

CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF EUROPE

Recommendation 134 (2003)¹ on tackling terrorism – the role and responsibilities of local authorities

The Congress, bearing in mind the proposal of the Chamber of Local Authorities,

1. Welcoming the debate at the current session of the Chamber of Local Authorities on tackling terrorism – the role and responsibilities of local authorities;
2. Considers that the CLRAE Conference held in Luxembourg in September 2002 on the same subject marked a decisive step forward in the analysis of the responsibilities of local authorities in the promotion of dialogue between different cultures and religions, in policies for the protection of their population and of industrial plants, and civil defence and crisis management;
3. Believes that combating terrorism requires a concerted and co-ordinated response from governments, international organisations and agencies and from local and regional authorities;
4. Wishes to draw attention therefore to the series of considerations and proposals about the role and responsibilities of local authorities in tackling terrorism, as contained in Resolution 159 (2003);
5. Asks the Committee of Ministers to:
 - a.* continue and strengthen the work of the Multi-Disciplinary Group on International Action Against Terrorism (GMT) and to take into account in the work of the GMT the activities of the CLRAE on combating terrorism;
 - b.* include combating terrorism as an agenda item in a possible future Third Summit of Heads of State and Government;
 - c.* continue to make a determined effort to seek solutions to major unresolved conflicts in member countries;
 - d.* encourage member governments to:

- i.* strengthen protective and preventive measures, in the belief that citizens have the right to live in peace and enjoy respect for human dignity;
- ii.* adopt a national plan for combating terrorism with partnerships between all relevant agencies and bodies in which local authorities have a role;
- iii.* co-operate fully with other levels of public administration such as local and regional authorities in confronting and dealing with terrorism;
- iv.* seek to allocate to local and regional authorities additional resources and full information to enable them to meet these challenges effectively;
- v.* support transfrontier co-operation between local authorities in combating terrorism, as defined in the final declaration of the CLRAE Conference on Local Authorities and Transfrontier Crime, held in Enschede, Netherlands, from 20 to 22 September 2001;
- vi.* develop a global approach to security and, in relation to the protection of public places and industrial installations, establish a close partnership between industry, police, different levels of public authorities and the population;
- vii.* define a clear division of responsibility and chain of command between different agencies and bodies called upon to prepare contingency plans and provide emergency services;
- viii.* establish national commissions or bodies for racial equality, outlawing racial discrimination and fighting intolerance and extremism, in countries where these do not yet exist;
- ix.* respond adequately to legitimate aspirations for autonomy, using as guidelines in this respect recognised international agreements, such as the Council of Europe's European Charter of Local Self-Government and other relevant texts of the Organisation;
- x.* accord the right to vote in municipal elections to all residents along the lines of the Council of Europe Convention on the Participation of Foreigners in Public Life at Local Level.

1. Debated and approved by the Chamber of Local Authorities on 21 May 2003 and adopted by the Standing Committee of the Congress on 22 May 2003 (see Document CPL (10) 5, draft recommendation presented by Mrs L. Laurelli and Mr V. Rogov, rapporteurs).