

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 313 (2010)¹

Social time, leisure time: which local time planning policy?

1. With “urban time policies”, a new form of public action and a new way of looking at spatial management emerged in Europe² in the early 1990s. This approach to urban and spatial planning takes time as a focal point for application, analysis and action.

2. New spatial planning practices and rampant urban development, as well as increasingly flexible working hours, changes in the labour market, increased leisure time, changes in lifestyles and in uses of time and space, and upheavals in family structure are leading to tremendous growth in mobility and generating conflict, tension and inequality with regard to land use.

3. The quality of the management and regulation of time is becoming a key factor in the spatial development process. Space and time are interdependent and time planning is a core element of spatial planning.

4. The aim of local time planning policies, also known as “time policies”, is to help to improve quality of life and work towards greater social cohesion. Their development requires a comprehensive, cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary approach.

5. New forms of institution such as “time offices” and “time agencies” have led to the emergence of new methods for analysing and developing public urban planning policies and have given rise to a new form of local governance based on participatory democracy.

6. Because time is a key aspect of the quality of daily life and a major factor in inequality, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe takes note of the emergence of local time policies, wishes to promote them in Europe at all levels of governance and agrees to incorporate the time factor into its own activities, particularly those related to urban planning.

7. The Congress refers to the European Urban Charter II – Manifesto for a new urbanity,³ which emphasises the essential role of the urban citizen at the heart of urban policies and speaks of the need for new models of mobility and the need to make urban areas more comfortable, more accessible and

livelier for their inhabitants, whatever their social background, age or state of health.

8. In the light of the foregoing, the Congress calls on urban authorities, intermunicipal bodies and intermediate tiers of governance to:

a. raise citizens’ awareness about the organisation of time in their families and their immediate environment, and the advisability of making adjustments to it and working with civil society to devise a new form of organisation to meet the challenges of modern society;

b. ascertain to what extent time issues and time conflicts represent a concern for citizens and businesses in the local context;

c. set up time offices, which are key elements of local time policies, to align time supply and demand, take and co-ordinate initiatives to optimise timetables and improve the availability of public services in order to facilitate citizens’ daily lives;

d. conduct a cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary study on ways and means of promoting time policies in a local setting;

e. seek to harmonise urban time and social time to meet demands for time adjustments between citizens’ day-to-day obligations and the spatial and temporal accessibility of urban facilities and services; these efforts must also promote solidarity, combat social exclusion and foster cohesion;

f. incorporate the time dimension into all their policies;

g. apply the concepts and make use of the instruments available for the implementation of these policies while ensuring that they are relevant; to establish new forms of participation (joint planning bodies, societal dialogue) and new types of tools for interpreting and representing an area’s spatial and temporal reality (chronotopical analyses and maps);

h. exchange best practices with other authorities at national and international level so as to initiate or enhance learning processes in this sphere.

9. Lastly, the Congress instructs its Committee on Social Cohesion to explore the possibility of promoting knowledge of these policies in Europe and exchanging best practices in co-operation with the relevant Council of Europe bodies, particularly the European Committee for Social Cohesion (CDCS).

1. Debated and approved by the Chamber of Local Authorities on 26 October 2010 and adopted by the Congress on 28 October 2010, 3rd Sitting (see Document [CPL\(19\)3](#), explanatory memorandum), rapporteur: C. Tascon-Mennetrier, France (L, SOC).

2. In Italy.

3. Adopted by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in May 2008.