

# CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF EUROPE

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## **Resolution 135 (2002) on the Forums of Cities and Regions of South-eastern Europe (8th and 9th Economic Forums) (Istanbul, Turkey, 2 and 3 November 2001 and Novi Sad, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, from 18 to 20 April 2002)**

The Congress,

1. On the basis of the Istanbul and Novi Sad Declarations;

2. Instructs the Bureau of the CLRAE, in accordance with Article 10, paragraph 2 of the CLRAE Charter, to set up, by way of exception, an *ad hoc* Working Group on South-eastern Europe, which could focus on action to be taken in the following areas:

*a.* follow-up to the three Forums of Cities and Regions of South-eastern Europe (held in Skopje, Istanbul and Novi Sad) and the proposals set out in the declarations;

*b.* follow-up to the Congress debates at the 8th and 9th plenary sessions;

*c.* follow-up to the activities organised by the Congress under the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe;

*d.* representation of the interests of local and regional authorities in South-eastern Europe within the Stability Pact and funding from donor countries and organisations for priority projects in the local democracy sector;

*e.* participation in activities being carried out under the enhanced Szeged Process;

*f.* developing the network of National Associations of Local Authorities of South-eastern Europe (NALAs-SEE), making sure that the Association of the Regions of Albania is also involved;

*g.* continuing and extending activities involving national local authority associations in all countries of South-eastern Europe, in accordance with donors' financial contributions to the Congress under the Stability Pact;

*h.* the role which the Congress could play, in keeping with the spirit of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, in addressing specific problems encountered by local and regional authorities in South-eastern Europe in obtaining loans from the Council of Europe's Development Bank.

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1. Debated and adopted by the Congress on 6 June 2002, 3rd Sitting, (see Doc. CG (9) 8, draft resolution, presented by Mr. Y. Mildon and Mr. O. Masters, rapporteurs).