

XXI Congress of the Socialist International

Paris, 8-10 November 1999

GENERAL CONGRESS RESOLUTION

(Απόσπασμα του Γενικού Ψηφίσματος που αφορά στην Τοπική Αυτοδιοίκηση)

LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

The Socialist International in its profound commitment to peace, progress and development in solidarity looks forward to the third millennium with an even greater focus on the problems directly affecting the urban population.

In a world of continuous change, characterised by globalisation of the economy and information on the one hand and by the increasing inequalities between countries, regions and their inhabitants on the other, the SI once again proclaims its desire to make the city a more human environment.

The Committee for Local and Regional Authorities has undertaken a series of activities in accordance with the decision adopted during the XX Congress held in New York in 1996, in keeping with the spirit of the Declaration of Bologna. The SI has been involved in an in-depth analysis of the different forms of governance of cities with a view to increasing transparency, rigor and democracy, the enhancement of quality of life in the city and with a view to adopting a more open attitude to the outside world.

The SI notes with satisfaction the new momentum given to its commitment on this subject during the II World Conference of Mayors, held in Fez on 5-6 of October 1998, with the participation of more than 250 Mayors representing all the continents. The main subjects for discussion were : the Socialist response to the information society; new partnerships between States and Local Authorities; globalisation of solidarity, and cities in conflict.

The Committee of Local and Regional Representatives was instructed by the Paris Congress to further pursue its activities and apply the specific proposals submitted in the « Fez Declaration » and specifically commissions it to :

- Draft a Charter of the Local Socialist Authority, reiterating our ethical values in public administration;
- Take action at all levels of power in national parliaments and government as well as in international institutions so as to establish conditions which will lead to a truly decentralised and interactive co-operation among cities, as well as significantly enhancing mutual democratic inter-relations;

- Foster the creation of a network for the exchange of experiences and skills, mainly through an Intranet which will connect SI Mayors and with a specific focus on the participation and integration of Southern Cities;

- Support all initiatives aimed at proclaiming a World Charter of local autonomy.

The Congress also encourages the Committee to continue with its initiatives, such as that undertaken on the 10-11 September in Cartaxo, Portugal, and provide manifest proof the more developed cities' solidarity towards those in adversity, mainly in cases of war or natural disaster. This established the basis for partnership in solidarity with the cities of south-east Europe and launched a strong appeal for international aid for the Turkish cities shaken by the earthquake on 17 August, mainly the city of Izmit.