

# CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF EUROPE

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## Resolution 158 (2003)<sup>1</sup> on management of capital cities

The Congress, bearing in mind the proposal of the Chamber of Local Authorities,

### 1. Recalls:

*a.* the CLRAE survey on management of capital cities, carried out in 2001, for which replies were received from eleven European capital cities;

*b.* the Meeting of Mayors of Capital Cities held in Helsinki on 29 September 2001;

*c.* the Conference on Management of European Capital Cities, held in Kyiv on 3 and 4 October 2002;

2. Awaits the outcome of the forthcoming expert meeting on e-governance of capital cities, to be held in Tallinn in June 2003;

3. Considers it essential that capital cities have the right to raise local revenues and keep a reasonable share of them, to ensure the high quality of their services using the guidelines provided by the European Charter of Local Self-Government;

4. Recognises the additional responsibilities of capital cities, for example in providing and running logistic facilities of national importance, such as embassies and state institutions; transport infrastructure; organising national and international meetings and events; supplying information and providing security services;

5. Regrets the difficulties that occasionally occur between capital cities and other levels of administration in any given country, due to:

*a.* different political parties holding power at different levels;

*b.* conflict of interests between different levels;

*c.* ambiguity about the responsibilities of each level;

*d.* lack of well-established and mandatory procedures for financing the work of capital city authorities in organising national events;

6. Encourages capital city authorities to:

*a.* recognise that a clear, unambiguous and transparent division of legislative and financial responsibilities between different levels of public administration, and in particular between central government and surrounding regions and districts, is a prerequisite for the successful

management of capital cities and the running of their vital infrastructures;

*b.* recognise that the involvement of the public in the management of capital cities is essential for maintaining the legitimacy of the decision-making process; and that a good understanding of the management of capital cities among the public is a prerequisite for the public's successful involvement;

*c.* ensure that such involvement should be real and effective and not consist in simply including people in consultative bodies without giving them any real opportunity to participate in actual decision making;

*d.* develop further their international relations and the fostering of partnerships and co-operation in all spheres of activities with other capital cities;

*e.* recognise that the use of new technologies helps create a more efficient and transparent administration, and promote in this context public access to the Internet, for example by providing computer terminals in public places, such as specially equipped premises in town halls and public libraries, in order to strengthen public participation in the management of capital cities;

7. Invites the CLRAE itself to:

*a.* strengthen local democracy in capital cities through ensuring the implementation of the provisions of the European Charter of Local Self-Government;

*b.* help to promote maximum clarity, precision and transparency, within a recognised legal framework, with regard to division of tasks and responsibilities between different administrative levels;

*c.* contribute to overcoming any conflicts between different levels of the administration, in particular when the cause of conflict originates in different party political affiliations rather than any matters of substance;

*d.* strive towards a higher degree of efficiency in the contacts between capital cities and other levels of the administration, for example by practising e-governance and e-communication and by training and retraining public officials in IT, in order to achieve the above objectives;

*e.* consider appropriate follow-up to its current activities on management of capital cities in the light of proposals to be made both by the Bureau and the Committee on Sustainable Development. This could include, for example:

*i.* the periodic publication of a compendium of significant innovations in the management of capital cities;

*ii.* the holding of regular specialised seminars and meetings in order to share experience.

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1. Debated and approved by the Chamber of Local Authorities on 21 May 2003 and adopted by the Standing Committee of the Congress on 22 May 2003 (see Document CPL (10) 4 revised, draft resolution presented by Mrs N. Shymanska, rapporteur).