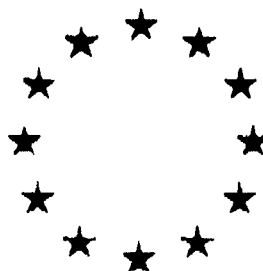


COUNCIL
OF EUROPE



CONSEIL
DE L'EUROPE

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FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE
87TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

Rome, 6 November 1990

1. The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe held its 87th Session on 6 November 1990 in Rome, under the chairmanship of Mr Gabriele Gatti, Secretary of State for Foreign and Political Affairs of San Marino. The discussions focused particularly on prospects for the Summit of Heads of State and Government of countries participating in the CSCE, scheduled to be held in Paris from 19-21 November 1990, and the strengthening of the Council of Europe's relations with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.
2. The culminating point of the Session was the ceremony held to mark the accession of Hungary, the first country of Central and Eastern Europe to become a member of the Organisation. Ministers gave a warm welcome to their Hungarian colleague, Mr G. Jeszensky, and expressed their satisfaction at this historic event.
3. For the first time, the unified Germany was represented on the Committee of Ministers. Ministers acknowledged this important stage in the construction of a united, peaceful and free Europe and expressed their satisfaction that, as from 3 October, the people of the five new Länder and East Berlin had become part of the democratic family of the Council of Europe.
4. They also expressed their strong desire to continue to extend contacts and co-operation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, so as to assist them in completing their current reforms and fulfilling the statutory conditions for accession to the Council of Europe.

5. In this connection, they underlined the importance of the invitation issued to Poland on 23 October to accede to the Council of Europe after the holding of free and democratic general elections, and the decision in the meantime to admit representatives of this country to meetings of the Committee of Ministers. Poland was represented at this Session by Mr J. Makarczyck, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

6. Ministers also noted favourable developments in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and expressed the firm hope that it could be invited to become a member of the Council of Europe as soon as the Parliamentary Assembly has submitted its opinion on the subject. With this in view, Czechoslovakia was represented at this Session by Mr J. Dienstbier, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

7. In the case of Yugoslavia, which has also submitted an application for accession, currently under consideration by the Assembly, Ministers, while bearing in mind the already well-established and recently further strengthened co-operation between this country and the Council of Europe, expressed the hope that in the near future Yugoslavia would move rapidly towards political reform and parliamentary democracy in all its component parts.

8. In the case of Bulgaria, which has recently been accorded the special guest status in the Parliamentary Assembly, Ministers noted with interest that, at the intergovernmental level, a meeting between a delegation of senior Bulgarian officials and officials of the Council of Europe is scheduled to take place on 13 and 14 November 1990, the aim being to identify possible areas and forms of co-operation between that country and the Council of Europe.

9. Ministers are following the situation in Romania very closely. They hope that continuous progress on the road towards democratic reform will permit closer political links with the Council of Europe. In the meantime, they have decided to maintain technical contacts with this country. In this context, a group of constitutional law specialists, at the request of the Romanian Government, had gone to Romania to assist in the drawing up of a new draft constitution.

10. Ministers addressed their warmest congratulations to President Gorbachev on the occasion of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize.

They noted with satisfaction the intensification and extension of co-operation between the Soviet Union and the Council of Europe in several fields. Ministers also invited the Soviet Union to accede to the European Cultural Convention.

11. Ministers took a favourable view on the co-operation and assistance programmes organised by the Council of Europe for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the prospects for expanding them in 1991.

12. Ministers welcomed the results achieved at the Copenhagen meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE. They noted with satisfaction that the Copenhagen Document recognised the expertise of the Council of Europe in the field of human rights.

They discussed the preparations for the Paris Summit (19-21 November 1990). Noting that the Secretary General had been invited to make a contribution on behalf of the Council of Europe, they looked forward to the meeting as a historic opportunity to continue to build upon the basis of the dynamic achievements of the CSCE, a democratic and united Europe.

Ministers expressed their conviction that, in placing its achievements and potential at the disposal of a growing number of countries, the Council of Europe is making an essential contribution to the CSCE process. The Paris Summit should take account of the Council of Europe, with its parliamentary and intergovernmental facets, for establishing multilateral co-operation to achieve the objectives shared with the CSCE in the various aspects of the human dimension (human rights, human contacts, legal co-operation, culture, education, information). Accordingly they expressed the wish that the Council of Europe should attend and contribute to follow-up meetings and other meetings of the CSCE dealing with matters within the Council's sphere of competence. Ministers stated that they are ready to invite the States participating in the CSCE process which are not members of the Council of Europe to take part in certain of its activities in a manner to be agreed.

Ministers noted the Resolution adopted on 27 September, following the debate on the CSCE held in Strasbourg on the initiative of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, to which delegations from all States participating in the CSCE had been invited. They expressed their support for the establishment, within the framework of the CSCE, of an assembly including parliamentary delegations of all the States participating in the CSCE. For this purpose they underlined the interest of taking fully into account for this purpose the experience and the structures of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

They expressed their readiness to establish in the fields of competence of the Council of Europe, links between the bodies which might be set up within the CSCE and the Council of Europe organs.

13. Ministers also noted with great interest the reports of Mr G. de Michelis, the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs and President of the Council of the European Communities and of Mr Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, Head of the Federal Department of Public Economy, Switzerland, on behalf of EFTA, on the activities of their respective institutions and the current negotiations on the creation of a European Economic Area (EEA).

They welcomed the encouraging results of the third quadripartite meeting between the Council of Europe and the Community, held in Venice on 7 October 1990, at which participants stated that "the Council of Europe, with its statutory principles (human rights, democracy and the rule of law) and its flexible working methods, is the first European co-operation body to which the countries of Central and Eastern Europe which have set out along the road to democracy and market economy will be able to be admitted." They also agreed on the need for greater convergence between the positions adopted by the "Twelve" and those of the member States of the Council of Europe which do not belong to the Community.

14. In the context of the follow-up to their Declaration of 5 May 1989 and their Resolution (89)40 on the future role of the Council of Europe, Ministers examined measures already taken or currently being implemented to improve the Council of Europe's effectiveness and the impact of its programmes. They agreed that more resources should be devoted to the tasks arising from the changed situation in Europe and that the Council of Europe structures should be adapted for this purpose. They reiterated the need to concentrate both effort and resources on a select number of priority objectives directly connected with the Council of Europe Statute, bearing in mind the need for a strict budgetary approach.

15. Ministers took note of the interventions concerning relations between the Council of Europe and local administrations at different levels and considered that this question deserved a deeper examination at one of their subsequent meetings.

16. Ministers reaffirmed their grave concern for the situation of hostages in Iraq and Koweit, held by Iraq in violation of the rules of international law. They agreed that unity of action would present the best chances for the unconditional release of all the hostages in conformity with the pertaining Security Council Resolutions. They called upon the Secretary General of the United Nations to continue his efforts to that end and made an appeal to all countries willing and able to bring their influence to bear with Iraq to allow admission of the special representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations in order to achieve the above-mentioned immediate release of all the hostages.

Ministers were in full agreement that missions under the auspices of the United Nations are preeminently suited to achieve the ultimate goal of release of all hostages, irrespective of their nationality.

17. At the close of their 87th Session, the Ministers took part in a colloquy with representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly on preparations for the Paris Summit and relations with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

18. Ministers expressed their deep gratitude to the Italian Government for the hospitality which they had enjoyed during this Session held in the Italian capital, on the occasion of the commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights.

19. Marking the end of San Marino's Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, a ceremony for the transfer of powers took place in San Marino, during which, in the presence of Their Excellencies the Captains Regent of the Republic of San Marino, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Political Affairs of that country, Mr Gabriele Gatti, handed over the Chairmanship to Mr Francesco Fernandez Ordonez, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Spain.