

## Note from the Organising Committee on the final preparations for the Hague Congress (3 May 1948)

**Caption:** On 3 May 1948, the International Committee of the Movements for European Unity finalises the last preparations for the Congress of Europe, which is due to open four days later in The Hague.

**Source:** Archives historiques de l'Union européenne, Florence, Villa Il Poggiolo. Dépôts, DEP. Mouvement européen. ME 957.

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[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/note\\_from\\_the\\_organising\\_committee\\_on\\_the\\_final\\_preparations\\_for\\_the\\_hague\\_congress\\_3\\_may\\_1948-en-7cbcac51-0653-48ec-b4a6-15755d97ac8f.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/note_from_the_organising_committee_on_the_final_preparations_for_the_hague_congress_3_may_1948-en-7cbcac51-0653-48ec-b4a6-15755d97ac8f.html)

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CONFIDENTIAL

## Joint International Committee of the Movements for European Unity

### Minutes of a Meeting of the Executive Committee at The Hague on 3rd May, 1948

PRESENT:

Mr Sandys (Chairman)

Senator Kerstens

Dr. Retinger

Dr. Brugmans

Mr. Mackay

M. Silva

M. Noël

Mr. Rebattet, Miss Ford, Mr. Viskil and Mr. Van Stam were in attendance.

#### 1. CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS

##### (a) Political

Dr. Brugmans, Monsieur Noël and Mr. Mackay undertook to draft a Political Resolution for submission to the International Committee on May 5th.

##### (b) Economic

The Economic Resolution proposed by the Economic Section was adopted, subject to the addition of a passage dealing with the social aspect, which Dr. Brugmans, in consultation with M. Noel and Mr. Mackay, undertook to draft for consideration by the International Committee on May 5th.

##### (c) Cultural

The Executive was informed that the Cultural Report contained a conclusion in the form of a Resolution and it was decided to consider the suitability of this Resolution at the Meeting of the International Committee on May 5th.

#### 2. ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONGRESS

Mr. Sandys, on behalf of the International Committee, thanked Senator Kerstens for the excellent arrangements which he and his staff were making for the reception and accommodation of the delegates and for the general work of the Congress.

The arrangements were explained to the Executive by Senator Kerstens, Mr. Viskil and Mr. Van Stam. The Executive took note that:

(a) One hotel would be designated as the headquarters for each national delegation and the bulk of the members of that delegation would be housed either in that hotel or in other hotels in the neighbourhood.

(b) Where appropriate, it would be arranged that the representative of delegations would call at the Botanical Gardens on Friday morning to collect the necessary papers and would themselves be responsible for distributing them to the members of their delegation.

(c) The reception Bureau would remain open at the Botanical Gardens until 14.30 hours on Friday, May 7th.

(d) Delegates who arrived early on the morning of Friday, My 7th would be offered the hospitality of a Club

within a short distance of the Ridderzaal.

(e) Facilities would be provided for the continuation of full sessions of the three Congress Committees, if required, on the evenings of Saturday and Sunday. In addition, three rooms would be reserved at the Kurzaal, Scheveningen, on the evenings of Saturday and Sunday for the use of Drafting Committees.

(f) The Plenary Session on Monday, May 10th would start at 10.00 hours instead of 9.30 hours as previously arranged and would continue until 12.30 hours.

(g) Delegates attending the Political Committee in the Botanical Gardens would be seated at long tables facing the Chairman and the floor would be carpeted.

(h) At Plenary Sessions in the Ridderzaal, delegates would be free to sit where they wished and would not be grouped in national delegations. However, seats would be reserved in the front row for members of the International Committee and for one or two leading members of each delegation.

(i) Dr. Retinger would be consulted in regard to the manner of production of the list of delegates.

(j) The only flags to be used in the Ridderzaal and on the Dam would be the Dutch national flag and the Congress "E" flag, which would be displayed alternatively with one-another.

(k) The Royal Reception planned for the evening of Monday, May 10th had been cancelled. However, Princess Juliana and prince Bernhard would attend the Opening Session.

### **3. STEERING COMMITTEE**

It was decided that a Steering Committee with various Sub-Committees should be set up. (Particulars of its composition and functions are set out at Annex "A"). It was decided that unless otherwise arranged, the members of the Steering Committee and its Sub-Committee, and the Honorary Secretaries of the three Congress Committees, should meet on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at dinner at the Scheveningen Kurhaus. (A special table should be reserved).

### **4. HONORARY SECRETARIES OF COMMITTEES**

It was decided that each of the three Congress Committees should have two Honorary Secretaries, one French speaking and one English speaking.

Economic Committee: Lady Rhys Williams, M. Naudin

Political Committee: M. Noël, Mr. Hopkins

Cultural Committee: M. Silva, Commander Rodd.

### **5. CONGRESS PROCEDURE**

It was decided to issue to delegates a short statement (printed in French and English) on the procedure to be followed in the Debates of the Congress. (The text is attached at Annex "B").

### **6. SOCIALISTS FROM EASTERN EUROPE AND SPAIN**

It was decided to issue invitations for the Congress to five Socialists from Eastern Europe and Spain, recommended by the French Section of the Society for the United Socialists States of Europe.

### **7. SPANISH DELEGATION**

Subject to the foregoing paragraph, it was decided not to increase the members of the Spanish delegation.

## 8. FURTHER MEETINGS

Further meetings of the International Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 5th, as follows:-

Executive 10.00 hours

Full Committee 15.00 hours

## STEERING COMMITTEE

The International Committee is collectively responsible for all matters relating to the organisation and conduct of the Congress and will take such decisions as it may think fit before during the Congress. However, since it will not be easy to assemble the whole Committee, its functions will be delegated to a small Steering Committee composed as follows:

Mr Sandys (Chairman)  
Senator Kerstens  
Dr Brugmans  
M. van Zeeland  
Mr Mackay  
M. Courtin  
Dr Retinger (Secretary General)  
M. Rebattet (Deputy Secretary General)

The responsibility for executing the directions of the Steering Committee will be allocated as follows:

- (1) General Co-ordination and Supervision unforeseen matters requiring urgent attention: Mr Sandys
- (2) Reception; Accommodation; Catering; Transport; material arrangements in Ridderzaal and Committee Rooms; checking of admission passes; organisation of Amsterdam Meeting; General Enquiries; relations with Dutch Authorities: Senator Kerstens
- (3) Liaison between Economic Committee and Steering Committee: Lady Rhys Williams
- (4) Liaison between Political Committee and Steering Committee: M. Noël, Mr Hopkins
- (5) Liaison between Cultural Committee and Steering Committee: M. Silva, Commander Rodd
- (6) Preparation of Lists of Principal Speakers for Plenary Sessions, Committees and Public Meetings, in consultation with Chairmen of Committees; allocation of platform seats

Speakers' Sub-Committee: Mr Sandys, Sen. Kerstens, Dr Retinger, Dr Brugmans, M. Noël, Mr Mackay, Mr Sharp (sec)

- (7) Press relations

Press Sub-Committee: Cmdr King Hall (Chairman), M. Courtin, Her. Van Broekhuizen (Executive)

- (8) All other matters including Agenda, Procedure, Authorisation for the conduct of debates, issues of business documents to delegates, directives to interpreters etc.

Dr Retinger (Sec. General)  
M. Rebattet (Dep. Sec. Gen.)

## PROCEDURE

### Speeches

1. The Chairman of each Session will decide at his discretion the length of time to be allotted to each speaker. Unless the Chairman decides otherwise, the length of speeches should not exceed the following limits:

Opening speech: 15 minutes

Final speech: 10 "

Other speeches: 5 "

2. Delegates wishing in advance to notify their desire to speak should fill in one of the attached forms. These should be handed in not later than 20.00 hours on the previous evening to the Congress Bureau at the Scheveningen Kurhaus.

### Interpretation

3. Delegates are asked as far as possible to speak either in French or English. Interpreters are available to interpret speeches in these two languages. Delegates speaking in other languages are asked to provide written translations which can be circulated.

4. The Chairman may consult the delegates as to whether they require an interpretation. Since the time available is very short and many speakers will wish to take part in the debates, it is hoped that delegates will be willing as much as possible to dispense with interpretations.

### Voting

5. Votes, when necessary, will be taken by a show of hands.

### Amendments

6. Delegates wishing to propose amendments to resolutions for consideration by the Committee must hand in the text in writing (either in French or English). The Chairman may, in appropriate cases, put amendments to the vote without debate, or group several amendments for combined discussion.

7. All such proposed amendments should be addressed to the Honorary Secretaries of the appropriate Committee (Political, Economic or Cultural) and may be handed in up to 20.00 hours on Friday at the Congress Information Bureau at the Scheveningen Kurzaal (where dinner is being served each night to all delegates ). Later amendments may be handed in to the Honorary Secretaries during the Committee debates.

8. All amendments which it is desired to make must be proposed during the Committee discussions. Only resolutions passed by the Committee may be moved in the Plenary Sessions.

### Other Matters

9. All other matters relating to the conduct of debates will be decided at his discretion by the Chairman of the Session and his decision shall be final.