



EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION OF LOCAL INTERMEDIATE AUTHORITIES
CONFEDERATION EUROPEENNE DES POUVOIRS LOCAUX INTERMEDIAIRES

Final Policy Statement
Brussels Conference
3rd of July 2012

We find that in recent years Local Intermediate Authorities are subject of debates in some of our States.

The economic and financial crisis and cuts in public spending can be used today as a pretext for a possible institutional weakening of this level of governance.

We deplore this approach and propose a resolution based on the following five principles:

1. The role of Local Intermediate Authorities in the institutional architecture of the States should be guaranteed. These authorities are key actors of territorial policies and local representative democracy. Any reform should comply with Article 5 of the European Charter of Local Self-Government: *“Changes in local authority boundaries shall not be made without prior consultation of the local communities concerned, possibly by means of a referendum where this is permitted by Law.”*
2. The autonomy and necessary financial resources for the implementation of the tasks entrusted to Local Intermediate Authorities must also be guaranteed. These missions, different according to our States, contribute fully to development and social, economic and territorial cohesion.
3. The EU must valorize the role of Local Intermediate Authorities in the multilevel governance and partnerships. Only a fair place of all territorial levels in governance will ensure the opening up, the coherence and the efficiency of European public action. It is just a matter of a firm

implementation of the Lisbon Treaty, which makes from territorial cohesion an objective of the Union and strengthens subsidiarity.

4. The European Union and its Member States must involve more than in the past the Local Intermediate Authorities in the development and management of territorial policies (Cohesion, CAP, maritime policy and fisheries). The framework proposed by the European Commission for these policies included in the EU 2020 Strategy (2014-2020) encourages this kind of involvement, particularly in the development of Partnership Agreements. European funding allocations must be made so as to ensure effective proximity management.
5. In this moment of crisis, the Local Intermediate Authorities must more than ever to be mobilized. They must assert their capacity to respond and play their full role in terms of public action, of delivering services to citizens and territories and of implementation of local democracy.

CEPLI is aware of its responsibility and its “spokesman of Local Intermediate Authorities” mission in the dialogue with the European Institutions, along with the Congress and the Committee of the Regions and supports their initiatives.