



Symposium Citizenship of the European Expatriates 2-3 February 2004 – Brussels

CONCLUSIONS

Assembled at the European Economic and Social Committee, the one hundred and twenty-five personalities (*) of the European diaspora (within and without Europe) – attending either as individuals, as delegates of their associations or as official representatives of their countries - **strongly expressed the wish that the new Commission should include a Commissioner exclusively in charge of the Diaspora of the European expatriates** whose number exceeds several million inside Europe and tens of millions in third countries.

An ad-hoc Commission in the European Parliament could be as well dedicated to the field of action.

()of 28 countries*

Issues raised, discussed and deserving urgent implementation.

1. Citizenship issues
 - 1.1. European level (Definition, Rights, Obligations)
 - 1.2. National level
 - Transmission and acquisition of citizenship
 - Dual citizenship
 - Extensions to spouses and children
2. democratic representation and voting rights (at European, National, Regional levels)
3. Social issues
 - Pensions
 - Taxation
 - Social security
 - Work permit (for the expatriate, spouse and children)
4. Cultural and education issue
 - Education in own languages
 - Cross fertilisation of European culture
 - Promotion of EU cultures in host countries
 - European school model(s)
 - Common cultural policy from EU (cultural values)



THE EUROPEANS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD
LES EUROPEENS DANS LE MONDE - DE EUROPEANEN IN DE WERELD

For such recommendations to be applied, a general coordination is essential at intellectual, technical, political and institutional levels.

- **Intellectually:** a general and prospective overview of the European expatriates' situation should be finalised, by the various national associations of expatriate and their confederation, as well as the support of the Commission.

The typology of such a study is on the way.

- **Politically,** this structure could act as a consultative body to EU and national authorities on issues of emigration from and immigration to Europe.

- **Institutionally:** to organise this multi-faceted field of European responsibility, the best action would be to entrust it exclusively to **one Commissioner**, preferably from a small or medium-sized country with a world-wide organised Diaspora.

- **Technically:** it may appear necessary to establish a structure that will monitor, study, analyse and update the data collected, and propose policies.
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