

# CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF EUROPE

## **Resolution 84 (1999)<sup>1</sup> on the 5th Conference on Mediterranean and Black Sea Basins**

*(Extract from the Official Gazette of the Council of Europe  
– June 1999)*

The Congress,

Bearing in mind the proposal of the Chamber of Regions,

1. Taking note of the report submitted by Mr Mehmet Buldanli, member of Izmir Provincial Council and of the Congress, on the “5th Conference of Mediterranean and Black Sea Basins: Interparliamentary and interregional co-operation for peace, democratic stability and sustainable development”, held in Marmaris (Turkey) from 25 to 27 February 1999;

2. Gratified by the success of the conference, which was organised jointly by the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress and the Turkish local, regional and parliamentary authorities, and welcoming in particular the active participation of a large number of representatives from the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean in this initiative;

3. Fully endorsing the conclusions drawn up by the working group responsible for the preparation of the conference, particularly as regards the need to acknowledge, by means of practical measures, the effective role of local and regional authorities in the Mediterranean and Black Sea basins in promoting sustainable development, peace and democratic stability in the region;

4. Having regard to:

*a.* CLRAE Resolutions 162 (1985), 200 (1989), 256 (1993) and 36 (1996) on the four Conferences of Mediterranean Regions that have been organised jointly by the Congress and the Parliamentary Assembly since 1985, and the final declarations appended thereto, as well as Resolution 69 (1998) on decentralised co-operation and migration in the Mediterranean Basin;

*b.* Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1359 (1998) on sustainable development in the Mediterranean and Black Sea basins, in particular the sections of the recommendation concerning the promotion of co-operation between local and regional authorities around the Mediterranean;

*c.* The reply by the Committee of Ministers (CM/Del/Dec(98)621/3.1) to the above-mentioned Parliamentary Assembly recommendation, welcoming the

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1. Debated and approved by the Chamber of Regions on 16 June 1999 and adopted by the Standing Committee of the Congress on 17 June 1999 (see doc. CPR (6) 6, draft resolution, presented by Mr L. Cuatrecasas on behalf of Mr M. Buldanli, Rapporteur).

fact that co-operation in the Mediterranean and Black Sea basins continues to develop under the umbrella of the Council of Europe;

5. Convinced:

*a.* that co-operation in the Mediterranean and Black Sea basins should take account of the fundamental role which local and regional authorities in the two basins, being closer to the citizens and their needs for development, are able to play in this field;

*b.* that this form of co-operation should attach particular importance to the urgent need for environmental protection in the two basins, by means of an appropriate legal framework involving local and regional authorities, as well as the parliaments of all the countries concerned, in practical initiatives to raise public awareness of what is needed to achieve sustainable development in the region;

*c.* that such co-operation should also be based on genuine promotion of the principles of local self-government, in particular the right of local and regional authorities to co-operate with their counterparts in other countries, the right to set up national representative associations, and the principles of democratic management of local and regional authorities, transparency and appropriate financial resources;

6. Decides, in the light of the foregoing, to:

*a.* draw up, working closely with the Parliamentary Assembly, the partner countries concerned and other bodies with an active role in this field, a draft charter for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean and Black Sea Basins, to which the Congress would invite municipalities and regions in countries around the two basins to accede;

*b.* help local and regional authorities of the countries concerned to collect and distribute to the general public all data and information demonstrating the seriousness of the environmental situation in the Mediterranean and Black Sea Basins as well as any proposal for action to remedy this situation;

*c.* intensify the participation of local and regional authorities in non-member Mediterranean countries in its activities, particularly by developing co-operation with national associations of local and regional authorities in these countries and/or encouraging the development of such associations;

*d.* confirm and reinforce, particularly in the context of a reform of the Congress's statutory bodies, the Euro-Mediterranean dimension of its activities;

*e.* organise, with and in non-member Mediterranean countries, practical activities (such as seminars, workshops and publications) directly involving local and regional authorities on the northern, southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean, especially in the following areas: environmental protection policies of local and regional authorities, dissemination of the principles of local self-government with reference to the European Charter of Local Self-Government and the draft world charter of local self-government, democratic management of local authorities and the training of staff and elected representatives in municipalities.