

Press Release

Communication Unit of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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Congress monitoring visit to Croatia

Strasbourg, 17.04.2007 – From 18 to 20 April, a delegation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe will be going to Zagreb and Vukovar in Croatia to monitor the state of local and regional democracy in this country.

The delegation will meet high-level government representatives, including Božidar Kalmeta, Minister of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development, Antun Palarić and Pavao Matičić, State Secretary and Deputy State Secretary at the Central State Office for Administration.

The delegation will have meetings with parliamentarians and local elected representatives, including Zvonimir Mršić, President of the Parliament Committee for Local and Regional Self-Government, as well as Đuđa Adlešić et Krno Peronja, Vice-presidents of this Commission.

It will also be meeting Nedjeljka Škarić, Mayor of Šibenik, Ante Sanader Prefect of the Split – Dalmatian County, and representatives from the City of Zagreb including Tatjana Holjevac, President of the City Assembly.

Finally, the delegation program will talk with representatives of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia, including its Vice-President Jasna Omejec.

Composition of the delegation:

Karsten Behr (Germany, EPP/CD, Chamber of Regions)
Cees Bijl (The Netherlands, SOC, Chamber of Local Authorities)
Prof. Chris Himsworth (United Kingdom, consultant, member of the Group of Independent Experts on the Charter of Local Self-Government)
Almut Schröder (Congress Secretariat)
Lilit Nikoghosyan (Congress Secretariat)

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**).