

# THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

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## Resolution 325 (2011)<sup>1</sup> 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 (Statutory Resolution CM/Res(2011)2, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe draws the national authorities' attention to the provisions set out in Articles 2.1 and 2.2 of the Charter concerning the composition of member countries' national delegations.

2. With regard to appointment procedures, the Congress:

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

*b.* reminds member states in particular that the official appointment procedure must make specific reference to the terms and conditions of dismissal of Congress members whose mandates do not stem from a direct election;

*c.* asks, where local authorities cover a large area and exercise both local and regional powers and responsibilities, the countries in question to append a list of these authorities to the procedure.

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

*a.* reminds governments that the composition of national delegations must be transmitted to the Congress six weeks before the opening of the session to which they apply. This deadline will henceforth be strictly applied;

*b.* recalls that from the October 2012 Session onwards, the term of office of Representatives and Substitutes will be four years;

*c.* recalls that the Congress Rules of Procedure establishes a 30% threshold for representation of the under-represented sex among the Representatives and also among the Substitutes;

*d.* reiterates the desire 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, as well as possibly attending meetings of the Congress's committees for specific items;

*e.* reminds the authorities of all member states that election results, broken down by political party, must be forwarded to the Congress immediately after local and/or regional elections, together with all the information required to assess whether the delegation complies with the provisions set out in Article 2 of the Congress Charter;

*f.* accepts that the national delegations of certain countries without 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;

*g.* invites the national authorities, in the spirit of the Congress Charter, to resort only exceptionally to 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.

4. The Congress approves the credentials of the members of the 47 national delegations.

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1. Debated and adopted by the Congress on 18 October 2011, 1st Sitting, rapporteurs: A. Knape, Sweden (L, EPP/CD) and I. Sanchez Amor, Spain (R, SOC).