

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 246 (2007)¹ Local elections in the Republic of Moldova (observed on 3 and 17 June 2007)

The Congress,

1. Refers to:

a. the Committee of Ministers' Statutory Resolution (2000) 1 on the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, in particular its Article 2, paragraph 3, entrusting the Congress with drawing up country reports on the situation of local and regional democracy in member states (monitoring reports);

b. the principles laid down in the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ECLSG) which was ratified by Moldova on 2 October 1997 and entered into force in that country on 1 February 1998;

c. its Recommendations 38 (1998), 84 (2000), 110 (2002) and 179 (2005) on the situation of local and/or regional democracy in the Republic of Moldova;

d. its previous reports on elections monitored in Moldova;²

e. its report on the local elections in the Republic of Moldova held on 3 and 17 June 2007 detailing the findings of the Congress observation mission;

2. Recalls the role of the Congress in monitoring local and regional elections, based on the premise that the holding of free and fair local and regional elections and their organisation in accordance with international electoral standards is essential with a view to ensuring the legitimacy of the institutions, to building up a democratic system based on sound foundations, and to establishing the grounds for good governance at local and regional level;

3. Welcomes:

a. the positive developments on local self-government which have taken place in the Republic of Moldova since the adoption of Congress Recommendation 179 (2005) on local and regional democracy in Moldova;

b. the will demonstrated by the Moldovan authorities to co-operate with the Congress on electoral matters and

commends the Moldovan authorities for the efforts made to improve the administration of local elections;

c. the fact that the city of Chişinău has now an elected mayor, after four failed election attempts in 2005;

4. Determined to follow closely the progress made by the authorities of Moldova with a view to implementing the recommendations addressed in its Recommendation 227 (2007), invites:

a. the Institutional Committee to prepare, as soon as possible, an updated monitoring report on local and regional democracy in Moldova and, in doing so, to pay due consideration to Recommendations 213 (2007) and 227 (2007) as well as to the evolution of the set of laws on local public administration, administrative legislation, local public finance and regional development adopted by the Moldovan Parliament in December 2006;

b. the Bureau of the Congress to take any measures to support the Moldovan authorities in implementing the above-mentioned recommendations and to step up the already constructive dialogue established on the occasion of the present elections;

c. the Bureau of the Congress to give due consideration to the organisation of a mission to observe the forthcoming elections of the People's Assembly of Gagauzia (Moldova) with a view to assessing the follow-up given to previous Congress recommendations;

5. The Congress therefore, reiterates its readiness:

a. to contribute to the implementation of the conclusions adopted by the Venice Commission on the use of the media during electoral periods;

b. to support the Moldovan authorities in their efforts to develop local and regional democracy through its institutional bodies and namely its Co-operation and Partnership Unit, and in close co-operation with other relevant Council of Europe bodies and international organisations.

1. Debated and adopted by the Standing Committee of the Congress on 21 November 2007 (see Document CG(14)23RES, draft resolution presented by J. Borg (Malta, R, EPP/CD, rapporteur).

2. Report on the election of the Bashkan (Governor) of Gagauzia, Moldova (3 and 17 December 2006), CG(13)43PART2; report on the local by-elections in Moldova (27 November and 11 December 2005), CG/BUR (12) 98; report on the local by-elections in Moldova (10 and 24 July 2005), CG/BUR (12) 34; report on the regional elections in Gagauzia, Moldova (16 and 30 November 2003), CG/BUR (10) 89; report on the local elections observation mission to Moldova (25 May and 8 June 2003), CG/BUR (10) 19 and Report on the regional elections in Gagauzia, Moldova (6 and 22 October 2002), CG/BUR (9) 59.