

# COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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# CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 22 July 1987

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## EUROPEAN CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTATION

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11th meeting, 22 July 1987  
Strasbourg, Palais de l'Europe  
Salle 8

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### INTRODUCTION

1. The European Co-ordination Committee on Human Rights Documentation held its 11th meeting at the Council of Europe headquarters in Strasbourg, on 22 July 1987.
2. The meeting was opened by Mr. Eric Tistounet, Administrator in charge of the Council of Europe's Human Rights Documentation Centre, who welcomed the participants on behalf of Mr Peter Leuprecht.
3. The meeting was chaired by Mrs. Susan Blum, representing the British Refugee Council (B.R.C.), London.
4. A list of the participants appears in Appendix I, and the agenda, as adopted, appears in Appendix II.

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5. The Secretariat received apologies from:

Mr. Mario Tonelotto, Librarian, European Parliament  
Ms. Gillian Roylance, Human Rights Unit, European Parliament  
Mr. José de Faria, United Nations Human Rights Centre - Geneva  
The Norwegian Institute of Human Rights

1 - Follow-up action on the 10th meeting

a) Secretariat:

The Chairman spoke of the difficult situation of the British Refugee Council (B.R.C.), a situation which directly affected the likelihood of the B.R.C.'s being able to continue acting as the HURIDOCS secretariat.

On the proposal of Mr. Novak, Director of SIM, it was agreed that the B.R.C. would continue to service HURIDOCS at least until the February meeting, when it would be decided whether SIM could take on this task.

b) Development of training courses in Europe:

The problem of training was discussed from two angles: first of all, with reference to courses on the use of the Standard Formats, and then with reference to a plan for the training of trainers.

- On the first point, the Chairman described the situation in the B.R.C. The Co-ordination Committee hoped that the B.R.C. would be able to continue running the Standard Formats courses, and expressed its appreciation of the considerable efforts which the B.R.C. had made in circulating the Standard Formats.

- On the second, the Chairman reminded the Committee that it had been agreed, at the 10th meeting, that the ZDWF would study the question of raising funds in Germany to finance the "training of trainers" at European level.

Mr. Bernard Martens-Parree said that the ZDWF had sponsors who supported its activities, but that it seemed unlikely that "training for trainers" courses could be arranged for organisations outside Germany. This meant that European courses could not be financed from these sources.

Mr. Hans Thoolen proposed that German-speaking specialists from other countries, such as members of Austria or Swiss-German organisations, should at least be allowed to attend the courses held in Germany.

The members of the Committee then discussed ways of holding "training for trainers" courses at European level.

On behalf of the Human Rights Documentation Centre, Mr Eric Tistounet pointed out that the Council of Europe was providing infrastructure support for the training session for documentalists on computerised human rights documentation and information exchange techniques, and suggested that the same might be done for "training for trainers". He also suggested that the course should be an annual one and should be held in Strasbourg every July, since this would facilitate reservations and make it easier to arrange for interpretation.

This suggestion was favourably received by the participants, who thanked the Council of Europe for its support. It was decided that a programme would be drafted shortly, so that the main lines of the course could be worked out.

The Committee next considered how these courses might be financed.

They referred to three possible sources: the Council of Europe, the European Human Rights Foundation and the European Cultural Foundation.

The members gratefully accepted Mr Fernando Avila's offer to assume responsibility for following requests for finance and for preparation of the courses.

c) Distribution of material by SIM

The Director of SIM told the meeting that the publisher still had 100-200 copies of the 1,500 published. It was also noted that SIM would continue to distribute the book.

d) Basic list of all the documentation centres in Europe and list of experts in various areas of data management

The Chairman said that the list was being prepared, but that progress was slow. The Committee would be in touch with the Article 19 Organisation later on this point.

e) Development of collections of practical and illustrative examples for use of the HURIDOCS Standard Formats

Lise Bruun, representing the Danish Refugee Council, reported on progress made so far.

g) HURIDOCS questionnaire

The Chairman said that this questionnaire should have been circulated in April, and suggested that the participants complete it.

2 - Progress with HURIDOCS International

(agenda item 3)

a) Fund-raising; Consortium of donors

Mr Bjørn Stormorken informed the Committee of the tenor of the meeting held in Geneva on 5 and 6 March.

He said that the regional element would retain its full importance in the Advisory Committee. It had therefore been agreed that the frequency of the regional meetings, and particularly those concerned with data bases, would be increased.

He also reported that sponsors had been found for the regional activities, e.g. the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Norway and the Federal Republic of Germany. The Norwegian Minister of Co-operation had also contributed to the cost of a number of preparatory meetings.

HURIDOCS thus had the funds needed (\$US 50-60,000) to employ 1 1/2 persons for 7 months, and to cover rental of an office. Practical details would be determined at a future meeting.

The approach adopted had involved asking for funds to cover specific projects in the third world; the funds collected would be devoted to certain activities detailed in the Geneva meeting's document.

b) Development of the exchange of information on data-bases

HURIDOCS had given itself the task of collecting information before establishing an exchange network.

The meeting scheduled for Oslo in October would focus on technical problems concerning the effective exchange of information and practical ways of bringing this about.

The establishment of such a network could now be included on the agenda, and should make it possible to satisfy the donors.

3 - Human Rights - Information, Documentation

(agenda item 5)

Following a preparatory regional meeting, which had been held near Strasbourg in May, a co-ordination meeting to prepare the UNESCO International Conference on Documentation would be held in Malta from 31 August to 5 September 1987. HURIDOCS had not been invited to attend.

The HURIDOCS Bureau had decided to write to Mr. Kiss, apologising for the fact that HURIDOCS had been unable to prepare the directory of European documentation centres for which it had been asked; he would also be requested to communicate the report of the meeting held near to Strasbourg and asked to indicate how HURIDOCS might participate in the Malta meeting.

a) Agenda item 5 (a) was postponed to the Oslo meeting.

b) Norwegian Institute of Human Rights

Pr. Bjørn Stormorken gave a brief account of the Norwegian Institute of Human Rights. A member of the Institute was taking part in the HURIDOCS Seminar organised by the Council of Europe.

c) Links between inter-governmental organisations

Under the same agenda item, the chairman raised the question of the effective use of the Standard Formats in the various countries of Europe:

According to Mr. Thoolen, 15-20 organisations were using the HURIDOCS Standard Formats in one way or another - and this was an appreciable number.

Mr. Stormorken said that HURIDOCS now had French and Spanish translations of the Standard Formats, and that this would now make it possible to include documentation centres using those two languages.

It had been found that the HURIDOCS standard was not the only one available; this was why it was important to publicise the HURIDOCS Standard Formats by developing "trainer training", which would train participants to use them.

He referred to the proposal made by Mr. Tonelotto at the March meeting on selection of the HURIDOCS Standard Formats for the exchange of information in Europe. All the organisations present had agreed that the HURIDOCS Standard Formats should form the basis of the projected information exchange network.

4 - Progress of the international documentation network on refugees

(agenda item 6)

Mr. Thoolen said that the network was developing, although progress was slow. He said that the High Commissioner for Refugees was working on the establishment of a network, which would use the HURIDOCS Standard Formats. He also referred to the need for a thesaurus, and said that a consultant would be appointed for this purpose.

Finally, he told the Committee of the recent holding of a meeting in Paris.

5 - Other business

(agenda item 9)

Agenda item 4 was postponed to the Oslo meeting.

Mr. Thoolen referred to the meeting scheduled for Lesotho on 21-23 August 1987. In spite of organisational difficulties, this would be an important meeting on human rights in Africa - the first of its kind ever held in the African continent.

Mr. Stormorken concluded the meeting by thanking the Council of Europe for increasing the grant made to HURIDOCS, to cover the holding of the Seminar, by 5,000 francs. He thanked the Human Rights Documentation Centre for the excellent preparation of the Seminar.

APPENDIX I

List of participants/Liste des participants

AVILA MALDONADO Fernando	Human Rights Documentation Centre, Council of Europe
BLUM Susan	Resource Centre Co-ordinator, British Refugee Council, 3-9 Bondway, London
BRUUN Lise	Librarian, Danish Refugee Council, Borgergade 103, 1002 Copenhagen K
MARTENS-PARREE Bernard	Vice-Director, Zentrale Dokumentationsstelle der Freien Wohlfahrtspflege für Flüchtlinge (ZDWF), Hans-Jocklerstrasse 3, 5300 Bonn 3
NEVILLE Mark	Human Rights Documentation Centre, Council of Europe
NOVAK Manfred	Director of SIM (from 1 October)
SADIWA Lalaine	HURIDOCS, Oslo
STORMORKEN Bjørn	Treasurer of HURIDOCS
THOLEN Hans	Chief, Centre for Documentation on Refugees, UNHCR, Avenue de la Paix 5-7, 1202 Geneva
TISTOUNET Eric	Acting Head of the Human Rights Documentation Centre, Council of Europe

APPENDIX II

1. Current affairs
2. Follow-up action on the 10th meeting
  - a) Secretariat
  - b) Development of training courses in Europe
  - c) Distribution of material by SIM
  - d) Basic list of all the documentation centres in Europe and list of experts in various areas of data-management (Article 19)
  - e) Development of collections of practical and illustrative examples for use of the HURIDOCS Standard Formats (DRC)
  - f) Raising of funds for the training of trainers for use of the Standard Formats (ZDWF and Diakonisches Werk der EKD)
  - g) HURIDOCS questionnaire
3. Report on progress within HURIDOCS International
  - a) Fund-raising; Consortium of donors
  - b) HURIDOCS Service Unit
  - c) Development of the exchange of information on data-bases, October meeting in Oslo
4. Cost establishment policy, with a view to sharing information among all the European agencies
5. Human Rights - Information, Documentation
  - a) Distribution of work
  - b) Norwegian Institute of Human Rights
  - c) Links between international governmental organisations
6. Report on the progress of the international documentation network on refugees

7. Fund-raising for the "training of trainers"
8. Future members and contribution to the European Co-ordination Committee
9. Other business