



MINISTÉRIO DO AMBIENTE, ORDENAMENTO DO TERRITÓRIO E DO DESENVOLVIMENTO REGIONAL
SECRETARIA DE ESTADO DO ORDENAMENTO DO TERRITÓRIO E DAS CIDADES
DIRECÇÃO-GERAL DO ORDENAMENTO DO TERRITÓRIO E DESENVOLVIMENTO URBANO

Address by the Director General for Spatial Planning and Urban Development of Portugal, at the Opening Session of the 10TH UNECE CONFERENCE ON URBAN AND REGIONAL RESEARCH, held at Bratislava on the 22nd of May 2006

Good morning,

Mr. Secretary of State for Construction and Regional Development of Slovakia

Excellency,

On behalf of the **Secretary of State for Spatial Planning and Urban Affairs of Portugal**, I would like to thank you for the invitation to participate in the opening session of this 10th UN ECE Conference on Urban and Regional Research.

I would also like to thank the **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**, through Ms. **Cristina Von Schweinichen**, and express our satisfaction for the fact that this is the first conference to be organized by UN ECE in cooperation with CEMAT.

Dear Participants,

We firmly believe that the long term achievement of our **shared goals of territorial cohesion and sustainable urban communities** in today's broader Europe depends quite significantly on our ability to **focus and cooperate along defined lines of action**, adding value to each others efforts and establishing a **better common understanding** of both the problems and of their possible solutions.

The **preservation of our territorial diversity and social and cultural plurality**, along with the **enhancement of our European identity** and our will to succeed in an increasingly competitive global world, certainly require this kind of approach.

Portugal is the acting Presidency of CEMAT, the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning.

In this quality, **we are organizing the 14th CEMAT**, that will be held in Lisbon on the 26th and 27th October this year.



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The 14th CEMAT will be addressing the issue of **Networking for Sustainable Territorial Development of the European Continent**.

Under this general theme, **polycentricity** and **territorial governance** will be two main topics to be discussed.

The relationship with the topics of this Conference is clear, and I am sure the conclusions of your work here today and tomorrow, will provide a valuable contribution to the **advancement of our discussions in Lisbon next fall**.

I thus wish all participants a fruitful Conference and look forward to receive its report.

Allow me a final word, to thank Ms. **Mila Paskova**, Head of the Spatial Planning Department of the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of Slovakia, for both the **warm welcome and good organisation** and for the **valuable contributions** she has conveyed as a member of the Committee of Senior Officials of CEMAT.

Thank You.