

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 209 (2006)¹ on the verification of new members' credentials and new appointment procedures

1. The Congress, pursuant to its Charter adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 15 March 2000;

a. takes note of the report of the Bureau of the Congress presented by rapporteurs Anders Knapé (Sweden, L, EPP/CD) and Günther Krug (Germany, R, SOC);

b. bears in mind that 2006 is a year in which national delegations are to be renewed;

c. is aware that the first transitional provision of the Charter is extended because the Committee of Ministers has not yet taken a decision following Congress Recommendation 162 (2005) on the revision of the Charter;

d. nonetheless draws the attention of the authorities of all member states to the wish of the Congress to enhance its local and regional democratic representativeness and, consequently, to the need to limit as far as possible, now and in future, the number of members appointed to the Congress who hold a mandate constituting an exception to Article 2.1 of the Charter of the Congress;

2. As regards the new appointment procedures, the Congress:

a. reiterates its request to the Albanian authorities that they update their procedure so as to take account of the establishment of regions with effect from 2000;

b. encourages the Azerbaijani authorities to pursue their efforts aimed at establishing, with the assistance of the Congress, a national Association of Local Authorities to be consulted regarding appointment of the delegation to the Congress in accordance with Article 3 of the Charter;

c. draws the attention of the Portuguese authorities to the fact that the appointment of two members who are mayors of *Freguesia* (parish councils) to the Chamber of Local Authorities may not be in line with the Portuguese appointment procedure; recognises, however, that these appointments may constitute a valid reply to the request made in Recommendation 127 (2003); accepts therefore these appointments provisionally, whilst asking the rapporteurs to consider in more depth if these mandates are sufficient for membership of the Chamber of Local Authorities and to propose a consensual solution to the Bureau before the end of 2006 with a view to the delegation being finalised at the spring session 2007;

d. approves the United Kingdom's new appointment procedure;

3. As regards the membership of national delegations and compliance with the criteria laid down in Article 2.2 of the Charter, the Congress:

a. requests the Azerbaijani authorities to hold municipal elections before the end of 2006 in the 141 municipalities where the ballots of December 2004 were invalidated, failing which Azerbaijan's delegation to the Congress shall be suspended as from 1 January 2007 pending the holding of such elections;

b. notes an objection concerning the composition of the Turkish delegation and requests the competent rapporteurs to visit the country, including South-East Anatolia, to examine, *inter alia*, the current composition of the delegation following the recent local and regional elections in the light of the criteria of Article 2.2.d. of the Charter;

c. congratulates the countries which have improved the percentage of women in their national delegations, but recalls the objective set in its Resolution 170 (2004) and Recommendation 162 (2005) that all national delegations should include at least 30% of women by 2008;

d. especially calls on the authorities of Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Serbia and Montenegro, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Turkey, which currently have less than 20% of women in their delegation, to make a substantial improvement in this percentage by the 2007 plenary session, and calls on other delegations to make progress towards the target of at least 30% of women;

4. In addition, the Congress:

a. takes note of the continuation of the discussions within the Bureau regarding countries which do not have regions within the meaning of Article 2.4 of the Charter and asks the Bureau to submit proposals by the 2007 plenary session at the latest, while being aware that these proposals could necessitate a further revision of the Charter;

b. takes note that some of the countries concerned (Iceland, Liechtenstein, San Marino and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia") do not now appoint a representative to the Chamber of Regions, which is not in strict compliance with the Charter, but exceptionally accepts this situation pending a decision by the Congress, as mentioned in the preceding paragraph;

c. approves the composition of the delegation of Cyprus while reiterating the wish it expressed in its Resolution 170 (2004) that elected representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community be included in the delegation as soon as possible and decides, in the meantime, to continue inviting two representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community to participate in the work of the Congress in accordance with the practice already in force (following the decision taken by the Bureau of the Congress on 3 November 2004);

d. does not recognise the validity of the credentials of the Albanian delegation as the official confirmation of the composition of their delegation has not been sent to the secretariat;

e. takes note of the fact that the composition of a number of national delegations should shortly be reconsidered to take account of the results of elections held or to be held on dates close to the plenary session and reminds these countries that their new national delegations should duly reflect new political situations at local and regional levels and that Rule 4.3 of the Congress Rules of Procedure provides that a member having lost his or her mandate, within the meaning of Article 2 of the Charter, may not remain a member of the Congress for more than six months;

f. reminds the authorities of all the member states that their proposals to modify the composition of their national delegations in the wake of local and/or regional elections should be transmitted to the Congress with all information

relevant to assessment of compliance with the criteria of Article 2 of the Charter, in particular the percentage of women elected at local and regional levels, the scores obtained by the different political parties in the most recent local and/or regional elections and members' political affiliations, and the appropriate geographical balance of delegations;

g. expresses its regret that seats remain vacant in a number of national delegations, thereby depriving the countries concerned of full participation in the work of the Congress;

h. subject to the above observations and the requests made to certain member states, approves the appointment procedures of the 46 member states and the credentials of 45 national delegations to the Congress.

1. Debated and adopted by the Congress on 30 May 2006, 1st Sitting (see Document CG (13) 2, draft resolution presented by A. Knape (Sweden, L, EPP/CD) on behalf of H. Skard (Norway, L, SOC) and G. Krug (Germany, R, SOC), rapporteurs).