Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Opinion 166 (1993)[1]

Resolution 240 (1992) adopted by the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe on the development of the activities of the European network of training centres for local and regional authority staff

Parliamentary Assembly

1. As early as 1986, the Assembly had welcomed the conference's interest in the status and, in particular, the training of territorial administrators and had adopted the proposals made by the conference in its Resolutions 167 and 168 (1985) on the European Conference on the Problems of Local and Regional Government Staff and on a declaration of principles concerning the staff of local and regional authorities, respectively.

2. The Committee on the Environment, Regional Planning and Local Authorities has on several occasions stressed the importance of ensuring adequate training for territorial administrators so that they may perform their duties fully and in the most effective manner possible.

3. At present, the committee is working on two problems in which local and regional authorities and their staff have a fundamental role to play, namely management of water resources and waste management. Attention has been given on various occasions to the importance -given the existence of increasingly sophisticated technologies -of the application of the principle of subsidiarity and the need to ensure the effective implementation of the various texts adopted at national, European and international level, with the result that special attention needs to be paid to the problems of training. In the committee's opinion, this must be targeted at both elected representatives and territorial administrators.

4. Against this background, the committee welcomed the creation of the European network and believes that it should be developed to become a veritable instrument for local authorities so that they may perform their role to the full.

5. The committee is following with considerable interest the development of the network and has expressed its hope that it will participate fully in the Colloquy on Training Local Government Members and Administrators for Decision-making on Water Issues (Limoges, 3-5 March 1993). This colloquy, organised by the Parliamentary Assembly in co-operation with the International Water Agency and the Centre national français de la fonction publique territoriale, is one of the events in the "Freshwater Europe" action programme on the management of water resources.

6. The Parliamentary Assembly fully agrees with the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe that the Council of Europe is currently the most appropriate institutional framework for pan-European co-operation in the construction of genuine local democracy and fully supports the requests made by the Conference to the Committee of Ministers in Resolution 240 (1992).

1. See Doc. 6772, report of the Committee on the Environment, Regional Planning and Local Authorities, Rapporteur: Mr Parisi. Text adopted by the Standing Committee, acting on behalf of the Assembly, on 26 March 1993.

7. Lastly, the Assembly welcomes the holding in Santiago de Compostela (26-27 April 1993) of the 5th European Seminar of Training Centres for Local and Regional Authorities' Staff whose activities will be followed with the greatest of interest by its Committee on the Environment, Regional Planning and Local Authorities.