

## CONGRESS POST-MONITORING VISIT TO ARMENIA

Yerevan  
(1 October 2015)

### PROGRAMME

#### Congress delegation:

#### Rapporteurs:

Mr Nigel MERMAGEN	Rapporteur on Local Democracy Chamber of Local Authorities, ILDG <sup>1</sup> Member of the Monitoring Committee of the Congress
Mrs Gunn-Marit HELGESEN <sup>2</sup>	Rapporteur on Regional Democracy Chamber of the Regions, EPP/CCE <sup>3</sup>

#### Congress Secretariat:

Mr Jean-Philippe BOZOULS	Head of the Department of Statutory Activities Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Local Authorities
Ms Stéphanie POIREL	Secretary to the Monitoring Committee of the Congress

#### Expert:

Mr Jens WOELK	Expert on Armenia for the Monitoring Committee
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The working languages, for which interpretation is provided are Armenian and English

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<sup>1</sup> Independent Liberal and Democratic Group

<sup>2</sup> Mrs Helgesen succeeds Ms Ludmilla Sfirloaga (Romania, R, Soc) who stepped down as co-rapporteur on 10.02.2014

<sup>3</sup> European People's Party Group in the Congress

## Meeting with:

Mr Vache TERTERYAN, First Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations

Mr Ashot GILOYAN, Head of the Department of Local Self - Government

Mr Artur SOGHOMONYAN, Head of the Department of Community Service Affairs

Ms Lilit SAROYAN, Head of the Division of International Programs in the field of Territorial Administration and Local Self-Governance, Department of Foreign Relations

Mr Hovhannes OHANYAN, Head of the Division of Administrative Control, Department of Territorial Administration and Development

**Thursday 1 October 2015  
Yerevan**

Venue: Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations

**The meeting will take the form of a round table, with a questions and answers style of discussion, and will be moderated by the Congress' co-rapporteurs.**

Introduction of the participants, outline of the Congress' monitoring visits

## Post-Monitoring Unit on subsidiarity

### Local democracy in Armenia - RECOMMENDATION 351 (2014)

*7. In the light of this, the Congress recommends that the Armenian authorities:*

*a. review the legislation in order to better implement the principle of subsidiarity and to allow the local authorities to regulate and manage a substantial share of public affairs under their own responsibility and in the interest of the local population;*

*b. improve and strengthen territorial governance in order to make it more effective through, for instance, inter-municipal co-operation or mergers of small communities and to mitigate the over-centralisation of public administration;*

*f. set up a formal consultation mechanism in domestic law, to ensure that local authorities and national associations of local authorities are duly consulted on matters which concern them directly "in due time and in an appropriate way", and that central government decisions are accessible to local elected representatives and their associations, which should be considered in practice as privileged and active partners;*

*g. ensure that the administrative supervision of local authorities is limited to a review of the legality of the local community's action, and that the controlling authority's intervention is kept in proportion to the importance of the interests which it is intended to protect;*

Update of the current situation of the reforms in Armenia (the Constitution, decentralisation, etc) by a Representative from the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations

Discussion on:

- Territorial governance (7b);
- Consultation (7f)
- Administrative supervision (7g);

Continuation of discussion on:

- *Territorial governance (7b);*
- *Consultation (7f)*
- *Administrative supervision (7g);*

### **Post-Monitoring Unit on local finances**

#### **Local democracy in Armenia - RECOMMENDATION 351 (2014)**

*7. In the light of this, the Congress recommends that the Armenian authorities:*

*h. increase the “own” financial resources of local authorities as required above (see 7. a and c);*

*i. improve the efficiency of the tax mechanism in municipalities, by allowing them the right to determine the rate within reasonable limits set by law in order to strengthen their autonomy;*

*j. review the financial equalisation mechanism to implement it in a more appropriate way, and develop measures for the allocation of equalisation grants on the basis of fiscal capacities and financial needs of communities, in order to correct the effects of the unequal distribution of potential sources of finance, in accordance with Article 9.5 of the Charter;*

Discussion on:

- *Financial equalisation (Congress Recommendation 7h),*
- *The tax mechanism (Rec 7i),*
- *Own financial resources (Rec 7j);*

Key points of the future roadmap