

Recommendation 587 (1970)¹

Creation of regional and transfrontier natural parks

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Noting that Europe's demographic development, its increasing urbanisation and its creeping industrialisation today threaten the very conditions necessary for a decent life for people and demand concerted defence reactions on the part of Europeans on a scale equal to the dangers with which they are faced ;
2. Recalling that the creation of regional natural parks meets the double need to conserve countryside of particular value and to provide the inhabitants of large conurbations with natural recreation areas, to which the same importance should be given in regional plans as is given to the principal infrastructure equipment of such areas;
3. Considering that the establishment of natural parks in certain regions of mountain, marsh and heath, which do not lend themselves to agriculture, can assist the revival of such regions by involving the rural populations in the creation and life of the parks ;
4. Considering also that in many instances areas worthy of special protection and suited by their geographical position for recreational use are crossed by national frontiers and, consequently, raise the problem of the transfrontier organisation of regional parks ;
5. Believing further that increasing the number of such transfrontier regional parks would contribute towards strengthening the spirit of co-operation and solidarity among the peoples of Europe ;
6. Noting, however, that national legislations relating to regional natural parks still vary widely, and often provide neither a satisfactory basis for the creation of regional parks nor the conditions necessary for the creation of transfrontier parks ;
7. Wishing to promote the improvement of man's natural environment as well as the protection of the European countryside ;
8. Wishing also to make a contribution towards European Conservation Year,
9. Recommends the Committee of Ministers :
 - a. to ask the European Committee for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources :
 - to examine any suitable measures to promote the creation of regional and transfrontier parks in member countries, in accordance with the Assembly's wish expressed in [Recommendation 284 of 1961](#);*
 - to undertake, as soon as possible, a study of national legislations in this sphere ;*
 - to make arrangements for the systematic exchange of information relating to national and regional natural parks, notably through the European Information Centre for Nature Conservation and its periodic information bulletin ;*

1. Assembly debate on 26 January 1970 (20th Sitting) (see [Doc.2708](#), report of the Committee on Regional Planning and Local Authorities). Text adopted by the Assembly on 26 January 1970 (20th Sitting).



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- b. to obtain the opinions of other committees involved, notably that of the Committee on Co-operation in Municipal and Regional Matters as regards the administrative status of regional parks, and that of the Committee of Senior Officials concerned with preparing the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning as regards their creation within the context of European regional planning ;
- c. to invite the European Nature Conservation Conference to give particular attention to the problem of natural parks and to make suggestions for future action by the Council of Europe.