

Cultural Resolution of the Hague Congress (7–10 May 1948)

Caption: At the end of the Congress of Europe held in The Hague in May 1948, the participants adopt a Cultural Resolution which recommends, in particular, the establishment of a European Cultural Centre.

Source: Congress of Europe: The Hague-May, 1948: Resolutions. London-Paris: International Committee of the Movements for European Unity, 1948. 16 p.

Copyright: All rights of reproduction, public communication, adaptation, distribution or dissemination via Internet, internal network or any other means are strictly reserved in all countries.

The documents available on this Web site are the exclusive property of their authors or right holders.

Requests for authorisation are to be addressed to the authors or right holders concerned.

Further information may be obtained by referring to the legal notice and the terms and conditions of use regarding this site.

URL: http://www.cvce.eu/obj/cultural_resolution_of_the_hague_congress_7_10_may_1948-en-f9f90696-a4b2-43fd-9e85-86dee9fb57a5.html

Publication date: 04/09/2012

Cultural Resolution (The Hague, 7-10 May 1948)

THE CONGRESS:

Believing that European Union is no longer a Utopian idea but has become a necessity, and that it can only be established on a lasting basis if it is founded upon a genuine and living unity;

Believing that this true unity even in the midst of our national, ideological and religious differences, is to be found in the common heritage of Christian and other spiritual and cultural values and our common loyalty to the fundamental rights of man, especially freedom of thought and expression;

Believing that efforts to unite must be sustained and inspired by an awakening of the conscience of Europe, and that this must be informed, stimulated and provided with the means of expression;

Believing that for this definite purpose, world-wide cultural institutions such as UNESCO cover too vast a field while national institutions are too limited in scope, so that there do not exist in practice European institutions capable of carrying out the above tasks;

Taking note of Article III of the Treaty of Brussels which urges the governments concerned to promote cultural exchanges by conventions between themselves or by other means;

Cultural Centre

1. RECOMMENDS that a continuing body be established to consider inter alia the nature and constitution of a European Cultural Centre. Established independently of all governmental supervision, this body would have as its central task to raise the voice of Europe. The European Cultural Centre should have as its immediate task:

- (a) To promote an awareness of European unity through all media of information, by Press, publications, film and radio and also through all educational institutions for school-children, University students and workers.
- (b) To provide a meeting-place for leaders of thought enabling them to express a genuinely European point of view on all the great questions affecting the life of the continent, by enlightening public opinion and suggesting action to governments.
- (c) To exercise vigilant care over the words actually used in discussion without which no pact can be concluded.
- (d) To affirm (a) the right of every citizen to ascertain the true facts of current events, uninfluenced by interpretation or commentary and (b) the duty of every government to secure for its people the exercise of that right free from any kind of pressure.
- (e) To encourage free circulation of ideas, literature and works of art between one country and another.
- (f) To facilitate the co-ordination of scientific research into the condition of twentieth-century European man, especially in the spheres of Teaching, Psychology, Philosophy, Sociology and Law.
- (g) To support all efforts towards a federation of European Universities and towards a guarantee of their freedom from State or political pressure, and to encourage a close co-operation among all teachers on a European level, having among other objects the revision of history text-books as has already been done by the Scandinavian countries.

European Youth Institute

2. RECOGNISES that the future of Europe depends on the coming generation and that the formation of physical, moral and intellectual character depends on the mothers and teachers:

3. RECOMMENDS

a) that both mothers and teachers should be called upon to take a large part in the work of all conferences and cultural activities;

b) that a European Institute for Childhood and Youth Questions be created:

(1) to co-ordinate all efforts now being made in this direction and to study the best methods of solving at the European level current problems of child nourishment, character-building, reform of young delinquents and the rehabilitation and adoption of war victims, such as orphans, stateless and abandoned children.

(2) to encourage exchanges between the young people of all classes in Europe, by providing finance and accommodation for their study, apprenticeship and travel.

Human Rights

4. AFFIRMS that human rights are the essential bases of our efforts for a United Europe and that a Charter of Human Rights is insufficient unless rendered legally binding by agreement to be reached between the member-states of the European Union.

5. CONSIDERS it essential for the safeguarding of these rights that there should be established a Supreme Court with supra-state jurisdiction to which citizens and groups can appeal, and which is capable of assuring the implementation of the Charter.