

# CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF EUROPE

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## **Resolution 119 (2001)<sup>1</sup> on international co-operation at regional level**

The Congress, following a proposal by the Chamber of Regions,

1. Recalling the importance of interregional co-operation in the political, economic, cultural, social and environmental fields, where it contributes to the exchange of information and sharing of experience among the Council of Europe's member states;

2. Stressing that interregional co-operation contributes considerably to the transfer of knowledge and experience which should be incorporated into existing and future partnership networks and assistance programmes;

3. Stressing the necessity to develop new political initiatives and concepts to stimulate the mobility of the labour force and educational programmes for the young generation;

4. Considering that interregional co-operation contributes to democratic, political and economic stability in the countries in transition, in particular in South-eastern Europe;

5. Recalling that transfrontier co-operation is an important feature of interregional co-operation, which must be intensified between neighbouring countries in Europe;

6. Welcoming the creation of interregional networks in such important areas of Europe as those around the Baltic Sea, the Danube River and the Black Sea,

7. Invites the regions:

*a.* to step up partnerships with the Council of Europe's new member states in central and eastern Europe, particularly in South-eastern Europe;

*b.* to develop bi- and trilateral co-operation, particularly with a view to the transfer of technical and financial resources, and technical and administrative know-how from west to east;

*c.* to increase their participation in multilateral co-operation bodies, notably through the Chamber of Regions, a Council of Europe forum for practical interregional partnership and technical co-operation projects in the social, cultural, economic and environmental fields;

*d.* to participate actively in the co-operation and partnership programmes engendered by the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and, accordingly, to support the

economic forum programme of the Chamber of Regions aimed at fostering economic and political co-operation between the regions of Europe;

*e.* to follow closely the activities and organs of the European institutions with a view to contributing to their democratic transparency and to the application of the principle of subsidiarity, and helping to ensure that they take into account the opinions and suggestions formulated by the elected representatives of the regions of Europe in the course of their work;

8. Invites the Euroregions to co-operate, not only on a multilateral but also on a bilateral level, with other Euroregions to forge stronger partnerships with the new Euroregions in central and eastern Europe, with a view to fostering the transfer of experience of transfrontier co-operation and technical know-how in this area, to help them in their efforts to arrange and develop transfrontier co-operation involving citizens and politicians, particularly in the economic, environmental and cultural fields;

9. Invites the Assembly of European Regions and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions to co-operate more closely with the Chamber of Regions in order to develop joint interregional co-operation programmes and avoid duplication of effort;

10. Invites the Association of European Border Regions:

*a.* to give priority in its work to the Council of Europe's new member states in central and eastern Europe, in order to contribute to democratic stability in the region and to foster neighbourly cross-border relations, paying particular attention to the problems of minorities;

*b.* to co-operate more with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe in its transfrontier programmes aimed at helping to prepare the countries in line for European Union membership for the European Community regional policies, and to incorporate into those policies the results of the work done by the Congress and the Council of Europe in this field;

*c.* to co-operate constructively with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe in preparing the 8th European Conference of Border Regions, while bearing in mind the results of the previous conferences;

11. Invites the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe:

*a.* to extend its range of action in order to assist the regions of eastern and South-eastern Europe in their development, particularly in the Baltic, Adriatic and Black Sea basins, and to include the promotion of local and regional democracy in its activities;

12. Instructs the Chamber of Regions:

*a.* to help the regions to intensify and organise interregional co-operation, in particular by networking their activities on a Europe-wide level and within the framework of its programme of Economic Forums and partnerships;

*b.* to examine available means of sharing experience concerning regional facilities and programmes for the training of regional authority staff in Europe in co-operation with the European Network of Training Organisations for local and regional authorities (Ento);

*c.* to prepare a study with a view to promoting regionalisation as a political tool for preventing and settling socio-cultural and political conflicts at the national and European level;

*d.* to continue to assist the regions in their efforts to improve their statutes with a view to improved application of the principles of subsidiarity and decentralisation in conformity with the draft European charter of regional self-government.

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1. Debated and approved by the Chamber of Regions on 29 May 2001 and adopted by the Standing Committee of the Congress on 31 May 2001 (see Doc. CPR (8) 2, draft resolution presented by Mr D. Vierin, rapporteur).