

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 255 (2008)¹ Verification of credentials of new members and new appointment procedures

The Congress,

1. In accordance with its revised Charter as adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 May 2007 (Res(2007)6), notably the new provisions regarding the type of mandate for Congress members and balanced representation between men and women;

2. Having regard to the fact that national delegations are renewed every two years, in this case at the beginning of the 15th plenary session;

3. In connection with the new appointment procedures presented in Document CG(15)24:

a. reiterates once again its request to the Albanian authorities to update their procedure in order to take account of the introduction of regions in the country;

b. reiterates its request to the Azerbaijan authorities to revise their procedure in order to take account of the consultation of the three national associations of local authorities in appointing the delegation, in compliance with Article 3.1 of the Charter;

c. approves the amendment to Appendix 1 to the procedure for the Russian Federation, updating the list of the national associations consulted with a view to appointing candidates to the Chamber of Local Authorities;

d. approves the new procedure for Sweden, taking account of the recent setting up of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions which from now on puts forward proposals for the composition of the Congress delegation;

e. approves the new procedure for Turkey, which, on the one hand, includes the criterion of Article 2.2.d of the Charter which requires a minimum participation of at least 30% of the under-represented sex and, on the other hand, takes account of the creation of the National Union of Turkish Municipalities and the Union of Provincial Services now consulted for the composition of the national delegation;

f. approves the new procedure for the United Kingdom, noting in particular that it now provides for the criterion set out in Article 2.2.d of the revised Charter requiring a minimum participation of at least 30% of members of the under-represented sex;

g. asks all member states to update their official appointment procedure further to the adoption of the new Charter of the

Congress and the revision of the Rules of Procedure of the Congress and its Chambers, in particular as regards changes mentioned in paragraph 1 above, as well as the deletion of the first transitional provision, and to do this before the next session when delegations are to be renewed;

4. In connection with the composition of national delegations presented on List I for this 15th plenary session:

a. congratulates all member states for complying with the provisions of Article 2.2.d of the Charter of the Congress regarding a minimum participation of at least 30% of the under-represented sex;

b. nevertheless regrets that some countries have failed to respect the spirit of the Charter concerning the percentage of the under-represented sex when apportioning Representatives and Substitutes;

c. at this stage, issues reservations on the conformity with Article 2.1 of the Charter:

i. of the mandate of two members of the Russian Federation delegation appointed to the Council of the Federation by the Head of the Executive of the constituent entities of the federation and asks the Bureau to examine in detail their mandate and to submit a report before the end of 2008; in the meantime accepts the credentials of these members;

ii. of the mandate of the Queen's Commissioner of the Netherlands and also asks the Bureau to examine in detail this mandate and to report back before the end of 2008; in the meantime accepts the credentials of this member;

d. instructs its Institutional Committee to examine, as part of its work on the situation of local and regional democracy in Portugal, the merits of appointing representatives of the *Freguesias* (parish councils) to the Chamber of Local Authorities and asks the Bureau to report back on this question; in the meantime accepts the credentials of these members;

e. accepts the compromise of allowing the national delegations of some of the countries that lack regions within the meaning of Recommendation 56 (1999) to appoint only Substitutes to the Chamber of Regions and informs the other countries concerned about this possibility;

f. takes note of the letter from the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina but nevertheless considers that there has been no blatant infringement of the criteria of the Charter and deems satisfactory the balance in the Chamber of Regions between representatives of Vojvodina, the only genuine region in the country, and those from the rest of the Serbian territory who are elected representatives from major municipalities, by virtue of Article 2.4 of the Charter of the Congress and in accordance with the official appointment procedure defined by this country;

g. takes note of the letter of the President of the Union of the South East Anatolia Region Municipalities concerning the political and geographical balance of the national delegation

of Turkey and asks the Bureau to examine it in detail, in co-operation with the rapporteurs of the Institutional Committee and to report to the Congress before the end of the year;

h. approves the composition of the Cypriot delegation, but reiterates the hope expressed in its Resolution 170 (2004) that elected representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community should be included in the delegation and in the meantime decides to continue to invite two representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community to attend the sessions, the meetings of the Standing Committee, as well as meetings of the statutory committees of the Congress for specific items, in accordance with the practice already adopted (further to the initial decision taken by the Bureau of the Congress on 3 November 2004, confirmed in Resolution 234 (2007));

i. regrets that seats on certain national delegations remain vacant, depriving these countries de facto of full participation in the work of the Congress;

j. stresses that some of these vacant seats will have to be filled by women so that the delegations concerned are in line with the criteria of Article 2.2.d of the Charter;

k. notes that some delegations will have to change after the session following local and/or regional elections held on dates close to the session and recalls the deadline of a maximum of six months foreseen in Article 2.6 of the Charter, beyond which those members having lost their mandate can no longer be members of the Congress;

5. In view of the comments set out above and subject to the requests addressed to specific member countries, approves the new procedures for the appointment and verification of credentials of the new members of the 47 national delegations.

1. Debated and adopted by the Congress on 27 May 2008, 1st Sitting (see Document CG(15)2RES, draft resolution presented by A. Knape (Sweden, L, EPP/CD) and G. Krug (Germany, R, SOC), rapporteurs).