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Congress fact-finding mission to Georgia

Strasbourg, 26 February 2013 - A delegation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe will carry out a fact-finding mission to Georgia on 27 and 28 February 2013 to obtain information on the situation of local and regional democracy in this country since the last elections, held in October 2012. The delegation will examine, in particular, the allegations of pressure put on elected representatives and local authorities which could undermine local democracy and raise issues in the light of the European Charter of Local Self-Government. A complaint to this effect was sent by the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG) to the Congress at the beginning of February. The delegation is composed of Congress rapporteurs on Georgia Nigel MERMAGEN (United Kingdom, ILDG) and Helena PIHLAJASAARI (Finland, SOC), accompanied by Jean-Philippe BOZOULS, Executive Secretary of Congress's Chamber of Local Authorities.

The delegation should meet with Mikheil SAKASHVILI, President of Georgia, and will also hold meetings with Tengiz SHERGELASHVILI, Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, and with the Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Regional Policy, Self-Government and Mountainous regions.

Meetings are also scheduled with George UGULAVA, the mayor of Tbilisi, as well as with the mayors of Martvili, Abasha, Tetriskaro and Tsalka. The delegation will also exchange views with members of the Georgian National delegation to the Congress and representatives of the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG).

After a first monitoring visit was carried out from 11 to 13 June 2012, a draft report and recommendation on local and regional democracy in Georgia were approved by the Monitoring Committee of the Congress on 13 February 2013. The conclusions of this fact-finding mission will complement this text, which will be submitted to the Congress Session for adoption in March 2013.

Contact on the spot

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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)