

CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF EUROPE

Resolution 120 (2001)¹ on management of transboundary water resources in Europe Strengthening the capacity of territorial authorities for a co-operative and sustainable integrated management

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

1. Having regard to its Recommendation 100 (2001), on management of transboundary water resources in Europe – Strengthening the capacity of territorial authorities for a co-operation and sustainable integrated management;

2. Considering that:

a. the management of water resources is a crucial element in the development of a more unified and democratic Europe;

b. within the complex relationship between the principle of national sovereignty and the transboundary nature of international watercourses, there is a high potential for co-operation between the member states;

c. however, the environmental, social and economic needs related to water call for much more than interstate level collaboration, and require a combined effort of virtually all stakeholders including local and regional authorities and the public;

d. the problems related to the management of water resources cannot be successfully resolved by the authorities separately and that there is a need for basin-wide approaches;

e. encouraging co-operation among local and regional authorities on either side of a national border creates awareness of the interdependence of decisions on water management;

f. the real participation of the population only takes place when stakeholders are part of the decision-making process and people recognise that they live in an interdependent catchment area,

3. Underlines the need to establish a truly transnational basin-wide watercourse co-operation;

4. Stresses the need for analysing the problems of how to co-operate and share the transboundary watercourses in the Danube basin, taking into account the experience gained in the Rhine River basin;

5. Recommends that local and regional authorities of Europe further the co-operation between them in the field of water management, especially regarding pollution prevention and privatisation of water supply;

6. Asks local and regional authorities:

a. to evaluate information from the ground level on the existing gaps in the system and the real needs of the people concerned in order to support the preparation of new strategies for more informed, co-operative and sustainable local and regional water management in the complex transboundary basins;

b. to support the activities of the Congress and of Green Cross International in analysing the existing policy and decision-making systems in river basins – namely the Danube and the Rhine basins – by ensuring the transfer of relevant information.

1. Debated and approved by the Chamber of Regions on 30 May 2001 and adopted by the Standing Committee of the Congress on 31 May 2001 (see Doc. CPR (8) 3, draft resolution presented by Ms C. Jacobs, rapporteur).