

MONITORING

of the application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government



Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
of the Council of Europe

THE EUROPEAN CHARTER OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

a framework to protect local communities

The European Charter of Local Self-Government sets standards to protect the rights of local authorities and commits states that have ratified it to respect a number of principles. Opened for signature on 15 October 1985 and entered into force on 1 September 1988, the Charter has been ratified by the 47 member states of the Council of Europe. It was supplemented in 2009 by an Additional Protocol on the Right to Participate in Local Government Affairs.

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

watchdog of the rights set out in the Charter

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe ensures the respect of the principles of the Charter through a systematic monitoring process and a close political dialogue with the governments. Every five years, it conducts a regular monitoring of the implementation of the Charter, country by country, in the 47 member states of the Council of Europe. The reports, recommendations and resolutions it adopts make it possible to inform governments, parliaments, constitutional courts, associations, elected representatives and the media, on the situation of local and regional democracy in specific countries and on the application of the Charter in law and in practice by these countries.

THE MONITORING COMMITTEE

body responsible for monitoring the Charter within the Congress

The Committee on the Honoring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the European Charter of Local Self-Government (Monitoring Committee) is responsible for evaluating the application of the Charter. Through the post-monitoring policy dialogue that takes place between two follow-up visits, it ensures that its recommendations to the Member States are followed up. The Monitoring Committee undertakes in particular:

- **every five years**, a general regular country-by-country monitoring mission to each Member State;
- **the examination of a particular aspect of the Charter**, as decided by the Bureau or the Committee;
- **fact-finding missions** to examine, by decision of the Bureau, specific cases of concern.

THE STEPS OF A MONITORING PROCEDURE

CALENDAR OF VISITS AND APPOINTMENT OF RAPORTEURS

The Monitoring Committee of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe adopts a biannual work program which foresees the countries which will be the subject of a follow-up visit and the Chair appoints, from among the Committee members rapporteurs for each country.



MONITORING VISIT AND PRELIMINARY DRAFT REPORT

The rapporteurs of the Congress meet, in the country, representatives of governments, parliaments, constitutional courts, mediators, courts of accounts, local and regional elected representatives, mayors of capitals, associations and the media. They draw up a draft report and then submit it for consultation to all the interlocutors met during the visit in order to revise or supplement, if necessary, the draft report.



EXAMINATION BY THE MONITORING COMMITTEE

The draft report is submitted for consideration and adoption to the Congress Monitoring Committee. The preliminary draft recommendation is subject to the approval of the Monitoring Committee before the examination by the Congress for adoption.



ADOPTION OF A RECOMMENDATION IN SESSION

The members of the Congress, meeting in Strasbourg, France, debate the report and adopt a recommendation.



TRANSMISSION TO NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

The adopted recommendations are forwarded to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which is invited to address them to the governments of the countries concerned. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe is invited to take note of this in the context of its activities in the countries concerned.



CARTA-MONITOR



DATABASE OF THE CHARTER MONITORING

The monitoring reports of the application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, in all its provisions, are accessible in the database **CARTA-MONITOR**, an online tool that has the following functionalities.

www.congress-monitoring.eu

MONITORING REPORT FOR A SPECIFIC COUNTRY

- Consult, article-by-article and paragraph-by-paragraph, the analysis for a specific country
- Download the report in PDF format
- Share content on social media or by email

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BY COUNTRY AND BY ARTICLE

- Select one or more countries AND one or more articles
- Consult the analysis for the selection made
- Download the report in PDF format
- Share content on social media or by email

RESEARCH

- Conduct research on the ratification of the European Charter of Local Self-Government for one or more countries
- Conduct research on the conformity of the application of the principles of the Charter for one or more countries
- Conduct research on the recognition of the principle of local self-government in the Constitution or national legislation

47 RATIFICATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN CHARTER OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

Opened for signature on 15 October 1985 and entered into force on 1 September 1988, the European Charter of Local Self-Government is a key convention of the Council of Europe as it is one of the conventions ratified by the 47 member states of the Council of Europe.



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The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe ensures the respect of the principles of the Charter through a systematic monitoring process and a close political dialogue with the governments. Every five years, it carries out a general regular monitoring visit, country by country, to the 47 member states of the Council of Europe.

Reports on the application of the provisions of the Charter are available in the CARTA-MONITOR database. This online tool allows to consult the analysis, article-by-article and paragraph-by-paragraph, made during the monitoring missions. The database also allows comparative analysis of several provisions and countries, as well as research on the ratification of the provisions, the conformity of their implementation and the recognition of the principle of local self-government in the Constitution or the national legislation of the States.

www.coe.int/congress-monitoring
congress.monitoring@coe.int

ENG

www.coe.int

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is an institution of the Council of Europe, responsible for strengthening local and regional democracy in its 47 member states. Composed of two chambers – the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions – and three committees, it brings together 648 elected officials representing more than 150 000 local and regional authorities.

The Congress

Le Congrès

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE