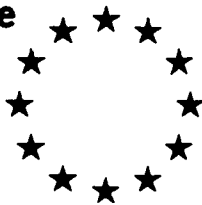


Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe



97/1785



Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe

Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux de l'Europe

Strasbourg, 23 April 1997
s:\sharpe\session4\4)7rep.e

CG (4) 7
Part II

FOURTH SESSION

(Strasbourg, 3-5 June 1997)

REPORT

ON

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

Rapporteur: Mr J. Harman (United Kingdom)

Sustainable development, as defined in the Brundtland Report, is development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The UN Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio in 1992 adopted Agenda 21, detailing a set of programmes aimed at achieving an ecologically sustainable future. The agreements reached in Rio underline the interdependence of issues across sectors and at each level from local to global. Two thirds of the recommended actions need to be initiated and carried out at the local level. Chapter 28 of the Agenda, referred to as Local Agenda 21, under its paragraph 3 states as follows:-

"Each local authority should enter into a dialogue with its citizens, local organisations and private enterprises and adopt "a local Agenda 21". Through consultation and consensus-building, local authorities would learn from citizens and from local, civic, community, business and industrial organisations and acquire the information needed for formulating the best strategies. The process of consultation would increase household Awareness of sustainable development issues. Local authority programmes, policies, laws and regulations to achieve Agenda 21 objectives would be assessed and modified, based on local programmes adopted".

In order to attain consensus about the infrastructure needed for environmental protection, as well as the other aspects of sustainable development, a "local Agenda 21" will need to identify and adopt appropriate evaluation and feed-back methods.

In that spirit, the Aalborg Charter of European Cities and Towns Towards Sustainability, which was adopted in 1994, laid down a commitment to pursue the implementation of the sustainability concept through local action plans. By joining the European sustainable cities and towns campaign, participating authorities indicated their willingness to achieve a consensus within their communities on a Local Agenda 21.

In 1996, with the endorsement of the Lisboa Action Plan: from Charter to Action, the campaign has entered into its second phase, which will focus on implementing the principles set out in the Charter.

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe has always considered promoting sustainable development at local and regional levels as one of its priorities. By adopting the present Declaration, the CLRAE wishes to lend its political support to the campaign and to encourage appropriate local and regional government initiatives aimed at making sustainable development a key objective in policy making.

Appendix 1: The Aalborg Charter (p.3)

Appendix 2: The Lisboa Action Plan (p.10)

**Charter of European Cities and Towns
Towards Sustainability
(the Aalborg Charter)**

(as approved by the participants at the European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns in Aalborg, Denmark on 27 May 1994)

- Part I: Consensus Declaration: European Cities & Towns Towards Sustainability
- Part II: The European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign
- Part III: Engaging in Local Agenda 21 Processes: Local Action Plans Towards Sustainability

Explanatory note

The Aalborg Charter was approved by the participants at the European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns held in Aalborg, Denmark from 24-27 May 1994 under joint sponsorship by the European Commission and the City of Aalborg and organised by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). The responsibility for preparing the Draft Charter was taken by ICLEI and shared with the Ministry of Urban Development and Transport of the Federal State of Northrhine-Westphalia, Germany. The Charter reflects ideas and wording from many contributors.

The Aalborg Charter was initially signed by 80 European local authorities and 253 representatives of international organisations, national governments, scientific institutes, consultants and individuals. By signing the Charter European cities, towns and counties committed themselves to enter into Local Agenda 21 processes and develop long-term action plans towards sustainability, and initiated the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign.

The Draft Charter was discussed by more than 600 participants in the 36 workshops of the Aalborg Conference. Many of their comments and suggestions were incorporated in the final text. However, the Charter Editorial Group felt that numerous basic and substantial proposals for amendments deserve a more intensive consideration and discussion and could not simply be included as a matter of editing. Therefore it was proposed that the review of the suggested amendments would be a task of the Campaign Co-ordination, the Charter further developed and submitted to the participants at the Second European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns to be held in Lisbon, Portugal in September 1996.

Part 1
Consensus Declaration:
European Cities & Towns Towards Sustainability

1.1 The Role of European Cities and Towns

We, European cities & towns, signatories of this Charter, state that in the course of history, our towns have existed within and outlasted empires, nation states, and regimes and have survived as centres of social life, carriers of our economies, and guardians of culture, heritage and tradition. Along with families and neighbourhoods, towns have been the basic elements of our societies and states. Towns have been the centres of industry, craft, trade, education and government.

We understand that our present urban lifestyle, in particular our patterns of division of labour and functions, land-use, transport, industrial production, agriculture, consumption, and leisure activities, and hence our standard of living, making us essentially responsible for many environmental problems humankind is facing. This is particularly relevant as 80 percent of Europe's population live in urban areas.

We have learnt that present levels of resource consumption in the industrialised countries cannot be achieved by all people currently living, much less by future generations, without destroying the natural capital.

We are convinced that sustainable human life on this globe cannot be achieved without sustainable local communities. Local government is close to where environmental problems are perceived and closest to the citizens and shares responsibility with governments at all levels for the well-being of humankind and nature. Therefore, cities and towns are key players in the process of changing lifestyles, production, consumption and spatial patterns.

1.2 The Notion and Principles of Sustainability

We, cities & towns, understand that the idea of sustainable development helps us to base our standard of living on the carrying capacity of nature. We seek to achieve social justice, sustainable economies, and environmental sustainability. Social justice will necessarily have to be based on economic sustainability and equity, which require environmental sustainability.

Environmental sustainability means maintaining the natural capital. It demands from us that the rate at which we consume renewable material, water and energy resources does not exceed the rate at which the natural systems can replenish them, and that the rate at which we consume non-renewable resources does not exceed the rate at which sustainable renewable resources are replaced. Environmental sustainability also means that the rate of emitted pollutants does not exceed the capacity of the air, water, and soil to absorb and process them.

Furthermore, environmental sustainability entails the maintenance of biodiversity; human health; as well as air, water, and soil qualities at standards sufficient to sustain human life and wellbeing, as well as animal and plant life, for all time.

1.3 Local Strategies Towards Sustainability

We are convinced that the city or town is both the largest unit capable of initially addressing the many urban architectural, social, economic, political, natural resource and environmental imbalances damaging our modern world and the smallest scale at which problems can be meaningfully resolved in an integrated, holistic and sustainable fashion. As each city is different, we have to find our individual ways towards sustainability. We shall integrate the principles of sustainability in all our policies and make the respective strengths of our cities and towns the basis of locally appropriate strategies.

1.4 Sustainability as a Creative, Local, Balance-Seeking Process

We, cities & towns, recognise that sustainability is neither a vision nor an unchanging state, but a creative, local, balance-seeking process extending into all areas of local decision-making. It provides ongoing feedback in the management of the town or city on which activities are driving the urban ecosystem towards balance and which are driving it away. By building the management of a city around the information collected through such a process, the city is understood to work as an organic whole and the effects of all significant activities are made manifest. Through such a process the city and its citizens may make informed choices. Through a management process rooted in sustainability, decisions may be made which not only represent the interests of current stakeholders, but also of future generations.

1.5 Resolving Problems by Negotiating Outwards

We, cities & towns, recognise that a town or city cannot permit itself to export problems into the larger environment or to the future. Therefore, any problems or imbalances within the city are either brought towards balance at their own level or absorbed by some larger entity at the regional or national level. This is the principle of resolving problems by negotiating outwards. The implementation of this principle will give each city or town great freedom to define the nature of its activities.

1.6 Urban Economy Towards Sustainability

We, cities & towns, understand that the limiting factor for economic development of our cities and towns has become natural capital, such as atmosphere, soil, water and forests. We must therefore invest in this capital. In order of priority this requires :

1. investments in conserving the remaining natural capital, such as groundwater stocks, soil, habitats for rare species;
2. encouraging the growth of natural capital by reducing our level of current exploitation, such as of non-renewable energy;
3. investments to relieve pressure on natural capital stocks by expanding cultivated natural capital, such as parks for inner-city recreation to relieve pressure on natural forests; and

4. increasing the end-use efficiency of products, such as energy-efficient buildings, environmentally friendly urban transport.

1.7 Social Equity for Urban Sustainability

We, cities and towns, are aware that the poor are worst affected by environmental problems (such as noise and air pollution from traffic, lack of amenities, unhealthy housing, lack of open space) and are least able to solve them. Inequitable distribution of wealth both causes unsustainable behaviour and makes it harder to change. We intend to integrate people's basic social needs as well as healthcare, employment and housing programmes with environmental protection. We wish to learn from initial experiences of sustainable lifestyles, so that we can work towards improving the quality of citizens' lifestyles rather than simply maximising consumption.

We will try to create jobs which contribute to the sustainability of the community and thereby reduce unemployment. When seeking to attract or create jobs we will assess the effects of any business opportunity in terms of sustainability in order to encourage the creation of long-term jobs and long-life products in accordance with the principles of sustainability.

1.8 Sustainable Land-Use Patterns

We, cities & towns, recognise the importance of effective land-use and development planning policies by our local authorities which embrace the strategic environmental assessment of all plans. We should take advantage of the scope for providing efficient public transport and energy which higher densities offer, while maintaining the human scale of development. In both undertaking urban renewal programmes in inner urban areas and in planning new suburbs we seek a mix of functions so as to reduce the need for mobility. Notions of equitable regional interdependency should enable us to balance the flows between city and countryside and prevent cities from merely exploiting the resources of surrounding areas.

1.9 Sustainable Urban Mobility Patterns

We, cities & towns, shall strive to improve accessibility and sustain social welfare and urban lifestyles with less transport. We know that it is imperative for a sustainable city to reduce en-forced mobility and stop promoting and supporting the unnecessary use of motorised vehicles. We shall give priority to ecologically sound means of transport (in particular walking, cycling, public transport) and make a combination of these means the centre of our planning efforts. Motorised individual means of urban transport ought to have the subsidiary function of facilitating access to local services and maintaining the economic activity of the city.

1.10 Responsibility for the Global Climate

We, cities & towns, understand that the significant risks posed by global warming to the natural built environments and to future human generations require a response sufficient to stabilise and then to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere as soon as possible. It is equally important to protect global biomass resources, such as forests and phytoplankton, which play an essential role in the earth's carbon cycle. The abatement of

fossil fuel emissions will require policies and initiatives based on a thorough understanding of the alternatives and of the urban environment as an energy system. The only sustainable alternatives are renewable energy sources.

1.11 Prevention of Ecosystems Toxification

We, cities & towns, are aware that more and more toxic and harmful substances are released into the air, water, soil, food, and are thereby becoming a growing threat to human health and the ecosystems. We will undertake every effort to see that further pollution is stopped and prevented at source.

1.12 Local Self-Governance as a Pre-Condition

We, cities and towns, are confident that we have the strength, the knowledge and the creative potential to develop sustainable ways of living and to design and manage our cities towards sustainability. As democratically elected representatives of our local communities we are ready to take responsibility for the task of re-organising our cities and towns for sustainability. The extent to which cities and towns are able to rise to this challenge depends upon their being given rights to local self-governance, according to the principle of subsidiarity. It is essential that sufficient powers are left at the local level and that local authorities are given a solid financial base.

1.13 Citizens as Key Actors and the Involvement of the Community

We, cities & towns pledge to meet the mandate given by Agenda 21, the key document approved at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, to work with all sectors of our communities - citizens, businesses, interest groups - when developing our Local Agenda 21 plans. We recognise the call in the European Union's Fifth Environmental Action Programme "Towards Sustainability" for the responsibility for the implementation of the programme to be shared among all sectors of the community. Therefore, we will base our work on co-operation between all actors involved. We shall ensure that all citizens and interested groups have access to information and are able to participate in local decision-making processes. We will seek opportunities for education and training for sustainability, not only for the general population, but for both elected representatives and officials in local government.

1.14 Instruments and Tools for Urban Management Towards Sustainability

We, cities & towns, pledge to use the political and technical instruments and tools available for an ecosystem approach to urban management. We shall take advantage of a wide range of instruments including those for collecting and processing environmental data; environmental planning; regulatory, economic, and communication instruments such as directives, taxes and fees; and mechanisms for awareness raising including public participation. We seek to establish new environmental budgeting systems which allow for the management of our natural resources as economically as our artificial resource, 'money'. We know that we must base our policy-making and controlling efforts, in particular our environmental monitoring auditing, impact assessment, accounting, balancing and reporting

systems, on different types of indicators, including those of urban environmental quality, urban flows, urban patterns, and, most importantly, indicators of an urban systems sustainability.

We, cities & towns, recognise that a whole range of policies and activities yielding positive ecological consequences have already been successfully applied in many cities through Europe. However, while these instruments are valuable tools for reducing the pace and pressure of unsustainability, they do not in and of themselves reverse society's unsustainable direction. Still, with this strong existing ecological base, the cities are in an excellent position to take the threshold step of integrating these policies and activities into the governance processor managing local urban economies through a comprehensive sustainability process. In this process we are called on to develop our own strategies, try them out in practice and share our experiences.

Part II

The European sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign

We, European cities & towns, signatories of this charter, shall move forward together towards sustainability in a process of learning from experience and successful local examples. We shall encourage each other to establish long-term local action plans (Local Agendas 21), thereby strengthening inter-authority co-operation, and relating this process to the European Union's actions in the field of the urban environment.

We hereby initiate **The European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign** to encourage and support cities and towns in working towards sustainability. The initial phase of the Campaign shall be for a two-year period, after which progress shall be assessed at a Second European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns to be held in 1996.

We invite every local authority, whether city, town or county and any European network of local authorities to join the Campaign by adopting and signing this Charter.

We request all the major local authority networks in Europe to undertake the co-ordination of the Campaign. A Co-ordinating Committee shall be established of representatives of these networks. Arrangements will be made for those local authorities which are not members of any network.

We foresee the principal activities of the Campaign to be:

- * facilitate mutual support between European cities and towns in the design, development and implementation of policies towards sustainability;
- * collect and disseminate information on good examples at the local level;
- * promote the principle of sustainability in other local authorities;
- * recruit further signatories to the Charter;
- * organise an annual "Sustainable City Award";
- * formulate policy recommendations to the European Commission;
- * provide input to the Sustainable Cities Reports of the Urban Environment Expert Group;

- * support local policy-makers in implementing appropriate recommendations and legislation from the European Union;
- * edit a Campaign newsletter.

These activities will require the establishment of a Campaign Co-ordination.

We shall invite other organisations to actively support the Campaign.

Part III

Engaging in The Local Agenda 21 processes: Local Action Plans Towards Sustainability

We, European cities & towns, signatories of this Charter, pledge by signing this Charter and joining the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign that we will seek to achieve a consensus within our communities on a Local Agenda 21 by the end of 1996. This will meet the mandate established by Chapter 28 of Agenda 21 as agreed at the Earth Summit in Rio in June 1992. By means of our individual local action plans we shall contribute to the implementation of the European Union's Fifth Environmental Action Programme "Towards Sustainability". The Local Agenda 21 processes shall be developed on the basis of Part One of this Charter.

We propose that the process of preparing a local action plan should include the following stages:

- * recognition of the existing planning and financial frameworks as well as other plans and programmes;
- * the systematic identification, by means of extensive public consultation, of problems and their causes;
- * the prioritisation of tasks to address identified problems;
- * the creation of a vision for a sustainable community through a participatory process involving all sectors of the community;
- * the consideration and assessment of alternative strategic option;
- * the establishment of a long-term local action plan towards sustainability which includes measurable targets;
- * the programming of the implementation of the plan including the preparation of a timetable and statement of allocation of responsibilities among the partners;
- * the establishment of systems and procedures for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the plan.

We will need to review whether the internal arrangements of our local authorities are appropriate and efficient to allow the development of the Local Agenda 21 processes, including long-term local action plans towards sustainability. Efforts may be needed to improve the capacity of the organisation which will include reviewing the political arrangements, administrative procedures, corporate and inter-disciplinary working human resources available and inter-authority co-operation including associations and networks.

Signed in Aalborg, Denmark, 27 May 1994

The Lisboa Action Plan: from Charter to Action

1. We believe that the adoption of the Charter of European Cities & Towns Towards Sustainability (Aalborg Charter) is one of the best starting points for a Local Agenda 21 process.
2. We believe that the local authority should be the main facilitator of the Local Agenda 21 process.
3. We believe that the Local Agenda 21 process requires the involvement of the entire local authority - whether city, town or rural community.
4. We shall enter into consultation and partnerships with the various sectors of our community to create synergy through co-operation.
5. We shall seek to get our own house in order by implementing the principle of negotiating outward.
6. We shall carry our systematic action planning to move from analysis to action.
7. We shall integrate environmental with social and economic development to improve health and quality of life for our citizens.
8. We shall use advanced tools for sustainability management.
9. We shall establish programmes to raise awareness among our citizens, interest groups, as well as politicians and local government officers of sustainable development issues.
10. We shall gain strength through inter-authority alliances: associations, networks and campaigns.
11. We shall build North-South and West-East alliances for sustainable development.
12. We shall go ahead in concert with the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign.

THE LISBOA ACTION PLAN: FROM CHARTER TO ACTION

Introduction

Representatives from 1,000 local and regional authorities from all over Europe convened at the Second European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns in Lisboa, Portugal from 6-8 October 1996. They learned about the status of Local Agenda 21 process in 35 European countries and assessed the progress made since the First Conference held in Aalborg, Denmark in May 1994. They exchanged ideas and experiences of local practice and explored opportunities to collaborate with other European communities on joint projects. They identified the needs of local authorities engaged in the Local Agenda processes and helped to shape the next phase of the Campaign.

The European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign, initiated at the Aalborg Conference by 80 European municipalities which signed the Charter of European Cities & Towns Towards Sustainability (Aalborg Charter), has meanwhile been joined by 250 local and regional authorities. By signing the Charter they committed themselves to engage in the process of developing and achieving a consensus among their local communities on a long-term action plan towards sustainability (Local Agenda 21).

The initial two-year phase of the Campaign was primarily devoted to spreading the word about local sustainability by promoting the Aalborg Charter, urging further local authorities to sign the Charter and join the Campaign, and providing guidance on the Local Agenda 21 process. The next phase launched at the Lisboa Conference will focus on implementing the principles set out in the Charter, starting and undertaking a Local Agenda 21 process, and implementing the local sustainability plan. By engaging in this phase, European Local authorities shall contribute to the implementation of not only the Agenda 21 (Rio 1992), but also the Habitat Agenda (Istanbul 1996).

Therefore, the participants in the Lisboa Conference 1996 endorsed the following document entitled "From Charter to Action". It is based upon local experiences as reported and discussed at the 26 workshops at the Conference, and takes into consideration the principles and recommendations laid down in the Aalborg Charter, the "Step by Step Guide" from the UK local Government Management Board, the Sustainable Cities Report from the European Commission's Expert Group on the Urban Environment, and the Local Agenda 21 Planning Guide from the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives.

By engaging in the next phase of the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign, the participants in this first European local government conference following the HABITAT II Conference (Istanbul, June 1996) wish to contribute to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

THE LISBOA ACTION PLAN: FROM CHARTER TO ACTION

Preparing local government for the Local Agenda 21 process

1. We believe that the *adoption* of the Charter of European Cities & Towns Towards Sustainability (Aalborg Charter) is one of the best starting points for a Local Agenda 21 process.

We need the definitive political will to engage in a Local Agenda 21 process. We will identify a group of motivated people to drive the initiative. We will use ideas, concepts and mandates such as Agenda 21, *the European Union's Fifth Environmental Action programme*, the Aalborg Charter or the Habitat II Conference to refer to. We will establish a work programme and time schedule for the process, defining phases with clear objectives. By signing the Aalborg Charter, we will join the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign and consider joining any network of local authorities that we think can best provide advice and practical support on environmental management and sustainability.

2. We believe that the *local authority* should be the *main* facilitator of the Local Agenda 21 process.

Our local authority should shed its sovereign attitude and adopt the facilitation role, provide the necessary thrust as long as it has not been developed by other actors, dedicate staff capacity and provide a budget, employ a professional facilitator and mediator, and show leadership but not dominate the process.

3. We believe that the Local Agenda 21 process requires the involvement of the entire local authority - *whether city, town or rural community*.

Internal networking is important to involve the Council and the administration, elected officials and officers, all departments and all levels of responsibility. Support from the municipal leader as well as training of elected representatives and officers on sustainability concepts are essential. As local sustainability is made up of social, economic and environmental sustainability, a cross-sectoral approach is indispensable.

Establishing strategies for involving the community

4. We shall enter into consultation and partnerships with the various sectors of our community to create synergy through co-operation

Achieving a consensus on a Local Agenda 21 among all sectors and actors of the community is not only required by Agenda 21 (Rio 1992), but gives the long-term action plan the robustness required to have the chance of being implemented. We recommend establishing a stakeholder group (Local Agenda 21 Forum). We will build partnerships for concrete projects with clear objectives, and form project working groups, tasks forces, advisory groups or round tables. We will outline the process and seek agreement on the procedure, the stages

of the process, and the objectives. We will guide the participants with sensitivity, but purposefully through the process. We will define the particular interests of each part explicitly and maintain dialogue with them in order to build trust through openness and transparency.

Local Agenda 21 approach and planning

5. We shall seek to get our own house in order by implementing the principle of negotiating outward

Our community should not export its problems into the larger environment or to the future. The ethics of sustainable development require us to follow the principle of negotiating outward, which addresses the need to achieve a balance between local demand and supply in our city, and to the extent that this will not be possible, to enter into negotiations with our surrounding region, country, and continent about the share of opportunities, burdens, and responsibilities. We shall identify all options for the community to stop or reduce exporting problems and check if the conditions for using the larger environment and the future are equitable. We will undertake social, economic and eco-audits of our municipality in order to investigate its impact on the environment and future generations, and report on the results.

6. We shall carry out systematic action planning to move from analysis to action

Local Agenda 21 is a participatory process, which requires a systematic step by step procedure. First, the Local Agenda 21 Forum will discuss and agree a philosophy and vision, which the Council will adopt *after consultation with the public*. We shall identify problems, causes and effects; invite the Council to adopt objectives; prioritise the problems using the methodology of impact assessment; identify options for action and set targets; create programmes to address targets and formalise programmes into an action plan; implement the plan and monitor progress; evaluate results and provide feedback into the process.

Sustainability management tools

7. We shall integrate environmental with social and economic development to improve health and quality of life for our citizens

Social stability and equity must be based on sustainable economy, where the economy is based on the capacity of nature, ie. environmental sustainability. Sustainable development planning needs to integrate environmental with social and economic aspects and therefore requires cross-sectoral approaches to planning and implementation. We shall co-ordinate environmental with other sectoral, in particular social and economic plan-making; introduce a sustainability impact assessment procedure into the negotiating procedures for authorising new businesses and plants; and encourage the application of environmental management and audit schemes (EMAS) by local businesses.

8. We shall use advanced tools for sustainability management

We shall manage our local authority towards sustainability by applying a wide range of methods and tools for environmental, economic social and health management. We shall take advantage of sustainability indicators for describing the present state and measuring development; introduce EMAS and Environmental Budgeting and other ecological balancing methods, use the methods of environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment, and extend them to assess social, health and economic impacts as well

Awareness-raising and education.

9. We shall establish programmes to raise awareness among our citizens, interest groups, as well as politicians and local government officers of sustainability issues.

Awareness-raising and education is essential to achieve a thorough understanding for the interrelationship between social, economic and environmental aspects. Professional training is required so that our officials can learn about options for action, good practice, management methods and tools. We shall undertake awareness-raising activities addressed to all groups of the local community, and establish education and training programmes in kindergartens, schools, universities, vocational and adult training institutions.

Inter-authority partnerships and co-operation

10. We shall gain strength through inter-authority alliances: associations, networks and campaigns.

We shall form associations with surrounding municipalities to solve imbalances according to the principle of negotiating outward. We shall involve the government or administrative levels one higher and one lower in all initiatives and programmes. We shall take advantage of the momentum we shall gain and the encouragement we shall receive by joining municipal networks and Local Agenda 21 campaigns.

11. We shall build North-South and West-East alliances for sustainable development

As cities and towns are not islands, local sustainability cannot be achieved without caring for the global impacts of our local resource use, our emissions, and our export of impacts. We shall take on the responsibility for the negative impacts of our actions on the global environment and cooperate with local authorities in developing countries. We shall consider environmental twinning or similar municipal international co-operation arrangements, set up bilateral assistance schemes, and explore possibilities for the joint implementation of measures to protect the climate, the water, the soil and to secure biodiversity.

12. We shall go ahead in concert with the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign

With the Lisboa Conference in October 1996, the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign has entered into its second phase, "From Charter to Action". We shall continue to conduct our Local Agenda 21 processing in concert with other European local authorities. We shall ask the associations and networks of local authorities to continue to provide practical support, guidance and training.