

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 208 (2006)¹ on regional typical products and globalisation

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

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

2. In particular, it considers that gastronomic and culinary traditions, passed down in popular lore, are a key asset for local tourism.

3. Over the centuries, different regions have been cultivating gastronomic know-how, making it possible to perpetuate renowned, high-quality regional products and food specialities to the present day.

4. However, while globalisation has prompted more widespread interest in regional products through increased tourism and trade, there is also a risk that it will lead to uniformity of tastes and products, doing away with typical produce stemming from the diversity of local identities.

5. Consequently, the Congress, in the light of a proposal submitted to it by the Committee on Culture and Education, invites its members to:

a. encourage the production and commercial development of regional products with a view to protecting the historic, cultural and environmental heritage of gastronomic regions, together with their regional identity;

b. safeguard and promote the image of regional products in order to reinforce the cultural diversity of their regions;

c. promote farming practices that respect the environment so that the rural natural heritage and regional cultural heritage may be preserved;

d. continue to guarantee food safety by applying the precautionary principle and setting up permanent food health monitoring systems;

e. continue to organise events at regional level (fairs, conferences, tastings);

f. advise authorities responsible for promoting these products to co-operate with their counterparts in neighbouring countries, with a view to products being promoted and distributed beyond borders.

6. The Congress instructs the Committee on Culture and Education to:

a. ensure follow-up to this resolution, by organising conferences reviewing the situation;

b. continue its examination of this issue, by inviting the regions and towns represented in the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe to present the good practices they have introduced to promote regional products;

c. consider the expediency of a study on the impact of regional products on tourism.

7. The Congress decides to invite the Committee of the Regions to consider the possibility of participating in activities in partnership with the Congress in order to promote a culture of regional products.

1. Debated and approved by the Chamber of Regions on 16 March 2006 and adopted by the Standing Committee of the Congress on 17 March 2006 (see Document CPR (12) 5, draft resolution presented by S. Bolam, (United Kingdom, R, EPP/CD), rapporteur).