

CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF EUROPE

Resolution 152 (2003)¹ on the revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life

The Congress,

1. Recalls the creation and adoption, by the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, of the original European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life in 1992;
2. Recalls all CLRAE activities carried out to promote the objectives of the Charter since then, notably:
 - a. the conference “Europe 2000 – Young People and their Towns. What involvement? Comparing Policies” held in Budapest in 1997; and
 - b. the conference “Young People – Actors in their Towns and Regions” held in Krakow in 2002, at which the participants decided that it was time to update the Charter;
3. Recalls its:
 - a. Resolution 43 (1997) on “opening up Europe to the young: towns and regions in action”;
 - b. Resolution 78 (1999) on “Europe 2000 youth participation: the role of young people as citizens”;
 - c. Recommendation 59 (1999) on “Europe 2000 youth participation: the role of young people as citizens”;
 - d. Opinion 15 (2001) to the Committee of Ministers Recommendation (2001) 19 to member states on the participation of citizens in local public life;
4. Expresses its satisfaction at the working meetings of the expert group which was commissioned to draft an updated version of the Charter;
5. Appreciates the work continuously being carried out by the Council of Europe Directorate of Youth and Sport in furthering participation of young people and the support given to the revision of the Charter by the Council of Europe’s Integrated Project “Making Democratic Institutions Work”;
6. Considers direct involvement of young people in society:
 - a. essential, regardless of the precise mode or means of participation, not just for their own personal and professional development but also as a safeguard for democracy;

b. necessary for maintaining sustainable development;

7. Believes:

a. that early positive experiences of participation are likely to lead to active involvement in community matters at a more mature age;

b. that the degree of participation by young people should be monitored with a view to encouraging any under-represented group to participate more actively;

8. Adopts the revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life (see appendix, Recommendation 128 (2003));

9. Encourages the work of youth NGOs (or those acting in the youth sphere) in order to promote the revised Charter;

10. Invites its members to:

a. endorse the updated version of the Charter;

b. use the Charter as a reference document and a source of inspiration in their everyday work in all matters with a bearing on young people;

c. contribute to the best of their abilities to the dissemination of the Charter by, *inter alia*, making copies of the Charter available in public places such as libraries, as well as on the Internet homepages of municipalities and regions;

d. provide young people with access to new technologies that lend themselves to participation, in particular the Internet, by making Internet terminals available in public places, such as libraries;

e. strengthen their efforts to involve young people in decision-making in their municipalities and regions and to facilitate, in particular, the participation of young people who for various reasons face particular challenges to their participation;

f. co-operate with relevant groups in society such as school authorities, social workers and the police in order to prevent young people from sexual exploitation or any other form of abuse;

g. do their utmost to:

i. prevent young people from falling victim to, or becoming perpetrators of, violence, but also to

ii. help the victims if this nevertheless occurs;

h. promote co-operation between municipalities and regions with regard to youth activities, such as joint events and youth exchanges, including cross-border events;

i. provide the CLRAE and the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe with examples of good practice as regards the participation of young people, with a view to publishing a future manual on such good practice;

11. Assigns the CLRAE Committee on Culture and Education to:

- a. supervise the implementation of the principles set out in the Charter;
- b. take note of any information supplied on possible lapses noted in the implementation of the principles of the Charter by certain municipalities or regions;
- c. gather together, before the end of 2003, examples of best practices in relation to the participation of young people,

communicated to the Congress by cities and regions of Europe, in order to disseminate the best examples in publication form, in co-operation with the Directorate of Youth and Sport and with the support of the Council of Europe's Integrated Project "Making Democratic Institutions Work".

1. Debated and adopted by the Congress on 21 May 2003, 2nd Sitting, (see Document CG (10) 6, draft resolution presented by Mrs. B. Fäldt, rapporteur).