

25th SESSION
Strasbourg, 29-31 October 2013

Municipal elections in “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (24 March 2013)

Resolution 360 (2013)¹

1. Following the invitation of the government of “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” to observe local elections on 24 March 2013, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities recalls that “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” became a member of the Council of Europe on 9 November 1995 and ratified the European Charter of Local Self-Government ETS No.122 (“the Charter”) on 6 June 1997. Further to the entry into force of the Charter on 1 October 1997, the Congress has carried out two monitoring missions on the state of local and regional self-government in the country and its compliance with the Charter: in 2007 (see Rec217(2007) and CPL(14)2 REP on Local Democracy in “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”) and in 2011 (see Rec329(2012) and CPL(23)2 Explanatory Memorandum on Local democracy in “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”).

2. The Congress reiterates that free and fair elections, at national but also at territorial level, constitute an integral part of democratic processes in Council of Europe member states and refers to its Resolution 306 (2010) on the strategy and rules for the observation of local and regional elections which underlines the importance of election observation at the grassroots level and its complementarity to the political monitoring process of the Charter.

3. The Congress takes note of Recommendation 345 (2013) regarding the findings of the Congress delegation which observed the municipal elections in “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” on 24 March 2013 and asks its Monitoring Committee to ensure the appropriate follow-up to this recommendation and to take it into account in the framework of its work programme to assess the progress made by the country in matters of local democracy and the honouring of commitments of the Charter.

4. In conformity with its Resolution 353 (2013) on post-monitoring and post-observation of elections, the Congress expresses its will and availability to participate in activities aimed at strengthening local democracy and electoral processes in “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” through continued political dialogue with the authorities and in co-operation with the Association of Units of Local Self-Governments (ZELS).

¹ Debated and approved by the Chamber of Local Authorities on 30 October 2013, and adopted by the Congress on 31 October 2013, 3rd sitting (see Document [CPL\(25\)4PROV](#), explanatory memorandum, presented by Jüri LANDBERG, Estonia (L, ILDG), rapporteur).