

The Signatory Cities of the European Charter for Human Rights in the Cities convened in the city of Venice on 9 and 10 December 2002 for the Third Conference dedicated to immigration and human rights:

### I

- Express their alarm facing ongoing serious violations of human rights, the existence and the threat of increasingly destructive armed conflict, especially the threat of preventative war against Iraq;
- Denounce the fact that these issues are in contrast with the Law and the principles of international legality;
- Note, with some concern, that the international framework is polluted by national self-centredness and by the rise of ideologies nurturing racism and xenophobia that cause ever greater restrictions on freedoms and on the real implementation of the rights of mankind, penalising the weaker members of the population and especially foreigners or non-nationals living in different countries;
- Restate their pledge to achieve the political participation of all residents in their cities, without exception, through their commitment to acknowledging their right to vote and be voted at Municipal level;
- Believe that achieving this political right it is an essential prerequisite in order to enable non-nationals residents of cities to fully enjoy their human rights;
- Remember that until all the resident population does not see recognised its full rights as citizens then our democracy has neither been fulfilled nor is it significant;

### II

- Emphasise the importance of the legal value of this Charter and the need for its principles to be included in political and administrative acts issued by city governments;
- Are committed, between now and the conference in Nuremberg, to establishing a monitoring mechanism for assessing the adoption and the good implementation of the Charter by signatory institutions and ask Barcelona, Nuremberg, Saint Denis and Venice to co-ordinate the political and technical work in agreement with the scientific committee;

### III

- Launch and appeal to the cities of Europe and of the World for them to renew their commitment to human rights in the city as a concrete expression of policies based on the principles of peace, democracy and social inclusion and against all discrimination;
- Ask international organisations of local governments to promote, during the building process for the new world organisation for local authorities, the dissemination of the Charter amongst all signatory parties and to pursue active policies aimed at implementing human rights in the city as an integrating part of the new world organisation;
- Ask the Presidency and the Members of the Convention on the Future of Europe to explicitly recognise the role of local Governments in the drawing up the future European Constitution, especially as regards the application of the principle of subsidiarity;
- Ask the United Nations to acknowledge Local Governments in their role as active partners in carrying out initiatives and programmes promoting the implementation of human rights;

### IV

- The signatory cities that will meet in Nuremberg on 9- 10 December 2004 for the Fourth Conference on the European Charter for Human Rights in the City are committed to promoting the Charter and the application of its principles by actively participating in:

The World Forum of Local Authorities at Porto Alegre, 21 -22 January 2003

The Fifth Assembly of the ONU of the People, Perugia, 6 – 12 October 2003

The European Forum of Local Authorities at Saint Denis, 12 -13 November 2003

And by organising a dedicated working session during the founding Assembly of the New network of local authorities: Cities and Local Governments United, in Paris in May 2004.

Venice, 10 December 2002