

CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF EUROPE

Resolution 130 (2002)¹ on verification of the appointment procedures and the credentials of new members of national delegations and special guest delegations to the Congress

The Congress,

1. Having regard to its Resolution 107 (2001) on the verification of the appointment procedures and of the credentials of new members of national delegations and special guest delegations to the CLRAE;
2. Welcomes the arrival in the Congress of the new national delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, following that country's accession to the Council of Europe (the delegation has been allocated five seats);
3. Welcomes the reappointment of the special guest delegation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, approved by the Standing Committee on 22 March 2002;
4. Regarding the procedures for appointing members of delegations:
 - a.* notes with satisfaction that most of the member states have now unified and clarified their procedures, using the form prepared by the Congress secretariat, indicating the names of the associations and/or institutions consulted, and explaining special cases in which the first transitional provision of the Charter of the Congress (hereafter, the Charter) has been applied;
 - b.* invites countries which have not yet done so to use this form to present their appointment procedures;
 - c.* takes note of the new procedure forwarded by the authorities of Azerbaijan but asks them to clarify as soon as possible whether, as requested in Resolution 107 (2001), this brings their procedure into line with Article 3, paragraph 1 of the Charter which requires that the relevant associations and/or institutional bodies be consulted when national delegations are being established;
 - d.* welcomes the fact that the Cypriot authorities have granted the request of the Union of Communities of Cyprus to be represented in their country's delegation;
 - e.* notes that the Georgian authorities, following the local elections held in the country on 2 June 2002, have not been able to modify their appointment procedure to bring it into line with the Charter, as requested in Resolution 107 (2001), but undertake to do so in the near future, in consultation with the newly elected

representatives and their associations, and asks that the country's authorities notify the Congress of its renewed procedure before the end of the year 2002;

f. welcomes the fact that the Slovenian authorities have, as requested in Resolution 107 (2001), modified their appointment procedure to ensure that the two local authority associations which currently exist in Slovenia are represented in the delegation;

g. welcomes the fact that "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" has supplied details of a new procedure conforming with Article 3, paragraph 1 of the Charter, and providing for consultation of national associations of local authorities when the national delegation is being appointed and asks, however, that the country's authorities clarify this procedure in respect of possible application of the first transitional provision of the Congress Charter;

5. Regrets the absence of the national delegation of San Marino from the 9th Plenary Session, and calls on the authorities in that country to notify the Congress of its delegation's membership as soon as possible;

6. Regarding equitable representation in national delegations of women and men serving on the statutory bodies of local and regional authorities (Article 2, paragraph *d* of the appendix to the Charter);

a. considers that, in general, far too little attention is paid to this criterion when national delegations are being appointed, with the notable exception of four countries, where women account for 50% of the members;

b. particularly deplores the absence of women in the delegations of Belgium, Cyprus and Romania, and firmly asks these countries to remedy this situation by 1 January 2003;

c. considers that, as a general rule, the associations of local and regional authorities of member states involved in appointing national delegations should encourage women's participation in those delegations, despite the low level of female participation in local and regional public life in several countries that emerges from national delegations' replies;

d. regrets that many countries, even those with large delegations such as France, Germany, Italy, Poland, the Russian Federation and Ukraine have far too few women members, and asks these countries to remedy this situation by the next plenary session at the latest;

7. Regarding representation in the Chamber of Regions:

a. whilst welcoming the fact that the Ukrainian authorities have, as requested in Resolution 107 (2001), appointed a representative of the Republic of Crimea to the Chamber of Regions, calls on the Ukrainian authorities to modify their procedure for the next plenary session at the latest, for the purpose of making it fully compatible with Article 2, paragraph 4 of the Charter, which stipulates that members of the Chamber of Regions must be representatives of authorities placed between central government and local authorities;

b. regrets that, although Albania possesses genuine regions, the Albanian authorities have appointed to the Chamber of Regions two members who hold elected office at local level only, and are thus entitled merely to consultative status in the Chamber, and calls on those authorities to remedy the situation by the next plenary session and asks Albania to update its procedure to take account of the creation of regions;

8. Regarding balanced geographical distribution in national delegations (Article 2, paragraph *a* of the appendix to the Charter):

a. notes that Finland's wish to give seats to all the political parties operating at local and regional level has slightly disturbed the geographical balance of its delegation, and asks the Finnish authorities to ensure, when the delegation is next renewed, that geographical balance and political balance both receive sufficient emphasis;

b. asks the French authorities to modify their national delegation as soon as possible, and not later than the next plenary session, in order to ensure a better balance between representatives of urban and rural areas among the members appointed to the Chamber of Local Authorities;

c. notes that the delegation initially proposed by the Latvian authorities is not geographically balanced, but welcomes the adjustment they have suggested, which will restore the balance and also ensure that women are better represented, and notes that this change will take effect from the 9th plenary session;

9. Regarding members' political affiliations:

a. asks the Russian Federation delegation to supply the Congress with the missing information on the political affiliations of some of their members before 15 September 2002;

10. Regarding the electoral mandates of members of the Congress:

a. noting that some countries are still applying the first transitional provision of the Congress Charter, reminds these countries, and all the others members too, of the interpretation of the first transitional provision of the Charter, which was approved by the Standing Committee on 9 March 2001, came into force at the 8th plenary session and is appended to Resolution 107 (2001), and asks them to note that this provision will be reviewed on expiry of a six-year period from March 2000;

b. reminds the delegations concerned that, under Rule 4, paragraph 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Congress, representatives who lose their electoral mandates may not remain members of the Congress for more than six months after doing so;

11. Regrets that many countries have failed to submit details of their appointment procedures and their delegations' membership within the time requested, which delays examination of this information by the rapporteurs and the Congress Bureau, and, most importantly, may well make it harder for the appointed members to participate in the work of the Congress;

12. Subject to the requests made to certain delegations in the present resolution, approves the credentials of the members of the forty-three national delegations, and those of the delegation from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which has special guest status with the Congress.

1. Debated by the Congress and adopted on 4 June 2002, 1st Sitting (see Doc. CG (9) 2, draft resolution, presented by Mr H. Skard and Mr L. Kieres, rapporteurs).