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## Local and regional democracy in Ukraine

Strasbourg 31 October 2013 - The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe examined a monitoring report on local and regional democracy in Ukraine subsequent to two monitoring visits made in May 2012 and April 2013. Congress rapporteurs Marc Cools (Belgium, ILDG) and Pascal Mangin (France, EPP/CCE) welcomed the positive initiatives taken by the Ukrainian government in view of a substantial territorial reform. Marc Cools welcomed the process of consultation of local authorities established in the context of this reform. However, he regretted that despite strong statements of intent made at the highest state level for its implementation, it was not going ahead at the desired pace.

The Congress report also noted that there was no clear division of competences between the heads of administrations appointed by the central government at the local level, and the elected representatives of the territorial communities, which was liable to cause duplications in the exercise of powers and interference from the central level.

The Congress recommends that the Ukrainian authorities review their legislation in order to remove the restrictions placed on the competences of local communities, and equip them with more financial autonomy.

"We encourage the Ukrainian authorities to hold elections as soon as possible in towns where the office of mayor has remained vacant over a long period owing to a gap in the electoral law," Pascal Mangin added.

Finally, the Congress calls on the Ukrainian authorities to ratify the Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority (CETS No. 207).

Video of the debate : [original](#) | [French](#) | [English](#)  
[Rapport CG\(25\)8PROV](#)

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)