

# Press Release

## Council of Europe Press Division

Ref: 310a06

Tel: +33 (0)3 88 41 25 60

Fax: +33 (0)3 88 41 39 11

[pressunit@coe.int](mailto:pressunit@coe.int)

internet: [www.coe.int/press](http://www.coe.int/press)



46 members

Albania  
Andorra  
Armenia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Belgium  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
Georgia  
Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Ireland  
Italy  
Latvia  
Liechtenstein  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Moldova  
Monaco  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Russia  
San Marino  
Serbia and Montenegro  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"  
Turkey  
Ukraine  
United Kingdom

## **“We can no longer accept divided or ghost towns”, says Congress President**

Strasbourg, 29.05.2006 – “We can no longer accept situations in Europe where divided towns or ghost towns exist, stated Giovanni Di Stasi, President of the Congress of local and regional authorities, after his official visit to Cyprus. “This state of division is harmful to the quality of life of Cypriot citizens, whichever community they belong to,” he stressed.

The visit was devoted to discussions concerning possibilities of lasting and permanent involvement of local representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community in the work of the Congress.

During his meeting with the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Tassos Papadopoulos, the President of the Congress also raised the question of stronger involvement of Cypriot citizens and local authorities in resolving the situation there. “Our fellow citizens and the municipalities should perform a more active, constructive and complementary part in this process, thereby allowing us to rebuild in time the necessary mutual confidence between the island’s Greek and Turkish communities,” the President of the Congress concluded. “I should like all parties to enter into a constructive dialogue.”

On 25 May Giovanni Di Stasi also met the Minister of the Interior, the country’s delegation to the Congress, the representatives of the Unions of Cyprus Municipalities and Communities, and the political leaders of the Turkish Cypriot community. The question of the latter’s representation in the Congress will be on the agenda of the 13<sup>th</sup> plenary session in connection with the Resolution on the credentials of national delegations.

To receive our press releases by e-mail, contact : [Council.of.Europe.Press@coe.int](mailto:Council.of.Europe.Press@coe.int)

**A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 46 member states.**