

Press Release

Communication Unit of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Ref: 694b06

Tel: : +33 3 90 21 49 36

Fax : +33 3 88 41 27 51

congress.com@coe.int

www.coe.int/congress



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Congress President welcomes the decision of Russian authorities to halt draft law on regional capitals

Moscow, 14.11.2006 – "I welcome the decision of the Russian authorities announced at this session to go against the draft law which would abolish the system of elected mayors in regional capitals," Halvdan Skard, President of the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, said today following the intervention of First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev at the Congress Autumn Session.

President Skard also congratulated the Russian authorities on the successful Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, which is coming to a close on 15 November, and which has been actively supporting Congress initiatives. "This shows the importance which the Russian government attaches to territorial communities, in recognition of their growing role," he said.

Press contacts on the spot:

Dmitri Marchenkov, Head of the Congress Communication Unit

Mobile: +33 (0)6 75 65 03 49 ; dmitri.marchenkov@coe.int

Estelle Steiner, Press officer, Mobile: +33 (0)6 08 46 01 57 ; estelle.steiner@coe.int

Le Président du Congrès se félicite de la décision des autorités russes de ne pas donner suite à un projet de loi sur les capitales régionales

Moscou, 14.11.2006 – « Je me félicite de la décision des autorités russes, annoncée lors de cette session, de s'opposer au projet de loi qui supprimerait le système des maires élus dans les capitales régionales » a déclaré aujourd'hui Halvdan Skard, Président du Congrès des Pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe, à la suite de l'intervention du premier vice-Premier ministre, Dimitry Medvedev, à la session d'automne du Congrès.

Le Président Skard a aussi félicité les autorités russes qui président avec succès le Comité des Ministres jusqu'au 15 novembre, et qui ont activement soutenu les initiatives du Congrès. Pour lui, « cela montre l'importance que le gouvernement russe attache aux communautés territoriales dont il reconnaît le rôle croissant ».

Contacts presse sur place:

Dmitri Marchenkov, Chef de l'Unité de communication du Congrès

Mobile: +33 (0)6 75 65 03 49 ; dmitri.marchenkov@coe.int

Estelle Steiner, Attachée de presse

Mobile: +33 (0)6 08 46 01 57 ; estelle.steiner@coe.int

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).