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## **“Social rights of young people: the role of local and regional authorities”**

### **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe**

### **Recommendation 433 (2019)**

(Reply adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 11 March 2020  
at the 1370<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)

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1. The Committee of Ministers has carefully examined Recommendation 433 (2019) of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe on “Social rights of young people: the role of local and regional authorities”, which it transmitted to the European Committee on Social Rights (ECSR), to the Governmental Committee of the European Social Charter and European Code of Social Security and to the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) for information and possible comments.
2. The Committee of Ministers welcomes the Congress' focus on the social rights of young people and on giving concrete expression to these rights. It also welcomes the Congress' commitment to engaging young people in democratic processes and to strengthening “the integration, participation and commitment of young people at local and regional levels”.
3. Like the Congress, the Committee of Ministers underlines that the European Social Charter provides extensive and complete protection of social rights. It recalls that the Charter and its monitoring mechanism comprised of the reporting and collective complaints procedures have contributed significantly to the development of young people's social rights in the Council of Europe member States.
4. Several provisions of the European Social Charter have a direct impact on young people. In this respect, the Charter protects young persons in employment, both individually and collectively, it regulates the age of admission to employment, provides a range of specific labour rights protecting young workers, guarantees education and training, health and environment, housing as well as protection against violence which are enabling rights of crucial importance for young people.
5. The Committee of Ministers is aware that local and regional authorities, along with social partners and civil society organisations, can play an important role both in disseminating the European Social Charter and in implementing it. In view of the necessary strengthening of the European Social Charter system, the Committee of Ministers, in line with paragraph 8.a. of the Congress recommendation, calls on those member States, which have not yet done so, to consider signing and ratifying the revised European Social Charter and to accept the collective complaints procedure.
6. The Committee of Ministers would also inform the Congress that to follow up the “Report identifying good practices and making proposals with a view to improving the implementation of social rights in Europe” prepared by the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), in December 2019, the Committee of Ministers adopted a series of decisions inviting the continuation of the reforms of the monitoring mechanisms of the European Social Charter. The decisions also underline the importance of the Council of Europe providing expert assistance to States in the implementation of social rights, sharing good State practice, and providing more effective communication about social rights and the European Social Charter system.
7. With regard to the recommendation outlined in paragraphs 8.b of the Congress Recommendation, the Committee of Ministers takes note with interest of the Congress' call on member States to involve – where this is not already the case – local and regional authorities in the preparation of annual national reports or, where appropriate, in the preparation of government observations on collective complaints to be submitted to the European Committee of Social Rights.

8. With regard to paragraph 8.c, the Committee of Ministers invites member States to consider the recommendation to develop country specific national action plans to raise awareness and promote the full implementation of social rights of young people. Successful youth policies are a key tool to counter challenges such as high and persistent unemployment, poverty, discrimination and social exclusion, which are primary obstacles to young people's access to social rights. In this respect, it underlines the role that local and regional authorities can play in implementing policy plans and programmes, together with youth leaders and workers.

9. Finally, the Committee of Ministers recalls that it has long considered it crucial that young people are able to access and enjoy their social rights as advocated in this Congress recommendation. To this end, in addition to the texts referred to by the Congress, it recalls the relevance of its Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)7 on young people's access to rights.