

# THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

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## Recommendation 162 (2005)<sup>1</sup> on the revision of the Charter of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

The Congress,

1. Welcoming the increasing recognition enjoyed by local and regional authorities in the Council of Europe since 1957, when the first session of the European Conference of Local Authorities was held;
2. Welcoming the adoption by the Committee of Ministers, of Statutory Resolution (94) 3, following the 1st Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (1993), then Statutory Resolution (2000) 1, providing the Congress with a Charter reflecting the development of the Congress and its growing importance in the Organisation;
3. Welcoming the fact that the 3rd Summit recognised the contribution that the Congress has made to the process of Council of Europe enlargement since 1993, and that the Action Plan adopted at the summit decided to “pursue, in partnership with the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, intergovernmental co-operation on democracy and good governance at all levels”;
4. Convinced that the Congress is playing an exemplary role in pursuing the common values enshrined in the Council of Europe Statute, in particular democracy;
5. Having regard to the two transitional provisions of the Charter adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 15 March 2000, calling for a revision of the Charter after a period of six years, which expires in 2006;
6. Considering the will of the Congress to make itself even more representative by making sure its members are genuine elected representatives of the territorial authorities of the Council of Europe’s 46 member states;
7. Anxious to avoid litigious cases as much as possible in the future when verifying the credentials of its members;
8. Welcoming the co-operation agreement between the European Union’s Committee of the Regions and the Congress, signed on 13 April 2005 by their respective Presidents;
9. Anxious to take advantage of the revision of the two transitional provisions of the Charter to propose other amendments that reflect the development of the Congress, its role and its activities since 2000, including the need to achieve greater participation by women in its work,

10. Asks the rapporteurs to prepare, in time for the next plenary session, a detailed evaluation of the proposals concerning member states which do not have regions within the meaning of Article 2.4 of the Charter, which would involve allowing them to appoint all their members to the Chamber of Local Authorities;

11. Recommends that the Committee of Ministers:

*a.* amend certain provisions of statutory Resolution (2000) 1 relating to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe in the light of the proposals contained in Appendix I to this Recommendation;

*b.* amend the Charter of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 15 March 2000, in the light of the proposals contained in Appendix II to this recommendation;

*c.* carry out the above reforms if possible before the end of 2005, and in any event in good time for the preparation of the 13th plenary session of the Congress in 2006 on the basis of the new Charter;

*d.* instruct the Secretary General to present to the Committee of Ministers, by means of the relevant procedures and in line with budgetary prospects, the requests for budgetary and human resources necessary for the implementation of the proposed reforms, if appropriate over two financial years (2006 and 2007), in particular with a view to holding if possible a second plenary session each year;

12. Decides, following the adoption of a new Charter by the Committee of Ministers, to draw up new rules of procedure for the Congress and its Chambers incorporating the new terms of the Charter and any other changes deemed necessary for the Congress to function efficiently.

### Appendix I

Draft<sup>2</sup> statutory resolution relating to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of **the Council of Europe**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers*

*on 15 March 2000*

*at the 702nd meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Articles 15.a and 16 of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Statutory Resolution (94) 3 relating to the setting up of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe;

**Having regard to Statutory Resolution (2000)1 relating to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe;**

[Having regard to the Parliamentary Assembly’s proposals for institutional reforms within the Council of Europe;]

Having regard to the proposals of the ~~Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe relating to~~

~~the reform of its Statute and of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe~~ **the Council of Europe relating to statutory reinforcement and revision of the Charter;**

**[Having regard to the conclusions of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Summit...]<sup>3</sup>**

~~Having consulted the organisations representing local and regional authorities of Europe, in particular the Assembly of European Regions and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, and taking into account their contribution to the development of democracy at regional and local levels;~~

Considering that one of the bases of a democratic society is the existence of a solid and effective local and regional democracy in conformity with the principle of subsidiarity included in the European Charter of Local Self-Government whereby public responsibilities shall be exercised, in preference, by those authorities which are closest to the citizens, having regard to the extent and nature of the public tasks and the requirements of efficiency and economy;

Wishing to enhance and develop the role of local and regional authorities within the institutional structure of the Council of Europe;

Bearing in mind that the creation of ~~a consultative~~ an organ genuinely representing both local and regional authorities in Europe has already been approved in principle by the heads of state and government of the Council of Europe at the Vienna Summit;

Considering that the provisions hereinafter set out are not inconsistent with the Statute of the Council of Europe;

Resolves as follows:

#### *Article 1*

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities **of the Council** of Europe (hereinafter referred to as the **CLRAE Congress**) is the organ representing local and regional authorities. Its membership and functions are regulated by the present articles, by the Charter adopted by the Committee of Ministers and by the Rules of Procedure adopted by the **CLRAE Congress**.

#### *Article 2*

1. The **aims of the CLRAE Congress shall be a consultative body the aims of which shall be are:**

a. to ensure the participation of local and regional authorities in the implementation of the ideal of European unity, as defined in Article 1 of the Statute of the Council of Europe, as well as their representation and active involvement in the Council of Europe's work;

b. to submit proposals to the Committee of Ministers in order to promote local and regional democracy;

c. to promote co-operation between local and regional authorities;

d. to maintain, within the sphere of its responsibilities, contact with international organisations as part of the general external relations policy of the Council of Europe;

e. to work in close co-operation on the one hand with the national, democratic associations of local and regional authorities and on the other hand with the European organisations representing local and regional authorities of the member states of the Council of Europe, **and notably with the Committee of the Regions of the European Union.**

2. The Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly shall consult the **CLRAE Congress** on issues which are likely to affect the responsibilities and essential interests of the local and/or regional authorities which the **CLRAE Congress** represents.

3. The Congress shall prepare on a regular basis country-by-country reports on the situation of local and regional democracy in all member states and in states which have applied to join the Council of Europe, and shall ensure, in particular, that the principles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government are implemented **as well as the general principles on regional democracy which the Council of Europe has adopted in the matter.**

**5.4. The Congress shall also prepare reports and recommendations following the observation of local and/or regional elections.**

**6.5.** Recommendations and opinions of the **CLRAE Congress** shall be sent as appropriate to the Parliamentary Assembly and/or the Committee of Ministers **as well as to European and international Organisations and Institutions.** Resolutions and other adopted texts which do not entail possible action by the Assembly and/or the Committee of Ministers shall be transmitted to them for their information.

#### *Article 3*

1. ~~Allowing for exceptions foreseen in its Charter,~~ **The CLRAE Congress** shall be composed of Representatives holding a local or regional authority electoral mandate, **in conformity with Article 2.1 of the Congress Charter.** Delegates shall be appointed according to the criteria and procedure established in the Charter to be adopted by the Committee of Ministers, each state ensuring in particular an equitable representation of its various types of local and regional authorities.

2. Each member state shall have the right to the same number of seats in the **CLRAE Congress** as it has in the Parliamentary Assembly. Each member state may send a number of Substitutes equal to the number of Representatives appointed according to the same criteria and procedure.

3. Representatives and Substitutes shall be **sent appointed** for a period of two ordinary sessions of the **ELRAE Congress** and shall maintain their functions until the opening of the following session, **except in cases referred to in Article 2.6 of the Charter.**

*Article 4*

1. The **ELRAE Congress** shall meet in ordinary session **at least** once a year. Ordinary sessions shall be held at the seat of the Council of Europe unless the Congress and the Committee of Ministers decide by common consent that the session should be held elsewhere.

2. The **ELRAE Congress** shall exercise its functions ~~with the participation~~ **is composed of** two Chambers: **the Chamber of Local Authorities which represents one representative of local authorities** (hereinafter referred to as the “Chamber of Local Authorities”) and **the Chamber of Regions other representative of which represents regional authorities** (hereinafter referred to as the “Chamber of Regions”). The **ELRAE Congress** may set up, within the limits of the budgetary resources allocated to it and considering the priorities of the Council of Europe, the following bodies: a Bureau, a Standing Committee, Statutory Committees and if need be ad hoc working groups, which are necessary to perform its tasks. The Congress will inform the Committee of Ministers on the setting up of its committees. The Bureau, Standing Committee and Statutory Committees may meet in Chamber only during the plenary meetings of these bodies, and any matter considered by a Statutory Committee meeting in Chamber may not be considered by the plenary meeting of that Committee.

*Article 5*

The number of seats in the Statutory Committees will be set by the Congress in its Rules of Procedure, in such a way as to guarantee the principle according to which each Congress member has the right to **a at least one seat on a committee, including the Standing Committee. However, a member cannot have more than one titular seat.**

*Article 6*

1. The ~~current present~~ text replaces Statutory Resolution (94)3 (2000) 1 relating to the ~~setting up of the~~ Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ~~14 January 1994~~ **15 March 2000**, at the 506th 702<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies.

2. The text of the Charter of the Congress of ~~Local and Regional Authorities of Europe~~ appended to the current Statutory Resolution replaces the text of the Charter adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ~~14 January 1994~~ **15 March 2000**, at the 506th 702<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies.

**Appendix II**

Draft<sup>2,3</sup> Charter of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of **the Council of Europe (ELRAE)** (*adopted by the Committee of Ministers on.... 15 March 2000 at the 702nd meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies*)

*Article 1*

**The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe is the body representing the local and regional authorities of the member states of the Council of Europe. The Its objectives of the ELRAE are set out in Article [2] of Statutory Resolution (2000)† ... relating to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.**

*Article 2*

1. ~~Allowing for exceptions foreseen in a transitional provision of the present Charter,~~ **The ELRAE Congress shall be composed of Representatives who shall be chosen from among holders of a local or regional authority electoral mandate: a mandate based on direct public suffrage or a mandate based on election / approval by a directly elected local or regional authority body, on condition that their mandate is general and that they can be individually dismissed. Dismissal must be provided for by law.**

2. The membership of each member state’s delegation to the **ELRAE Congress** shall be such as to ensure:

- a. a balanced geographical distribution of Representatives from the member state’s territory;
- b. equitable representation of the various types of local and regional authorities in the member state;
- c. equitable representation of the various political forces in the statutory bodies of local and regional authorities in the member state ;
- d. equitable representation of women and men on the statutory bodies of local and regional authorities in the member state, **meaning that all delegations must include, within the next three years (2008), representations of both sexes with a minimum participation of at least 30% of the under-represented sex.**

3. Each member state shall have the right to the same number of seats in the **ELRAE Congress** as it has in the Parliamentary Assembly. Each member state ~~may~~ **sends** a number of Substitutes equal to the number of Representatives it sends. Substitutes shall be members of the Chambers in the same capacity as Representatives.

4. With regard to the Chamber of Regions, Representatives must be from authorities placed between central government and local authorities and enjoying prerogatives either of self-organisation or of a type normally associated with the central authority and having a genuine competence to manage, on their own responsibility and in the interests of their populations, a substantial share of public affairs, in

accordance with the principle of subsidiarity. If a country has authorities which cover a large area and exercise both local and regional responsibilities, Representatives of such authorities shall also be entitled to sit in the Chamber of Regions. A list of these authorities shall be provided in the context of the national appointment procedure. Member states which do not have regional authorities within the meaning of this paragraph shall be able to send Representatives **members** to the Chamber of Regions and its organs in an advisory capacity.<sup>4</sup> **The list of these countries shall be determined by the Bureau of the Congress on the proposal of the Institutional Committee of the Congress, following consultation of the national delegations.**

5. The rules and procedures governing the choice of Representatives to the ~~ELRAE~~ **Congress** shall also apply to Substitutes.

6. Representatives and Substitutes shall be sent for a period of two ordinary sessions of the ~~ELRAE~~ **Congress** and shall maintain their functions until the opening of the following session. In the event of the death or resignation of a Representative or Substitute or of loss of the mandate referred to in paragraph 1 above, a replacement shall be chosen, in accordance with the same rules and procedure, for the remainder of his or her predecessor's mandate. **A Representative or Substitute who has lost his or her electoral mandate, referred to in paragraph 1 may not remain a member of the Congress for more than six months after the loss of his or her mandate.** In addition, the composition of national delegations ~~may~~ **must** be amended at the latest one month prior to the ~~next~~ **next** plenary session to take account of the altered political situation following local and/or regional elections **concerning a substantial proportion of the local or regional authorities of that member state.** The new delegation should, in this event, also comply with the aforementioned criteria.

#### *Article 3*

1. Representatives and Substitutes to the ~~ELRAE~~ **Congress** shall be appointed by an official procedure specific to each member state. In particular, it shall provide for consultation in each member state of the relevant associations and/or institutional bodies and shall specify the principles to be adhered to in apportioning Representatives in the two Chambers. Each government shall inform the Secretary General of the Council of Europe of this procedure. Such a procedure shall be approved by the ~~ELRAE~~ **Congress** in conformity with the principles contained in its Rules of Procedure.

2. Each member state, when notifying the Secretary General **of the Council of Europe** of the composition of its delegation, shall indicate those Representatives and Substitutes who will be members of the Chamber of Local Authorities and those who will be members of the Chamber of Regions. **Each state shall appoint the same number of members to each Chamber. Countries having regions**

**within the meaning of paragraph 4 of Article 2 of the Charter must appoint as far as possible the same number of Representatives to the Chamber of Regions as to the Chamber of Local Authorities, or as close as possible a number in case of national delegations with an odd number of Representatives.**

#### *Article 4*

~~Each time members are appointed, the Bureau shall examine the credentials of the Representatives thus appointed. This examination by the Bureau shall result in a vote in session or, if the appointment takes place at another time, in the Standing Committee. Refusal to accept the credentials of a member can lead to consequences ranging from the non-payment of daily allowances to straightforward exclusion.~~

**1. Whenever Representatives and Substitutes have been appointed, the Bureau shall check their credentials. Its conclusions shall be put to the vote in the Congress during sessions and in the Standing Committee between sessions.**

**2. In case a national delegation does not comply with Article 2.2 of the Charter, its members will only be able to sit in the Congress without any right to vote or reimbursement of expenses.**

**3. A Representative or Substitute whose credentials are not ratified shall not be considered a member of the Congress and may not therefore normally receive allowances for attending Congress meetings.**

#### *Article 5*

1. International associations of local and regional authorities which have ~~consultative~~ **participatory** status with the Council of Europe shall have Observer status with the ~~ELRAE~~ **Congress**. Other organisations may, on request, obtain Observer status with the ~~ELRAE~~ **Congress**, if its Standing Committee so decides, or with one of its Chambers under the latter's Rules of Procedure.

2. The ~~ELRAE~~ **Congress** may, on request, grant Special Guest status to delegations from local and regional authorities in European non-member states which have such status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The Bureau of the ~~ELRAE~~ **Congress** shall assign to each Special Guest state the same number of seats as it has in the Parliamentary Assembly. The appointment of Special Guest delegations shall be based on the same criteria set out in Articles 2 and 3.

3. Observers and members of the delegations mentioned in paragraph 2 shall take part in the proceedings of the ~~ELRAE~~ **Congress** and of its Chambers, with the right to speak, subject to the President's consent, but not to vote. The other conditions of their participation in the Standing Committee, Statutory Committees and in working groups shall be laid down in the Rules of Procedure of the ~~ELRAE~~ **Congress**.

Article 6

1. The ~~CLRAE~~ **Congress** shall meet in ordinary session **at least** once a year. Ordinary sessions shall be held at the Council of Europe's headquarters, unless otherwise decided, by common consent, by the ~~CLRAE~~ **Congress** or its Standing Committee and the Committee of Ministers. **Sessions of the Congress and its Chambers shall be public.**

2. The sessions of each of the two Chambers shall be held either immediately before and/or after the session of the ~~CLRAE~~ **Congress**. On the proposal of the Bureau of the ~~CLRAE~~ **Congress**, either Chamber may hold other sessions ~~after prior agreement with the Committee of Ministers.~~

**3. The political groups of the Congress shall meet when ordinary sessions and meetings of the Standing Committee of the Congress are held.**

Article 7

1. ~~The CLRAE shall organise its work within the framework of two Chambers~~ **Within the framework of the Congress, work is also organized in the two Chambers:** the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions. Each Chamber has at its disposal a number of seats equal to that of the Congress itself.

2. Each Chamber shall appoint its Bureau which shall be composed of the President of the Chamber and seven **members Vice-Presidents**, respecting as far as possible a fair geographical distribution among member states. No member state shall have more than one Representative on the Bureau of either Chamber.

Article 8

1. The Standing Committee shall act on behalf of the ~~CLRAE~~ **Congress** between sessions. **In particular, it shall adopt reports, and organise debates and hearings in accordance with the objectives of the Congress.**

2. The Standing Committee shall consist of two Representatives from each national delegation. Members of the Bureau of the ~~CLRAE~~ **Congress** shall be included among those Representatives. States which are represented in only one Chamber shall have only one seat on the Standing Committee.

Article 9

1. ~~The two Bureaux shall constitute jointly the Bureau of the CLRAE~~ **The Bureau of the Congress is composed of the Bureaux of the Chambers plus the President of the Congress, and which** shall be responsible, in the period between the sessions of the Standing Committee and the Congress, for ensuring the continuity of the Congress's work.

2. The Bureau shall also be responsible for the preparation of the plenary sessions of the ~~CLRAE~~ **Congress**, the co-ordination of the work of the two Chambers, in particular

the distribution of questions between the two Chambers, the co-ordination of the work of the statutory committees **and of the ad hoc working groups**, preparation of the budget and the balanced allocation of budgetary resources between the Congress and the two Chambers. As regards the distribution of questions, no question may be considered in both Chambers. Any matter in which both Chambers would have an interest shall be considered in the ~~CLRAE~~ **Congress**.

3. The Bureau of the Congress shall be presided over by the President of the Congress.

Article 10

1.2: When a question falls within the competence of the two Chambers, the Bureau of the ~~CLRAE~~ **Congress** may, in exceptional cases, set up an ad hoc working group common to both Chambers.

2.1: After the distribution of questions between the two Chambers and the statutory committees in accordance with Article 9, the Bureau of the Chamber competent to deal with a question may, in exceptional cases, set up an ad hoc working group with a limited number of members ~~(a maximum of eleven)~~ empowered with specific terms of reference (preparation of reports, organisation of conferences, follow-up to co-operation projects or to specific intergovernmental activities of the Council of Europe).

3. Organisation of the work of ad hoc working groups shall be governed by the Rules of Procedure.

4. The ~~CLRAE~~ **Congress** and its two Chambers may ~~consult~~, in accordance with the provisions to be set out in their Rules of Procedure, **consult and work with** representatives of international associations of local and regional authorities mentioned in Article 5 as well as national associations of local and regional authorities designated by ~~consulted on~~ **involved in the process of appointing** the national delegations. **As a general rule**, the cost of participation ~~in these consultations~~ shall be borne by such organisations or associations.

Article 11

1. All the recommendations and opinions to be addressed to the Committee of Ministers and/or the Parliamentary Assembly as well as the resolutions addressed to the local and regional authorities as a whole shall be adopted by the ~~CLRAE~~ **Congress** at its plenary session or by the Standing Committee.

2. However, when a question is considered by the Bureau of the ~~CLRAE~~ **Congress** as falling exclusively within the competence of a Chamber:

a. the recommendations and opinions relating to such questions which are addressed to the Committee of Ministers, and/or to the Parliamentary Assembly shall be adopted **either by the Congress or by** the Standing Committee **between ordinary sessions**, but without any

consideration of the substance of the matter. In exceptional cases, the Bureau of the Congress may authorise the other Chamber to formulate an opinion on these draft texts.

b. the resolutions relating to the question and which are addressed to the authorities that the Chamber represents shall be adopted **either by the Congress or by the Standing Committee between ordinary sessions**, without consideration of the substance of the matter.

#### Article 12

The conditions under which the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly may be collectively represented in the debates of the **ELRAE Congress** or of the Chambers and those under which their Representatives may, in an individual capacity, speak therein shall be drawn up by the Committee of Ministers after consultation with the **ELRAE Congress** and inserted in the Rules of Procedure of the latter.

#### Article 13

1. The **ELRAE Congress** and each of its Chambers shall adopt ~~their~~ **its** own Rules of Procedure **which also concerns the Chambers**. In particular, ~~each set of~~ the rules shall provide for:

a. **the modalities for assessing compliance with the criteria of Article 2.2 of the Charter.**

b. a quorum ;

c. questions concerning the right to vote and the majorities required, it being understood that the recommendations and opinions addressed to the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly, **and also recommendations addressed to a country following observation of local or regional elections**, shall be adopted by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast.

d. the procedure for the election of the President **and Vice-Presidents of the Congress** ~~and other members of the Bureau~~;

e. the procedure for the establishment of the agenda and its transmission to ~~delegates~~ **members**;

f. the organisation of the work of the statutory committees and of the ad hoc working groups.

2. Moreover, the rules of the **ELRAE Congress** shall provide for the time-limit and method of notification of the names of Representatives and their Substitutes and the procedure for the examination of their credentials, by taking into account in particular Articles 2, **3** and 7 of the present Charter.

#### Article 14

1. The Congress shall ~~appoint~~ **elect** its President from the members of each Chamber on an alternating basis. The President shall remain in office for two ordinary sessions.

2. Each Chamber of the **ELRAE Congress** shall ~~choose~~ **elect** from among its members a President who shall remain in office for two ordinary sessions.

#### Article 15

1. The Secretariat of the Congress shall be provided by the ~~Chief Executive Secretary General~~ of the Congress, elected by the Congress. The ~~Chief Executive Secretary General~~ shall be answerable to the Congress and its organs and act under the authority of the Secretary General **of the Council of Europe**. Candidates shall be free to submit their applications directly to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, who will transmit them to the President of the Congress, together with his **or her** opinion. Following examination of these candidatures, the Bureau shall submit a list of candidates to the vote of the Congress. The Standing Committee, on behalf of the Congress, shall establish the procedure for the election of the ~~Chief Executive Secretary General~~ of the Congress, in order to clarify points which are not dealt with in the current Charter.

2. The Congress shall elect its ~~Chief Executive Secretary General~~ for a renewable term of five years, **although he or she may not exceed** the age limit applicable to all Council of Europe staff.

3. The Secretary General **of the Council of Europe** shall appoint a ~~Deputy Chief Executive Director~~ following consultation of the Bureau of the Congress.

4. ~~In relation to the secretaries of each Chamber, The Secretariat of each Chamber shall be provided by the Executive Secretary of the Chamber who is appointed by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall appoint them~~ after an informal exchange of views with the President of the Chamber concerned, during which he or she shall communicate his or her intentions and the reasons for his or her choice.

#### Article 16

1. The Committee of Ministers shall adopt the budget of the Congress, as part of the Ordinary Budget of the Council of Europe.

2. This budget shall be designed, in particular, to cover the expenditure occasioned by the **ELRAE Congress** sessions, by the meetings of the two Chambers and **ELRAE Congress** organs, and by all other clearly identifiable expenditure linked to the activities of the **ELRAE Congress**. For plenary sessions, only the participation costs of Representatives shall be defrayed by this budget.

3. The budget of the Congress shall constitute a specific vote of the Council of Europe budget.

4. The **ELRAE Congress** shall inform the Secretary General **of the Council of Europe** and the Committee of Ministers of its budgetary needs. Its requests shall be examined in the general context of the draft budget presented by the Secretary General **of the Council of Europe**.

5. The rates and methods of calculating Congress members' per diem allowances shall be subject to a specific decision by the Committee of Ministers.

6. The budget of the Congress (apart from the remuneration of permanent staff and the amounts allocated to political groups) shall constitute a package which the Bureau of the Congress will be responsible for managing. However, the Bureau shall abide by the financial regulations of the Council of Europe and see to it that the necessary funds are earmarked for the functioning of the statutory bodies of the Congress and of the two Chambers. It may not exceed the limit of the overall budgetary provision allocated to the Congress.

*Transitional provisions*

~~1. As an exception to Article 2, paragraph 1, non-elected persons responsible to an elected local or regional body may be Representatives in the Congress, provided they can be dismissed individually by, or following a decision of, the aforesaid directly elected body and that such a power of~~

~~dismissal is stipulated by law. This provision shall be re-examined after a six-year period.~~

~~2. The Chief Executive of the Congress, provided for under Article 15, shall be elected once the necessary conditions are in place.~~

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1. Debated and adopted by the Congress on 31 May 2005, 1st Sitting (see Document CG (12) 4, draft recommendation presented by H. Skard (Norway, L, SOC) and G. Krug (Germany, R, SOC), rapporteurs).

2. Additions in bold print, deletions struck through, within [...] to be confirmed.

3. Should the Third Summit conclusions lead to a reinforcement of the Congress, in particular in terms of additional financial resources, and if it proves possible to hold two Plenary Sessions a year, the draft Statutory Resolution and the draft Charter should be revised accordingly.

4. This provision does not affect their participation of ~~these Representatives~~ as full members of the plenary Congress and its organs.

