

The EU and Education - Consultation on the Balance of Competence

We would submit that there is a false premise in the introduction to the consultation document on the EU Competence with regard to its historical context. It is of course true that the Coal & Iron issues were enshrined in a Treaty as a specific means of preventing further wars due to competition for resources.

However more subtle measures were adopted to address the social issues relating to extremism & xenophobia which carried more fundamental threats. We have powerful testimony and ample evidence from archives, of explicit strategies to 're-educate' and re-orientate citizens through indigenous adult learning programmes that were not-withstanding cultivated and inspired by British educationalists.

It should be noted, citing wikipedia, that: -

- The formation of the **European Advisory Commission (EAC)** was agreed on October 30, 1943 between the foreign ministers of the United Kingdom, United States and the Soviet Union, in anticipation of the defeat of Nazi Germany and its allies. This Commission was to study the postwar political problems in Europe and make recommendation to the three governments, including the surrender of the European enemy states and the machinery of its fulfillment.
- On June 5, 1945 the European Advisory Commission assumed briefly full control over Germany. Members included General [Eisenhower](#) for the US and Field Marshal Montgomery for Britain.
- **The recommendations of the EAC shaped the development of postwar Europe.**

In particular the British government established the Control Commission Germany to exercise its element of the mandate.

Present Adult Education organisations in Germany and Austria are able to trace their roots back to the period following the cessation of hostilities. The engagement by British Control Commission staff of key indigenous personnel helped create a climate and institute practical measures to 'normalise' such provision without any residual Nazi influences. This view was confirmed last week in a face to face meeting with leading figures in the Austrian & German adult education organisations created during that process.

This apparently integrated strategy has stood the test of time and powerfully underpins the EU Lifelong Learning programme, currently Erasmus Plus, to which the UK has contributed substantially and from which it has and will continue to have significant benefit.

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