

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 251 (2008)¹ City Diplomacy

1. City Diplomacy expresses the growing importance of the city as a political actor on the international stage. Cities, together with their networks, are becoming increasingly involved in initiatives to build and consolidate peace in other territories.

2. The First World Conference on City Diplomacy, “the role of local governments in conflict prevention, peace-building and post-conflict resolution”, to take place in The Hague, Netherlands from 11 to 13 June 2008, reflects the growing importance of these activities, in which the Council of Europe Congress has played a pioneering role through the development of Local Democracy Agencies.

3. In the face of this new development by European cities, the Congress:

a. asks cities to participate in City Diplomacy activities;

b. encourages cities and their respective associations to cooperate in networks to foster the effectiveness of their City Diplomacy activities;

c. asks cities and their respective associations to plan their City Diplomacy activities carefully, taking account of the

local context, and to attach the highest importance to acquiring a detailed knowledge of the situations in which they intervene;

d. advises and encourages cities and their respective associations to evaluate their City Diplomacy activities, in co-operation with the Congress, using its ad hoc monitoring instruments;

e. commits itself to participating in the development of an international structure to facilitate and develop City Diplomacy;

f. commits itself to continuing its support for the Local Democracy Agencies, the North South Centre and the Municipal Alliance for Peace in using and developing City Diplomacy;

g. commits itself to pursuing its co-operation to establish a dialogue of European and Arab cities and to implement the conclusions of the Dubai Euro-Arab Cities Forum (10-11 February 2008);

h. commits itself to encouraging organisations and associations which have observer status with the Congress to develop their City Diplomacy activities;

i. offers to work in close co-operation with the other relevant international organisations, both governmental and non-governmental, to draw up a charter for City Diplomacy and to set up relevant pilot projects.

1. Debated and approved by the Standing Committee of the Chamber of Local Authorities on 13 March 2008 and adopted by the Standing Committee of the Congress on 14 March 2008 (see Document CPL(14)12RES, draft resolution presented by O. Van Veldhuizen, Netherlands (L, ILDG), rapporteur).