



Recommendation 784 (1976)¹

Conclusions of the 2nd European Symposium on Frontier Regions (Innsbruck, 11-13 September 1975)

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Having taken note of the report by its Committee on Regional Planning and Local Authorities ([Doc. 3807](#)) on the 2nd European Symposium on Frontier Regions, organised in pursuance of its Order No. 333 ;
2. Welcoming the wide participation in the 2nd Symposium, implying, as it appears to do, greater interest in the problems of frontier regions ;
3. Noting with satisfaction the marked growth of transfrontier co-operation, directly or indirectly attributable to the efforts made by the Council of Europe ;
4. Noting, in particular, that the Committee of Ministers has adopted Resolution (74) 8, on co-operation among local communities in frontier areas, and instructed its Committee on Cooperation in Municipal and Regional Matters to draw up model statutes and model agreements for such co-operation ;
5. Regretting, however, that no action has as yet been taken on other proposals, including those concerning the creation of an information bureau for frontier co-operation ;
6. Noting, too, that in many cases transfrontier co-operation is still having to contend with serious obstacles, especially of an administrative and legal nature ;
7. Reiterating its frequently expressed conviction, confirmed by the views of the persons concerned themselves and by the Conference of Ministers of the Interior, held in Paris in December 1975, that only an international legal instrument can provide a sound basis for transfrontier co-operation in Europe,
8. Recommends that the Committee of Ministers :
 - a. instruct its Committee on Co-operation in Municipal and Regional Matters to prepare as soon as possible a framework convention on transfrontier co-operation in Europe, incorporating, in particular, the following principles :

local and regional communities in frontier regions have the same rights and means of establishing co-operation between local or regional authorities as those available to local communities situated in the interior of the country, and may exercise such rights and facilities across the national frontier ;

local and regional communities which establish a form of transfrontier intermunicipal co-operation shall be entitled to the same facilities and subsidies as those accorded to similar arrangements between national local communities ;

as a general rule, co-operation is organised by frontier commissions ; such commissions must represent central government as well as regional and municipal levels, in accordance with the principle of decision-taking as near as possible to the level concerned ;

1. SSee [Doc. 3807](#), report of the Committee on Regional Planning and Local Authorities. Text adopted by the Standing Committee, acting on behalf of the Assembly on 28 June 1976.



the forms and methods of frontier co-operation shall be organised on the basis of model agreements and statutes in course of completion or to be drawn up by the Committee on Co-operation in Municipal and Regional Matters ;

- b. invite the Committee of Co-operation in Municipal and Regional Matters to take likewise as its model for the draft European agreement to be drawn up the Nordic Convention on Co-operation between Local Authorities, drawn up within the framework of the Nordic Council ;
- c. instruct the appropriate intergovernmental committee to examine the economic and social problems of frontier workers, and to draw up a European statute for such workers, possibly within the context of a European statute for migrant workers, and to invite governments to seek bilateral solutions pending a European solution ;
- d. submit for prior consultation and concertation in frontier commissions projects whose fulfilment might affect the quality of the environment of neighbouring frontier regions or common natural resources, such as water or nature sites ;
- e. as a matter of urgency, invite the European Conference of Ministers of the Interior to examine the special problems of organising first aid and the provision of medical and hospital services in frontier regions, with a view to facilitating the speedy provision of mutual aid across national frontiers, especially in the case of natural disasters or serious accidents, and to draw up appropriate international instruments or model agreements accordingly ;
- f. set up without delay an information bureau on questions of frontier co-operation, as requested in Assembly [Recommendation 693 \(1973\)](#) and by the participants in the two symposia, thereby completing arrangements for information and consultation on matters of frontier co-operation, the first step towards which was the issue of the Information Bulletin on Municipal and Regional Matters, and to arrange for a special bulletin on frontier co-operation to be issued in four languages ;
- g. transmit the Final Declaration of the 2nd European Symposium on Frontier Regions to the Committee on Co-operation in Municipal and Regional Matters, to the Committee of Senior Officials in charge of preparations for the Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning, and to the other intergovernmental committees responsible for studying the technical aspects of frontier co-operation ;
- h. transmit this recommendation, together with the Final Declaration of the Innsbruck Symposium, to the next European Conference of Ministers of the Interior for information and opinion.