



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONFERENCE DES OING DU
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

SUSTAINABLE TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Declaration adopted on 27 January 2009
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Better prevention of environment related health hazards

Having regard to the report "*Environment and health: better prevention of environment-related health hazards*", adopted by the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 18 December 2008,

The Sustainable Territorial Development Committee of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe

1. **welcomes** the objectives of the recommendation calling on the Committee of Ministers to invite member states and observers of the Council of Europe to encourage application of the precautionary principle in the field of environmental health;
2. **considers**, like the parliamentary committee, that the political authorities must take a proactive, multidisciplinary approach involving policy makers, health-care professionals, economic players in product manufacture and distribution, scientists, architects, town planners and civil society via INGOs;
3. **asks** the political authorities to ensure that medical research is carried out into the new health hazards and environmental diseases and that environmental medicine is included in the medical training given in member states;
4. **calls for** a guarantee of an independent expert appraisal reflecting all views in every dispute relating to environmental hazards;
5. **undertakes** to pursue the discussions initiated by the Parliamentary Assembly and to contribute, through its work, to the assessment of new health hazards in the Council of Europe member states, in particular in respect of water, housing and the installation of new facilities;
6. **wishes** to see co-operation being developed with the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in order to draw up preventive measures and organise awareness-raising operations.

Declaration approved by the Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, meeting on 29 January 2009.