

BOURG-de-PEAGE (Drôme)	(France)
CHELLES (Seine & Marne)	"
LILLEBONNE (Seine Maritime)	"
RENNES (Ille et Vilaine)	"
VILLEPREUX (Yvelines)	"
ADRIA (Prov. Rovigo)	(Italy)
GELEEN	(Netherlands)
HERNE BAY	(United Kingdom)
SWAFFHAM (Norfolk)	"

#### 4. EUROPEAN ANTHEM

The Chairman recalled that the VIIth States General of the Council of European Municipalities, held at Rome in 1964, had adopted a resolution expressing the wish that a European anthem should be adopted by the Council of Europe and the European Communities.

More and more people believed that Europe should have three symbols, as nations did - a flag, an anthem and a national day.

At the meeting on 8 January 1970 he had read out a letter from the French Ministry for Cultural Affairs setting forth a plan for an anthem for Europe.

Mr. Flämig and other members had dwelt on the advisability of the Committee doing something about a European anthem and the Committee had agreed to consider the matter further.

Meanwhile several moves had been made in favour of a European anthem.

On numerous occasions, including presentations of European Flags and the Europe Prize, musical works had been performed in a way that suggested they had some significance for Europe.

This practice revealed a deep feeling among Europeans that when an event of a European character was being commemorated a European anthem should be played.

Quite recently the Round Table for the reactivation of Europe Day had come to similar conclusions and instructed its President, Mr. Evers, to write to him asking that the Committee should consider the advisability of adopting a European anthem (see doc. AS/Loc (22) 37).

However, before taking any action he wished to know members' feelings on the point.

Mr. Kranzlmayr thought the arguments for a European anthem were very strong but that to organise an international competition would be very risky.

Mrs. Jeger, whilst she recognised the value of the idea of a European anthem, nevertheless foresaw many technical and practical difficulties, including those of translating the words into other languages.

Mr. Kranzlmayr took the Chair.7

The Chairman mentioned Eurovision's practice of playing a melody from Handel at the start of its programmes. For millions of people in Europe the melody had become Eurovision's signature tune.

Mr. Reichl reported a number of European events he had attended which had closed with the playing of the "Ode to Joy", from Beethoven's 9th Symphony, as a European anthem.

However, he thought that the words of the ode would have to be adapted to the requirements of a European anthem.

Mr. Nothomb warned against the danger of artificially creating a text and translating it into other languages. He would prefer that to begin with a melody should be adopted, such as that from the last movement of Beethoven's 9th Symphony, the words being chosen later on.

Mr. Premoli and Mr. De Grauw supported this proposal.

Mr. Ahrens thought that nowadays symbols were perhaps not always fully appreciated, but that a European anthem was nonetheless required.

The Chairman, summing up the discussion, thought that the Committee would prefer to proceed by stages, first inviting the organisers of European events to adopt the last movement of the 9th Symphony as a European anthem and later possibly by competition, seeking "European" words, that could be sung to Beethoven's tune.

Dame Joan Vickers and Mr. Reichl supported this proposal.

Mr. Molloy suggested that the Committee's proposals should be embodied in a motion for a recommendation and a report submitted to the Assembly or Standing Committee.

Mr. Lenze and Mr. Schloesing supported the proposal for a draft recommendation, which could be submitted to the enlarged Standing Committee at its meeting at Berlin in July.

Mr. Radius resumed the Chair.]

The Chairman, concluding the discussion, thought that the Committee was agreed on the following points:

- a competition to choose a European anthem was not appropriate;
- there were tunes that had universal value for Europeans;
- the last movement of Beethoven's 9th Symphony would have such value, and the composer was justly regarded as one of the greatest of European geniuses, with no particular nationality connotation;
- the words of the "Ode to Joy" should be replaced later on by a genuinely European text that might be selected by competition, but meanwhile Beethoven's tune could be proposed as a European anthem.

The Committee agreed with these conclusions unanimously and instructed the Chairman to submit a draft recommendation or resolution for the May session.

5. SECOND SYMPOSIUM OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT SPECIALISTS IN PUBLIC HEALTH, STOCKHOLM

The Chairman referred to the letter he had received from the Clerk of the Assembly regarding a possible contribution by the Committee to the Symposium of Members of Parliament Specialists in Public Health to be held in Stockholm (see AS/Loc (22) 38).

He welcomed this invitation and thought the Committee an obvious contributor to the Symposium, the agenda for which included questions such as:

- standards of food hygiene
- standards of housing
- waste disposal and pollution
- environmental health administration.