

# Press Release

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

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### Congress to observe 2<sup>nd</sup> round of mayoral elections in Kosovo

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Strasbourg, 07.12.2007 – A Congress delegation, including also a representative of the EU Committee of the Regions, will observe the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of mayoral elections in Kosovo on 8 December 2007.

The delegation, headed by Congress Vice-President Ludmila Sfirloaga (Romania, SOC), will be deployed in Mitrovica and Prizren, observe the polling on Election Day, and issue its preliminary findings on Sunday 9 December. Members of the delegation will have meetings with Sazan Ibrahim, Executive Director of the Association of Kosovo Municipalities, Joachim Rucker from the UN Mission in Kosovo, Markku Laamanen, Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, and Jonas Jonsson, Head of the ICO Mission in Kosovo.

On the eve of the elections, Head of the Mission Ludmila Sfirloaga made the following statement:

"The 10th December will be a crucial day in the history of Kosovo. When the question of the status is decided, one of the most important challenges for the new government will be the development of institutions of local democracy in Kosovo. The Congress, faithful to its commitment to promoting a style of local self-government that meets the needs of the citizens wherever they may be, stands ready to assist and accompany Kosovo in the achievement of those goals."

### Composition of the delegation

#### Socialist group / Groupe socialiste : 3 members / 3 membres

- Ludmila Sfirloaga, Councillor, Prahova County Council (Romania/Roumanie, R), **Head of the delegation**
- Paolo Rondelli, Municipal Councillor of San Marino (San Marino/Saint Marin, R)
- Dominique Ronga, delegated to the interregional relations and the decentralised co-operation, Vice-President of the Regional Council of Lorraine (France, R)

#### EPP/CD group / Groupe PPE/DC: 2 members / 2 membres

- Joseph Borg, Councillor of Mellieha (Malta/Malte, R)
- Michael Neureiter, Vice President, Regional Parliament of Salzburg (Austria/Autriche, R)

#### Non registered NR / Non inscrit NI: 1 member / 1 membre

- Véronique Moreira, Regional Councillor of Rhône Alpes (France, R)

#### Committee of the Regions

- **Ms Heini Utunen Ziv**, Member of the External Relations Commission, CoR (FI/ALDE)

#### Congress Secretariat

- Lilit Nikoghosyan, Co-Secretary of the Institutional Committee
- Gönül Kocak, Assistant

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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**).