

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 253 (2008)¹ Kosovo municipal and assembly elections (Serbia) (observed on 17 November and 8 December 2007)

The Congress,

1. Refers to:

a. the principles laid down in the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ECLSG);

b. its previous reports on elections monitored in Kosovo, Serbia;²

2. Recalls its role in monitoring local and regional elections, based on the premise that the holding of free and fair local and regional elections and their organisation in accordance with international electoral standards is essential, with a view to ensuring the legitimacy of institutions, to building-up a democratic system based on sound foundations, and to establishing the grounds for good governance at local and regional level;

3. Reiterates that its report on observation of Assembly and Municipal elections in Kosovo is its contribution to the report of the Council of Europe election observation mission V (CEEOM V);

4. Welcomes:

a. the presence of the Committee of Regions' members in the Congress delegation and their contribution to the report;

b. the will demonstrated by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government to co-operate with the Congress on electoral matters and commends the Kosovo authorities for the efforts made to improve the administration of elections;

5. Invites:

a. a determination within the Congress to follow closely the progress made by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government with a view to development of local democracy;

b. the Bureau of the Congress to take whatever measures are deemed necessary to assist the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in the development of local democracy, and to step up the already constructive dialogue established on the occasion of the present elections;

Therefore, the Congress:

6. Reiterates its readiness to support the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in their efforts to develop local democracy through Congress Institutional Bodies, and in close co-operation with other relevant Council of Europe bodies and international organisations;

7. Will continue its dialogue with the Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM) through the retention of its observer status with the Chamber of Local Authorities, attained on 21 March 2002.

1. Debated and adopted by the Standing Committee of the Congress on 14 March 2008 (see Document CG(14)34RES, draft resolution presented by J. Conway (Ireland, L, ILDG), rapporteur).

2. Report on municipal elections in Kosovo (28 October 2000), CG/BUR (7) 63; report on the Council of Europe election observation mission to Kosovo (17 November 2001), CG/BUR (8) 98; information document on the Council of Europe election observation mission for the 2002 Kosovo municipal assembly elections (CEEOM III) interim progress report (September 2002), SG/INF(2002)36; report on the municipal elections in Kosovo (26 October 2002), CG/BUR (9) 80; preliminary report on the Council of Europe election observation mission for the Kosovo assembly elections (CEEOM IV), (8 September 2004), SG/INF (2004) 24; report on elections of the Kosovo assembly (23 October 2004), CG/BUR (11) 74