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**“Conflicts of interest at local and regional level”**  
**Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe**  
**Recommendation 423 (2018)**

(Reply adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 11 September 2019  
at the 1353<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)

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1. The Committee of Ministers has carefully examined Recommendation 423 (2018) on “Conflicts of interest at local and regional level” which it has brought to the attention of the governments of member States and forwarded to the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG) for information and comments.
2. The Committee of Ministers notes that the recommendation addresses a fundamental principle of good governance and recalls that effective measures are required to prevent and combat corruption. It welcomes the continued attention given by the Congress to promoting ethical conduct at local and regional level. In this respect, it would recall that, in line with its terms of reference for 2018-2019, the CDDG is currently developing Guidelines on public ethics at all levels of government and updating the 2004 Handbook of good practice on public ethics at local level. In this context, the CDDG is taking into consideration Recommendation 423 (2018) of the Congress. In the preparation of both texts, it also relies on the relevant contributions and expertise provided by members of the Congress.
3. The Committee of Ministers would also underline that ethical conduct is one of the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance which specifies that conflicts of interest must be declared in a timely manner and persons involved must abstain from taking part in relevant decisions. In this context, it would also draw attention to the relevance of the Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)2 to member States on the legal regulation of lobbying activities in the context of public decision making.
4. Finally, and in response to paragraph 6.b. of the recommendation, the Committee of Ministers would invite governments and parliaments of member States and, where applicable, regions with legislative powers, to give due consideration to the measures set out in Congress Recommendation 423 (2018) and their implementation. It would also draw the attention of member States to the European Code of Conduct for all Persons Involved in Local and Regional Governance adopted on 7 November 2018 by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.