



European Parliamentary Union

Bjarni Benediktsson – Stjórn­mál – Dómsmálaráðherra – Utanríkisráðherra – Roland C Kelagi –
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UNION PARLEMENTAIRE
EUROPÉENNE

Président:
GEORGES BOHY



GSTAAD-SUISSE

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY
UNION

Secrétaire Général:
R. COUDENHOVE-KALERG

Gstaad, the 16th of August 1948

To His Excellency
M. Bjarni Benediktson
Minister of Foreign Affairs
REJKJAVIK
Iceland

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you in the name of the European Parliamentary Union that the Second European Parliamentary Congress is meeting from September 1st to September 4th to promote a Constituent Assembly for Europe and to draft its constitutional principles.

I enclose a report on the preparations of our Congress.

I am sorry to say that up to date Iceland, Norway and Ireland are the only three countries of free Europe from where no Members of Parliament have yet expressed their intention to come to Interlaken.

We all would deeply regret, if thus the one vote of your country would be lost, and hope that it will be possible for at least one Member of your Parliament to attend our Congress.

I therefore appeal to you to help us in our endeavour to have Iceland participating in our attempt to prepare for a free, peaceful and united Europe.

We also should be most obliged to you for an encouraging message to be read at our Opening Session.

Thanking you for anything you will do to promote our cause

I am,

Sincerely yours

Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION
SECRETARY GENERAL: R.COUDENHOVE-KALERGI
GSTAAD - SWITZERLAND

A P A R L I A M E N T O F T H E U N I T E D S T A T E S
O F E U R O P E

On September 1, a preliminary Parliament of the United States of Europe will open its session.

This Parliament will be composed of Members of Parliament from all nations living between the Pyrenees and the Iron Curtain. The Delegates from every national Parliament will dispose of a number of votes corresponding to the number of millions of their national population. Thus Great Britain has 48 votes, Italy 47, France 42, Belgium 8 and Switzerland 4 votes.

Most Delegations have been elected by the National Committees of the European Parliamentary Union, representing the M.P.'s favorable to European Union. A recent enquête, organized by the E.P.U., has given evidence of the fact that within the Parliaments of France, Italy, Greece, Belgium, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Luxembourg there are absolute majorities favorable to European Federation, within the other European Parliaments relative majorities. Thus the 250 parliamentary Delegates meeting at Interlaken will be entitled to speak as representatives of the 250 Millions of free Europeans.

This European Parliamentary Congress of Interlaken has two main objectives. The first is to urge the immediate convocation of a Constituant Assembly for Europe, elected by the national Parliaments to draft a federal Constitution of Europe. The second objective is to reach an agreement upon the main principles of this constitution.

The idea of a Constituant Assembly for Europe elected by its parliaments has been launched by the First European Parliamentary Congress that met last September at Gstaad. Meanwhile, this idea has made tremendous headway. It has been proposed and discussed within a number of national Parliaments, for instance in the House of Commons and the French National Assembly. It has been taken up by the Congress of Europe at the Hague, co-sponsored by the European Parliamentary Union. Finally Georges BIDAULT, in the name of the French Government, proposed at the last Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Western Europe, to organize this European Assembly.

The problem of a Federal Constitution for Europe has been studied for a year by the European Parliamentary Union and its Juridical Committee under the Chairmanship of François de MENTHON, former Minister of France. DE MENTHON has drafted a Constitution for Europe; another draft has been elaborated by the British Vice-President of the European Parliamentary Union, R.W.G. Mackay, who will head the British Delegation at Interlaken.

The Interlaken Congress will coordinate these various drafts to establish a basis of discussion for the Constituent Assembly. Among the European M.P.'s coming to Interlaken are the French Vice-President of the European Parliamentary Union, René Coty, who at present is Minister for Reconstruction. Three other Members of the French Government will accompany him; Pierre Schneider, Minister of Health; François Pflimlin, Minister of Agriculture and M. Maroselli, Secretary of State for the Veterans. Among the Members of the Italian Delegation, headed by the Italian Vice-President of the E.P.U. Enzo Giaccheri, are the President of the Senate, Bonomi, and of the House, Gronchi. Also the former Prime-Minister Parri, Chairman of the E.P.U. senate group. The former Minister of Greece, Leon Maccas, First Vice-President of the E.P.U. will head the Greek Delegation, including four former Members of Government. At the head of the Turkish Delegates is M. Suut Kemal Yetkin, of the Austrian Delegation the former Minister Edward Ludwig, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Austrian Parliament; Dr. Ernest Boerlin will lead the Swiss Delegates.

All eleven Parliaments of Western Germany as well as the Parliament of the Saar will be represented. Among the German M.P.'s are the socialist Minister of Public-Instruction of pre-hitlerite Prussia, Adolf Grimme, and the catholic Mayor of Cologne, Conrad Adenauer.

This first Parliament of the United States of Europe will be presided by Georges Bohy, President of the European Parliamentary Union, who is also Chairman of the Socialist Group of the Belgian Chamber; within his Delegation are three Belgian Ministers d'Etat.

The Secretary General of the Congress, Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi, Founder of the European Parliamentary Union, will be the only non-parliamentarian to participate at the work of the Interlaken Parliament of Europe. -

SECOND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY CONGRESS

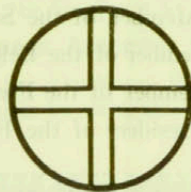
called to

INTERLAKEN

by the

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Saturday, 4,
Wednesday, September 1 to Sunday, September 5, 1948



Headquarters:
European Parliamentary Union
GSTAAD (Switzerland)

AGENDA

Wednesday, September 1st.

European Parliamentary Union

1. 10 a. m. Meeting of the delegations.
2. 11 a. m. Constitution of the economic, social, cultural and publicity committees.

2.30 p. m.

Opening Session

1. Opening speech of the President.
2. Constitution of the Congress-Bureau.
3. Statutes of European Parliamentary Union.
4. Regulations of European Parliamentary Union.
5. Report by the Secretary-general for the twelve months ending.

Thursday, September 2nd. 2nd Session 9 a. m. — 12.30 p. m.

Constitution of a United States of Europe

Consideration of Principles:

1. Original Members.
2. Composition of Parliament.
3. Powers of Parliament.

3rd Session 2.30 p. m.

Discussion Session

The Conference will split up into three sections to hear a paper read on the following subjects; the paper to be circulated beforehand, and the writer to introduce the discussion shortly.

1. Agriculture in a United Europe.
2. Africa and a United Europe.
3. The work of the Committee of the Sixteen.

Friday, September 3rd. 4th Session 9.30 a. m. — 12.30 p. m.

Constitution of a United States of Europe

Consideration of Principles:

4. The Executive.
5. The Supreme Court.
6. Finance.
7. The Rights of the Federation.

5th Session 2.30 p. m.

Discussion Session

1. A European Currency.
2. The obstacles to European Federation.
3. A European Bill of Rights.

Saturday, September 4th. 6th Session 9 a. m. — 12.30 p. m.

Constitution of United States of Europe

Consideration of Principles:

8. Overseas Territories.
9. New Member Status.
10. Alterations to Constitution.

7th Session 2.30 p. m.

European Assembly Proposals

Consideration of draft proposals of the European Parliamentary Union for a Constituent Assembly, including the procedure for submission by delegates to the Parliaments and Governments of each State of Europe.

~~Sunday, September 5th.~~ 8th Session 9 a. m. — 12.30 p. m.

Closing Session

1. Plans of the European Parliamentary Union and program of action.
2. Cooperation with the non-parliamentary Movements for European Federation.
3. Election of Council.
4. General Business.
5. Farewell Speeches.

ORGANIZATION

1. The Interlaken Conference

The Second European Parliamentary Congress will be held at Interlaken (Switzerland) in the Kursaal, from Wednesday, September 1st to Sunday, September 5th, 1948.

2. Parliamentary Representation

The Council of the E. P. C. has decided that delegates shall come only from European Countries cooperating with the Marshall-Plan. Observers will not be asked. There is no limit to the number of members of Parliament which a country can send, but each country will be limited to the number of votes hereinafter set out, and if more delegates are sent than the number of votes to which the country is entitled, the delegation must decide which are the voting delegates and which are the non-voting delegates, as a voting card will be issued to each voting delegate.

The delegation coming from each country should be an all-party delegation, and made up as far as possible of members of parliament from the different parties in proportion to their strength in the respective parliamentary group.

3. Voting Delegates

The voting delegates are calculated on the basis of one delegate for every million of the population of the country.

4. Organization of the Conference

The organization of the Conference is in the hands of the secretary-general Mr. R. Coudenhove-Kalergi whose address is Gstaad, Switzerland, to whom all inquiries should be directed.

A list of the delegates from each country should be sent to the secretary-general on or before the 15th of July, 1948, and the list should say who is the chairman of the delegation, the secretary of the delegation, and the representative of the delegation on the Delegations Committee.

5. Delegations Committee

A Delegations Committee shall be formed composed of one delegate from each country. These delegates should arrive at Interlaken on Monday, August 30th, as a meeting of the Delegations Committee will take place on Tuesday, August 31, so as to settle the final arrangements in regard to the Conference.

6. Accommodation and Expenses

All arrangements for the accommodation of those attending the Congress will be made by the Congress Secretariat. In view of the currency restrictions which exist in many countries, a committee in Switzerland has generously raised the necessary funds to meet the accommodations (for room and three meals a day, service and all taxes) of all voting delegates at Interlaken.

The hotels „Victoria” and the „Jungfrau”, have been reserved for the Conference delegates.

Non-voting delegates, wives of delegates and other guests of the Congress must pay for their accommodations and expenses.

Those who so desire will be at liberty to make a donation to an international fund which will be opened in each country.

7. Constitutional Resolutions

The first drafts of the Constitutional Principles are sent for consideration by the all-party groups in each country.

Amendments from each group to these resolutions should be sent to the secretary-general at Gstaad not later than August 1st, 1948.