

Press Release

Communication Unit of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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"the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
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Congress delegation to observe municipal elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Strasbourg, 26.09.2008 – A delegation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe will pay a visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, from 3 to 6 October, to observe municipal elections on Sunday 5 October. The delegation will be headed by Marie-Rose Koro (France, SOC) and will also include four members of the Committee of the Regions of the European Union. As part of cooperation between the two institutions, the Committee of the Regions regularly participates in Congress' election observation missions.

Prior to election day, the delegation will meet with representatives of the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina, candidates standing for election and representatives of political parties, as well as members of the national delegation to the Congress and representatives of the international community.

On 5 October, the delegation will be deployed in different polling stations in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar, Srebrenica and Brcko to observe the voting and ballot counting.

A **press conference** will be held in the Neretva Meeting Room of Holiday Inn Hotel in Sarajevo on **Monday 6 October at 5 pm**.

Composition of the delegation

Council of Europe Congress:

Marie-Rose Koro, Regional Councillor of Basse-Normandie (France, SOC, R), Head of the Delegation

Mamuka Abuladze, Member, Rustavi City Council (Georgia, ILDG, L)

Mikhel Juhkami, Chair, Rakvere City Council (Estonia, EPP/CD, L)

Mehboob Khan, Member, Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council (United Kingdom, SOC, R)

Amy Koopmanschap, Mayor of Diemen (Netherlands, SOC, L)

Nigel Mermagen, Councillor, South Somerset District Council (United Kingdom, ILDG, L)

Jens Nilsson, Commissioner, Chair Municipal Executive Board, Östersund (Sweden, SOC, L)

Hana Richtermocova, Deputy Mayor, City of Horice (Czech Republic, NR, L)

Ali Taner, Mayor of Antonovo (Bulgaria, ILDG, R)

EU Committee of the Regions:

Joseph Cordina, Mayor of Xaghra (Malta/PES)

Martin Heatley, Member of Warwickshire County Council (United Kingdom/EPP)

Doreen Huddart, Member of Newcastle-upon-Tyne City Council (United Kingdom/ALDE)

Jerzy Zajakala, Mayor of Ljubjanka (Poland/UEN-EA)

Congress Secretariat:

Jean-Philippe Bozouls, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Local Authorities

Lilit Nikoghosyan, Co-Secretary of the Institutional Committee

Gönül Koçak, Secretariat

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**).