

Mr Donald Tusk  
Prime Minister of Poland

26<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Dear Prime Minister

## Status and Reputation of Planning in Poland

I am writing to on behalf of the European Council of Spatial Planners (ECTP-CEU) to express our concern about the proposals that are being considered which would undermine the status of professional planners in Poland and put at risk the sustainable economic future of your country.

Planning is a key means of ensuring a cooperative approach to the future of society and engendering a culture of solidarity. This is even more important in the severe economic and financial crisis that is faced. It requires action across a broad front as proposed by your government, including infrastructure, energy and economic development, whilst protecting the environment and safeguarding communities against natural hazards.

These ambitions that you have for your country will not be achieved unless there is a strong and informed planning capacity. For example, the acceleration of infrastructure programmes to modernise Poland and your other programmes of action such as the new flood protection systems, will create even greater demands on your institutions and need clear and reliable planning advice. The global competition that we face requires vision and prudence, and not short term opportunism that arise from poor or unplanned economic development.

It is a matter of public trust. This can only be created through the professional advice that comes from qualified and experience planners, as is currently provided through the Polish Chamber of Urban Planners . This is as important as the ensuring that those who practice medicine are professionally qualified. Unplanned development based on unqualified advisors is equally damaging to the wellbeing of communities, as the damage to the health of individuals from unqualified doctors.

Soundly base professional planning is also critical to the protection of the rights of the individuals to decent housing, access to jobs and a healthy environment. Planning ensures

that the freedom of one individual is not exercised at the expense of the rights of others in society to these same fundamental human rights. It also provides the means for resolving competing development rights through collaboration reducing conflict and promoting solidarity.

Therefore it is with concern that we, in the ECTP-CEU, have learnt that there are proposals in Poland that fail to recognise the need for public trust in those who provide planning advice in your country and the importance of sound and professional planning advice to the safeguarding of the well-being, freedoms and rights of your citizens.

Yours sincerely,



Dominique Lancrenon  
ECTP-CEU President / Présidente ECTP-CEU

Cc:

- Ministry of Justice of Poland
- Ministry of Infrastructure of Poland
- Ministry of Regional Development of Poland
- Mr Jacek Sztechman, President of The Polish Chamber of Urban Planners