

# Press Release

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

Ref:787a08

Tel: : +33 3 90 21 49 36

Fax : +33 3 88 41 27 51

congress.com@coe.int

www.coe.int/congress



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...

## 2008 Prize of the Regions: seven European regions selected as winners

Strasbourg, 06.11.2008 – Seven European regions have been selected as winners of the first edition of the Prize of the Regions of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, which was launched during the plenary session in May 2008 in partnership with Dexia. The theme chosen for 2008 was "Promoting Social Cohesion through Economic Development".

At a meeting in Paris, the jury chaired by Yavuz Mildon, President of the Congress, awarded the Prize to five regions for the following projects:

- Berlin (Germany): "WeiberWirtschaft eG"
- Kahramanmaraş (Turkey): "Micro-credit project"
- Mazovia (Poland): "Rural development and equalisation programme"
- Voivodina (Serbia): "Support for development of female entrepreneurship"
- Wales (United Kingdom): "Heads of the Valleys programme"

The jury also decided to award two European regions a special prize for the following projects:

- Bacău (Romania): "Hemeiusi Information Technology" Industrial Park
- Piraeus (Greece): "Social solidarity network of the Prefecture of Piraeus"

The award ceremony will be held during the Congress autumn session in the **Council of Europe Assembly Chamber** in Strasbourg at **12.15 pm on Tuesday 2 December 2008**, at the close of the sitting.

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**).