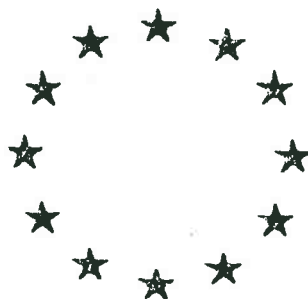


COUNCIL
OF EUROPE



CONSEIL
DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg 6 June 1984

CMC (84) 6

4th CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN MINISTERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Berlin, 23-25 May 1984

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Resolution No. I on culture and communications technology

RESOLUTION NO. I
on culture and communications technology

The European Ministers responsible for Cultural Affairs, meeting in Berlin from 23 to 25 May 1984 for their fourth conference;

Reasserting their attachment to the principles enshrined in:

- the European Convention on Human Rights;
- the European Cultural Convention;
- the Declaration on the Freedom of Expression and Information, and
- the European Declaration of Cultural Objectives;

Considering their nations' attachment to the values which form their common heritage and from which derive the principles of personal freedom, political freedom and the rule of law on which every true democracy rests;

Recalling Resolution No. III on culture industries adopted by the second Conference of European Ministers responsible for Cultural Affairs in Athens in 1978, and Resolutions Nos. III on culture development and the electronic media and IV on the cultural importance of the culture industries adopted by the third conference in Luxembourg in 1981;

Recalling Recommendation No. 963 (1983) on cultural and educational means of reducing violence, adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly on 28 January 1983;

Taking into consideration the work of Project Group No. 11 "Promotion of creativity taking into account the development of the culture industries" of the Council for Cultural Co-operation and the work of the Steering Committee on the Mass Media;

Noting that technological innovation, with all the opportunities and dangers it entails, is producing fundamental changes in communication networks, making communications a major vehicle of further economic and cultural development and greater mutual understanding;

Emphasising that it will not be possible to capitalise on the substantial public and private investment being made in the new means of production and transmission unless programmes are produced in significant numbers;

Reaffirming the need to preserve and develop local, regional and national cultural identities at a time when frontiers are being opened up and production systems are being reorganised as a consequence of the introduction of new technologies;

Bearing in mind that technical advances enable local and regional authorities to function better by bringing them into closer contact with production and broadcasting facilities;

Noting that the development of the new media enhances communication capacity, especially at local and regional level, and opens up new possibilities for interactive operations.

Emphasising that the introduction of new techniques must be accompanied by a growth in creativity and artistic activities;

Noting that co-operation between European countries is essential if they are to make their presence felt at a time when the media are becoming increasingly competitive and international;

Recommend that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe invite the member states to:

1. promote the production of programmes in European countries to supply material for the broadcasting time offered by the new networks;
2. make full use of the wealth of our common cultural heritage in the creation of new programmes;
3. preserve and develop the specific cultural identities of European countries and of their regions, whatever their economic, geographical or linguistic status;
4. keep a close watch on the effects of the development of this technology on the respect for the rights of every human being, the family and children;
5. take care to encourage variety in the means of expression and communication and in products;
6. preserve the principle of public service in the field of the electronic media, while recognising the role of private enterprise;
7. foster community access to local and regional communication networks in a spirit of democratic public involvement, and establish the most propitious conditions for this;
8. pursue efforts to develop all areas of artistic creation so as to enable programme industries to draw on their manifold resources;
9. apply and if necessary adapt international and national legal instruments concerning copyright and related rights, bearing in mind the novel situation brought about by the new communication technologies;
10. organise, at national and European level, action to repress audio-visual piracy;

11. bearing in mind the particular difficulties of countries, whatever their economic, geographical or linguistic situation, increase direct co-operation among European countries in order to encourage, for example:
- the production, exchange and use of programmes;
 - the emergence of European programme industries;
 - co-ordination in the programming of satellite broadcasts;
 - research and training in new communication technologies, bearing in mind their cultural purpose;
 - instruction for all in the use and understanding of the new media;
 - the examination of the cultural possibilities offered by a European broadcasting network open to all the states signatories to the European Cultural Convention.

The European Ministers responsible for Cultural Affairs congratulate the Council of Europe on the work done on culture and communication by its various committees and request the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to:

- intensify co-operation among the organisation's member states for the purpose of further studies;
- consider convening a European conference in due course in order to define a comprehensive policy on the media.