

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 evi-  
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*