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Preservation areas and unique natural sites as the sustainable development dimension of activities of the Council of Europe

Motion for a recommendation
presented by Mrs Pirozhnikova and others

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only the members who have signed it

1. Rapid development of civilisation, widened scope of human activities, including agricultural and industrial development, inevitably leads to the shrinking of wildlife areas globally and in European countries in particular, while they are a unique asset of human civilisation and need special attention. Further industrial and economic expansion may threaten their existence and lead to irreversible impact to preservation areas and other natural sites.
2. While states are trying to implement steps aimed at protecting preservation areas and unique natural regions, it has to be recognised that the possibilities and resources of individual states are always limited to one extent or another. Nation states sometimes have to put economic interests and goals of regional development above environmental considerations, primarily in order to provide appropriate living standards and assure the rights of the people living in a particular area.
3. Aware of the importance of the priorities and goals set by nation states, in no way infringing on the sovereignty of states as regards national territory and the right to choose their own model of development, and respecting the citizens' right to work, life in dignity and access to the benefits of modern civilisation, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe believes that priority should be given to such forms of development in preservation territories that would not violate their integrity and unique environment.
4. One of the most effective forms of the use of unique natural territories would be to develop them as sites of environmental tourism. This would make it possible at the same time to address the tasks of non-industrial, environmentally safe development of territories, providing employment and assuring the integrity in national environmental tourism projects should be one of the major tasks of the Council of Europe, significantly complementing the environmental dimension of its activities.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed ¹:

PIROZHNIKOVA, Liudmila, Russian Federation, EDG
AÇIKGÖZ Ruhi, Turkey, EDG
ATEŞ, Abdülkadir, Turkey, SOC
BJØRNSTAD, Vidar, Norway, SOC
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GACEK, Urszula, Poland, EPP/CD
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RANDEGGER, Johannes, Switzerland, ALDE
SASI, Kimmo, Finland, EPP/CD
WALTER, Robert, United Kingdom, EDG
ZAPFL-HELBLING, Rosmarie, Switzerland, EPP/CD

¹ SOC: Socialist Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democratic Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: not registered in a group