

# CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF EUROPE

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## **Resolution 125 (2001)<sup>1</sup> on “Linguistic diversity: a challenge for European cities and regions” Conclusions of the Rovinj Conference, Croatia, 22 and 23 March 2001**

The Congress,

1. Taking account of:

*a.* the Rovinj Declaration, unanimously adopted on 23 May 2001 by participants at the Conference “Linguistic diversity: a challenge for European cities and regions” (Rovinj, Croatia, 22 and 23 March 2001);

*b.* the summary of statements presented at the conference (Doc. CG/CULT (8) 13);

*c.* the results and message of European Year of Languages 2001;

2. Invites the cities and regions of Europe to:

*a.* intensify their mutual contacts and co-operation with a view to establishing partnership or twinning arrangements in order to encourage language learning and protect linguistic diversity;

*b.* promote projects on learning the languages of neighbouring countries in order to expand cross-border co-operation among local and regional authorities including in the spirit of CLRAE Resolution 259 (1994) on local and regional authorities and transfrontier or transnational school co-operation, containing in its appendix, three model agreements to this end;

*c.* encourage the development of bilingual radio and television programmes, particularly in border areas;

*d.* foster the use and learning of regional or minority languages in areas inhabited by speakers of such languages, by developing specialised media (radio, television and websites) and libraries using these languages;

*e.* devise programmes and projects enabling immigrants and foreign residents to learn the language of their host country, promote knowledge of the languages of migrants or foreign residents in the host countries and create the technical, financial and material conditions for developing such programmes;

3. Invites the national and international non-governmental organisations of local and regional authorities to continue their efforts to promote, protect and enhance regional or minority languages, multilingual policies and linguistic diversity;

4. Instructs its Committee on Culture and Education:

*a.* to take action on the proposals presented at the Rovinj Conference and in particular:

*i.* to begin preparing a legal instrument to complement the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, geared to encouraging host populations to learn the mother tongues of migrants or foreign residents in their country, the primary aim being to reinforce social cohesion and cultural diversity in European cities and regions;

*ii.* to continue the work of the Congress, by the most appropriate means (reports, seminars, conferences, etc.), on the problems encountered by municipalities and regions in Europe in connection with the cultural, linguistic and social integration of migrants and/or foreign residents;

*b.* to take action on the proposal submitted by the mayor of Petrozavodsk (Russia) to organise a conference on the development of cultural and linguistic policies by European cities and regions, also taking account of Resolution 112 (2001) on follow-up action to be taken on the Conference “Cities and regions: cultural diversity – a precondition for a united Europe”;

*c.* to continue its co-operation with the European Centre for Modern Languages (Graz, Austria), particularly in connection with the project on language learning under twinning arrangements between European towns and cities;

*d.* to participate actively in the CDCC’s work on transverse projects in the field of culture and education, with an eye to spotlighting local and regional councillors’ viewpoints and experience.

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1. Debated and adopted by the Standing Committee of the Congress on 9 November 2001 (see Doc. CG (8) 25, draft resolution presented by Mr A. Demine and Mr P. Kittelmann, rapporteurs).