



The 17<sup>th</sup> session of the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible  
for Spatial Planning (CEMAT),

Bucharest, 3 November 2017

## RESOLUTION N.2

### DECLARATION ON THE FUTURE OF CEMAT

*We, the Ministers* responsible for Spatial Planning of the Member States of the Council of Europe, meeting in Bucharest for the 17<sup>th</sup> session of the Council of Europe Conference,

*Having regard to* the Resolution No.2 adopted at the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning (CEMAT) held in Napflion, Greece, in June 2014, which emphasises the contributions brought by the CEMAT to achieve the goals of the Council of Europe,

*Acknowledging* the value of our cooperation in the framework of the Council of Europe, which has played an important role in enabling a better understanding of the spatial dimension, in the context of democracy, human rights and the rule of law, by developing, promoting and transferring good practices to the benefit of all European states,

*Taking into account* the major achievements of the CEMAT over 47 years of joint efforts in spatial planning - in particular its general contribution to the promotion of efficient territorial development policies throughout Europe, the adoption of the European Regional/Spatial Planning Charter (Torremolinos,1983), the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent (Hannover, 2000), the Spatial Development Glossary (2006), the Moscow Declaration entitled "Challenge for the future: sustainable spatial development of the European continent in a changing world" (Moscow, 2010) and the Napflion Declaration entitled "Promoting territorial democracy in spatial planning" (Napflion, 2014) and the handbook following it that have served as the basis for improvement of planning and territorial development policies in Member States,

*Reiterating* our interest in working and co-operating on the themes set out in Resolution No.2 adopted by the CEMAT in Napflion, Greece, in June 2014, on the contribution of CEMAT to the achievement of the goals of the Council of Europe,

*Taking note* of the results of the preparatory conference organised in Bucharest, on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2017, and in the light of the findings of the questionnaire on functional areas and the continuation of CEMAT,

AGREE ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. Sessions of the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning will continue to draw attention to the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy and serve to promote the sustainable spatial development of the European continent and promote good governance, which is one of the main priorities of the Council of Europe.
2. CEMAT is the unique formal pan-European intergovernmental cooperation platform open to all states of the European continent in the field of spatial planning and development. CEMAT stands out as a framework for debates and exchange of experiences and best practice, thus allowing a better coherence in the development of spatial planning policies in Europe.
3. CEMAT, rooted in the Council of Europe, hence representing a long and substantial experience of spatial development in the context of democracy, human rights and the rule of law for the entire European continent, can make an important contribution to the implementation of the UN sustainable development agenda with its sustainable development goals, that have a clear territorial dimension.
4. The work of CEMAT has always been a source for the development of cooperation within the framework of the Council of Europe and its bodies - Committee of Ministers, Parliamentary Assembly, Congress of local and Regional Authorities and Conference of INGOs.
5. We express our willingness to submit the final results of the preparatory study on functional areas in Member States of the Council of Europe to the Council of Ministers and to continue working on its implementation.
6. Therefore we wish to continue holding the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning, as the work of CEMAT significantly contributes to the strategic objectives of the Council of Europe. Spatial planning is an important element of local and regional government and governance, has great importance for the involvement of citizens and therefore has repercussions for human rights, the rule of law and democracy. We therefore encourage Member States to involve themselves in the process of organising future sessions of CEMAT and their follow-up activities. We call Council of Europe to maintain appropriate support to the work of CEMAT and promote its recommendations and activities, using a secretariat available in the current structure of the Council of Europe.
7. We ask the Romanian presidency to continue its role as an acting chair of CEMAT until the final decision on the next presidency is taken.