

36th SESSION

Report
CG36(2019)07final
2 April 2019

Request for Partner for Local Democracy status submitted by the Kingdom of Morocco

Bureau of the Congress

Congress Spokesperson on the South-Mediterranean Partnership: ¹ Piero FASSINO, Italy (L, SOC)

Resolution 440 (2019) 2

Summary

The status of Partner for Local Democracy was created by the Congress as a specific status for countries in the Council of Europe's neighbourhood in October 2014 to offer the countries concerned which so request a special framework for dialogue and regular institutional contacts with their European counterparts (Resolution 376(2014)).

The Kingdom of Morocco is a longstanding partner of the Council of Europe: it has been a member of the Venice Commission since 2007 and of the North-South Centre since 2009 and has ratified several Council of Europe treaties. The country has also held observer status with the European Pharmacopoeia since 1997 and taken part in the Pompidou Group's Mediterranean Network (MedNET) since 2006. It was granted the status of Partner for democracy by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in 2011. Morocco benefits since 2012 from co-operation activities with the Council of Europe under the Neighbourhood Partnership.

Co-operation between the Congress and Morocco started following a request for the Congress' expertise in the context of the preparation of the law on advanced regionalisation in Morocco in 2010. This co-operation was further reinforced in the framework of the co-operation activities implemented by the Congress in Morocco under the South-Med Partnership.

Seeking to reinforce the relations between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Congress, the Ministry of Interior of Morocco, the AMPCC (Moroccan Association of Chairs of Municipal Councils) and the ARM (Association of Regions of Morocco) addressed a request for the status of Partner for Local Democracy to the Congress President on 30 May 2018. As this request meets the criteria established by the Congress in Resolution 376(2014) and its Rules of Procedure (Article 68), it is proposed to grant the Kingdom of Morocco the status of Partner for Local Democracy.

¹ L: Chamber of Local Authorities / R: Chamber of Regions
EPP/CCE: European People's Party Group in the Congress
SOC: Socialist Group
ILDG: Independent and Liberal Democrat Group
ECR: European Conservatives and Reformists Group
NR: Members not belonging to a political group of the Congress

RESOLUTION 440 (2019)²

The Congress:

1. Recalling its Resolution 376(2014) on the creation of the Partner for Local Democracy status in order to formalise relations between the Congress and the political authorities in the neighbouring countries, including the local and regional authorities and their representative associations;
2. Considering:
 - a. the formal request for the status of Partner for Local Democracy, addressed on 30 May 2018 to the President of the Congress by the Minister of the Interior of Morocco, the President of the AMPCC (Moroccan Association of Chairs of Municipal Councils) and the President of the ARM (Association of Regions of Morocco), in accordance with the procedure referred to in Rule 68 of the Rules and Procedures of the Congress;
 - b. the participation of Morocco in co-operation activities with the Council of Europe in the framework of the Neighbourhood Partnership since 2012;
 - c. the participation of Morocco in several Council of Europe conventions and partial agreements;
 - d. the granting of Partner for Democracy status to the Parliament of Morocco by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in 2011;
3. Decides:
 - a. to grant the Kingdom of Morocco the status of Partner for Local Democracy in accordance with the forms and conditions of participation referred to in Rule 68.9 of the Rules and Procedures of the Congress;
 - b. to allocate 6 representative and 6 substitute seats to the delegation from Morocco;
 - c. to invite Morocco to appoint a Partner for Local Democracy delegation to be composed in accordance with Rule 68.8 of the Rules and Procedures of the Congress;
 - d. that the provisions of this resolution shall come into force with immediate effect.

² Debated and adopted by the Congress on 2 April 2019, 1st sitting (see Document CG36(2019)07), Congress Spokesperson on the South-Mediterranean Partnership: Piero FASSINO, Italy (L, SOC)