

**40th SESSION**  
**Second part**

## **Recurring issues based on assessments resulting from Congress monitoring of the European Charter of Local Self-Government and election observation missions (reference period 2017-2020)**

Resolution 467(2021)<sup>1</sup>

1. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe refers to:
  - a. the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ETS No. 122) and its Additional Protocol on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority (ETS No. 207);
  - b. Chapter XVIII, XIX and XX of the Rules and Procedures of the Congress<sup>2</sup>, respectively on the organisation of monitoring procedures, election observation missions, post-electoral political dialogue and on the implementation of the post-monitoring;
  - c. the Congress monitoring reports and recommendations on the implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in the Council of Europe member States;
  - d. the reports, resolutions and recommendations adopted by the Congress further to the observation of local and regional elections as well as reports, resolutions and recommendations on cross-cutting issues in electoral matters;
  - e. Congress Resolution 413 (2017) on the comparative analysis of the implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in 47 member States;
  - f. Resolution 412 (2017) "Recurring issues based on assessments resulting from Congress monitoring and election observation missions (reference period 2010-2016)".
2. The Congress notes that the recurring issues of compliance with the Charter identified in the previous report - the inadequacy of financial resources available to local and regional authorities, the restricted definition, allocation and exercise of local competences, the lack of consultation and of direct applicability of the Charter – remain relevant for the period under review.
3. In addition, the member States have become increasingly confronted with systematic shortcomings in meeting the requirements of Article 7 of the Charter on the conditions of office of local elected representatives. This can be regarded as an emerging issue of the Charter's application.
4. Similarly, in electoral matters, the Congress also highlights the relevance of the previously identified recurring issues regarding the accuracy of voters' lists, the misuse of administrative resources, the politicisation of the electoral administration and low public confidence in electoral processes.
5. Over the past several years, the Congress has also observed that compliance with the principle of equal level playing field for all candidates including independents has increasingly become an issue.

---

<sup>1</sup> Debate and adopted by the Congress on 17 June 2021, 3rd sitting (see Document [CG\(2021\)40-10](#), explanatory memorandum), co-rapporteurs: Stewart DICKSON, United Kingdom (R, ILDG) and Leendert VERBEEK, Netherlands (R, SOC/G/PD).

<sup>2</sup> [CG-FORUM(2020)01] – Revised Rules and Procedures of the Congress  
<https://rm.coe.int/rules-and-procedures-of-the-congress-of-local-and-regional-authorities/16809f0b0e>

6. Therefore, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe:

*a.* invites the Monitoring Committee to continue preparing – every three years – an updated analysis of the recurring issues based on assessments resulting from Congress monitoring and election observation missions carried out during the reported period;

*b.* encourages the rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee to continue referring to the recurring issues when monitoring the implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Government and conducting election observation in the Council of Europe member States;

*c.* asks the Monitoring Committee and/or other Congress Committees to continue preparing transversal reports on topics related to recurring issues detected during monitoring and election observation activities;

*d.* encourages all relevant Congress bodies to consider the recurring issues in their activities, design appropriate tools and policies to assist member States in responding to them and promote relevant good practices.