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Council of Europe Congress to observe local elections in Ukraine

Strasbourg, 19.10.2015 - A delegation led by Gudrun Mosler-Törnström (Austria, SOC), Vice-President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, will undertake a visit to Ukraine from 22 to 26 October 2015 to observe the local elections scheduled for 25 October. The delegation, consisting of 57 observers from 25 Council of Europe member countries, will include members of the Congress, the EU Committee of the Regions and, for the first time, the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly.

These elections are the first to be held under the new legislation on local elections adopted on 14 July 2015, which, among other things, introduces a combination of three electoral systems. Furthermore, Ukraine has been engaged since August 2015 in the adoption and implementation of an ambitious decentralisation policy in the context of the ongoing constitutional reform relating to a change in the country's territorial structure.

On 22 and 23 October, information sessions will be held with various parties, including ambassadors, local and international NGOs, the media, representatives of associations of local authorities and experts on decentralisation and local self-government. Meetings will also be held with representatives of political parties and candidates. Lastly, the delegation will meet with the OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission on 23 October for a general briefing.

On election day, 25 October, the Congress delegation will send out 24 teams to observe voting throughout the country. The day before the ballot, the teams will meet the OSCE/ODIHR Long-Term Observers in order to gain a precise idea of the issues at stake in the observation areas, which include the cities of Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odessa, Dnipropetrovsk and Lviv and the regions of Ternopil, Tchernivtsi, Vinnytsia, Poltava, Rivne and Melitopol.

The mission will end with a joint press conference with OSCE/ODIHR in Kyiv on 26 October to deliver preliminary findings.

Congress reference documents :

- [Recommendation 359 \(2014\)](#)
- [Resolution 322 \(2011\)](#)
- [File « Observation of elections »](#)

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The Congress has two chambers, the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions. It brings together 324 full and 324 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 Knappe (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)