

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 239 (2007)¹ European Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance at Local Level

The Congress,

1. Recalling that the heads of state and government meeting at the Warsaw Summit in May 2005 stated in their Final Declaration that “effective democracy and good governance at all levels are essential for preventing conflicts, promoting stability, facilitating economic and social progress, and hence for creating sustainable communities where people want to live and work, now and in the future”;

2. Recalling the decision taken by the European Ministers responsible for Local and Regional Government in Budapest at the 14th session of their conference: “to make ‘delivering good local and regional governance’ an essential objective to be pursued by our member States in order to respond to the challenges facing our societies and meet the legitimate expectations of our citizens”;

3. Recalling that the ministers further agreed “to pursue this objective also through [their] co-operation within the Council of Europe, including with the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities”;

4. Considering that good governance at local level is particularly important because municipalities are closest to citizens and provide them with essential services;

5. Having examined with great interest the proposal for a “European Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance at Local Level” submitted to the Bureau of the Congress and the Bureau of the European Committee on Local and Regional Democracy (CDLR);

6. Taking into account the very favourable opinions expressed in respect of this new initiative by the Bureau of the Congress and the CDLR at their joint meeting in February 2007;

7. Highlighting that the Congress is a key contributor to the strategy, whose objectives are central to its mission;

8. Noting that in order to be effective a strategy on innovation and good governance must be jointly owned by governments and local authorities alike,

9. Welcomes this very timely and important European initiative;

10. Invites national associations of local authorities to cooperate in the further development and finalisation of the strategy and to commit themselves to its subsequent implementation at national level;

11. Instructs its delegation participating in the Conference of European Ministers responsible for Local and Regional Government in Valencia in October 2007 to voice its support and contribute to the finalisation of the strategy;

12. Commits itself to playing a prominent role in the implementation of this strategy.

1. Debated and adopted by the Congress on 1 June 2007, 3rd Sitting (see Document CG(14)9RES, draft resolution presented by K. Whitmore (United Kingdom, R, ILDG), rapporteur).