The Congress
of Local and Regional Authorities

23rd Session
CG(23)2
Strasbourg, 15 October 2012

Verification of new members' credentials

Bureau of the Congress
Rapporteurs: Anders KNAPE, Sweden (L, EPP/CD[1]) and Ludmila SFIRLOAGA, Romania (R, SOC[1])

DRAFT RESOLUTION (FOR VOTE)[2]

1. The Congress refers to the following new provisions which enter into force for this session in which delegations are to be renewed, in accordance with its Charter and Rules of Procedure:

a. delegations are appointed to the Congress for a four-year term of office. In compliance with Article 3.3 of the Congress's Statutory Resolution, only those members who have lost their national mandate, wishing to resign or who have died can be withdrawn from the delegation before the end of this term of office, even if local or regional elections take place following the renewal session;

b. each Congress member must, by signing a declaration of principle, accept the principles of the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms;

c. the Congress's Rules of Procedure lay down a minimum 30% threshold for the representation of the under-represented sex among both representatives and substitutes;

[1] L: Chamber of Local Authorities / R: Chamber of Regions
ILDG: Independent and Liberal Democrat Group of the Congress
EPP/CD: Group European People's Party – Christian Democrats of the Congress
SOC: Socialist Group of the Congress
NR: Political affiliation not communicated
NPA: Political affiliation not desired

[2] Preliminary draft resolution approved by the Bureau of the Congress on 15 March 2012.

Bureau members:
K. Whitmore, President of the Congress, *H. Van Staa*, President of the Chamber of Regions, *J-C. Frécon*, President of the Chamber of Local Authorities, W. Carey, *G. Doganoglu*, *N. Romanova*, *A. Knape*, *L. Sfirloaga*, O. Van Veldhuizen, *J. Fischerova*, *D. Suica*, *H. Pihlajasaari*, *F. Pellegrini*, *S. Orlova*, *G. Policinschi.*

N.B : The names of members who took part in the vote are in italics.

Bureau Secretariat: D. Rios Turón, Linette Taesch.

d. the number of vacant seats must not exceed a third of the total number of delegates present (representatives and substitutes) to which the member state in question is entitled;

e. where a member state intends to send to the Congress delegates who do not have a general mandate in a local or regional authority resulting from a direct election but who are politically accountable to a directly elected assembly, it must formally specify the conditions of dismissal of the delegates concerned.

2. The Congress further reiterates:

a. the desire expressed in Resolution 170 (2004) on the verification of credentials of new members and new appointment procedures for elected 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;

b. that national delegations of countries without regions may appoint, if they so wish, only substitutes to the Chamber of Regions, and draws the attention of those countries to the new provision in Rule 4.2 of the Rules of Procedure which enables their substitutes, under certain conditions, to vote in the Chamber of Local Authorities, even if they are members of the Chamber of Regions;

c. that the national authorities, in the spirit of the Congress Charter, must resort only in exceptional circumstances to the deferral period of six months during which members who no longer hold a local or regional authority mandate may remain a member of the delegation.

3. The Congress wishes, in addition, to draw attention to certain questions raised during the verification of credentials:

a. certain countries have found it difficult to provide the results of the latest local or regional elections. In order to uphold the principle of political pluralism, each delegation must reflect the political landscape of the country or the various political forces in the statutory bodies of the local and regional authorities in the member state. The Congress reminds the national authorities that each proposed delegation must be relevant information on the distribution of the political forces in the country;

b. the Bureau of the Congress has noted problems regarding consultation in the appointment of the Turkish delegation. A member who had been proposed to replace Leila Güven, a representative of the BDP (Peace and Democracy Party) who is currently detained and who has been dismissed from her post as mayor, had not accepted this appointment. The Bureau suggests that this seat be left vacant, the remainder of the delegation be accepted and the situation be re-examined after the session;

4. The Congress approves the credentials of the members of the national delegations with the exception of those of Albania, Serbia and the Slovak Republic.