COUNCIL OF EUROPE
COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

RECOMMENDATION No. R (80) 3

OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO MEMBER STATES CONCERNING TEACHING, RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN THE FIELD OF "COMPUTERS AND LAW"

(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 30 April 1980 at the 318th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.*b* of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve greater unity among its members ;

Considering the increasing number of ways in which computers are used in modern society and the legal implications thereof ;

Considering that the development of legal data processing contributes to a more effective organisation of state institutions and, in particular, of the administration of justice ;

Considering that legal education should acquaint lawyers with this new field,

Recommends the governments of member states to :

I. draw the attention of the competent authorities to the growing importance of the subject "computers and law" and to the need to develop at university level teaching based on the suggested syllabus annexed to the present recommendation and optional programmes of specialised studies in this field ;

II. encourage and support scientific research in the field of computers and law ;

III. invite the appropriate bodies, and particularly those responsible for permanent education, to organise training courses for professional lawyers and to recognise any professional qualifications thus obtained ;

IV. encourage the competent authorities, where appropriate, to take into account periods of studies carried out abroad in this field as part of the studies required for the granting of degrees and diplomas and to promote international exchanges of students.

Appendix to Recommendation No. R (80) 3

Suggested syllabus for an introductory course of studies in the field of "computers and law"

Introductory note : This syllabus is designed for a course equivalent to forty hours of teaching and practice.

I. Introduction : "computers and law" as a new problem area ; the computer considered as a tool for the lawyer and as a subject of law.

II. Technology and methodology, comprising matters such as :

— fundamentals of data processing,

— components of computer systems (hardware and software),

— working methods : organisation of systems and data, system design and planning.

III. Applications of computers in the legal field, comprising matters such as :

— document management and retrieval of documents,

— administrative systems (court administration, criminal justice systems, land registration, etc.),

— planning systems (in public administration, in legislation),

— assessment of implications (impact on legal research, procedures and institutions).

IV. Normative problems related to the use of computers, comprising matters such as :

— privacy,

— confidentiality, reliability, security,

— data banks and data communication.

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