

# CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF EUROPE

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## **Resolution 150 (2003)<sup>1</sup> on the verification of credentials of new members and new appointment procedures**

The Congress,

1. Having regard to its Resolution 130 (2002) on verification of the appointment procedures and the credentials of new members of national delegations and special guest delegations to the Congress;

2. Welcomes the arrival in the Congress of the national delegation of Serbia and Montenegro, following that country's accession to the Council of Europe as the forty-fifth member state (the delegation has been allocated seven seats);

3. Regrets the absence of the Georgian delegation to the CLRAE since 2 December 2002; six months after local elections were held, the Congress has not been notified of the changes to be made in the delegation following those elections;

4. Regarding appointment procedures:

*a.* regrets that the Azerbaijani authorities have been unable, as requested in Resolutions 107 (2001) and 130 (2002), to clarify their procedure for consulting the relevant associations and/or institutional bodies in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 1 of the Charter of the Congress, and asks them to remedy this situation by the end of 2003 at the latest;

*b.* regrets that the Georgian authorities have been unable to provide the Congress with the clarifications requested concerning the proposed new appointment procedure, particularly as regards the associations and/or institutional bodies consulted in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 1 of the Charter of the Congress, and therefore has not approved the new procedure submitted to the Congress on 7 March 2003;

*c.* approves the change in Ukraine's appointment procedure, as requested in Resolution 130 (2002), to make it compatible with Article 2, paragraph 4 of the Charter of the Congress, and notes that the procedure will come into force when delegations are next renewed, in time for the 2004 Plenary Session;

*d.* approves the change in the Russian Federation's appointment procedure;

*e.* approves the renewal of the appointment procedure for Serbia and Montenegro, which henceforth becomes the

procedure for appointing the national delegation of this member state;

*f.* invites countries which have not yet done so to use the form prepared by the Congress secretariat to present their appointment procedures;

5. Regarding the composition of national delegations and compliance with the criteria of the Charter of the Congress, and in particular, equitable representation of women and men on the statutory bodies of local and regional authorities in the member state:

*a.* reiterates its general observation that this criterion is not taken sufficiently into account in the composition of delegations and considers that the associations of local and regional authorities consulted on the appointment of delegations should pay more attention to the inclusion of women in delegations, despite the low level of female participation in local and regional public life;

*b.* with the notable exception of Finland, Norway, San Marino and Sweden, deplores the still insufficient number of women in many national delegations, in particular those of countries holding large numbers of seats, such as, in particular, France, Germany, Italy, Romania, the Russian Federation and Turkey, many of which, in this area, have not taken account of the requests made by the Congress in its Resolution 130 (2002);

*c.* deplores in particular the absence of women in the Greek delegation and the extremely low number of women in the Polish delegation and urges these countries to remedy the situation when appointing members to the vacant seats, and at the latest by 1 January 2004;

*d.* notes that the Ukrainian authorities have undertaken to increase the number of women in their delegation when it is next renewed, in time for the 2004 Plenary Session;

6. Regrets that seats remain vacant in some national delegations, thus depriving these delegations of full participation in the activities of the Congress;

7. Regarding representation in the Chamber of Regions:

*a.* deplores that the Albanian authorities have not complied with the request made in Resolution 130 (2002) to revise their procedure by the 2003 Session in order to take account of the creation of a regional level in their country and to appoint to this Chamber only members holding elected office at regional level, and asks them to comply with this request by the end of 2003 at the latest;

*b.* regrets that the Hungarian authorities have appointed to the Chamber of Regions a member holding elected office at local level, who is thus entitled merely to consultative status in the Chamber;

*c.* considers that the member of an elected body of a Euroregion appointed by Hungary to the Chamber of Regions is entitled merely to consultative status in the Chamber, as a Euroregion is not a regional authority of that country;

*d.* regrets that the Polish authorities appointed to the Chamber of Regions two members only holding an electoral mandate at the “Powiats” level, namely the level below their regional level and hence, in compliance with Article 2, paragraph 4 of the Charter of the Congress, only grants them consultative status in the Chamber of Regions;

8. Regarding the geographical balance of national delegations, deplores that France has not complied in due time with the request made by the Congress in Resolution 130 (2002) to modify its national delegation by the next plenary session in order to ensure a more equitable balance between representatives of urban and rural areas among the members appointed to the Chamber of Local Authorities, and asks this country to remedy the situation as soon as possible, and at the latest when the delegation is next renewed;

9. Regarding the electoral mandates of members of the Congress:

*a.* draws the attention of countries still applying the first transitional provision of the Charter of the Congress to the fact that it will be reviewed upon expiry of a six-year period starting in March 2000 and reminds these countries of the interpretation of this provision appended to Resolution 107 (2001);

*b.* notes that on the basis of the clarifications provided by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the mandate of a substitute in this delegation is not in conformity with transitional provision No. 1 of the Charter of the Congress

and consequently asks them to appoint another substitute before 30 September 2003;

*c.* reminds the delegations concerned that, under Rule 4, paragraph 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Congress, representatives who lose their electoral mandate may not remain members of the Congress for more than six months after the loss of their mandate;

*d.* regrets that some countries have been slow to modify their national delegation following the holding of local and regional elections and notes that some appointments and changes to the composition of some national delegations will be made shortly after this session;

10. Regrets that many countries have been unable to comply with the time-limits for submitting their appointment procedures and the changes to be made to the composition of their national delegation, which delays examination of this information by the rapporteurs and the Congress Bureau, and, most importantly, makes it harder for the appointed members to participate in the work of the Congress;

11. Subject to the requests made to certain delegations in this resolution, approves the credentials of new members communicated officially since the last plenary session for the forty-four national delegations to the Congress.

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1. Debated and adopted by the Congress on 20 May 2003, 1st Sitting (see Document CG (10) 2 Res, draft resolution presented by Mr Skard and Mr Kieres, rapporteurs).