

## 2nd European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional/Spatial Planning (CEMAT) (La Grande Motte, France: 25-27 September 1973) on "Objectives of a European regional planning policy"

### Resolution No. 4 on Long-range forecasting and regional planning

The ministers,

1. Having acknowledged at their 1st Conference (Bonn, 1970) the vital importance of co-ordinating long-range forecasting at European level, with a view to providing guidelines for a regional planning policy (Final Resolution, paragraph 43 b);
2. Having considered with great interest at their 2nd Conference the report on "European co-operation in the field of long-range forecasting for regional planning" and the background papers prepared by the Committee of Senior Officials;
3. Expressing the view that the work carried out in France on "European regional planning scenarios" be continued, and hoping that the forecasting methods employed in that work be compared at European level with the methods developed in other countries for the benefit of all countries participating at the conference;
4. Taking formal note of the great difficulties during the period between sessions which have hindered co-operation in long-range planning for methodological, material, political and even psychological reasons;
5. Emphasise once again the importance of long-range forecasting in drawing up regional planning policies aimed at a balanced development in Europe;
6. Believe that forecasting promotes and benefits the elaboration of short- and medium-term planning in relation to spatial development by enabling long-term social, economic, cultural and environmental development to be more clearly appraised;
7. Note that progress made in forecasting is fruitful for the development of European co-operation and thereby for the future of Europe;

8. Consider that forecasting should play an increasingly important part in the search for solutions of a growing number of problems with European implications which influence national regional planning policies, notably problems of peripheral regions, reconversion areas, multinational firms, urban growth, migrant workers and mass tourism;

9. Consider it necessary to lay the foundations for continued and intensified European co-operation in questions of forecasting and regional planning chiefly with a view to comparing and co-ordinating long-term plans and studies; and to prepare the scientific instruments and methods needed for long-range forecasts and studies intended to serve the shaping of regional planning policies at European level.

10. Instruct the Committee of Senior Officials

i. to put the following programme into effect:

*a.* harmonise the time horizons of forecasting and its preliminary research;

*b.* harmonise and improve regional statistical data on social, economic, cultural and environmental matters;

*c.* provide the means, at both national and European level, whereby general information on questions of regional planning and development can be exchanged;

*d.* ensure co-operation with the international organisations concerned;

*e.* ensure co-operation with specialised research institutions when deemed necessary;

*f.* discuss long-term national plans relating to regional development;

*g.* launch a study programme on the themes mentioned in paragraph 8, to include:

– studies undertaken jointly;

– studies pursued simultaneously according to criteria which facilitate their comparability;

– pilot projects carried out by those countries which have taken the initiative and responsibility, but discussed with other countries;

*h.* improve facilities for the translation of documents essential to work undertaken in this field, at a national and European level;

ii. to entrust this work to a committee of experts comprising officials in charge of forecasting in the field of regional planning.