

Statement of interpretation on Article 10

In Article 10 of the Charter four paragraphs are devoted to vocational training, a matter which, until the Charter, had not been dealt with internationally except in two recommendations of the ILO and in directives adopted within the framework of the European Communities. Thus the Charter is the first international treaty establishing the right to vocational training as such.

All the Contracting Parties whose first reports the Committee has received for examination have accepted this article, under which the states undertake:

- to provide or promote the technical and vocational training of all persons and to provide access to higher technical and university education (Paragraph 1);
- to provide or promote a system of apprenticeship and other systematic arrangements for training of young persons (Paragraph 2);
- to provide or promote the vocational training and re-training of adults (Paragraph 3);
- to encourage the full utilisation of the facilities provided by various appropriate measures (Paragraph 4).

In the opinion of the Committee, particular importance attaches to the provisions of the first paragraph of Article 10 by reason of the emphasis laid upon making access to higher technical and university education more democratic. With this in view, it is provided in Paragraph 1 that individual fitness is the only criterion to be observed in granting facilities for access to such training (by having enough establishments, a reasonable level of educational fees and by offering scholarships and other grants or benefits). On this point, however, the Committee was led to regret, from its examination of the first of the reports, that, with the exception of Sweden, none of the other states has supplied adequate information. There are other points on which the information was found insufficient, so that the Committee did not always feel able to judge whether any given state has or has not satisfied its obligations under the provisions of one paragraph or another of Article 10.