

## Letter from Ernst Paul to Karl Wistrand (Bonn, 4 February 1956)

**Caption:** On 4 February 1956, Ernst Paul, German Member of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe and of its special committee responsible for overseeing the interests of the European nations which are not represented in the Council of Europe, sends a letter to his compatriot, Karl Wistrand, Member of the Consultative Assembly, in which he suggests that Austria be officially invited to accede to the Council.

**Source:** Council of Europe-Consultative Assembly (Strasbourg, 20 February 1956) AS/SNR (17) 28, A 26.104.  
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**URL:** [http://www.cvce.eu/obj/letter\\_from\\_ernst\\_paul\\_to\\_karl\\_wistrand\\_bonn\\_4\\_february\\_1956-en-e87c59e5-554e-4381-bfda-f9aa820d48a7.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/letter_from_ernst_paul_to_karl_wistrand_bonn_4_february_1956-en-e87c59e5-554e-4381-bfda-f9aa820d48a7.html)

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Bonn, 4th February, 1956.

My dear M. Wistrand,

I should like to submit to you the following considerations:

For some time past we have tried in the Council of Europe to secure full Austrian membership. Our efforts have not succeeded so far because of the difficulties arising out of the special situation in which Austria found herself. Now that the State Treaty has been signed and Austria has become a member of the United Nations, there is a marked improvement in this situation.

Information which I have received from private sources shows that support is increasing for the idea of full Austrian membership of the Council of Europe. There are still a number of obstacles, in particular among certain official circles, but a move from the outside might overcome them. Such a move should come from the Council of Europe. I am convinced that that is so, my sources of information being very reliable.

I should like to ask you whether we could not have a meeting of the Special Committee during March. A motion on Austria could then be tabled either by my friend M. Altmaier or by myself. We should then have to consider whether it would be expedient to submit such a motion to the Assembly in April. If the Republic of Austria were thus officially invited to become a member of the Council of Europe, the last difficulties would be overcome. The prospect of another country acceding to the Council of Europe should encourage us to make a special effort.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding I would like to say that my proposal is in no way linked to the question of Yugoslavia. In my view the entry of Austria in the Council of Europe should be examined quite independently of any other question.

I should be most grateful, my dear friend, if you would be so kind as to send me a few lines on this subject. You can write to me in Swedish if you prefer. I am of course at your disposal if you think that I should write an official letter to you on this subject.

Yours very sincerely,

Ernst Paul