

Press Release

Communication Unit of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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Congress President to visit Georgia

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"the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
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Strasbourg, 08.09.2008 – Yavuz Mildon, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, will visit Georgia from 9 to 11 September to assess the situation on the ground and discuss possible Congress' assistance to Georgian local authorities.

In Tbilisi, he will meet with Vice-Speaker of the Parliament Michael Machavariani, Minister of Regional Affairs David Tkeshelashvili, Mayor of Tbilisi Gigi Ugulava, Head of the Tbilisi City Council Zaal Samadashvili, and Director of European Integration of the Foreign Ministry David Jalagania. Meetings are also planned with Mamuka Abuladze, Head of the Georgian delegation to the Congress, members of the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG) and NALAG Executive Director David Melua, representatives of the Local Democracy Agency (LDA) based in Kutaisi, as well as Heads of Mission of OSCE, EU and UNHCR.

On Thursday 11 September, President Mildon will travel to Gori to visit areas affected by the conflict, and have meetings with Lado Vardzelashvili, Governor of Shida Kartli Region, and Zviad Khmaladze, Mayor of Gori, as well as members of the Georgian delegation to the Congress.

President Mildon will give a **press conference on Thursday 11 September at 8.00 pm** in the Office of the Council of Europe in Tbilisi (I. Chavchavadze avenue, 2nd Lane, 3a building).

The President will report on his visit to the Congress Bureau meeting on 19 September in Strasbourg.

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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 : 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**).