



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

Stephanie Poirel  
Monitoring Committee Secretary  
Monitoring Committee  
Congress Council of Europe  
Avenue de L'Europe  
Strasbourg  
France

12 October 2018

*Dear Stephanie,*

**VICE PRESIDENT MONITORING COMMITTEE SELF NOMINATION**  
**- STEWART DICKSON**

I wish to put my name forward for the position of Vice President of the Monitoring Committee Congress Local and Regional Authorities.

This is in respect of the Election to be held on Tuesday 6 November 2018.

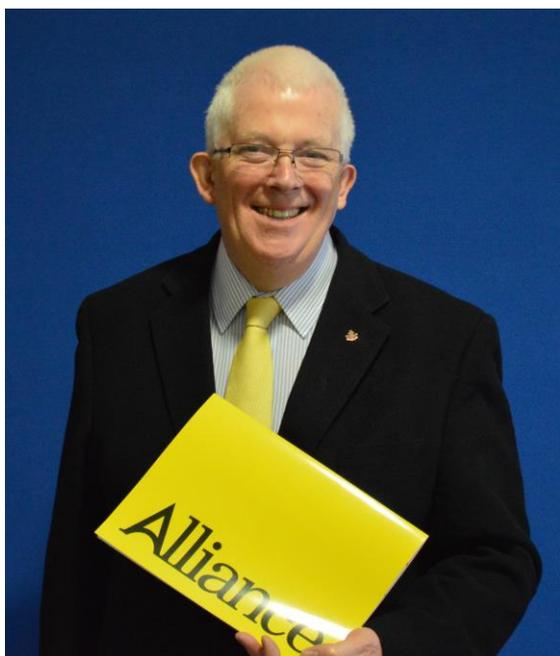
Yours sincerely,

**Stewart Dickson MLA**

## **Candidate for Vice President Monitoring Committee - Stewart Dickson MLA**

“I am passionate about the work we do on behalf of Congress to further transparency and fairness in elections, and value the opportunity to share my experiences with those I come in contact with”.

***Stewart Dickson Member ILDG Group***



I have had the honour to travel across Europe over the last year representing Congress in my capacity as either Joint Rapporteur on Elections, or as Vice President of the monitoring committee.

My work and a short outline of the observations carried out for Congress are outlined in this CV:

**On Valentine's Day (14 Feb 18)** I was at the Monitoring Committee in Strasbourg delivering a report on the Georgian Local Elections of October 2017.

I reported that the Vote followed a mainly peaceful and competitive electoral campaign during which democratic values and freedoms were generally respected and candidates were able to campaign freely.

However, there were also cases of pressure on voters and on candidates withdrawing their candidature reported to the Delegation. I commented that there was room for improvement and more consistency with regard to regulations on campaign and party financing. The general context of the elections was shaped by the dominance of the ruling party. Overall, the Congress was satisfied with a calm, uneventful and well-administered Election Day in most of the polling stations visited by the delegation.

**A month later (15 Mar)** I attended the 61<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections (Venice Commission). We covered topics as diverse as terms limits, election irregularities and the misuse of resources in elections.

**Later that month (21 Mar)** I led an observation mission to the Netherlands observing local elections there. We noted that the location of many polling stations was conducive to citizen participation, since voters could cast their ballot in any polling station within their constituency, including also train stations, retirement homes, busses, boats or museums.

However, the lack of regulations for campaign financing at the local level had the potential to affect the 'level playing field' between candidates in a negative way.

Nonetheless, Congress welcomed the good organisation of the Election Day, the transparency of the process and the atmosphere of trust in which these elections took place.

**Congress Plenary Session Strasbourg.** The following week I attended and spoke

at the Congress Plenary Session Strasbourg, where Congress approved the Report into the Georgian Local Elections.

**Tirana, Albania - Conference on the Misuse of Public Funds in Elections.**

Shortly after that in Tirana, Albania I was the Keynote Speaker at the Conference on the Misuse of Public Funds in Elections, where we also launched a CoE Guide into the Administrative Resources and Fair Elections.

**Tbilisi, Georgia (mid-Apr), Rapporteur Monitoring.**

I undertook a Rapporteur Monitoring visit to Tbilisi, Georgia. The delegation examined the situation of Local and Regional Democracy in the light of the provisions of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, ratified by the Country in 2004.

**Istanbul, Turkey (Jun 18), Monitoring Committee.**

I attended the Monitoring Committee in Istanbul, Turkey where I made a number of significant contributions to the debate and agenda of a busy committee meeting.

mission at the Cantonal Elections in Bosnia.

**Poland, Local Elections (Oct 18).** Later in the month I will be in Poland to observe their Local Elections.

**Co-Rapporteur Functions Tunisian and Russia (end Oct 18).**

I look forward to undertaking Co-Rapporteur functions for Tunisian Local Elections, and on a Monitoring mission to Russia.

**Vice President of the Monitoring Committee.**

I am the Vice President of the Monitoring Committee, and one of the two Thematic Spokesperson of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities on Local and Regional Elections, appointed by the Congress Bureau to follow the activities of other bodies or other organisations on specific subjects. I represent the constituency of East Antrim in the Northern Ireland Assembly, and am a member of the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland.

***"I invite you to vote for Stewart Dickson as the Vice President Monitoring Committee".***

**Cantonal Elections in Bosnia (Oct 2018).**

I undertook an election observation