

27th SESSION
Strasbourg, 14-16 October 2014

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Separatist tensions in Ukraine and neighbouring countries

Bureau of the Congress
Rapporteur:¹ Marc COOLS, Belgium (L, ILDG)

DRAFT DECLARATION (FOR VOTE)²

1 L: Chamber of Local Authorities / R: Chamber of Regions
EPP/CCE: European People's Party Group in the Congress
SOC: Socialist Group
ILDG: Independent Liberal and Democratic Group
ECR: European Conservatives and Reformists Group
NR: Members not belonging to a political group of the Congress

2 Draft declaration approved by the Bureau of the Congress on 13 October 2014.

Bureau members:

H. Van Staa, President of the Congress, *J-C. Frécon*, President of the Chamber of Local Authorities, *N. Romanova*, President of the Chamber of Regions, *A. Knape*, *M. O'Brien*, *G. Doganoglu*, *H. Pihlajasaari*, *J. Warmisham*, *G-M. Helgesen*, *A. Koopmanschap*, *U. Wüthrich-Pelloli*, *M. Cools*, *C. Lammerskitten*, *E. Verrengia*, *S. Orlova*, *D. Suica*, *L. Sfirloaga*

N.B : The names of members who took part in the vote are in italics.

Bureau Secretariat: *D. Rios Turón*, *L. Taesch*.

1. In the spirit of the "Chisinau Declaration", adopted by the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the European Charter of Local Self Government, the Congress expresses its grave concern about the situation in Ukraine and other countries of the region.
2. During its last session, the Congress condemned the annexation of the Crimea and the city of Sevastopol by the Russian Federation.
3. Today, the Congress condemns Russia's military intervention in the east of Ukraine, and condemns all forms of pressure by Russia on its neighbours.
4. The security of this continent is seriously threatened by the Russian Federation's repeated failure to comply with international rules and the principles and values of the Council of Europe that it signed up to when it joined the Organisation.
5. For years, we have been working to improve local and regional autonomy in Europe. We are convinced that subsidiarity benefits all levels of governance. That is why we encourage the Ukrainian authorities to pursue their reforms to deepen local and regional democracy and decentralisation in line with the recommendations made by the Congress in this regard. The Congress will continue its efforts to accompany these reforms.
6. Armed separatism, supported by mercenaries and the intervention of foreign troops, is the antithesis of all that the Congress stands for and has created a humanitarian crisis that the national authorities and the international community must resolve together.
7. What has taken place in the Crimea (Ukraine), in South Ossetia and Abkhazia (Georgia), and in Transnistria (Republic of Moldova), and what is happening today in the east of Ukraine is totally contrary to the Europe of the regions that we are striving to achieve. With regard to the east of Ukraine, a cease-fire has been agreed in Minsk between the different parties concerned by the conflict. This cease-fire must be effectively and comprehensively implemented and must be followed by a political dialogue to enable Ukraine to recover its territorial integrity.