

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 314 (2010)¹ Co-operation between the Congress and associations representing regions in Europe

1. On the basis of Committee of Ministers Statutory Resolution CM/Res(2007)6, the Congress of Local and regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, in particular the Chamber of Regions, has established dialogue and close co-operation with the associations representing local and regional authorities in Europe which hold observer status with the Congress within the meaning of the Congress Charter (Article 5, paragraph 1).

2. The Chamber of Regions believes that the European associations representing regions play a vital role and therefore co-operates actively with these bodies, which are the voice of the various types of region in the European arena.

3. This dialogue and co-operation complement the other consultation processes (in particular, the General Meeting of Associations, the 3rd session of which was held on 16 September 2010) organised by the Congress, especially with national associations representing local and regional authorities in the member states and with several associations in non-member states of the Council of Europe.

4. This co-operation supplements the key functions of the Chamber of Regions and helps enhance its institutional activities by providing additional input on the diversity of regional issues in Europe, although the Congress itself decides on its priorities and its activities.

5. Following an initial assessment of the co-operation arrangements, the Congress instructs the Chamber of Regions and its Bureau to take account of the added value of co-operation with these regional associations and of their level of expertise and representativeness, while ensuring that the costs involved are kept within the limits of the budget allocated to the Congress.

6. With a view to ensuring co-operation that is suited to the specific nature of the individual associations, taking account of their respective experience and characteristics, the Congress invites the Chamber of Regions and its Bureau to:

a. continue the co-operation with the two general European organisations (which are invited as observers to the meetings of the Bureau of the Chamber of Regions), that is, the Assembly of European Regions (AER) and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), while making sure that the President of the Congress and/or the President of the Chamber of Regions (or his/her representative) attends the general assemblies of these associations, as

well as conferences/seminars of specific interest to the Congress held by them, depending on the priorities and the budget of the Congress;

b. establish more specific co-operation with the three other associations holding observer status with the Congress: the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) and the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE);

c. implement the two partnership agreements concluded with the AEBR on 18 March 2010 (by developing common activities in the area of cross-border co-operation) and with the CALRE on 17 September 2010;

d. continue in a more focused manner the co-operation with the other associations, institutes and foundations holding observer status with the Congress: the Association of the Working Communities of the Alpine Regions (ARGEALP), the European Foundation for the Sustainable Development of the Regions (FEDRE) and the European Centre for the Regions (European Institute of Public Administration, Barcelona).

7. The Congress also instructs the Chamber of Regions and its Bureau to maintain appropriate working relations with several associations and institutes which do not hold observer status with the Congress, in accordance with the following principles:

a. develop closer co-operation with REGLEG (Conference of Presidents of Regions with Legislative Power) and maintain relations with a view to signing a co-operation agreement;

b. develop co-operation with the Adriatic Euroregion and the Black Sea Euroregion, set up on the initiative of the Congress;

c. establish working relationships on a case-by-case basis with the following other associations and institutes:

– the Assembly of European Wine Regions (AREV);

– the Institute of the Regions of Europe (IRE);

– the Centre d'Observation Européen des Régions (CŒUR);

– the Forum of Global Associations of Regions (FOGAR), set up in 2007 with the ultimate aim of becoming a regional “lobby” at the United Nations.

8. With a view to increasing the added value of the co-operation arrangements, the Congress calls on the Chamber of Regions and its Bureau to:

a. expand exchanges of information and best practice and, where appropriate, hold seminars and conferences in co-operation with the relevant associations and institutes, taking account of the priorities and budget of the Congress;

b. hold ad hoc consultations or hearings with the highest-level representatives of European and national associations of regions concerning:

- trends in regionalisation in Europe;
- the implementation of the Reference Framework for Regional Democracy (adopted in October 2009) and the preparation of a future European convention on regional democracy;

c. determine, in accordance with the topics addressed by the Congress, the associations invited to take part in the relevant activities, taking account of their experience and specific

features and ensuring balanced representation of the various European associations.

9. The Congress invites the Committee of the Regions of the European Union to involve it in its work on regions with legislative powers, and inter-regional and cross-border co-operation, as well as in that of the macro-regions in Europe.

1. Debated and approved by the Chamber of Regions on 26 October 2010 and adopted by the Congress on 28 October 2010, 3rd Sitting (see Document [CPR\(19\)3](#), explanatory memorandum), rapporteurs: L. Sfirloaga, Romania (SOC) and H. Van Staa, Austria (EPP/CD).