



RESOLUTION

***XXXV International Congress of Allotment and Family Gardens
held in Poland from August 28-31 2008***

THE FUTURE OF ALLOTMENT GARDENS IN EUROPE

The representatives of the European federations from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great-Britain, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden and Switzerland associating almost 3 million allotment gardeners, proceeding in Cracow during the XXXV International Congress of Allotment and Family Gardens, acknowledge the necessity for the further development of allotment gardens in Europe, which for over a hundred years have had an enormous meaning for families, society and environment.

The participants of the congress acknowledge:

- That the idea of allotment gardening is still up to date and that the allotment gardens continue to be necessary for the future generations. Therefore it is necessary to preserve them in Europe. This will demand from our movement and from each national federation conscious policies and specific actions,
- That it is essential to protect the allotment gardens for the future by law. This is the basis for a further development of the allotment gardens and a guarantee of their preservation for the coming generations,
- That a State and government policy aiming at supporting allotment gardening is necessary. The allotment gardens assume social missions: They are a place of meeting and fellowship for young and old, families, people of different generations, workless people and professionally active people of different social and national origins. Therefore the governments should provide proper policies and support for the national allotment garden federations,
- That there is a need to promote the idea of allotment gardening, especially by internet, press and television. City inhabitants should have the possibility to get informed on the various values and advantages of the allotment gardens, and in consequence to appreciate their positive meaning for the urban communities and the environment. Action must be taken to achieve social support and create a positive image of the allotment garden movement,
- That the allotment gardens are an essential element for the physical and mental health of people and increase the quality of life of all citizens. Healthy fruit and vegetables, cultivated in the own garden enrich the menu. The contact with the growth and the development of nature and the creativity while gardening stimulate the senses. Contacts and fellowship in the association help to avoid loneliness.

The participants of the congress recommend:

- That the European allotment garden federations develop a greater activity with the European Union. Such a large number of Europeans should be present on the European level, and should be recognized by the European Institutions,
- That the functioning and management of allotment gardens should be improved. This involves developing new gardens and modernising existing ones with the thought of fulfilling the changing needs of future generations,
- That the federations should establish or strengthen their cooperation with the municipal authorities. This refers especially to the task to protect the continuous existence of the allotment gardens within the city zoning policies. This requests the inscription of the allotment gardens in the urban planning schemes,
- That the federations adopt a rational policy concerning the process of allotment garden liquidations, because the future of the European allotments also depends on this. The federations must make their decisions in these matters with deliberation, properly reviewing each situation and must guarantee the restoration of liquidated gardens.

The congress, concerned for the future of allotment gardens in Europe, relying on their traditions and achievements, fully convinced about their positive values for the society and cities:

- 1) **Calls** upon all governments and Parliaments for support and help in continuing and developing allotment gardens in all European countries,
- 2) **Calls** upon the European Institutions for protection of allotment gardens in all member states, and also for creating political and legal conditions for the preservation and development of these gardens,
- 3) **Requests**, that the allotment movement throughout Europe will be recognized by European States and governments.

The Congress is convinced that this resolution will receive a positive response from the national governments, as well as the European Union.

Eugeniusz KONDRACKI
President

Wilhelm WOHATSCHEK
President of the executive board

Malou WEIRICH
Secretary general

Cracow, August 30th, 2008