

Press Release

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Halvdan Skard: "The Congress did not observe the local elections in Abkhazia as they have violated the principle of the territorial integrity of Georgia"

Strasbourg, 12.02.2007 – The Congress did not send observers to the local elections which were held in Abkhazia on 11 February, followed by parliamentary elections on 4 March.

Congress President Halvdan Skard said that the holding of these elections violated the principle of the territorial integrity of Georgia. As a result, the elections were incompatible with European values and standards in this field. He also called on the Georgian authorities to deploy all their efforts to guarantee stability in the area and to reach a peaceful solution to the conflict in Abkhazia.

The Congress had observed the local elections in Georgia on 5 October 2006 and had concluded that they generally upheld individual freedoms, but had nonetheless emphasised that a greater distinction needed to be made between the authorities and the ruling party.

Halvdan Skard : « Le Congrès n'a pas observé les élections locales en Abkhazie qui contredisent le principe de l'intégrité territoriale de la Géorgie »

Strasbourg, 12.02.2007 - Le Congrès n'a pas envoyé de mission d'observation des élections locales qui ont eu lieu le 11 février 2007 en Abkhazie et qui seront suivies par des élections parlementaires le 4 mars.

En effet, « la tenue de ces élections contredit le principe de l'intégrité territoriale de la Géorgie et, en conséquence, cette procédure électorale n'est pas conforme aux valeurs et aux standards européens en la matière » a déclaré Halvdan Skard, Président du Congrès. Il a aussi invité les autorités géorgiennes à mettre tout en œuvre pour essayer de garantir la stabilité dans la zone et de résoudre le conflit en Abkhazie de façon pacifique.

Le Congrès avait observé les élections locales organisées en Géorgie le 5 octobre 2006 et avait conclu au respect général des libertés fondamentales, en soulignant toutefois l'insuffisante séparation entre les autorités publiques et le parti au pouvoir.

The Congress has two chambers, the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions. It brings together 315 full and 315 substitute members representing more than 200 000 European territorial communities. President of the Congress Halvdan Skard (Norway, SOC), President of the Chamber of Regions: Yavuz Mildon (EPP/CD, Turkey), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities : Ian Micallef (Malta, EPP/CD). Political Groups : Socialist Group (SOC), Group of the European People's Party – Christian Democrats (EPP/CD), Independent and Liberal Democrat Group (ILDG).