

# COUNCIL OF EUROPE

## COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

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RECOMMENDATION No. R (86) 17

**OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO MEMBER STATES**

**ON CONCERTED CULTURAL ACTION ABROAD**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 4 December 1986  
at the 402nd 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, and that concerting their cultural action abroad is one way of furthering this aim;

Having regard to the European Cultural Convention, which advocates pursuing a policy of common action designed to safeguard and encourage the development of European culture;

Having regard to the call in Resolution No. 1 of the 3rd Conference of European Ministers responsible for Cultural Affairs (Luxembourg, May 1981) to examine the desirability of studies on European co-operation in relation to external cultural policy (action by states and specialist bodies);

Recalling that the European Declaration on Cultural Objectives adopted by the 4th Conference of European Ministers responsible for Cultural Affairs (Berlin, May 1984) expressed their desire "to promote international relations and co-operation on the basis of mutual respect, so as to encourage the development of all peoples";

Considering that Europe must affirm its cultural identity, the essence of which is its rich diversity, but must also develop intercultural dialogue with the rest of the world with a view to promoting its own ideals, whilst taking into account the individual identity of each people;

Considering that most of the states that have acceded to the European Cultural Convention carry out national cultural activities abroad, both through cultural institutions and through the specialist departments of their foreign affairs ministries;

Acknowledging that the primary purpose of each of those bodies is to disseminate knowledge of their own country's national culture and to promote cultural exchanges, but considering nevertheless that co-operation between them is desirable, to reflect the European dimension of their heritage and common ideals,

I. Recommends the governments of member states:

1. to invite their institutions and their specialist departments to hold exchanges regularly for the purpose of passing on information and comparing experience, particularly with a view to evaluating exercises in co-operation which they have already carried out locally, thereby ascertaining themes and methods conducive to such co-operation;

2. taking account of the needs and socio-cultural aspirations of the host countries or areas, to invite these institutions to study the possibility of planning together in order to stage cultural events better able to display the common heritage of all European countries and the real problems of our continent ;
  3. to encourage the promotion of pilot co-operation schemes in particular geographical areas with the participation of European countries motivated by common interests, regard being had to the special characteristics of the local context ;
  4. using the experience drawn from these initiatives, to study the possibility of setting up co-operative structures, particularly in regions of the world where European cultures encounter cultures whose foundations are very different from their own ;
- II. Invites the Council for Cultural Co-operation to examine the results of assessments made on the basis of this recommendation in order to identify the best form of follow-up.