

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 211 (2006)¹ on the follow-up to the referendum on the state-status of Montenegro (Serbia and Montenegro) (observed on 21 May 2006)

The Congress,

1. Refers to:

a. the Committee of Ministers' Statutory Resolution (2000) 1 on the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe;

b. the principles laid down in the European Charter of Local Self-Government;

c. the outcome of the referendum on the state-status of Montenegro, held in Montenegro on 21 May 2006;

d. the conclusions of the International Referendum Observation Mission² regarding the observation of the referendum on the state-status of Montenegro;

e. its report on the referendum on the state-status of Montenegro, detailing the findings of the Congress observation mission;

f. its Recommendation 186 (2006) on the follow-up to the referendum on the state-status of Montenegro.

2. Commends the authorities of Montenegro for the smooth and peaceful holding of the referendum, which was organised and conducted overall in compliance with international standards, principles and values in electoral matters.

3. Welcomes the fact that, on the occasion of the observation mission of the referendum on the state-status of Montenegro the Congress was for the first time, joined

by members of the Committee of the Regions of the European Union.

4. Is determined to follow the progress made by the authorities of Serbia and the authorities of Montenegro with a view to the implementation of the recommendations addressed in its Recommendation 186 (2006), and therefore invites:

a. the Institutional Committee to continue monitoring the situation of local and regional democracy in Serbia with a view to facilitating the ratification of the European Charter of Local Self-Government;

b. the Institutional Committee to follow closely post-referendum developments, and in particular constitutional developments, in Montenegro so as to draw up, as soon as the circumstances allow it, a monitoring report on the situation of local and regional democracy in Montenegro;

c. the Bureau of the Congress to follow closely the measures taken by the authorities of Montenegro in the consideration and implementation of the recommendations made by the Congress as detailed in Recommendation 186 (2006) and to step up the dialogue with the authorities of Montenegro in this regard;

d. the Bureau of the Congress to take measures allowing the Congress to be involved, as an observer organisation, in future election processes in Montenegro;

e. the Bureau of the Congress to further promote co-operation with the Committee of the Regions of the European Union with a view to carrying out joint election observation missions and to institutionalise such co-operation as means of implementing the Co-operation Agreement between the Committee of the Regions and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

1. Debated and adopted by the Congress on 31 May 2006, 2nd Sitting (see Document CG (13) 15, draft resolution presented by K. Whitmore (United Kingdom, R, ILDG) rapporteur).

2. The International Referendum Observation Mission (IROM) included the following organisations: Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODHIR), European Parliament and Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.