

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 412 (2017)¹ Recurring issues identified in assessments resulting from Congress monitoring and election observation missions (reference period 2010-2016) 1. Monitoring of the European Charter of Local Self-Government 2. Observation of local and regional elections

1. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe refers to:

a. The European Charter of Local Self-Government (ETS No. 122, 1985, hereinafter “the Charter”);

b. Resolution 395 (2015) on the revision of the Rules and Procedures of the Congress and in particular Chapters XVII, XVIII and XIX on the organisation of the monitoring procedures, the practical organisation of election observation missions and the implementation of the post-monitoring and post-electoral political dialogue;

c. the monitoring reports and recommendations adopted by the Congress with respect to the situation of local and regional democracy in the member States of the Council of Europe;

d. the reports, resolutions and recommendations adopted by the Congress further to the observation of local and regional elections, as well as reports, resolutions and recommendations on transversal issues in electoral matters;

e. Congress Resolution 413 (2017) on comparative analysis of the implementation of the European Charter of Local

Self-Government in the 47 Council of Europe member States.

2. The Congress identified the absence of direct applicability of the Charter as one of the root causes of the recurring problems in member States of the Council of Europe in the field of local and regional democracy, and notably as regards the inadequacy of financial resources of local and regional authorities, the restricted definition, allocation and exercise of local competences and the lack of consultation on the part of central government.

3. The Congress highlighted that recurring issues in electoral matters included the inaccuracy and lack of quality of voters' lists, the misuse of administrative resources during electoral campaigns, the lack of professionalism and politicisation of the electoral administration at all levels and, overall, the trust of voters in electoral processes.

4. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe:

a. requests that the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by member States of the European Charter of Local Self-Government (Monitoring Committee) provide – every three years – an updated analysis of the recurring issues based on recent assessments resulting from Congress monitoring and election observation missions;

b. invites its Monitoring Committee to systematically refer to recurring issues in future assessments of the situation of local and regional democracy in the framework of the monitoring of the European Charter of Local Self-Government and election observation;

c. calls on all relevant instances of the Congress to participate in awareness-raising efforts and to design appropriate policies and tools with regard to the recurring issues and ways of addressing them.

1. Debated and adopted by the Congress on 28 March 2017, 1st sitting (see Document [CG32\(2017\)19](#), explanatory memorandum), rapporteurs: Stewart DICKSON, United Kingdom (R, ILDG), and Leendert VERBEEK, Netherlands (R, SOC).