

# THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

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## **Opinion 33 (2011)<sup>1</sup> Draft recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the principles of good democratic governance at local level**

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe,

1. Notes that this recommendation concerns the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the Principles of Good Democratic Governance at Local Level, hereafter referred to as “the twelve principles”.

2. Recalls that these twelve principles were adopted *verbatim* in Valencia on 16 October 2007 by the Conference of Ministers responsible for Local and Regional Government in the framework of the Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance at Local Level, and also by the Ministers’ Deputies, at their 1022nd meeting in March 2008.

3. Recalls that, during its 14th Plenary Session in June 2007, in Congress Resolution 239 (2007), the Congress itself marked its approval of these twelve principles, convinced that they are not only derived from and in accordance with the principles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, but that they complement the Charter by focusing on the theme of good governance, a theme that the Congress has decided to follow in setting up the Congress Governance Committee.

4. Considers that it is not strictly necessary to invite the Ministers’ Deputies to adopt the same text in the form of a recommendation since, in March 2008, the Deputies formally decided:

“The Deputies ... adopted the Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance at Local Level and set up the Stakeholders’ Platform with the task of ... further developing it, including by drawing up guidelines, in the light of experience ...” (decision 1022/2.4).

5. Proposes that the Committee of Ministers take inspiration from the twelve principles to draw up the above-mentioned guidelines, to enable the experience of member states and local and regional authorities in this area to be taken into account.

6. Confirms its readiness to contribute to the preparation of these guidelines.

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1. Debated and adopted by the Statutory Forum on behalf of the Congress on 17 June 2011, presented by K.-H. Lambertz, Belgium (R, SOC), rapporteur.