

# Press Release

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### **Congress autumn session: Round table on the Middle East, worldwide decentralisation process and territorial democracy in Albania, Slovakia and Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Strasbourg, 10.11.2006 – The Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities will hold its autumn session from 13 to 15 November 2006 in Moscow, in the framework of the Russian Federation's Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers.

On 14 November, the session will be opened in the President Hotel in Moscow by Congress President Halvdan Skard and Sergey Mironov, Chairman of the Federation Council, the upper chamber of the Russian Parliament, followed by debates on national projects for a sustainable socio-economic development at local and regional level and on the Russian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers. First Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov are expected to make statements during those respective debates. Yuri Luzhkov, Mayor of Moscow, will also address the session.

The session will examine reports and approve draft recommendations on decentralisation and strengthening of local and regional authorities worldwide, taking into account draft guidelines of UN-HABITAT, on territorial democracy in Albania and in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and on regional democracy in Slovakia.

During the session, a round table entitled "European Cities – how to support the Middle East?" will be held with the participation of representatives from the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities, the Union of Local Authorities in Israel, the Arab Towns Organisation, and the Municipal Alliance for Peace in the Palestine.

Special file: [www.coe.int/congress-session](http://www.coe.int/congress-session)

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