

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

RECOMMENDATION No. R (92) 19

OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO MEMBER STATES

ON VIDEO GAMES WITH A RACIST CONTENT

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 19 October 1992
at the 482nd 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 a greater unity between its members, particularly for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage;

Being aware that video games with a racist content, whose existence in member countries is unfortunately beyond doubt, convey a message of aggressive nationalism, ethnocentrism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism or intolerance in general, concealed behind or combined with violence or mockery;

Considering therefore that such games cannot be tolerated in democratic societies, which respect *inter alia* the right to be different, whether that difference be racial, religious or other;

Convinced that it is all the more necessary to take measures designed to put an end to the production and distribution of these games as they are used mainly by young people;

Recalling the terms of its Resolution (68) 30 relating to measures to be taken against incitement to racial, national and religious hatred and its Resolution (72) 22 on the suppression of and guaranteeing against unjustifiable discrimination;

Bearing in mind the Declaration regarding intolerance – a threat to democracy which it adopted on 14 May 1981;

Having regard to Recommendation No. R (89) 7 concerning principles on the distribution of videograms having a violent, brutal or pornographic content, and the European Convention on Transfrontier Television (European Treaty Series, No. 132),

Recommends that the governments of member states:

- a.* review the scope of their legislation in the fields of racial discrimination and hatred, violence and the protection of young people, in order to ensure that it applies without restriction to the production and distribution of video games with a racist content;
- b.* treat video games as mass media for the purposes of the application *inter alia* of Recommendation No. R (89) 7 concerning principles relating to the distribution of videograms having a violent, brutal or pornographic content, and of the European Convention on Transfrontier Television (European Treaty Series, No. 132).