

33rd SESSION**10 years of the European Local Democracy Week**

Resolution 423 (2017)¹

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 Congress' initiative to launch the European Local Democracy Week in recognition of the importance of increasing citizen participation in decision making at the grassroots 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 (2001)19 of the Committee of Ministers 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 10 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;

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

b. decides to establish a Reflection Group tasked with taking the European Local Democracy Week initiative 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. concept, date and organisation of the Week;

ii. choice of the themes;

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

iv. highlighting 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).