

Letter from Filippo Caracciolo to Representatives to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe (15 February 1952)

Caption: In this letter dated 15 February 1952, the Deputy Secretary-General of the Council of Europe notifies the results of the enquiry carried out among the Representatives to the Consultative Assembly into the 12 flags proposed as the symbol of the European organisation.

Source: Archives historiques du Conseil de l'Europe - Historical archives of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex. <http://info.coe.int/archives/hist/flag/default.asp>. Le drapeau - The Flag, 2191.

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

15th February 1952

Sir,

Emblem of the Council of Europe

At the request of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges a referendum was held among all Representatives during the last few days of the Third Session of the Assembly on various proposals put forward for an emblem of the Council of Europe.

The results of this referendum are as follows:

48 Representatives have so far returned the questionnaire submitted to them.

Of these 48 Representatives, 2 rejected all the proposals submitted, 16 favoured one only and 14 placed the twelve proposals in order of preference as requested

23 of the 48 replies - that is, nearly half - gave first preference to Proposal No. 1: the flag of Count Coudenhove, on a field azure a gold sun bearing a cross gules. This proposal also came second twice, third twice, fifth once, sixth once, tenth once and eleventh once.

Among the comments and suggestions made about this proposal, the following should be noted:

- a) No emblem of an institution of which Moslems are members may bear a cross. (Comment of a Turkish and a British Representative);
- b) The general design could be retained with the addition of a crescent in the upper left-hand quarter when the emblem is used in Moslem countries;
- c) Both the sun and the cross should be placed in the upper left-hand quarter;
- d) The cross might extend to the edges of the flag in both directions.

The proposal obtaining the second largest number of votes was No. 7 (the reverse of the American flag) . It came first 9 times, second 6 times, third twice, fourth once, fifth once, seventh 3 times, eighth, ninth and tenth once each.

Among the comments on this proposal the following may be noted:

- a) It is too American;
- b) It is good because it is American;
- c) The barry should consist of 10 pieces instead of 13.

Other proposals given first preference were as follows:

No. 2 5 times.

No. 3 twice.

No. 5 once.

No. 9 once.

No.10 twice.

No. 11 once.

No. 12 twice.

Among the general comments accompanying the replies the following are worthy of note:

- a) Green is not a good colour since it quickly fades;
- b) Only the Coudenhove proposal is possible;
- c) Only Proposals 2 and 3 (cross argent on a field vert and a cross gules on a field argent) are possible;
- d) Proposal No. 4 might be adopted but without the Strasbourg coat-of-arms in the centre;
- e) Proposal No. 11 (on a field gules a sun or, and "Europa" in gold lettering) might be adopted without the white hand (two identical replies);
- f) The idea of a flag with stars only, like No. 12, might be adopted but in different colours (on a field gules stars argent). This, however, is too servilely American, state two Representatives.
- g) 4 Representatives asked for a further investigation into the whole problem.

I thought you would like to know the results of this inquiry which will be submitted to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges at its next meeting.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

[signature]
F CARACCIOLO.
Deputy Secretary-General
Clerk of the Assembly