

The Presidents of Parliamentary Assemblies of

- Belgium
- Federal Republic of Germany
- Ireland
- Italy
- Luxembourg
- the Netherlands

and the Presidents of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Communities met in Paris on Tuesday 7 January 1975 at the invitation of M. Edgar Faure, President of the French National Assembly and M. Poher, President of the French Senate.

The participants at the Conference approved the initiative taken in holding the meeting. They thought that such contact between Presidents of Parliamentary Assemblies of the countries of the European communities and with the President of the European Parliament and the President of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe could only have beneficial results and that such meetings should be held periodically.

They stated, however, that they did not intend to go beyond the role appropriate to them arising from their offices and the practices of their Parliaments. These practices, although differing, impose the obligation, common to them all, of objectivity and impartiality, and Presidents take care not to interfere in matters which are appropriate to Governments or to Parliaments and not to involve themselves in controversial aspects of political life.

Subject to these conditions, the Presidents hope to be able to contribute, first, to European identity in their respective countries and secondly, to the study of the range of problems raised by adapting representative Parliamentary democracy to the conditions of the modern world.

Finally, participants decided to meet again in Rome on 26 and 27 September next at the invitation of representatives of the Italian National Assemblies.

The following provisional agenda was envisaged for that meeting:

- (1) Study of relations between National Parliamentary Assemblies and with the European Parliament and the Consultative Assembly and the technical organisation of cooperation between these different Assemblies, with a view to deepening and supporting the democratic character of the existing European Communities.
- (2) Preparatory undertakings for an overall study of the problems of representative democracy in the European context.
- (3) Discussion of the extension of these meetings to other European Member States of the Council of Europe.

Participants authorised the French and Italian Presidents to organise the next meeting and to issue the invitations.

Paris 7 January, 1975.