

# Press Release

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

Ref:580a08

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

### **Yavuz Mildon: "Involving young people in democratic processes must begin at grassroots level"**

Strasbourg, 11.08.2008 – "It is in our territorial communities where young people first experience democracy and feel most involved in democratic processes," stated Yavuz Mildon, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, on the occasion of International Youth Day, 12 August.

"The Congress strongly believes that much more could and should be done for greater involvement of young people and their increased active participation in local and regional life: This remains an important challenge for local and regional elected representatives.

"To this end, the Congress proposes lines of action to stimulate young people's interest, commitment and involvement in the life of our cities and regions, in particular by making full use of the European Charter on Participation of Young People in Municipal and Regional Life.

"The Charter offers local and regional politicians a flexible and coherent framework in the priority areas such as the promotion of youth employment, education and professional training, sport and leisure activities. Practical tools for youth participation such as training courses, advice centres, youth projects and using local media created for and by young people are strong components to encourage their active involvement. The setting up of a network of youth councils, as it has been done in Bosnia-Herzegovina, is one example of good practice at the national level.

"We must emphasise full integration of young people and promotion of their participation in community life and democratic decision-making processes. More youth involvement today means more democratic stability tomorrow," stressed President 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**).