

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 234 (2007)¹ Verification of new members' credentials and new appointment procedures

The Congress,

1. Pursuant to its Charter adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 15 March 2000:

a. welcomes the adoption by the Committee of Ministers on 2 May 2007 of Statutory Resolution Res(2007)6 containing a revised Charter of the Congress which incorporates many of the Congress proposals set out in Recommendation 162 (2005) and puts an end to the two transitional provisions of the Charter adopted in 2000;

b. considers, however, that the provisions of the two new texts cannot be fully applied at this 14th Plenary Session given that they were adopted by the Committee of Ministers only shortly before the date of the session;

c. nevertheless draws the attention of all the member states to the new provisions which they will have to take into account in renewing their national delegations for the 15th Plenary Session in 2008, and in particular Articles 2.1, 2.2.d, 2.6, 3.2 and 4 of the new Charter;

d. takes note of the proposals of the Bureau of the Congress presented by rapporteurs Anders Knape (Sweden, L, EPP/CD) and Günther Krug (Germany, R, SOC);

2. As regards the new appointment procedures:

a. reiterates its request to the Albanian authorities to update their procedure so as to take into account the establishment of regions since 2000;

b. asks the Azerbaijani authorities to review their procedure as soon as possible, in order to take into account the requirement to consult the three national associations of local authorities concerning the composition of the delegation, in accordance with Article 3.1 of the Charter;

c. approves the new procedure for the Russian Federation, which now also takes into account the role of the National Congress of Russian Municipalities in proposing members to the Chamber of Local Authorities;

d. approves the official procedure of Montenegro, the 47th Council of Europe member state since 11 May 2007, and the official procedure for the Republic of Serbia;

e. asks the Turkish authorities to update their official appointment procedure to take account of the setting up of the Union of Turkish Municipalities and the Union of Provincial Services;

3. As regards the membership of national delegations and in compliance with the criteria laid down in the Charter:

a. decides to re-examine the composition of the Portuguese delegation before the end of 2007 in the light of the additional information to be provided by the Portuguese Government and in the light of the work of the Institutional Committee, in order to assess the legitimacy of the appointment of two representatives of *Freguesias* (parish councils) to the Chamber of Local Authorities;

b. accepts the current composition of the Turkish delegation in the light of the information provided by the country's authorities, which clarifies the current composition in relation to the results of the last local and regional elections in the country in 2004, but calls on the Turkish authorities, when the delegation is next renewed in 2008, to pay more attention to ensuring geographically and politically balanced representation, fully reflecting the country's diversity;

c. congratulates the countries that have increased the percentage of women in their national delegation but deplores the fact that, despite the specific request in paragraph 3.d of Resolution 209 (2006), some countries have failed to improve the representation of women (Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Estonia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey);

d. deplores the fact that the percentage of women in the new Polish delegation has decreased and urges the Polish authorities to improve the situation at the earliest opportunity;

e. draws the attention of the authorities of all the member states to the now very precise criteria contained in Article 2.2.d of the Charter adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 May 2007: "equitable representation of women and men on the statutory bodies of local and regional authorities in the member state, meaning that all delegations must include, as from 2008, representatives of both sexes with a minimum participation of at least 30% of the under-represented sex";

f. also draws the attention of the authorities in the member states to the possible sanctions for appointing delegations that fail to comply with the criteria laid down in Article 2.2 of the new Charter adopted in 2007 and elaborated on in Articles 4.2 and 4.3;

g. therefore asks all the member states to comply with these criteria at the latest when they come to renew their national delegations for the 15th Plenary Session in 2008, that is, at the latest one month prior to the 2008 Plenary Session in conformity with Article 2.6 of the Charter adopted on 2 May 2007.

4. In addition, the Congress:

a. decides to continue its consideration of the situation of countries without regions under Article 2.4 of the Charter;

b. meanwhile accepts, on a transitional basis and by way of a compromise, the national delegations of some of the countries referred to in the preceding paragraph which appoint only substitutes to the Chamber of Regions (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, San Marino, "the former

Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”) and informs other countries concerned of this possibility;

c. approves the composition of the delegation of Cyprus, while reiterating the wish expressed in its Resolution 170 (2004) that elected representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community should be included in the delegation as soon as possible and decides, in the meantime, to continue to invite two representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community to participate in the work of the Congress in line with existing practice (following the decision by the Bureau of the Congress on 3 November 2004);

d. approves the delegation of Montenegro;

e. approves the delegation of the Republic of Serbia while noting, however, that two seats are still vacant, one for a representative and one for a substitute, which should be filled as soon as possible;

f. notes that several national delegations will soon have to be changed to take account of elections that have been, or are to be, held on dates close to the Plenary Session, and reminds

those countries that their new national delegations should duly reflect the new political situations at local and regional level in their country, and should comply with Article 2.6 of the new Charter and Article 4.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Congress stipulating that a Congress member who has lost his or her mandate within the meaning of Article 2 of the Charter may not remain a member for more than six months after the loss of his or her mandate;

g. regrets that some seats are still vacant in a number of national delegations, thus depriving the countries concerned of full participation in the work of the Congress and calls on the authorities of the countries concerned to appoint women to fill these vacant seats;

h. in the light of the above observations and subject to the requests made to certain member states, 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 30 May 2007, 1st Sitting (see Document CG(14)2RES, draft resolution presented by A. Knape (Sweden, L, EPP/CD) and G. Krug (Germany, R, SOC), rapporteurs).