

# THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

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## **Resolution 194 (2005)<sup>1</sup> on the verification of credentials of new members and new appointment procedures**

The Congress,

1. Pursuant to its Charter adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 15 March 2000;
2. Noting the report presented by its rapporteurs, Halvdan Skard (Norway, L, SOC) and Günther Krug (Germany, R, SOC);
3. Bearing in mind that 2005 is not a year in which national delegations are renewed,
4. Welcomes the appointment of a Georgian delegation and the establishment of a national appointment procedure for this country, following the absence of any delegation between December 2002 and February 2005, and welcomes the establishment, with Congress support, of a national local-authority association;
5. Welcomes the appointment of a national delegation to the Congress from the Principality of Monaco, which became the forty-sixth Council of Europe member state on 5 October 2004;
6. Approves the new appointment procedures for Estonia, Georgia and Monaco;
7. Regrets that the Albanian authorities have still not updated their appointment procedure to take account of the regions established in that country in 2000, despite repeated requests from the Congress;
8. Regrets that the Azerbaijan authorities have not revised the procedure for appointing their delegation, despite repeated requests from the Congress, but hopes that, with Congress support, they will also soon be able to establish a national local-authority association that will be consulted on the appointment of the delegation;
9. Approves the decisions of the Congress Bureau of 3 November 2004 and 16 March 2005 whereby, since the report on local democracy in Cyprus could not be finalised in time to be examined before the 12th plenary session, two Turkish Cypriot representatives proposed by Turkish Cypriot political forces whose members are involved in local government are invited to attend the 12th plenary session (31 May 2005-2 June 2005) and the autumn session (8 November 2005);
10. Notes that the Bureau will re-examine this arrangement after the autumn 2005 session in the light of a new report on local democracy in Cyprus, in particular in the northern part of the island;
11. Regrets that several countries do not supply the Congress with systematic information after each local or regional election on the percentages of women elected at local and regional levels, which makes it difficult to monitor the application of Article 2.2.d of the Charter;
12. Notes the changes that will take place in certain national delegations following local and/or regional elections or certain members' withdrawal from office for various reasons, and reminds these countries of the maximum period of six months beyond which members who have ceased to hold elective office can no longer sit in the Congress;
13. Approves the composition of the new delegation from Azerbaijan, whose members will take up their Congress duties after the plenary session, in other words on 3 June 2005, and welcomes the higher percentage of women in this delegation, in accordance with the request in Congress Resolution 170 (2004);
14. Notes with satisfaction that the authorities of Switzerland and Poland have increased the percentages of women in their national delegations in accordance with the comments in Resolution 170 (2004), but continues to urge the authorities of Hungary, Germany, and Slovak Republic to rectify the situation pertaining to their countries as soon possible and not later than the 2006 plenary session;
15. Regrets that some countries have not used the opportunity to appoint women to fill vacant seats within their delegations;
16. Expresses its regret that seats remain vacant in certain national delegations, thereby depriving the Congress of full representation of the local and regional elected representatives of these countries;
17. Draws the attention of the authorities of all the countries that use the first transitional provision of the Charter that this provision will expire in 2006, and to the proposals in Recommendation 162 (2005), which if adopted should be applied when national delegations are next renewed, before the 13th plenary session (30 May-1 June 2006);
18. Subject to the requests and comments in this resolution to a number of delegations, approves the new appointment procedures and the credentials of the new members of the 46 national delegations to the Congress.

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1. Debated and adopted by the Congress on 31 May 2005, 1st Sitting (see Document CG (12) 2, draft resolution presented by H. Skard (Norway, L, SOC) and G. Krug (Germany, R, SOC), rapporteurs).

