

Press Release

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President of the Council of Europe Congress welcomes the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the Grameen Bank

Strasbourg, 13.10.2006 – Following the decision of the Swedish Academy to award the Nobel Peace Prize to Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank, Halvdan Skard, President of the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, welcomed the fact that the work of the Grameen Bank in providing micro-credits has been recognised at the world level.

"Local and regional authorities of European territorial communities and the Council of Europe Congress have always been strong supporters of micro-credits as a means of boosting local economy, employment and living standards," he said. "The award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the Grameen Bank is a recognition of the importance of micro-credits for the development of sustainable communities, and will certainly serve as an example for other financial institutions to follow," stressed President Skard.

Le Président du Congrès du Conseil de l'Europe salue l'attribution du prix Nobel de la Paix à la Grameen Bank

Strasbourg 13.10.2006 – Suite à l'attribution par l'Académie suédoise du prix Nobel de la paix à Muhammad Yunus et à la Grameen Bank, Halvdan Skard, le Président du Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe a salué le fait que le travail de la Grameen Bank dans le domaine du micro-crédit ait été reconnu au niveau mondial.

« Les pouvoirs locaux et régionaux des collectivités territoriales européennes et le Congrès du Conseil de l'Europe ont toujours été de fervents partisans du micro-crédit comme moyen de soutenir l'économie locale, l'emploi et le niveau de vie », a-t-il déclaré. « L'attribution du prix Nobel de la paix à la Grameen Bank est la reconnaissance de l'importance du micro-crédit pour le développement de collectivités durables, et servira certainement d'exemple à suivre pour d'autres institutions financières » a souligné le Président Skard.

The Congress has two chambers, the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions.
It brings together 315 full and 315 substitute members representing more than 200 000 European territorial communities.
President of the Congress Halvdan Skard (Norway, SOC), President of the Chamber of Regions: Yavuz Milden (EPP/CD, Turkey),
President of the Chamber of Local Authorities: Ian Micallef (Malta, EPP/CD).
Political Groups : Socialist Group (SOC), Group of the European People's Party – Christian Democrats (EPP/CD),
Independent and Liberal Democrat Group (ILDG).