

# Press Release

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

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### **Heritage and modernity as a challenge for local authorities: symposium of the Congress and the City of Innsbruck**

Strasbourg, 28.09.2007 – Issues at stake in reconciling cultural heritage and modern architecture will be in the centre of discussions at a symposium on "Heritage and modernity", organised jointly by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the City of Innsbruck (Austria) on 4 and 5 October 2007.

The symposium, which will take place in the Congress Innsbruck Palace, will look at challenges faced by both local and federal authorities in balancing the needs for local economic development and the preservation of cultural heritage, to ensure the sustainability of the quality of urban life.

Historic towns and cities are currently under enormous pressure from the multiple needs of mobility, economics, residential demands, the service society and other developments. This makes the protection of the urban heritage a complex challenge, an assignment whose success depends on the support of all players, including the population, government, economic circles, representatives of contemporary architects and conservationists.

The participants will discuss in particular case studies of the province of Vorarlberg (Austria) and the city of Amsterdam, as examples of good practice in combining "tradition" and "modernity".

The symposium will be opened on Thursday 4 October at 9.00 am by Hilde Zach, Mayor of Innsbruck and President of the Congress Committee on Culture and Education, Elisabeth Zanon, First Vice-Governor of Tyrol, and Michael Franz, Head of the Culture Department of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture.

The symposium will be preceded by a meeting of the Congress' Committee on Culture and Education on Wednesday 3 October. The Committee will examine the preparation of reports on regional cultural identity, e-democracy at local level, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, and the integration of young people in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, among others.

More information: [www.coe.int/innsbruck](http://www.coe.int/innsbruck)

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).