

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 328 (2011)¹ Local elections in Albania (8 May 2011)

1. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe thanks the Albanian authorities, the political actors, the media and the representatives of the international and diplomatic community for the fruitful co-operation established during the municipal elections held in Albania on 8 May 2011. It welcomes the renewed co-operation with the Committee of the Regions of the European Union that sent four of its members to join the Congress observation mission.

2. The Congress affirms its interest in strengthening co-operation with international organisations with a view to optimising the observation of local elections and welcomes, in particular, the synergies established with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE/ODIHR).

3. Taking note of the Report on Municipal Elections in Albania (Document CG/BUR(20)21), the Congress considers that the local elections of 8 May were characterised by a commitment to transparency but there were tensions between the two main coalitions. The electoral

campaign, which should have been centred on municipal issues and local needs, was mainly centred on national politics and/or on personal allegations between candidates.

4. The Congress deplores the lack of political dialogue that is needed for a constructive and fair electoral competition. In this respect, in the interest of local communities, efforts should be made to accept all constructive decisions and go beyond partisan positions.

5. In the light of the points above the Congress:

a. calls on the Albanian local and regional authorities to promote the conditions aimed at establishing a better political dialogue between them, with a view to building constructive relationships – a fundamental component of good governance;

b. affirms its readiness to contribute, as a political forum, to set up and implement a post-election action plan of the Council of Europe;

c. decides to develop and reinforce the co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR with a view to a complementary and harmonised action;

d. asks its Monitoring Committee to consider the results of the election observation mission in the preparation of the monitoring report on local and regional democracy in Albania, scheduled for 2012.

1. Debated and approved by the Chamber of Local Authorities on 19 October 2011 and adopted by the Congress on 20 October 2011, 3rd Sitting (see Document CPL(21)3, explanatory memorandum), rapporteur: V.Gebel Germany (L, EPP/CD).