

Congress takes part in seminar on local institutional reforms in Europe

Strasbourg (France), 19 June 2017 - The Congress took part in the European seminar held by the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) at the French National Institute of Local Studies (INET) in Strasbourg on 19 and 20 June on "Territorial reforms and training of local elected officials and local public servants in Europe".

In his opening address, Xavier Cadoret (France, SOC), Vice-President of the Congress, reaffirmed the importance of striking a fair and effective balance between guarantees of self-government and the dynamic development of local and regional structures against a background of reforms that aimed at improving governance. He added that "the method employed when devising and implementing reforms is important. Consultation between the various tiers of government, and citizen participation, for instance through referendums, are means of achieving greater acceptance and therefore promise more effective implementation of the reforms."

At the workshop on "Territorial reforms of the state and local governments in Europe: towards institutional simplification?", he developed these ideas further, in particular in presenting the conclusions of the report "Comparative analysis on the implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in 47 member states" adopted in March 2017, which sought to determine whether the current state of local democracy in Europe and the reforms recently implemented are in line with the principles set out in the Charter.

Luc Martens, Congress member (Belgium, EPP/CCE) and municipal councillor in Roeselare, also spoke during the workshop on "Modernisation of local public action in Europe: towards better democratic governance?" He praised the move towards greater flexibility in forms of local governance, while highlighting the risks associated with excessive outsourcing of services.