



COUNCIL

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Council

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A TERRITORIAL
DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE**

(adopted by the Council on 20 January 1999 [C/M(99)1/PROV] under the written procedure)

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THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to Articles 5 a) and 9 of the Convention on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development;

Having regard to the fact that, following the 1992 Ministerial Council Meeting which stressed the need to address territorial problems by means of general policies involving the various partners at national, regional and local level, the Council in 1993 approved the creation of a single service for territorial development to “enable the Organisation to deal more effectively with territorial issues which are becoming increasingly important” [C/M(93)15, Item 118, II.b];

Having regard to the Rules of Procedure;

Having regard to the Report “*The OECD Committee Structure - A Review*” [CE(98)3];

Recognising that changing economic and social conditions are giving rise to new territorial development policies, and that a number of forces are behind the common need to build such policies:

- globalisation and technological change are generating new patterns of spatial development - global, national and regional - in which national competitiveness is more dependant on the strength of regional and local economies;
- this rapid progress towards globalisation has the potential to accelerate material well-being in the OECD area, but it also tends to exacerbate disparities between regions and to increase the risk of social exclusion within them;
- there is in consequence a need to reinforce synergies between policy objectives - economic, social and environmental - so that the goal of sustainable development can be given operational meaning at the territorial level, notably through better urban and rural development policies;
- the historically unprecedented rate of change towards knowledge-based economies and information societies means that the capacity for creativity and innovation has to be spread throughout the population, and in consequence top-down macro-economic and structural policies need to be complemented by dynamic regional and local economic policies;
- these policies are based on the mobilisation of endogenous resources rather than on income redistribution;
- the powerful trends towards decentralisation, deconcentration and devolution call for a reassessment of the respective roles of government at the national, regional and local level and the introduction of new forms of governance, based on partnership between central governments, territorial public authorities, the private sector and the civic society;

Conscious that, as a consequence of the above trends, central governments are now called upon to stimulate and foster area-based strategies that are more likely to be effective at the local/regional level, and to enhance the capacities of local communities to participate in their own development;

Convinced that in responding to these challenges, OECD countries can obtain great benefits from international co-operation to both develop new policy frameworks and share the results of experiments and innovations;

DECIDES:

1. To establish a Territorial Development Policy Committee, which will subsume the work of the existing bodies on regional development, urban affairs and rural development; and work in close synergy with the Directing Committee of the Co-operative Action Programme on Local Economic and Employment Development.
2. The Territorial Development Policy Committee will have the following responsibilities:
 - a) Provide a forum for Member countries to share views on, and consider, policy responses to strategic problems of territorial development in the OECD area;
 - b) Undertake policy analysis of such strategic problems, with a view to enhancing economic well-being, social cohesion and effective governance, with particular reference to sustainable development;
 - c) Promote innovative policies at territorial level that will enable Member countries, through shared efforts and exchange of experience, to develop and modernise their existing arrangements for territorial development, incorporating the views and experiences coming from the different levels of government;
 - d) Make such special arrangements, including the establishment of Working Parties, as may be necessary to capitalise on and further develop work on specific, priority aspects of territorial development, such as urban affairs, rural development, and territorial indicators and data bases;
 - e) Ensure that the views and expertise of non-government institutions are drawn upon in the conduct of OECD's work on territorial development, utilising the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC), the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) and contacts with non-governmental organisations concerned with territorial development.
3. In pursuit of these objectives, the Territorial Development Policy Committee shall maintain close working relationships with other relevant bodies of the Organisation, seeking to ensure complementarity and co-operation between the national, regional and local levels of policy.
4. The Territorial Development Policy Committee shall maintain, as appropriate, and in conformity with the OECD Convention and Rules of Procedure, relations with other international organisations.
5. These terms of reference are valid for a period of three years, until 31 December 2001.
6. Paragraph 29 of the Annex to the Rules of Procedure of the Organisation shall be amended as follows: Territorial Development Policy Committee: its terms of reference are defined in the Resolution of the Council C(98)198/FINAL.