

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Recommendation 174 (2005)¹ on youth education for sustainable development: the role of the regions

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

1. Having regard to:

a. the Report on the Role of the Regions in Education for Sustainable Development, prepared at the initiative of Mr Liviu Nicolae Dragnea (Romania), in the framework of the Committee on Sustainable Development of the Chamber of Regions;

b. the basic principles of sustainable development, as defined in 1972 in the Stockholm Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, in the United Nations Brundtland Report in 1987 and in the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development of 2002;

2. Being fully aware of:

a. the fact that in Europe there are at least 75 million young people aged between 15 and 25 and that in years to come the population of Europe will register an aging effect caused by the decrease in the birth rate and a longer life expectancy;

b. the importance of creating, for students, teachers and political actors, a new learning context for teaching sustainable development at all educational levels;

c. the fact that young people are often considered as the citizens of tomorrow but insufficiently as actors in today's society and that this suggests the need for better involvement of youth in the elaboration of policies affecting future generations;

3. Considering:

a. that education for sustainable development should be considered as an investment made to achieve future social, economic and environmental gains;

b. the need for a continuous effort, at regional, national and international level, and the need to promote solidarity between generations in order to maintain the natural environment and use natural capital resources without affecting future generations;

4. Stressing the vital role that regional authorities can play in the initiation and development of integrated actions for sustainable development at international level,

5. Requests national governments of Council of Europe member states to:

a. acknowledge that the basic concepts of sustainable development should become a vital part of young people's behaviour;

b. contribute to ensuring the proactive – and not only reactive – participation of youth in elaborating policies for sustainable development and promote the involvement of young people in the elaboration of policies that have a direct impact on their future;

c. promote, in the framework of national education systems, the integration of education for sustainable development in school and university curricula and, where appropriate, to incorporate sustainability approaches in existing subject matters;

d. the teaching of sustainable development concepts within already existing structures at regional and European levels;

e. ensure that teachers have easy access to skills and expertise in education for sustainable development and provide appropriate funding for organising training seminars for teachers and education system professionals;

f. encourage the collaboration between public or private institutions, non-governmental organisations and associative youth structures in order to encourage active citizenship;

g. support the European regions in implementing initiatives proposed by the Congress in its resolution on youth education for sustainable development: the role of the regions.

1. Debated and adopted by the Chamber of Regions on 1 June 2005 and adopted by the Standing Committee of the Congress on 2 June 2005 (see Document CPR (12) 3, draft recommendation presented by L. N. Dragnea (Romania, R, SOC), rapporteur).

