

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Recommendation 184 (2006) on regional typologies and globalisation

The Congress, bearing in mind the Chamber of Regions,

1. Believes that regional products contribute to the diversity and economic and social territorial economies.

2. In particular considers that gastronomic traditions, passed down in popular local tourism. Over the years, it should be cultivated and promoted with a view to perpetuating renowned, high-quality food specialities to the present day products;

3. However, where globalisation has promoted widespread interest in regional products and tourism and trade, there is also a risk of uniformity of tastes and products, and of the loss of regional products stemming from the diversity of local identities.

4. The Congress considers that future generations are a target group which is important to the development of a democratic society. It should be done to inform young people and raise information and awareness-raising (the rich variety of regional products).

5. It welcomes the publication of *Europe - Identity, Diversity and Dialogue* by the Directorate General of Education, Youth and Sport, with the support of the Committee of Ministers, as an opportunity to promote regional products as a key to diversity.

6. The Congress recommends that the Ministers of the Council of Europe:

a. include in its heritage policies cultures and traditions of all Member States, and in particular those of the regions;

b. introduce the information and education, particularly through the distribution of guides highlighting the diversity of components of gastronomic cultures;

c. encourage the development of regional products and provide an opportunity to hold various events in different countries of Europe in order to promote regional products and their specialities;

d. ask the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage to set up an interdisciplinary working group to study the role of the Council of Europe in the promotion of regional products and their specialities.

7. The Congress considers that future generations are a target group which is important to the development of a democratic society. It should be done to inform young people and raise information and awareness-raising (the rich variety of regional products).