

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 275 (2008)¹ Local and provincial elections in Serbia (observed on 11 and 25 May 2008)

The Congress,

1. Refers to:

a. the Committee of Ministers' Statutory Resolution (2007) 6 on the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, in particular its Article 2, paragraph 4, entrusting the Congress with the preparation of reports and recommendations following the observation of local and/or regional elections;

b. the principles laid down in the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ECLSG) which was ratified by Serbia on 6 September 2007 and entered into force in that country on 1 January 2008;

c. its previous reports on elections monitored in the Republic of Serbia;²

d. its report on the local and provincial elections, held on 11 and 25 May 2008, detailing the findings of the Congress observation mission.

2. Recalls its role in monitoring local and regional elections, based on the premise that local and regional elections in accordance with international electoral standards is essential to ensure good governance.

3. Welcomes the fact that both elections, including two rounds of elections for the Vojvodina Assembly, were conducted in line with Council of Europe and other international standards.

4. Determined to follow closely the steps taken by the Serbian authorities, with a view to implementing the recommendations addressed in its Recommendation 254 (2008), invites:

a. the Institutional Committee to prepare, well in advance of the next local and regional elections, a monitoring report on local and regional democracy in Serbia and, in doing so, to pay due consideration to Recommendation 254 (2008);

b. the Bureau of the Congress to take measures to support the Serbian authorities in implementing the recommendation and to maintain the constructive dialogue established on the occasion of the recent elections.

5. The Congress also reiterates its readiness:

a. to contribute to the implementation of the conclusions of the Venice Commission regarding the electoral legislation in Serbia;

b. to support the Serbian authorities in their efforts to develop local and regional democracy, in close co-operation with other relevant Council of Europe bodies and international organisations.

1. Debated and adopted by the Standing Committee of the Congress on 3 December 2008 (see Document CG(15)32REC, draft recommendation presented by P. Rondelli (San Marino, L, SOC), rapporteur).

2. Report on the observation of the local and municipal elections in Serbia and Montenegro (December 2004; Document CG/CP(11)14), report on the observation of the presidential elections in Serbia 2003 (Document CG/Bur(10)70) and the report on the observation of the parliamentary elections in Montenegro in 2001 (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Document CG/CP(8)5Rev).