



THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR REGIONAL/SPATIAL PLANNING (CEMAT)

*The Guiding Principles
for Sustainable Spatial
Development of
the European Continent
stress the territorial
dimension of human
rights and democracy*

Recommendation Rec (2002) 1
of the Committee of Ministers
of the Council of Europe

The Council of Europe's European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional/Spatial Planning (CEMAT) brings together representatives of the 45 Member States of the Council of Europe, united in their pursuit of a common objective: sustainable spatial development of the European continent.

The activities of the Council of Europe, relating to spatial planning, began in 1970 in Bonn where the first European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning (CEMAT) was held. Fundamental documents, which have guided spatial planning policies, have from time to time been adopted during the activities carried out over the years:

- > the European Regional/Spatial Planning Charter, adopted in 1983 at the 6th Session of the CEMAT in Torremolinos, was incorporated into Recommendation (84) 2 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the European Regional/Spatial Planning Charter;
- > the European Regional Planning Strategy presented at the 8th Session of the CEMAT in Lausanne in 1988;
- > the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent, adopted at the 12th Session of the CEMAT held in Hanover in 2000 and incorporated into Recommendation (2002) 1 by the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent.

These activities were carried out in close co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe.

The Council of Europe presented the Guiding Principles to the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, in 2002 as a contribution to the implementation of the United Nations Programme "Agenda 21" adopted in Rio de Janeiro and as a start of an inter-continental dialogue.

European Conferences of Ministers responsible for Regional/Spatial Planning (CEMAT) 1970-2003

1st CEMAT

Foundations of a European regional planning policy

Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany,
September 1970

2nd CEMAT

Objectives of a European regional planning policy

La Grande Motte, France, September 1973

3rd CEMAT

Urbanisation and regional planning

Bari, Italy, October 1976

4th CEMAT

Planning of rural areas in Europe

Vienna, Austria, October 1978

5th CEMAT

Achievements and prospects for regional planning in Europe

London, United Kingdom, October 1980

6th CEMAT

Prospects of development and of spatial planning in maritime regions

Torremolinos, Spain, May 1983

7th CEMAT

The evolution of the decision-making process in regional spatial planning

The Hague, The Netherlands, October 1985

8th CEMAT

Rational use of land: basis and limiting factor of our development

Lausanne, Switzerland, October 1988

9th CEMAT

Instruments for achieving rational use of land

Ankara, Turkey, November 1991

10th CEMAT

Strategies for sustainable regional and spatial development in Europe beyond the year 2000

Oslo, Norway, September 1994

11th CEMAT

Sustainable regional and spatial planning in Europe and the protection of water resources

Limassol, Cyprus, October 1997

12th CEMAT

Joint spatial planning and sustainable development strategy for Europe

Hanover, Germany, September 2000

13th CEMAT

Implementation of strategies and visions for sustainable spatial development of the European continent

Ljubljana, Slovenia, September 2003



The concept of regional/spatial planning

Regional/spatial planning gives geographical expression to the economic, social, cultural and ecological policies of society. It is at the same time a scientific discipline, an administrative technique and a policy developed as an interdisciplinary and comprehensive approach directed towards a balanced regional development and the physical organisation of space according to an overall strategy.

Recommendation (84) 2 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the European Regional/Spatial Planning Charter

Dimension and characteristics of spatial planning

European dimension: Regional/spatial planning contributes to a better spatial organisation in Europe and in finding solutions to problems that go beyond the national framework. Its aim is to create feelings of common identity, in North-South and East-West relations.

Characteristics: Man and his well-being as well as his interaction with the environment are the central concern of regional/spatial planning, its aims being to provide each individual with an environment and quality of life conducive to the development of his personality in surroundings planned on a human scale.

Regional/spatial planning should be democratic, comprehensive, functional and long-term oriented:

- > **democratic:** it should be conducted in such a way as to ensure the participation of the people concerned and their political representatives;
- > **comprehensive:** it should ensure the co-ordination of various sectoral policies and integrate them in an overall approach;
- > **functional:** it needs to take into account the existence of a regional consciousness based on common values, culture and interests, sometimes crossing administrative and territorial boundaries, without overlooking the institutional arrangements of different countries;
- > **long-term:** it should analyse and take into consideration long-term trends and development. It should be oriented to address economic, social, cultural, ecological and environmental phenomena and interventions.



Operation

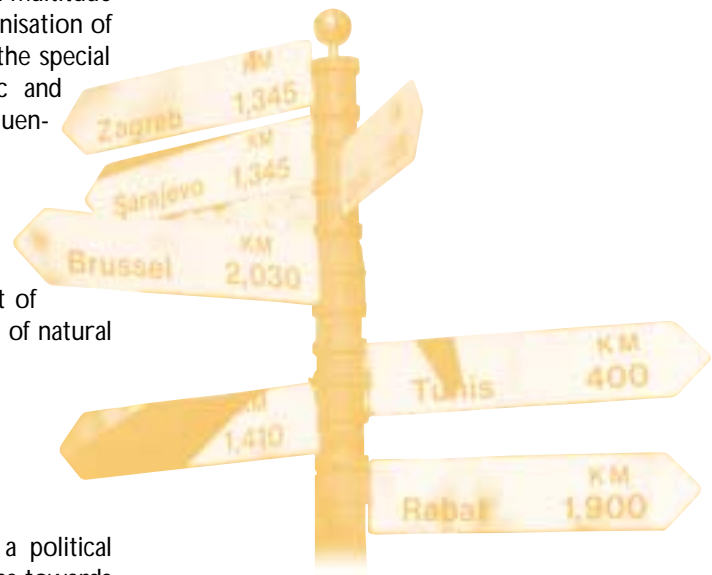
Regional/spatial planning must take into consideration the existence of a multitude of individual and institutional decision-makers, which influence the organisation of space, the uncertainty of all forecasting studies, the market pressures, the special features of administrative systems and the different socio-economic and environmental conditions. It must however strive to reconcile these influences in the most harmonious way possible.

Fundamental objectives

The fundamental objectives are: balanced socio-economic development of the regions; improvement of the quality of life; responsible management of natural resources and protection of the environment; and rational use of land.

Implementation of regional/spatial planning objectives

The achievement of regional/spatial planning objectives is essentially a political matter. Many private and public agencies contribute through their actions towards developing and changing the organisation of space. Regional/spatial planning reflects the desire for interdisciplinary integration and co-ordination and for co-operation between the authorities involved. It must be based on active citizen participation.



Recommendation Rec (2002) 1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent

"The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe [...] considering the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent [...] to be:

- > a major contribution towards the implementation of the strategy of social cohesion;
- > a policy framework document taking into account the relevant activities of the Council of Europe and its bodies, and in particular the work of its Parliamentary Assembly and its Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE), in the field of continental spatial

development policy and which could contribute towards strengthening the European integration process by means of transfrontier, inter-regional and transnational co-operation;

- > a coherent strategy for an integrated and regionally balanced development of our continent, based on the principles of subsidiarity and reciprocity, yet strengthening competitiveness, co-operation and solidarity among local and regional authorities across borders, thereby making a contribution towards democratic stability in Europe.

Recommends that the Member States of the Council of Europe:

- > use the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent as a basis for planning and spatial development measures;
- > implement these Guiding Principles in spatial development projects as appropriate;
- > continue establishing regional governmental and administrative bodies in order to facilitate better spatial integration of the various regions of Europe."

Content of the "Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent"

I Contributions of the Guiding Principles towards the implementation of the social cohesion policy of the Council of Europe

II Spatial development policies in Europe: new continent-wide challenges and prospects

1. Intercontinental relationships as strategic elements for European spatial development policy
2. The multiplicity of cultures
3. Large European regions as a basis for mutual support and co-operation
4. Integration of the old and new Member States

III Specific role of the private sector in spatial development

IV Principles of a planning policy for sustainable development in Europe

1. Promoting territorial cohesion through a more balanced social and economic development of regions and improved competitiveness
2. Encouraging urban development generated by functions and improving the relationship between the town and the countryside

3. Promoting more balanced accessibility
4. Developing access to information and knowledge
5. Reducing environmental damage
6. Enhancing and protecting natural resources and the natural heritage
7. Enhancing the cultural heritage as a factor for development
8. Developing energy resources while maintaining safety
9. Encouraging high quality, sustainable tourism
10. Limiting of the impact caused by natural disasters

V Spatial development measures for different types of European regions

1. Landscapes
2. Urban areas
3. Rural areas
4. Mountains
5. Coastal and island regions
6. Eurocorridors
7. Flood plains and alluvial valleys
8. Redundant industrial and military sites
9. Border regions

VI Strengthening of co-operation between the Member States of the Council of Europe and participation of regions, municipalities and citizens

1. Possibilities of conceiving development-oriented spatial planning
2. Developing Europe-wide co-operation activities on the basis of the Guiding Principles
3. Horizontal co-operation
4. Vertical co-operation
5. Wide participation of society in spatial planning process

The Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) of the CEMAT implements the activities of the Council of Europe in the field of sustainable spatial development.

Seminars and conferences of the CEMAT are periodically organised in order to exchange national experiences, to favour access to knowledge and to draw up proposals for joint actions.

The Council of Europe

The Council of Europe is an intergovernmental organisation founded in 1949. Its headquarters are in Strasbourg, France, and at present it has 45 Member States. Its main objectives are to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law and to seek common solutions to the main problems facing European society today. It is active in promoting sustainable development in line with the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent. These seek to protect Europeans' quality of life and well-being taking into account landscape, cultural and natural values.



For more information

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Leaflet printed with the financial support of the Federal Ministry for Transport, Building and Housing in Germany

Text: Spatial Planning and Landscape Division

Design: Isabelle Caraès

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