

EUROPEAN GREEN PARTY

MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK MEETING

9-11.11.2007, TROGIR, CROATIA

Declaration on Big Cities and their impact on their surrounding

The Mediterranean Greens, meeting at the Mediterranean Network Meeting in Trogir, Croatia on November 9-11 2007, discussed the impact of big cities on their environment and declare the following:

1. The growth of cities should always be based on urban master plans. Uncontrolled growth inevitably leads to negative environmental and social impacts.
2. All growth should ensure sustainability.
3. The cultural centres and the character of each city should always be valued and preserved irrespective of costs.
4. In all urban planning, public participation before finalizing decisions is imperative and a key factor for the correct and sustainable growth of the city.
5. Inhabitants of big cities should not have to compromise the quality of their daily lives, therefore the issues of transportation, air quality, wastewater management etc. should be solved.
6. Natural resources, archaeological sites and places of natural beauty such as forests, surrounding big cities should be protected. Often such areas are the breathing lungs of congested cities, lacking adequate green areas, clean air and waters.
7. Big cities should protect their character from the invasion of mass tourism. The number of tourists should be controlled and tourists should be made to pay for their impact on the cities (eg. waste management).
8. Decentralization of activities should be encouraged. People should be encouraged to remain in their smaller towns and villages and still enjoy the opportunities offered by big cities, such as employment, social life and financial prosperity.
9. People in big cities (and anywhere in the world) should be free, without military or other oppressions. They should enjoy free movement and be able to interact with all the inhabitants. We therefore support the immediate demilitarisation and reunification of Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus and the only remaining divided capital of Europe.