of the 1996-97 *Yearbook* (including contributions from INGYOs and members of the CDEJ, with information and statistics on Youth Directorate activities);

– a new version of the leaflet entitled *Today's Youth: Tomorrow's Europe*;

– an introductory leaflet on the Budapest EYC;

– regular updates to the guide on international youth work *EUROPA ABC*;

– publication of the report of the Symposium on *Youth in an Information Society* (1996), which made a significant contribution to debate on the role of IT in education, training and citizenship.

Furthermore, the Youth Directorate Internet homepage was created in 1997.

As part of follow-up to the European Campaign against Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Intolerance, the following were published in 1997:

– a French version of *The Beauty of the World*, the report on the training course for social workers;

– a German version of *Domino*;

– French and English versions of *Young Roma, Gypsies and Travellers in Europe*.

e. Programme of co-operation with new member states

The aim of this programme is to foster youth work and democratic youth organisation in the new member states and to promote the development of youth policies. Since 1989 the work begun by the EYF at its inception has become an integral part of the goals of the Youth Directorate.

A Symposium on "Co-operation with central and eastern European countries in the youth field" was held at the Strasbourg EYC in May. Participants took stock of progress made in co-operation and noted the achievements and difficulties experienced. The Governing Board was sent a series of recommendations designed to improve activities and the award of grants in these countries. A report will be published in 1998.

The following activities were run in 1997:

– a training course for youth leaders in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (October);

– a multilateral training course for youth leaders in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (Georgia in October);

– the third stage of a multidisciplinary project run jointly by the Youth Directorate and the Directorate of Social and Economic Affairs on the situation of children and children's organisations in the Russian Federation (Hamburg (Germany) in April/May);

– a training course run by agreement with ERYICA for staff responsible for youth information in the new member states (Budapest EYC in December).

In addition, training grants were awarded to seven young leaders of youth organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and nine young leaders from Russia to enable them to undertake a period of training with west European youth organisations.

Lastly, a study visit was made to Bosnia and Herzegovina in April. ■

2. Activities of the European Youth Foundation

In 1997, 144 European projects received funding from the European Youth Foundation. Most of these projects took the form of multinational gatherings (seminars, camps, workshops, etc.) bringing together young people from the Council of Europe member states and sometimes non-member countries. Publications by European youth organisations, studies and teaching materials accounted for twenty-six projects, while fifty-five INGYOs

received financial support to cover their operational costs as an encouragement to extend their activities throughout Europe.

The main themes of EYF-funded projects involving international gatherings or seminars for youth leaders were:

– democratic and cultural values (60 projects):

- education for citizenship, youth participation, training for youth leaders and decision-makers (31 projects);

- European identity and integration (26 projects);

- new information technologies (3 projects);

– social cohesion and the quality of life (24 projects):

- economic, youth employment and environmental issues (16 projects);

- social exclusion and poverty (8 projects);

– democracy and human rights (18 projects):

- human rights education (4 projects);

- fighting racism and intolerance, and intercultural learning (11 projects);

– security for citizens (16 projects):

- preventing violence, education for peace and resolving conflicts (12 projects);

- preventing drug abuse (3 projects);

- child labour and child protection (1 project).

In 1995, the Council of Europe and the International Union of Railways combined to set up a "Mobility Fund for Disadvantaged Young People" (FAMJD) by levying the equivalent of one ecu on the sale of every Interrail card. Since that date, the EYF has seen a rapid increase in the number of applications from "new partners" whose projects do not meet all the EYF's criteria. To date, the FAMJD has been used to fund more than 80 projects (37 in 1997) and enabled around 2 200 disadvantaged young people to take part in international activities, most of them linked to social exclusion, vocational integration and intercultural learning. ■

3. Intergovernmental co-operation in the youth field

At the end of 1997, forty-seven states were represented on the Steering Committee for Intergovernmental Co-operation in the Youth Field (CDEJ). The committee held two plenary meetings, in March and October. Its work focused mainly on the following themes:

Participation

– Finalising the draft recommendation on youth participation and the future of civil society;

– preparing and taking part in the joint CLRAE/CDEJ Conference on Evaluating the Implementation of the Charter on Participation of Young People at Local and Regional Level, Budapest EYC in October;

– producing two publications: a compilation of CDEJ recommendations on *Youth participation*, and *Keys to participation*, a guide aimed at all those working with and for young people. A third publication, *Rainbow*, on the general socio-political and cultural strategies of the Youth Sector, is currently being prepared;

– in the framework of the evaluation of national youth policies, the evaluation of the youth policy in Finland was completed.

Fighting social exclusion among young people

– The first "Training for mediation" course, held in July as part of the multidisciplinary project on "Human dignity and social exclusion", which is run by the Directorate of Social and Economic Affairs (DASE) in conjunction with the Directorate of Education, Culture and Sport (DECS) project on "Culture and neighbourhoods";

– participation in the Seminar on formal and informal education, in Athens, held as part of the multidisciplinary DASE project "Human dignity and social exclusion";

– selection of video clips on significant youth projects relating to social exclusion and the contribution of the CDEJ to the final conference on Human Dignity and Social Exclusion.

Youth mobility

– Preparation of the biennial report to the Committee of Ministers on the situation regarding youth mobility in Europe and of proposals for reducing obstacles to mobility;

– finalisation and approval at its October meeting of the draft Convention on Long-Term Transnational Voluntary Service.

Youth information and counselling

– Finalisation of the partnership agreement with the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA) on training for staff responsible for youth information and counselling;

– preparation of a symposium on "Young people and the media" with a view to improving youth access to the media, especially for the most disadvantaged, and to determining how the media can help promote youth participation and fight exclusion. The Steering Committee on the Mass Media (CDMM) and the DASE will also participate in the symposium, which is scheduled for 1998.

The "Summer University"

– With the aim of improving the quality of its work and co-operation, the CDEJ organised a "summer university" for officials responsible for youth affairs in central and eastern European countries. This was held in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" in August-September.

Preparation for the 5th Conference of European Ministers responsible for Youth

This will be held in Bucharest in April 1998. The theme will be "Young people: active citizens in a future Europe". ■

4. Partial Agreement on the Youth Card

The Partial Agreement on the Youth Card currently involves twelve member states. The Board of Co-ordination, the organising body of the partial agreement, met in Strasbourg in March and in Brighton in November. The latter meeting focused on developing the "service" dimension of the Youth Card, so as to bring it more into line with certain goals of the Council of Europe in this area, namely responding to the concerns of young people regarding information, access to culture and mobility.

The following activities were run in this area:

- continuation of the EURO<26 project aimed at involving young people in managing and promoting the Youth Card;
- raising awareness of the obstacles to youth mobility through the Youth Card magazines;
- setting up of an Internet site on the benefits of the Youth Card. ■

5. The EYC and EYF statutory bodies

The Governing Board of the EYCs and the EYF is composed of twelve government representatives and twelve representatives of youth organisations. It is responsible for adopting and monitoring EYC and EYF programmes. During 1997 the Governing Board, assisted by the Advisory Committee (comprising representatives of twenty-four youth organisations and one representative for "non-organised" youth), endeavoured to transpose the Council of Europe's priorities into the EYC and EYF programmes by devoting a large part of its work to devising a programme policy which took more account of the needs of European youth co-operation. In addition, it held serious debate on follow-up to the "Study on the policies and activities in the Youth Sector of the Council of Europe". Restructuring of the sector is still under consideration. ■

XV. Environment

1. Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy

The Council of Europe's action is part of a pan-European process of regard for the environment at ministerial and pan-European level. The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, adopted in Sofia in 1995 by the Ministerial Conference "An Environment for Europe", is implemented by the Council of Europe together with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Fifty-four member states of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) are taking part in its implementation.

The Action Plan 1996-2000 identifies twelve action themes: pan-European action to set up the Strategy process; establishing a pan-European ecological network; integration of biological and landscape diversity considerations into sectors; raising awareness and support with policy-makers and the public; conservation of landscapes; coastal and marine ecosystems; river ecosystems and related wetlands; inland wetland ecosystems; grassland ecosystems; forest ecosystems; mountain ecosystems; action for threatened species.

To implement the Strategy, two bodies were created by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe at the level of the fifty-four states participating in the process "An Environment for Europe": the Council for the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (STRA-CO), which adopts a two-year work programme for the Strategy, and the Executive Bureau (STRA-BU). This one held its last meeting in Geneva, on 20 and 21 November 1997. The Council of Europe makes its own specific contribution to the Strategy at a forty-member states level with two bodies: the Committee for the Activities of the Council of Europe in the field of Biological and Landscape Diversity (CO-DBP), and the Bureau of the committee (BU-DBP), which held its last meeting in Geneva, on 19 November 1997.

The Strategy's actions and achievements will be presented to the 4th Ministerial Conference "An Environment for Europe", to be held in Aarhus in June 1998. The Council of Europe's contribution to the Strategy concerns the whole Strategy, as it plays the role of secretariat and co-ordinator, and in particular five action themes concerning: the establishment of the Pan-European Ecological Network; the integration of biological and landscape diversity considerations into sectoral policies; raising awareness and support with policy-makers and the public; coastal and marine ecosystems; and action for threatened species.

Establishing the Pan-European Ecological Network (REP)

The Committee of experts for the development of the Pan-European Ecological Network (STRA-REP) established in 1997 by the Council of Europe, under the authority of the Council and the Executive Bureau for the Strategy, carries out the programme for the development of the Network and the activities concerning the European Network of Biogenetic Reserves.

Several projects are being carried out for presentation at the Aarhus Ministerial Conference: a map and a report on the sites designated in application of international conventions and programmes, indicating their importance for the Pan-European Ecological Network; guidelines for the overall development of the Pan-European Ecological Network, including the relevant elements of the coastal and marine ecological network, the large carnivores network and other initiatives; an information booklet on the Pan-European Ecological Network.

Integration of biological and landscape diversity considerations into sectoral policies

The Council of Europe contributes to this action theme through activities designed to integrate nature conservation into policies for the development of tourism, in particular in central and east European countries. The Group of Specialists on Tourism and Environment has launched three pilot projects which aim at enhancing biological, landscape and cultural heritage for the purposes of tourism and are compatible with the requirements of protection in: the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine), the Bieszcady National Park (Poland) and the Vychnodé Karpaty Protected Landscape (Slovakia).

The group of specialists is also drawing up training programmes to develop new ethics in tourism based on responsibility for the environment. The European Environment Management Association (EEMA) has been asked to prepare "Tourism and Environment" training modules for agents of the tourist industry.

Raising awareness and support with policy-makers and the public

(See under item 4: Centre Naturopa)

Coastal and marine ecosystems

The Group of Specialists on coastal protection prepared two texts for presentation at the Aarhus Ministerial Conference: a model law on

sustainable management of coastal zones and a pan-European code of conduct for coastal zones (with the co-operation of the European Union for Coastal Conservation (EUCC) for the code of conduct).

Action for threatened species

The activities of this action theme are carried out by the Bern Convention (see under item 3: Bern Convention). ■

2. The European Diploma

In 1997, the European Diploma for protected areas has been renewed for eight areas: Krimml Waterfalls Natural Site (Austria), Lunebourg Heath Nature Reserve (Germany), Muddus National Park (Sweden), Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks (Sweden), Swiss National Park (Switzerland), Abruzzi National Park (Italy), Maremma Natural Park (Italy) and Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve (Portugal). The diploma has been awarded to Bialowieża National Park (Poland), Biebrza National Park (Poland), Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine), Port Cros National Park (France) and Bielovezhskaya Pushcha National Park (Belarus).

A Colloquy on Protected Areas was organised in Villetta Barrea, Abruzzi National Park, Italy, from 8 to 10 June 1997. By drawing on the experiences of various protected areas in reconciling human activities with wildlife, the aim of the colloquy was to identify the principles for general nature conservation covering the whole of man's domain. ■

3. Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

The convention counts thirty-six Contracting Parties. The activities of the convention for the protection of biological diversity in Europe and some countries of Africa have been oriented towards meeting the objectives set in Agenda 21 of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and the Pan-European Biodiversity and Landscape Strategy endorsed in Sofia by the 1995 Ministerial Conference "An Environment for Europe". A number of activities have focused on preparations leading up to the 4th Ministerial Conference to be held in June 1998 in Aarhus. Some of the main areas of ongoing activities include:

– preparation for the Aarhus Ministerial Conerence;

– implementation of Action Theme 1 (Pan-European Ecological Network) and Action Theme 11 (European Action Programme on Threatened Species) in the framework of the Pan-European Biodiversity and Landscape Strategy;

– *in situ* and *ex situ* species conservation;

– sustainable use of components of biological diversity;

– building up a European network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCI): (Emerald Network);

– the monitoring of the implementation by the parties of the obligations incurred by the convention;

– elaboration of action plans for threatened species;

– publications.

Different groups of experts on the conservation of habitats and threatened species met in 1997.

In 1997, the Standing Committee of the convention amended Appendices I, II and III and adopted the following recommendations:

– Recommendation No. 56 concerning guidelines to be taken into account while making proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II of the convention and when adopting amendments;

– Recommendation No. 57 on the introduction of organisms belonging to non-native species into the environment;

– Recommendation No. 58 on the reintroduction of organisms belonging to wild species and on restocking and reinforcing populations of such organisms in the environment;

– Recommendation No. 59 on the drafting and implementation of action plans for wild fauna species;

– Recommendation No. 60 on the implementation of the action plans for globally threatened birds in Europe;

– Recommendation No. 61 on the conservation of the white-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*);

– Recommendation No. 62 on the conservation of regionally threatened birds in the Macaronesian and Mediterranean regions;

– Recommendation No. 63 on the conservation of the Akamas peninsula, Cyprus, and, in particular, of the nesting beaches of *Caretta caretta* and *Chelonia mydas*;

– Recommendation No. 64 on the conservation of *Caretta caretta* in Kaminia (Cephalonia, Greece).

The Standing Committee also adopted a map of biogeographical regions for the Emerald Network. ■

4. Centre Naturopa

The Centre Naturopa has continued to support the implementation of the "raising awareness" part of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy.

Three issues of the magazine *Naturopa* have been published, on the themes "Nature and the different religions", "Sustainable tourism development" and "Nature conservation and land use problems".

The publication of *Naturopa-Newsletter* has been replaced by the *Bulletin on the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy*, published every two months in English, French, German, Italian and Russian. Six issues of the Strategy bulletin were published in 1997.

Launched in 1996 with the first issue on *Biodiversity* – which has since been translated into Russian, Ukrainian, Polish and Croatian – the *Questions and Answers* series is aimed mainly at local and regional elected representatives, NGO officials, research and training institutes, journalists and others working in the sector concerned. In 1997 two brochures were published: *Agriculture and biodiversity* and *Tourism and environment*.

The Centre Naturopa has participated in the production of a CD-ROM which presents all the national parks in Europe and the most important European natural habitats, in collaboration with the French National Parks as well as several other partners. Produced in English, French and German, one section of this CD-ROM is devoted to the work of the Directorate of Environment and Local Authorities, with an original introduction by the Secretary General in the three languages.

Six issues of the *Library Bulletin* have been published, as well as two selective bibliographies, one on *Sustainable tourism development* and the other on *Nature conservation and land use problems*.

The 30th annual meeting of the National Agencies was held in Strasbourg in June 1997. On this occasion a Seminar on Nature Conservation and the Media was organised.

Two meetings of the Agencies' Executive Bureau were held in Strasbourg, on 4 June and on 8 December 1997. ■

XVI. Municipalities and regions

1. Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE)

(See under IV)

2. Steering Committee on Local and Regional Authorities

During 1997 the Steering Committee on Local and Regional Authorities (CDLR) implemented the following activities:

Regionalisation and its effects on local self-government

In May 1997 the CDLR adopted a report on the place of regionalisation in the political and administrative organisation of European states. The first part of the report studies the taxonomy of regionalisation, the aims of this process and the obstacles which may slow it down. In the second part, the report examines the consequences of regionalisation and, in particular, its impact on local self-government. An appendix to the report comprises case-studies on regionalisation in nine member states.

The report was published as Volume No. 64 of the *Local and regional authorities in Europe* study series.

Limitations of local taxation and financial equalisation; methods of calculating financial grants

This report, which was adopted by the CDLR in November 1997, is a sequel to the work carried out in preparation for the 11th Conference of Ministers responsible for Local Government (Lisbon, 10 and 11 October 1996), which has already led to the publication of a study on *Local finance in Europe*.

On the basis of the latter study and the general system of local authority financing, the report outlines the degree of financial independence and, in particular, of fiscal decentralisation, in several Council of Europe member states.

It then investigates the possible technical and political obstacles to fiscal decentralisation in order to ascertain the relationship between the existence of limits to the level of local authorities' own fiscal resources and the introduction of transfer arrangements.

The report goes on to study the state's financial contributions to local authority budgets, underlining the fundamental role played by financial equalisation in local government financing systems and reviewing the operation of equalisation mechanisms.

Several appendices to the report describe the various national transfer systems and the methods used to calculate grants paid to local authorities.

The report will be published as Volume No. 65 in the study series *Local and regional authorities in Europe*.

Legal control and auditing of local authorities' action

This report was adopted by the CDLR in November 1997. In particular, it studies the various forms of monitoring (political, legal and financial), their scope (monitoring of the lawfulness or appropriateness of actions; monitoring of management), the authorities responsible for monitoring (administrative, legal or others) and their powers, the ways in which monitoring is carried out and its consequences. The monitoring systems of ten member states are described in an appendix to the report.

The report will be published as Volume No. 66 in the *Local and regional authorities in Europe* study series.

Structure and operation of local and regional democracy in Council of Europe member states

The CDLR continued its production of the new series of booklets on the structure and operation of local and regional democracy in Council of Europe member states.

In 1997 the following booklets were published in the *Structure and operation of local and regional democracy* study series, relating to Bulgaria, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden. The following booklets will be published in 1998: Belgium, Denmark, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Iceland, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland and the Czech Republic.

This activity will be continued in 1998.

Other activities

Other activities were started up in 1997 and are still under way. They involve the preparation of studies on: electoral systems and voting

procedures at local level; the liability of local elected representatives for their acts or omissions in the course of their duties; the management of municipal property; the development and funding of urban public transport; and the role of local and regional authorities in the provision of local social services.

The CDLR also started work on two draft conventions – one on mountain regions, the other on rural areas.

At the same time, it began organising the 12th Conference of European Ministers responsible for Local Government, which will be held in Istanbul in autumn 1999 on the theme "The role of local authorities in the field of local social services". ■

3. Regional planning and sustainable spatial development

The Committee of Senior Officials of the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning (CEMAT) implemented the activities of the Council of Europe in the field of regional planning and sustainable spatial development.

In the framework of the preparation of the 11th Ministerial CEMAT Session, on 22 and 23 May 1997, the Committee of Senior Officials and the Finnish Ministry of the Environment organised a preparatory seminar in Helsinki on the subject "Strategies for sustainable development in the northern states of Europe".

The 11th Ministerial CEMAT Session took place in Limassol on 16 and 17 October 1997. The theme of the conference was "Sustainable regional/spatial planning in Europe and the protection of water resources".

At the end of the conference three resolutions were adopted:

Resolution No. 1 concerned sustainable development in Europe. It was considered that, in order to reinforce the European idea, it was necessary to introduce at the European level a comprehensive, co-ordinated, sustainable development policy, taking into account the exhaustibility of natural resources, and environmental, economic, social, cultural and public health considerations.

Resolution No. 2 concerned strategies to be implemented within a comprehensive regional/spatial planning framework for protecting and managing freshwater resources. The resolution contains several recommendations addressed to the governments to this end.

Resolution No. 3 concerns the organisation of the 12th Session of CEMAT on "Joint spatial planning and sustainable development strategy for Europe" which is to take place on 7 and 8 September 2000 in Hanover in the context of the World Exhibition.

The ministers also adopted the programme of activities for 1997-2000, stressing that the priority activity for the period would be elaboration of the "Guiding principles for sustainable and comprehensive spatial development in Europe in the next century". As part of this activity, the following subjects would be examined in colloquies and seminars: European cities and metropolitan networks; prospects for rural areas in Europe; European transport infrastructure networks; sustainable use of energy; different forms of funding spatial planning. ■

4. Decentralised transfrontier co-operation

The Council of Europe's programme of activities in the field of decentralised transfrontier co-operation was implemented by the intergovernmental Select Committee of Experts on Transfrontier Co-operation (LR-R-CT) and the Committee of Advisers for the development of transfrontier co-operation in central and eastern European countries.

The LR-R-CT approved the draft Protocol No. 2 to the Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities concerning Inter-territorial Co-operation. In the protocol, each Contracting Party undertakes to recognise and respect the right of non-adjacent local and regional authorities to co-operate and conclude agreements with their counterparts which are under the jurisdiction of other Contracting Parties.

In 1997, the LR-R-CT approved the draft explanatory report to Protocol No. 2. Draft Protocol No. 2 and its explanatory report have also been approved by the Steering Committee on Local and Regional Authorities (CDLR) and forwarded to the Committee of Ministers for their final adoption and the opening for signature of the former.

The LR-R-CT also worked on the elaboration of the comparative study on transfrontier co-operation in regional/spatial planning and decided to publish the study and to forward it to the CDLR for its final adoption and authorisation for publication.

The LR-R-CT decided in its future work programme to examine the various forms of Euroregions, development of transfrontier co-operation in the fields of culture and waste management and in rural areas.

The work programme implemented by the Committee of Advisers concerning the development of transfrontier co-operation in central and eastern European countries included expert missions, colloquies and conferences in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Romania, Russia and Turkey. These activities have the aim of raising an awareness of transfrontier problems by bringing together national, regional and local authorities of neighbouring countries, strengthening mutual trust between them and providing technical and legal assistance in the preparation of legal texts for ratification and/or implementation of the Outline Convention. . ■

XVII. Legal co-operation

1. 21st Conference of European Ministers of Justice

The Ministers of Justice of the member states of the Council of Europe, together with their counterparts from Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, the United States, the Holy See and Mexico, as well as the European Union met in Prague on 10 and 11 June 1997, at the invitation of the Minister of Justice of the Czech Republic. They adopted a series of practical measures to support the international fight against corruption and organised crime.

The theme of the conference which was opened by the President of the Czech Republic, Mr Vlacláv Havel, was "Links between corruption and organised crime". The main rapporteur was the Czech Minister of Justice, while the Minister of Justice of Hungary acted as co-rapporteur.

Using their financial influence, criminal organisations are able to infiltrate state structures, particularly by means of corruption, hinder economic development and threaten the stability of democratic institutions.

Accordingly, the ministers recommended that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopt an overall strategy and in particular:

– adopt the two following legal instruments as quickly as possible:

- a framework agreement establishing common guidelines on the means of combating corruption to be implemented via national legislation combined with complementary international instruments and structures;

- a criminal convention on corruption which would make corruption a common offence and promote increased co-operation on the prosecution of these offences;

– draw up another international instrument in the civil law field providing, among other things, for compensation for damages resulting from corruption and a code of good conduct for public servants;

– set up an efficient monitoring system for these various international instruments, open to Council of Europe member states and non-member states on an equal footing.

The ministers also recommended that the Council of Europe should continue its activities, particularly with a view to:

– harmonising the relevant provisions of national criminal law where the differences substantially undermine international co-operation in areas including computer crime and cyberspace;

– expanding on the Octopus programme with the European Union to encourage legislation to combat corruption and organised crime in states in transition.

The ministers called on the Council of Europe to carry out an assessment of measures taken against money laundering in member states which were not concerned by the activities of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) at the earliest opportunity. They urged states which had not yet ratified this convention to do so promptly. ■

2. European Commission for Democracy through Law

a. Members

During 1997, Croatia and Ukraine acceded to the European Commission for Democracy through Law.

At the end of 1997, the Commission totalled thirty-seven full members, five associate members and seven observers.

b. Activities

Activities of the European Commission for Democracy through Law in the field of democratic reform

During 1997, the Commission continued to co-operate with several countries on matters principally related to constitutional reform as well as their application.

The establishment of constitutional guarantees in those countries which have recently suffered the horrors of war constituted a challenge which the Commission took up without hesitation. The setting in place of coherent constitutional systems and of institutions and mechanisms which are aimed at re-establishing confidence in justice and the rule of law in those populations traumatised by violence is the duty *par excellence* of a consultative organ which operates in "the field of guarantees offered by law in the service of democracy". Co-operation with the Croatian authorities concerning the application of the constitutional law on the protection of human rights and minorities, and the Commission's continuing

activity in Bosnia and Herzegovina bear witness to this commitment.

The adoption of the Constitution of Ukraine and the interpretation of its provisions regarding the right to life and the question of the death penalty were at the centre of the Commission's activities throughout 1997. Likewise, at the end of 1997, the constitutional process in Albania is another constitution building site to which the Commission attaches the utmost importance.

In parallel to the process of democratisation, European integration appears to be a major factor in constitutional reform on our continent. The Commission has also been requested to study constitutional reforms which could be necessary in certain countries before accession to the European Union.

The Commission also closely followed the constitutional reform process in Italy and, in this context, carried out a study on the federal and regional state.

Respect for democratic rules is the cornerstone of democratic security. It is therefore natural that a "Commission for Democracy through Law" aims its activity towards electoral laws, which govern the access to power and constitutional justice, which is the guarantee of the Constitution against any abuse of power. The Commission studied the draft electoral laws in Albania, Armenia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The establishment and functioning of constitutional jurisdictions in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia and Ukraine have been the sites of fruitful co-operation between the Commission, on the one hand, and the legislator and national judges on the other.

The Commission also took note of the commitment of the heads of state and government of the member states of the Council of Europe to "continue active support for democratic development in all member states and increase our efforts to promote an area of common legal standards throughout Europe". Major constitutional developments during 1997 clearly show the three axes of constitutional reform in Europe. Democratic stability, European integration and bringing decision-making power closer to the regions and the citizen are the aim of any reform. The Commission, in its privileged position as a forum for exchanges of information, experiences, ideas and projects in the constitutional field, has a particular role to fulfil within the framework of these reforms: the promotion of a European legal culture based on democratic heritage, the principle of the rule of law and respect for human rights. Furthermore, the Commission, fully assuming responsibility for its role as an observatory of democratic institutions, emphasises the need for continuous democratic vigilance and the necessity for active co-operation in the field of guarantees offered by law in the service of democracy.

Finally, co-operation with countries outside the European continent was stepped up in 1997. Co-operation with certain Latin American countries seems to be under way in particular with the creation of a consultative commission on constitutional law in Latin America. Co-operation with South Africa continued with the programme "Democracy, from the law book to real life", concluded between the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the South African Department of Constitutional Development and the Venice Commission.

The following presents the Commission's main activities in the field of democratic reform :

Albania

Electoral law

The Venice Commission participated in the process of electoral reform in Albania. Two meetings took place in April and May 1997 in conjunction with the OSCE/ODIHR concerning the preparation of the elections and, in particular, the review of the electoral law.

Constitutional reform

A Working Group for Albania was set up within the Commission. This group assists the Albanian authorities, at the request of the President of the Republic, in particular in the drafting of a new Constitution, which should provide Albania with a basic law which is fully in conformity with European standards of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. This working group will continue its co-operation with the Albanian authorities during 1998.

Ongoing activities

At the request of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly the Commission gave its:

– opinion on the Constitutional Law on the High Council of Justice;

– opinion on amendments to Law No. 7491 "For the main constitutional provisions" (interim Constitution).

Argentina

During the 32nd Plenary Meeting, Mr La Pergola and Mr Masnatta informed the Commission that COVENARG (Venice Commission for Argentina) had been set up at a meeting held on 19 September in Buenos Aires. It was an advisory body chaired by Mr Granillo Ocampo, Minister of Justice, and administered by Mr Masnatta, set up to provide institutional and intellectual support for the establishment of COVENAL (Venice Commission for Latin America) – a similar body to the Venice Commission with which links of co-operation should be formed.

Armenia

Control of constitutionality

A consolidated opinion was drawn up on the control of constitutionality under the Constitution of Armenia, based on the rapporteurs' reports together with the reports presented during the Seminar on "Constitutional control and the protection of human rights", held in Yerevan from 22 to 24 October 1997.

Ongoing activities

– Opinion on the draft electoral law.

Azerbaijan

Opinion on the draft constitution of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic

On 27 September 1997, the Director of Administration of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic submitted a request for an opinion on the draft constitution of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. The Commission adopted its opinion during its 33rd Plenary Meeting.

A Seminar on the theme "Essential elements of a constitutional court" was organised in co-operation with the Constitutional Court of Azerbaijan and took place in Baku on 4 and 5 December 1997.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ombudsman of the Republika Srpska

A working group consisting of MM. Batliner, Scholsem and Ms Serra Lopes together with MM. Gil Robles, former *Defensor del Pueblo* in Spain, and Bardiaux from the French Ombudsman Office, both experts from the Human Rights Directorate of the Council of Europe, was set up to examine this question. Several meetings were held during 1997.

Mr Gil Robles has drawn up a preliminary draft text which should govern the activities of the Ombudsman of the Republika Srpska. This draft was adopted by the working group at the beginning of 1998.

Opinion on the establishment of a Human Rights Court of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Commission examined this question at the request of the Parliamentary Assembly. At its 31st plenary meeting, it adopted the "opinion on the establishment of a Human Rights Court of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina" and decided to forward it to the Parliamentary Assembly.

Opinion on the interpretation of certain provisions of the Constitution of the Republika Srpska

At the request of the Office of the High Representative of the international community in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Commission drew up an opinion on the interpretation of certain provisions mainly relating to the President's power to dissolve Parliament, which it adopted at its 32nd Plenary Meeting.

Opinion on the draft law on the territorial limits of the municipalities in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Commission participated in the preparation of the draft law amending the boundaries of municipalities divided by the demarcation line between entities and establishing new municipalities in the Federation.

Ongoing activities

– Opinion on the competence of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in criminal matters requested by the Justice Minister of the Federation;

– guidelines for the draft electoral code for Bosnia and Herzegovina requested by the Office of the High Representative;

– Organic Law of the Ombudsman of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Commission also organised a round table on the constitutional aspects of protection of property, held in Sarajevo on 30 September 1997, and was represented at a workshop on practical issues of organising the work of a constitutional court for the staff of the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Sarajevo on 24 November 1997, organised by the Office of the High Representative.

Croatia

At the request of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Commission drew up a report on the state of progress of co-operation with Croatia which was adopted at its 30th meeting. Work is continuing on the following issues :

Revision of the Constitutional Law

During its 31st meeting, the Commission took note of the draft memorandum on the revision prepared by the group of rapporteurs and decided to forward it to the Croatian authorities.

Enlargement of the Constitutional Court – International advisers

The Venice Commission and the Constitutional Court drew up a list of international advisers to participate in the work of the Croatian Constitutional Court (two titular advisers and three substitutes). The Committee of Ministers' Deputies, during their 592nd meeting (12-14 May 1997) nominated MM. Malinverni and Marques Guedes as advisers and MM. Oraá, Russell and Simon as substitutes.

Information campaign

The text of the European Convention on Human Rights has been translated and distributed and a brochure is under preparation describing the means available to citizens in the Croatian legal system for protecting their rights.

In addition, the Commission co-organised a meeting "on the legal protection of the individual" in co-operation with the Directorate of Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe and the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia (UNTAES) in Strasbourg on 13 and 14 November 1997.

Estonia

The Commission participated in the Seminar on five years of the Estonian Constitution, which took place in Tallin on 26 and 27 September 1997.

Ongoing activities

– Opinion on the question of amendments to the Estonian Constitution with a view to the accession of this country to the European Union;

– opinion on the question of the reform of the system of constitutional control in Estonia.

Georgia

A Workshop on the execution of decisions of constitutional courts was held in Tbilisi on 17 and 18 November 1997, in co-operation with the Constitutional Court.

Kyrgyzstan

A Seminar on the constitutional dimension of judicial reform, organised by the Commission and the Council of Europe, took place on 17 and 18 June 1997 in Bishkek.

Romania

Ongoing activities

– Opinion on the draft law on the organisation of government and on the functioning of ministries.

South Africa

A number of activities were carried out during 1997 within the framework of the programme "Democracy, from the law book to real life", implemented by the Commission in co-operation with the South African Department of Constitutional Development and financed by Switzerland.

"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

Ongoing activities

– Opinion on the draft law on referendums and citizen initiatives of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia";

– opinion on the draft electoral law.

Ukraine

Constitution of Ukraine

At its 30th meeting the Commission adopted the draft consolidated opinion on the Constitution of Ukraine. This opinion had been requested by the Parliamentary Assembly on 10 July 1996.

Draft law on the Constitutional Court of Ukraine

At the request of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Commission drew up an opinion on the draft law on the Constitutional Court of Ukraine which was adopted at its 31st meeting.

Constitutionality of the death penalty in Ukraine

At the request of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Commission examined the constitutional questions that might arise regarding the death penalty in Ukraine. During the 33rd meeting the draft consolidated opinion was adopted.

Co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

The Parliamentary Assembly was represented at all the Commission's plenary meetings during 1997. It requested the Commission's opinion on the following questions:

– Constitution of Ukraine and the draft law on the Constitutional Court of Ukraine;

– constitutional questions that might arise regarding the death penalty in Ukraine;

– establishment of a Human Rights Court of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

– co-operation with Croatia;

– Albanian Constitutional law on the High Council of Justice;

– amendments to Albanian Law No. 7491 "for the main constitutional provisions" (interim constitution);

– control of internal security services in Europe;

– report on the legal problems of the co-existence of the Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of the Community of Independent States and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Co-operation with the European Union

The European Commission took an active part in the work of the Venice Commission and supported its activities. In particular, the European Commission made a financial contribution to the organisation of several Commission events concerning the development and consolidation of democracy and human rights in central and eastern Europe. A request for funding for similar activities in 1998 has been submitted to the competent department of the European Commission.

Co-operation with other international bodies

Co-operation with ODIHR continued during 1997. Mr Russell represented the Commission at the OSCE Implementation meeting on human dimension issues in Warsaw on 27 and 28 November 1997.

Close co-operation has also taken place with the OSCE on Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia as well as with the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Co-operation with the Conference of Presidents of European Constitutional Courts

Mr Russell, Chairman of the Sub-Commission on Constitutional Justice, represented the Commission at the preparatory meeting of the Conference of Presidents of European Constitutional Courts, in Warsaw, where he presented the activities of the Commission.

c. Studies of the Venice Commission

Legal foundations of foreign policy

The report on the legal foundations of foreign policy, after having been adopted by the Sub-Commission on International Law, was approved by the Commission at its 33rd plenary meeting.

Composition of constitutional courts

At its 32nd plenary meeting, the Commission adopted the report on the Composition of Constitutional Courts and decided to publish it in the series "Science and Technique of Democracy".

Study on federal and regional state

At its 31st plenary meeting, the Commission adopted the report on Federal and Regional State and decided to publish it in the series "Science and Technique of Democracy".

Work is continuing on the following studies:

– participation of persons belonging to minorities in public life;

– constitutional law and European integration.

d. Documentation Centre on Constitutional Case-Law

Co-operation with constitutional courts and courts of equivalent jurisdiction significantly intensified during the year 1997. In addition to the regular publication of the *Bulletin on Constitutional Case-Law* and the new database CODICES, a series of seminars in co-operation with newly established constitutional courts has been started.

Bulletin on Constitutional Case-Law

In 1997, several new courts (those of Armenia, Georgia, Latvia, Malta, Moldova and Ukraine) joined the venture of publishing three times a year the *Bulletin on Constitutional Case-Law*. Forty-four courts now contribute to this publication, which has seen a significant increase in its distribution in Europe and abroad.

Two more issues of the series of *Special Bulletins on Basic Texts* (extracts of constitutions and laws on the courts) were published during 1997, bringing the number of countries already covered to thirty-five.

CODICES

In 1997, two versions of the database CODICES were published on CD-ROM. The second version has, in addition, been made available via Internet (http://www.coe.fr/codices). CODICES contains all the regular issues of the bulletin since 1993, together with over 1 250 decisions in full text. Furthermore, the special bulletins on descriptions of the courts (1994) and on basic texts have been integrated into CODICES.

Documentation Centre

In addition to the bulletin and CODICES and thanks to generous contributions from participating courts, the stock of documentation in paper form of the Documentation Centre has significantly increased.

e. The UniDem (Universities for Democracy) Programme

The Commission organised three seminars within the framework of this programme:

– Seminar on "Citizenship and state succession", Vilnius, 16-17 May 1997;

– Round Table on "The legal foundation of foreign policy", Santorini, 26-27 September 1997;

– Seminar on "The transformation of the nation state in Europe at the dawn of the twenty-first century", Nancy, 6-8 November 1997. ■

3. Strengthened co-operation in public international law

During the period covered by this report, the *Ad hoc* Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI) held regular meetings to consider the exchange of views and, as far as possible, to co-ordinate their attitudes on questions relating to public international law. In addition, the committee contributed to the application and development of public international law within the Council of Europe member states.

The Commission of the European Union, and observers from Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Georgia, the Holy See, Japan, New Zealand, the United States of America, The Hague Conference on Private International Law, Nato and the OECD attended these meetings.

The committee held exchanges of views concerning in particular the following points:

– the work of the International Law Commission and of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations;

– the draft statute for a permanent international criminal tribunal;

– the United Nations Decade of International Law 1990 to 1999; in this respect, two recommendations from the Committee of Ministers prepared by the CAHDI on the amended model plan for the classification of documents concerning state practice in the field of public international law and on debts of diplomatic missions, permanent missions, and diplomatic missions with "double accreditation" and of their members, have been addressed to the Secretary General of the United Nations by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe as part of the Organisation's contribution to the United Nations Decade of International Law. Moreover, the CAHDI, in co-operation with the Max Planck Institute (Germany), the Asser Institute (the Netherlands) and the Castrén Institute (Finland), is preparing a publication on the pilot project on state practice relating to state succession and issues of recognition which could also be part of this contribution;

– the role of depositories of treaties, in particular regarding the use of modern technologies for access to international treaties;

– law and practice concerning reservations to treaties; a group of specialists on reservations to international treaties (DI-S-RIT) has been set up by the CAHDI in order to examine and propose ways and means and, possibly, guidelines to assist member states in developing their practice regarding their response to reservations and interpretative declarations actually or potentially inadmissible under international law

and consider the possible role of the CAHDI as an "observatory" of reservations to multilateral treaties of significant importance to the international community from the point of view of the admissibility of these reservations under international law, and by Council of Europe member states parties to these instruments;

– current issues of public international law concerning central and eastern Europe;

– the activities of the International Tribunal to Judge War Crimes in the former Yugoslavia and the *ad hoc* tribunal for Rwanda. ■

4. Modernisation of private and public law

a. Texts approved by the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ)

The European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) is competent for a very wide area of legal activities as it has the task to provide practical assistance to states in the fields of public and private law and, in particular, to promote law reform and co-operation concerning administrative law, data protection, family law, incapable adults, efficiency of justice, legal data processing and nationality. The CDCJ prepares, jointly with the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC), the conferences of European Ministers of Justice (see above) and the Multidisciplinary Group on Corruption (GMC) (see below) and works under the responsibility of the CDCJ and the CDPC.

In 1997, the CDCJ finalised the text of the recommendation concerning the protection of personal data collected and processed for statistical purposes (which subsequently became Recommendation No. R (97) 18 of the Committee of Ministers). The CDCJ also finalised the text of the recommendation on family mediation (which subsequently became Recommendation No. R (98) 1 of the Committee of Ministers).

b. Adapting civil law to the needs of a changing society

Family law

Since 1981 the Committee of Experts on Family Law (CJ-FA), under the authority of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ), is in charge of the intergovernmental activities of the Council of Europe in the field of the legal protection of the family, in particular the protection of the child. The work carried out by the CJ-FA has resulted in the adoption of several international legal texts (recommendations or conventions). The most recent of these instruments are the European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights and Recommendation No. R (98) 1 on family mediation.

The CJ-FA's task is, in particular, to strengthen the legal protection of children and to promote an area of common legal standards in the field of family law throughout Europe. In particular, the CJ-FA is instructed to work in the following matters:

– the rights of children to have sufficient contact with parents, in particular, questions concerning transfrontier access. At present, working party No. 1 of the CJ-FA (CJ-FA-GT1) is preparing a draft convention concerning these questions. This working party is carrying out this activity in close co-operation with the Convention Committee of the European Convention on recognition and enforcement of decisions concerning custody of children and on restoration of custody of children;

– the legal status of children, in particular, questions concerning parentage. At present, working party No. 2 of the CJ-FA (CJ-FA-GT2) is preparing a first draft of principles relating to the establishment and legal consequences of parentage. These principles will be included in an international instrument which will take account and, if necessary, revise the existing provisions contained in the European Convention on the Legal Status of Children born out of Wedlock and the European Convention on the Adoption of Children. This work will be carried out in the light of the proposals made during the 27th Colloquy on European law on legal problems relating to parentage (Valletta, Malta, 1997).

According to the proposal made by the CJ-FA and the decision taken by the CDCJ, the 4th European Conference on Family Law on the topic of family mediation will be held in Strasbourg on 1 and 2 October 1998 in the Assembly Chamber of the Palais de l'Europe. Any person, body or institution justifying a professional interest in the topic will be authorised to participate in this conference.

Incapable adults

The Group of Specialists on Incapable and other Vulnerable Adults (CJ-S-MI), set up in 1995 by the Committee of Ministers following the proposals of the 3rd European Conference on Family Law (Cadiz, Spain, 1995), has held four meetings. At its fourth meeting, the CJ-S-MI prepared a draft recommendation on principles concerning the legal protection of incapable adults. The CJ-S-MI will finalise the draft recommendation and its explanatory memorandum during joint meetings with the Steering Committee on Bioethics (CDBI) and with the Committee of Experts on Family Law (CJ-FA), in order to adopt a multidisciplinary approach affording more effective overall protection for incapable adults.

Efficiency of justice

At their 20th Conference, held in Budapest on 11 and 12 June 1996, on the theme "Efficiency and fairness of civil, criminal and administrative justice", the European Ministers of Justice reaffirmed in Resolution No. 1 the need for access

to a system of justice that is both efficient and fair. The European Ministers of Justice also recommended a review of relevant legal instruments prepared within the Council of Europe.

Some of the measures recommended in these instruments concern the setting up of an efficient system of legal aid and advice. Other measures are aimed at reducing the excessive workload of the courts, for example by encouraging the friendly settlement of disputes, either outside the judicial system or before or during the court proceedings.

For cases in which litigation is unavoidable, measures need to be taken to simplify procedures whenever possible so as to ensure that certain rules of civil procedure in force in the member states do not impede effective justice.

Simplification of the documents used in court procedure and proper dissemination of case-law in legal circles and among the general public may also help to improve the efficiency and fairness of justice.

Lastly, measures are proposed to improve the operation of appeal systems and procedures, particularly in civil and commercial cases, where delays are greater than in criminal proceedings.

The Committee of Experts on the Efficiency of Justice (CJ-EJ) has been set up, following the proposals made by the European Ministers of Justice at their 20th Conference, in order to identify measures, in particular cost-effective measures, to increase the efficiency of justice, while respecting the need to ensure its fairness, having regard also to the case-law of the European Commission and Court of Human Rights.

The CJ-EJ has already identified certain major causes of undue delays in judicial proceedings relating to the organisation and structure of judicial systems, the increased workload of courts, the complicated and inefficient procedures existing in certain states and the difficulties in executing judgments.

Before proposing appropriate cost-effective solutions to deal with these problems, the CJ-EJ has drawn up a survey based on the information provided by member states of the Council of Europe, concerning cost-effective measures to increase the efficiency of justice.

Moreover, when proposing such cost-effective solutions, the CJ-EJ will consider and, where appropriate, review existing legal instruments prepared by the Council of Europe in this field and will report to a future conference of European Ministers of Justice.

Finally, the CJ-EJ is drafting a recommendation on the freedom of exercise of the profession of lawyer, which should be finalised in 1999.

Civil remedies for corruption

A feasibility study on the drawing up of a convention on civil remedies for compensation for damages resulting from acts of corruption was adopted by the Committee of Ministers in February 1997.

The study gives as complete a picture as possible of all aspects related to civil law and corruption and shows that it is possible to conceive a number of scenarios where use of civil law remedies might be useful against given forms of corruption.

On the basis of this study, the Working Group on Civil Law (GMCC) of the Multidisciplinary Group on Corruption (GMC) is currently preparing an international instrument on civil remedies for compensation for damage resulting from acts of corruption.

This text deals with substantive and procedural provisions including, *inter alia*, questions relating to compensation for damage, evidence, liability, non-pecuniary remedies, validity and effect of contracts, transparency and protection of whistle-blowers, rights for groups to participate in judicial proceedings, access to documents, obtention of evidence abroad, jurisdiction and enforcement of judgments. The text should be finalised in 1999.

Legal aid

The Multilateral Committee on the European Agreement on the Transmission of Applications for Legal Aid (T-TA) held its third meeting in September 1996. The committee reviewed the state of ratifications of the European Agreement[1], considered its application and noted that there were problems with the implementation of Recommendation No. R (94) 8 of the Committee of Ministers, concerning the practical application of the European Agreement. It accordingly approved a new recommendation, Recommendation No. R (97) 6, aiming at improving the practical application of the European Agreement on the Transmission of Applications for Legal Aid.

The T-TA has also drawn up a list of officials responsible for the practical application of the agreement within the competent national authorities and prepared a "Guide to legal aid procedures" designed to facilitate the task of national authorities on a practical level. The next meeting of the T-TA will take place in September 1998.

Experts from the T-TA have contributed in the setting up of the rules for the "Benefits Commission" for legal aid in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is the body responsible for the granting of legal aid and advice in this country.

c. Promoting good relations between national administrations and the public

The Project Group on Administrative Law (CJ-DA), operating under the aegis of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ), published in 1997 the French version of the Handbook *The administration and you* (*L'administration et les personnes privées*).

1. The following twenty states ratified this text on 21 January 1998: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom.

The English version of this handbook was published in 1996. It deals with the relationship between administrative authorities and private persons.

The handbook summarises some twenty years of work done by the Council of Europe in the field of administrative law. It is intended for the benefit not only of specialised professionals but also of interested citizens. It allows the authorities and its personnel to know what kind of behaviour is expected from them in their relationship with private persons. Private persons are informed of the basic features of their rights and of the limits of those rights.

At the request of the Committee of Ministers, since 1997, the CJ-DA has examined the general principles which characterise the recruitment, training, ethics and status of civil servants and other public officials in European states in order to propose measures designed to improve the efficiency and, where appropriate, facilitate the reform of the civil service in a spirit of awareness of citizens' needs. The CJ-DA will then decide on the instrument to be prepared for adoption by the Committee of Ministers.

To this effect, a specific questionnaire has been sent to all member states with the purpose of gathering sufficient information concerning the principles of public service, including namely: recruitment, training and ethics, and, in more general terms, the status of public officials. On the basis of the replies to the questionnaire, the CJ-DA secretariat is preparing a draft report (descriptive and analytical) on the status and the working conditions of public officials.

On the basis of the conclusions of the above-mentioned report, the CJ-DA will decide on the possibility of preparing a draft recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to improve the efficiency of the civil service in the Council of Europe member states.

Moreover, the CJ-DA is carrying out in parallel another activity entitled "European Charter of Public Services". This activity follows similar efforts in several countries which have established charters for their public services (for example, the *Public Users' Charter*, 1992, Belgium; *The Observatory for the Quality of Public Service*, 1992, Spain; *The Public Services' Charter*, 1992, France; *The Quality Charter of Public Services*, 1993, Portugal; *The Citizen's Charter*, 1991, United Kingdom) and it aims at producing a set of principles which can be commonly agreed on by the Council of Europe member states with the purpose of bringing public services closer to the citizens by increasing their accountability to the public, and the access of the latter to the definition of service priorities, increasing the efficiency of public service provision and harmonising the duties, responsibilities and rights of the staff involved.

In this respect, the CJ-DA has begun preparatory work with a view to gathering sufficient information allowing the CJ-DA to decide on the preparation of a draft European charter of public services, the legal status of which remains to be decided.

d. Seeking common solutions to the new challenges in the field of law arising from scientific and technological progress

Legal data processing

The Committee of Experts on Legal Data Processing (CJ-IJ) has the following tasks:

– to follow research, development and teaching in legal data processing in Europe, and to this end hold extensive exchanges of views and act as a clearing house for information in this sector;

– to follow the developments of information technology with the aim of assessing and promoting its utilisation in the legal field, so as to improve the efficiency of the administration of justice, both in the old and the new member states;

– to propose the preparation of recommendations, guidelines and other texts concerning legal data processing;

– to be responsible for the preparation of colloquies on legal data processing in Europe.

The *Manual on information technology applications in correctional administration*, approved in 1997, will be published in the near future.

Originally this text was prepared as a draft recommendation, but the competent steering committee, the CDCJ, decided that these guidelines on the use of IT in correctional administration should be distributed as a manual.

The 13th Colloquy on Legal Data Processing in Europe was held from 15 to 17 April in Vienna, Austria, and had as its theme the "Design of court systems and legal information systems – Methods for setting up, managing and redesigning systems in a cost-effective manner". The colloquy was prepared by an organising committee which met on 29 and 30 October 1997.

Under the supervision of the committee of experts, two working parties will meet in 1998 with a view to preparing guidelines. One working party will deal with the modernisation of legal information systems (follow-up to the colloquy), the second one with the improvement of services by courts and other legal instances to the citizen through the use of new communication technologies.

The CJ-IJ will hold its 22nd plenary meeting from 4 to 6 November 1998, in order to be able to take the results of the work of the 13th Colloquy on Legal Data Processing in Europe and of its working parties into consideration.

Data protection

The Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (ETS No. 108) has been ratified by twenty member states which, according to Article 4 of the convention, have adopted adequate legislation: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Other states (Cyprus, Moldova, Romania and

Turkey) have signed the convention or have already adopted legislation on data protection and are preparing to ratify the convention. Moreover, Article 23 provides that any non-member state of the Council of Europe can accede to the convention

The Consultative Committee, set up by the convention, examines the scope of the convention and the principles it lays down in view of recent and foreseeable technological and scientific developments. It also makes proposals with a view to facilitating or improving the application of the convention and formulates its opinion on any question concerning the application of this convention.

Since the conclusion of the convention in 1981, society has been computerised to an extent, allowing any individual or organisation to carry out "automatic processing of data". Organisation, management and modern production rely on powerful data-processing systems. In this context, the individual becomes an active agent of "the information society" but at the same time his privacy is subject to increased interference by this "information society", through the action of the information systems of numerous private and public services.

For each sector, the Council of Europe has adopted several recommendations to elaborate further the principles laid down in the convention. Even if they are not legally binding, they are addressed to all member states even if they are not parties to the convention and they have a moral obligation to consider ways in which to implement them. These recommendations were drawn up by the Project Group on Data Protection (CJ-PD) composed of experts from each of the forty member states, accompanied, for the sectoral recommendations, by specialised consultants in the field concerned. Moreover, it is traditional policy to invite to these intergovernmental meetings, observers from European professional associations and non-governmental organisations working in the field concerned.

Since the adoption of the Community Directive on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (95/46/EC) on 24 October 1995, the European Union has participated in the elaboration of these recommendations in the field of its competence.

The adoption of Recommendation No. R (97) 5 on the protection of medical data and Recommendation No. R (97) 18 on the protection of personal data collected and processed for statistical purposes by the Committee of Ministers, respectively on 13 February 1997 and 30 September 1997, constitutes an illustration of the co-ordination process carried out within the Union, which recognises the compatibility of the recommendations with Directive 95/46/EC.

Recommendation No. R (97) 5 replaces a first recommendation, adopted in this field in 1981, to take into account the considerable developments which have taken place, in the computerisation of the health sector and elsewhere, and also the progress in medical science, and in particular, genetic data.

Recommendation No. R (97) 18 sets out new rules in this field, on the threshold of the twenty-first century, as regards both private and official statistics.

A draft recommendation on the protection of personal data collected and processed for insurance purposes is still being examined with a view to its adoption.

The Working Group on new technologies continues to examine the impact of the latter on individuals' privacy. This is the case for instance for smart cards, Geographical Information Systems, Video-surveillance, Information Resource Management, Systems of surveillance of the traffic, etc. At present, the issue of the superhighways constitutes a new challenge for our democratic societies and also raises new problems which question the traditional legal concepts and thus require an appropriate answer. These questions are examined in co-operation with the MM-S-NT and the PC-CY.

The working group elaborated in 1997 draft guidelines: protecting privacy on the Internet.

The CJ-PD has identified other fields of a priority nature which could be dealt with or re-examined in the framework of co-operation activities of the Council of Europe such as genetic data, financial services, direct marketing, police, social security, research etc. These questions will be examined in co-operation with other expert committees within the Council of Europe (CDBI, CDSP, CDPC, among others).

Bioethics

In 1997, the Council of Europe continued its efforts to harmonise bioethical principles at a European level, as demonstrated by the opening of the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine for signature on 4 April 1997 in Oviedo, Spain. Twenty-one Council of Europe member states signed the convention on 4 April and the total rose to twenty-three by the end of 1997.

Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and dignity of the human being with regard to the application of biology and medicine: Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (1996, ETS No. 164)

In 1991, the Committee of Ministers instructed the Steering Committee on Bioethics (CDBI) to draft the first international convention on bioethics, which was conceived as a framework convention supplemented by protocols.

As its full title implies, the convention on biomedicine is intended to define general principles and rules to protect the human being with regard to the application of biology and medicine.

The convention is being supplemented by protocols on specific subjects. The protocols are designed to address the ethical and legal issues raised by present or future scientific advances through the further development of the principles contained in the convention. The Additional Protocol on the Prohibition of Cloning Human Beings was opened for signature on 12 January 1998, in Paris, when nineteen member states signed. Four more member states signed by 1998. The protocols

on organ transplantation, protection of the human embryo and foetus, biomedical research, and human genetics are currently under preparation.

The purpose of the protocol on organ transplantation is to define a number of common standards with respect to transplantation. Promotion of the removal of organs from deceased donors is covered, as are deterrents to trafficking in organs and undue privilege.

The protocol on biomedical research is based on the fundamental principle of free, informed, express, specific and documented consent of the person(s) taking part. The principle of requiring multidisciplinary review of the ethical acceptability of biomedical research is another basis of the protocol. A multilateral meeting for the sixteen Council of Europe member states in central and eastern Europe was organised from 20 to 22 November 1997 in London, as part of the Demo-Droit Ethical Review of Biomedical Research Activity (DEBRA). The aim of DEBRA is to foster further development of multidisciplinary ethical review of biomedical research in these countries through future bilateral meetings and exchange of information.

The protocol on protection of the human embryo and foetus is currently under preparation. The working party for the preparation of this protocol prepared the Protocol on the Prohibition of Cloning Human Beings in 1997.

In 1996, the Committee of Ministers instructed the CDBI to draw up a fourth protocol to the convention on human genetics, and this work has begun.

It should be emphasised that bioethics is one of the fields where the Parliamentary Assembly works in close co-operation with the intergovernmental sector. Moreover, the European Commission is represented and active within the CDBI.

Psychiatry and human rights

The Working Group on Psychiatry and Human Rights (CDBI-PH), composed of jurists and psychiatrists, held its second meeting from 27 to 29 October 1997. Pursuant to the revised terms of reference assigned to it in June 1997 by the Committee of Ministers, it continued its work, under the authority of the Steering Committee on Bioethics (CDBI). Its work is being carried out in the light of Recommendation No. R (83) 2 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the legal protection of persons suffering from mental disorders placed as involuntary patients and of Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1235 (1994) on psychiatry and human rights. The work aims at drawing up guidelines to be included in a new legal instrument of the Council of Europe. These guidelines should ensure the protection of the human rights and dignity of persons suffering from mental disorder, especially those placed as involuntary patients, including their right to appropriate treatment.

Autopsy

The Working Party on the Harmonisation of Autopsy Rules (CDBI-AR) of the Steering Committee on Bioethics (CDBI) held its second meeting in November 1997. It discussed and amended the draft recommendation on the harmonisation of medico-legal autopsy rules, and completed the first reading of the draft explanatory memorandum. These texts should be finalised by the end of 1998.

The draft recommendation is divided into two parts: one on the scope of the recommendation (including medico-legal autopsies to be carried out in cases of suicide or suspected suicide) and one on the technical aspects relating to the way in which medico-legal autopsies should be carried out.

Moreover, a survey on national legislation and practice concerning medico-legal autopsy procedures is being prepared by the CDBI-AR.

e. Asylum, refugees, stateless persons and movement of persons

The Committee of Ministers, in establishing the specific terms of reference of the *ad hoc* Committee of Experts on the Legal Aspects of Territorial Asylum, Refugees and Stateless Persons (CAHAR), stated that one of the committee's tasks is to make proposals for the solution of practical and legal problems facing states in the field of territorial asylum, refugees and stateless persons, particularly by drawing up appropriate legal instruments (conventions and recommendations) in the liberal and humanitarian spirit of the Council of Europe aiming at, among others, to settle the question of the countries of first asylum and territorial asylum, and to look into specific situations in the new host countries.

The CAHAR held two plenary meetings in 1997 in Strasbourg. A joint meeting with the European Committee on Migration (CDMG) was also held on east-west migration.

The CAHAR finalised a draft text and its explanatory memorandum which was adopted by the Committee of Ministers as Recommendation No. R (97) 22 containing guidelines on the application of the safe third country concept.

Some member states consider that asylum seekers should apply for asylum in the first or subsequent country in which they have an opportunity to do so when such a country is considered safe ("safe third country"). Some member states do not apply this concept, others also consider, according to personal circumstances, sending the asylum seeker to another country.

The aim of this recommendation is to indicate under which conditions a country may be considered safe in order to provide appropriate and effective protection for asylum seekers and refugees who are in need of it and that asylum seekers should be given an opportunity to have their claims examined by one state. The third state should meet, in each individual case, all those criteria which establish that it is a safe third country for the asylum seeker.

Through an expert consultant, the summary description of asylum procedures in selected member states covered another five countries in 1997.

The CAHAR adopted two interim opinions on Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1309 (1996) on the training of officials receiving asylum seekers at border points.

Plenary, Bureau and Working Party discussions were held, with the aim of drafting documents, on the return of persons who are not in need of international protection and on the European Convention on Human Rights and the right of rejected asylum seekers to appeal.

The CAHAR also reviewed national and international developments in its field of competence as well as those activities of other fora within the Council of Europe which bear relevance to the committee's work.

The committee held preliminary exchanges of views for opinions to be adopted at the forthcoming session(s) of the CAHAR on points concerning:

– Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1334 (1997) on refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Decision No. CM/685/030797 of the Committee of Ministers;

– Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1327 (1997) on the protection and reinforcement of the human rights of refugees and asylum seekers in Europe, Decision No. CM/671/140597 of the Committee of Ministers;

– legal implications of the decisions taken by the European Council meeting in Amsterdam concerning European Union citizens' access to asylum, Decision No. CM/686/100997 of the Committee of Ministers.

The CAHAR has been working in close contact with the Parliamentary Assembly and co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has been reinforced during 1997.

f. Animal protection

European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes (ETS No. 87)

The Standing Committee adopted, at its 33rd meeting (22-25 April 1997), a recommendation concerning ratites. This recommendation entered into force on 22 October 1997. Its work on three other draft recommendations concerning respectively, domestic ducks, Muscovy ducks and hybrids and domestic geese was finalised at its 34th meeting (28-31 October 1997). The simultaneous adoption of these three draft recommendations is foreseen in 1998. The Standing Committee also endeavoured to revise the recommendation concerning fur animals, adopted in 1991, and undertook the examination of a draft recommendation concerning turkeys.

Finally, at the request of the Committee of Ministers, the Standing Committee prepared an opinion on Recommendation 1289 of the Parliamentary Assembly on animal welfare and livestock transport in Europe which was adopted at its 33rd meeting.

Multilateral consultations

European Convention for the Protection of Animals during International Transport (ETS No. 65)

The Working Party for the preparation of the third multilateral consultation of the parties to the convention met from 18 to 21 March 1997. At this meeting, the working party carried on with the revision of the provisions of the convention undertaken in 1996 with a view to updating them. In this framework, it also examined the provisions of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers on the transport of different species and agreed on the need to revise all these legal instruments simultaneously.

The revision of the provisions concerning transport by road was entrusted to a drafting group which will present its proposals to the working party at its next meeting from 24 to 27 March 1998.

European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for Experimental and other Scientific Purposes (ETS No. 123)

The parties to the convention held their 3rd Multilateral Consultation from 27 to 30 May 1997. At this consultation, the parties elaborated a draft protocol of amendment aiming at introducing a simplified procedure for amendment of the technical appendices of the convention. The protocol, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 12 February 1998, will be opened for signature on 22 June 1998.

Furthermore, the parties adopted two resolutions on, respectively, acquisition and transport of laboratory animals, and accommodation and care of these animals.

It also agreed to include in the agenda of the 4th Multilateral Consultation the revision of Appendix A of the convention. With that in view, non-governmental organisations participating as observers to the multilateral consultations were entrusted with the task of preparing proposals for modifications.

Finally, a declaration of intent was finalised at the multilateral consultation with a view to establishing a common basis leading towards solutions to the difficulties currently met with regard to the transport of laboratory animals, in particular primates. The text of the declaration was made public on 4 December 1997 together with the list of the sixteen member states and thirteen non-governmental organisations which have signed it.

g. Adapting nationality laws in the new European context

European Convention on Nationality (ETS No. 166)

On 14 May 1997, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted the European Convention on Nationality. This convention, which was opened for signature on 6 November 1997,[1] consolidates, in a single text,

1. The following states signed the convention (23 June 1998): Austria, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Sweden, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". Slovakia ratified the convention on 27 May 1998.

the important issues relating to nationality and may be considered as a real European code on nationality.

With the development of human rights law since the second world war, there is an increasing recognition that states must, in matters of nationality, take into account the fundamental rights of individuals. It reflects the demographic and democratic changes, in particular migration and state succession, which have occurred in central and eastern Europe since 1989. Therefore this text, which constitutes an important standard in the field of nationality, aims to contribute to the progressive development of international law and, in particular, to avoid cases of statelessness.

The term "nationality" is defined in the Convention (Article 2) as the legal bond between an individual and a state and does not indicate a person's ethnic origin. As far as multiple nationality is concerned, the text, in general, allows states to take into account their own particular circumstances in order to determine the extent to which multiple nationality is to be allowed.

The convention embodies principles and rules applying to all aspects of nationality. It is designed to make acquisition of a new nationality and recovery of a former one easier, to ensure that nationality is lost only for good reason and cannot be arbitrarily withdrawn, to guarantee that the procedures governing applications for nationality are just, fair and open to appeal, and to regulate the situation of persons in danger of being left stateless as a result of state succession. It also covers military obligations in the case of multiple nationality and co-operation between states parties.

Some of the essential principles behind the text are the prevention of statelessness, non-discrimination (in regulating questions of nationality, states must avoid all discrimination on grounds of sex, religion, race, colour, national or ethnic origin) and respect for the rights of persons habitually resident on the territories concerned.

The convention will come into force when three member states have ratified it.

In addition, it should be noted that the working party of the Committee of Experts on Nationality (CJ-NA-GT) is finalising a draft recommendation on the avoidance of statelessness, which is expected to be submitted to the Committee of Experts on Nationality (CJ-NA) by the end of 1998.

Other work

The Council of Europe plays a very important role in the field of nationality by providing its special knowledge on nationality issues to numerous states, international organisations and the general public, in particular by making use of the considerable expertise to be found within the CJ-NA.

The Council is also very active in central and eastern European countries in multilateral activities concerning practical issues relating to the granting of nationality, with the assistance of the experts in the CJ-NA.

Moreover, the Council of Europe is assisting several central and eastern European states in reforming their nationality law. In particular, experts of the CJ-NA have been drafting the citizenship law of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which entered into force on 1 January 1998, in co-operation with the Office of the High Representative (OHR), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and are currently drafting the citizenship laws of the entities of this country.

In 1996, the Committee of Ministers adopted the Principles on Citizenship Legislation Concerning the Parties to the Peace Agreements in Bosnia and Herzegovina.[1] They aim at avoiding as far as possible situations of statelessness which may arise after the war and at facilitating the acquisition of a nationality for persons who have difficulties in having their nationality status ascertained. Such persons should also be able to acquire a nationality only on the basis of a statement made by or for them.

Finally, the European Documentation Centre on Nationality (Eurodoc) issues and regularly updates the *European Bulletin on Nationality*, which contains information concerning the nationality laws of almost all European countries, and the achievements of the Council of Europe in the field of law, as well as texts of the most important international legal instruments adopted by the Council of Europe in this field. ■

1. These states are Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

5. New solutions to crime problems

a. Texts approved by the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC)

At its 46th Plenary Session (2-6 June 1997), the CDPC:

– approved the draft additional protocol to the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, and the accompanying explanatory report;

– approved the draft recommendation concerning the ethical and organisational aspects of health care in prison, and the accompanying explanatory memorandum;

– approved the draft recommendation on staff concerned with the implementation of sanctions and measures, and the accompanying explanatory memorandum;

– approved the draft recommendation concerning intimidation of witnesses and the rights of the defence, and the accompanying explanatory memorandum.

b. Criminology

The Committee of Experts on the Role of early Psychosocial Intervention in the Prevention of Criminality (PC-IN) was set up by the Committee of Ministers in 1996. So far the committee has held three meetings. It is currently preparing a draft recommendation and a draft report on early psychosocial interventions. The committee's work takes into account the growing concern about crime and delinquency throughout Europe and the fact that the age at which many young offenders commence a criminal career is diminishing. Its aim is to conduct a thorough analysis of the possibilities for preventing (young) people from engaging in criminal behaviour or, at least, for delaying their entry into crime and delinquency. The PC-IN endeavours to identify those risk factors that are likely to be influenced by a positive prevention policy which ultimately would, if effectively implemented, also save money for governments. Research demonstrates that persistent property offenders may incur substantial costs (to the criminal justice system and to victims) during their criminal careers. Empirical evidence from the United States suggests that $1 spent on successful early intervention can save $7 by the time the potential offender is 20 years old. Preventing criminality (that is preventing people taking up a criminal lifestyle) therefore could have enormous social and economic payoffs.

The Committee of Experts on Mediation in Penal Matters (PC-MP) held its first meeting in 1996 and, by the end of 1997, three meetings had taken place. After a fact-finding phase on various systems of mediation in penal matters, the committee is currently preparing a draft recommendation which aims at dealing with the general principles behind mediation in penal matters, its relation to traditional criminal justice proceedings, the legal basis for such mediation and its operation. The draft recommendation will be accompanied by a memorandum or report, giving a fuller explanation on the recommendation as well as some references to different systems of mediation in penal matters in various European states.

c. Protection of the environment

The Committee of Experts on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law (PC-EN) finished, in December 1995, the elaboration of a draft convention on the subject and its explanatory report. The document was approved by the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) at its 45th Plenary Session in June 1996 and transmitted to the Committee of Ministers for adoption and opening for signature. The Committee of Ministers submitted the draft convention to the Parliamentary Assembly for opinion and, in the light of this opinion, expects to adopt it in 1998.

Once adopted, this document will be the first international convention the primary goal of which is to protect the environment through criminal law. This activity was initiated at the request of the 17th Conference of European Ministers of Justice (1990, Istanbul), with a view to developing guidelines for legislation on means of criminal law to combat environment impairment.

The convention qualifies human behaviour most dangerous to the environment as criminal offences, when committed intentionally or negligently. These offences are to be incorporated into national penal codes by signatory states. In addition, the convention seeks to promote effective measures to sanction these acts, often committed by large enterprises, by providing for a possibility of corporate criminal liability and a duty of reinstatement of the environment.

d. Corruption

European citizens feel increasingly concerned about corruption, now an important clandestine driving force in Europe, which is seriously undermining the very foundations of our societies: the economic system, based on free but fair competition, and democracy, governed by the principle of equality and the rule of law and supposed to favour competence and merit. Corruption therefore endangers the stability of democratic institutions. That is why the Council of Europe, which advocates the defence of the rule of law, democracy, human rights, and, since the Vienna Summit in 1993, the democratic security of Europe, feels concerned about corruption. Moreover, corruption is a subject well adapted for European co-operation because it is a problem shared by most, if not all, European states and also because it often presents transnational elements.

The Multidisciplinary Group on Corruption (known by its French acronym as the "GMC") was set up by the Committee of Ministers in 1994, acting at the request of the 19th Conference of European Ministers of Justice held in Malta in June 1994. The GMC prepared, in the course of 1995, a programme of action against corruption, an ambitious document covering all the aspects of the international fight against this phenomenon. Having obtained the opinions of the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) and the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ), the Committee of Ministers adopted the Programme of Action against Corruption (POAC) in November 1996 and gave *ad hoc* terms of reference to the GMC to implement it before the end of the year 2000.

The 21st Conference of European Ministers of Justice, which took place in Prague in June 1997, dealt with the topic "Links between corruption and organised crime". The ministers, having considered, *inter alia*, a progress report submitted by the GMC, recommended to speed up the implementation of the POAC and to intensify efforts with a view to the adoption of:

– a framework agreement defining common principles in the fight against corruption;

– a criminal law convention providing for a co-ordinated criminalisation of corruption offences and enhanced co-operation in the prosecution of such offences;

– an international civil law instrument dealing with compensation for damage resulting from corruption and a model code of conduct for public officials and;

– an effective follow-up mechanism open to member states and non-member states on an equal footing.

At their second summit, held in Strasbourg on 10 and 11 October 1997, the heads of state and government of the member states of the Council of Europe, adopted an action plan instructing the Committee of Ministers to adopt guiding principles to be applied in the development of domestic legislation and practice, to secure the rapid completion of international legal instruments pursuant to the POAC and to establish without delay an appropriate and efficient mechanism for monitoring the observance of the guiding principles and the implementation of the said international instruments.

At its 101st meeting on 6 November 1997, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted twenty Guiding Principles for the Fight Against Corruption and instructed the GMC rapidly to complete the elaboration of international legal instruments pursuant to the POAC and to submit without delay a draft text proposing the establishment of an appropriate and efficient mechanism for monitoring the observance of the Guiding Principles and the implementation of the international legal instruments to be adopted.

The GMC held six meetings in 1997 and pursued the implementation of the POAC, in the light of the priorities defined by the plan of action and by the Committee of Ministers. The Working Group on Criminal Law of the GMC concluded the second reading of the draft Criminal Law Convention on Corruption and transmitted it to the GMC plenary which held a first exchange of views on this draft at its 11th (extraordinary) meeting in November 1997. The adoption of this treaty is expected to take place in 1998. The GMC also continued with the preparation of two other instruments: the draft international instrument on civil remedies for compensation for damage resulting from acts of corruption and the model code of conduct for public officials, expected to be ready by the end of 1998 or the beginning of 1999.

Moreover, the GMC considered in November 1997 a preliminary draft agreement establishing the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, .an institution responsible for monitoring the observance of the guiding principles and the implementation of the international legal instrument to be adopted. It is expected to submit this draft agreement to the Committee of Ministers for adoption at the 102nd Session at ministerial level, in May 1998.

The 2nd European Conference of Specialised Services in the Fight against Corruption, held in Tallinn (Estonia) from 27 to 29 October 1997, was devoted to the topic "Corruption in public procurement". Its aim was to provide a deeper and clearer understanding about how corruption is practised in this context and to exchange information on practical experience as regards the fight against corruption phenomena in public procurement. The conference was opened by Mr Lepikson, Minister of Internal Affairs of Estonia, and the Rapporteur General was Mr Castresana, Special Prosecutor for economic crimes involving corruption (Spain). Rapporteurs included: Mr Borelli, Prosecutor of the Republic to the Court of Milan (Italy), Mr Bueb, Central Service for the Prevention of Corruption (France), Mr Gillanders, Serious Fraud Office (United Kingdom) and Mr Wiehen, Transparency International (Germany). The conference adopted conclusions with the aim of improving the situation in this field. It brought together a significant number of participants, not only from member states of the Council of Europe but also from observer states and international organisations including the EBRD, the World Bank, the European Commission, Interpol and the OECD.

e. Increasing effectiveness of criminal law and criminal procedure

The Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions in the Penal Field (PC-OC) is entrusted with examining the functioning and implementation of Council of Europe conventions and agreements in the field of crime problems with a view to adapting them and improving their practical application where necessary. It is furthermore entrusted with following developments in European co-operation in that field, in order to promote co-ordination.

The last years have witnessed an increasing need to follow closely the application of the different conventions in the penal field and solve difficulties that arise. This is due to a variety of reasons that include the accession to the conventions by many central and eastern European countries; technical and other developments that are not covered by the existing texts, some of which date back to the 1950s and 1960s; and the urgency to follow developments in international co-operation in criminal matters worked out in the framework *inter alia* of the European Union and the Schengen Group.

In 1997, the PC-OC approved a draft protocol to the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons and continued its work on the draft of a second additional protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

The Group of Specialists on "Trends in crime and criminal justice: statistics and other quantitative data on crime and the criminal justice system" (PC-S-ST) held a first meeting in its new enlarged composition to continue the preparation of a compendium of data in the area of crime and criminal justice concerning the member states of the Council of Europe on the basis of the "Draft Model of the European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics", already prepared by the group.

f. Promotion of penal co-operation to make the treatment of offenders more humane and more effective

The issues on the agenda of the Council for Penological Co-operation (PC-CP) included:

– continuation of its work on prison overcrowding;

– current and future activities of the CDPC in the penological area;

– a review of the activities organised in the framework of co-operation and assistance with central and eastern European countries;

– preparation of the 12th Conference of Directors of Prison Administration (see *infra*);

– preparation of draft terms of reference for the new Committee on the Implementation of the European Rules on Community Sanctions and Measures;

– the collection of basic information on prison administrations in Europe;

– annual penal statistics (1996);

– preparation of No. 21 of the *Penological Information Bulletin*.

The 12th Conference of Directors of Prison Administrations was held in Strasbourg from 26 to 28 November 1997. It was attended by the directors general and other high officials of national prison administrations and discussed such matters as:

– prison overcrowding: (new) measures taken or envisaged by member states (1995-97);

– long sentences and violent offenders;

– keeping prisoners active in an increasingly difficult economic environment;

– the preparation of prisoners for release;

– the treatment of sex offenders in penal establishments and release programmes;

– co-operation with central and eastern Europe.

The results of the conference will be used as a major contribution to the project on prison overcrowding which is currently being carried out by the Council for Penological Co-operation.

A new committee of experts has been entrusted with carrying out a thorough review of the operation of Recommendation No. R (92) 16 on the European Rules on Community Sanctions and Measures (PC-ER). During its first two meetings in 1997 the committee prepared a detailed questionnaire in order to collect the information required for carrying out its task. The results of the questionnaire will form the main basis of a European report on the implementation of key rules for community sanctions and measures as set out in Recommendation No. R (92) 16, the problems encountered and successful practice in this area. In the light of the information collected, the committee will explore ways and means of promoting community sanctions and measures as a particularly humane and constructive way of dealing with certain categories of offences and offenders, and make practical proposals for overcoming possible problems arising in connection with the implementation of Recommendation No. R (92) 16.

A specific programme to tackle the problems of corruption and organised crime in states in transition (the Octopus programme), launched as a joint venture with the Commission of the European Communities (Phare) and managed by the Directorate of Legal Affairs, started in June 1996 and comprised four stages.

In 1996, an evaluation was carried out of the problem of corruption and organised crime and of the efficiency of countermeasures already taken by the governments of the sixteen countries participating in the project. A questionnaire was sent to states and a multilateral conference was held for that purpose (12-14 December 1996 in Sofia).

In 1997, three other stages were completed:

– confidential recommendations and guidelines were formulated by five Council of Europe experts for each of the states;

– expert missions were carried out to the countries (with the exception of Albania) in order to determine the extent to which the proposed measures were appropriate to the particular circumstances of the country in question, the feasibility of their implementation and an identification of potential obstacles. During these missions, the needs expressed with respect to co-operation and assistance were noted;

– the results of the expert missions were presented by the five experts of the project at a conference held in Strasbourg from 1 to 3 December 1997. Moreover, final recommendations and guidelines (including complementary measures) were presented by the experts for each of the countries (with the exception of Albania), taking into account obstacles which had been identified and additional information obtained during the expert missions.

In 1998, written reports presenting the final recommendations and guidelines will be sent to each of the states and action to help countries to implement the above-mentioned recommendations will be proposed. ■

6. Co-operation and assistance programmes for the countries of central and eastern Europe

Among the co-operation and assistance programmes should be noted the two legal co-operation programmes Demo-Droit and Themis.

The legal co-operation programme known as "Demo-Droit" aims at promoting the fundamental principles of the rule of law and at facilitating the progressive adaptation of the national legislations of central and eastern European countries to the norms and standards contained in the legal instruments of the Council of Europe.

The objective of the Themis Plan is to ensure the training of legal professionals to implement legislative reforms. It is a three-year programme launched in 1993, and includes six projects considered to have priority by the beneficiary states, and open for all countries engaged in legal co-operation with the Council of Europe.

Furthermore, legislative expertises are carried out at the request of governments from central and eastern European countries in order to supply them with the necessary assistance, with a view to assessing the conformity of the draft laws with European standards.

Demo-Droit programmes

Bilateral activities

Bilateral co-operation concerns all beneficiary countries, and activities are based on specific concerns of states. The whole range of activities is covered by the different projects.

Multilateral activities

Multilateral projects are based on the need for technical assistance of several states. Among these multilateral activities in 1997 should be noted the following:

– multilateral meeting on the enforcement of court decisions (Strasbourg, 27-29 October 1997);

– multilateral meeting on the profession of Registrar of the Court (Strasbourg, 19-21 March 1997);

– multilateral meeting on practical issues relating to the granting of citizenship (Zagreb, Croatia, 13-14 November 1997);

– multilateral meetings on the implementation of European conventions in the penal field (2 workshops: 10-12 March 1997, 2-4 December 1997);

– multilateral meeting on the Ethical Committees on Research (Preparatory meeting: Strasbourg, 4-5 September 1997); the multilateral meeting will take place in 1998;

– partial funding for the "Octopus" project, joint project between the Commission of the European Communities and the Council of Europe seeking to assist sixteen states in eastern and central Europe in fighting corruption and organised crime;

– workshop on economic crime (Tilburg, the Netherlands, 12-14 October 1997);

– multilateral meeting on penal law reform in Europe; participants: representatives of three Baltic states (Stockholm, 30-31 October 1997).

Plan for the development of law (Themis Plan)

The implementation of the Themis Plan takes place in the form of bilateral and multilateral activities followed by study visits organised in the member states, with the assistance of experts from member states and professional organisations, in the following fields:

Project 1: The police in a society in transition

To teach the participants the basic principles of a state governed by the rule of law and their application in the day-to-day activities of the police. To promote and encourage reform of the police structures; to set up a system of police training based on the values of democracy.

Project 2: The transformation of the "Prokuratura" into a body compatible with the democratic principles of law.

To teach the application of the main principles of the concept of the rule of law to criminal procedure, taking account of the development of crime policy (principle of discretionary prosecution, procedure respecting the equality of the parties, requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights, alternatives to imprisonment, etc.); the role of the public prosecutor's department; to provide assistance for the reform of the current system in the countries of central and eastern Europe; transition problems.

Project 3: The role of a judge in a democratic society

To teach the participants the basic principles of a state governed by the rule of law (separation of powers, independence of judges, respect for human rights) and their practical application in the fields of civil law, administrative law and criminal law.

Project 4: A new concept for the prison system

To provide information for participants, firstly on European prison rules and their application to all the prison structures, including daily life in prisons, and secondly on the European Convention on Human Rights and the "anti-torture" convention and their monitoring systems.

Project 5: The functioning of a ministry of justice in a state governed by the rule of law

To familiarise participants with the basic principles of the state governed by the rule of law and their application in legislation and in practice.

Project 6: Drafting of laws in a state governed by the rule of law

To familiarise participants with the technique of drafting, taking into account the requirements of the principles of the rule of law.

Project 7: Harmonisation of rules regarding the profession of lawyer

To harmonise the rules relating to the profession of lawyer having regard to the role of the lawyer in a democratic society.

Project 8: The notary as a guarantor of legal security in a democratic society in a state governed by the rule of law

To establish and consolidate the profession of notary which, through its impartiality and specialisation, contributes towards protecting the individual in his family and property relationships and towards providing the legal security necessary for the harmonious functioning of a democratic society and the development of the market economy.

Among the multilateral activities carried out in 1997 the following events should be noted:

– Prison populations in Europe (Helsinki, 12-15 March 1997);

– Codification in the countries in transition (Banska Bystrica, Slovak Republic, 15-17 April 1997);

– The role of the Ministry of Justice in financing and support for the judicial system (Riga, Latvia, 12-14 May 1997);

– Project for drafting a European status of judges (Strasbourg, 28-30 May 1997);

– Training of police officers in a democratic society (Strasbourg, 17-19 June 1997);

– The guarantees of the independence of the judiciary in a state governed by the rule of law (Warsaw and Sĺok, 23-26 June 1997);

– Training of judges and prosecutors on the application of international conventions (meeting of the Lisbon network) (Bordeaux, 2-4 July 1997);

– The status of judges in Europe (Strasbourg, 9-11 July 1997);

– Associations of judges: role, powers and status (Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 8-10 September 1997);

– Prison work (Popowo, Poland, 29-30 September 1997);

– The supreme court and the constitutional court: articulation of their roles, powers and competencies (Prague and Brno, Czech Republic, 20-23 October 1997);

– The role of the notary in the prevention of disputes (Prague, Czech Republic, 22-24 October 1997);

– The role of the lawyer in a society in transition (Budapest, Hungary, 10-12 December 1997). ■

XVIII. Information and public relations

1. Press service

The role of the press service is to deal with media relations for the Organisation, both handling media requests and journalists at Council of Europe events and promoting the interests of the Council through the media. The service provides coverage for all the Council's main activities and reports in the human rights, intergovernmental, parliamentary and local government domains. This work takes many forms, producing press releases and press dossiers, and organising press conferences, meetings and talks among them.

In addition to the team of press officers, there are two specialised units in the service. One deals with sending out press communications and accreditation of journalists. The other, the press monitoring unit, collects press cuttings on the Organisation, which it sends out in weekly and special reviews to 250 in-house recipients, including the permanent representations. It also monitors news agency dispatches and produces four daily selections from AFP and Reuters for about eighty-two in-house recipients and does special information searches on request.

Media coverage

The key event media-wise for 1997 was undoubtedly the Council's 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government in October, which produced unprecedented coverage for the Organisation. The press monitoring unit ultimately issued nine press reviews devoted exclusively to the summit and one addendum, a total of 1 451 articles. By comparison, two reviews were produced following the Vienna Summit of 1993.

Other events attracting good coverage included the Assembly sessions and ministerial conferences.

During 1997, the monitoring unit sent out thirty-two reviews (excluding summit coverage), containing a total of 4 589 articles. (This is the first year articles have been counted, so there is no comparison with last year.)

AFP sent out 727 dispatches in 1997 mentioning either the Council of Europe, the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Commission of Human Rights or the European Court of Human Rights. Reuters sent out 450 dispatches; Tass, 372, and Associated Press,122.

It should be remembered, however, that monitoring is still an imprecise science. The press monitoring team works with staff across the House in scanning various publications throughout the year. However, financial constraints mean that only a choice of publications can be monitored – 42 daily newspapers and 15 periodicals from 24 countries in 17 languages in 1997. Equally the unit does not monitor television and radio broadcasts. The results can, therefore, only provide an indication of the Council's media profile.

Rising demand

Demand for press releases continued to rise. 744 press releases were produced in 1997, compared to 726 in 1996, of which 249 were on human rights issues (233 in 1996), 55 on ratifications (61 in 1996) and 51 on signatures (58 in 1996). A further 27 information notes were issued (compared to 39).

There were 666 journalists accredited by the Council in 1997 to cover the Organisation's events in Strasbourg and elsewhere. Another 1 409 were accredited for the summit. In 1996, 823 were accredited overall.

New developments

New technology continued to revolutionise the press service. A new database was created, allowing press releases to be faxed immediately to a much larger number of journalists. The press office was also one of the first services to go over into the Windows NT system.

Since May 1997, the Council of Europe's main Internet site has been directly managed by the Directorate of Information. Over the year, there was a significant increase in its activity, with the number of "visits" rising from 400 a day in May to more than a 1 000 a day by the end of December.

Special sites have also been set up to coincide with major events in the Council's life, in particular the signing of the European Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, the second Council of Europe summit and the Conference of European Ministers of Justice in June 1997.

The Press Monitoring Unit also started to put dispatches directly on to the new Intranet system.

Europa40+, the Organisation's newsletter, which also exists on-line, was sent out in German for the first time.

Press officers participated in three seminars on the Council and its human rights machinery for

Russian regional journalists and human rights activists in July, November and December.

Press correspondents

The Council's network of press correspondents in Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom liaised with their national media on the Council's behalf and provided support during conferences in their home countries. ■

2. Magazines Co-ordination Unit

In 1997, the unit produced seven issues of the *Council of Europe Journal*, including a larger-than-usual print run of a four-page summit special. The bimonthly eight-page journal is circulated to all the Organisation's staff, both working and retired, to permanent delegations and to the Council's information and documentation centres. 1 800 copies are printed in French and 1 200 in English. ■

3. Audiovisual Resources Unit

The Strasbourg summit in October was the main focus of activity in 1997 for the service, which helps television and radio journalists to report on the Council of Europe, and takes photographs of all major events. The other major media event of the year was the signing in April of the Bioethics Convention in Oviedo, Spain.

Videokits

These are professional standard BETA video cassettes containing useful images of Council of Europe buildings, personalities and activities, which are distributed free of charge to television journalists, thereby saving them time and money.

In 1997, three new videokits were produced: the bioethics videokit, to publicise the new convention, a pre-summit videokit, distributed to journalists before the October summit, and a post-summit videokit, featuring highlights of the event itself.

Audio kits

For the first time, the service produced a CD Audiokit, featuring famous speeches made at the Council of Europe, different musical versions of the European anthem, and useful sound effects of Strasbourg and the Palais de l'Europe. This was distributed free of charge to radio journalists before and during the October summit.

Television news coverage

The Strasbourg summit was by far the biggest event of the year in terms of television, with Russian channels putting the meeting at the top of their news bulletins. Many television stations used the pictures supplied by the Council of Europe in the pre-summit videokit. In addition, Daniel Tarschys appeared in extended interviews (thirty minutes) on both CNN and BBC World.

Eurovision (EVN) feeds

The Eurovision (EVN) network, based in Geneva, is a daily news exchange between Europe's major public service broadcasters. During the period of the summit, the network transmitted 198 feeds (including 22 live items) out of Strasbourg, to 52 television stations.

Television seminar in Strasbourg

In May, the service helped organise a two-week seminar in Strasbourg on democratic television journalism, in partnership with the Thomson Foundation of Great Britain. The participants were regional television journalists from Russia, Ukraine and Georgia. Each journalist made an extended television report on the Council of Europe for their respective television stations.

Radio

1997 saw the launch of a new radio programme in French sponsored by the Council of Europe and distributed free of charge to 130 independent radio stations in France, Belgium and Luxembourg. The four editions each year coincide with the sessions of the Parliamentary Assembly and reflect the main issues raised.

Photography

The photography unit covers all the main Council of Europe events. Its pictures are used to illustrate internal publications and press files, and for photo albums given to prominent visitors. They are also given free of charge to external publications, such as newspapers and magazines.

Some statistics:

– 839 photo shoots (792 in 1996),

– 19 747 colour shots (12 072 in 1996).

The photo unit also mounted a major exhibition featuring key photo and video images from the Strasbourg Summit. It was shown to staff in both main buildings, and to the Committee of Ministers and members of the Parliamentary Assembly. ■

4. Public Relations Section

The public relations work complements the information disseminated in the mass media. It is directed in the main at improving the Council of Europe's public image, particularly in target groups where it is likely to produce a snowball effect. To achieve this, the section develops communication concepts and strategies for the Organisation's own departments and for its outside partners. At present its efforts are focusing on preparations for the Council's fiftieth anniversary.

50th anniversary of the Council of Europe

The section has developed a communication strategy and a list of projects for its main target groups: national, regional and local elected representatives, political parties, ministries and their staff, non-governmental organisations, education systems, the information and documentation centres and the media.

The aim of these projects is above all to produce information and communication tools specially designed to cater for the expectations and specific needs of the end users. Projects at the planning stage or in the pipeline include the production of a CD-Rom, a prestige book, an electronic quiz and publications for children, young people and teachers, exhibitions, and other events. Contacts have already been made, for example, with:

– city halls, to organise simultaneous events;

– airline and railway companies, to have an article published in their travel magazines;

– local authorities, to display Council of Europe posters and if possible have an avenue or a square named after the Council of Europe;

– post office authorities, to have a commemorative stamp issued;

– the printed press, to have special supplements published;

– major communication agencies, to take advantage of their professional know-how.

Visitors

In 1997, 107 094 people representing sixty-seven nationalities visited the Council of Europe. 43 066 people, in 1 383 groups, followed study programmes and attended 821 specialised lectures. These programmes comprise from one to seven lectures and are designed by the six-strong team of the Visits Management unit, depending on the profiles of the groups concerned. Some 157 discussions with parliamentarians or members of permanent delegations were also organised.

The new Human Rights Building visitors' service received 17 104 visitors, in 531 groups, interested in the European Convention on Human Rights and its supervisory bodies. In addition to these special study groups, numerous political personalities, journalists, photographers, architects, etc. were shown around the building.

School groups, tourists and visitors in search of information of a more general nature about Europe in Strasbourg are taken on a one-hour guided tour that takes in both the Council and the European Parliament. The visit comprises a presentation film on the two institutions and a tour of the *Palais de l'Europe* and the European Parliament building.

Publications

Leaflets, brochures and fact sheets produced by the section form the basis for all the Council of Europe's public relations work. Designed for specific target groups, the twenty-odd products created or updated in 1997 include:

– a dozen general and specialised leaflets in sixteen languages;

– ten different language versions of the brochure *Activities and achievements*;

– the brochure *The Council of Europe – Facts and Figures*, in fifteen languages;

– a glossy booklet on *The Council of Europe – A Breath of Freedom* in two languages;

– the brochure *Milestones in European Co-operation*, in three languages;

– a brochure for children aged 6 to 10;

– a series of twenty graphic illustrations of the Council of Europe's activities;

– a booklet on the 100th Session of the Committee of Ministers, in English and French;

– a booklet on the summit in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Russian.

Other activities

The Public Relations Service also participates in the implementation of campaigns and other communication efforts in which the Council of Europe decides to engage, either in an advisory capacity or by taking charge of specific projects.

The renown of the Prix Europa television prize is spreading: in 1997 new heights were reached, in terms of quality as well as quantity, with more than 400 submissions from 161 producers or television channels in 36 European countries. Organised jointly with other European institutions, the Europa Prize rewards the best television productions in Europe. The annual *Yearbook* is a first-class source of references for all programme managers.

In collaboration with the Strasbourg Education Authority, a special half-day session on the theme of Europe in school was organised for some 400 schoolteachers in the Assembly chamber. Other conferences are planned for 1998 and 1999, to inform school inspectors, educational advisers and teacher trainers of the Council of Europe's work in the field of education.

A large proportion of the service's activities concern projects to promote the European idea, ranging from active support for events organised outside the Council to the production and dissemination of communication and advertising material, such as posters, stickers and promotional objects.

The service also actively supports the René Cassin Competition organised once a year by

law students in Strasbourg. This event is the largest oratory jousting tournament organised in the French language on a subject related to the protection of human rights. Its purpose is to promote the study of human rights in universities. In 1997, more than fifty teams from law schools in Europe, America and Africa took part.

On the occasion of the summit, the service helped to organise an exhibition on the Council of Europe by the City of Strasbourg at the City Hall. ■

XIX. Publishing and Documentation Service (SEDDOC)

The year 1997 was marked by the development of the PRIDE (Production and Retrieval of Documents through Electronics) project. Rethinking of the system's general plan, firstly, made the choice of electronic printing equipment suppliers more flexible and, secondly, made it easier to implement and link the various other parts of the PRIDE project, which currently covers the following three functions.

Production of documents on demand and just in time

This tool, already in operation, allows documents to be printed on request and just in time, without any paper originals circulating. The Committee of Ministers and the Office of the Clerk of the Assembly were connected to the system in the first quarter of 1997, and all the other services are being connected as they migrate to the new Windows NT environment. The SEDDOC attaches great importance to training users: Projects and Methods Office has not only provided training for each department, specifically geared to its document production needs, but has also set up a user support service. The main advantages of this part of the PRIDE system are the elimination of document stocks, the speed with which documents are processed and the possibility of remote printing, as successfully tried out at the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government, in Strasbourg on 10 and 11 October, when documents for journalists were produced directly at the *Palais de la Musique et des Congrès*.

The savings made on production costs and postage will cover the funding of other parts of the project.

Targeted dissemination of documents

The mailing list manager foreseen under this facet of PRIDE will allow the number of addressees of a given document to be accurately identified, by keeping track, *inter alia*, of their movements, thus obtaining a perfect match between the number of copies produced and the number of copies required. In 1997, the technical specification was drawn up, international tenders were invited, with a view to entrusting development of this application to a specialised supplier, and negotiations were started with the selected firm: Oracle. The mailing list manager will also allow the addressee's name to be printed on to the document itself, thus optimising mailing procedures and permitting forwarding by means other than mail (e-mail, fax, etc.), as well as taking account of users' preferences for information in digital format or on paper.

Documentary databases

It is clearly not enough to put a mass of information on line for it to be usable; it is necessary to organise this information so as to make the user's task easier, and this aspect of the PRIDE project aims to set up a series of tools for management of the documentary information produced by the Council of Europe, allowing easy access to this data through a coherent and professional presentation.

Within the digital library thus created, all the information printed using the equipment mentioned under the first facet of the PRIDE project, will be retrieved in formats allowing either a reprint or on-screen access. It will be possible to accede to these texts in various ways, including e-mail and the World Wide Web, at different levels, depending on the access privileges granted to the various users. This part of the project will be set up in the course of 1998, with a first prototype expected mid-year, and a fully operational system by the end of 1998. ■

1. Document production and publishing

In April 1997, the SEDDOC finally stopped using offset reproduction equipment and made the transition to electronic printing equipment of the Docutech type, which opens the way to integrated management of document production, directly linked with word-processing. The number of Docutech units was increased from four to nine, and they printed 113 139 821 items from a total of 134 891 452

Throughout 1997, the SEDDOC made a systematic effort to find ways of cutting production and postage costs. With regard to postage, express rates were the main target. Despatches from Mail Office totalled 300 tonnes (146 tonnes of ordinary mail, 116 tonnes of freight and 37 tonnes of express items), and express items showed a tendency to increase, particularly items despatched to central and eastern Europe.

The Desktop Publishing Unit, which provides more elaborate document layout than word-processing, produced a total of 15 212 pages in 1997, that is 6.5% more than in 1996. In 1997, the local network between the Unit and the Graphic Design Workshop was consolidated.

The French and English Word Processing Units produced 47 207 pages, and their workload increased as a result of the introduction of the CENTRAD translation management system.

The Editing and Graphics Unit checked 27 560 pages. ■

2. Publishing and the promotion of the Council of Europe's image

The SEDDOC's publishing activity focuses on two main types of publication. On the one hand, there are the various institutional publications, which account for about 80% of the titles published annually by the SEDDOC (that is 130 new titles a year in each language) and concern the programme activities of the departments and work by the committees of experts responsible for them under the terms of reference assigned to them by the Committee of Ministers. On the other hand, the SEDDOC carries out publishing activities under the "Council of Europe Publishing" label, dealing with Council of Europe activities in particular fields and aimed at a wider readership.

In 1997, twenty-six titles were published, among them *Fundamental social rights, Transition to democracy,* and *In from the Margins*. To mark the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government, Council of Europe Publishing released a historical work, *Voices of Europe* which was accompanied by a CD containing famous speeches taken from the text.

The "Debates" series, a series dealing with topical issues discussed by the Parliamentary Assembly, acquired one new title: *History and its interpretations*.

As in other years, Council of Europe Publishing participated in major book fairs at Frankfurt, Paris and Warsaw. To give a higher profile to its commercial titles, Council of Europe Publishing contracted the services of two press relations companies: one in Paris the other in London.

To ensure the availability of new and backlist titles in bookshops, a contract was signed with a distributor in France, as well as one in Canada.

An Internet site (book.coe.fr) for the direct sale of publications was set up in 1997, and began operating at the beginning of 1998.

Finally, in 1997, new software for billing of direct sales and management of stock was introduced, as was systematic monitoring of print-runs for institutional publications.

The Graphic Design Workshop helped to strengthen the visual identity of Council of Europe publications. The Workshop creates over 200 new products annually (covers, posters, greeting cards, stickers, CD-ROM sleeves, etc.) and ensures that the overall graphic presentation of products created by the Organisation is consistent, including exhibition stands, signs and signposting, as well as publication display stands and the various documentary media.

In collaboration with the Graphic Design Workshop, the Areas Display Unit designed several stands and helped to organise exhibitions at the *Palais de l'Europe*, thereby promoting the Organisation's activities and achievements.

Exhibitions in 1997 included a travelling exhibition of photographic highlights of the second summit on 10 and 11 October, an exhibition on the Europe Prize and an exhibition devoted to the winner of the Museum Prize. ■

3. Documentary information

The Documentary Information Section is responsible for two aspects of documentary information management: it helps to distribute Council of Europe documents for internal and external use, processing and organising them as documentary products, and it also supplies staff and institutional users at the Council with external information.

I-point

I-point, the Council's general information service point, received 32 350 enquiries and requests for documents (written, phoned, faxed, e-mailed or in person) in 1997. 129 600 information leaflets and documents were sent out in reply. Apart from general enquiries on the Council of Europe and its activities, the I-point serves as an interface for all Council directorates, and more specialised requests are routed directly to the ones concerned.

I-point stocks and displays the full range of Council of Europe promotional brochures and leaflets in Strasbourg, and supplies the documentation centres in central and eastern Europe with a broad selection of these materials. Brochures are available not only in the two official languages, but often in Russian, German, Italian, Spanish, Polish and other member state languages as well.

Indexing Unit and Archives

INFODOC collects all the documents produced by Council services. The Indexing Unit catalogues and indexes Council documents in the central documentary database, Ceres (Council of Europe Retrieval System). New acquisitions are listed in a bibliographical bulletin, *Document update list/Liste des documents parus*. 11 982 Council document records were added to Ceres in 1997.

The most frequently requested documents are the basis of the collection in the Central Library and in the fourteen documentation centres in central and eastern Europe.

The migration of INFODOC to the new NT Windows environment made it necessary to transcribe all the automated procedures used to publish information bulletins. Preparations for the Ceres base's forthcoming migration to more up-to-date document processing and management software also started in 1997. The export of data to a standard USMARC format was tested.

All Council of Europe documents are stored in archives. The Committee of Ministers has declassified the historic archives covering the period from 1949 to 1967. For the period from 1968 to 1979, a list of subjects has been compiled, in view of the increasing interest in administrative transparency and in public access to Council documents. A new electronic index to facilitate requests for access to the archives was compiled in 1997, on the basis of three complementary inventories.

Information and documentation centres in central and eastern Europe

Two staff members provide methodological and documentary support for these centres, in Skopje and Ljubljana, which were set up in 1997.

Collections in the fourteen existing centres are monitored and updated, and two bibliographical bulletins, *Update of the Council of Europe collection/Mise à jour de la collection Conseil de l'Europe* and *New items added to Ceres/Nouveautés saisies dans Ceres*, have been specially produced for them. 524 enquiries and document requests were received from the centres in 1997. They were given new means of access to external databases at the end of 1997, and training sessions on the use of the Ceres base were organised for their documentalists.

Central Library, Vedovato Library and specialised documentation centres

The Central Library and its reading room provide access to external information. In 1997, staff, institutional partners of the Council (governments, experts, parliamentarians, local authority representatives, NGOs, and others) and the public consulted 16 848 documentary items in the library and submitted 11 088 requests for documentation. The loan service is restricted to institutional users, and 2 350 loans were made in 1997. Acquisitions and gifts of external publications and documents added 10 681 new references to the Ceres base in 1997. The Main Library's basic collection comprises reference works, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, the member states' official gazettes and numerous legal publications. Eighty-five dailies from the member states are available in the reading room, as well as over 400 periodicals, and the most interesting articles are entered on the Ceres base. The Vedovato Library houses a donated collection of over 29 000 periodicals and publications dealing with international law and the building of Europe. The two specialised documentation centres, the Centre Naturopa and the Documentation Centre for Education in Europe, respectively processed 2 650 and 3 800 enquiries or requests for documents.

Co-operation with the international library networks: EUROLIB and EINIRAS

EUROLIB is a co-operation network established on the European Parliament's initiative in 1988. Its aim is to facilitate co-operation between the libraries and documentation services of various European institutions. The network's 1997 programme covered the launching of the EUROLIB-PER database on a new host, the establishment of an Internet site, revision of the EUR-OP/OCLC/EUROLIB pilot project, and publication of the EUROLIB newsletter. A resolution formalising the operation of EUROLIB was adopted at the general assembly held in Dublin on 17 and 18 April 1997.

EINIRAS (European Information Network in International Relations and Area Studies) links the libraries and documentation centres of political research institutes. It is working to establish a shared electronic information system, with the Council and *Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik* setting up a bibliographical database network, SIPRI looking after factual databases, and the Swiss Centre for Security Studies and Conflict Research providing Internet directories and search engines. ■

XX. Secretariat, administration and finance

1. Organisation chart

With the adoption in December 1997 of the 1998 budget, the Secretariat's organisation chart was altered as follows :

– within the Directorate of Political Affairs, the Co-operation Programmes with the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe Division becomes "Division of Pan-European Co-operation Programmes" ;

– within the Youth Directorate, the sector of Co-Managed Bodies becomes the sector of "Co-Managed Activities" ;

– within the Directorate of Legal Affairs, Division I (Private and International Law) becomes "Division I (Private Law)" and Division II (Public Law) becomes "Division II (Public and International Law)" ;

– within the Directorate of Human Rights, the Section Responsible for Relations with Countries of Central and Eastern Europe becomes "Section Responsible for Relations with New Member States" . ■

2. Staff

Number of posts

When the 1998 budget was adopted, the creation of 27 new posts was decided, 1 upregrading post and the suppression of 6 posts. The number of permanent staff is to be increased from 1 285 to 1 306.

New posts concern :

– Financial Control : 1 B3 ;

– Registry of the New European Court of Human Rights : 1 B5, 4 B4 and 12 B3 ;

– Directorate of Human Rights :
  - Minorities Section : 1 A2/A3 ;
  - European Social Charter Section : 1 A2/A3 ;

– Directorate of Social and Economic Affairs :
  - Division of the Secretariat of the Partial Agreement in the Social and Public Health Field : 1 A2/A3 ;

– European Medicine Quality Department : 2 A2 and 1 B2 ;

– Directorate of Education, Culture and Sport :
  - Division of the Secretariat of the Partial Agreement on the European Support Fund for the Co-production and Distribution of Creative Cinematographic and Audiovisual Works "Eurimages" : 1 A4 and 1 B4 ;

– Directorate of Legal Affairs :
  - Secretariat of the Partial Agreement of the European Commission for Democracy through Law : 1 A4.

Upgrading :

– Upgrading and transfer of one A2/A3 post to grade A4 within the Directorate of Human Rights – Director's Office to the Secretariat of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Suppression of posts :

– The suppression of 6 permanent posts concerning the Directorate of Administration (3 C1/C2) and Technical Services Division (1 C3 and 2 C1/C2).

The breakdown of permanent posts is as follows :
- Category A : 419
- Category L : 72
- Category B : 638
- Category C : 177

1 156 of these posts come under the general budget. The 150 others fall under the following partial agreements :

– European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity : 8 ;

– Division of the Secretariat of the Partial Agreement in the Social and public Health Field : 10 ;

– European Medicine Quality Department : 69 ;

– Secretariat of the Partial Agreement on the Council of Europe Social Development Fund : 10 ;

– Drugs Division (Secretariat of the Partial Agreement of the Pompidou Group) : 9 ;

– Division of the Secretariat of the Open Partial Agreement on the Prevention of, Protection against, and Organisation of Relief in Major Natural or Technological Disasters : 4 ;

– Division of the Secretariat of the Partial Agreement on the European Support Fund for the Co-production and Distribution of Creative Cinematographic and Audiovisual Works "Eurimages" : 12 ;

– Secretariat of the Partial Agreement of the European Commission for Democracy through Law: 12;

– Secretariat of the Partial Agreement on the European Audiovisual Observatory: 10;

– Secretariat of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the European Centre for Modern Languages: 6. ■

3. Co-ordination

The co-ordination system provides recommendations to the governing bodies of the six co-ordinated organisations concerning staff salaries and allowances and their adjustment, and the pension scheme rules. Recommendations to the governing bodies are made by the Co-ordinating Committee on Remuneration after consultation with the Committee of Representatives of the Secretaries/Directors-General and the Committee of Staff Representatives.

The items on the agenda in 1997 included: conclusion of a comparative study of the level of remuneration of staff of the co-ordinated organisations; new salary adjustment method (applicable from 1 January 1998); and the salary adjustment due for 1998. ■

4. Budget for 1997

The expenditure incurred by the Council of Europe in the pursuit of its goals is financed by its member states in accordance with their relative per capita wealth.

This expenditure is grouped, according to its objective and nature, in several budgets, all of which are denominated in French francs. These budgets are operated on an annual basis and are approved each year by the Committee of Ministers, advised in budgetary matters by the Budget Committee consisting of independent budget experts nominated by member states. At the end of each year, the execution of the budgets is audited by the Board of Auditors, which reports to the Committee of Ministers.

Expenditure financed by all member states appears in the general budget, which is subdivided as follows:

Ordinary and pensions budget

The ordinary budget provides for the current expenditure of the Organisation, and the pensions budget of the payment of pension rights for former members of the permanent staff. For 1997 the Committee of Ministers approved total expenditure of 996 million francs for the former (including some 18 million francs financed from the credit balance of the 1995 financial year) and 104 million francs for the latter.

Extraordinary budget

This budget provides for the financing of the construction of the new Human Rights Building. The total approved for the 1997 budget was 48 million francs.

Partial agreement budgets

Certain activities are undertaken by a restricted number of member states only, in the form of partial agreements the budgets of which are financed by those states which participate. The budgets (in million French francs) of these partial agreements in 1997 were as follows:

– Partial Agreement in the Social and Public Health Field: 9.6;

– European Pharmacopoeia: 55.9[1];

– Council of Europe Social Development Fund: 9.4;

– Partial Agreement on the Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group): 8.8;

– Partial Agreement on the Co-operation Group for the prevention of, protection against, and organisation of relief in major natural or technological disasters: 10.4;

– Partial Agreement on the European Support Fund for the Co-production and Distribution of Cinematographic and Audiovisual Works ("Eurimages"): 224.6;

– Partial Agreement on the European Commission for Democracy through Law: 11.6;

– Partial Agreement on the Youth Card: 0.6;

– Enlarged Partial Agreement establishing the European Centre for Modern Languages (Graz): 8.9;

– Partial Agreement on the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity: 15.4. ■

1. Including 5.8 million French francs for the financing of the new building of the European Pharmacopoeia.

5. Service for Computers and Telecommunications

The Service for Computers and Telecommunications renewed part of the computer and telecommunications network. Users now have an Outlook office-automation environment and have access to the resources of Office Pro and the Internet/Intranet, as well as document search tools.

The SISC application (European Commission of Human Rights) came into operation and was transferred (software and server) to the Secretariat of the Single Court. The PIMS application (human resources) also began operating in 1997. The automatic telephone switching equipment was upgraded for the installation of the latest software. Work was also carried out to increase the available transmission bandwidth between individual buildings and sites to allow for higher volumes of data traffic.

All permanent and temporary staff who so desire can now have access to the computer network comprising over 1 500 networked computers and over 3 500 telecommunications terminals.

The DCT has put in place an open system, giving users greater autonomy. A number of office-automation servers were thus transferred to the Court of Human Rights. The Finance Division, the Court of Human Rights and SEDDOC took over management of certain projects (FIMS, SISC, HUDOC and PRIDE). Pilot HTML servers were placed under the responsibility of the users (Parliamentary Assembly and DECS).

The trend towards greater user autonomy, which enables the DCT to concentrate on its advisory and infrastructure role, will continue in 1998. ■

6. Technical services

In 1997, appropriations for building alteration and adaptation work were sufficient to allow the complete transformation of the Committee of Ministers' room, the work including much upgrading of equipment to improve working conditions.

The funds available also allowed the transformation of conference room No. 1 in which the seating capacity was increased from 100 to 3 000 and the number of interpreters' booths to 11, and the renovation of room No. 7, which saw its seating capacity increased to 100, with 9 interpreters' booths.

The façades of the old Human Rights building were cleaned and repainted as well as those of the *Palais de l'Europe* restaurant complex.

Several projects were started at the European Youth Centre in 1997 with finishing dates in 1998. ■

Appendix A – Members of the statutory bodies and the Secretariat in 1997

1. Committee of Ministers

Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member states of the Council of Europe during 1997

Albania	Mr Tritan Shehu, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Arjan Starova, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Paskal Milo, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Andorra	Mr Manel Mas Ribó, Minister for External Relations Mr Albert Pintat Santolaria, Minister for External Relations
Austria	Mr Wolfgang Schüssel, Deputy Chancellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs
Belgium	Mr Erik Derycke, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Bulgaria	Mr Guèorgui Pirinski, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Stoyan Stalev, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mrs Nadezhda Mihailova, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Croatia	Mr Mate Granić, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs
Cyprus	Mr Alecos Michaelides, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Ioannis Kasoulides, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Czech Republic	Mr Josef Zieleniec, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Jaroslav Sedivy, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs
Denmark	Mr Niels Helveg Petersen, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Estonia	Mr Toomas Hendrik Ilves, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Finland	Mrs Tarja Halonen, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Chairman of the Committee of Ministers from 7 November 1996 to 6 May 1997)
France	Mr Hervé de Charette, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Hubert Védrine, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Chairman of the Committee of Ministers from 6 May to 6 November 1997)
Germany	Mr Klaus Kinkel, Deputy Chancellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs (Chairman of the Committee of Ministers from 6 November 1997)
Greece	Mr Theodoros Pangalos, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Hungary	Mr László Kovács, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Iceland	Mr Halldor Ásgrimsson, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Ireland	Mr Dick Spring, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Gay Mitchell, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr David Andrews, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Italy	Mr Lamberto Dini, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Latvia	Mr Valdis Birkavs, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Liechtenstein	Mrs Andrea Willi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Culture, Youth and Sports
Lithuania	Mr Algirdas Saudargas, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Luxembourg	Mr Jacques F. Poos, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs, External Trade and Co-operation
Malta	Dr George Vella, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Environment
Moldova	Mr Mihaï Popov, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Nicolae Tabacaru, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Netherlands	Mr H.A.F.M.O. van Mierlo, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Norway	Mr Bjørn Tore Godal, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Knut Vollebæk, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Poland	Mr Dariusz Rosati, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Bronislaw Geremek, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Portugal	Mr Jaine José Matos Gama, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Romania	Mr Adrian Severin, Minister of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Andrei Gabriel Pleşu, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Russian Federation	Mr Yevgeni Primakov, Minister for Foreign Affairs

San Marino	Mr Gabriele Gatti, Minister for Foreign and Political Affairs
Slovak Republic	Mr Pavol Hamžík, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mrs Zdenka Kramplová, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Slovenia	Mr Davorin Kračun, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Zoran Thaler, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Boris Frlec, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Spain	Mr Abel Matutes, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Sweden	Mrs Lena Hjelm-Wallén, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Switzerland	Mr Flavio Cotti, Vice-President of the Federal Council, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Mr Ljubomir Frckoski, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Blagoj Handziski, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Turkey	Mrs Tansu Çiller, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr İsmail Cem, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Ukraine	Mr Hennadiy Udovenko, Minister for Foreign Affairs
United Kingdom	The Rt. Hon. Malcolm Rifkind, QC, MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs The Rt. Hon. Robin Cook, MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Permanent Representatives

Albania	Mr Gjon Koliqi, Chargé d'affaires *ad int.* Mr Viktor Hebibasi, Chargé d'affaires *ad int.* (as from 1 April 1997) Mr Fotaq Andrea, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (as from 4 November 1997)
Andorra	Mrs Meritxell Mateu Pi, Ambassador Mr Joan Tomàs Roca, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (as from 3 September 1997)
Austria	Mr Ulrich Hack, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Belgium	Mr Pierre Dubuisson, Deputy Permanent Representative, Chargé d'affaires *ad int.* Mr Fernand Van Brusselen, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (as from 24 February 1997)
Bulgaria	Mr Svetlozar Raev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Croatia	Mr Vladimir Matek, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Cyprus	Mrs Thalia Petrides, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Czech Republic	Mr Jiří Malenovský, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Denmark	Mr Arne Belling, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Estonia	Mrs Karin Jaani, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Finland	Mr Tom Grönberg, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
France	Mr Michel Lennuyeux-Comnène, Ambassador Mrs Jocelyne Caballero, Deputy Permanent Representative, Chargé d'affaires *ad int.* (as from 1 April 1997) Mr Jacques Warin, Ambassador (as from 24 April 1997)
Germany	Mr Horst Schirmer, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Mr Johannes Dohmes, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (as from 3 November 1997)
Greece	Mr Antonios Exarchos, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Mr Spyros Theocharopoulos, Deputy Permanent Representative, Chargé d'affaires *ad int.* (as from 29 January 1997) Mr Dimitri Constas, Ambassador (as from 10 April 1997)
Hungary	Mr Gyula Braun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Iceland	Mr Sverrir Haukur Gunnlaugsson, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Mr Sveinn A. Björnsson, Deputy Permanent Representative, Chargé d'affaires *ad int.* (as from 18 April 1997) Mr Sveinn Björnsson, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (as from 29 April 1997)
Ireland	Mrs Geraldine Skinner, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Mr Patrick Walshe, Ambassador (as from 4 June 1997)
Italy	Mr Paolo Pucci di Benisichi, Ambassador
Latvia	Mr Andris Teikmanis, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Liechtenstein	Mr Josef Wolf, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Lithuania	Mr Aurimas Taurantas, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Luxembourg	Mrs Arlette Conzemius-Paccoud, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Malta	Mr Noel Buttigieg Scicluna, Ambassador Mr John Buttigieg, Ambassador (as from 1 February 1997)
Moldova	Mr Eugen Cibotaru, Deputy Permanent Representative, Chargé d'affaires *ad int.* Mr Alexandru Codreanu, Deputy Permanent Representative, Chargé d'affaires *ad int.* (as from 16 January 1997) Mrs Iuliana Gorea-Costin, Permanent Representative (as from 5 May 1997)
Netherlands	Mr Johan S. L. Gualtherie van Weezel, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Norway	Mr Sten Lundbo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Poland	Mr Jerzy Regulski, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Mr Tadeusz Oleszkiewicz, Deputy Permanent Representative, Chargé d'affaires *ad int.* (as from 31 January 1997) Mr Marcin Rybicki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (as from 24 February 1997)
Portugal	Mr Alvaro Manuel Soares Guerra, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Romania	Mr Sabin Pop, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Russian Federation	Mr Evguéni Prokhorov, Ambassador
San Marino	Mr Guido Ceccoli, Chargé d'affaires
Slovak Republic	Mrs Viera Strážnická, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Slovenia	Mrs Magdalena Tovornik, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Spain	Mr Guillermo Kirkpatrick, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Sweden	Mr Carl Älfvåg, Deputy Permanent Representative, Chargé d'affaires *ad int.* Mr Håken Wilkins, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (as from 30 January 1997)
Switzerland	Mr Heinrich Gattiker, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Mr Alain Guidetti, Deputy Permanent Representative, Chargé d'affaires *ad int.* (as from 1 July 1997) Mr Alfred Rüegg, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (as from 4 November 1997)
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Mr Jon Ivanovski, Chargé d'affaires *ad int.*
Turkey	Mr Riza Türmen, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Ukraine	Mr Yevhen Perelygin, Chargé d'affaires *ad int.*
United Kingdom	Mr Roger Beetham, Ambassador Mr Andrew Carter CMG, Ambassador (as from 26 November 1997)

2. Parliamentary Assembly

Organs of the Assembly (as from January 1997)

Bureau

Chairperson:

Mrs Leni Fischer, Germany (since January 1996)

Vice-Chairmen:

Mr Robert Antretter, Germany
Sir Anthony Durant, United Kingdom
Mr René Van der Linden, Netherlands
Mr Tadeusz Iwiński, Poland
Mr Gabino Puche, Spain
Mr Jacques Baumel, France
Mr Alberto Martins, Portugal
Mr András Bársony, Hungary
Mr Olav Akselsen, Norway
Mr Radu Vasile, Romania
Mrs Kristiina Ojuland, Estonia
Mr Vladimir Solonari, Moldova
Ms Berit Andnor, Sweden
Mr Dušan Slobodník, Slovakia
Mr Cevdet Akçali, Turkey
Mrs Nilde Iotti, Italy
Mr Alexis Galanos, Cyprus

Committees

Joint Committee
Standing Committee
Political Affairs Committee
Committee on Economic Affairs and Development
Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee
Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights
Committee on Culture and Education
Committee on Science and Technology
Committee on the Environment, Regional Planning and Local Authorities
Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography
Committee on Rules of Procedure
Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development
Committee on Parliamentary and Public Relations
Committee on the Budget and the Intergovernmental Work Programme
Committee on the Honouring of obligations and commitments by member states of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)
Ad hoc Committee on the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ad hoc Committee of Chairmen of *ad hoc* Political Groups
Ad hoc Committee on Equality of the Sexes
Ad hoc Committee on Chechnya
Ad hoc Committee on the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe

Political groups

Socialist Group
Chairman: Mr Peter Schieder

Group of the European People's Party
Chairman: Mr Walter Schwimmer

European Democratic Group
Chairman: Mr Hallgrim Berg

Liberal, Democratic and Reformers' Group
Chairman: Lord Russell-Johnston

Group of the Unified European Left
Chairman: Mr Jaakko Laakso

Representatives not belonging to a political group of the Assembly

3. European Court of Human Rights[1]

Mr Rolv Ryssdal, President, Norwegian
Mr Rudolf Bernhardt, Vice-President, German
Mr Thór Vilhjálmsson, Vice-President, Icelandic
Mr Feyyaz Gölcüklü, Turkish
Mr Franz Matscher, Austrian
Mr Louis-Edmond Pettiti, French
Mr Brian Walsh, Irish
Mr Ronald Macdonald, Canadian[2]
Mr Carlo Russo, Italian
Mr Alphonse Spielmann, Luxemburger
Mr Jan De Meyer, Belgian
Mr Nicolas Valticos, Greek
Mrs Elisabeth Palm, Swedish
Mr Isi Foighel, Danish
Mr Raimo Pekkanen, Finnish
Mr Andreas Nicolas Loizou, Cypriot
Mr José Maria Morenilla, Spanish
Sir John Freeland, British
Mr András B. Baka, Hungarian
Mr Manuel Antonio Lopes Rocha, Portuguese
Mr Luzius Wildhaber, Swiss
Mr Giuseppe Mifsud Bonnici, Maltese
Mr Jerzy Makarczyk, Polish
Mr Dimitar Gotchev, Bulgarian
Mr Bohumil Repik, Slovakian

1. The seats of the judges in respect of Albania, Croatia, Ireland, Norway, San Marino and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" are currently vacant.
2. Elected as the judge in respect of Liechtenstein.

Mr Peter Jambrek, Slovenian
Mr Karel Jungwiert, Czech
Mr Pranas Kûris, Lithuanian
Mr Uno Lõhmus, Estonian
Mr Egils Levi, Latvian
Mr Josep Casadevall, Andorran
Mr Petrus Van Dijk, Dutch
Mr Tudor Pantiru, Moldovan
Mr Marin Voicu, Romanian
Mr Volodymyr Butkevych, Ukrainian
Mr Vladimir Toumanov, Russian
Mr Herbert Petzold, Registrar, German
Mr Paul Mahoney, Deputy Registrar, British

4. European Commission of Human Rights

On 31 December 1997, the Commission was composed as follows:

Mr Stefan Trechsel, President, Swiss
Mr Jean-Claude Geus, President of the Second Chamber, Belgian
Mr Matti Paavo Pellonpää, President of the First Chamber, Finnish
Mr Edwin Busuttil, Maltese
Mr Gaukur Jörundsson, Icelandic
Mr A. Seref Gözübüyük, Turkish
Mr Albert Weitzel, Luxemburger
Mr Jean-Claude Soyer, French
Mr Hans Danelius, Swedish
Mrs Gro Hillestad Thune, Norwegian
Mr Luis Fernando Martinez Ruiz, Spanish
Mr Christos L. Rozakis, Greek
Mrs Jane Liddy, Irish
Mr Loukis Loucaides, Cypriot
Mr Benedikt Marxer, Liechtensteiner
Mr Marek A. Nowicki, Polish
Mr Ireneu Cabral Barreto, Portuguese
Mr Benedetto Conforti, Italian
Mr Nicolas Bratza, British
Mr Imre Békés, Hungarian
Mr Jiři Mucha, Czech
Mr Daniel Šváby, Slovakian
Mr Georg Ress, German
Mr Anton Pereni, Slovenian
Mr Corneliu Bîrsan, Romanian
Mr Peer Lorenzen, Danish
Mr Kurt Herndl, Austrian
Mr Egidijus Bielinas, Lithuanian
Mr Evert A. Alkema, Dutch
Mr Marc Vila Amigó, Andorran
Mrs Mai Hion, Estonian
Mr Roberto Nicolini, San Marino
Mr Alexander S. Arabadjiev, Bulgarian

5. Secretariat

Mr Daniel Tarschys, Secretary General
Mr Peter Leuprecht (until 30 September 1997), Mr Hans-Christian Krüger (from 1 October 1997), Deputy Secretary General
Mr Bruno Haller, Clerk of the Assembly
Mr Hans-Christian Krüger (until 30 September 1997), Secretary of the European Commission of Human Rights
Mr Hans-Peter Furrer, Director of Political Affairs
Mr Ferdinando Albanese, Director of Environment and Local Authorities
Mr Costas Pilavachi, Director of the Secretariat of the Partial Agreement on the Council of Europe Social Development Fund
Mr Jean-Luc Gianardi, Director of Administration
Mr Raymond Weber, Director of Education, Culture and Sport
Mr Robin Guthrie, Director of Social and Economic Affairs
Mr Guy de Vel, Director of Legal Affairs

Mr Franco Marziale, Youth Director
Mr Pierre-Henri Imbert, Director of Human Rights
Mr Herbert Petzold, Registrar of the European Court of Human Rights
Mr Leonard G. Davies, Secretary of the Committee of Ministers
Mr Francis Rosenstiel, Head of the Research and Planning Unit
Mr Giuseppe Benevolenza, Financial Controller
Mr Michele de Salvia (from 1 October 1997), Secretary of the European Commission of Human Rights
Mr Jean-André Tsimaratos, Director responsible for Publishing and Documentation
Mr Klaus Schumann, Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General
Mrs Agnès Artiges, Director responsible for Medicine Quality Department
Mr Marc Scheuer, Director responsible for Information and Information Technologies

6. Committee of Independent Experts of the European Social Charter

Mr Rolf Birk, President (German)
Mr Matti Mikkola, Vice-President (Finnish)
Ms Suzanne Grévisse, General Rapporteur (French)
Mr Konrad Grillberger (Austrian)
Mr Tekin Akillioğlu (Turkish)
Mr Nikitas Aliprantis (Greek)
Mr Alfredo Bruto da Costa (Portuguese)
Mr Stein Evju (Norwegian)
Ms Micheline Jamoulle (Belgian)
Mr Jean Perret, ILO observer

Appendix B – Specific texts relating to the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 10-11 October 1997)

1. Final Declaration

We, Heads of State and Government of the member States of the Council of Europe, meeting in Strasbourg on 10 and 11 October 1997 for our Organisation's Second Summit,

Convinced that the far-reaching changes in Europe and the great challenges to our societies require intensified co-operation between all European democracies,

Encouraged by the significant enlargement of our Organisation which has created the basis for a wider area of democratic security in our continent,

Having reviewed the developments since our First Summit held in Vienna in 1993, as well as the implementation of our decisions concerning the establishment of a single European Court of Human Rights; the protection of national minorities; and the fight against racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance,

Welcoming the achievements of the Council of Europe in preparing candidate countries for membership and ensuring their full integration into the wider European family, and underlining the contribution of the Parliamentary Assembly, as well as that of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, to supporting democratic development in member states,

– solemnly reaffirm our attachment to the fundamental principles of the Council of Europe – pluralist democracy, respect for human rights, the rule of law – and the commitment of our governments to comply fully with the requirements and meet the responsibilities arising from membership of our Organisation,

– underline the essential standard-setting role of the Council of Europe in the field of human rights and its contribution to the development of international law through European Conventions, and affirm our determination to ensure full implementation of these standards and conventions, particularly by strengthening the co-operation programmes for the consolidation of democracy in Europe,

– confirm our goal of achieving a greater unity between our member states, with a view to building a freer, more tolerant and just European society based on common values, such as freedom of expression and information, cultural diversity and the equal dignity of all human beings,

– decide consequently to give new impetus to those activities of the Council of Europe aimed at supporting member states in their efforts to respond to the changes in society on the threshold of a new century,

– give our full support to the Council of Europe with a view to intensifying its contribution to cohesion, stability and security in Europe, and welcome the development of its co-operation with other European and transatlantic organisations, in particular the European Union and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe,

and, on this basis, declare the following:

Convinced that the promotion of human rights and the strengthening of pluralist democracy both contribute to stability in Europe:

– decide to reinforce the protection of human rights by ensuring that our institutions are capable of effectively defending the rights of individuals throughout Europe,

– call for the universal abolition of the death penalty and insist on the maintenance, in the meantime, of existing moratoria on executions in Europe,

– express our determination to reinforce the means to prevent and combat torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

– call for the intensification of the fight against racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance,

– stress the importance of a more balanced representation of men and women in all sectors of society, including political life, and call for continued progress with a view to achieving effective equality of opportunities between men and women,

– assert our determination to step up co-operation in respect of the protection of all persons belonging to national minorities,

– acknowledge the fundamental role of the institutions of local democracy in the preservation of stability in Europe,

– decide to continue active support for democratic development in all member states and to increase our efforts to promote an area of common legal standards throughout Europe;

Recognising that social cohesion is one of the foremost needs of the wider Europe and should be pursued as an essential complement to the promotion of human rights and dignity:

– decide to promote and make full use of the instruments which are a reference and a means of action for states and for the social partners, in particular the European Social Charter in the legal field and the Social Development Fund in the financial field,

– agree to review our legislation in the social field with a view to combating all forms of exclusion and ensuring better protection for the weakest members of society,

– stress the importance of a common and balanced approach, based on international solidarity, to questions relating to refugees and asylum seekers, and in this regard recall the obligation for the state of origin to readmit these persons to its territory, in accordance with international law,

– recall the protection due to victims of conflicts, as well as the importance of the respect for humanitarian international law and the knowledge of its rules at national level, in particular among the armed forces and the police,

– affirm our determination to protect the rights of lawfully residing migrant workers and to facilitate their integration in the societies in which they live;

Sharing the concern of citizens about the new dimension of threats to their security and the dangers which these threats constitute for democracy:

– reassert our strong condemnation of terrorism and our determination to make full use of the existing machinery to combat all of its manifestations, while ensuring respect for legality and human rights,

– decide to seek common responses to the challenges posed by the growth in corruption, organised crime and drug trafficking throughout Europe,

– decide to intensify our co-operation aiming at strengthening the legal protection of children,

– affirm our determination to combat violence against women and all forms of sexual exploitation of women,

– support the efforts of the Council of Europe and of local, regional and national authorities to improve the quality of life in disadvantaged areas: urban and industrialised;

Aware of the educational and cultural dimension of the main challenges to be faced by Europe in the future as well as of the essential role of culture and education in strengthening mutual understanding and confidence between our peoples:

– express our desire to develop education for democratic citizenship based on the rights and responsibilities of citizens, and the participation of young people in civil society,

– reaffirm the importance we attach to the protection of our European cultural and natural heritage and to the promotion of awareness of this heritage,

– decide to seek common responses to the development of the new information technologies, based on the standards and values of the Council of Europe, while ensuring a proper balance between the right to information and respect for private life,

– recognise the role of sport in promoting social integration, particularly among young people,

– encourage understanding between the citizens of the North and the South, in particular through information and civic education for young people, as well as initiatives aimed at promoting mutual respect and solidarity among peoples.

Having in mind the need to redefine our priorities and adapt the functions of our Organisation to the new European context, we have drawn up an Action Plan. This document, appended to the present Declaration, seeks to define the main tasks for the Council of Europe in the coming years, particularly in the period leading to its 50th Anniversary.

2. Action Plan

The Heads of State and Government, meeting in Strasbourg on 10 and 11 October 1997, have outlined an Action Plan to strengthen democratic stability in the member states, and have accordingly defined four main areas where there is scope for immediate advances and practical measures, together with a fifth field concerning structural reforms.

I. Democracy and human rights

1. Single Court of Human Rights: the Heads of State and Government welcome the ratification of Protocol No. 11 to the European Convention on Human Rights by all Contracting Parties, making it possible to establish the new single Court of Human Rights, and instruct the Committee of Ministers to take the necessary steps to set it up on 1 November 1998.

2. Commissioner for Human Rights: the Heads of State and Government welcome the proposal to create an office of Commissioner for Human Rights to promote respect for human rights in the member states and instruct the Committee of Ministers to study arrangements for its implementation, while respecting the competences of the single Court.

3. Compliance with member states' commitments: the Heads of State and Government resolve to ensure that the commitments accepted by the member states are effectively honoured, on the basis of a confidential, constructive, non-discriminatory dialogue carried on within the Committee of Ministers and taking into account the monitoring procedures of the Parliamentary Assembly; they reiterate their determination to work together to solve the problems faced by member states and consider that this monitoring process must be supported, where necessary, by practical assistance from the Council of Europe.

4. Prohibition of the cloning of human beings: the Heads of State and Government undertake to prohibit all use of cloning techniques aimed at creating genetically identical human beings and instruct to this end the Committee of Ministers to adopt an additional protocol to the Oviedo Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine as soon as possible.

5. Combating racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance: the Heads of State and Government welcome the action taken in this field by the Council of Europe since the Vienna Summit and resolve to intensify, for this purpose, the activities of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, while stressing the importance of close co-operation with the European Union.

6. Protection of national minorities: the Heads of State and Government, taking into account the imminent entry into force of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, resolve to complement the Council of Europe's standard-setting achievements in this field through practical initiatives, such as confidence-building measures and enhanced co-operation, involving both governments and civil society.

II. Social cohesion

1. Promotion of social rights: the Heads of State and Government undertake to promote social standards as embodied in the Social Charter and in other Council of Europe instruments, and call for the widest possible adherence to these instruments; they resolve to improve the exchange of good practice and information between member states and to intensify their co-operation in this field.

2. New strategy for social cohesion: the Heads of State and Government instruct the Committee of Ministers to define a social strategy to respond to the challenges in society and to carry out the appropriate structural reforms within the Council of Europe, including the setting up of a specialised unit for monitoring, comparing and handling issues linked to social cohesion.

3. Programme for children: the Heads of State and Government encourage the adoption of a programme to promote the interests of children, in partnership with the international and non-governmental organisations concerned.

4. Social Development Fund: the Heads of State and Government decide to reinforce the activities of the Social Development Fund, invite it to participate actively in the Council of Europe's action for social cohesion, and urge it to increase its investment effort in the social field and in job creation.

III. Security of citizens

1. Combating terrorism: the Heads of State and Government call for the adoption of further measures to prevent terrorism and to strengthen international co-operation in combating terrorism, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law, including international standards on human rights, and in the light of the recommendations adopted at the ministerial conference on terrorism held in Paris on 30 July 1996; they note with interest the forthcoming holding of a parliamentary conference to study the phenomenon of terrorism in democratic society.

2. Fighting corruption and organised crime: In order to promote co-operation between member states in the fight against corruption, including its links with organised crime and money-laundering, the Heads of State and Government instruct the Committee of Ministers:

– to adopt, before the end of the year, guiding principles which are to be applied in the development of domestic legislation and practice;

– to secure the rapid completion of international legal instruments pursuant to the Council of Europe's Programme of Action against Corruption;

– to establish without delay an appropriate and efficient mechanism for monitoring observance of the guiding principles and implementation of the said international legal instruments.

They call on all states to ratify the Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime.

3. Prevention of drug abuse: the Heads of State and Government decide to strengthen their co-operation, through the Pompidou Group, with a view to tackling the problems relating to the use and trafficking of illicit drugs; they note with approval the new work programme of the Group and welcome in particular those activities designed to prevent drug abuse among young people and to facilitate the reintegration of drug addicts and users into society.

4. Protection of children: the Heads of State and Government decide to review national legislation with the aim of ensuring common standards for the protection of children suffering from or at risk of inhuman treatment; they agree to extend their co-operation, within the Council of Europe, with a view to preventing all forms of exploitation of children, including through the production, sale, marketing and possession of pornographic material involving children.

IV. Democratic values and cultural diversity

1. Education for democratic citizenship: the Heads of State and Government decide to launch an initiative for education for democratic citizenship with a view to promoting citizens' awareness of their rights and responsibilities in a democratic society, activating existing networks, and including a new youth exchange programme.

2. Enhancement of the European heritage: the Heads of State and Government decide to launch a campaign in 1999 on the theme "Europe, a common heritage", respecting cultural diversity, based on existing or prospective partnerships between government, educational and cultural institutions, and industry.

3. New information technologies: the Heads of State and Government resolve to develop a European policy for the application of the new information technologies, with a view to ensuring respect for human rights and cultural diversity, fostering freedom of expression and information and maximising the educational and cultural potential of these technologies; they invite the Council of Europe to seek, in this respect, suitable partnership arrangements.

V. Structures and working methods

1. Structural reform: the Heads of State and Government, looking ahead to the 50th Anniversary of the Council of Europe in 1999, instruct the Committee of Ministers to carry out the structural reforms needed to adapt the Organisation to its new tasks and its enlarged membership and to improve its decision-making process.

2. Implementation of the Action Plan: the Heads of State and Government instruct the Committee of Ministers to take the appropriate steps to ensure that this Action Plan is speedily implemented by the various Council of Europe bodies, in co-operation with European and other international organisations.

Appendix C – Texts adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 1997

1. Conventions

Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (European Treaty Series, No. 165) (adopted and opened for signature in Lisbon on 11 April 1997)

European Convention on Nationality (European Treaty Series, No. 166) (adopted 14 May 1997)

Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons (European Treaty Series, No. 167) (adopted 17 September 1997)

Additional Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine, on the Prohibition of Cloning Human Beings (European Treaty Series, No. 168) (adopted 6 November 1997)

2. Recommendations to member states

Recommendation No. R (97) 1 on the recognition and quality assessment of private institutions of higher education

Recommendation No. R (97) 2 on sustained care of the cultural heritage against physical deterioration due to pollution and other similar factors

Recommendation No. R (97) 3 on youth participation and the future of civil society

Recommendation No. R (97) 4 on securing and promoting the health of single parent families

Recommendation No. R (97) 5 on the protection of medical data

Recommendation No. R (97) 6 aiming at improving the practical application of the European Agreement on the Transmission of Applications for Legal Aid

Recommendation No. R (97) 7 on local public services and the rights of their users

Recommendation No. R (97) 8 on rehabilitation through sport of people with disabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Recommendation No. R (97) 9 on a policy for the development of sustainable environment-friendly tourism in coastal areas

Recommendation No. R (97) 10 on debts of diplomatic missions, permanent missions, and diplomatic missions with "double accreditation" as well as those of their members

Recommendation No. R (97) 11 on the amended model plan for the classification of documents concerning state practice in the field of public international law

Recommendation No. R (97) 12 on staff concerned with the implementation of sanctions and measures

Recommendation No. R (97) 13 concerning intimidation of witnesses and the rights of the defence

Recommendation No. R (97) 14 on the establishment of independent national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

Recommendation No. R (97) 15 on xenotransplantation

Recommendation No. R (97) 16 on liver transplantation from living related donors

Recommendation No. R (97) 17 on the development and implementation of quality-improvement systems (QIS) in health care

Recommendation No. R (97) 18 concerning the protection of personal data collected and processed for statistical purposes

Recommendation No. R (97) 19 on the portrayal of violence in the electronic media

Recommendation No. R (97) 20 on "hate speech"

Recommendation No. R (97) 21 on the media and the promotion of a culture of tolerance

Recommendation No. R (97) 22 containing guidelines on the application of the safe third country concept

3. Resolutions

Resolution (97) 1 amending the regulations on appointments

Resolution (97) 2 on revision of the regulations governing staff salaries and allowances

Resolution (97) 3 on the remuneration of specially appointed officials

Resolution (97) 4 confirming the continuation of the European Audiovisual Observatory

Resolution (97) 5 on revision of the regulations governing staff salaries and allowances

Resolution (97) 6 on the appointment of the Deputy Secretary General

Resolution (97) 7 on the1997 budget of the European Pharmacopoeia

Resolution (97) 8 concerning the 1997 budget of the Open Partial Agreement on the Prevention of, Protection against and Organisation of relief in Major Natural and Technological Disasters

Resolution (97) 9 on the status and conditions of service of judges of the European Court of Human Rights to be set up under Protocol No. 11 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

Resolution (97) 10 on rules adopted by the Committee of Ministers on the monitoring arrangements under Articles 24 to 26 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

Resolution (97) 11 on co-operation between member states' national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, and between them and the Council of Europe

Resolution (97) 12 on the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Krimml Waterfalls Nature Site (Austria)

Resolution (97) 13 on the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Lunebourg Heath Nature Reserve (Germany)

Resolution (97) 14 on the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Muddus National Park (Sweden)

Resolution (97) 15 on the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Sarek and Padjelanta National Parks (Sweden)

Resolution (97) 16 on the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Swiss National Park (Switzerland)

Resolution (97) 17 on the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Abruzzi National Park (Italy)

Resolution (97) 18 on the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Maremma Nature Park (Italy)

Resolution (97) 19 on the renewal of the European Diploma awarded to the Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve (Portugal)

Resolution (97) 20 on the award of the European Diploma to the Bialowieża National Park (Poland)

Resolution (97) 21 on the award of the European Diploma to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine)

Resolution (97) 22 on the award of the European Diploma to Port-Cros National Park (France)

Resolution (97) 23 on the award of the European Diploma to the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park (Republic of Belarus)

Resolution (97) 24 on the twenty guiding principles for the fight against corruption

Resolution (97) 25 concerning the general accounts of the Council of Europe for 1996

Resolution (97) 26 concerning the accounts of the Partial Agreement in the Social and Public Health Field for the 1996 financial year

Resolution (97) 27 concerning the accounts of the European Pharmacopoeia for the 1996 financial year

Resolution (97) 28 concerning the accounts of the Partial Agreement on the Social Development Fund for the 1996 financial year

Resolution (97) 29 concerning the accounts of the Partial Agreement on the Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group) for the 1996 financial year

Resolution (97) 30 concerning the accounts of the Partial Agreement on the Co-operation Group for the prevention of, protection against, and organisation of relief in major natural and technological disasters for the 1996 financial year

Resolution (97) 31 concerning the accounts of the Partial Agreement on the European Commission for Democracy through Law for the 1996 financial year

Resolution (97) 32 concerning the accounts of the Partial Agreement on the Youth Card for the purpose of promoting and facilitating youth mobility in Europe for the 1996 financial year

Resolution (97) 33 concerning the accounts of the Enlarged Partial Agreement establishing the European Centre for Modern Languages (Graz) for the 1996 financial year

Resolution (97) 34 concerning the accounts of the Partial Agreement establishing the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity for the 1996 financial year

Resolution (97) 35 concerning the accounts of the Partial Agreement on the European Support Fund for the Co-production and Distribution of Creative Cinematographic and Audiovisual Works "Eurimages" for the 1996 financial year

Resolution (97) 36 concerning the accounts of the Cultural Fund for the 1996 financial year

Resolution (97) 37 concerning the accounts of the Sports Fund for the 1996 financial year

Resolution (97) 38 on adjustment of the scale of contributions to the Council of Europe ordinary budget and pensions budget with effect from 1 January 1998

Resolution (97) 39 approving the Intergovernmental Programme of Activities for 1998

Resolution (97) 40 on the ordinary budget for 1998

Resolution (97) 41 on the general accounts of the Council of Europe for 1996

Resolution (97) 42 on adjustment of the scales of contributions to the budget for the financing of the construction of the Human Rights Building with effect from 1 January 1998

Resolution (97) 43 on the extraordinary budget for the financing of the construction of the Human Rights Building – 1998 budget

Resolution (97) 44 concerning the pensions budget – 1998 budget

Resolution (97) 45 on adjustment of the scales of contributions to the budget of the Partial Agreement in the Social and Public Health Field with effect from 1 January 1998

Resolution (97) 46 on the Partial Agreement in the Social and Public Health Field

Resolution (97) 47 on adjustment of the scale of contributions to the budget of the European Pharmacopoeia with effect from 1 January 1998

Resolution (97) 48 on the European Pharmacopoeia – 1998 budget

Resolution (97) 49 on adjustment of the scale of contributions to the budget of the Council of Europe Social Development Fund with effect from 1 January 1998

Resolution (97) 50 concerning the Council of Europe Social Development Fund – 1998 budget

Resolution (97) 51 on the adjustment of the scale of contributions to the budget of the Partial Agreement on the Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group) with effect from 1 January 1998

Resolution (97) 52 concerning the Partial Agreement on the Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group)

Resolution (97) 53 on the adjustment of the scale of contributions to the budget of the Partial Agreement on the Co-operation Group for the Prevention of, Protection against, and Organisation of Relief in Major Natural and Technological Disasters with effect from 1 January 1998

Resolution (97) 54 concerning the Partial Agreement on the Co-operation Group for the Prevention of, Protection against, and Organisation of Relief in Major Natural and Technological Disasters – 1998 budget

Resolution (97) 55 concerning the budget of the Partial Agreement on the European Support Fund for the Co-production and Distribution of Creative Cinematographic and Audiovisual Works "Eurimages" – 1998 budget

Resolution (97) 56 on the adjustment of the scale of contributions to the budget of the Partial Agreement on the European Commission for Democracy through Law with effect from 1 January 1998

Resolution (97) 57 concerning the Partial Agreement on the European Commission for Democracy through Law – 1998 budget

Resolution (97) 58 on the adjustment of the scale of contributions to the budget of the Partial Agreement on the Youth Card with effect from 1 January 1998

Resolution (97) 59 concerning the Partial Agreement on the Youth Card – 1998 budget

Resolution (97) 60 on the adjustment of the scale of contributions to the budget of the Enlarged Partial Agreement establishing the European Centre for Modern Languages (Graz) with effect from 1 January 1998

Resolution (97) 61 concerning the Enlarged Partial Agreement establishing the European Centre for Modern Languages (Graz) – 1998 budget

Resolution (97) 62 concerning the pensions budget for 1997

Resolution (97) 63 on the European Pharmacopoeia – 1997 budget

Resolution (97) 64 concerning the accounts of the European Pharmacopoeia for the 1996 financial year

Resolution (97) 65 amending Resolution (88) 15 with regard to the conditions attaching to the award of financial assistance

Partial agreement resolutions making recommendations to governments (AP)

Resolution AP (97) 1 on ion exchange and adsorbent resins used in the processing of foodstuffs

Resolution AP (97) 2 on development of the function of pharmacists and the adaptation of their initial training

Resolutions on the application of the European Code of Social Security and the Protocol thereto (CSS)

Resolution CSS (97) 1 on the application of the European Code of Social Security and the Protocol thereto by Belgium (period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996)

Resolution CSS (97) 2 on the application of the European Code of Social Security by Cyprus (period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996)

Resolution CSS (97) 3 on the application of the European Code of Social Security by Denmark (period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996)

Resolution CSS (97) 4 on the application of the European Code of Social Security by France (period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996)

Resolution CSS (97) 5 on the application of the European Code of Social Security and its Protocol by Germany (period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996)

Resolution CSS (97) 6 on the application of the European Code of Social Security by Greece (period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996)

Resolution CSS (97) 7 on the application of the European Code of Social Security by Italy (period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996)

Resolution CSS (97) 8 on the application of the European Code of Social Security and the Protocol thereto by Luxembourg (period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996)

Resolution CSS (97) 9 on the application of the European Code of Social Security and the Protocol thereto by the Netherlands (period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996)

Resolution CSS (97) 10 on the application of the European Code of Social Security and the Protocol thereto by Norway (period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996)

Resolution CSS (97) 11 on the application of the European Code of Social Security and the Protocol thereto by Portugal (period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996)

Resolution CSS (97) 12 on the application of the European Code of Social Security and the Protocol thereto by Sweden (period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996)

Resolution CSS (97) 13 on the application of the European Code of Social Security by Switzerland (period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996)

Resolution CSS (97) 14 on the application of the European Code of Social Security by Turkey (period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996)

Resolution CSS (97) 15 on the application of the European Code of Social Security by the United Kingdom (period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996)

Texts adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 1997 in its function as an organ of the European Social Charter

Supervision cycle XIII-3

Resolution ChS (97) 1 on the implementation of the European Social Charter during the period 1992-93

Recommendation No. R ChS (97) 1 on the application of the European Social Charter by Malta during the year 1993 (Article 5 and Article 6, paragraph 2)

Recommendation No. R ChS (97) 2 on the application of the European Social Charter by Turkey during the period 1992-93 (Article 7, paragraph 3)

Recommendation No. R ChS (97) 3 on the application of the European Social Charter by the United Kingdom during the period 1992-93 (Article 1, paragraph 2, Article 5 and Article 6, paragraphs 2 and 4)

Appendix D – Texts adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly in 1997

Opinions

Opinion No. 200 (1997) on the draft European convention on nationality

Opinion No. 201 (1997) on the expenditure of the Assembly for the budgetary year 1998

Opinion No. 202 (1997) on the draft additional protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, on the prohibition of cloning human beings

Opinion No. 203 (1997) on the budgets of the Council of Europe for the financial years 1997 and 1998

Recommendations

Recommendation 1311 (1997) on the safety of nuclear installations in the countries of central and eastern Europe

Recommendation 1312 (1997) on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Albania

Recommendation 1313 (1997) on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Estonia

Recommendation 1314 (1997) on new technologies and employment

Recommendation 1315 (1997) on the minimum age for voting

Recommendation 1316 (1997) on the state of emergency in Albania

Recommendation 1317 (1997) on vaccination in Europe

Recommendation 1318 (1997) on the Council of Europe and Expo '98

Recommendation 1319 (1997) on the organisation by the Council of Europe of a second European campaign on North-South interdependence and solidarity in 1998

Recommendation 1320 (1997) on education, training and advisory services in agriculture, fisheries and forestry

Recommendation 1321 (1997) on improving the situation of women in rural society

Recommendation 1322 (1997) on civil service in an enlarged Europe

Recommendation 1323 (1997) on strengthening the machinery of the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Recommendation 1324 (1997) on the Parliamentary Assembly contribution to the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe

Recommendation 1325 (1997) on traffic in women and forced prostitution in Council of Europe member states

Recommendation 1326 (1997) on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Romania

Recommendation 1327 (1997) on the protection and reinforcement of the human rights of refugees and asylum seekers in Europe

Recommendation 1328 (1997) on the state of emergency in Albania

Recommendation 1329 (1997) on the follow-up to the Mediterranean Conference on Population, Migration and Development (Palma de Mallorca, 15-17 October 1996)

Recommendation 1330 (1997) on the European Charter of the Danube Basin

Recommendation 1331 (1997) on establishing international standards for assessing the environmental impact of industrial enterprises

Recommendation 1332 (1997) on the scientific and technical aspects of the new information and communications technology

Recommendation 1333 (1997) on the Aromanian culture and language

Recommendation 1334 (1997) on refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

Recommendation 1335 (1997) on the refugees and displaced persons in Transcaucasia

Recommendation 1336 (1997) on combating child labour exploitation as a matter of priority

Recommendation 1337 (1997) on the functioning of the institutions for the protection of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Recommendation 1338 (1997) on the obligations and commitments of the Czech Republic as a member state

Recommendation 1339 (1997) on the obligations and commitments of Lithuania as a member state

Recommendation 1340 (1997) on the social and family effects of detention

Recommendation 1341 (1997) on European space policies

Recommendation 1342 (1997) on the Parliamentary Assembly contribution to the 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe

Recommendation 1343 (1997) on anti-personnel landmines and their humanitarian implications

Recommendation 1344 (1997) on the enlargement of the Council of Europe : the budgetary and administrative powers of the Assembly

Recommendation 1345 (1997) on the protection of national minorities

Recommendation 1346 (1997) on human rights education

Recommendation 1347 (1997) on the enlargement of the European Union

Recommendation 1348 (1997) on temporary protection of persons forced to flee their countries

Recommendation 1349 (1997) on the draft European Charter of Regional Self-Government of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE)

Recommendation 1350 (1997) on global challenges for agriculture (including aquaculture, fisheries and forestry)

Recommendation 1351 (1997) on food supply in the world

Resolutions

Resolution 1107 (1997) on the committee structure of the Assembly

Resolution 1108 (1997) on the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference of the European Union

Resolution 1109 (1997) on the implications for Europe of an economic and monetary union

Resolution 1110 (1997) on the situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Resolution 1111 (1997) on the honouring of the commitment entered into by Russia upon accession to the Council of Europe to put into place a moratorium on executions of the death penalty

Resolution 1112 (1997) on the honouring of the commitment entered into by Ukraine upon accession to the Council of Europe to put into place a moratorium on executions of the death penalty

Resolution 1113 (1997) on the situation in Cyprus

Resolution 1114 (1997) on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Albania

Resolution 1115 (1997) on the setting up of an Assembly committee on the honouring of obligations and commitments by member states of the Council of Europe

Resolution 1116 (1997) on the implementation of the Dayton Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Resolution 1117 (1997) on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Estonia

Resolution 1118 (1997) on the preliminary draft European charter of regional self-government of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE)

Resolution 1119 (1997) on conflicts in Transcaucasia

Resolution 1120 (1997) on the impact of the new communication and information technologies on democracy

Resolution 1121 (1997) on instruments of citizen participation in representative democracy

Resolution 1122 (1997) on the progress of economic reform in central and eastern Europe

Resolution 1123 (1997) on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Romania

Resolution 1124 (1997) on European air transport policies – civil aviation in transition

Resolution 1125 (1997) on the request by the Canadian Parliament for observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly

Resolution 1126 (1997) on the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and its Parliamentary Assembly

Resolution 1127 (1997) on the health effects of the Chernobyl nuclear accident

Resolution 1128 (1997) on the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions (World Bank and International Monetary Fund)

Resolution 1129 (1997) on the activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Resolution 1130 (1997) on the implementation of the Dayton Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Resolution 1131 (1997) on the Energy Charter Treaty

Resolution 1132 (1997) on the organisation of a parliamentary conference to reinforce democratic systems in Europe and co-operation in the fight against terrorism

Resolution 1133 (1997) on the situation in Albania

Resolution 1134 (1997) on the OECD and the world economy

Resolution 1135 (1997) on the implications for Europe and the world of the "Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act (*Libertad*)"

Resolution 1136 (1997) on the European partnership of national parliaments within the Parliamentary Assembly

Resolution 1137 (1997) on the Council of Europe's North-South Centre: internal reform, role and achievements

Resolution 1138 (1997) on promoting small and medium-sized enterprises in central and eastern Europe

Resolution 1139 (1997) on global challenges for agriculture (including aquaculture, fisheries and forestry)

Resolution 1140 (1997) on food supply in the world

Resolution 1141 (1997) on the role of farmers' professional organisations as partners of governments in developing and implementing policies

Resolution 1142 (1997) on parliaments and the media

Resolution 1143 (1997) on the working methods and frequency of meetings of the Standing Committee

Appendix E – Conferences of specialised ministers held in 1997

1. *21st Conference of European Ministers of Justice* (10-11 June, Prague)

Theme:
- Links between corruption and organised crime

2. *25th Conference of European Ministers responsible for Family Affairs* (16-18 June, Vienna)

Theme:
- Adolescence: a challenge to the family (educational and supportive measures for parenting)

Sub-themes:
- Adolescence – Crisis and opportunity
- Social risk factors
- Parental education and supportive measures for parenting

3. *19th Session of the Standing Conference of European Ministers of Education* (22-24 June, Kristiansand)

Theme:
- Education 2000: Trends, issues and priorities for pan-European co-operation

4. *11th European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning (CEMAT)* (16-17 October, Limassol)

Theme:
- Sustainable regional/spatial planning in Europe and the protection of water resources

5. *4th European Ministerial Conference on Equality between Women and Men* (13-14 November, Istanbul)

General theme:
- Democracy and equality between women and men

Sub-themes:
- Equality between women and men as a fundamental criterion of democracy
- Promoting equality in a democratic society: the role of men

6. *5th European Ministerial Conference on Mass Media Policy* (11-12 December, Thessaloniki)

General theme:
- The information society: a challenge for Europe

Sub-themes:
- The impact of new communications technologies on human rights and democratic values
- Re-thinking the regulatory framework for the media

Appendix F – Cases brought before the European Commission of Human Rights

Applications declared admissible in 1997

C.M.L.-O. v. Switzerland (Application No. 25711/94) concerning the applicant's conviction for having negligently caused the offence of bodily injury, after she had previously been convicted of negligent driving on the basis of the same facts

Józef Gaweda v. Poland (Application No. 26229/95) concerning the refusal of the applicant's request to register two periodicals

Celalettin Yölyer v. Turkey (Application No. 26973/95) concerning the destruction of the applicant's home, allegedly by gendarmes and village protectors

Ioan Petra v. Romania (Application No. 27273/95) concerning alleged interferences with a prisoner's correspondence, in particular with the Commission

Trome S.A. v. Spain (Application No. 27781/95) concerning the rectification of a judgment without hearing the applicant company, which had acquired the rights of the parties to the original proceedings

M.A.R. v. the United Kingdom and *Korosh Hatami v. Sweden* (Applications Nos. 28038/95 and 32448/96) concerning the threatened expulsion of the applicants to Iran

Camara Berke v. France (Application No. 32824/96) concerning the threatened expulsion of the applicant to Mauritania

Alf Oddmund Antonsen v. Norway (Application No. 20960/92) concerning the fairness of appeal proceedings before the Supreme Court, which convicted the applicant after he had been acquitted at first instance

G.L. v. Italy and *F.C. v. Italy* (Applications Nos. 22671/93 and 22891/93) concerning the inability of landlords to obtain possession of property for the use of their children

Annick Delbec v. France (Applications Nos. 23321/94 and 26514/95) concerning the suspension of a psychiatric detainee's right to receive visits from her daughter, and the time taken to deal with a petition for release

Pauline Lines v. the United Kingdom (Application No. 24519/94) concerning the time taken to review the compulsory re-detention of a psychiatric patient who had been conditionally discharged

Joseph Aquilina v. Malta and *Thomas Wiffen v. Malta* (Applications Nos. 25642/94 and 25644/94) concerning the requirement to obtain the views of the Attorney General on the granting of bail in serious offences, and the consequent lack of power on the part of magistrates to order immediate release

S.B.F. s.p.a. v. Italy (Application No. 26426/95) concerning access to court in connection with a bankruptcy petition

Shahin Mustafai-Nejad v. Austria (Application No. 26495/95) concerning the imposition of a ten-year prohibition order on an Iranian national who has lived in Austria from the age of five

Immobiliare Saffi v. Italy (Application No. 22774/93) concerning the impossibility for the applicant to secure enforcement of an eviction order, due to the lack of assistance from the police, and the length of the proceedings

Liam Devenney v. the United Kingdom (Application No. 24265/94) concerning the issuing of a national security certificate by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, thus excluding the applicant from the protection of the provisions against religious and political discrimination contained in fair employment legislation

Richard Waite and Terry Kennedy v. Germany and *Karlheinz Beer and Philip Regan v. Germany* (Applications Nos. 26083/94 and 28934/95) concerning the rejection by the labour courts of the applicants' claims to employment status with the European Space Agency, on the ground of the Agency's immunity

Stefan Anghelescu v. Romania (Application No. 29411/95) concerning the annulment by the Supreme Court of Justice of a final and binding judgment recognising the applicant's mother's title to property nationalised in 1950, and the fairness of the proceedings

Faustino-Francisco Garcia Ruiz v. Spain (Application No. 30544/96) concerning the alleged failure of a court to deal with the complaint raised before it

George Kempers v. Austria (Application No. 21842/93) concerning the absence of any opportunity for an appellant in criminal proceedings to reply to submissions by the Procurator General

Angelo Tanganelli v. Italy (Application No. 23424/94) concerning the non-enforcement of an eviction order

Henri Rosenberg v. Belgium (Application No. 24906/94) concerning the role of State Counsel in disciplinary proceedings before the Court of Cassation

J.T. v. the United Kingdom (Application No. 26494/95) concerning the impossibility for a person in psychiatric care to apply for the "nearest relative", designated under the relevant legislation, to be changed

Benno Oberdanner v. Austria (Application No. 26509/95) concerning the lack of an oral hearing before the Administrative Court

Michael Govell v. the United Kingdom (Application No. 27237/95) concerning police surveillance

Gabriel Tsavachidis v. Greece (Application No. 28802/95) concerning alleged secret surveillance of a Jehovah's Witness

Latifa El Mazhor-Boustani v. France (Application No. 29794/96) concerning the threatened expulsion of a Moroccan national who has lived in France since 1983

Unsal Ozturk v. Turkey (Application No. 22479/93) concerning the conviction of a publisher for incitement to hatred and the confiscation of copies of the book in question

Bekir Ciftci v. Austria (Application No. 24375/94) concerning the threatened expulsion of a Turkish national who has lived in Austria since 1972

Cristoforo Buscarini, Emilio Della Balda and Dario Manzaroli v. San Marino (Application No. 24645/94) concerning the obligation of persons elected as Members of Parliament to swear an oath of allegiance on the Bible

Zöhre Bubilik v. Turkey and *Laçin Turanli and others v. Turkey* (Applications Nos. 24718/94 and 26121-27/95) concerning delays in payment of additional compensation in respect of expropriation, and in particular the allegedly insufficient rate of interest applicable thereto

László Rekvényi v. Hungary (Application No. 25390/94) concerning a constitutional prohibition on police officers joining political parties and engaging in political activities

Salih Orhan v. Turkey (Application No. 25656/94) concerning the disappearance of the applicant's two brothers and his son after they were allegedly taken away by soldiers, as well as the applicant's claim that his house was burned down by the security forces

Y.ÇE. and F.ÇA. v. Turkey (Application No. 26128/95) concerning the deaths of the first applicant's son and the second applicant's brother, allegedly after they had been taken into custody

Cha'are Shalom Ve Tsedek v. France (Application No. 27417/95) concerning the refusal to grant an Orthodox Jewish association a permit to carry out ritual slaughters according to its strict requirements

Andy Athanassoglou and others v. Switzerland (Application No. 27644/95) concerns alleged lack of access to a court in respect of objections to the renewal of an operating permit for a nuclear power station

Jacques Iscache v. France (Application No. 23050/93) concerning the speediness of the review of the applicant's detention, and also interception of telephone calls

Luis Antonio Garcia Alva v. Germany, Hugo Lietzow v. Germany and Jörg Rudolf Schöps v. Germany (Applications Nos. 23541/94, 24479/94 and 25116/94) concerning the refusal of access to police investigation files in the context of detention on remand

Josef Prinz v. Austria and Michael Edward Cooke v. Austria (Applications Nos. 23867/94 and 25878/94) concerning the holding of Supreme Court criminal appeal hearings in the absence of the appellants

Andreas Wabl v. Austria (Application No. 24773/94) concerning an injunction prohibiting the applicant from repeating the expression "Nazi journalism", which he had used in respect of a newspaper which published an article about him

Nicole Van Geyseghem v. Belgium (Application No. 26103/95) concerning the refusal of a criminal appeal court to allow the appellant's lawyer to represent her in her absence

Kristian Zvonimir Raguz v. Austria (Application No. 26300/95) concerning the expulsion of a foreign national who had lived all his life in Austria

René Roux v. France (Application No. 26355/95) concerning the role of the *avocat général* in criminal appeal proceedings before the Court of Cassation

Alain Escoubet v. Belgium (Application No. 26780/95) concerning the withdrawal of a driving licence by the public prosecutor following a road traffic accident

Sekul Kovachev v. Bulgaria (Application No. 29303/95) concerning the refusal of the courts to examine the merits of a claim for additional welfare benefits

S.A. "AVIS Entreprises Hôtelières, Touristiques et Industrielles Rurales" v. Greece (Application No. 30175/96) concerning the alleged failure of the state to make full payment of compensation for an expropriation, and a complaint that in the case of expropriation for the benefit of the state the costs are not met separately by the state

Bladet Tromsø A/S and Pål Stensås v. Norway (Application No. 21980/93) concerning an award of damages against a newspaper and its editor for defamation, following the publication of allegations of breaches of the seal-hunting regulations, based on an official report which had not been made public

F.P. and P.S. v. France (Application No. 25444/94) concerning the reclassification by a Court of Appeal of the charge against the accused

I. v. the United Kingdom (Application No. 25680/94) concerning the refusal of legal recognition of a change of sex

Riza Dinç v. Turkey (Application No. 26148/95) concerning the duration of the applicant's custody before he was brought before a judge

P. v. Switzerland (Application No. 26955/95) concerning the refusal of a psychiatric clinic to allow the applicant association to distribute to patients certain documents outlining their rights and the possibilities of contesting compulsory confinement

Dan Brumarescu v. Romania (Application No. 28342/95) concerning the annulment by the Supreme Court of Justice of a final judgment ordering the return to the applicant of his parents' house, which the courts had recognised had been wrongly nationalised

E.O. v. Turkey (Application No. 28497/95) concerning the torture and murder of the applicant's son, allegedly by state authorities

Herbert Wille v. Liechtenstein (Application No. 28396/95) concerning the announcement by the Prince of Liechtenstein that he would not appoint the applicant, then President of the Administrative Court, to public office, on account of the views which he had expressed on certain constitutional issues

Michaela-Liliana Gafencu v. Romania (Application No. 29055/95) concerning the difficulties faced by the applicant in evicting tenants from her apartment

Roger Fressoz and Claude Roire v. France (Application No. 29183/95) concerning the applicants' conviction for receiving stolen photocopies of tax forms, following the publication in the satirical magazine, the *Canard Enchaîné*, of details of the salary increases taken by the President of the Peugeot car company

Academy Trading Ltd. and others v. Greece (Application No. 30342/96) concerning the fairness and length of proceedings brought by the guarantors of a shipping loan, and in particular changes in the composition of the Court of Cassation and the appointment of a new rapporteur after the initial hearing

Stavros Marangos v. Cyprus (Application No. 31106/96) concerning the prohibition on homosexual practices

Rom Hortolomei v. Austria (Application No. 17291/90) concerning the alleged lack of impartiality of a Regional Appeals Commission

P.M. v. Hungary (Application No. 23636/94) concerning the conditions of detention of the applicant, who is serving a life sentence for murder and is paralysed from the waist down following a suicide attempt

M.M. v. Italy (Application No. 23969/94) concerning the alleged lack of sufficiently specific details in a charge of raping a mentally handicapped person

André Pueyo v. France (Application No. 28537/95) concerning the lack of a public hearing in disciplinary proceedings against an accountant

Xenis Larkos v. Cyprus (Application No. 29515/95) concerning the eviction of the applicant and his family from the house which they rented from the state

Lois Fernandez Fraga v. Spain (Application No. 31263/96) concerning the alleged failure of a court to deal with a subsidiary request submitted in the context of a disciplinary appeal

Selim Sadak v. Turkey (Applications Nos. 25142/94 and 27099/95) concerning the alleged ill-treatment of the applicant while he was held in custody after his parliamentary immunity had been lifted

Irfan Bilgin v. Turkey and *T.A. and M.A. v. Turkey* (Applications Nos. 25659/94 and 26307/95) concerning the disappearance of persons allegedly taken into custody by plain-clothes policemen

Egbert Elsholz v. Germany (Application No. 25735/94) concerning the refusal to grant a father a right of access to his child born out of wedlock

Jacek Kawka v. Poland (Application No. 25874/94) concerning the allegedly unlawful continuation of the applicant's detention on remand and the fact that he was not present or represented at any of the hearings relating to the prolongation of his detention

Robert Wójcik v. Poland (Application No. 26757/95) concerning the length of the applicant's detention on remand, the fact that he was not present or represented at any of the hearings relating to the continuation of his detention and the length of the criminal proceedings against him

Maciej Niedbala v. Poland (Application No. 27915/95) concerning the role of public prosecutors in ordering detention on remand, the fact that the applicant was not present or represented at any of the hearings relating to the continuation of his detention and a delay in transmitting a letter to the Ombudsman

Christian Association of Jehovah's Witnesses v. Bulgaria (Application No. 28626/95) concerning the refusal to re-register a religious association and the alleged suppression of its activities through forced dispersal of meetings, arrests and the seizure of books

F.S. v. Italy (Application No. 19734/92) concerning the construction of a waste-recycling plant and access road on the applicant's property and alleged irregularities in the procedure relating thereto

Marie-Luise Beer v. Austria (Application No. 23962/94) concerning the absence of an oral hearing in proceedings relating to approval for the sale of land

Pierre Lemoine v. France (Application No. 26242/95) concerning the registration by the tax authorities of a security over land belonging to the applicant in respect of taxes which they maintained were due by him

Fischer v. Austria and *Fischer v. Austria* (Applications Nos. 26252/95 and 27014/95) concerning the absence of oral hearings in proceedings before the Administrative Court

Osman Öztürk v. Austria (Application No. 26793/95) concerning alleged lack of access to a court in administrative criminal proceedings

Christian Picard v. France (Application No. 26984/95) concerning the alleged denial of access to evidence in disciplinary proceedings

John McAteer v. the United Kingdom (Application No. 28891/95) concerning the refusal of legal aid for a criminal appeal in Scotland;

Yeoryios Iatridis v. Greece (Application No. 31107/96) concerning the applicant's eviction from cinema premises which he had leased from a private landlord but which the state claimed were erected on state property, and the continued occupation of the premises despite annulment of the eviction order by a court

Ivanka Nikolova v. Bulgaria (Application No. 31195/96) concerning the ordering of the applicant's detention on remand by an investigator and the dismissal of her appeal by a court which decided *in camera* and in the absence of the parties

Aristomenis and Eugène Papachelas v. Greece (Application No. 31423/96) concerning an irrefutable presumption that the benefit obtained by persons whose property has been expropriated for the purpose of constructing a new motorway constitutes sufficient compensation for the expropriation

Rita Ignaccolo-Zenide v. Romania (Application No. 31679/96) concerning the difficulties encountered by the applicant, a French national, in having her children returned to her by her former husband, who took them to Romania in contravention of a custody order in the applicant's favour and obtained an order in his favour from a Romanian court

Sedat Aslantas v. Turkey (Application No. 25658/94) concerning the applicant's conviction for disseminating separatist propaganda in a speech

Société Proma Di Franco Gianotti v. France (Application No. 25971/94) concerning the rejection of an appeal which relied only on a procedural ground, without the appellant being given any subsequent opportunity to submit arguments on the merits

Witold Litwa v. Poland (Application No. 26629/95) concerning the applicant's detention at a sobering-up centre

H.B. v. Switzerland (Application No. 26899/95) concerning the independence and impartiality of the investigating judge who ordered the applicant's detention on remand, the alleged absence of sufficient information on the grounds of detention and the alleged absence of an effective remedy

Eric Jasper v. the United Kingdom, Raphael Rowe and Michael Davis v. the United Kingdom and *Barry Fitt v. the United Kingdom* (Applications Nos. 27052/95, 28901/95 and 29777/96) concerning the non-disclosure of material by the prosecution in criminal proceedings, on the ground of public interest immunity

Eveline E.C.H. Camp and Sofian A. Bourimi v. the Netherlands (Application No. 28369/95) concerning the non-recognition of a legitimated child's inheritance rights

A.A.G. v. Portugal and *J.M.F. and others v. Portugal* (Applications Nos. 29813/96 and 30229/96) concerning the delay in payment of final compensation for expropriations carried out in the context of agricultural land reform

M.K. v. France (Application No. 30148/96) concerning the opening of a letter addressed to the applicant by the Secretariat of the European Commission of Human Rights while he was in detention awaiting extradition to Mali

Bamba Bamba v. France (Application No. 30930/96) concerning the threatened expulsion of a foreign national suffering from Aids

Glavno Myuftiistvo (Chief Mufti Office) and others v. Bulgaria (Application No. 30985/96) concerning the registration by the Directorate of Religious Denominations of the leadership elected by one faction of the Muslim community, despite the previous registration of the leadership headed by one of the applicants

Arnold Nilsen and Jan Gerhard Johnsen v. Norway (Application No. 23118/93) concerning a successful defamation action against the applicants, representatives of police organisations, in respect of comments which they made about certain publications alleging police brutality

Robert Wegmann v. Austria (Application No. 25412/94) concerning the absence of an oral hearing before the Supreme Court

Peter R.H.H.B.G. Ververgaert v. the Netherlands (Application No. 26788/95) concerning the refusal to allow a lawyer to represent an absent accused

Josef Stettner v. Austria (Application No. 27096/95) concerning a residence prohibition issued against the applicant, an Australian national who has lived in Austria with his family since he was a young child

D.N. v. Switzerland (Application No. 27154/95) concerning the role of a psychiatric expert in conducting the judicial examination and providing an expert opinion in proceedings relating to release from psychiatric detention

Giancarlo Biasetti v. Italy (Application No. 27253/95) concerning the length of time taken to review detention on remand

Tonino Quadrelli v. Italy (Application No. 28168/95) concerning the alleged failure of the Court of Cassation to take into account a memorial lodged by the applicant

Wilhelm Ländström v. Sweden (Application No. 29105/95) concerning the absence of an oral hearing before the Administrative Court of Appeal

David W. Wilson, the National Union of Journalists and others v. the United Kingdom (Applications Nos. 30668/96, 30671/96 and 30678/96) concerning the de-recognition of trade unions by certain employers

Wilibald Rudolf Matter v. the Slovak Republic (Application No. 31534/96) concerning limitations on the applicant's legal capacity and the length of the related proceedings

Sedat Yurttas v. Turkey (Applications Nos. 25143/94 and 27098/95) concerning the detention of a former member of parliament incommunicado for eleven days before being brought before a judge and the fairness of the criminal proceedings against him

Seho Ekinci v. Turkey (Application No. 25625/94) concerning the shooting of the applicant's brother by unidentified assailants

Pelin Sener v. Turkey (Application No. 26680/94) concerning the conviction by a State Security Court of the owner-editor of a weekly review, for disseminating separatist propaganda

M.B.I. A.S. v. Turkey (Application No. 26685/94) concerning a decision of the High Electoral Council to suspend television broadcasts by the applicant company for five days, following transmission of a programme in which criticism was made of broadcasting restrictions during elections

Benedetto Labita v. Italy (Application No. 26772/95) concerning the alleged ill-treatment of the applicant in prison, the length of his detention on remand, interferences with his correspondence, the delay in releasing him after his acquittal and the imposition of preventive measures

Selim Sadak, Leyla Zana, Hatip Dicle and Orhan Dogan v. Turkey (Applications Nos. 29900/96, 29901/96, 29902/96 and 29903/96) concerning the conviction of the applicants by a State Security Court, after their parliamentary immunity had been lifted, for membership of an armed organisation

X. v. the Netherlands (Application No. 33124/96) concerning the threatened expulsion of the applicant to Turkey, where he claims that he risks being subjected to ill-treatment on account of his political activities

Petar Ilijkov v. Bulgaria (Application No. 33977/96) concerning the length of detention on remand, the speediness and scope of court review of the lawfulness of the detention, and the length of criminal proceedings

Domenico Melise v. Italy (Application No. 17360/90) concerning the fairness of proceedings resulting in the applicant's conviction *in absentia*

Elena, Pasquale and Augusto Carbonara and Costantino Ventura v. Italy (Application No. 24638/94) concerning the occupation of part of the applicants' land for the purpose of building a school, without any formal expropriation order having been issued

Eusebio Santa Cruz Ruiz v. the United Kingdom (Application No. 26109/95) concerning the arrest and imprisonment of the applicant, a Spanish citizen, on his arrival in the United Kingdom, in connection with non-payment of maintenance arrears, and the proceedings relating thereto

Wirtshafts-Trend Zeitschriften-Verlagsgesellschaft m.b.H. v. Austria (Application No. 26113/95) concerning an order that the applicant company publish in its political periodical a judgment to the effect that its earlier criticism of asylum policy was defamatory

Armand Cazes v. France (Application No. 27413/95) concerning the refusal of compensation for detention on remand, following acquittal

Patrick Benjamin and Hueth Wilson v. the United Kingdom (Application No. 28212/95) concerning the alleged absence of a right to a court review of the applicants' detention in mental hospital, where they are serving life sentences following criminal convictions

Mihail Constantinescu v. Romania (Application No. 28871/95) concerning the applicant's conviction for defamation and the alleged unfairness of the proceedings

Mehmet Ciliz v. the Netherlands (Application No. 29192/95) concerning the expulsion of a Turkish national following his separation from his wife

Vassil Mironov v. Bulgaria (Application No. 30381/96) concerning the length of detention on remand and the length of criminal proceedings, as well as alleged interferences by the prison authorities in the applicant's correspondence with the Commission

Jeanine Gonzalez and others v. France (Applications Nos. 34165/96 to 34173/96) concerning the effect of retroactive legislation on pending court proceedings against the state

Mevlüde Akdeniz v. Turkey (Application No. 25165/94) concerning the disappearance of the applicant's son after he was allegedly taken away by the security forces

Mohamed Slimane Kaid v. France (Application No. 27019/95) concerning the opening by prison authorities of correspondence addressed to him by his lawyer and by the European Commission of Human Rights

Davis Robert Hood v. the United Kingdom (Application No. 27267/95) concerning the independence and impartiality of a court-martial, the procedure whereby the applicant was placed under close arrest and the alleged absence of any remedy whereby he could challenge his detention

Christian and Patricia Ferville v. France (Application No. 27659/95) concerning the striking out of the applicants' cassation appeal on the ground of their failure to implement the judgment appealed against, which had ordered them to pay several million francs to a bank

Janusz Baranowski v. Poland (Application No. 28358/95) concerning the lawfulness of the continuation of the applicant's detention on remand

Christine Goodwin v. the United Kingdom (Application No. 28957/95) concerning the absence of legal recognition of a change of sex

B.H. v. the United Kingdom and *C.C. v. the United Kingdom* (Applications Nos. 30307/96 and 32819/96) concerning the automatic exclusion of bail for persons detained on remand on suspicion of certain serious offences, when they have previously been convicted of one of such offences

Juozas Jecius v. Lithuania (Application No. 34578/97) concerning the lawfulness of the applicant's preventive detention and of subsequent prolongations of his detention on remand, the alleged failure to bring him promptly before a judge and the length of his detention

Mesut and Göker Gümüskaya v. Austria (Application No. 22782/93) concerning a residence prohibition issued, following criminal convictions, against two Turkish brothers who were born and brought up in Austria

Gérard Potier and Paul Coquempot v. France (Applications Nos. 26059/94 and 31404/96) concerning the rejection of a request to join proceedings as a *partie civile* and the length of the court proceedings

Willem Zegwaard and Zegwaard B.V. v. the Netherlands (Application No. 26493/95) concerning an alleged violation of the presumption of innocence due to a criminal appeal court taking into account offences with which the appellants had not been charged or of which they had been acquitted

Adam Owczarzak v. Poland (Application No. 27506/95) concerning interferences by the prison authorities with the applicant's correspondence with the European Commission of Human Rights

P.B. v. Switzerland (Application No. 27613/95) concerning the length of time taken to review the lawfulness of the applicant's psychiatric detention

H.A. v. Switzerland (Application No. 27798/95) concerning the monitoring of a telephone conversation and the storage of information in a card-index

Jean Jaegert v. France (Application No. 29827/96) concerning the alleged failure of the *Conseil d'Etat* to notify the applicant of a hearing and to give him an opportunity to present his case before delivering judgment against him

Helen MacGregor v. the United Kingdom (Application No. 30548/96) concerning the refusal to grant a woman who gave up work to look after her young son and incapacitated husband an additional tax allowance which is available to men with an incapacitated wife

Andy Sinnesael v. Greece (Application No. 32397/96) concerning the decision of a criminal appeal court, on acquitting the applicant, that he was not entitled to compensation for time spent in detention

Of the remaining cases, 460 concerned the length of court proceedings, 38 concerned the independence and impartiality of courts martial in the United Kingdom, 23 concerned detention for non-payment of the community charge in the United Kingdom and 8 concerned the length of detention on remand.

Appendix G – Judgments delivered by the European Court of Human Rights in 1997

29 January	*Bouchelkia v. France*: Deportation, following criminal conviction for rape, of an Algerian who came to France at age of 2 and whose mother and nine brothers and sisters were lawfully resident in France; illegal return to France, formal declaration of paternity of child of a Frenchwoman whom he married
18 February	*Mauer v. Austria*: Administrative criminal proceedings for traffic offences
18 February	*Nideröst-Huber v. Switzerland*: Observations sent by a cantonal court to the Federal Court on appeal (section 56 of the Federal Judicature Act)
19 February	*Laskey, Jaggard and Brown v. the United Kingdom*: Prosecution and conviction for sado-masochistic practices (sections 20 and 47 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861)
21 February	*Guillemin v. France*: Length of proceedings to challenge expropriation and to secure compensation, and expropriating town council's failure to carry out judicial decisions setting aside expropriation measures
21 February	*Van Raalte v. the Netherlands*: Exemption from obligation to pay contributions under social-welfare scheme applying to unmarried childless women aged 45 or over but not to men in the same position (section 25 of the General Child Care Benefits Act)
24 February	*De Haes & Gijsels v. Belgium*: Judgment against journalists for defamation of *magistrats* and fairness of the proceedings against the journalists (Articles 1382 and 1383 of the Civil Code)
25 February	*Findlay v. the United Kingdom*: Independence and impartiality of court martial (Army Act 1955)
25 February	*Gregory v. the United Kingdom*: Judge's decision to deal with an allegation of racial bias in a jury trying a black defendant by means of a redirection rather than a discharge
25 February	*Z. v. Finland*: Orders requiring doctors and psychiatrist to give evidence, seizure of medical records and their inclusion in investigation file without the patient's prior consent in criminal proceedings concerning her husband, limitation on the duration of the confidentiality of the medical data concerned and publication of her identity and HIV infection in a court judgment given in those proceedings
17 March	*Muller v. France*: Length of detention pending trial
17 March	*Neigel v. France*: Length of proceedings for reinstatement and for payment of salary instituted by civil servant working for town council who had been granted leave of absence
18 March	*Mantovanelli v. France*: Expert medical report ordered by an administrative court not prepared in accordance with adversarial principle (Article R. 123 – now Article R. 164 – of Administrative Courts and Administrative Courts of Appeal Code)
18 March	*Foucher v. France*: Denial of access to a criminal file and refusal to release copies of the documents contained in it, in respect of a defendant who had been sent for trial in a police court under a direct summons procedure and who was conducting his own defence
19 March	*Paskhalidis and Others v. Greece*: Length of proceedings in the administrative courts
19 March	*Hornsby v. Greece*: Delay by the administrative authorities in taking the necessary measures to comply with two judgments of the Supreme Administrative Court
20 March	*Lukanov v. Bulgaria*: Detention on remand of parliamentarian on suspicion of having misappropriated public funds when he was Deputy Prime Minister
20 March	*Beis v. Greece*: Impossibility of enforcing an order to pay issued against a public-law entity (Greek Chamber of Technology) subject to prior scrutiny by Court of Audit and enjoying immunity from execution
2 April	*P L. v. France*: Prison sentence not reduced by length of detention on remand in connection with a judicial investigation subsequently declared null and void
22 April	*X, Y and Z v. the United Kingdom*: Refusal to register post-operative transsexual as father of child born to partner by artificial insemination by donor (Human Fertility and Embryology Act 1990, Children Act 1989)

23 April	*Stallinger and Kuso v. Austria*: Independence and impartiality of regional land reform boards, decisions on land consolidation given without a public hearing (section 9 (1) of the Federal Agricultural Proceedings Act and Austria's reservation in respect of Article 6 of the Convention)
23 April	*Van Mechelen and Others v. the Netherlands*: Reliance on the evidence of anonymous police officers
29 April	*Pardo v. France (Revision)*: Examination of the merits of a request submitted by the Commission for the revision of an earlier judgment (Rule 58 of Rules of Court A)
29 April	*H.L.R. v. France*: Deportation order against Colombian national convicted of drug trafficking
2 May	*D. v. the United Kingdom*: Proposed removal of an alien drug courier dying of Aids to his country of origin (St Kitts) where he has no accommodation, family, moral or financial support and no access to adequate medical treatment
27 May	*Eriksen v. Norway*: Provisional detention after expiry of authorisation to use security measures, pending examination of the appropriateness of prolonging the authorisation (Article 171 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and Articles 39, 227 and 228 of the Penal Code)
28 May	*Pauger v. Austria*: Lack of a public hearing in the Constitutional Court in proceedings concerning entitlement to a survivor's pension
29 May	*Tsirlis and Kouloumpas v. Greece*: Detention of Jehovah's Witnesses' ministers following refusal to exempt them from military service (section 6 of Law No. 1763/1988)
29 May	*Georgiadis v. Greece*: Fairness of proceedings for compensation in respect of detention followed by acquittal (Article 533 of the Code of Criminal Procedure)
9 June	*Telesystem Tirol Kabeltelevision v. Austria*: Television company unable to broadcast own programmes on account of Austrian Broadcasting Corporation's monopoly
9 June	*Pentidis and Others v. Greece*: Conviction of Jehovah's Witnesses for having established a place of worship without requesting an authorisation from the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs
25 June	*Halford v. the United Kingdom*: Interception of telephone calls made on internal telecommunications system operated by police and on public network - lack of regulation by domestic law (Interception of Communications Act 1985)
25 June	*Van Orshoven v. Belgium*: Plaintiff in disciplinary proceedings in the Court of Cassation unable to reply to submissions made at the hearing by a member of the *procureur général*'s department at the Court of Cassation
27 June	*Philis v. Greece (No. 2)*: Length of criminal and disciplinary proceedings
1 July	*Pammel v. Germany*: Length of proceedings in the Federal Constitutional Court to review constitutionality of legislation after application for a preliminary ruling
1 July	*Probstmeier v. Germany*: Length of proceedings in the Federal Constitutional Court to review constitutionality of legislation after application for a preliminary ruling
1 July	*Rolf Gustafson v. Sweden*: Rejection by the Criminal Damage Compensation Board of the applicant's claim for compensation administered under a statutory scheme on account of his failure to adduce any new relevant evidence proving he had been the victim of a crime after the alleged perpetrator's acquittal (Criminal Damage Act 1978)
1 July	*Torri v. Italy*: Length of two consecutive sets of proceedings, first criminal proceedings joined by means of a civil party application then civic proceedings for damages
1 July	*Giulia Manzoni v. Italy*: Lawfulness of detention
1 July	*Kalaç v. Turkey*: Compulsory retirement of a military judge advocate on account of his unlawful fundamentalist opinions
1 July	*Gitonas and Others v. Greece*: Annulment of the election of five members of parliament because, for more than three months during the three years preceding the elections, they had held posts in public office disqualifying them from standing for election (Article 56 of the Constitution)
1 July	*Oberschlick v. Austria (No. 2)*: Journalist convicted of insulting a politician (Article 115 of the Criminal Code)
3 July	*Hentrich v. France (Interpretation)*: Request by the Commission for interpretation of a previous judgment (Rule 57 of Rules of Court A)
3 July	*Pressos Compania Naviera S.A. and Others v. Belgium (Article 50)*: Claim for just satisfaction submitted by applicants whom the Court had, in an earlier judgment, held to be victims of a violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1

9 July	*Akkuş v. Turkey*: Depreciation through inflation of additional compensation for expropriation caused by authorities' delay in payment
26 August	*Balmer-Schafroth and Others v. Switzerland*: Extension by Swiss Federal Council of licence to operate nuclear power station (Federal Act on the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy)
26 August	*De Haan v. the Netherlands*: Impartiality of a judge presiding over a Chamber of the Appeals Tribunal called upon to decide on an objection against a decision for which he himself was responsible (sections 141 and 142 of the Appeals Act)
27 August	*Anne-Marie Andersson v. Sweden*: Lack of possibility for a patient, prior to the communication of personal and confidential medical data by a medical authority to a social services authority, to challenge the measure before a court (Secrecy Act 1980 and Social Services Act 1980)
27 August	*M.S. v. Sweden*: Communication, without the patient's consent, of personal and confidential medical data by one public authority to another and lack of possibility for patient, prior to the measure, to challenge it before a court (Secrecy Act 1980 and Industrial Injury Insurance Act 1976)
29 August	*A. P., M. P. and T. P. v. Switzerland*: Imposition of a criminal sanction on heirs for tax evasion committed by deceased person (Article 130, § 1, of the Ordinance on Direct Federal Tax)
29 August	*E. L., R. L. and J. O.-L. v. Switzerland*: Imposition of a criminal sanction on heirs for tax evasion committed by a deceased person (Article 130, § 1, of the Ordinance on Direct Federal Tax)
29 August	*Worm v. Austria*: Journalist's conviction for publishing an article considered capable of influencing outcome of criminal proceedings (Section 23 of the Media Act)
1 September	*The Holy Monasteries v. Greece (Article 50)*: Claim for just satisfaction by applicant monasteries that had been held in earlier judgment to be victims of a breach of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 and Article 6, § 1, of the Convention
2 September	*Spurio, De Santa, Gallo, Lapalorcia, Abenavoli, Zilaghe, Laghi, Viero, Orlandini, Ryllo, Soldani, Fusco, Di Luca and Saluzzi, Nicodemo, Pizzi, Scarfò, Argento and Trombetta v. Italy*: Length of proceedings instituted by civil servants in the administrative courts
23 September	*Robins v. the United Kingdom*: Length of costs proceedings (Legal Aid Act 1988)
24 September	*Garyfallou AEBE v. Greece*: Length of proceedings in the administrative courts
24 September	*Coyne v. the United Kingdom*: Independence and impartiality of a court martial (Air Force Act 1955)
25 September	*Aydin v. Turkey*: Alleged rape and ill-treatment of a female detainee and failure of authorities to conduct an effective investigation into her complaint that she was tortured in this way
26 September	*Mehemi v. France*: Enforcement of an order for permanent exclusion from the French territory of a convicted Algerian national whose parents and four brothers and sisters were lawfully resident in France and who was the father of three minor children having French nationality
26 September	*El Boujaïdi v. France*: Enforcement of an order for permanent exclusion from the French territory of a convicted Moroccan national whose parents and four brothers and sisters were lawfully resident in France and who had recognised paternity of the child of a French woman with whom he had been cohabiting
26 September	*R.M.D. v. Switzerland*: Person detained in various cantons pending trial unable to have the lawfulness of his detention reviewed by a court
3 October	*Sur v. Turkey*: Ill-treatment during detention in police custody
9 October	*Andronicou and Constantinou v. Cyprus*: Alleged unlawful killing of a young couple by officers of a special police unit (MMAD) in the course of a rescue operation
20 October	*Serves v. France*: Fining of a person for refusing to take the oath and give evidence before an investigating judge who had summoned him to appear as a witness (Article 109 of the Code of Criminal Procedure)
20 October	*Radio ABC v. Austria*: Impossibility of setting up and operating private radio stations (Regional Broadcasting Law)
21 October	*Pierre-Bloch v. France*: Proceedings before the Constitutional Council, sitting as body that adjudicates election disputes in respect of members of parliament
21 October	*Boujlifa v. France*: Expulsion, following two criminal convictions, of a Moroccan who arrived in France at age of five and whose parents and eight brothers and sisters are lawfully resident in France

22 October — *Papageorgiou v. Greece*: Interference by legislature in the administration of justice and length of proceedings in the civil courts

22 October — *Erdagöz v. Turkey*: Treatment undergone during deprivation of liberty in a police station

23 October — *National and Provincial Building Society, the Leeds Permanent Building Society and the Yorkshire Building Society v. the United Kingdom*: Applicants' legal claims to restitution of monies paid under invalidated tax provisions extinguished under the effects of retrospective legislation (section 53 of Finance Act 1991 and section 64 of Finance (No.2) Act 1992)

24 October — *Johnson v. the United Kingdom*: Continued detention of an individual no longer suffering from mental illness pending his placement in a hostel (Mental Health Act 1983)

30 October — *Van Mechelen and Others v. the Netherlands (Article 50)*: Claims for just satisfaction by applicants held by the Court to have been victims of a violation of Article 6, § 1, taken together with Article 6, § 3 (d), of the Convention

30 October — *Paez v. Sweden*: Decision to expel Peruvian national to Peru, not enforced pending proceedings and subsequently repealed in connection with grant of permanent residence (Aliens Act 1989)

24 November — *Szücs v. Austria*: No public delivery of judgments of a court of appeal in two sets of proceedings to claim compensation for detention (Compensation (Criminal Proceedings) Act 1969 and Article 82 of the Code of Criminal Procedure)

24 November — *Werner v. Austria*: No public hearing or public delivery of judgments by a court of first instance and a court of appeal in proceedings to claim compensation for detention – failure to communicate public prosecutor's observations in proceedings before a court of appeal (Article 35, § 2, of Code of Criminal Procedure)

25 November — *Zana v. Turkey*: Prison sentence imposed by Diyarbakyr National Security Court on account of a statement to journalists (Articles 168 and 312 of the Criminal Code) – accused unable to appear at the hearing in that court (Article 226, § 4, of the Code of Criminal Procedure) – length of criminal proceedings against him

25 November — *Grigoriades v. Greece*: Conviction of an officer of the crime of insult to the army (Article 74 of the Military Penal Code)

26 November — *Sakık and Others v. Turkey*: Arrest and detention in police custody of six former members of the National Assembly who were prosecuted in a national security court

26 November — *Stamoulakatos v. Greece (No. 2)*: Length of proceedings in the Court of Audit

27 November — *K.-F. v. Germany*: Lawfulness of arrest and detention (Article 127, § 1, and Article 163.b and c of Code of Criminal Procedure)

28 November — *Menteş and Others v. Turkey*: Alleged burning of houses by security forces and lack of remedies in south-east Turkey

16 December — *Proszak v. Poland*: Length of civil proceedings

16 December — *Tejedor García v. Spain*: Criminal conviction secured despite fact that Public Prosecutor's application for an order setting aside a decision that no further action be taken had been filed late (Articles 211 and 789 of Code of Criminal Procedure)

16 December — *Raninen v. Finland*: Arrest, detention and handcuffing of military conscript objecting to military and substitute service

16 December — *Canea Catholic Church v. Greece*: Catholic Church unable to take legal proceedings as a result of civil courts' refusal to acknowledge that it had legal personality

16 December — *Camenzind v. Switzerland*: Search of residential premises carried out in connection with administrative criminal law proceedings (Section 48 of the Federal Administrative Criminal Law Act)

19 December — *Helle v. Finland*: Consequences of respondent state's reservation on applicant's right to an oral hearing before an independent and impartial tribunal and whether the domestic proceedings were unfair on account of domestic courts' alleged failure to state reasons for their decisions and/or to respect equality of arms principle

19 December — *Brualla Gómez de la Torre v. Spain*: Civil appeal to Supreme Court declared inadmissible because new rules of procedure (transitional provision No. 2 of Law No. 10/92 of 30 April 1992 and section 135 of the Leases of Urban Property Act, as amended) applied with immediate effect

1. *Cases in which the Court found at least one violation*

This list does not provide any information in relation to the complaints which were dismissed by the Court or which it considered that it did not have to examine.

18 February — Mauer v. Austria (6 § 1)

18 February — Nideröst-Huber v. Switzerland (6 § 1)

21 February	Guillemin v. France (6 § 1, 1 Prot. No. 1)
21 February	Van Raalte v. the Netherlands (14 in conjunction with 1 Prot. No. 1)
24 February	De Haes and Gijsels v. Belgium (6 § 1, 10)
25 February	Findlay v. the United Kingdom (6 § 1)
25 February	Z. v. Finland (8)
17 March	Muller v. France (5 § 3)
18 March	Mantovanelli v. France (6 § 1)
18 March	Foucher v. France (6 § 1)
19 March	Paskhalidis and Others v. Greece (6 § 1)
19 March	Hornsby v. Greece (6 § 1)
20 March	Lukanov v. Bulgaria (5 § 1)
23 April	Stallinger and Kuso v. Austria (6 § 1)
23 April	Van Mechelen and Others v. the Netherlands (6 §§ 1, 3.*d*)
02 May	D. v. the United Kingdom (3)
29 May	Tsirlis & Kouloumpas v. Greece (5 §§ 1, 5)
29 May	Georgiadis v. Greece (6 § 1)
25 June	Halford v. the United Kingdom (8,13)
25 June	Van Orshoven v. Belgium (6 § 1)
27 June	Philis v. Greece (No. 2) (6 § 1)
1 July	Pammel v. Germany (6 § 1)
1 July	Probstmeier v. Germany (6 § 1)
1 July	Torri v. Italy (6 § 1)
1 July	Oberschlick v. Austria (No. 2) (10)
9 July	Akkuş v. Turkey (1 Prot. No. 1)
26 August	De Haan v. the Netherlands (6 § 1)
29 August	A. P., M. P. and T. P. v. Switzerland (6 § 2)
29 August	E. L., R. L. and J. O.-L. v. Switzerland (6 § 2)
2 September	De Santa v. Italy (6 § 1)
2 September	Lapalorcia v. Italy (6 § 1)
2 September	Abenavoli v. Italy (6§ 1)
2 September	Nicodemo v. Italy (6 § 1)
23 September	Robins v. the United Kingdom (6 § 1)
24 September	Garyfallou AEBE v. Greece (6 § 1)
24 September	Coyne v. the United Kingdom (6 § 1)
25 September	Aydin v. Turkey (3, 13)
26 September	Mehemi v. France (8)
26 September	R.M.D. v. Switzerland (5 § 4)
20 October	Radio ABC v. Austria (10)
22 October	Papageorgiou v. Greece (6 § 1)
24 October	Johnson v. the United Kingdom (5 § 1)
24 November	Szücs v. Austria (6 § 1)
24 November	Werner v. Austria (6 § 1)
25 November	Zana v. Turkey (6 §§1, 3.*c*)
25 November	Grigoriades v. Greece (10)
26 November	Sakyk and Others v. Turkey (5 § 3)
26 November	Stamoulakatos v. Greece (No. 2) (6 § 1)
27 November	K.-F. v. Germany (5 § 1.*c*)
28 November	Menteş and Others v. Turkey (8, 13)

16 December	Raninen v. Finland (5 § 1)
16 December	Canea Catholic Church v. Greece (6 § 1, 14 taken in conjunction with 6 § 1)
16 December	Camenzind v. Switzerland (13 taken in conjunction with 8)

2. *Cases in which the Court found no violation*

This list does not provide any information as to the complaints which the Court considered it did not have to examine.

29 January	Bouchelkia v. France (8)
19 February	Laskey, Jaggard and Brown v. the United Kingdom (8)
25 February	Gregory v. the United Kingdom (6 § 1, 14 in conjunction with 6 § 1)
17 March	Neigel v. France (6 § 1 inapplicable)
22 April	X,Y and Z v. the United Kingdom (8)
29 April	H.L.R. v. France (3)
27 May	Eriksen v. Norway (5 §§1, 3)
28 May	Pauger v. Austria (6 § 1)
1 July	Rolf Gustafson v. Sweden (6 § 1)
1 July	Giulia Manzoni v. Italy (5 § 1.*c*)
1 July	Kalaç v. Turkey (9)
1 July	Gitonas and Others v. Greece (3 Prot. No. 1)
26 August	Balmer-Schafroth and Others v. Switzerland (6 § 1, 13 inapplicable)
27 August	Anne-Marie Andersson v. Sweden (13, 6 § 1 inapplicable)
27 August	M .S. v. Sweden (8, 13, 6 § 1 inapplicable)
29 August	Worm v. Austria (10)
2 September	Spurio v. Italy (6 § 1 inapplicable)
2 September	Gallo v. Italy (6 § 1 inapplicable)
2 September	Zilaghe v. Italy (6 § 1 inapplicable)
2 September	Laghi v. Italy (6 § 1 inapplicable)
2 September	Viero v. Italy (6 § 1 inapplicable)
2 September	Orlandini v. Italy (6 § 1 inapplicable)
2 September	Ryllo v. Italy (6 § 1 inapplicable)
2 September	Soldani v. Italy (6 § 1 inapplicable)
2 September	Fusco v. Italy (6 § 1 inapplicable)
2 September	Di Luca and Saluzzi v. Italy (6 § 1 inapplicable)
2 September	Pizzi v. Italy (6 § 1 inapplicable)
2 September	Scarfò v. Italy (6 § 1 inapplicable)
2 September	Argento v. Italy (6 § 1 inapplicable)
2 September	Trombetta v. Italy (6 § 1 inapplicable)
26 September	El Boujaïdi v. France (8)
9 October	Andronicou and Constantinou v. Cyprus (2, 6 § 1)
20 October	Serves v. France (6 § 1, 3.*b*)
21 October	Pierre-Bloch v. France (6 § 1, 13 inapplicable)
21 October	Boujlifa v. France (8)
22 October	Erdagöz v. Turkey (3, 5 § 1)
23 October	National and Provincial Building Society, the Leeds Permanent Building Society and the Yorkshire Building Society v. the United Kingdom (6 § 1, 1 Prot. No.1 and 14 taken in conjunction with 6 § 1 and 1 Prot. No. 1)
16 December	Proszak v. Poland (6 § 1)
16 December	Tejedor García v. Spain (6 § 1)
19 December	Helle v. Finland (6 § 1)
19 December	Brualla Gómez de la Torre v. Spain (6 § 1)

3. *Decisions of non-acceptance by a screening panel in 1997*

15 January	Bechter v. Austria
15 January	Casanica v. Italy
15 January	Grande and Others v. Italy
15 January	Sbrolla v. Italy
15 January	Calistri v. Italy
15 January	Sorbo v. Italy
15 January	Aluffi v. Italy
15 January	Halshofer v. Austria
15 January	Bellio v. Italy
15 January	Poidimani v. Italy
15 January	Rossi v. Italy
15 January	C. D. C. v. Italy
15 January	Salerno v. Italy (No. 2)
15 January	Mori Puddu v. Italy
15 January	Troccolo and Others v. Italy
11 April	Lennart Gustafsson v. Sweden
11 April	Ellies v. Germany
11 April	A.M. v. Italy
11 April	Menckeberg v. the Netherlands
11 April	Hengl v. Austria
11 April	Manni v. Italy
11 April	Dotti v. Italy
16 May	Ulens v. Belgium
16 May	De Brabandere and Others v. Belgium
16 May	Di Ciccio v. Italy
16 May	Cherubini v. Italy
16 May	Abbate v. Italy
16 May	Spera v. Italy
16 May	Cerruto v. Italy
16 May	A. AR. v. Italy
5 August	Esposito v. Italy
5 August	Lelli v. Italy
5 August	Arlistico v. Italy
5 August	Basta v. Austria
5 August	S.P.R.L. Anca and Others v. Belgium
5 August	G. D.Z. v. Italy
5 August	Maffeo and Papa v. Italy
5 August	Coser v. Italy
15 September	Arie Mantel and Mantel Holland Beheer B.V. v. the Netherlands
1 October	Rech v. Austria
1 October	Stacchiotti v. Italy
1 October	Milioni Guerriero and Mansueti v. Italy
3 October	Ilhan v. Austria
3 October	Fortini v. Italy
3 October	Garberi v. Italy
7 October	G. M. and U. B. v. Austria
30 October	Troncato v. Italy
30 October	Arconte v. Italy
30 October	Napoli v. Italy
22 December	G. R. and P. M. v. Italy

Appendix H – Committee of Ministers in its function as an organ of the European Convention on Human Rights

The following survey provides an indication of the activities of the Committee of Ministers in 1997 under the collective guarantee instituted by the member states of the Council of Europe of certain of the rights contained in the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that is of those fundamental rights and freedoms set out in the European Convention on Human Rights (the statistics are provisional; those for 1996 are indicated within parentheses).

The main articles governing the Committee of Ministers' activities in this area are Articles 32 and 54 of the Convention.

By virtue of Article 54, the Committee of Ministers supervises the proper execution of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights by the Contracting Parties to the Convention.

The measures to be adopted by the respondent state in order "to abide by the decision of the Court" (Article 53) vary from case to case in accordance with the conclusions contained in the decision in question. With regard to the applicant's individual situation,[1] the measures comprise notably the effective payment of any just satisfaction awarded by the Court (including interests in case of late payment), in appropriate cases also the reopening of the domestic proceedings at the basis of the violation found, the striking out of a conviction from the criminal records or the submission of an engagement not to expel the applicant, etc. As to the duty of preventing the continuation or repetition of violations of the same kind as that or those found in the judgment under examination, the respondent state may have recourse to a great variety of measures: examples of such measures include legislative amendments or changes of the national courts' case-law (through the precedent value accorded to the Court's judgments in their interpretation of the domestic law), as well as practical measures such as the recruitment of judges or the construction of adequate detention centres for young offenders. Once the Committee has ascertained that the necessary measures have been taken, these are published in a resolution together with a statement that the Committee has exercised its functions under Article 54.

1. The Committee of Ministers' Rules of Procedure for the application of Article 54 state that the Committee is entitled to consider a communication from an individual who claims that he has not received damages in accordance with a decision by the Court under Article 50, as well as any further information furnished to it concerning the execution of such a judgment.

In addition to this control of the proper execution of the Court's judgments, the Committee must itself decide under Article 32, in all cases not referred to the Court, whether or not there has been a violation of the Convention and, if necessary, award just satisfaction to the applicants.

The decision on the question of violation (comparable to a judgment by the Court on the merits as to its effects) is, since 1995, published either directly in an "interim resolution" authorising also the publication of the report of the European Commission of Human Rights (this report will, as a general rule, contain the reasons underlying the Committee's decision on the merits), or only after all execution measures have been taken in a "traditional resolution". In the latter case, the Commission's report will remain confidential during the whole execution phase. In fact, the Committee supervises also, in the same manner as it supervises the execution of the Court's judgments, the execution of its own decisions and does not conclude its examination of a case until all implementation measures required have been taken. If the Committee has chosen to make public its decision on the merits in an "interim resolution", a "final resolution", containing a summary of the measures taken, will be issued as soon as these measures have become effective.

In 1997, the Committee adopted a total of 659 (665) resolutions, in particular:

– 559 (425) resolutions in new "Article 32" cases publishing the Committee's decision on the question of whether or not there has been a violation of the Convention and authorising the publication of the Commission's report (484 (326) "interim" and 75 (199) "traditional" resolutions);

– 144 (313) resolutions in old "Article 32" cases indicating that the Committee was satisfied with the execution measures taken by the respondent state (69 (114) "final" resolutions in cases in which a first "interim resolution" on the merits had been adopted and 74 (199) "traditional" resolutions);

– 25 (22) resolutions indicating in "Article 54" cases that the Committee was equally satisfied with the implementation measures taken by the respondent state in response to violations of the Convention found by the Court (in one of these resolutions (DH (97) 184) the Committee took note of the fact that the Greek Government had finally complied with the Court's judgment and the Committee of Ministers' interim resolution in the case of Stran Greek Refineries and Stratis Andreadis (DH (96) 251 – referred to in last year's press

release) by paying 33 million US dollars to the applicant);

– one resolution urging the Government of Turkey to meet its obligations under the Convention by participating in the European Commission of Human Rights' examination of the merits of an application lodged against Turkey by Cyprus concerning certain aspects of the Cyprus problem (DH (97) 335) – the application is summarised in the Commission's press release 383 (96)). The Government of Turkey subsequently participated at a hearing held by the Commission in Strasbourg in November 1997;

– two interim resolutions in which the Committee took note of reforms envisaged to remedy violations found in Strasbourg, which reforms necessitated a longer implementation period (one of the draft reforms (interim Resolution (97) 334), concerned the additional measures to be adopted by Italy (over and above those adopted in 1995, see Resolution DH (95) 82), in order to shorten the length of judicial proceedings, often deemed to be of excessive length (proceedings may last several decades). The Committee will continue to supervise the adoption of the reforms announced;

– one resolution making public, at the request of the United Kingdom Government, the report of the European Commission of Human Rights in the old inter-state case Greece v. United Kingdom regarding Cyprus and the methods used by the island administration to maintain order in the tormented period before the Zurich agreements in 1959 (DH (97) 376).

In the course of 1997, the Committee of Ministers was seized with 401 (463) new cases under Article 32 and of 55 (41) new cases under Article 54.

As of 31 December 1997, 901 (640) cases to be examined under Article 32 and 96 (69) cases to be examined under Article 54 were pending for control of execution, that is a total of 997 (709) cases.

During 1997, the Committee of Ministers also elected, or re-elected, pursuant to Article 21 of the Convention, a number of members of the Commission. (The judges of the Court are elected by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.)

The big reform provided for by Protocol No. 11 adopted in order to simplify and accelerate the examination of the complaints under the Convention was ratified by the last contracting state, namely Italy, on 1 October 1997. This major revision of the protection system will now enter into force on 1 November 1998. Among the forty member states of the Council of Europe, only Russia has not yet ratified the Convention and Protocol No. 11.

The new single Court provided for by Protocol No. 11 will become competent for all cases (including inter-state cases) relating to the question of whether or not there has been a violation of the Convention in a case. It will continue to sit in Strasbourg and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will start the election of the new judges at its session from 26 to 30 January 1998.

Under the new system, both the right of individual petition and the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court will become binding without any possibility of temporal limitations.

The Committee of Ministers will remain the guarantor of the Convention systems' efficiency through its continued control of the proper implementation of the judgments of the new Court, both by ensuring adequate redress to the individual applicant(s) and by ensuring that new similar violations do not take place.

For further details on the Committee's activities in 1997 please consult the provisional tables appended.

Survey of activities 1994-97

(Articles 32 and 54 of the European Convention on Human Rights)

	Resolutions adopted				New cases				Pending cases			
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1994	1995	1996	1997	1994	1995	1996	1997
Article **32** (violation and execution) control	44[1] 3[4]	264[1] 108[2] 5[3]	199[1] 326[2] 114[3] 2[4]	75[1] 484[2] 69[3] 3[4]	194	420	464	401	332	481	640	901
Article **54** (execution control only)	36	69	22 2[4]	25 2[4]	34[5]	35[5]	41[5]	55[5]	89	53	69	96
Others (Cyprus v. Turkey	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	83	446	665	659	228	455	505	456	421	534	709	997

1. "Traditional resolutions", comprising the Committee's conclusions on the question of violation and on the question of execution.
2. "Interim resolutions" whereby, with the approval of the government concerned, the Committee of Ministers publishes its decision on the question of whether or not there has been a violation of the Convention as soon as this decision has been taken, without awaiting full execution of the measures required by a possible finding of a violation. The interim resolutions adopted will also authorise the publication of the Commission's report.
3. "Final resolutions" whereby the Committee indicates, in the cases where it has already adopted an "interim resolution", that the respondent state has taken all the execution measures required.
4. "Interim resolutions" of various contents, notably concerning questions of procedure.
5. Separate Article 50 judgments not included.

Detailed statistics for 1997

(The statistics for 1996 are set out within parentheses and the total for the country in question is marked in bold)

The present list only comprises those member states which have actually had cases under the European Convention on Human Rights before the Committee of Ministers. Excluded is, accordingly, the Russian Federation which has not yet ratified the Convention and those contracting states which have not yet had any such cases (that is Albania (1996), Andorra (1996), Croatia (1997) Czech Republic (1992), Estonia (1996), Latvia (1997), Liechtenstein (1982), Lithuania (1995), Moldova (1997), Romania (1994), San Marino (1989), Slovakia (1992), Slovenia (1994), "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (1997) and Ukraine (1997) – the date within parentheses indicates the year of acceptance of the right of individual petition (Article 25) and of the compulsory jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights (Article 46)).

Country	Cases brought before the Committee of Ministers for decision under Article 32	Nature of conclusions contained in Article 32 resolutions (including interim ones)[1]	Article 32 cases in which execution was completed in 1997 (to be completed)	Pending Article 32 cases at 31 December 1997	Court judgments finding a violation of the Convention and brought before the Committee of Ministers under Article 54	Court judgments having received full execution (Article 54 resolutions)	Pending Article 54 cases at 31 December 1996
Austria	22 (12) **79**	26 V (14 V) **62 V** - (-) **10 NV** 2 (-) **6 MISC** - (-) **2 FS/RA**		30 (18)	7 (3) **49**	5 (5) **38**	10 (8)
Belgium	6 (-) **23**	4 V (2 V) **13 V** 1 (-) **3 NV** - (-) **1 MISC** - (-) **1 PUB**		13 (8)	2 (1) **26**	1 (2[2]) **22**	6 (5)
Bulgaria	-	-			1 (-) **1**	- (-) **0**	1 (-)
Cyprus	- (-) **0**	- (-) **0 V** - (-) **0 NV**		- (-)	- (-) **1**	- (-) **0**	1 (1)
Denmark	- (1) **1**	1 V (-) **1 V** - (-) **0 NV**		1 (-)	- (1) **3**	- (1) **3**	- (-)
Finland	- (-) **4**	2 V (-) **2 V** 1 NV (1 NV) **2 NV**		1 (3)	2 (-) **4**	- (2) **2**	2 (-)
France	49 (47) **182**	88 V (16 V) **131 V** 3 NV (-) **9 NV** - (-) **1 MISC**		82 (82)	5 (5) **50**	3 (3) **37**	13 (12)
Germany	1 (-) **25**	1 V (1 V) **12 V** - (-) **11 NV** - (-) **1 FS/RA** - (-) **2 MISC**		1 (-)	3 (-) **15**	1 (1) **13**	3 (1)
Greece	4 (10) **20**	- (1 V) **3 V** - (-) **1 NV**		15 (11)	10 (5) **22**	2 (2[2]) **6**	16 (9)
Hungary	1 (-) **1**	1 V (-) **1 V**		1 (-)	- (-) **0**	- (-) **0**	- (-)
Iceland	- (-) **0**	- (-) **0 V**		- (-)	- (-) **3**	- (1) **3**	- (-)
Ireland	- (1) **1**	1 V (-) **1 V**		- (1)	- (-) **6**	1 (-) **5**	- (2)

Italy	286 (379) **1 297**	390 V (464 V) **1 183 V** 13 NV (1 NV) **15 NV**		716 (493)	5 (8) **99**	3 (2) **88**	11 (9)
Luxembourg	1- (1) **1**	- (1 NV) **1 NV**		- (-)	- (-) **1**	- (-) **1**	- (-)
Malta	- (-) **0**	- (-) **0 V**		- (-)	- (-) **1**	- (1) **1**	- (-)
Netherlands	5 (1) **28**	5 V (3 V) **20 V** - (1 NV) **7 NV**		7 (6)	3 (1) **27**	1 (2) **23**	4 (2)
Norway	- (-) **1**	- (1 V) **1 V**		- (-)	2 (-) **3**	2 (-) **3**	- (2)
Poland	1 (-) **1**	1 V (-) **1 V**		1 (-)	- (-) **0**	- (-) **0**	- (-)
Portugal	10 (7) **58**	13 V (8 V) **53 V** 1 NV (-) **2 NV** - (-) **1 FS/RA** - (-) **1 MISC**		13 (9)	- (2) **9**	1 (-) **8**	1 (2)
Spain	1 (-) **2**	- (-) **1 V**		1 (-)	- (-) **9**	- (-) **9**	- (1)
Sweden	1 (-) **18**	1 V (1 V) **17 V** - (-) **2 NV**		1 (1)	- (-) **23**	- (-) **22**	1 (1)
Switzerland	1 (2) **21**	1 V (1 V) **7 V** 2 NV (1 NV) **12 NV** - (-) **2 MISC**		1 (2)	4 (-) **19**	1 (1) **17**	4 (-)
Turkey	2 (3) **10**	1 V (1 V) **2 V** - (-) **1 NV** - (-) **1 FS/RA** - (-) **1 PUB**		6 (3)	6 (4) **12**	- (2) **2**	10 (4)
United Kingdom	11 (1) **75**	12 V (3 V) **43** V - (-) **9 NV** 1 (-) **1 MISC** - (-) **2 PUB**		13 (3)	6 (8) **54**	4 (4) **41**	12 (10)
Total	401 (464) **1 847**	556 V (520 V) **1 555 V** 11 NV (4 NV) **85 NV** 3 (-) **15 MISC** - (-) **5 FS/RA** - (-) **4 PUB** Total: 562 (524) **1 659**		903 (640)	55 (38) **437**	25 (65) **344**	95 (69)

1. FS = cases in which the Committee of Ministers has discontinued its examination of the case after having been informed of a friendly settlement between the parties, based on respect for human rights.
   V = cases in which the Committee of Ministers has found at least one violation of the Convention.
   NV = cases in which the Committee of Ministers has not found any violation of the Convention.
   PUB = procedural decisions relating merely to the publication of the Commission's report.
   MISC = cases in which there has either been no decision on the merits or where the applicant has been considered to have lost his status as victim.
2. Including one interim resolution in respect of each country.

Human rights resolutions (DH) adopted in 1997

Resolution DH (97) 1 – Election of a member of the European Commission of Human Rights in respect of San Marino

Resolution DH (97) 2 – Election of a member of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in respect of Liechtenstein

Resolution DH (97) 3 – Application No. 15122/89: J. C. M. against France

Resolution DH (97) 4 – Application No. 21245/93: Kada against France

Resolution DH (97) 5 – Application No. 17261/90: C.G. against France

Resolution DH (97) 6 – Application No. 17557/90: D.N. against France

Resolution DH (97) 7 – Application No. 21624/93: O'Reilly against Ireland

Final Resolution DH (97) 8 – Application No. 25255/94: Della Valle and Galati against Italy

Final Resolution DH (97) 9 – Application No. 22087/93: H.P. F.G. against Portugal

Final Resolution DH (97) 10 – Application No. 19995/92: Geraldes Barba against Portugal

Final Resolution DH (97) 11 – Application No. 18915/91: Monteiro against Portugal

Resolution DH (97) 12 concerning the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights of 26 September 1995 and 2 September 1996 in the case of Vogt against Germany

Interim Resolution DH (97) 13 – Application No. 20864/92: Feingold against Austria

Resolution DH (97) 14 – Application No. 25408/94: Zehar against France

Interim Resolution DH (97) 15 – Application No. 14200/88: Pellegrini against Italy

Resolution DH (97) 16 – Application No. 23474/94: Schiraldi and Lopedota against Italy

Resolution DH (97) 17 – Application No. 14913/89: Zotta against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 18 – Application No. 22716/93: P.G. II against Italy

Resolution DH (97) 19 – Application No. 23769/94: G.C. against France

Interim Resolution DH (97) 20 – Application No. 27494/95: Corona Vincenzo against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 21 – Application No. 27493/95: Recinelli against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 22 – Application No. 27194/95: A.A. and L.M. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 23 – Application No. 27165/95: A.T. V against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 24 – Application No. 27179/95: Carlino against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 25 – Application No. 27196/95: Centore against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 26 – Application No. 27201/95: Cortellessa against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 27 – Application No. 27199/95: Cosma Bonifacio against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 28 – Application No. 27164/95: Covi and Anzelini against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 29 – Application No. 27200/95: D'Agata against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 30 – Application No. 27186/95: E.C. II against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 31 – Application No. 27197/95: Ferretti Amleto against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 32 – Application No. 27192/95: Furnari A., G., G. and F. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 33 – Application No. 27183/95: G.M. V against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 34 – Application No. 27180/95: G.S. IV against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 35 – Application No. 27188/95: Lepore Armando I against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 36 – Application No. 27168/95: M.T. II against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 37 – Application No. 27184/95: Magni against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 38 – Application No. 27187/95: Mazzà Giuseppe and others against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 39 – Application No. 27176/95: N. S. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 40 – Application No. 27161/95: P.C. and F.Z. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 41 – Application No. 27160/95: Passarella against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 42 – Application No. 27171/95: Ragusi, Bordandini, Pattuelli and Vidimian against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 43 – Application No. 27174/95: Samir against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 44 – Application No. 27195/95: Spadoni against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 45 – Application No. 27173/95: Sud Ovest S.A.S. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 46 – Application No. 27177/95: Tripodo M., C. and G. and Leonardo C. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 47 – Application No. 27198/95: V. and R. R. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 48 – Application No. 27185/95: Zappavigna and Andriano against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 49 – Application No. 27175/95: Zilaghe and Dettori against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 50 – Application No. 16609/90: Intrieri against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 51 – Application No. 27452/95: Aprile against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 52 – Application No. 26027/94: Biasci against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 53 – Application No. 27472/95: Campoli against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 54 – Application No. 27470/95: Casavola against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 55 – Application No. 27479/95: Cecere Pasquale against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 56 – Application No. 27469/95: Cianci G. and A. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 57 – Application No. 27178/95: D.C. III against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 58 – Application No. 19824/92: E. D.G. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 59 – Application No. 27477/95: Elia against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 60 – Application No. 27456/95: Ferraro Salvatore against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 61 – Application No. 27464/95: Finvildin S.R.L. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 62 – Applications Nos. 27448/95, 27449/95 and 27450/95: Formica against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 63 – Application No. 26828/95: Garavaglia against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 64 – Application No. 27475/95: Giusti against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 65 – Application No. 27467/95: Gravagno Francesca against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 66 – Application No. 27463/95: Matarrese and Di Masi against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 67 – Application No. 27463/95: Orlando and Fiorentino against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 68 – Application No. 27460/95: P.P. II against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 69 – Application No. 27447/95: Puglia against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 70 – Application No. 27478/95: Rullo Tassone against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 71 – Application No. 27455/95: Vannucchi against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 72 – Application No. 27471/95: W. B. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 73 – Application No. 27451/95: Zoccali against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 74 – Application No. 27172/95: Colombo against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 75 – Application No. 27481/95: Criveller against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 76 – Application No. 27480/95: Di Trapani against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 77 – Application No. 27169/95: M. Z. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 78 – Application No. 26042/94: S.C. II against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 79 – Application No. 27462/95: Bagli and Musumeci against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 80 – Application No. 27465/95: Lazzerini against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 81 – Application No. 27446/95: M. D.C. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 82 – Applications Nos. 27202/95, 27203/95, 27204/95, 27205/95 and 27206/95: Marino Ettore and others against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 83 – Application No. 27191/95: O.F.T. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 84 – Application No. 27193/95: P.V.G. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 85 – Application No. 27454/95: Società Italiana Cauzioni S.p.A. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 86 – Application No. 27466/95: V.B. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 87 – Application No. 27167/95: Vitale Rosa against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 88 – Application No. 22979/93: Isnardi against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 89 – Application No. 20730/92: Mazzelli against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 90 – Application No. 20358/92: Savoia against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 91 – Application No. 27495/95: Ambiveri and Arnoldi against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 92 – Application No. 26845/95: Bizzotto against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 93 – Application No. 27181/95: Bogliolo against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 94 – Application No. 27474/95: Ciuffetelli against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 95 – Application No. 23603/94: De Camillis against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 96 – Application No. 24853/94: Di Blasio A. and L. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 97 – Application No. 25242/94: Di Gregorio against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 98 – Application No. 27457/95: F.B. II against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 99 – Application No. 27458/95: F.B. III against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 100 – Application No. 26830/95: Formichetti N. and A.P. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 101 – Application No. 23604/94: Legge Massimo and Liberato against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 102 – Application No. 25882/94: Marchetti Alessandro II against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 103 – Application No. 27162/95: Ranucci against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 104 – Application No. 21507/93: Stringini against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 105 – Application No. 27166/95: Verini against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 106 – Application No. 26882/95: Lucarelli Da Constantino against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 107 – Application No. 27482/95: Tobia against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 108 – Application No. 20854/92: Arichetta against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 109 – Application No. 22905/93: Figoli against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 110 – Application No. 19496/92: G.B. II against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 111 – Application No. 18908/91: P.P. III against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 112 – Application No. 24099/94: Eugénio Da Conceição Alberto II against Portugal

Interim Resolution DH (97) 113 – Application No. 24217/94: Rocha De Gouveia against Portugal

Interim Resolution DH (97) 114 – Application No. 24913/94: Ferreira De Jesus against Portugal

Interim Resolution DH (97) 115 – Application No. 24216/94: Sobreira Calhaço against Portugal

Interim Resolution DH (97) 116 – Application No. 24097/94: Vieira Pimenta against Portugal

Resolution DH (97) 117 – Application No. 15506/89: A., E., M. and H. P. against Austria

Resolution DH (97) 118 – Application No. 20469/92: Prigent against France

Resolution DH (97) 119 – Applications Nos. 15096/89, 15097/89 and 15098/89: McGlinchey, Quinn and Barrow against the United Kingdom

Final Resolution DH (97) 120 – Application No. 26831/95: Gallo Cono against Italy

Final Resolution DH (97) 121 – Application No. 19425/92: Ioppolo against Italy

Final Resolution DH (97) 122 – Application No. 24049/94: R. and E. R. against Italy

Final Resolution DH (97) 123 – Application No. 26858/95: Sutera against Italy

Resolution DH (97) 124 – Application No. 20925/92: Taverna against Italy

Resolution DH (97) 125 – Application No. 15022/89: Le Breton against France

Resolution DH (97) 126 – Application No. 20757/92: O.G. against France

Resolution DH (97) 127 concerning the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights of 31 January 1996 in the case of Fouquet Marc against France

Interim Resolution DH (97) 128 – Application No. 21611/93: Haslhofer against Austria

Interim Resolution DH (97) 129 – Applications Nos. 27994/95 and 27995/95: Manzini and Benet against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 130 – Applications Nos. 27996/95 and 27998/95: D'Amico and Altobelli against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 131 – Application No. 27997/95: Ridolfi against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 132 – Applications Nos. 27999/95 and 28000/95: Recinelli and Corona against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 133 – Applications Nos. 27484/95, 27485/95, 27486/95, 27487/95, 27488/95, 27489/95, 27490/95, 27491/95 and 27492/95: Serino and others against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 134 – Application No. 27953/95: M.A. D.F. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 135 – Application No. 27954/95: G.P. M. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 136 – Application No. 27955/95: Proietti Valeri against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 137 – Application No. 27957/95: Feminella against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 138 – Application No. 27958/95: L.S. and T.R. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 139 – Application No. 27959/95: Capezzali against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 140 – Application No. 27960/95: G.F. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 141 – Application No. 27962/95: S. D. P. against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 142 – Application No. 27964/95: Baracchini against Italy

Interim Resolution DH (97) 143 – Application No. 27965/95: Maggi and Arcangeloni against Italy

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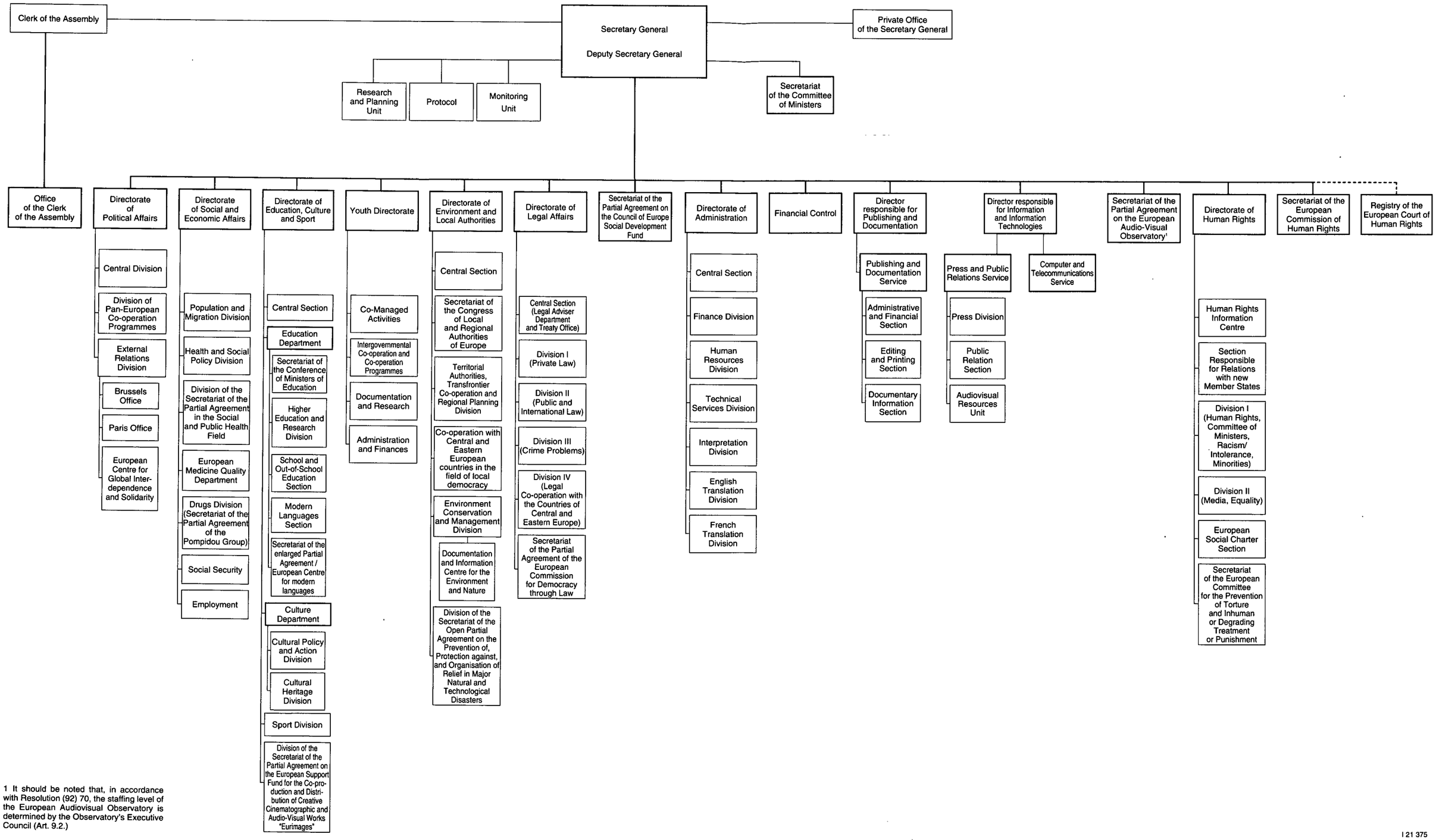
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Appendix I – Organisation chart of the Secretariat of the Council of Europe for 1998



1 It should be noted that, in accordance with Resolution (92) 70, the staffing level of the European Audiovisual Observatory is determined by the Observatory's Executive Council (Art. 9.2.)

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