

Press Release

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Congress President saddened over the mining disaster in Kemerovo

Strasbourg, 20.03.2007 – "I am deeply saddened by the terrible tragedy which has occurred in the Russian region of Kemerovo," said today Halvdan Skard, President of the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, following a methane gas explosion in the Ulyanovskaya mine which cost the lives of more than 100 miners.

"On behalf of the Congress, I wish to convey my heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those who perished, and to express our solidarity with the people and authorities of Kemerovo, and our hopes that the miners still missing will be found alive," he said.

"The Congress has particularly close relations with the region of Kemerovo. The head of the Russian delegation to the Congress, Svetlana Orlova, represents this region in the Federation Council, the upper chamber of the Russian parliament, and this is also why this tragic event affects us personally so profoundly," said President Skard.

Le Président du Congrès fait part de sa tristesse après la catastrophe minière de Kemerovo

Strasbourg, 20.03.2007 – « Je suis profondément attristé par la terrible tragédie qui s'est produite dans la région de Kemerovo, en Russie, » a déclaré aujourd'hui Halvdan Skard, Président du Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe, après le coup de grisou qui a fait plus d'une centaine de victimes dans la mine d'Oulianovskaïa.

« Au nom du Congrès, j'exprime mes plus sincères condoléances aux familles et aux proches des victimes. Je tiens à assurer la population et les autorités de Kemerovo de notre solidarité. Nous espérons vivement que les mineurs toujours portés disparus seront retrouvés vivants », a-t-il dit.

« Le Congrès entretient des relations particulièrement étroites avec la région de Kemerovo. La chef de la délégation russe au Congrès, Svetlana Orlova, représente cette région au Conseil de la Fédération, qui est la chambre haute du parlement russe ; c'est pourquoi nous ressentons d'autant plus durement cette tragédie », a ajouté 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).