

Considering the work of the 5th Conference of European Ministers responsible for Cultural Affairs, held in Sintra from 15 to 17 September 1987, and of the informal meeting of the European Ministers responsible for Cultural Affairs, held in Brussels on 13 and 14 September 1988, as well as the conclusions of the Colloquy on film co-distribution in the European area, organised by the Committee of Governmental Experts on the cinema of the Council for Cultural Co-operation in Rimini on 3 and 4 July 1987;

Realising that the constant advance of information and communication technology and the large-scale emergence of new transmission and distribution channels will result in increased demand for programmes and increased competition in the programme market;

Wishing, therefore, to foster the co-production and distribution of creative cinematographic and audiovisual works in order to take full advantage of the new communications techniques and to meet the cultural and economic challenges arising from their development;

Wishing to intensify co-operation and exchanges for the purpose of stimulating film and audiovisual production as an important means of promoting Europe's cultural identity;

Wishing, accordingly, to take concrete measures in the financial field to encourage the production and distribution of films and audiovisual works and, thereby, the development of the programme industries;

Having regard to Committee of Ministers Resolution (51) 62, concerning partial agreements;

Having regard to the decision taken by the Committee of Ministers at the 420th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (October 1988) authorising the Member States who so wish to pursue these objectives within the Council of Europe by means of a partial agreement,

Resolve to set up a European support Fund for the co-production and distribution of creative cinematographic and audiovisual works to be governed by the following rules:

1. *Purpose and functions of the Fund*¹

- 1.1. The purpose of the European support Fund for the co-production and distribution of creative cinematographic and audiovisual works, -hereinafter referred to as « the fund » - shall be to encourage in any way to be defined by the Board of Management the co-production, distribution, broadcasting and exploitation of creative cinematographic and audiovisual works, particularly by helping to finance the co-production, distribution, broadcasting and exploitation.

¹ Amended according to the provisions of Resolution (93) 10 adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 13 April 1993 at the 492nd meeting of the Ministers' Deputies.