

Press Release

Communication Unit of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Ref:091a07

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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Council of Europe Congress to observe local elections in Albania

Strasbourg, 09.02.2007 – Following the pre-electoral mission organised by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in Albania last January, a delegation of the Congress is to observe the local elections which will take place in the country on 18 February.

On 15, 16 and 17 February, the delegation, lead by Congress Vice-President Mr Jean-Claude Frécon, will meet representatives of the Government, Parliament, Central Electoral Commission, Local authorities as well as leaders of the major political forces. The delegation will also meet representatives of the civil society, of the international community as well as domestic and other international observer organisations.

The Congress delegation will present its preliminary findings at a joint **press conference** with other international observer organizations which will be hold **in Tirana on 19 February at 2 pm at the Tirana International Hotel.**

Membership of the delegation:

Socialist group:

Jean-Claude Frécon, Senator (France, L), Head of the Delegation
Sue Davis, Councillor of Telford and Wrekin Council (United Kingdom, L)
Véronique Moreira, Regional Councillor of Rhône Alpes (France, R)
Fabio Pellegrini, Consigliere comunale, Rapolano Terme (SI) (Italy, L)
Helena Pihlajasaari, Member of Regional Council of Keski-Suomi (Finland, R)
Paolo Rondelli, Municipal Councillor of San Marino (San Marino, R)

EPP/CD group:

Joseph Borg, Councillor of Mellieha (Malta, R)
Mikhel Juhkami, Chair of Rakvere City Council (Estonia, L)
Pascal Mangin, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg (France, L)
Giorgi Mosidze, Former Member of Tbilisi City Council, Chairman, Faction "New Rights" (Georgia, R)
Michael Neureiter, Vice President, Regional Parliament of Salzburg (Austria, R)

Liberal group (ILDG):

Giorgi Masalkini, Member of Supreme Assembly, Autonomous Republic of Adjara (Georgia, R)

Non registered (NR) :

Nathalie Aureglia-Caruso, First Deputy of the Mayor of Monaco (Monaco, L)

Congress Secretariat :

Jean-Philippe Bozouls, Head of Service, Secretary of the Chamber of local authorities of the Congress
Elena Piscopo, Project Manager, Co-ordination of election observation

Contact: Dmitri Marchenkov, Head of the Congress Press Unit

Tel: +33 3 88 41 38 44 ; Email: dmitri.marchenkov@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 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**).