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## **Ukraine ratifies the Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government**

Strasbourg, 9 September 2014 – On 2 September 2014, the Parliament of Ukraine (Verkhovna Rada) adopted the law on the ratification of the Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority by a majority of 260 votes. This is a positive step forward in the implementation of Recommendation 348, which the Congress adopted in 2013 following two monitoring visits to Ukraine, in May 2012 and April 2013.

"We welcome this ratification, which will make it possible to enhance local and regional democracy in Ukraine by guaranteeing that citizens' views are taken into account in public affairs at local level. This is an especially important development in the current context" said Congress President, Herwig van Staa. "The Congress has been keeping a close track on the development of local and regional democracy in Ukraine and will continue to offer its expertise to the Ukrainian authorities as part of a post-monitoring programme", he added.

Several post-monitoring meetings will be held at the end of 2014 and throughout 2015 with representatives of the Ukrainian government and local and regional authorities, European local elected representatives and experts. They will discuss three topics based on the Congress's recommendations, namely the transfer of competences to elected representatives, financial resources and the merger of local and regional entities and intermunicipal co-operation. The aim is to draw up a roadmap in agreement with the government and in co-operation with other interested parties, which will be officially presented to the Minister for Regional Development in spring 2015.

*Ukraine ratified the European Charter of Local Self-Government on 11 September 1997 and its Additional Protocol on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority on 2 September 2014. Countries which have ratified the Charter are bound by its provisions. The Charter imposes compliance with a minimum number of rights, which are the European bedrock of local self-government. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe ensures respect for these principles.*

[Recommendation 348 \(2013\)](#)  
[File on the Congress and Ukraine](#)

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 Local Authorities: Jean-Claude Frécon (France, SOC), President of the Chamber of Regions: Nataliya Romanova (Ukraine, IDLG)  
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)