

advocates much closer coordination of the social policies of the Community and the Council of Europe.

4.2 Council of Europe

The Netherlands proposed in the Council of Europe that the Council for Cultural Cooperation be divided into three sub-committees for education, culture and cultural heritage. The aim of the proposal, which was adopted, was to facilitate implementation of the Declaration of the Committee of Ministers of 5 May 1989. The Standing Committee on University Problems remains attached to the Council. The new sub-committees were officially instituted in May 1990.

Under the new arrangement the Council for Cultural Cooperation continues to organise projects and activities after the budget is approved by the Committee of Ministers. It also coordinates, in broad outline, the work of the sub-committees and, if necessary, arbitrates in disputes between them. The sub-committees may eventually take over part of the planning and administrative work of the Council.

Education

The present tendency is for many minor activities to be amalgamated in a smaller number of major projects, especially in such areas as improved secondary teacher training and the modernisation of foreign language teaching. In addition, a wealth of data on adult education and distance teaching in the member states has been accumulated over the past few years.

Among the advantages of educational activities is the fact that they provide useful instruments for improving the chances of the longer-term unemployed on the labour market. Furthermore, partly at the request of the European Commission, special attention is to be devoted to the European dimension of secondary education in the next four years. This is a major project covering the development of curricula as well as the formulation of policy, and including areas like school exchanges and cooperation between West and East European countries. Coordination of the cooperation with Central and East European countries demands special attention, which the broadly based Council of Europe is well equipped to give.

Culture

The role of the Council of Europe in the cultural sector has assumed greater proportions. Following upon the changes occurring in Eastern Europe, many countries in that region have acceded to the European Cultural Convention of 1954. The significance of the European Community for the cultural sector is also increasing. This requires a new definition of the task and character of the Council of Europe. On this point the government is of the opinion that the role of the Council is in need of review.

More specifically, it must be determined whether the European Convention needs to be amended in the light of these new developments, and whether the Council of Europe and its expertise can play the same role in European cooperation as in the CSCE.

Social welfare

The Ministry of Welfare, Health and Cultural Affairs takes an active

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