

40th SESSION
Second part

Monitoring of the application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in Azerbaijan

Resolution 473 (2021)¹

1. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe recalls that:

a. Azerbaijan joined the Council of Europe on 25 January 2001, signed the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ETS No. 122, hereinafter "the Charter") on 21 December 2001 and ratified it with reservations on 15 April 2002 (Articles 4.3; 7.2; 9.5; 9.6; 10.3). The Charter entered into force in Azerbaijan on 1 August 2002;

b. The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by member States of the European Charter of Local Self-Government (hereinafter referred to as Monitoring Committee) decided to examine the situation of local and regional democracy in Azerbaijan in the light of the Charter. It instructed Bernd Vöhringer, Germany (L, EPP/CCE) and Stewart Dickson, United Kingdom (R, ILDG), with the task of preparing and submitting to the Congress a report on local and regional democracy in Azerbaijan;

c. The monitoring visit took place remotely from 23 to 25 February 2021. During the visit, the Congress delegation met the representatives of various institutions at all levels of government. The detailed programme of the visit is appended to the explanatory memorandum;

d. The present resolution is elaborated in accordance with Congress priorities set up for 2021-2026, in particular priority 6b that concerns the quality of representative democracy and citizen participation.

2. The Congress expresses its concern that its previous reports in 2003 and 2012, respectively, raised recurring shortcomings regarding the situation of local and regional democracy in Azerbaijan and the limited implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Government which make these recommendations still valid.

3. In the light of the above, the Congress:

a. resolves to continue closely following the state of progress of the local and regional democracy in Azerbaijan, through a regular item on the agenda of the Monitoring Committee meetings;

b. undertakes to expand its political dialogue with the Azerbaijani national authorities in the framework of a post-monitoring process, so that they comply with the provisions set out in the Charter, in particular when implementing Congress recommendation on local and regional democracy (2021).

¹ Debated and adopted by the Congress on 17 June 2021, 3rd sitting (see Document CG(2021)40-21, explanatory memorandum), co-rapporteurs: Bernd VÖHRINGER, Germany (L, EPP/CCE) and Stewart DICKSON, United Kingdom (R, ILDG).