

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Recommendation 251 (2008)¹ European Urban Charter II – Manifesto for a new urbanity²

1. In 1992 the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe adopted the first European Urban Charter. This was a groundbreaking step for Europe and it has since been followed by other core texts on urban issues produced by other international organisations or associations of local or regional authorities.

2. In fifteen years our societies, economies and culture have undergone far-reaching changes. In this context of rapid change, towns and cities now face challenges on an unprecedented scale and the Congress therefore wished to reframe, broaden and update some of the principles contained in the original version of the charter.

3. With the European Urban Charter II, the Congress proposes a manifesto for a new urbanity, a new approach to urban living, urging European countries to build sustainable towns and cities.

4. This manifesto sets out a body of common principles and concepts enabling towns and cities, as well as their inhabitants, to meet the current challenges facing urban societies. It urges towns and cities, in all their diversity and on the basis of shared European values, to strive for more democracy, better governance, greater sustainability and greater solidarity.

5. In the light of the foregoing, the Congress recommends that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe:

a. forward the European Urban Charter II – Manifesto for a new urbanity to the governments of its member states so that they can incorporate the principles set out in this manifesto into their actions and policies relating to local authorities;

b. send the manifesto to relevant international inter-governmental organisations, in particular to the European Union and to non-governmental organisations active in the debate on the future of towns and cities.

1. Debated and approved by the Chamber of Local Authorities on 28 May 2008 and adopted by the Congress on 29 May 2008, 3rd Sitting (see Document CPL(15)4REC, draft recommendation presented by C.A. Pinto (Portugal, L, EPP/CD), rapporteur, and W. Borsus (Belgium, L, ILDG) and M. Constantin (France, L, SOC), co-rapporteurs).

2. The document "European Urban Charter II – Manifesto for a new urbanity" is attached to Resolution 269 (2008).