

Comment of ECTP-CEU on Draft Conclusion on Multilevel Governance Conference
of December 2nd 2010 in Ghent
To be discussed with DG's on 14 December

Dear Mr Baeten,

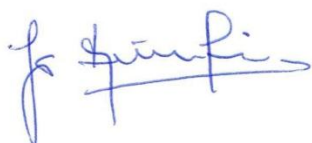
Thank you for offering the opportunity to comment on your draft.

From the side of ECTP-CEU, representing the planning practitioners, comments regard the large variety of spatial planning practices in the European Union.

In the UDG meetings of Namur and Madrid your proposals have been extensively discussed. We largely support those comments. Our comments presented here, are to be regarded as additional to those in earlier discussions.

- First we like to emphasise the great diversity in planning cultures, related to the diversity of governance cultures throughout the Union. In each country planning practice has developed specific ways in which problems between levels of government are solved. Therefore we welcome the fact that in contrast with the earlier presentations, wordings like "standardisation" of tools are clearly avoided.
- In stead a roadmap is proposed. This anyhow implies also standardisation. It would be sufficient if we could formulate a set of recommendations, to be applied voluntarily within the different planning cultures. This would provide planners on the different levels with some guidance in case they feel the need. (In a similar case the ECTP-CEU provided urban planners with a checklist with the modest title *Try it this Way*)
- In order to explore, according to the Toledo Declaration, the possibilities of multi level governance, it would be better to make an inventory of various ways in which multi level governance is practiced in different EU countries and analyse the effectiveness, advantages and disadvantages. This will provide relevant information for recommendations, based on experiences.
- For effective linking policy and practice, involvement of ECTP-CEU next to the mentioned other networks, would be advisable.
- Recommendations for ways to organise multi level governance should concentrate on processes of shared responsibilities, rather than on "tools" or "instruments". Regarding this issue we recommend our recent publication *Fifteen Steps towards Territorial Cohesion*, in which ECTP-CEU offers some guidance to planning practitioners for effective processes towards agreements on coherent developments.

On behalf of ECTP-CEU



Joao Teixeira
President of ECTP-CEU