

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities



Monitoring Committee

Indicative list of questions¹ for the meeting of the CLRAE delegation and the Chair of the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Environment, Regional Planning and Local Government

- 1. How the principles of local and regional self-government guaranteed and how they are applied in practice? Do you consider the structure of Portuguese system of local and regional self-government to be efficient? In your opinion, what changes should be undertaken?**
- 2. The government has presented a program to reform the local administration: “Documento verde da reforma da administração local”. What are the main objectives of this programme?**
- 3. How is the procedure of consultations with local and regional authorities while decision-making organised? What contribution do you expect from the regional and local authorities to support the reform process? Do regional and local authorities have sufficient mechanisms to transport their interests into the parliamentary work?**
- 4. In practice, do the local authorities have full discretion to take initiatives within the scope of your competence? Does the reform process need a new distribution of powers between the state and the regional and local authorities? What are the most expensive powers of the municipalities and what does the state intend to ensure a sufficient level of public services on regional and local level?**
- 5. According to your experience, what are the principal areas to be improved i) as regards local and regional government finances, ii) as regards local and regional public administration? What is the most critical problem at local and regional level that you would like to raise in the light of the European Charter of Local Self-Government?**
- 6. The economic development of Portuguese municipalities differs very much with very strong economic increase in the Lisbon and Porto**

¹ Replies to these questions could be given to the delegation during the meeting; however, written replies would also be appreciated and can be sent after the visit by mail to the following address: congress.monitoring@coe.int

Region and low progress in other parts of the country. How do you tackle this problem with a view to maintain a more balanced economic development?

- 7. What are the consequences of the joint EU/IMF Economic Adjustment Program of summer 2011 on the existing territorial structures, powers and the organisational set of local and regional self-government in Portugal?**
- 8. Does the Parliament entrust the Government to work out a coherent analysis of the effects of the Adjustment Programme on the scope of local and regional self-government?**
- 9. EU Cohesion Funds are rather important for Portugal. What are your intentions for the next multiannual Framework 2014-2020 ? Do you have worked out a common position with the regions and the local associations ?**