

Comments on the Study “Perspectives for the Sustainability of the Autonomous Region of the Azores” – Input for a Regional Plan on Sustainable Development (October 2005)

Answering to the request of the Regional Directorate for Land Use Planning and Water Resources of the Autonomous Region of the Azores, CNADS analysed the above-mentioned document. It is worth mentioning:

- i. The relevance of the effort that Regional Secretary of the Azores for the Environment and the Sea has developed in the last two years, in order to elaborate a Regional Plan on Sustainable Development, whose followed correct methodological process figures.
- ii. The integrating perspective and the conceptual framework of the methodological approach to the sustainable development model that is established in the Azores Regional Plan on Sustainable Development by providing an adequate importance to the principle of social responsibility and ecoefficiency. It is also worth stressing the clear purpose to redesign strategies, programmes and other planning and action mechanisms in order to achieving sustainable development objectives in a peripheral archipelago with its own specific requirements.
- iii. To deserve special reference the fact to be integrated in the various parts of the "Contribute" a proposal for a Regional System on Sustainable Development Indicators, totalising 68.
- iv. By choosing *quality* as a regional objective and key concept, understood as inseparable from the concept of *excellence*, the Contribute is only partially come close to the major goal of ENDS 2005-2015, sending the concept of *competitiveness* established in this document to the second of “*priorities for sustainability*” enunciated.