

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 423 (2017)¹ Ten years of the European Local Democracy Week

1. Recalling the Declaration adopted by the Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Local and Regional Government on 16 October 2007 in Valencia, in which the ministers supported the initiative of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (hereafter “the Congress”) to launch the European Local Democracy Week, in recognition of the importance of increasing citizen participation in decision making at the grass-roots level and introducing participatory mechanisms into our democratic systems;

2. Considering:

a. the Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority (CETS No. 207);

b. Recommendation Rec(2001)19 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the participation of citizens in local public life;

c. Resolution 238 (2007) of the Congress on the proposition for a European Local Democracy Week;

d. Resolution 326 (2011) of the Congress on citizen participation at local and regional level in Europe;

3. Thanking the local and regional authorities and their associations for their commitment over the past ten years, which enabled the European Local Democracy Week to become a truly pan-European event that has contributed to bringing together and fostering dialogue between citizens and local and regional elected representatives,

4. The Congress:

a. renews its commitment to advancing this initiative and further developing it for the benefit of local and regional authorities and the citizens across Europe, and to broadening this pan-European event to include the Council of Europe neighbouring regions, in the context of the ongoing decentralisation processes in numerous countries;

b. decides to establish a Reflection Group tasked with taking the European Local Democracy Week forward to a new dimension, by building on the best practices of the past decade, which would examine all questions related to the evolution of the Week, notably:

i. its concept, the date and its organisation;

ii. the choice of themes;

iii. the modalities for identifying, rewarding and enhancing the visibility of the most remarkable initiatives; and

iv. the highlighting of good practices;

c. instructs the Congress Secretariat to submit to the Bureau a proposal concerning the possible composition of such a group and the practical arrangements for its meeting(s).

1. Debated and adopted by the Congress on 20 October 2017, 3rd sitting (see Document [CG33\(2017\)12](#)), Congress Spokesperson on the European Local Democracy Week: Gaye DOGANOGLU, Turkey (L, EPP/CCE).