

10th European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning (CEMAT) (Oslo, Norway: 6-7 September 1994) on "A strategy for sustainable regional/spatial development in Europe beyond the year 2000"

Resolution No. 2 on The outlook for sustainable development and its implications for Europe beyond the year 2000

The ministers attending the 10th session of CEMAT, held in Oslo on 6 and 7 September 1994,

Having taken note of the reports submitted by the Cypriot minister and the Norwegian minister for theme 1,

Consider that

Europe continues to be faced with rapid and far-reaching changes that necessitate a shared overall approach at European level;

the concept of sustainable development, although difficult to define, implies that the decisions of present generations should not endanger the right of future generations to have a decent life; sustainable development is gradual development geared to human needs;

a degree of economic development is necessary to cater for the needs of a world population that is increasing in number and life expectancy; this development should take into account the capacity to replace natural resources;

preventive action to avoid deterioration of the natural environment, even in the absence of established scientific certainty, is better and often less costly in the medium and long term than trying to correct the damage once it is done;

women should participate equally in the various stages of consideration and decision-making on the future development of Europe, so that their views on regional/spatial and urban planning can be taken into account;

young people should take part in the development of strategies for the future and understand the impact of these strategies on their way of life;

democracy, social peace and understanding between different peoples increasingly required to live together can be lastingly achieved only in a context of tolerance and social justice directly linked to development that is evenly spread throughout the territory;

Recommendation 7 (1994) of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe on Regional/Spatial Planning Prospects in the New Europe is an important contribution in the context of regional/spatial planning in Greater Europe beyond the year 2000;

Reaffirm that

the promotion of economic and social cohesion in building Europe calls more than ever for the establishment, on as broad a base as possible, of a framework of long-term objectives that take into account the imperatives of economic development, social issues, ensuring sustainable use of natural resources, world population growth and the rights of future generations;

consultation and co-ordination in regional/spatial planning are essential at European level, both to prepare Europe for the next millennium and gradually to effect the structural transformations required by a changing world economy;

international co-operation is essential to develop fair, lasting and co-ordinated solutions for the whole of Europe;

any growth should respect the right of future generations to a good-quality environment; current well-being must not be achieved to the detriment of our future living conditions and those of generations to come;

natural resources should not be considered as free commodities in unlimited supply; the value of the natural resource capital should be taken into account in all decisions on major investment projects and in all spatial planning and management decisions;

people should enjoy similar living and working conditions all over Europe, to enable those who so wish to live in dignity in their region of origin;

transfrontier co-operation as an initial step towards co-ordinating and harmonising national regional/spatial planning policies should be intensified;

the citizens of Europe should be made aware of the imperatives of long-term planning, to encourage genuine participation in the decision-making process by those interested;

the Council of Europe is an appropriate forum, politically and geographically, to consider the problems of regional/spatial planning in the widest possible European framework and propose fair and lasting solutions;

regional/spatial planning should take into account the competency of regional and local authorities conferred on the different political and administrative levels in each country;

Support

the active and efficient co-operation existing between the Commission of the European Communities and the Council of Europe in the work on sustainable development for Greater Europe beyond the year 2000 and recommend further strengthening of this co-operation;

co-operation among central and eastern European states in regional/spatial planning, the co-ordination of national spatial policies and the preparation of common strategies for the balanced development of Europe, in order to reduce the negative effects of the transition towards a market-orientated economy in these countries;

Approve

the principles set out in the 1994-97 work programme contained in document CEMAT (94) 6, whose implementation should contribute to the preparation of the next conference;

Instruct the Committee of Senior Officials

to analyse different models of co-ordination and conciliation at European level, with a view to defining the general objectives of European spatial/regional planning, and present strategies to promote sustainable development;

to continue the forecasting work already undertaken in order to define for the future, in co-operation with other international organisations and the Commission of the European Communities, sustainable and rational development strategies

for Europe that will enable Greater Europe to meet the major challenges facing it at the end of the second millennium;

to study ways of sharing responsibilities between different decision-making levels in such a way that European regional/spatial planning strategies are developed and implemented in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as well as co-ordinated at a higher level;

to analyse and report on the proposal of the Parliamentary Assembly on a comprehensive European regional planning strategy;

to improve within their competencies their dialogue with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly;

Recommend that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

give higher priority within the activities of the Council of Europe to the programme for which the Committee of Senior Officials is responsible.