

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR THE CULTURAL HERITAGE AND
THE GROUP PACT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

«L'ESPRIT DE RAVELO»

*Relationships between sciences and techniques and the archeology:
a contribution to some considerations on the unity of culture*

RAVELLO DECLARATION

June 6 - 7, 1984

The development of the European culture, that aims at man's accomplishment in a democratic society, has been historically characterized by the production of scientific knowledge based on the theoretical consistency and the experimental evidence.

The contemporary situation tends to reduce culture to a mere functional specialization. Such a type of science is in contradiction with the humanistic culture, hence creating a regrettable gap.

Here we wish to affirm the principle of unity of culture: scientific and technological knowledge is meaningful only if it contributes to the development of culture in general. Thus a so reconciled culture acquires all its ethical significance. Teaching, at any level, must aim at the harmonious accomplishment of men and their potentialities.

Thus the development of human sciences, in close agreement and cooperation with natural sciences, becomes our society's basic goal and a factor of mutual enrichment. Such a conception of science, which embodies the knowledge of both man and nature, optimizes the development of all creative potentialities, especially the artistic ones.

Having acknowledged:

- I. the European Declaration on Cultural Objectives adopted by the European Ministers responsible for cultural affairs in Berlin of May 25, 1984;
- II. the declaration of intellectuals who met in Venice from 29 to 31 March 1984,

we state that the prospection, the study, the conservation and the valorization of the cultural heritage, must be proceeded by interdisciplinary researches that witness the unity and specificity of cultures. Such researches require a mutual understanding of the language, working methods and each discipline's specific results, in order to arrive at a common interpretation.

To such an end we recommend a revision of the spirit of the educational system and research institute's structures.

We recommend that the official criteria of evaluation of interdisciplinary research projects and professional careers change significantly so that the above stated principles can be used to the benefit of the cultural heritage and its development.

In such a light it seems absolutely necessary:

- to develop communication between natural scientists and humanists;

- to create « bridges » between disciplines that may lead to areal interdisciplinarity, taking into account subjects such as: the philosophy of knowledge, ethics and aesthetics, history of sciences, arts and culture, social anthropology, sciences of communication, etc.;
- to promote such an approach in Europe at various teaching levels.

Nowadays the only condition for the enforcement of the present declaration and for the enhancement of each country's efforts is a close European collaboration.

A N N E X

Some examples of «Esprit de Ravello»

- I. Under the auspices of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe the PACT Group (Study Group on physical, chemical, mathematical and biological techniques applied to archeology) has been created which aims at
 - a) ensuring the transmission of scientific information to archeologists;
 - b) creating a link between scientists and archeologists;
 - c) promoting the use of science and the development of scientific methods in archeology ;
 - d) fostering closer ties between scientists and parliamentarians in Europe.

The agreement reached within such a sectorial network of European cooperation has revealed the importance of carrying out formation activities at European level, devoted to experts in charge of the prospection, the study, the conservation and the valorization of the cultural heritage.

For this purpose PACT set up an Education research Group to propose training programmes for priority sectors.

Most of these projects have already been carried out within the European programme for the development of postgraduate training proposed by the Standing Conference on University Problems (CC-PU) of the Council of Europe.

A result which is a significant evidence of the application of Ravello Declaration's principles, is the existence of the European University Centre for the Cultural Heritage in Ravello.

2. In the sector of education

- project of Council for Cultural Co-operation (CDCC) meeting on Science in education and in the European culture;
- at school level: to interest and sensitize children in the cultural heritage (Programme of the European University Centre for the Cultural Heritage);
- at university level:
 - organization of the first University Cycle (interdisciplinary aspect);
 - European programme for the development of post-graduate training (CC-PU).

3. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe carries out actions in the same direction in the field of education, culture, communication, science and technology. It particularly analyzes the relationships between science and society as, for example, in the series of parliamentary and scientific conferences the next of which will be held in Tokyo in June 1985.