

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Recommendation 155 (2004)¹ on the Revised European Urban Charter

The Congress, bearing in mind the proposal of the Chamber of Local Authorities,

1. Convinced that a satisfactory quality of life in our European cities is one of the keys to civic stability;
2. Having responded to this reality through a long and substantial programme of work on urban policies, deriving from and inspired by the European Urban Charter, adopted in 1992 by its predecessor, the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe;
3. Recalling some aspects of its work on the main issues affecting urban society, for example crime prevention; tackling terrorism; local police; management of capital cities; combating poverty in towns; social cohesion; democratic control of the provision of public utilities; urban transport; coping with natural and industrial disasters; historic towns and the protection of heritage; participation of foreigners in local life; and intercultural dialogue. All these issues have been addressed in conferences/hearings; reports; resolutions and recommendations; guides and/or manuals;
4. Convinced that to some extent the roots of conflict in European society stem from a poor social and built urban environment;

5. Conscious that the rate of political, social and economic change in Europe over the last decade has generated a new dimension in urban governance;
6. Believing, therefore, that the European Urban Charter, whilst remaining valid in its essentials, none the less requires updating in the light of such changes;
7. Having therefore undertaken a revision of the Charter (see explanatory memorandum) in order to bring it up-to-date and define a number of achievable, balanced and reasonable policy options for local authorities in Europe;
8. Aware that local authority policies for their citizens in urban areas must be set against national backgrounds and reflect national priorities;
9. Wishes to commend the Revised European Urban Charter to the Committee of Ministers, to national governments and relevant inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations;
10. Asks the Committee of Ministers, in particular, to:
 - a. consider the transformation of the Revised European Urban Charter into a statutory instrument of the Council of Europe, for example a recommendation;
 - b. transmit the European Urban Charter to their respective national governments and authorise its transmission to other relevant international organisations.

1. Debated and approved by the Chamber of Local Authorities on 26 May 2004 and adopted by the Standing Committee of the Congress on 27 May 2004 (see Document CPL (11) 7, draft recommendation presented by C. A. Pinto (Portugal, L, EPP/CD), rapporteur).