Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Opinion 134 (1987)[1]

Texts adopted at the 21st Session of the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE) (Strasbourg, 14-16 October 1986)

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Having taken note of the texts adopted by the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe at its 21st Session ;

2. Bearing in mind that the conference was instituted, within the framework of Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe, to ensure the participation of local and regional authorities in achieving the aims of the Organisation as defined in Article 1 of the Statute ;

3. Recalling that the resolutions and opinions adopted by the conference shall be submitted to the Assembly for opinion and to the Committee of Ministers for action ;

4. Reaffirming its point of view that all members of the conference should hold a local or regional authority electoral mandate ;

5. Welcoming the positive effect given to CLRAE Resolution 158 (1985) and Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1021 (1985) with regard to the method of appointing nine delegates to the CLRAE ;

6. Noting with satisfaction that the conference has become more fully representative as a result of the increase in the number of delegates having an electoral mandate ;

7. Aware that the Committee of Ministers, acting on Assembly Recommendation 1021, intends to invite governments to take steps to ensure a balanced distribution between local and regional representatives ;

8. Welcoming the decision taken by the Committee of Ministers to set up a European committeeon transfrontier co-operation between territorial authorities as a satisfactory response to the opinion expressed by the Assembly (Opinion No. 127 (1986), paragraph H.a) ;

9. Considering that certain of the adopted texts referring to the management of municipal and regional affairs tend to blur the distinction between the concepts of self-government and independence, and go beyond the spirit of the European Charter of Local Self-Government,

10. Reiterates the comment made in its Opinion No. 122 (1985), namely ‘‘that it cannot be appropriate for the conference to address its resolutions, containing recommendations intended for the Assembly and the Committee of Ministers, directly to governments of member states, international organisations and the European Communities" ;

11. Observes that, in accordance with the Assembly's wishes, the conference is now devoting less attention to activities which are not of direct relevance to local and regional authorities ;

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1. See Doc. 5660, texts adopted at the 21st Session of the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, and Doc. 5703, report of the Committee on the Environment, Regional Planning and Local Authorities. Text adopted by the Standing Committee, acting on behalf of the Assembly, on 27 March 1987.

12. Expresses the following opinion on the resolutions adopted by the conference at its 21st Session :

a. Resolution 169 (1986) on the 5th European Sym posium of Historic Towns Invites the Committee of Ministers to act on the recommendations specifically addressed to it and to urge member states :

1. to make the necessary arrangements to implement the measures recommended to local and regional authorities for improving occupational training in restoration trades ;

2. to ensure the application of statutory provisions and regulations against property speculation which poses a threat to the restoration sector, jeopardises jobs and is likely to discourage young people from embarking upon an occupational training in the various restoration trades ;

b. Resolution 170 (1986) on transport planning— How to strike a balance between economics and ecology ? Endorses the proposals concerning studies of the environmental impact of major industrial installations, and the drafting of a model agreement on environmental protection in frontier regions taking account of the particular problems of transport infrastructures, in order to supplement the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities ;

c. Resolution 171 (1986) on ‘‘Region, environment and participation"

1. Agrees with the CLRAE that achieving the aims of the European Campaign for the Countryside (1987-88) and European Environment Year (1987) places special administrative and technical burdens on local and regional authorities which justify the support and collaboration of states and the institution of methods to co-ordinate action at both levels ;

2. Asks the Committee of Ministers to invite the governments which have not yet done so to sign and/or ratify the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities and the Berne Convention ;

d. Resolution 172 (1986) on tourism and en vironment Supports the proposal, which echoes its own Recommendation 987 (1984), to devote part of the intergovernmental work programme to drafting a set of regulations for the award of a diploma to foster the development of European cultural routes ;

e. Resolution 173 (1986) relating to proposals for the modification of the composition of the Stand ing Committee Has no comments to pass on this matter of internal interest to the CLRAE ;

f. Resolution 174 (1986) on reorganisation of lo cal government in Europe : modernisation and adaptation, and

g. Resolution 175 (1986) on local finance

1. Shares the CLRAE's concern at the increasing scope and complexity of the tasks assigned to local and regional authorities, and agrees that the latter should not bear the full financial brunt of the economic recession by having their transfers and grants from the central government discontinued, and that, in the case of economic recovery, such authorities should receive their share of benefits ;

2. Recommends, however, that the demands for freedom in the management of local and regional affairs should be commensurate with the framework of self-government defined in the European Charter of Local Self-Government, so that due importance may be given to the spirit of solidarity between local authorities ;

h. Resolution 176 (1986) on the progress of Euro pean integration Endorses the proposals addressed to the Committee of Ministers which correspond to the aims set out in the Colombo report and in relevant Assembly recommendations ;

i. Resolution 177 (1986) on topical issues concerning European local and regional authorities Refrains from making any particular comments insofar as numerous items are already dealt with in other resolutions ;

j. Resolution 178 (1986) on the Conference on Youth Employment

1. Congratulates the CLRAE on the quality and exhaustiveness of the proposals made in this resolution, which coincide with many aspects of Assembly Recommendation 1023 (1986) ;

2. Expresses the wish that the Committee of Ministers pay special attention to the proposals formulated in Recommendation 1023 (1986) on youth unemployment, and in Resolution 178 of the CLRAE, designed to set up a study and information centre on national, regional and local

youth employ,ment initiatives, in particular with a view to promoting the reinsertion of socially disadvantaged young unemployed (‘‘drop-outs"), taking into account possible activities in this field carried out in other international organisations ;

k. Resolution 179 (1986) D women's participation in local and regional democratic life Notes with satisfaction that this resolution builds on and expands the ideas contained in its own Recommendation 1008 (1985) and invites the Committee of Ministers to act on the recommendations addressed to it.