

# THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

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## Resolution 300 (2010)<sup>1</sup> Municipal elections in Azerbaijan (23 December 2009)

1. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe takes note of the preliminary draft recommendation regarding the municipal elections in Azerbaijan observed on 23 December 2009. It takes note of the progress achieved since the last elections in 2006, but expresses concern in respect of the state of territorial democracy and local self-government in the country.

2. The Congress:

*a.* confirms its readiness to assist Azerbaijan in devising and implementing the necessary reforms for improving local and regional democracy in Azerbaijan, for example through developing specific training programmes for elected representatives at local and regional level;

*b.* mandates the Institutional Committee to examine, as soon as possible and at the latest within two years, the progress made by the country in honouring her commitments to the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ETS No. 122), in particular in respect of a timetable for the delegation of powers from local executive authorities to elected municipalities, for the strengthening of their financial autonomy and with regard to the election of the Mayor of Baku;

*c.* asks the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to take note of the present recommendation and its explanatory memorandum, and to transmit them to the relevant bodies in the intergovernmental sector of the Council of Europe, to the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), the Directorate General of Democracy and Political Affairs, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and the Commissioner for Human Rights;

*d.* invites the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to take account of the above recommendations in its procedures for monitoring Azerbaijan's commitments and undertakings.

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1. Debated and approved by the Chamber of Local Authorities on 18 March 2010 and adopted by the Congress on 19 March 2010, 3rd Sitting (see Document CPL(18)2, explanatory memorandum), rapporteur: F. Lec (France, L, SOC).