

## Teaching Remembrance

### Declaration by the European Ministers of Education (18 October 2002)

We, European Ministers of Education, meeting in Strasbourg at the Council of Europe on Friday 18 October 2002, at the invitation of the French authorities in the framework of the French chairmanship of the International Task Force for Holocaust Remembrance,

Adopt the following Declaration:

1. Bearing in mind the declarations made at the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust in January 2000, particularly the proposal made there by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, to organise a "Day of Remembrance" in schools;
2. Reaffirming our undertaking given at the 20th session of the Standing Conference of European Ministers of Education in Cracow (Poland) in October 2000, to set aside a "Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and for the prevention of crimes against humanity", on a date to be chosen with regard to the history of each member state;
3. Referring to the Summits of Vienna (1993) and Strasbourg (1997), at which the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe member states expressed the need to strengthen mutual understanding and trust between peoples;
4. Being mindful of the European Cultural Convention, signed in Paris on 19 December 1954, which calls upon the signatories to encourage study of the history and civilisation of the other Contracting Parties;
5. Having regard to Committee of Ministers Recommendation (2001) 15 to member states on history teaching in 21st-century Europe;
6. Having regard to the conclusions and proposals of the European teacher-training seminars on *Teaching about the holocaust*, organised by the Council of Europe in Vilnius (Lithuania) and Donaueschingen (Germany);
7. Having read the conclusions of the Colloquy on "Holocaust teaching and artistic creation", organised jointly by the International Task Force, the *Fondation pour la mémoire de la Shoah* and the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg on 17 October 2002;

Welcome the co-operation established in the field of education with *International Task Force* and the *Fondation pour la mémoire de la Shoah*, which we wish to continue and develop;

Are determined that our common action shall, through teaching about the holocaust and crime against humanity, seek to prevent repetition or denial of the devastating events that marked the last century;

Agree:

- to establish in close cooperation with the Council of Europe a "Day of Remembrance" in member states' schools, as from 2003, according to national practice and priority;

- to host on a voluntary basis European events in connection with the "Remembrance Day";

Request the Council of Europe:

- to follow up and implement the proposals detailed in Committee of Ministers Recommendation (2001);

- to contribute to compiling teaching materials for teachers in the member states;

- to organise regularly, possibly in co-operation with the institutions, foundations and other bodies concerned, European inter-disciplinary seminars for teachers, if appropriate under the Council of Europe's in-service training programme for teaching staff;

- to set up a European network of places of remembrance, foundations and other relevant bodies, for the purpose of jointly organising seminars and scholarly events.