

Press Release

Communication Unit of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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Presentation of the "Dosta!-Congress Prize for Municipalities"

Strasbourg, 16.11.2007 - As part of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities contribution to the Council of Europe's Dosta! campaign promoting Roma integration in Europe, the "Dosta!-Congress Prize for Municipalities" will be officially presented in Strasbourg (France) on Tuesday 20 November.

The prize has been awarded to three cities in south-east Europe: Vitez (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Banja Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Novi Sad (Serbia) in recognition of their commitment to promoting Roma political and social participation and combating discrimination. The prize highlights their work as examples of good practice.

The ceremony will take place in the Parliamentary Assembly lobby of the Palais de l'Europe at 12 noon, in the presence of Congress President Halvdan Skard, Deputy Secretary General Maud de Boer-Buquicchio and Council of Europe co-ordinator for Roma issues Henry Scicluna.

During the ceremony the Congress medal and a diploma will be presented to each of the three winners, which will be represented by Dragoljub Davidovic, Mayor of Banja Luka, Vlado Alilovic, Mayor of Vitez, and Snezana Mushitski, representing the City of Novi Sad.

There will also be the first public presentation of a CD produced for the Dosta! Campaign, "Music beyond prejudice, Romani variations on the European anthem". The CD includes several pieces based on the European anthem and one will be performed at the ceremony by the "Queen of the Gypsies", singer Esma Redzepova.

The awareness-raising campaign "Dosta! / Enough! Go beyond prejudice, discover the Roma" is part of a wider Council of Europe/European Commission project for Roma in South Eastern Europe, targeting Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and « the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ».

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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**).