CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF EUROPE

Resolution 121 (2001)[1]
on the impact of globalisation on regions

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

1. Recalling that globalisation has become an inescapable feature of today's world which affects politics, society and cultural life and provokes reactions at European, national and regional levels;

2. Bearing in mind the growing exchange of goods, services and people and the globalisation of economies, and the impact on the economic development of regions;

3. Recalling the role of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, particularly through its Economic Forums of the Regions of Europe – Geneva (18-20 January 1996), Dortmund (23-26 June 1996), Moscow (25 and 26 November 1996), Vienna (9-12 September 1997), Bucharest (2-4 July 1998), Weimar (3 and 4 May 1999) and Skopje (16-18 November 2000) –, which provide political and economic representatives of the regions of Europe with a platform for contact and dialogue, exchanging information, sharing experience, co-operation and partnerships in the field of economic and regional development;

4. Recalling the Congress's discussions and work on globalisation at the 1st Conference of Presidents of Regions with legislative power (Barcelona, November 2000) and in particular Mr Van Cauwenberghe's contribution on regionalism and federalism in the face of globalisation;

5. Considering that regions can pursue an active policy to cope with the impact of globalisation,

6. Invites the regions:

a. to integrate the cultural dimension into political initiatives to promote their socio-economic development, recognising the asset that cultural heritage represents;

b. to promote a policy of support for the creation of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs/SMIs), through aid for job creation, fiscal aid and export aid, to help them adapt rapidly to national and international competition in a free market economy, these being important factors in combating unemployment;

c. to ensure that regional authorities make the necessary administrative and financial efforts to set up training and teaching establishments for the younger generation, at which emphasis is placed on the laws and workings of the market, interregional and international competition and responsible management of natural resources, so that supply is able to meet demand in the labour market;

d. to set up training schemes – particularly further education for adults – and schemes for retraining and information circulation so as to give regional decision makers access to international markets;

e. to promote networking in order to create platforms for contact, sharing experience and co-operation with a view to pooling resources so as to respond more effectively to the challenges of globalisation, through partnerships with other regional authorities, in Europe or on other continents;

f. to take an active part, to this end, in the Economic Forums of the Regions of Europe which the Congress regularly organises to promote interregional socioeconomic co-operation;

g. to promote a regional investment policy, particularly in the field of new technology, media and communication;

h. to develop the teaching of languages, which are an asset for international competitiveness;

i. to encourage a policy of receptiveness and tolerance in order to cope with demographic mobility and migration and, to that end, to extend contacts and co-operation networks to a global scale;

7. Invites the Congress Bureau:

a. to encourage the other statutory committees to consider the impact of globalisation in their sphere of activity;

b. to consider preparing a collection of examples of good practice and innovative regional policies, particularly in the area of social cohesion, pursued in response to the effects of globalisation.

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