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| **MINISTERS’ DEPUTIES** | CM Documents | **CM/Cong(2017)Rec390-final** | 7 April 2017 |

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| **“Women’s political participation and representation at local and regional levels” ‒**  **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe Recommendation 390 (2016)**  (Reply adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 5 April 2017 at the 1283rd meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies) |

1. The Committee of Ministers has carefully examined Recommendation 390 (2016) of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities on "Women's political participation and representation at local and regional levels" and brought it to the attention of the governments of member States so that they can draw on it for their policies in the area of equality between women and men. It is also brought the recommendation to the attention of the Gender Equality Commission (GEC).

2. It expresses its gratitude to the Congress for its commitment to balanced participation of women and men in political life and encourages it to pursue its efforts in this area. It points out that one of the five priorities of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017 is to achieve balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision making. In this connection, the GEC regularly monitors the member States' implementation of Recommendation [Rec(2003)3](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=Rec(2003)3" \o "Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states on balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision making (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 12 March 2003 at the 831st meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)) on balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision making and reports back to the Committee of Ministers.

4. The Committee stresses that promoting the balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision making forms part of a more global approach geared to achieving true equality between women and men in all areas of life. It notes, in the light of the GEC's activities, that progress has been made in enabling women to gain access to decision-making bodies but much remains to be done to attain the objective of a minimum representation of 40% of both women and men in management posts, set by Recommendation [Rec(2003)3](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=Rec(2003)3" \o "Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states on balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision making (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 12 March 2003 at the 831st meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)).

5. The Committee of Ministers consequently encourages the governments of the member States to pursue their efforts to implement the aforementioned recommendation and, in particular, take steps to remove the obstacles preventing women and girls from fully participating in society. In this respect, it emphasises the importance of the role played by political parties and the media as well as the need to undertake activities to educate, raise awareness among and train the different stakeholders. On this point, the Committee of Ministers wishes to inform the Congress that activities aimed at promoting women's participation as candidates in elections are organised within the framework of the Council of Europe's electoral assistance programmes, as was the case, for example, for the 2015 local elections in the Republic of Moldova.

6. Finally, it informs the Congress that gender-disaggregated data on the composition of elected assemblies at local, regional and national levels as well as of national governments and regional and local authority executive bodies will be presented in the analytical report of the third round of monitoring of the implementation of Recommendation [Rec(2003)3](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=Rec(2003)3" \o "Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states on balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision making (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 12 March 2003 at the 831st meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)), to be published in 2017.

7. The Committee of Ministers is willing to enter into political dialogue with the Congress, in any appropriate form, regarding follow-up to its recommendation.