

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 359 (2013)¹ Election of the members of the Avagani (Assembly of Aldermen) of the City of Yerevan, Armenia (5 May 2013)

1. Following an invitation by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe decided to observe the elections of members of the Avagani (Assembly of Aldermen) of the City of Yerevan held on 5 May 2013. Stewart Dickson was appointed head of delegation and rapporteur.

2. The Congress recalls that Armenia became a member State of the Council of Europe on 25 January 2001 and ratified the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ETS No. 122) on 25 January 2002.

3. The Congress refers to its Report CPL(10)8 Part II² and its Recommendation 140 (2003) on local democracy in Armenia, as well as to its Recommendation 277 (2009) on first municipal elections in Yerevan, Armenia (31 May 2009) and Recommendation 338 (2013) on local by-elections in Armenia (9 and 23 September 2012), and recognises the reforms undertaken by the country in respect of strengthening local democracy since then, in conformity with the requirements of the Charter.

4. In particular, it observes with satisfaction that a few of the recommendations made by the Congress on the observation of local by-elections in Armenia on 9 and 23 September 2012

have already been taken into account for the elections held on 5 May 2013.

5. The Congress reiterates its conviction that free and fair elections, at national but also at local and regional level, constitute an integral part of democratic processes in Council of Europe member States and refers to the explanatory memorandum and the draft recommendation regarding the findings of the Congress delegation which observed the Yerevan elections on 5 May 2013.

6. Given the above, and in conformity with its Resolution 306 (2010)REV on observation of local and regional elections – strategy and rules of the Congress, Resolution 353 (2013)REV on Congress post-monitoring and post-observation of elections: developing political dialogue, as well as the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters (2002) of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) of the Council of Europe, and the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation (2004), the Congress:

a. asks its Monitoring Committee to take note of the above-mentioned draft recommendation and to take it into account in the framework of its mission to assess the progress made by Armenia in honouring its commitments to the Charter;

b. expresses its will to participate in activities aimed at strengthening electoral processes and improving the situation of local and regional democracy in Armenia in the framework of the existing post-election observation dialogue of the Congress, in association with other relevant departments of the Council of Europe.

1. Debated and approved by the Chamber of Local Authorities on 30 October 2013, and adopted by the Congress on 31 October 2013, 3rd Sitting (see Document CPL(25)3, explanatory memorandum); rapporteur: Stewart Dickson, United Kingdom (R, ILDG).

2. Local democracy in Armenia CPL(10)8 Part II; rapporteur: Christopher Newbury, United Kingdom (L, EPP/CCE).