

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 198 (2005)¹ on the 5th Forum of Cities and Regions of South-East Europe (Budva, Serbia and Montenegro, 11-12 October 2004)

The Congress,

1. On the basis of the Budva Declaration, adopted at the Forum of Cities and Regions of South-East Europe on 12 October 2004,

2. Asks the local and regional authorities of South-East Europe to:

a. support the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS) and turn the information and experience pooled through this network to the best account;

b. implement the conclusions of the European Ministers responsible for Local and Regional Government's Conference on Effective Democratic Governance at Local and Regional Level (Zagreb, 25-26 October 2004) and, with this aim in mind, contribute to a closer dialogue with central governments and increase citizen participation in the management of public affairs;

c. regarding the socioeconomic situation:

i. ensure that regional/cantonal authorities grant sufficient powers and financial resources to local authorities, in keeping with the spirit of the European Charter of Local Self-Government;

ii. set up public and private partnerships at local and regional level;

iii. take account of the proposals concerning the development of sustainable tourism set out in the Budva Declaration;

d. regarding the fight against corruption, take specific measures at local and regional level to prevent and counter corruption, and make the public aware of these activities, in accordance with the recommendations set out in the Budva Declaration;

e. regarding refugees and displaced persons:

i. set up local and regional associations and co-operatives to provide housing for refugees and displaced persons and explore the possibilities of public-private partnership to develop a sound and well-balanced housing market that is accessible to all sections of society and includes affordable social rental housing;

ii. ensure unimpeded and non-discriminatory access to rights for refugees, returnees and displaced populations, and in particular, access to employment, education and municipal services, in keeping with established international standards;

iii. take due account of the possibility of obtaining Council of Europe Development Bank loans to support socioeconomic development and, in particular, the construction of housing for refugees and displaced persons;

3. Thanks the European Foundation for the Sustainable Development of the Regions (FEDRE) for its help in preparing the various forums, in particular the one held in Budva, and invites it to consider the proposal to set up a network of high schools and universities teaching tourism and hotel management in the Adriatic Region, as proposed in Budva, which could be developed by FEDRE, particularly as regards evaluation, contacts and fund-raising;

4. Instructs its Ad hoc Working Group of Local and Regional Representatives of South-East Europe (GT-SEE) to:

a. follow up the Congress debates on South-Eastern Europe at the 12th plenary session (May 2005);

b. prepare the 6th Forum of Cities and Regions of South-East Europe to be held in Sinaia (Romania) in November 2005 and take account of the invitation from the Albanian authorities to hold the 7th Forum in Albania in 2006;

c. continue to support the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South East Europe (NALAS) and in particular the preparation of its first General Assembly;

d. support the development of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) and the development of the Adriatic Euroregion project.

1. Debated and adopted by the Congress on 2 June 2005, 3rd Sitting (see Document CG (12) 11, draft resolution presented by G. Angelov ("the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", L, EPP/CD), rapporteur).

