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## Local and regional democracy in the United Kingdom

Strasbourg, 26 March 2014 – The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe has examined a report on the situation of local and regional democracy in the United Kingdom at its 26th session. The Congress rapporteurs Angelika Kordfelder (Germany SOC) and Alexander Uss (Russia, EPP/CCE) expressed satisfaction that, on the whole, the situation of local and regional democracy in the United Kingdom fulfilled the commitments entered into by that country under the European Charter of Local Self-Government.

However, they regretted that local self-government was not constitutionally or legislatively enshrined in the United Kingdom and noted that local and regional authorities did not have adequate financial resources.

The Congress recommends that the United Kingdom authorities develop more institutionalised consultation arrangements for local government and take steps to reduce the financial constraints on local authorities resulting from cuts and indebtedness.

Furthermore, it encourages the United Kingdom authorities to review their declaration on the scope of the Charter in order to include the Greater London Authority and Northern Ireland.

The United Kingdom ratified the European Charter of Local Self-Government in 1998. The countries having ratified the Charter are bound by its provisions. The Charter imposes respect for a minimum core of principles that form the first European foundation for local self-government. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe ensures that those principles are respected.

[Report CG\(26\)10](#)

More information : [File 26th Session](#)

The Congress has two chambers, the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions. It brings together 318 full and 318 substitute members representing more than 200 000 European territorial communities.

President of the Congress: Herwig Van Staa (Austria, EPP/DC), President of the Chamber of Regions: Nataliya Romanova (Ukraine, IDLG), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities: Jean-Claude Frécon (France, SOC)  
Political Groups: Socialist Group (SOC), Group of the European People's Party – Christian Democrats (EPP/CD), Independent and Liberal Democrat Group (ILDG), European Conservatives & Reformists Group (ECR)