

PRESS RELEASE

The President of the Parliament of Andalusia analyzes the situation of the Local and Regional self-government in Andalusia with a Delegation of the Council of Europe

[Spanish version \(Parlamento de Andalucía – Spain\)](#)

05.06.2012 The President of the Parliament of Andalusia, Manuel Gracia, had a meeting this afternoon in the Parliament of Andalusia with a Delegation of the Council of Europe to address the Recommendation 121 (2002) on local and regional democracy in Spain that realized the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe.

In this sense, Gracia has developed with European representation, the monitoring of the implementation of the principles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government and they have concluded that, despite the economic crisis which we live, democratic organizations are working properly and their quality isn't in danger.

In this sense, EU officials have added that our country has a healthy democracy and that is one of the 47 States that have signed the Charter of Democracy promoted from the Council of Europe to ensure the proper functioning of such administrations.

Both the president of the Parliament of Andalusia and the delegates have gone "glad and satisfied" in a meeting that they have described as "interesting and useful" because they have been able to know the structures, functioning and status of local and regional government organizations and the coordination between them.

Specifically, topics treated are the Constitution and the Process of Decentralization, Local Self-Government, Regional Self-Government, the relations between the regions and local authorities, and negotiations in the context of the Pacto Local.

In this regard, Manuel Gracia has highlighted the concern in Andalusia to maintain a high level of institutional cooperation between municipalities and our autonomous community. "We are the most populated region in Spain and, despite the complexity of organization that entails, we have a great capacity for cooperation in the territory between some governments and others."

At this meeting, with Manuel Gracia, members of the Delegation of the Council of Europe that have been present are:

- Marc Cools, Representative of the Chamber of Regions of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe.
- Leen Verbeek, Representative of the Chamber of Local Authorities of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe.
- Francesco Merloni, President of the Independent Expert Group on the European Charter of Local Self-Government.
- Stéphanie Poirel, Secretary of the Monitoring Committee of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, Council of Europe.