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projects to multilateral programmes. This also applies in respect of the aid channelled through organisations like UNESCO's regional offices. There may also be political reasons for switching bilateral projects to multilateral frameworks for the time being.

In order to prevent overlapping in the work of multilateral organisations, the government will promote coordination of the contributions made by the various ministries to such goals as Human Resources Development, an important factor in all multilateral organisations. In addition, it will urge a more radical division of tasks between the different organisations which will be in keeping with the specific nature of each organisation.

4.1 The European Community

Education and research

In the field of education the EC countries have worked closely together since 1976. Their cooperation has become much more intensive since the introduction of action programmes such as ERASMUS, COMETT, PETRA and LINGUA, and the Framework Programme of Community Activities in the Field of Research and Technological Development. Under the ERASMUS programme, more than 200,000 European students have spent some time studying in other member states over the past four years. The legal basis for these programmes is contained in various provisions relating to vocational education and research laid down in the EC Treaty. One of the main problems of research in this context is the harmonisation of EC and national policies.

The education articles adopted at the Intergovernmental Conference on European Political Union in Maastricht open up new possibilities for joint activities in general education.

An important point here, however, is that the autonomy of the individual states' education systems must be respected. In other words, their education policies must remain in their own hands.

The main object of EC legislation is to create conditions for educational institutions to participate voluntarily in cross-border projects. Cooperation of this kind may be initiated in areas such as the European dimension, the teaching of modern languages, the exchange of pupils, students and teachers, the exchange of information and experience, and innovation projects designed to solve common problems.

There are two aspects to the subject of research. One concerns the activities of the Community itself, which include the implementation of research programmes complementary to programmes conducted by member states, cooperation in Community research, the distribution and utilisation of the results of such research, and measures designed to stimulate the training and intra-Community mobility of research workers. The other aspect is the coordination of research in the member states and the Community so as to ensure the overall cohesion of their respective policies.

Culture

The intensification of the European integration process and the increasing political powers of the European Community have ramifications for its powers in the cultural area.

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