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Local democracy in Luxembourg: a model for local self-government

Strasbourg, 21 October 2015 – The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe adopted a recommendation on the situation of local democracy in Luxembourg on 21 October 2015, following a monitoring visit to the country by co-rapporteurs Dorin Chirtoacă (Moldova, EPP/CCE) and Marianne Hollinger (Switzerland, ILDG) from 3 to 5 March 2015. The debate took place in the presence of Dan Kersch, Luxembourg Minister of the Interior, Civil Service and Administrative Reform.

"Luxembourg is a perfect example of *de facto* and legal recognition of local self-government as laid down in the European Charter of Local Self-Government", said Marianne Hollinger. She welcomed the government's positive commitment to stepping up efforts made over the last several years to simplify administrative procedures, notably via the "Omnibus" bill.

Dorin Chirtoacă pointed out, however, that it was necessary to clearly demarcate the powers of the State and the communes and relax state administrative supervision of the communes' activities. He also stressed the need to provide the communes with enough of their own resources. "Since the last monitoring exercise, local authorities in Luxembourg are still awaiting a communal finance reform promised by the national authorities", he said.

Dan Kersch responded by saying: "The current Government firmly intends to carry out the communal finance reform at long last, on the one hand to iron out inequalities at the level of horizontal redistribution of revenues not allocated to the communes and, on the other hand, to give greater stability to communal finance".

The Luxembourg Government is also asked to review the staff recruitment policy for communes so that they can determine for themselves the kind of internal administrative structures they wish to have. Formalising the procedure for consultation of SYVICOL (association that represents local authorities in Luxembourg) by central government, which would co-ordinate the entire dialogue process, is also recommended by the Congress.

Finally, the Government is invited to sign and ratify the Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority (CETS no. 207) in the near future.

This is the second report concerning the monitoring of local democracy in Luxembourg since the country ratified the European Charter of Local Self-Government in 1987.

Luxembourg signed the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ETS No. 122), all provisions included, on 15 October 1985 and ratified it on 18 March 1987. The Charter entered into force in Luxembourg on 1 September 1988.

- [Report CPL/2015\(29\)5PROV](#)
- [Video of the speech by Dan Kersch, Luxembourg Minister of the Interior, Civil Service and Administrative Reform](#)
- [Speech by Marianne Hollinger \(Suisse, GILD\), Congress co-rapporteur](#)
- [Speech by Dorin Chirtoacă \(Moldova, PPE/CCE\), Congress co-rapporteur](#)
- [File 29th Session](#)

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.

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