

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1983 - 1984

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15 March 1984

DOCUMENT 1-1524/83 /A

## Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Youth, Culture,  
Education, Information and Sport

on the creation of a European Library

PART A: MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

Rapporteur: Mr O. SCHWENCKE

PE 85.901/fin./A  
Or. De.



At its sitting of 15 November 1982, Parliament referred the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr LEONARDI and others on the creation of a Community library (Doc. 1-794/82) to the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport as the committee responsible and at its sitting of 11 April 1983 to the Committee on Budgets for an opinion.

At its meeting of 26 April 1983, the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport appointed Mr SCHWENCKE rapporteur.

The Committee considered the draft report at its meetings of 18/19 October 1983, 1/2 December 1983 and 29 February/1 March 1984.

The motion for a resolution was adopted by 8 votes to 1 on 1 March 1984.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Beumer, chairman; Mr Hahn, vice-chairman; Mr Schwencke, vice-chairman and rapporteur; Mr Alexiadis, Mr Arfé, Mr Bógh, Mr Marck (deputizing for Mr Brok), Mr Simmonds and Mrs Viehoff.

The report was tabled on 2 March 1984.--

The deadline for tabling amendments to this report will be indicated in the draft agenda for the part-session at which it will be debated.

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The Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the creation of a European Library

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the objective expressed in the preamble to the EEC Treaty of the constant improvement of the living and working conditions of the peoples of the Community, and
- having regard to the obligation on the Member States under the first paragraph of Article 5 of the EEC Treaty to take the appropriate action,
- having regard to the statement by the Heads of State and Government in Copenhagen in December 1973 on the European identity,
- having regard to the Solemn Declaration on European Union at the European Council Stuttgart of June 1983 and its propositions on cultural cooperation (point 3.3 - 1st, 2nd and 4th indents),
- having regard to its resolutions on:
  - the European University Institute (1)
  - a Community programme in the field of education (2)
  - stronger Community action in the cultural sector (3),

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(1) OJ No. C 144/81

(2) OJ No. C 87/82

(3) OJ No. C 342/83

- having regard to the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr LEONARDI and others on the creation of a European Library (Doc. 1-794/82),
  - having regard to the report of its Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport (Doc. 1-1524/83),
- A. whereas it is necessary to begin to develop an educational and informational basis for greater integration of cultural relations in the Community;
  - B. whereas this calls for an effective library policy relevant to the Community;
  - C. having regard to the information technology developed in the library sector;
  - D. having due regard for existing libraries and documentation centres dealing specifically with European affairs;
  - E. acknowledging the cooperation developed by the Council of Europe between the major western European research libraries (LIBER);
  - F. mindful of the special European needs of users in teaching, research and documentation;

General

1. Calls for the creation of a 'European Library';
2. Does not intend this to be designed on the lines of the national libraries in the Member States as a Community reference library with deposit library status;

Functions and working methods

3. Proposes instead a computer-assisted library information system, which would store centrally all bibliographical information relevant to Europe and could be consulted on a decentralized basis;
4. Favours a combined system consisting of
  - central collection of literature relevant to Europe in the form of a data bank with a European central catalogue to provide information and answer enquiries, and

- a clearing-house for an efficient system linking national libraries, the libraries of the Community Institutions, the European University Institute, documentation centres and other major libraries;

5. Believes it necessary in this context to introduce a requirement to forward references to the European library system and calls on the Commission to submit proposals to this effect to the Council;

6. Believes it also necessary

- to exploit existing forms of library cooperation, in particular the network of European research libraries LIBER set up by the Council of Europe,

- to include EURONET in the data transfer within the proposed network, and

- to incorporate the European Library system into the EURYDICE system;

7. Believes that the 'European Library' should have the following functions:

- to provide an indexing service to show enquirers where they can find relevant literature and documentation (reference service), and

- to compile a complete information package to meet an enquirer's requirements and supply this in the most economical manner (delivery service);

#### Fields of coverage

8. Believes that the 'European Library' should cover the fields of

- initially, history and civilization, law and economics, the political and social sciences and general cultural and literary studies, and

- the documents and studies drawn up by and on behalf of the European Communities,

- and later other areas such as EPC, Lomé I-III, European peace and security policy and developments in Eastern Europe;

## Cooperation

9. Calls for greater cooperation between the libraries concerned during the initial stages of the proposed network to ensure the optimum use of limited resources and qualified staff;
10. Also favours cooperation with major libraries in third countries, such as the US Library of Congress, and advocates Community action to develop libraries in the ACP States with a view to including these in the proposed system at a later stage,

## Role of the Commission

11. Calls on the Commission,
  - to prepare proposals for the solution of problems raised by the lending sector,
  - to show how the different laws of copyright can be approximated to overcome the problem of transmitting photographic or photostat reproductions of documents, and particularly of works used for study purposes, and
  - to set up a specialist body for this purpose;
12. Proposes that the responsibility for establishing the 'European Library' and defining its tasks in detail should be entrusted to this specialist body, to which representatives of the libraries of the Community Institutions, national libraries, and other research institutions concentrating on Europe under the LIBER network should belong;
13. Calls on the Commission also to submit proposals for harmonizing the training of librarians with a view to a European library system and for standardizing the definition of librarianship;

## Location

14. Recommends on practical, financial and political grounds that the 'European Library' should be located in a place in which European structures already exist and can be developed;
15. Proposes, therefore, that it should be established as part of the European University Institute in Florence, where the following are already being developed



- a specialist European library, with an exemplary classification system,
- the archives of the European Communities, and
- computer-controlled cooperation with several national libraries in a network system,

and which is clearly developing as a centre for European research, teaching and documentation;

16. Believes it desirable both on technical and geographical grounds to make the central collection and clearing-house for a European library system an integral part of the European University Institute;

#### Legal basis

17. Proposes, as the legal basis for the foundation of a 'European Library', establishing an independent Community institute on the lines of the European University Institute, and recalls its decision of principle that Article 235 of the EEC Treaty should serve as the legal basis for the University Institute and accordingly, therefore, should also apply in the case of the Community archives and the European Library;

#### Financing

18. Wishes to safeguard future financing by creating a new budget line in addition to those for the University Institute and archives and an appropriation to be entered for 1985;

#### Matters of detail

19. Calls on the Commission to work out the practical details of the institute's foundation and to embark on negotiations with the appropriate Italian authorities as regards accommodation;
20. Wishes a cinema library and video library, formed from public and private donations, to be attached to the 'European Library', with viewing and borrowing facilities;
21. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments of the Member States and the Council of Europe.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (DOCUMENT 1-794/82)

tabled by Mr LEONARDI, Mr PAPAPIETRO, Mr RUFFOLO,  
Mrs GAIOTTI DE BIASE, Mr HAHN, Mr BERSANI, Mr LEZZI,  
Mr GATTO, Mr GAWRONSKI, Mr RIPA DI MEANA, Mr ARFE',  
Mr DE PASQUALE, Mr BEYER DE RYKE, Mr FERRERO, Mr FANTI,  
Mrs VIEHOFF, Mr IPPOLITO, Mrs PRUVOT, Mrs BARBARELLA,  
Mr GOUTHIER and Mrs CARETONI ROMAGNOLI

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure  
on the creation of a Community library

The European Parliament,

- A - having regard to the need to create, however gradually, a store of knowledge and information with a view to closer cultural links within the Community,
- B - having regard to the need, to this end, to create at Community level, and on the model of those in the individual Member States a systematic collection of all books published within the territory of the Community,
1. Requests the Commission to draft a directive which will make it compulsory, as under the national legislation of the individual States, to deposit one or more copies of every book published within the Community;
  2. Calls at the same time for the creation of a European library to carry out at Community level the functions performed by the 'national libraries' of the Member States.