

# THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

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## Resolution 203 (2005)<sup>1</sup> on regional media and transfrontier co-operation

The Congress, bearing in mind the proposal of the Chamber of Regions,

1. Considering:

- a.* the report presented by the rapporteur, Mr Günther Krug (Germany), on “Regional media and transfrontier co-operation”;
- b.* the final declaration of the Berlin Conference on transfrontier co-operation between regional media entities in Europe, held on 15 and 16 October 2004;
- c.* that the media, in particular radio and television, are a powerful means of bringing citizens closer together;
- d.* that a closer relationship between the citizens of Europe will help build up a culture of tolerance, mutual respect and democratic stability in Europe;
- e.* that the audiovisual and broadcasting landscape in Europe should be based on a large quantity of quality production illustrating the creativity and dynamism of professionals in Europe;

2. Referring to the preparatory study by the Culture and Education Committee of the Congress on transfrontier co-operation between the regions of member states in the fields of education and culture (CPR/CULT (7) 3) of 9 April 2001, which identifies the media sector as a key area for transfrontier co-operation,

3. Invites the governments of member states:

- a.* to adopt awareness-raising measures in the local language;
- b.* to form partnerships between different interest groups at national, regional and local level, in order to embark upon projects of mutual interest;
- c.* to encourage their respective countries to adopt specific measures to make it easier for people involved in transfrontier media activities and their equipment to cross borders;
- d.* to recommend that the authorities responsible for allocating national frequencies co-operate with those in neighbouring countries in order to set up appropriate transfrontier services;

*e.* to encourage the preparation and broadcasting (subject to specified criteria) of bilingual and multilingual radio and television programmes, particularly in border areas;

*f.* to conclude agreements at local and regional level between media entities to promote common projects based on initiatives taken by local or regional authorities;

*g.* to co-operate in order to publicise more effectively cultural and other activities on both sides of natural borders as a means of fostering greater mutual understanding;

*h.* to set up bilingual and multilingual newspapers and magazines containing information on border regions;

*i.* to use the Internet and the new technologies to improve transfrontier co-operation in the media (for example, the Interreg III B Alpine Space programmes and Media Alp project);

*j.* to reassert and acknowledge the importance of a diversified and pluralist media sector for the system of democratic government;

*k.* to take all appropriate measures to ensure that the regional media have full access to complete information on public affairs at regional level;

*l.* to support and encourage programmes made in regional languages which play a particular role as a regional “lingua franca”, and multilingual programmes focusing on local and regional topics and participants, as an example of good practices;

*m.* to adopt measures in support of interregional co-operation between the media at national and transnational level;

*n.* to undertake information and awareness-raising activities, via seminars and workshops, aimed at local and regional elected representatives, to alert them to the requirements associated with an independent and pluralist media system in a democratic society;

4. Instructs the Culture and Education Committee of the Chamber of Regions:

*a.* to monitor transfrontier co-operation between the media by means of conferences in this field, and the follow-up given to the present resolution;

*b.* to organise a meeting with the Media Division of the Council of Europe to explore the possibilities of future co-operation, particularly in the countries of central and eastern Europe.

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1. Debated and approved by the Chamber of Regions on 31 May 2005 and adopted by the Standing Committee of the Congress on 2 June 2005 (see Document CPR (12) 2, draft resolution presented by G. Krug (Germany, R, SOC) and K.-H. Lambertz (Belgium, R, SOC), rapporteurs).