

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 320 (2011)¹ Verification of new members' credentials and new appointment procedures

1. Pursuant to its revised Charter, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 19 January 2011, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe draws the authorities' attention 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 revised Charter and 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 responsibilities, a list of these authorities must be appended to the procedure.

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

a. pending the necessary adaptation of the Rules of Procedure, draws the attention of national delegations to the main changes entailed by adoption of the revised Charter, which are to be implemented immediately:

– the Statutory Forum replaces the Standing Committee: it is composed of the heads of all national delegations and the members of the Bureau of the Congress;

– the presidents of the political groups and chairs of the committees participate in Bureau meetings, but without voting rights;

– the bureaux of the Chambers are composed solely of Representatives to the Congress;

and also to the changes which are to be implemented as from the next renewal session (October 2012):

– the mandate of Representatives and Substitutes shall be extended to four years;

– national delegations must include at least 30% of the under-represented sex among Representatives and 30% among Substitutes;

b. 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 Statutory Forum 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 committees for specific items;

c. wishes also to recall that observers and special guests shall take part in the proceedings of the Congress, with the right to speak, subject to the President's consent, but not to vote;

d. reminds the authorities of all member states that the results 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) on the statutory reinforcement and the revision of the Congress Charter) 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.

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 22 March, 1st Sitting, rapporteurs: A. Knape, Sweden (L, EPP/CD) and I. Sanchez Amor, Spain (R, SOC).