

Resolution 167 (2003)¹ on local democracy in Armenia

The Congress,

1. Recalling:

a. Article 2 (1) b of the Statutory Resolution of the Congress (2000) 1, which states that "the CLRAE shall submit proposals to the Committee of Ministers in order to promote local and regional democracy";

b. Article 2 (3) of the Statutory Resolution of the Congress (2000) 1, which states that "the Congress shall prepare on a regular basis country-by-country reports on the situation of local and regional democracy in all member states which have applied to join the Council of Europe, and shall ensure, in particular, that the principles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government are implemented" and;

c. Resolutions 31 (1996), 58 (1997) and 106 (2000) of the Congress setting out guiding principles for drawing up such reports;

2. Bearing in mind:

a. Armenia's commitments when joining the Council of Europe with regard to the development of local democracy;

b. the Explanatory memorandum CPL (10) 8 Part II on local democracy in Armenia prepared by Mr Christopher Newbury (United Kingdom, Chamber of Local Authorities), following two official visits to Armenia (19-22 June 2003 and on 2-5 October 2003);

c. the report on local democracy in Armenia adopted on 29 February 2000 by the Bureau of the Congress (rapporteurs: Mr Claude Casagrande, France, and Mr Gabor Kolumban, Romania);

3. Thanking:

a. Mrs Natalia Vutova, Special Representative of the Secretary General in Armenia, the Information Office of the Council of Europe in Yerevan and the Association of Local Communities of Armenia for their valuable assistance in the preparation of the 2003 Report;

b. the Office of the President of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry for Territorial Administration, the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, various Associations of local self-government and international organisations represented in Armenia, members of the Armenian delegation to the CLRAE and the provincial governments of Tavush and Lori, for their help in preparing the Report and for their valuable comments during the CLRAE visits;

4. Instructs its Institutional Committee of the Chamber of Local Authorities to monitor the development of local self-government in Armenia over the coming years;

5. Asks:

a. the Institutional Committee to organise in 2004 in Armenia in co-operation with the Association of Local Communities of Armenia a conference on the development of local self-government in this country;

b. its Bureau to look in co-operation with the Armenian delegation to the Congress into a possibility of organizing a conference on transborder co-operation between Armenian local communities and local authorities of the neighbouring countries;

c. its Bureau to look in co-operation the European Association of Local Democracy Agencies into a possibility of opening a Local Democracy Agency in Armenia.

¹ Debated and approved by the Chamber of Local Authorities on 25 November 2003 and adopted by the Standing Committee of the Congress on 26 November 2003 (see doc. CPL (10) 8, draft Resolution, presented by Mr C. Newbury, rapporteur).