



Recommendation 1629 (2003)¹

Future of democracy: strengthening democratic institutions

Parliamentary Assembly

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, referring to its Resolution 1353 (2003) on the future of democracy: strengthening democratic institutions, recommends that the Committee of Ministers:

1. identify the development of democratic standards and assistance in their implementation by member states as a priority sector for the Council of Europe's activities;
2. define precise and adequate programmes and allocate sufficient resources to the areas of education for democratic citizenship, training of young democratic leaders, and the media with a view to strengthening the understanding of democratic standards and processes;
3. enlarge the terms of reference of the Steering Committee on Local and Regional Democracy to cover democratic standards at all levels of government, or create a new committee with such a mandate;
4. analyse how far Article 3 (Right to free elections) of the Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights sufficiently reflects and guarantees the democratic standards developed by the Council of Europe;
5. consider how to ensure, in particular, that Article 3 guarantees free and equal elections of both, members of legislative bodies and the executive, where the latter are elected by the people through direct suffrage, as well as the right to stand as a candidate for elections;
6. call on Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Italy, Liechtenstein, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine to accede to the Council of Europe's Agreement establishing the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), which has been signed by all other member states.

1. Text adopted by the Standing Committee, acting on behalf of the Assembly, on 25 November 2003 (see [Doc. 9951](#), report of the Political Affairs Committee, rapporteur: Mr Wielowieyski).

