

10506/97

LIMITE

RAXEN 14

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of: Consultative Commission on Racism and Xenophobia

on: 5 September 1997

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Consultative Commission adopted the agenda as in telex No 2949 of 7 July 1997.

2. European Year against Racism (1997)

The European Commission gave the Consultative Commission a progress report on the activities being carried on in connection with the European Year against Racism 1997. The Consultative Commission took stock of the activities being carried on in the Member States.

The closing conference for the European Year will take place in Luxembourg on 18 and 19 December 1997.

3. Inventory of recent manifestations of racism in the countries of the Union

The members of the Consultative Commission held an exchange of information on recent manifestations of racism.

4. Terminology: "race"

The Consultative Commission held an exchange of views on "race" terminology, taking as a basis a meeting document prepared by Mr KLECKER concerning the nature of racism and the use of the term "race". Several members of the Consultative Commission emphasized the problems relating to this term, which was often used in order to create discrimination, whereas the struggle against racism was a struggle for understanding, equal opportunities and solidarity.

5. Education and training

(7356/97 RAXEN 7, Annex)

The discussion on this item was held over to the next meeting.

6. Political parties

(5534/97 RAXEN 3)

On behalf of Mr VAN THIJN, Ms VAN KALMTHOUT informed the Consultative Commission about the hearing held by the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs on 1 July 1997 on the "European Year against Racism (1997): an interim report". Following this hearing, a conference will be held in Utrecht on 27 to 29 November 1997 on "A code of good practice: political parties and non-discrimination". To prepare for this conference, the Consultative Commission held a discussion on:

- the need for political parties to draft and approve a code of conduct;
- the extent to which it was possible to avoid forming coalitions with parties that did not sign the code of conduct or establishing common platforms with such parties;

- the advisability of making the funding of parties conditional on their not issuing racist declarations;
- immigration and its consequences for the formulation of political programmes;
- the need to avoid being taken hostage by parties on the far right when forming governments (alternation between parties);
- the problem of sanctions and the withdrawal of Members of Parliaments' immunity.

The Consultative Commission agreed to update the text of the principles of good practice and non-discrimination for political parties which is contained in 5534/97 RAXEN 3. Proposals on this subject will be made by Mr VAN THIJN and Mr FORD.

7. and 8. Media and racist songs

The Consultative Commission will discuss these items at its next meeting, which is scheduled for 17 October 1997.
