



Opinion 86 (1977)¹

Texts adopted at the 12th Session of the Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (Strasbourg, 24-26 May 1977)

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Having examined the texts adopted at the 12th Session of the Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, held in Strasbourg from 24 to 26 May 1977 ([Doc. 4008](#)), and the report of its Committee on Regional Planning and Local Authorities on the proceedings of this 12th Session ([Doc. 4024](#)) ;
2. Welcoming the prompt introduction by the conference of the new structures and working methods defined in Committee of Ministers' Resolution (75) 4 amending the Charter of the conference ;
3. Considering however that, in order to be a truly representative assembly of the local and regional authorities of Europe, the conference should require all its members to have an electoral mandate ;
4. Considérant que la situation actuelle des politiques culturelles en Europe demeure, malgré les difficultés économiques, une question d'intérêt national tout particulier dans les Etats membres ;
5. Noting with satisfaction the conference's efforts to concentrate its plenary session debates on a few major themes within its sphere of competence, approaching them now from the standpoint of the Europe of the Nineteen, now from that of the European Communities ;
6. Reiterating, nevertheless, the wish expressed in its [Opinion No. 80 \(1977\)](#) that the conference should take more effective action to achieve the aims of the Council of Europe, by following up at municipal and regional level the initiatives taken by the statutory bodies of the Council, including the Committee of Ministers ;
7. Hoping that the conference will accordingly submit a detailed draft agenda which would be adhered to at the session, so that the Assembly may prepare a more detailed opinion for the attention of the Committee of Ministers on the topics and reports envisaged ;
8. Welcoming the introduction of a simplified procedure for consultation between the conference, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Committee of Ministers on dates and agendas for conference sessions and the drafting of opinions on texts adopted by the conference, whereby the Committee on Regional Planning and Local Authorities acts as principal interlocutor in the dialogue between the conference and the Assembly,
9. Gives the following opinion on the various texts adopted by the conference at its 12th Session :
 - a. with regard to [Resolution 88 \(1977\)](#), on the role and responsibility of local and regional authorities in economic and employment policy :

approves the principle stated by the conference that workers should be able to find work in their own country or region, but nevertheless draws attention to the advantages of freely-chosen mobility and to the effective social protection which will be afforded to migrant workers once the European statute drawn up by the Council of Europe has entered into force ;

1. Assembly debate on 13 October 1977 (18th Sitting) (see [Doc. 4024](#), report of the Committee on Regional Planning and Local Authorities). Text adopted by the Assembly on 13 October 1977 (18th Sitting).



recognises that central, regional and local authorities share responsibility for economic and employment policy, and for the protection of workers against the effects of unemployment, but points out that certain sectors, such as that of social legislation, are generally the exclusive preserve of the state ;

endorses the conference's wish that local and regional authorities, which are better qualified to identify and remedy local difficulties, should be consulted by the central government before any economic policy affecting them is defined ;

considers that recognition of this principle could be embodied in a Council of Europe Committee of Ministers' resolution ;

- b. with regard to [Resolution 89 \(1977\)](#), on the regional policy of the Council of Europe member states and of the European institutions :

shares the conference's opinion regarding the particularly harmful effects of the present economic crisis on the economically weaker regions, and endorses the conference's recommendation to reactivate the economy, in particular by financing major infrastructure operations in such regions ;

notes with satisfaction the support expressed by the conference for the Assembly's proposal to invite the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning to set about defining, in co-operation with the European Conference of Ministers of Transport, the main features of the European trunk communications network ;

- c. with regard to [Resolution 90 \(1977\)](#), on frontier regions and action of the European Ministers responsible for Local Government :

referring to its Recommendations 693 (1973), and 784 (1976), on the two symposia on frontier regions, and its [Recommendation 802 \(1977\)](#), on regional planning in Europe, reiterates the wish to be consulted on the draft European outline convention on transfrontier co-operation between territorial authorities or communities prior to its signature, and emphasises the urgency of signing and implementing this instrument advocated by it in 1966 in its [Recommendation 470](#), on a draft convention on European co-operation among local authorities ;

joins the conference in stressing the importance for frontier co-operation of the harmonisation of cartographic data and statistics, and especially of regional planning harmonisation schemes, initiated by the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning ;

- d. with regard to [Resolution 91 \(1977\)](#), on social security for migrant workers, [Resolution 93 \(1977\)](#), on the extension of civil and political rights to immigrants, and [Resolution 94 \(1977\)](#), on housing conditions for migrant workers in Europe :

emphasises the importance of the European Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers, approved in Strasbourg on 25 April 1977, and expresses the hope that this legal instrument will speedily be ratified by the member states ;

regrets that the conference did not see fit to endorse the proposals made in its [Recommendation 799](#), on the subject of granting aliens the right to vote at local authority level ;

recalls the proposal made in that same [Recommendation 799](#) to the effect that the competent committee of experts should study procedures for setting up consultative councils to represent aliens at local authority level ;

expresses the hope that the Conference of European Ministers responsible for Local Government to be held in Stockholm in 1978 may reach clear and courageous conclusions concerning the participation of aliens in local public life ;

reserves the right to reconsider certain aspects of these resolutions in the course of a more thorough examination to be made by its Committee on Population and Refugees ;

- e. with regard to [Resolution 92 \(1977\)](#), on the measures to be taken to improve the exchange of documentation, information and experience concerning matters affecting local and regional authorities :

considers that its opinion on [Resolution 87 \(1976\)](#) is still valid, and that this project could be carried out by stages, and notes with satisfaction that the conference now shares this point of view ;

endorses, in particular, the suggestions made in sub-paragraphs a to e of paragraph 8.a of the resolution, but has reservations regarding sub-paragraphs f and g, and in this connection reiterates its proposals concerning the information bulletin on frontier co-operation and nature protection put forward in its [Opinion No. 80](#), paragraph 9.f.