

Press Release

Communication Unit of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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Council of Europe Congress to observe local elections in Moldova

Strasbourg, 01.06.2007 – A delegation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe is visiting Moldova from 31 May to 4 June to observe local elections, which will take place on 3 June.

From 31 May to 2 June, the delegation, led by Susan Bolam (United Kingdom, R, EPP/CD), will meet representatives of Governmental authorities, Parliament, Central Electoral Commission as well as leaders of the major political forces. The delegation will also meet representatives of the civil society, of the international community in Moldova as well as domestic and other international observer organisations.

Nine teams of observers will be deployed throughout the country on Election Day. The Congress delegation will present its preliminary findings at a press conference which will be held in Chisinau on 4 June at 2 pm at the Leograd Hotel Convention Centre.

Membership of the delegation:

EPP/CD group:

Susan Bolam, Member, Northumberland County Council (United Kingdom, R) – Head of the Delegation

Joseph Borg, Councillor of Mellieha (Malta, R)

Mihkel Juhkami, Chair, Rakvere City Council (Estonia, L)

Dimitry Kuzmin, Mayor of the City of Stavropol (Russian Federation, L)

Michael Neureiter, Vice President, Regional Parliament of Salzburg (Austria, R)

Emin Yeritsyan, Councillor, Community of Parakar (Armenia, L)

Socialist group:

Brith Fäldt, Councillor, Pitea (Sweden, L)

Paolo Rondelli, Municipal Councillor of San Marino (San Marino, R)

Marie-Rose Koro, Regional Councillor of Basse-Normandie (France, R)

Ludmila Sfirloaga, Councillor, Prahova County Council (Romania, R)

Liberal group ILDG:

Joe Conway, Councillor, Tramore Town Council (Ireland, L)

Pauline Dee, Member, North Shropshire District Council (United Kingdom, L)

Hannu Kemppainen, Member, City Council of Kajaani (Finland, L)

Petru Radu Paun-Jura, Mayor of Simeria, Hunedoara County (Romania, L)

René Van Diessen, Member, Provincial Executive of Gelderland (Netherlands, R)

Ott Kasuri, Mayor of Harku Municipality (Estonia, Local)

Congress Secretariat :

Pilar Morales

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The Congress has two chambers, the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions. It brings together 318 full and 318 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**).