

Resolution (61) 20 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (13 September 1961)

Caption: On 13 September 1961, in Resolution (61) 20, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe establishes the European Conference of Local Authorities pursuant to Article 17 of the organisation's Statute and adopts the Conference's Charter.

Source: Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Charter of the European Conference of Local Authorities Recommendation 262 (13 September 1961). [ON-LINE]. [Strasbourg]: Council of Europe, [05.10.2004]. Res(61)20 . Available on <http://https://wcm.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=627605&Lang=en>.

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Resolution (61) 20 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (13 September 1961) 1

Charter of the European Conference of Local Authorities Recommendation 262

The Committee of Ministers,

Having regard to Recommendation 262 of the Consultative Assembly on the Charter of the European Conference of Local Authorities;

Having regard to Resolution (57) 28;

Paying tribute to the results achieved by the *ad hoc* European Conferences of Local Authorities held so far;

Whereas local government authorities can make a substantial contribution towards achieving the aims of the Council of Europe, as laid down in Article 1 of its Statute,

Resolves:

1. to set up the European Conference of Local Authorities on a biennial basis within the scope of Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe;
2. to adopt the Charter of the European Conference of Local Authorities appended to this Resolution.

Appendix Charter of the European Conference of Local Authorities

Article 1 Establishment, objectives and powers of the Conference

(a) Within the scope of Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe, there is hereby established a European Conference of Local Authorities (hereinafter referred to as "the Conference").

The Conference shall ensure the participation of local authorities in the achievement of the aims of the Council of Europe as defined in Article 1 of the Statute of the Council.

The primary aim of the Conference shall be to inform the Committee of Ministers and the Consultative Assembly of its views on measures which are likely to have repercussions on local authorities or to involve the responsibility of local authorities towards the population and towards the Governments.

It shall also keep the local authorities informed about the progress of European integration and seek their support for the ideal of European unity.

(b) The Conference may discuss any matters within its competence, as defined in the preceding sub-paragraphs, and any other matters referred to it for an opinion by the Committee of Ministers or the Consultative Assembly.

It may adopt resolutions and draw up opinions on all matters mentioned in the preceding sub-paragraphs. Such resolutions and opinions shall be submitted to the Consultative Assembly for an opinion and to the Committee of Ministers for action.

(c) Resolutions and opinions of the Conference shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast representing at least a majority of its members.

Article 2

Membership

- (a) The delegates to the Conference shall be chosen by each member Government or in such manner as the Government may decide from among representatives of national associations of local authorities and they may include representatives of national branches, or representatives of international associations of local authorities holding consultative status with the Council of Europe.
- (b) Each country shall have the right to appoint to the Conference a number of delegates equal to the number of representatives it appoints to the Consultative Assembly.
- (c) Each country may appoint a number of substitute delegates equal to the number of full delegates.
- (d) Full delegates and substitutes shall be appointed for the period of one session of the Conference and remain in that capacity until the opening of the following session.
- (e) Where delegates are not appointed by the Government but by organisations empowered to do so in a manner prescribed by the Government, the seats assigned to a particular country may, in the event of difficulty arising among the organisations of that country, be allocated by the Conference, unless that country's Government itself decides as to the allocation of seats.
- (f) Lists of delegates appointed to the Conference shall be sent to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe at least one month before the opening date of each session.
- (g) The international associations of local authorities holding consultative status with the Council of Europe shall be entitled to appoint observers to attend the debates of the Conference; with the leave of the Conference, they may speak in the course of such debates.
- (h) The Standing Committee may authorise other organisations, that so request, to send observers, without the right to vote, to meetings of the Conference. The rights and privileges of such observers shall be laid down by the Standing Committee.

Article 3

Sessions

- (a) The Conference shall meet in ordinary session every second year. The proposals of the Standing Committee of the Conference regarding the dates and draft Agenda of sessions shall be submitted to the Committee of Ministers through the Consultative Assembly at latest two months before the opening of the Conference.
- (b) Sessions of the Conference shall be held at the headquarters of the Council of Europe, unless both the Standing Committee and the Committee of Ministers agree that the session shall be held elsewhere.

Article 4

Committees

- (a) At the beginning of each session, the Conference shall appoint the following Committees:
 - 1. General Committee,
 - 2. Economic and Social Committee,
 - 3. Committee on Local Finance,
 - 4. Cultural Committee,
 - 5. Housing and Town and Country Planning Committee.

In addition, the Conference may appoint *ad hoc* Committees for specific purposes. The mandate of *ad hoc*

Committees shall terminate after the discussion of their Reports by the Conference.

(b) The Committees shall examine all matters referred to them by the Conference or by the Standing Committee.

Article 5

Standing Committee

(a) The Standing Committee shall be responsible for assuring the continuity of action of the Conference. For this purpose, it may act on behalf of the Conference when necessary.

(b) The Standing Committee shall consist of the President-in-office, the seven Vice-Presidents of the Conference, the Chairmen of the Committees and such other members as shall be elected by the Conference, one per country, in order to ensure that each member State is represented.

Article 6

Finance

The expenditure entailed by sessions of the Conference and meetings of its organs, as well as any other expenditure connected with the activities of the Conference, shall be borne by the Budget of the Council of Europe.

Such of the items of expenditure as can be clearly specified shall be entered in a special section of the Budget.

Article 7

Secretariat of the Conference

Within the limits of the appropriations made for the Conference, the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe shall provide such secretarial and other assistance as may be required by the Conference and its organs.

Article 8

Rules of Procedure of the Conference and Revision of the Charter

(a) The Conference shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure.

(b) Without prejudice to the respective rights of the Committee of Ministers and the Consultative Assembly, the Conference may submit proposals to amend the Charter to the Consultative Assembly for an opinion and to the Committee of Ministers for decision.

The conditions in which such amendments may be proposed to the Conference shall be laid down in its Rules of Procedure.

2. See 101st meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, page 161.