

RECOMMENDATION

“FOR THE FUTURE”

Copenhagen 22 January 1997

To ensure further cooperation and networking among independent statutory human rights institutions in the European region as well as cooperation with the Council of Europe, the OSCE and the United Nations, especially the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (The HCHR), to promote in substance the role, function and identity of such institutions, the participants of the Second European Meeting on National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights have agreed to:

welcome further European Regional Meetings of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, preferably every two years.

welcome in particular the offer of the National Human Rights Office of Latvia to host a Third European Regional Meeting of National Institutions, preferably in the context of the gathering human rights institutions that the Council of Europe is currently discussing in close cooperation with the OSCE.

set up a European Coordinating Group (ESG) composed of the Danish Centre for Human Rights (chair), the National Human Rights Office of Latvia, the Human Rights Commission under the President of the Russian Federation, the National Advisory Commission on Human Rights of France and the Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination of Sweden,

welcome the Council of Europe's offer to provide a focal point for this cooperation and networking, contacts with NGOs included,

suggest that the so-called Paris Principles be revised or supplemented to take account of other independent statutory institutions focusing on the Promotion and protection of human rights, such as human rights ombudsmen,

suggest that the Council of Europe in its continued efforts in the field of human rights will include all types of independent statutory institutions focusing on the Promotion and protection of human rights, and

endorse the efforts of inter alia the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions to provide such institutions with a special status for participation in their own right within the UN system, noting that such participation would be consistent with the provisions of the UN Charter, recognizing the possibility to explore the same on a European level, in particular with regard to the Council of Europe and the OSCE.