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Local and regional democracy in Norway

Strasbourg, 27 March 2015 – The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe adopted a recommendation on local and regional democracy in Norway on 26 March 2015, following a fact-finding visit to that country by the rapporteurs, Xavier Cadoret, (France, L, SOC) and Guilherme Pinto (Portugal, R, SOC) from 9 to 11 September 2014. The Congress debate was attended by Jardar Jensen, Norwegian Secretary of State for local government and modernisation.

The rapporteurs welcomed the level of local and regional democracy in Norway, which was satisfactory on the whole, as demonstrated by the extensive powers and financial resources of local and regional authorities (counties and municipalities).

However, the adopted text expresses concerns of the Congress on several points which the Norwegian authorities are invited to address. In particular, these relate to incorporating the principles of local self-government into legislation and, if practicable, into the constitution, guaranteeing the full exercise of local authorities' right to judicial remedies against decisions taken by the state administration and re-assessing the current situation of administrative supervision of local authorities' own competences.

The recommendation also calls on the Norwegian authorities to implement the ongoing reform – particularly the current review of the Local Government Act - in a manner that ensures that concomitant finances are provided for any new tasks delegated to local and regional authorities and that control over local authorities is limited solely to one of lawfulness so as to avoid a recentralisation of transferred powers.

Norway signed and ratified the European Charter of Local Self-Government on 26 May 1989. The Charter entered into force in respect of Norway on 1 September 1989, with no declaration or reservation being made. It ratified the Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority on 16 December 2009.

More information :

- [Report CG/2015\(28\)5PROV](#)
- [Video of the debate débat](#)

Presentation by rapporteurs :

- [Xavier Cadoret, \(France, L, SOC\)](#)
- [Guilherme Pinto \(Portugal, R, SOC\)](#)
- [File « 28th Session of the Congress »](#)

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: Jean-Claude Frécon (France, SOC), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities: Anders Knape (Sweden, EPP/CCE), President of the Chamber of Regions: Gudrun Mosler-Törnström (Austria, 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)

