

CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF EUROPE

Resolution 143 (2002)¹ on promoting transfrontier co-operation: an important factor of democratic stability in Europe

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

1. Having regard to the activities carried out by the Council of Europe and the Congress to promote transfrontier co-operation in South-eastern Europe;
2. Emphasising the contribution of the Local Democracy Agencies' programme to developing transfrontier co-operation in South-eastern Europe, with full involvement of local and regional authorities and representatives of civil society and of social and economic interests;
3. Having regard to Resolution 104 on democratic stability through transfrontier co-operation in Europe, adopted by the Congress in 2000;
4. Having regard to the terms of reference given to the Committee on Social Cohesion of the Chamber of Regions in May 2000, giving it the task of administering the Congress's work on transfrontier co-operation;
5. Noting that transfrontier co-operation is a subject of interest to other committees, such as the Committee on Culture and Education (report on transfrontier media), the Institutional Committee (Conference on Good Transfrontier Governance, organised jointly with the European Union's Committee of the Regions), or the Committee on Social Cohesion of the Chamber of Local Authorities (Conference on Transfrontier Insecurity);
6. Bearing in mind the activities being carried out by the Association of European Border Regions and the Assembly of European Regions,
7. Invites the Bureau of the Congress:
 - a.* to identify and put in place an informal network of members of the Congress from frontier regions and local authorities, who could contribute their know-how and experience and be enlisted in the Council of Europe's activities;
 - b.* to give all the Congress's statutory committees the task of promoting transfrontier co-operation in their areas of

competence, drawing on the informal network of Congress members, co-ordinated by a general rapporteur appointed by the Bureau on the basis of his/her expertise;

c. to examine the possibility of marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the 1980 European Outline Convention on Transfer Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities (Madrid Convention) in 2005 by holding a conference to evaluate the development of transfrontier co-operation and its prospects in Europe, in collaboration with the Parliamentary Assembly, and to promote on that occasion, reflection on the broad range of European structures active in the field of transfrontier co-operation, with a view to improving co-operation between them;

d. to promote, with the assistance of the secretariat and the group of elected representatives from South-eastern Europe at the Congress, preparation and implementation of the multilateral agreement between the states of the region on transfrontier co-operation in South-eastern Europe;

e. to strengthen its co-operation with the civil society structures and non-governmental organisations that have experience in this field, such as the Association of European Border Regions, the Assembly of European Regions or the Liaison Committee for NGOs enjoying consultative status with the Council of Europe;

8. Invites the local and regional authorities of Europe:

a. to recognise the importance of transfrontier co-operation in developing neighbourly relations and preventing conflict;

b. to become involved in partnerships to support the development of transfrontier co-operation in Europe, via financial support or the sharing of experience or skills;

c. to support the work of the Local Democracy Agencies in the border regions of South-eastern Europe;

9. Invites the Association of European Border Regions and the Assembly of European Regions:

a. to promote transfrontier co-operation by establishing partnerships between local and regional authorities and between European Euroregions;

b. within this context, to promote the establishment of a network of Euroregions within Europe, which could act as an interlocutor for the European Union and the Council of Europe.

1. Debated and approved by the Chamber of Regions on 4 June 2002 and adopted by the Standing Committee of the Congress on 6 June 2002 (see Doc. CPR (9) 3, draft resolution presented by Mr H. M. Tschudi, rapporteur).