

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

RECOMMENDATION No. R (84) 7

OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO MEMBER STATES ON THE MAINTENANCE OF MIGRANTS' CULTURAL LINKS WITH THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND LEISURE FACILITIES ¹

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 28 February 1984
at the 367th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

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

1. Aware that the cultures of countries of origin and receiving countries are a source of mutual enrichment to the extent that they contribute to the growth of interculturalism in society ;
2. Emphasising the importance of maintaining cultural links with the countries of origin for the integration of migrants in receiving countries ;
3. Convinced that the environment contributes to everyone's education and that the presence of migrants' culture in the various fields of social life (leisure, the media, community life, school, sport, religion) can be conducive to intercultural education ;
4. Convinced that migrants will settle more easily in receiving countries if their own cultural values are appreciated by the local population ;
5. Being of the opinion that migrants should be made conscious of the importance of learning the language of the receiving country and becoming familiar with its culture ;
6. Convinced that it is mainly by improving migrants' economic and social status that it is possible to enhance the image of the cultures of their countries of origin and ensure that they are recognised by society ;
7. Stressing the importance of maintaining migrants' links with the culture of their country of origin, not only to facilitate their resettlement in the event of their voluntary return, but above all to ensure the full development of their personalities ;
8. Emphasising that close co-operation between receiving countries and countries of origin constitutes the most favourable basis for implementing the measures advocated in this recommendation in the framework, amongst other things, of bilateral agreements ;
9. Reaffirming the principles stated in its Resolution (70) 35 on the school education of migrant workers' children,

1. When this recommendation was adopted, the Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, in application of Article 10.2.c of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Ministers' Deputies, reserved the right of his Government to comply or not with paragraph 5.2 of the recommendation.

10. Recommends, as regards the matters referred to below, that the governments of member states, bearing in mind their respective resources and circumstances, both legislative and educational or socio-cultural :

1. *Education*

1.1. promote for migrant children the presence of the languages and cultures of their countries of origin from the beginning of their school education onwards, while furthering the integration of these children into the educational system and society of the receiving country, incorporating as far as possible the teaching of the languages and cultures of countries of origin in the regular school timetable and encouraging the co-ordination of such instruction with ordinary education ;

1.2. to this end, encourage the appropriate authorities of receiving countries to provide premises for such instruction in similar material conditions as for compulsory instruction at the same level and encourage the authorities of countries of origin to provide the appropriate teaching materials, in close co-operation with the receiving countries ;

1.3. having regard to national conditions, give the children of migrants the opportunity at secondary school level of choosing their mother tongue instead of a foreign language ;

1.4. encourage school authorities and those responsible for education in receiving countries to incorporate in their curricula some information about the history, geography, economy, literature and arts of pupils' countries of origin and promote the multicultural dimension in their various activities ;

1.5. encourage as far as possible school exchanges between receiving countries and countries of origin, either for pupils or for teachers ;

1.6. encourage the publication of books on the cultures of countries of origin for school-age children, written in the languages of emigration countries or in those of receiving countries, and promote the production of educational material with a multicultural dimension ;

1.7. prepare teachers during their training for educating migrants' children and make all educational personnel aware of the pluricultural dimension of contemporary societies and its educational consequences, as well as of the causes and effects of international migration ;

1.8. encourage the authorities concerned, acting in co-operation with those of the country of origin, to call upon the following for the purposes of teaching the languages and cultures of countries of origin :

— teachers from the countries of origin possessing qualifications recognised as equivalent to those of teachers in receiving countries, or

— migrants already settled in receiving countries who have a level of training equivalent to that of other teachers in those countries and a good knowledge of the languages and cultures of countries of origin ;

1.9. encourage links between families and schools and a general awareness within the education service of the multicultural nature of present-day society ;

2. *Adult education in receiving countries*

2.1. promote education for adult migrants, as far as possible, especially for women, so as to enable them to maintain their cultural links with their countries of origin ; and to this purpose, organise suitable educational activities ;

3. *Migrants' participation in associations*

3.1. acknowledge migrants' associations as equally concerned by cultural and educational matters and allow them to promote cultural, educational and social activities ;

3.2. further the development of migrants' associations by eliminating obstacles to the creation of such associations ;

3.3. encourage migrants' associations to co-operate with the host society in creating a better understanding of their culture among the population of the receiving country ;

3.4. foster exchanges :

- between migrants' associations and associations in migrants' countries of origin,
- among migrants' associations (of the same or different nationalities) ;

4. *Religion*

4.1. help migrants to practise their religion in accordance with the requirements of freedom of conscience ;

5. *Media and information*

5.1. facilitate the launching and publication of migrants' newspapers and periodicals and encourage radio and TV organisations to provide regular and fuller coverage of news in receiving countries and countries of origin ;

5.2. facilitate the reception by migrants as well as by nationals of the radio and TV programmes of countries of origin by means, for example, of the latest communication systems, and encourage the broadcasting of programmes for migrants by the radio and TV companies of receiving countries, paying particular attention to the production of multicultural programmes ;

5.3. facilitate the distribution of newspapers and periodicals from countries of origin ;

5.4. provide vehicles of practical information about existing socio-cultural, educational and sports facilities in receiving countries ;

5.5. take the necessary steps to promote exchanges of information on the cultures of receiving and sending countries between migrants and nationals ;

6. *Cultural and leisure activities*

6.1. promote the organisation in receiving countries of cultural events concerning countries of origin ;

6.2. facilitate the distribution of books from countries of origin and promote the availability of material representative of the cultures of countries of origin in libraries and resource centres, including those in schools ;

6.3. facilitate the creation of cultural centres promoted by the authorities of countries of origin in co-operation with the authorities of receiving countries, whose activities should be aimed not only at migrants but also at nationals, such centres being excellent places for the meeting of the various cultures ;

6.4. encourage the participation of migrant children in leisure activities in their countries of origin ;

6.5. encourage the practice of sport by migrants and draw the attention of education authorities and sports organisations to the need to treat the practice of sport as a potential source of mutual understanding ;

7. *Implementation of the recommendation*

7.1. develop co-operation and promote research between countries of origin and receiving countries in the fields covered by this recommendation.