

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 224 (2006)¹ on the local elections in Georgia (observed on 5 October 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;

b. the principles laid down in the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ECLSG) which was ratified by Georgia on 8 December 2004 and entered into force in that country on 1 April 2005;

c. its Recommendation 157 (2004) on local and regional democracy in Georgia;

d. its previous reports on elections monitored in Georgia;²

e. its Resolution 188 (2004) on local and regional democracy in Georgia;

f. its report on the local elections held on 5 October 2006 in Georgia detailing the findings of the Congress observation mission;

2. Recalls that an overall territorial reform is under way in Georgia and that the local elections were held in the midst of this reorganisation process;

3. Welcomes:

a. the positive developments in local self-government which have taken place in Georgia since the adoption of Congress Recommendation 157 (2004) on local and regional democracy in Georgia;

b. the fact that the mayors of the cities of Tbilisi and Poti, who were previously appointed by the President of Georgia, were for the first time elected further to the 2006 local elections, in accordance with Article 3 of the ECLSG;

c. the fact that the territorial reform under way is being carried out in close co-operation with the Council of Europe;

4. Commends the Georgian authorities for having conducted the local elections overall in compliance with international electoral standards;

5. Determined to follow the progress made by the authorities of Georgia with a view to implementing the recommendations addressed in its Recommendation 205 (2006), invites:

a. the Institutional Committee to carry out, as soon as possible, a third monitoring report on local and regional democracy in Georgia and, in doing so, to pay due consideration to Recommendation 205 (2006);

b. the Bureau of the Congress to follow closely the developments regarding the territorial reform under way in Georgia and to work in close co-operation with the relevant Council of Europe bodies with a view to contributing to the completion of such a reform in compliance with Council of Europe standards as well as with Council of Europe and Congress recommendations;

c. the Bureau of the Congress to follow closely the measures taken by the Georgian authorities in the consideration and implementation of Congress Recommendation 205 (2006) and to take steps to assist the Georgian authorities in achieving this goal.

1. Debated and adopted by the Standing Committee of the Congress on 15 November 2006 (see Document CG(13)32, draft resolution presented by W. Van Gelder (the Netherlands, R, EPP/CD), rapporteur).

2. Report on local elections in Georgia (2 June 2002): CG/BUR (9) 17 and report on the regional elections in Adjara (20 June 2004): CG/BUR (11) 40.