

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Recommendation 275 (2009)¹ **Creative cities – managing the cultural activity of cities**

1. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe is convinced that towns and cities have a huge creative potential in the cultural field, which can be a catalyst for positive change and growth.

2. It recognises the contribution that the Council of Europe's intergovernmental sector makes in the field of cultural policy development, developing cultural capital and promoting intercultural and inter-religious dialogue.

3. The Congress welcomes the readiness of the Council of Europe to engage with towns and cities in this work and recognises that a number of European towns and cities have been involved over the years in these cultural projects.

4. It is convinced that the Council of Europe continues to have a crucial role to play in Europe's cultural development and that the activities of the Congress have a vital contribution to make in this respect.

5. The Congress therefore invites the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to:

a. ensure co-ordination between the various Council of Europe sectors working on cultural issues, and in particular to ensure that CultureWatchEurope works closely with the Congress to provide European cities with the appropriate tools to develop dynamic and creative cultural programmes;

b. encourage the development of robust and dynamic cultural management at the local level in the implementation of its various cultural programmes.

6. The Congress invites the Committee of Ministers to ask member states to:

a. take note of Resolution 291 (2009);

b. recognise that arts programmes require sustained public funding and that, far from being a luxury, they are a vital component of a society's harmonious development;

c. ensure that national cultural policies are consistent with "Agenda 21 for culture";

d. ensure that cultural subsidies programmes are both consistent and compatible with this policy and that they encourage cultural policies which stimulate artistic creativity among all sectors of a city's population.

1. Debated and approved by the Chamber of Local Authorities on 15 October 2009 and adopted by the Congress on 15 October 2009, 3rd Sitting (see Document CPL(17)3, explanatory memorandum presented by K. Dombrowicz, Poland (L, ILDG), rapporteur).