

31st SESSION

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Verification of new members' credentials and new appointment procedures

Bureau of the Congress
Co-rapporteurs:¹ Gaye DOGANOGLU, Turkey (L, EPP/CCE)
Leen VERBEEK, Netherlands (R, SOC)

Resolution 399 (2016).....2

Summary

The rapporteurs review the credentials of the new members and any new procedures for the appointment of national delegations in the light of the current criteria of the Congress Charter and Rules and Procedures.

1 L: Chamber of Local Authorities / R: Chamber of Regions
EPP/CCE: European People's Party Group in the Congress
SOC: Socialist Group
ILDG: Independent and Liberal Democrat Group
ECR: European Conservatives and Reformists Group
NR: Members not belonging to a political group of the Congress

RESOLUTION 399 (2016)²

1. The rapporteurs on the verification of credentials point out that the 31st session is a session at which all the national delegations have been renewed and that said renewal has taken place in accordance with the criteria of 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with Article 2.1 of the Congress Charter, only those members who have lost their mandate or wish to resign may be withdrawn from the delegation before the end of this term of office, even if local or regional elections take place during those four years.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 on the verification of 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 (minimum quota of 30%) in the delegations. In this connection, they welcome the efforts made by the national authorities: only a few delegations were asked to change their proposals 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 proposals.

7. The rapporteurs on the verification of 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.

² 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)).