

Press Release

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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Congress delegation satisfied with the conduct of its monitoring visit to Russia

Strasbourg, 16.04.2010 - The Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities carried out a general monitoring mission, from 14 to 15 April 2010, to assess the state of local and regional democracy in the Russian Federation.

"We had constructive dialogue with all the authorities we met with and were able, in particular, to secure information on the situation of the small settlements, the media and the political parties", said Christopher Newbury (United Kingdom, L, EPP/CD) and Knud Andersen (Denmark, R, ILDG), the Congress rapporteurs, at the end of the visit.

During the visit the Congress delegation took part in a Round Table on "Respect for human rights and the problems and prospects for local self-government in settlements in the Chelyabinsk region". The Rapporteurs had discussions with Governor of the Chelyabinsk Region Mikhail Yurevich, Head of the City Administration Sergei Davydov, Chair of the City Council Boris Vidgof and Chair of the Council's Committee on Local Self-Government Alexei Sevastyanov. The delegation also met experts on local self-government, members of the opposition and representatives of the media and civil society, in Moscow and Chelyabinsk.

This visit follows the first one in December 2009, under the second cycle of monitoring for this country since it ratified the European Charter of Local Self-Government in 1998.

Following the visit, a report will be submitted to the Congress' Institutional Committee, on 2 July 2010, in Kragujevac (Serbia).

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The Congress' latest recommendation on the situation of local and regional democracy in Russia was adopted in May 2004. In November 2007, the Congress held an exchange of views with Russian Vice-Minister of Regional Development Vitaly Shipov on the recommendation's implementation.