the best architectural works are individual successes, frequently accompanied by unattractive development, which impairs the quality of the urban environment. Buildings or groups of buildings are seldom arranged on the basis of a contemporary vision of urban planning and integrated in a harmonious way into urban ensembles. As in rural areas, the townscape is often the result of random development. Strategies for the creative design of townscape are only gradually being developed. They are, however, urgently required, in particular in towns and cities where the deterioration in the quality of the buildings has reached a stage which prevents people from living or investing there.

57. Development of integrated strategies for the protection of cultural heritage which is endangered or decaying, including the development of instruments for assessing risk factors and for managing critical situations.
58. Maintenance and creative redesign of urban ensembles worthy of protection.
59. Promotion of contemporary buildings with high architectural quality.
60. Increasing awareness of the contribution of urban and spatial development policy to the cultural heritage of future generations.

4.1 Towards an Integrated Spatial Development

(161) In applying the policy options, Member State government and administrative agencies as well as EU services should consider, at an early stage, sectoral and spatial conflicts and timing difficulties and set the right priorities. This requires new ways of co-operation, which according to the ESDP’s principles should be on a voluntary basis. The application of the policy options is based on the principle of subsidiarity. There is thus a need for close co-operation amongst the authorities responsible for sectoral policies; and with those responsible for spatial development at each respective level (horizontal co-operation); and between actors at the Community level and the transnational, regional and local levels (vertical co-operation – see Fig. 7). Co-operation is the key to an integrated spatial development policy and represents added value over sectoral policies acting in isolation.

(162) Integrated spatial development policy at EU scale must, therefore, combine the policy options for development of certain areas in such a way that national borders and other administrative hurdles no longer represent barriers to development. The ESDP provides the framework for integrated application of the policy options. Its application is not the responsibility of one authority but of a wide range of spatial development (land use, regional planning, urban planning) and sectoral planning authorities.

(163) The policy options differ from each other with regard to the geographical area to which they apply. The ESDP recommends three levels for spatial co-operation:
1. the Community level,
2. the transnational/national level,
3. the regional/local level.

From the EU point of view co-operation at transnational level is of central importance. Transnational strategies and programmes help applying sectoral Community policies to the different regions of the EU. They can also support the co-ordination of Community policies with respective national, regional and local policies.

(164) Of the possible groupings of ESDP policy options, there are a number which are key to achieving a balanced and sustainable spatial development policy. These have to be determined locally according to the prevailing situation. Examples of this are as follows:
1. Promotion of the networking of urban regions: All cities and regions must be capable of contributing to reducing unemployment, to economic growth and to social harmony in the EU. For this purpose, strategic partnerships and co-operation between the urban regions should be more strongly encouraged. This requires a regional, cross-border and transnational approach to urban networking.
2. Better accessibility as a pre-condition for polycentric development: Even if it is not possible to achieve the same degree of accessibility between all regions of the
EU, improvements in line with the principle of sustainability - particularly in peripheral regions and densely populated areas with high traffic volumes - are of great importance.

Development of Euro corridors: These corridors can strengthen the spatial cohesion of the EU and they are an essential instrument of spatial development for the co-operation between cities. The spatial concept of Euro corridors can establish connections between the sectoral policies, such as transport, infrastructure, economic development, urbanisation and environment. In the development perspective for Euro corridors, it should be clearly indicated in which areas the growth of activities can be clustered and which areas have to be protected as open space. There are a great number of potential corridors in the EU. Some corridors are already well-developed. In other regions such corridors have to be developed and connected with existing ones. Important missing links and secondary networks should be established.

Strengthening of the cities and regions at the external borders of the EU: policies for the development of “Gateway Cities”, multi-modal infrastructure for the European corridors, equal access to telecommunication facilities and intercontinental accessibility could strengthen the role of the regions and their cities at the external borders. This applies both to the enlargement process and to the development of more intensive relations with non-Member States, towards the South and with other world economic regions.

Conservation and development of biodiversity in the EU regions: the successful development of a European ecological network depends on a spatially co-ordinated approach between different Community policies and corresponding national measures. Many wild species of fauna, especially birds, use the entire territory of the EU in the course of a year. The relationships between the elements of this network, such as wetlands, national parks, islands, coastal regions, mud flats and certain rural regions must be identified and co-ordinated at a European level with the active participation of the local and regional levels.
Development of the European cultural heritage: maintaining the variety of the European identity in the globalisation context requires the combining of coherent conservation strategies with economic and regional development needs. Spatial planning guidelines and tools should be identified and developed, both for heritage sites or areas which are dispersed across Europe but have a common historical background (for example the heritage of the Celts, and historical pilgrims’ routes, etc.) and for those of international significance which are concentrated in one location (for example city ensembles as Bruges or Venice).

Need for Integrated Coastal Zones Management (ICZM): Due to increasing sectoral conflicts, demographic developments and the multitude of institutions and players with a stake in coastal zones, these areas represent an important challenge for EU-wide spatial development.

It is becoming clear that a different approach is required for the application of spatial policy aims and options to that for policy areas where there is a clear Community responsibility.

Even though no spatial development competence is rooted at Community level, we must ensure that different spatially-relevant Community policies do not conflict with or neutralise each other.

However, the ESDP framework should not be imposed on other policy areas. Its application is entirely voluntary. This, above all, demands co-operation, consultation and agreement of the respective policy-makers and executive bodies at Community, national, regional and local levels. Comprehensive public support is a necessary prerequisite for the effective application of the spatial development policy approach.

The main focus of the ESDP’s application as a European document is at Community and transnational levels. Priority should be given to issues which cannot be dealt with in an appropriate way by one or two Member States but, instead, require the co-operation of several countries. A successful spatial development policy, therefore, depends far more on co-operation with the local and regional levels than in other policy areas. Transnational or cross-border actions at this level are crucial for the application of the ESDP.

There are numerous methods of cross-border co-operation in spatial planning. Projects for the balanced and sustainable development of border regions and investment projects can be strengthened and supported by achieving mutual consensus on both sides of borders, political agreements, inter-governmental evaluation of spatial effects and the adaptation of national legislation.

In the following section, the most important proposals for the application of the ESDP at the respective governmental and administrative levels are outlined.

4.2 The Application of the ESDP at Community Level

The consideration and application of the ESDP by the European institutions can lead to a greater effectiveness of Community policies. The European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions and the Economic and Social Committee have made statements on the ESDP voicing their support for a regionally more balanced development of the cities and regions in the EU.

The European Commission has formed an inter-service group for investigating the interrelationships between Community policy and spatial development. In addition, a spatial approach combining several policy fields, such as that pursued in the Demonstration Programme on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, is being tested. This creates new areas for the pursuit of horizontal co-operation.

It is proposed that the European Commission examine periodically and systematically the spatial effects of policies - such as the Common Agricultural Policy, Transport Policy and "Trans-European Networks", Structural Policy, Environment Policy, Competition Policy and Research and Technology Policy – at European level.

The meetings of the Ministers responsible for spatial development and those of the Committee on Spatial Development (CSD) play a central role in the application and further development of the ESDP. However, the informal character of these arrangements does not allow the taking of decisions. For this reason, European institutions such as the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee support a formalisation of these arrangements, whilst maintaining the principle of subsidiarity. Member States have different opinions on this.

It is proposed that Member States examine the suggestions of the European institutions to formalise both the Ministerial meetings on spatial planning and the Committee on Spatial Development, while maintaining the principle of subsidiarity.
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(169) With the setting up of EMU and the expansion of international trade, matters concerning spatial development are not only of greater importance for institutions of the EU but also for political organisations co-operating Europe-wide and internationally (Council of Europe, OECD), for non-governmental organisations, business groups and service enterprises as well as labour unions.

_It is proposed that the European institutions, together with the national spatial development authorities of the Member States, implement suitable co-operative measures with international organisations and institutions to promote a coherent practical application of the ESDP at international level._

(170) Information and analysis required at Community level to support an ongoing spatial monitoring system includes:

- broadening the knowledge basis by making available comparable data and indicators; and analyses and research on cross-border, transnational and Europe-wide trends which influence spatial development;
- exchanging information on the practice of spatial planning on a comparable basis; and
- observing and evaluating spatial development with implications for the ESDP’s policy aims and options, as well as establishing appropriate criteria and indicators; this is of particular importance to the further development of the ESDP.

_It is proposed that Member States regularly prepare standardised information on important aspects of national spatial development policy and its implementation in national spatial development reports, basing this on the structure of the ESDP. This will enable comparability of the presentation of spatially relevant trends in the Member States._

(171) With the ESDP a first assessment of the trends and problems of spatial development in Europe has been made. In addition to ongoing research and studies, there is a need for detailed analysis of European spatial development on a common statistical basis over a longer period. Harmonised data and evaluations of regional economic developments in Europe are already available at a European level through documents such as the Periodical Reports on the Social and Economic Situation and the Development of the Regions in the Community and the “Cohesion Report”38. However, in drawing up the ESDP large gaps were discovered with regard to comparable spatially relevant data. The seven criteria which were first proposed during the Spanish and Italian Presidencies and detailed under the Dutch Presidency could provide a starting point for their collection. These criteria, currently being examined under a study programme of the European Commission, are as follows:

1. Geographical position.
2. Economic strength
3. Social integration
4. Spatial integration
5. Pressure on land use
6. Natural assets
7. Cultural assets

It is proposed that the European Commission and the Member States agree upon reliable criteria and indicators, in order to be able to effectively support sustainable development of the regions and cities. Long-term research on spatially-relevant issues in the EU must be implemented as part of the ongoing updating of the ESDP. Corresponding activities particularly involve:

1. studies and pilot projects, sponsored by the Commission, to identify and analyse problems and solutions of spatial and regional development and to test new forms of co-operation in connection with the ESDP;
2. the exchange of innovative experience to promote the use and transfer of knowledge in the area of spatial and economic development.

(172) Spatial criteria and indicators are also necessary in the development of long-term scenarios for spatial development. The present ESDP issues are based on certain assumptions which are valid for the medium term. However, while co-operation on spatial planning can proceed in the short to medium term, it is important to bear in mind long-term issues and prospects.

_It is proposed that the European Commission and the Member States engage on the assessment of emerging trends, their driving forces and their spatially differentiated impacts in a major task to be carried out with a view to the long term. This work would examine issues such as:_

1. changes in population numbers and distribution;
2. economic globalisation;
3. the changing nature and location of economic activity and employment;
4. technological changes in transport, telecommunications, energy and the advent of the information society;
5. EU sectoral policies and projects;
6. the effectiveness of different types of urban networks and partnerships;
EU enlargement;
Relationship with non-EU countries.

(173) Spatial research institutes of the Member States should prepare and exchange information by means of a network, and initiate political co-operation between national spatial development authorities and with the Commission. The results could provide the Committee on Spatial Development (CSD) with basic material for its deliberations. Co-operation between research institutes and a close working relationship with the CSD requires a permanent structure. This should be co-financed out of the Community budget. Apart from a network secretariat, the setting up of another European Agency could be unnecessary if successful networking between national research institutes is established. This is currently being tested within a study programme in accordance with Article 10 of the ERDF Regulation.

The institutionalisation of a “European Spatial Planning Observatory Network” should be undertaken at the earliest opportunity taking into account the experience gained in the study programme.

4.3 Transnational Co-operation between the Member States

(174) An innovative approach to integrated spatial development policy at a transnational level is already being taken in the EU, through Community initiative INTERREG II C, introduced in 1996. Under this initiative, Member State co-operation takes place according to three main spheres of support: transnational co-operation for spatial development in seven co-operation areas (see Map 3); preventive flood protection in two programme regions and precautions against drought damage in four national support programmes (see Map 4); on the basis of mutually developed programmes. In addition to this, transnational pilot actions are being implemented in 4 co-operation areas in accordance with ERDF Article 10 (see Map 5). The geographical areas covered by these programmes are the result of detailed negotiations between the participating countries. In some areas non-Member States of the EU are participating.

(175) In these large areas transnational co-operation on spatial development projects is being tested for the first time, using common organisational, administrative and financial structures (see Table 1).

(176) Some inter-country development projects go beyond immediate border areas. For instance, within the framework of flood protection on the Rhine, the planning for catchment areas in Germany is being assisted with EU funding. As a result, future flooding here and in the Netherlands should not be as extensive as in the past. Along several transnational transport corridors, common traffic management, the creation of integrated transport systems and a co-ordinated development of regional economic potential are being tested.

(177) Approval is given for these projects, for which all partner countries expect an added value for spatial development, even if they are not financially involved in the projects. Included are planning activities, project management, networks, pilot actions, the exchange of experience, feasibility studies and – to a limited degree – complementary infrastructure investments. At the same time, different national experiences in areas such as public administration, planning, law, management and public-private partnership are being exchanged across borders. An impetus is thus being given to companies, authorities, federations and regional and local authorities to take part in transnational co-operation.

(178) The implementation of the operational programmes has involved regional and local authorities, underlining their strong interest in transnational co-operation. They have also substantially co-financed projects. In the first rounds of decision-making, some programmes became financially over-subscribed. In the Baltic Sea region, for example, where cooperation is based on common policy aims for spatial development39, there are 200 local and regional authorities involved in carrying out projects.

It is proposed that the European Commission and the Member States continue the project-oriented transnational co-operation for spatial development within the framework of the Community initiative INTERREG III and create the appropriate basic conditions for this. This will be an important instrument for the application of the ESDP. Key tasks are:

1. the retention of suitable co-operation areas and the further development of common transnational administrative, financing and management structures for programmes and projects;
2. the more intensive co-operation of regional and local authorities in decision-making processes and programme implementation;
3. the further promotion of spatially integrated projects, taking into account sectoral policy issues, in order to ensure synergy;
4. the removal of legal obstacles in the Member States which hamper cross-border and transnational co-ordination for spatially significant plans and measures;
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Table 1: Structures for the Application of Transnational Operational Programmes for Spatial Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Co-operation-Area</th>
<th>Decision-making committees</th>
<th>Secretariat</th>
<th>Financial Handling of the EU-Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTERREG II C – Transnational Co-operation for Spatial Development</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltic Sea</td>
<td>Joint</td>
<td>Headquarters in Rostock, D Branch in Karlskrona, S</td>
<td>Centrally through I-Bank Schleswig-Holstein in Kiel/Rostock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Sea</td>
<td>Joint</td>
<td>Headquarters in Viborg, DK</td>
<td>Centrally through Jyske-Bank in Viborg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CADSES</td>
<td>Joint</td>
<td>Networking of national institutions</td>
<td>National institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NWMA</td>
<td>Joint</td>
<td>Headquarters in London, UK</td>
<td>Centrally through Lloyds Bank in London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Area</td>
<td>Joint</td>
<td>Networking of national institutions supported by a central secretariat in Poitiers, F (in preparation)</td>
<td>Centrally through appointed bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South-Western Europe</td>
<td>Joint</td>
<td>Networking of national institutions</td>
<td>National institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Mediterranean</td>
<td>Joint</td>
<td>Networking of national institutions</td>
<td>National institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERREG II C – Flood Mitigation</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Flood Prevention Rhine-Meuse</td>
<td>Joint</td>
<td>Headquarters in The Hague, NL</td>
<td>Centrally through I-Bank Nordrhein-Westfalen in Düsseldorf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France/Italy</td>
<td>Joint</td>
<td>Networking of national institutions</td>
<td>National institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 10 – Pilot Actions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Periphery</td>
<td>Joint</td>
<td>Centrally in Oulu, Finland</td>
<td>Centrally through den Regional rat von Nord-Ostrobothnia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Mediterranean/Latin Alps</td>
<td>Joint</td>
<td>Networking of national institutions</td>
<td>National institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpine Space</td>
<td>Joint</td>
<td>Networking of national institutions</td>
<td>National institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediterranean Gateway</td>
<td>Joint</td>
<td>Networking of national institutions</td>
<td>National institutions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 the use of the projects for the preparation of investment measures and for the further development of instruments of spatial development, in particular cross-border territorial impact assessments;

2 the support of co-operation with neighbouring non-Member States, in particular with Central and Eastern European states as well as with Cyprus, to prepare them for accession to the EU, and with countries bordering the Mediterranean;

3 the evaluation of the results of transnational co-operation, within the framework of INTERREG and ERDF Article 10, against the background of the ESDP, by the responsible bodies of the EU and the Member States.
Map 3: Interreg II C Transnational Cooperation Programmes

Source: European Commission DG XVI
(179) Currently, non-Member States can participate in the INTERREG II C and Article 10 pilot actions. They do not, however, receive any funding from the ERDF, but from other assistance programmes (PHARE, TACIS). The combination of these different assistance programmes in a common cooperation area is proving very difficult as a result of different administrative provisions. The INTERREG programme could be used as a “lead-up instrument” for countries willing to join the EU if their participation were eased through simplified administrative structures. It is recommended that the European Commission improve the co-ordination of INTERREG with programmes of the Community which provide non-Member States with funding for transnational measures in such a way that programmes and projects for spatial development can be implemented from “one source”.

4.4 Cross-Border and Interregional Co-operation

(180) Regional and local authorities are key players in European spatial development policy. The application of policy options requires the active support of the regional and local levels, from small towns in rural areas to metropolitan regions. The regional and local authorities realise the objectives of the Community through their cooperation with each other and in line with the “bottom-up” approach. At the same time, this is the level at which citizens experience first hand the results of European spatial development policy. A great number of development tasks can only be solved with satisfaction through cross-border cooperation with local governments. Co-operation beyond national borders, therefore, plays a key role in applying the ESDP.
Cross-border co-operation between neighbouring border regions has been promoted in Europe by governmental and spatial planning commissions and through the recommendations of the Council of Europe. Since 1990 it has been financially supported by the Community initiative INTERREG. Nearly all of the border regions have taken advantage of the support from INTERREG in order to set up common organisations, structures and networks. The setting up of these structures was the prerequisite for elaborating cross-border spatial development strategies, for instance in Scandinavia in the Øresund region, in the Benelux countries, in the Euro regions along the German-Dutch border and in the Saar-Lor-Lux region. Through such action, it has been possible to develop and fine-tune the spatial effectiveness of individual projects. Cross-border spatial development strategies can in future provide a common basis for a number of cross-border operational programmes “from one source”, linking different projects, for example:

- promotion of cross-border co-operation between neighbouring border areas, aimed at developing compact economic cores (city clusters);
- the improvement of relationships between regional public transport and main transport networks; and
- a landscape development and environmental protection policy for ecologically sensitive areas to create a cross-border composite system of biotopes.
It is proposed that Member States and regional and local authorities implement further cross-border programmes and projects, particularly:

1. preparing cross-border spatial visions and strategies and taking them into consideration in national spatial development plans and sectoral planning;
2. regular cross-border fine-tuning of all spatially-related planning and measures; and
3. the setting up of common cross-border regional plans and, where appropriate, land use plans as the most far-reaching form of cross-border spatial development policy.

(182) The national planning authorities, regions, and cities of neighbouring countries have, despite EMU, still no opportunity for actively influencing development decisions in neighbouring countries.

It is proposed that Member States, within the framework of their legislation, examine the basis for preparation of cross-border plans and measures which have a considerable spatial impact on neighbouring countries. Neighbouring countries should thereby agree on appropriate planning and measures in accordance with the principles of reciprocity and equality. Such action should, however, be taken on the basis of partnership and the principle of subsidiarity, applicable not only to the local/regional level but also to the national level.

(183) Many policy options are related to the regional and local levels and require the co-operation of non-neighbouring, geographically separated authorities with common interests, located in different Member States. One of the underlying intentions of the ESDP is that to tackle spatial problems, action is not only needed for the EU or transnational level. Regional and local authorities should also be encouraged to participate in solving European problems. In that way, they can contribute their ideas to a spatial structure for tomorrow’s Europe.

The following proposals relate both to cross-border and to inter-regional co-operation. However, they apply equally to co-operation between local authorities within a region (intra-regional).

It is proposed that regional and local authorities co-operate more closely in the field of sustainable spatial development. This applies to:

- Measures for information and co-operation at regional level:
  1. improvement of accessibility by linking regional transport systems with national/international hubs;
  2. a contribution to the development of an integrated transport infrastructure;
  3. action programmes for the preservation of settlements in rural areas which are affected by reductions in population and set-aside schemes;
  4. strategies for the sustainable development of landscapes and the evaluation of the landscape potential for exploiting renewable energy resources;
  5. development of landscapes and ecosystems with regional and European significance;
  6. co-ordinated land use plans which incorporate wise management of water resources; and
  7. programmes for the conservation and expansion of the common cultural heritage.

Measures for information and co-operation at local levels:

- common strategies for economic diversification aimed at the development of city co-operation and city networks;
- adoption of planning concepts for sustainable urban development, including amongst other things the promotion of multi-modal transport concepts and a reduction in the need to travel;
- urban and rural partnerships to develop sustainable innovative spatial development strategies for the cities and their surrounding countryside; and
- action programmes for the protection and conservation of the urban heritage and the promotion of high-quality architecture.

4.5 The Application of the ESDP in the Member States

(184) The responsible authorities for spatial planning at the national, regional and local levels have important tasks in two respects:

1. externally, by reflecting the ESDP, in their responsibility as Member States, in planning and implementing cross-border, transnational and interregional co-operation measures; and
2. internally, by taking the ESDP into account in the formulation of spatial development policy related to their territory.

It is proposed that the Member States now take into account the policy aims and options of the ESDP in their national spatial planning systems in the way they see fit and inform the public of their experiences gained from European co-operation in spatial development.
(185) The application of the ESDP in national and regional spatial planning will be of particular value for the further economic and social cohesion of the EU. It will help local authorities to take better consideration of the aims and policy options of the ESDP in their own policies.

It is proposed that Member States also take into consideration the European dimension of spatial development in adjusting national spatial development policies, plans and reports. Here, the requirement for a “Europeanisation of state, regional, and urban planning” is increasingly evident. In their spatially relevant planning, local and regional government and administrative agencies should, therefore, overcome any insular way of looking at their territory and take into consideration European aspects and inter-dependencies right from the outset.

(186) A number of Member States have institutionalised consultation processes on matters concerning spatial development. For development projects with a considerable spatial impact, some carry out territorial impact assessments. This is aimed at increasing the positive effects of investments on spatial development at an early stage through the participation of those affected. The countries bordering the Baltic Sea have recommended the application of such a procedure for model projects in the coastal region.

The Member States should intensify the exchange of experience on territorial impact assessments and further develop national regulations and instruments.

4.6 The Importance of the ESDP for Pan-European and International Co-operation

(187) The ESDP also provides a framework for closer cooperation between the fifteen EU states and the Council of Europe with regard to pan-European spatial development. Particularly intensive co-operation with the eleven Accession Countries is sought. Increasing interrelations with Switzerland and Norway and these countries’ obvious interest in co-operation confirm the need for enlarging spatial development beyond the EU-15 territory. The co-operation with the twenty-five non-member states in the Council of Europe plays a significant political role in the development of a continental spatial development policy.

(188) On the basis of the resolutions of the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning (CEMAT) in October 1997 in Cyprus, a pan-European strategy (Guidelines for Future Spatial Development on the European Continent) is currently being drawn up. In contrast to the co-operation between the EU Member States in drawing up the ESDP, the main focal points at the level of the Council of Europe are:

1. greater emphasis on the continental dimension of the spatial development of Europe,
2. analysis of the specific situation and requirements of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in comparison to Western Europe and discussion of the respective guiding principles for spatial development,
3. investigation of financial models for spatial development projects.

At the next European Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning in the year 2000, the European spatial development Ministers will deal with the document during the EXPO in Hanover.

(189) A further international field of action for the application of the ESDP is the preparation of regional and local agendas on sustainable development, as a result of the Rio Process (Agenda 21). The solutions found here must be used for the further development of a sustainable European spatial development policy. At the same time, balanced and sustainable spatial development is an important part of an ecologically responsible policy for Europe. These interdependencies were, for instance, taken as a basis in the Regional Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea region (Baltic 21).

It is proposed that the Member States, regional and local authorities participate in the elaboration and application of regional agendas 21 by providing strategies and projects. The ESDP can provide an important impetus for this.