

# Press Release

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

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## Congress to send a fact-finding mission to Latvia

Strasbourg, 20.11.2007 – Meeting in Strasbourg on 19 November, the Congress Bureau decided to send a fact-finding mission to Latvia at the earliest opportunity.

The decision was motivated by concerns about the situation of minorities and immigrants in that country, Latvia having the worst policies with regard to integration of migrants, according to an EU report.

In 2005, the Congress issued a report on the situation of "non-citizens" in Latvia and their participation in public life at local level. Since then, several invitations were sent to the Latvian government to come and discuss this issue with the Congress and each time they have failed to attend.

For more information: [www.coe.int/congress-session/](http://www.coe.int/congress-session/)

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## Le Congrès va envoyer une mission d'information en Lettonie

Strasbourg, 20.11.2007 – Réuni à Strasbourg le 19 novembre, le Bureau du Congrès a décidé d'envoyer le plus tôt possible une mission d'information en Lettonie.

Cette décision est motivée par les préoccupations que suscite la situation des minorités et des immigrés dans ce pays, la Lettonie appliquant la pire des politiques en matière d'intégration des migrants, selon un rapport de l'Union européenne.

En 2005, le Congrès a publié un rapport sur la situation des « non-citoyens » en Lettonie et leur participation à la vie publique au niveau local. Depuis lors, le gouvernement letton a été plusieurs fois invité à venir discuter de cette question avec le Congrès, mais il n'a jamais donné suite à ces invitations.

Pour plus d'informations : [www.coe.int/congress-session/fr](http://www.coe.int/congress-session/fr)

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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 Mildon (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**).