

# Press Release

## Communication Unit of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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### Interreligious dialogue: what can local authorities do to promote it?

46 members

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Strasbourg, 21.11.2006 – The Culture and Education Committee of the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is organising a conference on “Local Authorities and Religions: Strategies to consolidate interreligious dialogue”, to be held in Montchanin, (France), on 23 and 24 November.

The conference will bring together scholars and researchers involved in fostering intercultural and interfaith dialogue, representatives of international organisations and religious NGOs. The discussions will focus on the role of local and regional authorities in developing interreligious dialogue and on the exchange of good practices, including reflections on the French model of laicity and on the construction of mosques in Europe, training of clergy, teaching religious faith in school, and financing places of worship.

At the end of the conference the participants will meet with the ecumenical community of Taizé and have an exchange of views with Brother Alois, Prior of the community.

### Dialogue interreligieux : Quel peut être le rôle des autorités locales dans sa promotion ?

Strasbourg, 21.11.2006 – La commission Culture et Education du Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe organise une conférence sur « Pouvoirs locaux et religions : quelles stratégies pour consolider le dialogue interreligieux ? », qui se tiendra à Montchanin, (France), les 23 et 24 novembre.

La Conférence rassemblera des universitaires et chercheurs impliqués dans la promotion du dialogue interculturel et interreligieux, des représentants d'organisations internationales et d'organisations religieuses. Les discussions porteront sur le rôle des autorités locales et régionales dans le développement du dialogue interreligieux et l'échange de bonnes pratiques, ainsi que sur la réflexion sur le modèle de laïcité français et la construction de mosquées en Europe, la formation du clergé, l'enseignement du fait religieux, et le financement des lieux de culte.

A l'issue de la Conférence, les participants rencontreront la communauté œcuménique de Taizé et s'entretiendront avec frère Alois, prieur de la communauté.

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 Mildon (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**).