

Sevdia Ugrekhelidze: a stronger local dimension ahead of the Eastern Partnership Summit

Strasbourg, 12 September 2017 – The need to push forward the local dimension in the future efforts within the Eastern Partnership countries was stressed by Sevdia Ugrekhelidze (Georgia, EPP/CCE), Vice President of the Congress – a permanent observer of CORLEAP - during its 7th Annual meeting in Brussels.

Highlighting the importance in “promoting a partnership culture between local and central authorities”, whilst also “fostering open dialogue for inclusive public administration and local government reform”, Ms Ugrekhelidze demonstrated that enhanced quality of local democracy requires not only legislative support but “endorsement by all stakeholders involved”.

Reflecting on the work by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and CORLEAP in recommendations for the 5th Eastern Partnership Summit, in October 2017, Ms Ugrekhelidze recalled that “local and regional authorities have a vital role to play in many of the priorities set, and thus need to be considered as fully-fledged partners in reaching the set targets”.

Her call is based on the Congress’ strong involvement in the EaP region by means of its statutory and co-operation activities, in particular through the Partnership for Good Governance 2015 – 2017.

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