

## 31st SESSION

# Good governance in metropolitan areas

### Recommendation 392 (2016)<sup>1</sup>

1. The growth of metropolitan areas has been a striking feature of urbanisation in recent decades. Across Europe, these areas are increasingly becoming the centre of political, economic and cultural activity, acting as engines of development and economic success.
2. This growth is typically accompanied by rapid development of the rural hinterlands of metropolitan areas, as people move out of the city in search of more affordable housing and better quality of life.
3. As metropolitan areas become indispensable economic actors, characterised by their dynamic and cosmopolitan nature, they are raising important issues with regard to the territorial dimension of democracy and their ability to ensure that they remain responsive to the needs of their citizens.
4. The complex and multilayered nature of the governance of metropolitan areas is a growing challenge to representative democracy and requires new model forms of territorial leadership.
5. The Congress therefore, considering:
  - a. The Council of Europe Reference Framework for Regional Democracy (2002);
  - b. Congress Recommendation 188 (2006) on good governance in European metropolitan areas;
  - c. The European Urban Charter (1992);
  - d. The Congress European Urban Charter II: manifesto for a new urbanity (2008);
  - e. Parliamentary Assembly Resolution 1964 (2013) on the good governance of large metropolises;
6. Observing that metropolitan governance in Europe is developing on an extremely diverse basis, with variations both within and between countries;
7. Concerned that the political development and governance of metropolitan areas is not always proceeding in optimal conditions, with appropriate political structures and dialogue with relevant stakeholders;
8. Concerned that the creation of metropolitan governance structures is sometimes used as a tool to recentralise competences and powers;
9. Concerned that the development of metropolitan areas may result in a reduction in the transparency of government decision-making processes;

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<sup>1</sup> Debated and adopted by the Congress on 21 October 2016, 3rd sitting (see [Document CG31\(2016\)17final](#), rapporteur: Antonio EROI, Italy (L, EPP/CCE))

10. Convinced that the boundaries and political structures of metropolitan areas must be developed in the framework of consultations and political dialogue with all local stakeholders;

11. Reaffirming that all governance structures are should be democratically accountable and that the creation of any new structures should not result in a reduction in local democracy;

12. Asks the Committee of Ministers:

*a.* to consider drafting guidelines for the creation and the management of governance structures of metropolitan areas, in view of the need to ensure proper accountability, transparency, consultation, political dialogue and citizen participation;

*b.* to invite member States to consider drafting guidelines for the cohesive development of their metropolitan hinterlands;

*c.* to encourage member States to facilitate the development of appropriate multilevel governance structures for metropolitan areas, with clearly defined competences for the different actors concerned.