

seen in the fact that two bodies are
erred to make rulings: the Commit-
Ministers, which is political, and the
which is judicial. The flexibility of
mula has proved most effective, as
n by the great number of inter-
mental and individual matters of all
brought before the Commission.
ver, of all the activities of the Coun-
Europe, the protection of human
is probably the one with which the
the street is most familiar.

Everyone has noticed the blue signs
the circle of gold stars, emblematic
of the Council of Europe, on the approach
to thousands of European towns and
villages that have been "twinned" under
the Council's aegis. This is tangible ev-
dence of the desire of the "Eighteen" to
strengthen European consciousness by
first developing human contacts. Ever
since it was founded, the Council has been
so active that, at one time, it was dealing
with almost every major European prob-
lem. Thus it was in Strasbourg that the
ECSC and the EEC projects were launch-
ed. Moreover, with the help of the Council,
public-health standards have been im-
proved, social law in the various European
countries is moving towards greater co-
ordination (even unification), and an edu-
cational and cultural policy is on the
drawing-board, while efforts are continuing
in the areas of the environment, nature
conservation, the preservation of Europe's
architectural heritage, crime prevention,
science policy, development aid and many
others; and appropriate recommendations
are being made to governments.

An even clearer demonstration of the
Council's work may be found in the 84
conventions and agreements that have
been drawn up (others are being nego-
tiated) covering a wide range of subjects,
such as adoption, social security, phar-
maceutical products, cultural affairs,
education, freedom of movement, commu-
nications, arbitration in the private sector,
the peaceful settlement of differences, extra-
territorial transportation of livestock and
the common passport for young people.
The Social Charter deserves special men-
tion. It should also be noted that the
Council is working towards the establish-
ment of a highly-developed European
judicial community, which, in many in-
stances, goes beyond the mere harmoniza-
tion of laws. In short, it is the search for a
western morality and a higher quality of
life that is reflected in this very impressive
network of European conventions. The
latter are distinguished by the high stan-
dard of the many expert committees, made
up of representatives from all 18 countries

who come to Strasbourg on a regular basis
in order to work together. The Council
invites persons who are authorities in
particular fields to sit on these committees.

In addition, the Council organizes
conferences and seminars that are often
multidisciplinary in format and thus bring
together personalities from Europe and
elsewhere who are in the forefront of
modern developments and modern ideas.
The Council lends its support to the
European Science Foundation, set up
recently in Strasbourg. It should be added
that the review *Ici l'Europe*, its supple-
ments and the Council's other specialist
publications are of considerable interest.

At the crossroads

With the birth of the Common Market
and the emergence of a new order of
relations among The Nine, who make up
half the Council — not to mention the
financial, administrative, judicial and
other means at the Community's disposal
—, the Council was bound to take stock of
the situation and reflect upon its own role.
It should, indeed, be noted that the
dynamics of European integration —
excluding defence questions — are today
generated by two main sources: Brussels,
for general economic and other related
problems, and Strasbourg, for basic human
rights, the quality of life and a greater
measure of social justice. It is perhaps an
overgeneralization to speak of a Europe
with two centres, for intergovernmental
relations are, in reality, more subtle and
more complex. It would also be an over-
simplification to see Strasbourg as no
match for the giant in Brussels.

Nevertheless, it seems clear that the
Council's role as a unifying force has, to a
large extent, been assumed — for half its
members, The Nine — by the vast appar-
atus that the European Economic Commu-
nity has become. After the EEC was en-
larged, the Council of Europe found itself
at the crossroads, as it were, and it has
since been trying to adapt to new realities.
The Council had the good sense to keep
as its main activities those it could per-
form more effectively than any other
European organization, thereby avoiding
any unnecessary duplication or dissipation
of effort. Accordingly, on January 24, 1974,
the Committee of Ministers resolved that
the Council should concentrate its efforts in
a certain number of areas such as the pro-
motion of human rights, social problems
such as that of migrant workers, educa-
tional and cultural co-operation, questions
relating to youth, public health, nature
conservation, the human environment,
land use, regional and municipal co-

*Two main sources
for generation
of European
integration*