Press Release

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Decision of Turkey's Constitutional Court will have a positive impact on local self-government, says Congress President

Strasbourg, 31.07.2008 – "The decision of the Turkish Constitutional Court not to disband the ruling Justice and Development Party will have a positive impact on the situation of local self-government in this country," stressed today Yavuz Mildon, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

"With this decision, the Turkish authorities can pursue constitutional reforms aimed at filling in the gaps for many outstanding issues and, in particular, increasing the capacities of local and regional authorities. It will also contribute to creating favourable conditions of preparations for local elections in Turkey, to be held in 2009," said President Mildon.

La décision de la Cour constitutionnelle de Turquie aura un impact positif sur l'autonomie locale, déclare le Président du Congrès

Strasbourg, 31.07.2008 – « La décision de la Cour constitutionnelle turque de ne pas dissoudre le Parti pour la justice et le développement, actuellement au pouvoir, aura un impact positif sur la situation de l'autonomie locale dans ce pays », a souligné aujourd'hui Yavuz Mildon, Président du Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe.

« Suite à cette décision, les autorités turques peuvent poursuivre les réformes constitutionnelles visant à combler de nombreuses lacunes et, en particulier, à renforcer les capacités des collectivités locales et régionales. Cette décision contribuera également à la création de conditions favorables pour les préparations des élections locales en Turquie en 2009 », a déclaré le Président Mildon.

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 Mildon (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**).