

Introductory letter from Pietro Adonnino to Bettino Craxi (29 March 1985)

Caption: On 29 March 1985, Pietro Adonnino, President of the Ad Hoc Committee, sends a letter to Bettino Craxi, President of the European Council, detailing the first initiatives contained in the report on 'a People's Europe'.

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Mr President,

1. Following the Dublin European Council's invitation, and in the spirit laid down in its report to that Council, the Committee has the honour to submit a first series of proposals for consideration in the March 1985 meeting of the Heads of State or Government. They relate to those points in the Fontainebleau European Council conclusions for which a timetable for action was set.

The Committee considered that the European Council would be best served by a series of proposals concentrating on a first part of its total work-programme, but complete in themselves and susceptible of leading to concrete decisions here and now.

2. This is why the present report is essentially confined to examining problems connected with the abolition of border checks on individuals and their goods and with a general system of recognition of the equivalence of university diplomas.

The Committee however intends as already indicated to report on other wider initiatives in June; it will in particular examine the possibilities:

(a) for strengthening the special rights of citizens, in particular voting rights, improvement of citizens' complaints procedures and simplification of Community legislation. It is essential to ensure for the citizen an active role as a participant in a Community which he understands and which offers real influence to him on matters of importance for his life;

(b) for initiatives in the field of health and social security and cooperation in combating drug abuse;

(c) for the promotion of action in:

(i) the educational field, in particular language teaching, teacher and student mobility, recognition of diplomas for academic purposes, university cooperation and vocational training;

(ii) the cultural field, in particular direct access of the citizens to TV programmes throughout the Community, the encouragement of a competitive European audio-visual industry and a European Academy of Arts, Science and Culture;

(iii) the field of information on, and knowledge of, the Community;

(iv) the field, especially, of youth and professional exchanges;

(v) encouragement of sporting activities within the Community and the use of Community emblems in such events;

(d) for further proposals on the simplification of controls at frontier posts and on giving a strengthened identity to the Community at external frontiers.

Finally the Committee will examine symbols of the Community's identity, here the Committee would again urge the European Council to take all necessary steps to ensure that the European common-format passport will be available in all of the Member States as soon as possible, not only, as at present, in the minority of States.

3. Throughout its work the Committee attaches the greatest importance to the need to simplify and to reduce the burden of Community legislation on the individual citizen. The aim should be that legislation should be more easily understood and more accessible to citizens, and that administrative problems should be lessened.

4. Where appropriate, the proposals of the Committee consist of two complementary approaches: on the one hand the definition of a longer-term objective, on the other a number of concrete measures which can be taken straightaway. The Committee considers it very important that the European Council should pronounce itself on both approaches.

5. The Committee also wants to underline the importance of liberating the Community from an endless carousel of meetings at various levels up to the ministers themselves, on essentially technical and administrative matters. The European Council can break this vicious circle and the necessary decisions must be taken.

6. Lastly the Committee would like to refer to the useful role played by the Commission of the European Communities. It would also stress that it has kept in constant contact and held discussions with the elected representatives of the European citizens, namely the European Parliament and its various committees.

Pietro Adonnino