

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 308 (2010)¹ Verification of new members' credentials and new appointment procedures

1. Pursuant to its Charter, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 May 2007 (Statutory Resolution CM/Res(2007)6), the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe draws the attention of authorities in member states to the provisions set out in Articles 2.1 and 2.2 of the Charter when appointing members of their country's national delegations.

2. Concerning the appointment procedure, the Congress:

a. asks governments, which have not already done so, to update their official appointment procedure to bring it into line with the Congress Charter and the Rules of Procedure of the Congress and its Chambers;

b. draws member states' special attention to the fact that the official appointment procedure must henceforth make specific reference to the terms and conditions of dismissal of Congress members whose mandates do not stem from a direct election;

c. points out that, in the case of countries with local authorities which cover a large area and exercise both local and regional powers and responsibilities, a list of these authorities must be appended to the procedure.

3. Concerning the composition of national delegations, the Congress:

a. congratulates all member states on complying with the provisions set out in Article 2.2.d. of the Congress Charter concerning the participation of at least 30% of the under-represented sex, although Iceland was unable to reach this percentage due to a vacant seat in the delegation which has not been allocated following the natural catastrophe which occurred in this country;

b. regrets, once again, that some countries have mainly assigned Substitutes' seats to members of the under-represented sex, whereas the spirit of Article 2.2.d. of the

Congress Charter is that there should be an equitable distribution of seats between Representatives and Substitutes;

c. reiterates the desire it expressed in Resolution 170 (2004) on the verification of credentials of new members and new appointment procedures, for representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community to be included in the Cypriot delegation and decides, in the meantime, to continue to invite two representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community to take part in sessions and Standing Committee meetings, in accordance with the practice already established (following an initial decision of the Bureau of the Congress of 3 November 2004, confirmed in Resolution 234 (2007)), as well as possibly attending meetings of the Congress's statutory committees for specific items;

d. reminds the authorities of all member states that the results of elections obtained by the different political parties must be forwarded to the Congress immediately after local and/or regional elections together with all the information required to assess whether the provisions set out in Article 2 of the Congress Charter are being complied with;

e. accepts that the national delegations of some countries that have no regions (within the meaning of Recommendation 56 (1999)) appoint only Substitutes to the Chamber of Regions;

f. regrets that, contrary to the spirit of the Congress Charter, the maximum period of six months, during which members who no longer hold a local or regional authority mandate can remain a member of the delegation, is being applied not by way of exception but as a rule and that this is hindering the renewal of delegations and the participation of members who hold a proper mandate;

g. takes note of the opinion expressed by the Group of Independent Experts on the conformity of the mandate of the Italian assessors (*assessore*) and informs the Italian authorities that the assessors whose mandate does not meet the criteria of the Congress Charter (*assessore esteri*) cannot be integrated into the Italian delegation.

4. In the light of the above remarks and subject to the specific requests made to certain member states, the Congress approves the new appointment procedures and the credentials of the new members of the 47 national delegations.

1. Debated and adopted by the Congress on 26 October, 1st Sitting, rapporteurs: A. Knape, Sweden (L, EPP/CD) and G. Krug, Germany (R, SOC).