

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 9 October 1985

DH/Inf-Co (85) 1

EUROPEAN CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTATION

9th meeting, 19 July 1985

Strasbourg, Human Rights Building,
Commission Room

Summary report

I. Introduction (Items 1 and 2 of the agenda)

1. The European Co-ordination Committee on Human Rights Documentation held its 9th meeting at the Council of Europe headquarters in Strasbourg, on 19 July 1985.

2. the meeting was opened by Mr Bjørn Stormorken, Administrator in Directorate of Human Rights, who welcomed participants on behalf of Mr Peter Leuprecht, Director of Human Rights. Mr Stormorken presented the Director's apologies for not being able to assist at this meeting, but other commitments required his absence from Strasbourg at this time.

3. The participants were informed of the fact that, due to technical reasons, the summary report of the 8th meeting was not yet available.

4. The list of participants appears in Appendix I.

5. The Secretariat received apologies from:

E. Boumans, European Parliament
A. Fumagalli, European Parliament
K. Herndl, United Nations Centre for Human Rights
C. Pintat, Inter-parliamentary Union
M. Protz-Schwarz, Diakonisches Werk
H. Thoolen, SIM

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6. The agenda of the meeting, as adopted, appears in Appendix II.

II. Summary of proceedings

7. During the meeting, the Co-ordination Committee in particular:

i. noted with regret that Ms Annie McMorris has left HURIDOCs. She was thanked for her outstanding work and her devotion to the aims of HURIDOCs as well as her active participation in the European Co-ordination Committee. Although she has left HURIDOCs as a full-time employee, the Committee was pleased to note that it can benefit in the future from her continued commitment in another capacity.

ii. noted the progress that had been done towards establishing an abridged version of the human rights thesaurus;

iii. regretted that Interights could not be present to report on progress of up-dating of the Directory of Western European Collections;

iv. decided to organise a seminar on information handling techniques in London in 1986;

v. stressed the need to revitalise the work done within the framework of the committee;

vi. decided that the next meeting of the committee would take place in conjunction with the meeting of the NGOs in consultative status with the Council of Europe if possible.

III. The proceedings

Item 3 of the agenda: Developments since the 8th meeting of the Committee

a. European-based organisations

8. Ms Blank, SIM, reported that the data bases, containing human rights material in general from a variety of sources (IGOs and NGOs) and a special section on case law relating to the European Convention on Human Rights, were steadily growing. The formal standing of SIM will be changing, as the Institute will become more closely attached to the University of Utrecht. This will not imply that the free standing or "modus operandi" of SIM will be changed. An accumulated index to the Newsletter will be published this year. Furthermore, SIM has been involved in developing standard formats for recording of human rights educational material, where the need of information relating to "target" groups, age etc is taken into account.

9. Ms Kallfass, Amnesty International, reported that there are organisational changes in the Documentation Centre of AI and that a new indexing system is being worked out. This will mainly be for internal purposes, but wherever feasible, compatible with the HURIDOCs standard formats. Computerisation is an ongoing task.

10. Mr Harris, British Refugee Council, reported that they had not yet acquired a computer, but that plans were still under discussion. The British Refugee Council was very pleased to have received an increased grant for documentation from the European Social Fund. The Council had co-operated with HURIDOCs in elaborating the standard formats and actively participated in the European Consultation on Refugees and Exiles. Since their documentation system was already designed and running before the standard formats were published, only relevant parts will be implemented, ie the Council will use the country codes from the HURIDOCs standard.

11. Mr Agrusow, Internationale Gesellschaft für Menschenrechte (IGFM) apologised for not having had time to assist HURIDOCs in creating an inventory of computerised human rights organisations in Europe. IGMF has acquired a new computer and the porting of programmes and data had taken most of the available resources. The organisation is now setting up a public data base on victims of human rights violations. IGMF will base the information partly on its own material and partly on a collection of other organisations' public material building a data base of case descriptions.

12. Mr Kjaerum, Danish Refugee Council, reported that Denmark has experienced a sharp increase in the influx of refugees, and that very little time therefore was left for other things than case-work. The Council has acquired an Olivetti M24 micro computer, to start registration of case material. All appeal cases have been recorded, but all information in the system is strictly confidential and anonymous. There is no connection between the data base information and names of persons. The Council has been active within the framework of the refugee consultation group.

13. Ms Martineau, France terra d'asile, reported that they still do not have a computer. A group of NGOs working with refugees and other human rights organisations in France is trying to establish a common documentation system. Finance is the biggest problem, but there are also problems of co-operation between so many organisations with widely varying needs. The group has addressed problems of protection of personal data and copyright for material in data bases.

14. Mr Wilhelm, CIAS, Human Rights Committee of the Strasbourg barreau, reported that the barreau have acquired an Olivetti M24 micro computer. This will be used mainly for management purposes, but can, under certain circumstances, be used for other minor ad hoc projects. The CIAS is completing an agreement with CEIDA to establish a human rights documentation service for french lawyers. CIAS also has plans to set up a documentation centre on victims of human rights violations and prisoners, with a European scope. Mr Wilhelm also reported that the Leo Basso organisation in Rome would probably implement the HURIDOCs standard formats. Furthermore, Mr Wilhelm reported on the seminar "Techniques de Documentation pour les Droits de l'Homme, held immediately before this meeting, as a result of a decision taken at the 8th meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee. A copy of the programme is attached at Appendix III. During the evaluation of the seminar, the participants expressed that it had been very useful. The participants expressed that a further seminar be held where emphasis is put solely on the practical use of the standard formats.

15. Mr Stormorken reported that the data bases on case law of the Strasbourg Institutions are growing, and are now complete on Resolutions of the Committee of Ministers (acting in the capacity conferred on them by the European Convention) from 1959 and on Reports of the European Commission on Human Rights from 1979. Decisions on admissibility are complete from June 1983, and approximately 40 judgments of the European Court of Human Rights are contained within the data base. In addition, most of the basic texts, such as the Convention itself, the additional protocols, rules of procedure, etc are available on-line. A bibliographical data base of approximately 2,000 entries on doctrine of the Convention are also available, as is the HURIDOCs bibliography on NGO publications between 1970 and 1981. Mr Stormorken regretted to inform the participants that the data bases will not be open to the public for some time to come. The national correspondent scheme has been slightly revised. The correspondents of the Documentation Centre of the Council will now supply all bibliographic information in HURIDOCs standard format. Information on judicial decisions will be supplied in a special format developed by the Documentation Centre, a format currently examined by HURIDOCs (together with other proposals) for possible inclusion in the HURIDOCs standard format series.

b. HURIDOCs

16. Ms McMorris reported that most of the time had been devoted to the completion and production of the HURIDOCs STANDARD FORMAT SERIES with supporting documents. The final product will be mailed to approximately 500 NGOs within the field that have shown interest in the project at one stage or another. In the same mailing, the recipients will be asked to furnish HURIDOCs with information on their organisation (using the standard format for organisations and documentation facilities/holdings) to form the basis of the HURIDOCs REFERRAL data base on human rights organisations. Furthermore, Ms McMorris reported that a fresh initiative was taken by Asbjørn Eide (member of the Board of HURIDOCs) on the construction of a thesaurus. A meeting had taken place in Oslo with interested participants, and a draft list of terms has been made available to the meeting. UNESCO will be supporting regional preparatory meetings to the 5th Conference on Human Rights and Education, with, inter alia, strong emphasis on training on information techniques, etc. Such meetings will take place in West Africa, the Middle East and in Asia. For constitutional reasons, there will be a General Assembly of HURIDOCs in 1986. This will concur with another major meeting, such as the conference in Rome on information and communication in the south. Furthermore, Ms McMorris reported that the Unit had been discontinued in Utrecht because of lack of funding. An interim ad hoc unit will be sought to be set up in London until a more permanent solution can be found.

Item 4 of the agenda: Organisation of a European Consultation Meeting

17. This item has been recurring on the agenda for a time now. The study made by Mr Lottje of the Diakonisches Werk, for the 6th meeting of the Committee forms the background to the item.

Due to the latest developments and lower level of activities, the usefulness of a stand-alone conference on this topic was questioned and it was put forward that it must be viewed in relation to the fact that there will be a General Assembly in 1986.

A proposal was put forward that such a conference could be held in connection with the consultation meeting of the NGOs with consultative status with the Council of Europe, by enlarging its participation on one or two additional days.

A second proposal, that the meeting of the General Assembly be organised in such a way that ample time was given to regional meetings during the General Assembly was put forward.

18. The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should write a note to the HURIDOCS board proposing that regional meetings should be held if possible, and that an answer to that be given as soon as possible. If for some reason this was not possible, the Committee would explore further the possibility of enlarging the meeting of NGOs with consultative status with the Council of Europe. The Committee will elaborate a proposal for an agenda at its next meeting.

Item 5 of the agenda: Follow-up to the training seminar on Documentation Techniques for Human Rights

19. The participants urged that a similar seminar with more emphasis on the practical use (ie recording of information on the standard formats) be held at approximately the same time of the year in 1986. They also urged that the invitations be sent out to a wider audience and that there be no registration fee. Furthermore, the commitment of the International Institute for Human Rights to integrate a course on information and documentation techniques in their annual study session was reiterated. This must be seen as a more general course, with a less detailed approach, aiming at spreading the knowledge of modern information handling and the existence of the HURIDOCS standard format to a world-wide audience. Thus it will be complementary to specialist courses at a regional level.

Some participants stressed the need for national or smaller sub-regional "workshops" on implementing the standard formats. The possibility of organising the courses according to language rather than geographical divisions was also stressed.

20. The Committee decided that the next course should take place in London, and be organised by the London-based organisations. The British Refugee Council was urged to, and accepted (with the usual reservations) to be the convener of an organising committee and main body responsible for taking required initiatives.

Item 6 of the agenda: Preparation of a Directory of computerised Human Rights Centres in Europe

21. See Mr Agrusow's report under item 3(a).

This undertaking will be a part of the task of HURIDOCS to set up a referral data base on human rights organisations, and the result of the mailing described under 3(b) should be awaited.

Item 7 of the agenda: Future role of HURIDOCS

22. The future role of HURIDOCS was discussed in general terms, taking into account the recent news on funding, the discontinuation of the Unit and the postponement of the meeting of the HURIDOCS Council.

The need for an organisation like HURIDOCS was stressed, and that the importance of its role has increased rather than decreased. However, the importance of regional initiatives was emphasised as this could better utilise the resources of the local organisations.

23. The Committee was frustrated by the difficulties in funding the activities and expressed hopes that this will change as the fruits of the work done so far was recognised by funders of human rights activities.

Item 8 of the agenda: Any other business

24. The Committee decided that the next meeting of the committee would take place in conjunction with the meeting of the NGOs in consultative status with the Council of Europe, if possible.

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Mr Michail AGRUSOW, Programmer, Internationale Gesellschaft für Menschenrechte, (IGFM), Kaiserstr. 72, 6000 FRANKFURT (Federal Republic of Germany)

M. Louis BARBET, Institut de Formation en Droit de l'Homme du Barreau de Paris, c/o 4 Square La Bruyère, 75009 PARIS

Ms Ann-Catherine BLANK, SIM (Netherlands Institute of Human Rights), Nieuwegracht 94, 3512 LX UTRECHT (Netherlands)

Ms Susan M. BLUM, Information Office, Resource Centre, British Refugee Council, 3/9 Bondway, LONDON SW8

Mr Warwick N. HARRIS, Librarian, British Refugee Council, 3/9 Bondway, LONDON SW8

Ms Monika KALLFASS, Senior Information Officer, Amnesty International, 1 Easton Road, LONDON WC17 8DJ

Mr Morten KJAERUM, Legal Counsellor, Danish Refugee Council, Kronprinsessegade 4, 1002 COPENHAGEN

Mr James LAWSON, Human Rights Documentation Centre, Council of Europe, STRASBOURG

Mme Christine MARTINEAU, Avocat, Responsable de la Coordination d'un collectif d'associations pour la creation d'un centre de documentation sur les réfugiés, France Terre d'Asile, 29 rue Saint Amand, 75015 PARIS

Ms Annie McMORRIS, Information Officer, HURIDOCS, Nieuwegracht 94, 3512 LX UTRECHT (Netherlands)

Mlle Corinne MERTINS, Centre de Documentation des Droits de l'Homme, Conseil de l'Europe, STRASBOURG

Mme Anne-Lise PERRIER, Documentaliste, Institut International des Droits de l'Homme, 1 quai Lezay-Marnésia, STRASBOURG

Mr Bjørn STORMORKEN, Human Rights Documentation Centre, Council of Europe, STRASBOURG

M. Christian WILHELM, Représentant de HURIDOCS, CIAS et le Mouvement International des Juristes Catholique, 3 quai Jacques Sturm, 67000 STRASBOURG

APPENDIX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Developments since the 8th meeting
 - European-based organisations
 - HURIDOCS
4. Organisation of a European Consultation Meeting
5. Follow-up to the training seminar on Documentation Techniques for Human Rights
6. Preparation of a Directory of computerised Human Rights Centres in Europe
7. Future role of HURIDOCS
8. Other business

APPENDIX III

Séminaire Technique

PROGRAMME DEFINITIF (11 juillet 1985)

TECHNIQUES DE DOCUMENTATION

POUR LES

DROITS DE L'HOMME

Présentation et Application

du standard d'HURIDOC'S

Séminaire de formation réservé aux
documentalistes des centres de documentation spécialisés
en Droits de l'Homme.

Du mardi 16 Juillet au Jeudi 18 Juillet 1985

à STRASBOURG - FRANCE

- au Conseil de l'Europe
- à l'Institut International des Droits de l'Homme
- et au CIAS

Séminaire organisé par :

- l'Institut International des Droits de l'Homme,
- HURIDOC'S et le CIAS dans le cadre du
Comité Européen de Coordination sur la Documentation en
Droits de l'Homme du Conseil de l'Europe.

O B J E T :

Le séminaire est organisé dans le but de permettre une formation des documentalistes des Centres de Documentation spécialisés en Droits de l'Homme des organisations non gouvernementales et des organisations inter-gouvernementales confrontées à l'utilisation des techniques de documentation mises au point par HURIDOCS.

Seront abordés:

- la présentation du standard d'HURIDOCS.
- l'indexation dans le cadre du réseau d'HURIDOCS.
- les questions pratiques de saisie informatique et des méthodes de traitement de textes,
- l'expérimentation de l'indexation en fonction du standard HURIDOCS.
- les rapports entre les systèmes de documentation manuels et informatisés
- les communications entre centres informatisés utilisant le standard
- les démonstrations de systèmes informatisés existants,
- l'utilisation des banques de données informatisées,
- la présentation du système de classification des organisations inter-gouvernementales.

La présente session est limitée à 15 personnes.

Les langues de travail seront le français et l'anglais, la répartition en groupes de travail se fera en fonction de l'utilisation de ces deux langues.

PROGRAMME

Mardi 16 juillet 1985 :

Au Palais des Droits de l'Homme - Conseil de l'Europe

- 13 H 15 ■ Accueil des participants
- 14 H 00 ■ Ouverture des travaux : Salle de la Commission
- Accueil des participants par le Directeur des Droits de l'Homme du Conseil de l'Europe.
- Présentation de la session par Monsieur Alexandre KISS, Secrétaire Général de l'Institut International des Droits de l'Homme.
- Présentation des objectifs d'HURIDOCS par Christian WILHELM, Membre du Conseil International d'HURIDOCS et du C.I.A.S.
- 15 H 00 ■ Présentation du standard d'HURIDOCS par Anne McMorris
- 16 H 00 Pause
- 16 H 30 ■ Présentation de l'indexation dans le cadre du réseau d'HURIDOCS par Friederike KNABE, Vice-présidente d'HURIDOCS.
- 17 H 15 Débat
- 18 H 00 Suspension des travaux
- 18 H 30 ■ Apéritif c/o Ch. WILHELM 34, rue Bautain STRASBOURG
tél. 61.18.64

Mercredi 17 Juillet 1985 :

- Au Palais des Droits de l'Homme - Conseil de l'Europe

- 9 H 00 ■ Démonstration des possibilités offertes par le traitement de texte informatisé, par Claude GILLMANN, OLIVETTI - FRANCE.
- 10 H 00 ■ Groupes de travail sur la pratique de l'informatique et de l'enregistrement :
- enregistrement d'ouvrages :
livres, publications, articles
 - selon le standard d'HURIDOCs avec indexation manuelle et informatisée
- 12 H 00 ■ Evaluation de l'indexation
- 13 H 00 Déjeuner au Conseil de l'Europe
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- 14 H 00 ■ Rapport entre les systèmes de documentation manuels et informatisés :
- transition vers l'informatique
 - les différents standards de communication entre les systèmes informatisés de documentation
 - relations entre systèmes manuels et informatisés
- par Bjorn STORMORKEN et un technicien français.
- 15 H 00 Discussion en deux groupes (francophones, anglophones) *
- 15 H 45 Pause
- 16 H 00 ■ Démonstration de systèmes informatisés de documentation :
- documentation du Conseil de l'Europe sur mini-ordinateur
 - documentation sur micro - ordinateur
- par Corinne MERTINS et James LAWSON.
- 18 H 30 Suspension
- 19 H 00 Réception à l'Institut International des Droits de l'Homme,
1, Quai lezay Marnésia
67000 STRASBOURG

* groupe francophone animé par Annie MC MORRIS et Corinne MERTINS,
groupe anglophone animé par Bjorn STORMORKEN et Tim EVANS.

Jeudi 18 juillet 1985 :

Au CIAS - Maison du Barreau 3, Quai Jacques Sturm
STRASBOURG - tél. 37.12.66

- 9 H 00 ■ L'utilisation des banques de données juridiques.
* Principes de fonctionnement des banques de données et techniques d'utilisation.
* Présentation et expérimentation de JURIS-DATA : exercices d'interrogation sur MINITEL,
par Louis BARBET, Directeur du CEDIA - Barreau de PARIS, assisté par Gille OSTER, élève-avocat, et Corinne MERTINS pour l'interprétation.

GROUPE FRANCOPHONE

- 11 H 30 ■ L'utilisation des documentations des organisations inter-gouvernementales : ONU, Conseil de l'Europe, Organisation des Etats Américains, système de mots clés, classifications, accès -
par Tim EVANS, Consultant

13 H 00 ■ Déjeuner

15 H 00 ■ Discussion sur l'adaptation d'une version française du Standard d'HURIDOCs et d'un thésaurus.

GROUPE ANGLOPHONE

12 H 30 ■ Déjeuner

14 H 30 ■ L'utilisation des documentations des organisations inter-gouvernementales, par Tim EVANS.

EN ASSEMBLEE GENERALE

17 H 00 ■ Evaluation de la session

18 H 00 ■ Apéritif.

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