

Reflection on the Land Use Policy National Program /PNPOT(July 2005)

On March 31st 2005, the Secretary of State for Land Use and Cities requested CNADS to assess the current version of the PNPOT Report and Action Plan (February 2005) and the procedure to be adopted for public discussion and final phase of elaboration. This would allow the drafting of a document that could be appropriately used in the previously approved timetable. Coordinated by Counsellor Nuno Portas, the Working Group carried out the requested assessment and recommended that conditions should be created to allow a public hearing as open as possible and a sufficiently long discussion time period. At this stage, the approach would be focused mainly on conceptual and methodological issues and not on a comprehensive and detailed assessment of the PNPOT Report and Action Plan.

As far as the program and public hearing are concerned, CNADS considerations were as follows:

- a) The PNPOT Report and Action Plan do not show a clear and operational definition of the territory concept.
- b) The public discussion should underline all legislative measures required to implement the PNPOT;
- c) Within the scope of the public discussion of the PNPOT, it would be worth underlining the two levels of territorial intervention (regional and intermunicipal), namely by developing Local Agenda 21 that could gradually be developed and tend to a National Network of Local Agenda 21.
- d) The public hearing stage should include broad objectives of good governance and co-responsibility, specifically aimed at achieving a wide national consensus. This could be achieved namely through public information and participation, the involvement of economic and social stakeholders, and not forgetting the key role of the media.
- e) The public discussion should include: economic competitiveness and social cohesion; environment, natural and cultural resources; integration of the facilities, infrastructures, communication and information networks; urban system and rural development; wide concept of national territory (overland and maritime); territorial

model and sustainable development strategy; governance; (inter-institutional coordination and participation).