

COUNCIL OF EUROPE : GREATER AWARENESS OF EUROPE

The Council of Europe tries to promote a greater awareness of Europe among pupils and teachers. On April 18, 1983 the Committee of Ministers of the 21 member-states adopted a resolution underlining the need for secondary education to take account of some important principles : (among others) 1. to show respect for, and solidarity with, peoples of other nations and cultures; 2. see themselves not only as citizens of their own regions and countries, but also as citizens of Europe and of the wider world. The content should give the pupils the following key concepts : 1. democracy, human rights and fundamental freedom; 2. tolerance and pluralism; 3. interdependence and co-operation; 4. human and cultural unity and diversity; 5. conflict and change. Among the >>approaches<< one finds : ensure that what is taught about Europe has an overall coherence; fragmentation of knowledge and understanding can be avoided by careful planning and cross-referencing between subjects. The ministerial committee advises methodologies which are active, investigational and discovery-based. It is of the opinion that all these things should have their place in teacher training too. Who wants more information can apply to Mr.G.Gennuso, Directorate of Press and Information, Council of Europe, 67 006 Strasbourg Cedex, France, Tel. 88-614961, ext. 28.28.

Piet F.M.Fontaine