

# Press Release

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

Ref:817a07

Tel: : +33 3 90 21 49 36

Fax : +33 3 88 41 27 51

congress.com@coe.int

www.coe.int/congress



47 members

Albania  
Andorra  
Armenia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Belgium  
Bosnia and  
Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
Georgia  
Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Ireland  
Italy  
Latvia  
Liechtenstein  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Moldova  
Monaco  
Montenegro  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Russia  
San Marino  
Serbia  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
"The former Yugoslav  
Republic of  
Macedonia"  
Turkey  
Ukraine  
...

## Congress creates Ad Hoc Working Group on Interregional Cooperation

Strasbourg, 21.11.2007 – Recognising the growing importance of interregional cooperation for European development, the Congress has created a new Ad Hoc Working Group on the subject, which held its inaugural session in Strasbourg, France, on 21 November 2007.

Under its terms of reference, the Group is responsible for following the Congress' activities in the field of interregional and transfrontier cooperation, and maintain and develop cooperation with the different Congress bodies – notably its statutory committees – on activities related to interregional cooperation. It is also tasked with supporting the implementation of instruments which provide the legal framework of inter-territorial cooperation, and the Adriatic Euroregion. Finally, the Group will continue the activities to create a Black Sea Euroregion, and initiate a reflection on the possibility of creating Euroregions in other geographically vulnerable areas.

At its first meeting, the Group elected Karl-Heinz Lambertz (Belgium, SOC) its President. Karl-Heinz Lambertz, Minister-President of the Germanophone Community of Belgium, is a representative of the Chamber of Regions and Vice-President of the Committee on Culture and Education. He is also Congress Rapporteur on transfrontier cooperation.

Among other items on the Group's agenda is an overview of Congress activities concerning legal instruments that can facilitate interregional and cross-border cooperation, as well as the intergovernmental activities of the Council of Europe and activities of its Parliamentary Assembly. The Group will also decide on its work programme and priorities for 2008-2009.

The Ad Hoc Working Group is made up of 12 members. The Parliamentary Assembly is also invited to participate. A number of partner organisations enjoy observer status with the Group: the Assembly of European Regions (AER), the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), the European Network of Training Organisations for Local and Regional Authorities (ENTO), the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR), and the Adriatic Euroregion.

### Composition of the Working Group

Varuzhan NERSISYAN (Armenia)  
Michael NEUREITER (Austria)  
Karl-Heinz LAMBERTZ (Belgium)  
Karsten BEHR (Germany)  
Carlo ANDREOTTI (Italy)  
Claudette ABELA BALDACCHINO (Malta)  
Odd Arild KVALÖY (Norway)  
Anatoly SALTYSKOV (Russian Federation)  
Hans Ulrich STÖCKLING (Switzerland)  
Nataliya ROMANOVA (Ukraine)  
Susan BOLAM (United Kingdom)

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).