

Press Release

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Congress decides to hold two plenary sessions as from 2009

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
United Kingdom

Strasbourg, 29.05.2008 - The Congress today adopted new Rules of Procedure replacing those adopted in 2002, in order to align them to the new Congress Charter adopted by the Committee of Ministers in May 2007. They provide the possibility of holding a second plenary session each year subject to availability of financial resources.

The Congress considered it important for the organisation of Congress activities to reflect the consolidation of its political role in a Europe where local democracy is an essential requirement for building a society founded on peace, democracy and stability. It was accordingly decided that as from 2009 two plenary sessions would be held in the spring and autumn.

The changes made to the Congress Rules of Procedure are necessary in order to clarify, improve or simplify the present rules, which is consistent with raising the political profile of the Congress. The new text also provides for new post titles within the Congress Secretariat (Secretary General of the Congress, Director of the Congress and Executive Secretaries of the Chambers of the Congress).

The Congress also decided to lay down more stringent criteria concerning the composition of the national delegations - in particular, a minimum of 30% of women in each delegation – making it the first European assembly to adopt ambitious gender parity rules.

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 : Yavuz Milden (Turkey, EPP/CD), President of the Chamber of Regions: Ludmila Sfirloaga (Romania, SOC),

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**).