

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 232 (2007)¹ The election of the Bashkan (Governor) of Gagauzia (Moldova) (observed on 3 and 17 December 2006)

The Congress,

1. Refers to:

a. the Committee of Ministers' Statutory Resolution (2000) 1 on the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, in particular its Article 2, paragraph 3, entrusting the Congress with drawing up country reports on the situation of local and regional democracy in member states (monitoring reports);

b. the principles laid down in the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ECLSG) which was ratified by Moldova on 2 October 1997 and entered into force in that country on 1 February 1998;

c. its Recommendations 38 (1998), 84 (2000), 110 (2002) and 179 (2005) on the situation of local and/or regional democracy in the Republic of Moldova;

d. its previous reports on elections monitored in Moldova, including in Gagauzia;²

e. its report on the election of the Bashkan (Governor) of Gagauzia (Moldova) held on 3 and 17 December 2006 detailing the findings of the Congress observation mission;

2. Welcomes the high turnout which, in the Congress' opinion, reflects the continued faith of Gagauzian citizens in local and regional democracy;

3. Determined to follow the progress made by the authorities of Moldova with a view to implementing the recommendations addressed in its Recommendation 213 (2007), invites:

a. the Institutional Committee to continue monitoring the situation of local and regional democracy in Moldova, including in Gagauzia, having regard to previous Congress recommendations on this matter;

b. the Bureau of the Congress to give due consideration to the organisation of a pre-election observation mission to assess the follow-up given to previous Congress recommendations and to Recommendation 213 (2007) in the field of election observation, in view of the forthcoming local elections in Moldova;

c. the Bureau of the Congress to take any measures to accompany the Moldovan authorities in implementing the above-mentioned recommendations;

d. the Venice Commission to expertise the recently amended **Law of the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia No. 32-XXXIII/I on the election of the Governor of Gagauzia (Moldova) with a view to guaranteeing its coherence with the Electoral Code of Moldova and its compliance with Council of Europe standards on electoral matters.**

1. Debated and adopted by the Standing Committee of the Congress on 28 March 2007 (see Document CG(13)43, draft resolution presented by S. Bolam (United Kingdom, R, EPP/CD) and P. Rondelli (San Marino, R, SOC), rapporteurs).
2. Report on the local by-elections in Moldova (27 November and 11 December 2005), CG/BUR (12) 98; report on the local by-elections in Moldova (10 and 24 July 2005), CG/BUR (12) 34; report on the regional elections in Gagauzia, Moldova (16 and 30 November 2003), CG/BUR (10) 89; report on the local elections observation mission to Moldova (25 May and 8 June 2003), CG/BUR (10) 19 and report on the regional elections in Gagauzia, Moldova (6 and 22 October 2002), CG/BUR (9) 59.