

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 360 (2013)¹ Municipal elections in “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (24 March 2013)

1. Following the invitation of the government of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” to observe local elections on 24 March 2013, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe recalls that “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” became a member of the Council of Europe on 9 November 1995 and ratified the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ETS No.122) on 6 June 1997. Further to the entry into force of the Charter on 1 October 1997, the Congress has carried out two monitoring missions on the state of local and regional self-government in the country and its compliance with the Charter: in 2007 (see Recommendation 217 (2007) and the report CPL(14)2 REP on local democracy in “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”) and in 2011 (see Recommendation 329 (2012) on local democracy in “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and its explanatory memorandum (CPL(23)2).

2. The Congress reiterates that free and fair elections, at national but also at local and regional level, constitute an

integral part of democratic processes in Council of Europe member States and refers to its Resolution 306 (2010)REV on the observation of local and regional elections – strategy and rules of the Congress, which underlines the importance of election observation at the grassroots level and its complementarity to the political monitoring process of the Charter.

3. The Congress takes note of Recommendation 345 (2013) on municipal elections in “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (24 March 2013), regarding the findings of the Congress delegation which observed the municipal elections there and asks its Monitoring Committee to ensure the appropriate follow-up to this recommendation and to take it into account in the framework of its work programme to assess the progress made by the country in matters of local democracy and the honouring of commitments to the Charter.

4. In conformity with its Resolution 353 (2013)REV on Congress post-monitoring and post-observation of elections: developing political dialogue, the Congress expresses its will and availability to participate in activities aimed at strengthening local democracy and electoral processes in “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” through continued political dialogue with the authorities and in co-operation with the Association of Units of Local Self-Government (ZELS).

1. Debated and approved by the Chamber of Local Authorities on 30 October 2013, and adopted by the Congress on 31 October 2013, 3rd Sitting (see Document CPL(25)4, explanatory memorandum); rapporteur: Jüri Landberg, Estonia (L, ILDG).