

Specific terms of reference of the Committee of experts on the institutions of local and regional government (LR-GI)

1. **Name of Committee:** Committee of experts on local and regional government institutions (LR-GI)
2. **Type of Committee:** Committee of experts
3. **Source of terms of reference:** Committee of Ministers, on the proposal of the European Committee on Local and Regional Democracy (CDLR)

4. **Terms of reference:**

Having regard to:

- the Declaration and the Action Plan of the Third Summit of Heads of State and government of the Council of Europe which lays down, among the principal tasks of the Council of Europe, the strengthening of democracy, good governance and the rule of law, by taking, amongst others, the necessary steps to implement the Budapest Agenda for delivering good local and regional governance, which lists, inter alia, the challenges and actions in the area of democratic participation and public ethics at local and regional level (Paragraph I.3. of the Action Plan and Budapest/Valencia Agenda);
- Resolution Res (2005)47 on committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods;

The Committee, under the authority of the European Committee on Local and Regional Democracy (CDLR), and in relation with the implementation of project 2008/DGDPA/1397 "Sound institutional framework for local and regional democracy" of the Programme of Activities, and bearing in mind the criteria developed in document CM(2006)101 final, is instructed to:

Assist the CDLR in the implementation of all activities relating to the legal framework, institutional structure and transfrontier co-operation of local and regional government.

5. **Membership of the Committee:**

5.A. **Members:**

Governments of member States are entitled to appoint representatives of the highest possible rank and with particular work experience in the fields of competence of the committee, having regard to its agenda.

The Council of Europe budget will bear the travel and subsistence expenses for one representative for each of the following 19 member States: Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

5.B. **Participants:**

- (i) The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (Congress) may send representatives to meetings of the Committee, at the charge of its administrative budget and without the right to vote;
- (ii) The Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe may send representatives to meetings of the Committee, without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses.

5.C. Other participants:

- (i) The European Commission may send representatives to meetings of the Committee, without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses;
- (ii) The States with observer status with the Council of Europe (Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America) may send representatives to meetings of the Committee without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses;
- (iii) The following intergovernmental organisations may send representatives to meetings of the Committee without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses:
 - Benelux Economic Union;
 - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);
 - United Nations specialised Agencies.

5.D. Observers:

The following non-governmental organisations may send representatives to meetings of the Committee without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses:

- Assembly of European Regions (AER);
- Association of European Border Regions (AEBR);
- Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR);
- International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP).

6. Working structures and methods:

The Committee may have recourse to the services of consultants within the limits of available budgetary credits.

7. Duration:

These terms of reference will expire on 31 December 2008.