

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 216 (2006)¹ on local and regional elections in Ukraine (observed on 26 March 2006)

The Congress,

1. Referring to:

a. the Committee of Ministers' Statutory Resolution (2000) 1 on the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe;

b. the principles laid down in the European Charter of Local Self-Government;

c. its Recommendation 192 (2006) on local and regional elections in Ukraine observed on 26 March 2006;

d. its Recommendations 48 (1998) and 102 (2001) on local and regional democracy in Ukraine;

e. reports CG/BUR (4) 132 rev, CG/Bur (8) 164 on the 1998 and 2002 local and regional elections in Ukraine, adopted by the Bureau of the Congress;

f. its Resolutions 68 (1998) and 123 (2001) on local and regional democracy in Ukraine;

g. the conclusions of the round table on the local and regional elections of 26 March 2006 in Ukraine,

2. Welcomes:

a. the progress made by the Ukrainian authorities concerning the conduction of elections in line with the principles and values of international standards in electoral matters;

b. the decision taken by the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament) at the beginning of April 2006, to withdraw

provision 7, Article 30 of the Law on Status of Local Councils' Deputies of Ukraine, which allowed criminal cases to be brought against local councils' deputies only upon the decision of the corresponding council and therefore granted members of local councils extensive immunity against criminal and administrative investigations, thereby presenting, in the view of the Congress, a clear threat to local democracy;

c. the holding of the round table on the local and regional elections of 26 March 2006 in Ukraine, which provided the Congress with key elements to assess the pre-electoral environment in Ukraine, prepare its election observation mission and work out its co-operation programme with Ukraine.

3. Determined to follow the progress made by the Ukrainian Authorities with a view to the implementation of the recommendations addressed to the Ukrainian authorities in its Recommendation 192 (2006), invites:

a. the Institutional Committee to carry out, as soon as possible, a third monitoring report on local and regional democracy in Ukraine;

b. the Bureau of the Congress to give due consideration, in view of future election observation missions, to the organisation of preparatory events such as the round table on local and regional elections in Ukraine;

c. the Bureau of the Congress to follow closely the measures taken by the Ukrainian authorities in the consideration and implementation of the recommendations made by the Congress as detailed in Recommendation 192 (2006) and to enhance the dialogue with the Ukrainian authorities in this regard;

d. the Bureau of the Congress to take all necessary measures to accompany the Ukrainian authorities in achieving this goal.

1. Debated and adopted by the Congress on 1 June 2006, 3rd Sitting (see Document CG (13) 10, draft resolution presented by D. Lloyd-Williams (United Kingdom, R, ILDG), rapporteur).