

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Recommendation 335 (2013)¹ The budget and resources of the Congress in 2014-2015

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

1. Considering:

a. the decisions it has taken in 2010, in the framework of the reform of the Council of Europe, to refocus its priorities and activities on the core values of the Organisation, and the subsequent changes to its structures and working methods;

b. the resulting amendments to its Charter and Statutory Resolution, approved by the Committee of Ministers on 19 January 2011;

2. Stressing that, whereas its interim operational budget has been readjusted from 2010 onwards in a way which is comparable to the other main administrative entities of the Organisation, the Congress has been affected, as regards staff resources, to an extent which is disproportional to its size;

3. Underlining that, in these difficult circumstances, the Congress has been able to implement a streamlined and politically ambitious programme of activities, and to build up a new operational capacity, both features being at the heart of the new priorities adopted in October 2012 for the 2013-2016 period;

4. Recalling that the Congress has kept the Committee of Ministers regularly informed about its priorities and activities, in particular through regular exchanges of views with the President and Secretary General of the Congress;

5. Welcoming the fact that the priorities² adopted by the Congress in October 2012 for the 2013-2016 period are fully

in line with the priorities proposed by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for the whole Organisation, in his speech to the Parliamentary Assembly on 23 January 2013;

6. Reaffirming that, in order to successfully carry out its revitalised statutory mission and implement its new priorities, the Congress needs to be able to count on a sustainable basis for action, which includes an appropriate level of resources,

7. Consequently asks the Committee of Ministers to:

a. acknowledge the efforts made and results achieved in increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Congress in recent years;

b. adopt a 2014-2015 budget of the Congress based upon at least a zero real growth principle as compared to the budget for the biennium 2012-2013;

c. encourage member States to consider funding, by means of voluntary contributions and/or seconded officials, targeted co-operation activities based on the monitoring by the Congress of the implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ETS No 122) and on the observation of local and regional elections, as well as on shared Congress/Council of Europe priorities;

d. ensure, through its dialogue with the Congress, consistency between the priorities adopted by the Congress and its budgetary allocations in order to achieve critical mass and impact;

e. note the reaffirmed determination of the Congress to play its part in ensuring the successful reform of the Council of Europe, as the voice of local and regional authorities within the Organisation and the promoter of local autonomy and regional democracy in Europe and its neighbourhood;

f. continue to involve the Congress fully in the discussions concerning the future of the Organisation and grant it its rightful place in the institutional framework.

1. Debated and adopted by the Congress on 19 March 2013, 1st sitting (see Document CG(24)5PROV, explanatory memorandum), rapporteurs: Jean-Claude Frécon, France (L, SOC), and Svetlana Orlova, Russian Federation (R, EPP/CCE).

2. Priorities of the Congress 2013-2016 (CG(23)5).