Urban dimension in the context of enlargement

2004/2258(INI) - 13/10/2005 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on an own-initiative report drafted by Jean-Marie **BEAUPUY** (ALDE, FR) on the urban dimension in the context of enlargement. (Please see the summary of 13/09/2005.) The resolution was adopted with 540 votes in favour, 29 against with 36 abstentions.

Parliament stated that towns and cities and urban agglomerations or areas, including small and medium-sized ones, have a central role to play in achieving the revised Lisbon and Gothenburg objectives. It called on the Commission to move towards a horizontal application of the urban dimension and towards coordination between the departments of the Commission which are concerned with urban issues, such as the Regional Policy, Enterprise and Industry, Competition, Energy and Transport, Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Research, Environment, Education and Culture Directorates-General. The approach must be based on identifying specific problems of the urban situation in each field of action and at the same time highlighting the positive impacts of those policies on local contexts.

Parliament went on to call on the Commission and Member States to announce the setting up, in parallel with the social dialogue and the civil dialogue, a "spatial dialogue". This would enable regional and local authorities to take part in decision-making relating to policies in the urban sphere, particularly in the framework of cohesion policy and the management of the Structural Funds. The Commission was asked to propose models for sustainable urban development which would be accessible to all towns and cities. The urban perspective of Objective 2 should receive more attention in financial and territorial terms. Parliament felt that an important part of this perspective was the development of urban areas with problems associated with economic growth, social cohesion and environmental pollution.

Lastly, Parliament called on the Commission to pay specific attention to the role of towns and cities in drawing up the reports on the impact of cohesion policy on the achievement of the revised goals of the Lisbon agenda.