

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

Strasbourg, 30 November 1971

Restricted
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Or. Fr.

ORGANISATION OF EUROPE DAY

Letter from the President of the Conference to
the Chairman of the Ministers' Deputies

Strasbourg, 22 November 1971

Sir,

A Round Table for Europe Day was held in Paris on 16 December 1971 under the chairmanship of the Representative of the European Conference of Local Authorities, Mr. Henry Cravatte, Vice-President of the Conference. The meeting was attended by representatives of a number of European governmental and non-governmental institutions interested and of various national committees for Europe Day already in existence or in process of creation.

The meeting was devoted to preparing for Europe Day 1972.

The Round Table welcomed Resolution 492 of the Consultative Assembly proposing the adoption, as a European anthem, of the prelude to the "Ode to Joy" from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and decided to devote the next Europe Day, 5 May 1972, to launching the European anthem. The Round Table consequently agreed to take all necessary steps to ensure that the anthem would be played in as many municipalities and schools and at as many functions as possible on 5 May 1972.

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Mr. A. FALTHEIM
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Sweden
to the Council of Europe
Chairman of the Ministers' Deputies
Council of Europe

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It was accordingly recommended that the Committee of Ministers would approach governments to this effect and expressed the wish that the European anthem be played at this celebration in conjunction with the national anthem. The Round Table also suggested that the Council of Europe prepare a record and "official" scores for the anthem for use by interested musical groups. It also hoped that the relevant national authorities, ministries, etc., might be asked to approach municipal authorities and schools with a view to ensuring that the necessary arrangements were made.

In addition to producing the record and musical scores of the anthem, the Round Table also proposed that the Council of Europe publish a poster for use by public authorities and private bodies to mark Europe Day on 5 May 1972.

The Round Table noted with satisfaction that the Ministers' Deputies had given their support to the efforts made over the past two years to encourage the celebration of Europe Day. It expressed the hope that the Committee of Ministers would urge governments to see to it that national legislation did not prevent the European flag being flown from public buildings to mark the celebrations on 5 May.

Lastly, the Round Table suggested that governmental organisations consider the possibility, in future, of allocating specific amounts in their budgets to the celebration of Europe Day so that proper arrangements could be made in advance. The amounts set aside should be used in particular for the production and distribution of an appropriate publicity material.

The conclusions of the Round Table were discussed by the Standing Committee of the European Conference of Local Authorities at its meeting on 19 October 1971. The Standing Committee approved the various proposals made by the Round Table and decided to submit them to the Committee of Ministers in the hope that the latter would agree to take the action they appeared to deserve.

I remain, etc.

Kjell T. Evers
President of the Conference