

THE BALTIC ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDATIONS

On Joint Activities in Developing of Education, Culture and Science

The Committee notes that in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania the Soviet regime has created complicated, yet similar problems in the spheres of education, culture and science and that these states' real possibilities for rejoining the European community depend on a joint solution to these problems.

Many cultural and architectural monuments are threatened by irreversible destruction. The cultural environment in the countryside has been damaged to a great extent. The professional arts are endangered by the economy's decline.

The isolation of research from society in general and from higher education in particular has broken the link in the formation of society's intellectual structures and this, in turn, impedes the functioning of intellectual values and knowledge in society, as well as reduces their real significance in practical life and economy.

The fact that society lacks developed structures for the circulation and distribution of financial resources, and that a tested taxation policy has not been developed, places education, culture and science in a dangerous dependence on the state budget.

The isolation and difference of the higher educational system and the system of conferring academic degrees from analogous systems in the European countries do not facilitate the exchange of students, professors and scholars, but that in its turn also hinders the rapid expansion of current knowledge. The fact, that we have no legislative acts in the sphere of intellectual property protection (copyright, patents, trademarks, production samples) which correspond to those in European countries, creates threats that the Baltic States will be forced out from the circulation of the world's intellectual values and creates an insecure situation for economic cooperation.

The mutually-uncoordinated cooperation of the Baltic States with different European and international educational, cultural and scientific structures often leads to complications, losses of time and subsequent difficulties.

The Committee considers that parliamentary cooperation should be first oriented towards:

- coordinated cooperation with different educational, cultural and scientific structures of the European and world communities;

- the development of coordinated legislative acts in the sphere of intellectual property protection between the Baltic States and the European countries;
- the creation of legal basis for unifying the higher educational systems and the conferring of academic degrees; and
- the exchange of information and analysis results about the real effects of legislation and tax policy upon education, culture and science.

Adopted at the first plenary meeting
of the Baltic Assembly,
Riga, January 26, 1992