

# THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

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## Resolution 399 (2016)<sup>1</sup> Verification of new members' credentials and new appointment procedures

1. The rapporteurs responsible for verifying new members' credentials point out that the 31st session is a session at which all the national delegations have been renewed and that the said renewal has taken place in accordance with the criteria of the Charter of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe ("the Charter") and the Rules and Procedures of the Congress.

2. The delegations are appointed for a four-year term of office, from October 2016 to October 2020. In compliance with Article 2.1 of the Congress Charter, only those members who have lost their mandate or who wish to resign may be withdrawn from the delegation before the end of this term of office, even if local or regional elections take place during those four years.

3. One of the main tasks of the rapporteurs responsible for verifying new members' credentials is to ensure that the political breakdown of the members of the proposed delegation properly reflects the political situation in the country concerned. To that end, the national authority responsible for appointing the members must provide details either of the results of the most recent local or regional elections, or of the actual distribution of elected representatives according to their political affiliation in the relevant local or regional bodies.

4. The rapporteurs also have to ensure compliance with gender balance (a minimum quota of 30%) in the national delegations. In this connection, they welcome the efforts made by the national authorities: only a few delegations were asked to change their proposal in order to satisfy the Charter criteria in this respect.

5. Lastly, the rapporteurs wish to remind national authorities that Article 2.1 of the Congress Charter explicitly underlines that a Congress member must either:

*a.* hold a mandate resulting from direct elections; or

*b.* be politically accountable to a directly elected assembly, on the condition that they can be individually dismissed by, or following the decision of the aforementioned assembly and that dismissal is provided for by law. This requirement is a vital aspect to be taken into account when appointing members.

6. On the basis of these criteria, a number of delegations altered their initial proposal.

7. The rapporteurs responsible for verifying new members' credentials propose that the Congress approve:

*a.* the new official appointment procedures for the national delegations of Albania, Ireland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine;

*b.* the credentials of the members of the national delegations set out in document [CG31\(2016\)25](#).

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1. Debated and adopted by the Congress on 19 October 2016, 1st sitting (see Document [CG31\(2016\)02final](#), rapporteurs: Gaye Doganoglu, Turkey (L, EPP/CEE) and Leen Verbeek, Netherlands (R, SOC)).