

Press Release

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47 members

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Liechtenstein
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Luxembourg
Malta
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Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
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Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
"the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom

Strengthening the institutional mission and extending partnerships is focus of Congress priorities for 2009-2010

Strasbourg, 03.12.2008 – The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe adopted today its priorities for 2009-2010. Grouped around five axes of action, these priorities focus on enhancing the Congress's institutional mission and efficiency, fostering relations with its partners, extending external partnerships and consolidating cooperation networks for the benefit of local and regional communities.

Priorities are geared in particular towards the following:

- Ensuring the implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, through monitoring and observation of local and regional elections, and improving governance at local level;
- Applying the principles of European Urban Charter II: Manifesto for a new urbanity, and the European code of conduct for local and regional elected representatives;
- Convincing national governments of the expediency of the European Charter of Regional Democracy;
- Elaborating the first European Charter on City Diplomacy;
- Strengthening associations of local and regional authorities and their networks and promoting transfrontier Euroregions.

A particular emphasis is placed on enhancing cooperation with our Mediterranean and Middle Eastern neighbours, and with relevant bodies of the United Nations.

In achieving these objectives, the Congress will continue to rely on close cooperation with its partners – national, European and international associations of local and regional authorities, the EU Committee of the Regions, European regional organisations and Congress observer organisations.

"To help local and regional elected representatives to meet the challenges facing them, the Congress has put forward a number of projects, initiatives and instruments aimed at making our cities and regions citizen-centred, cohesive and sustainable, at ensuring good local and regional governance, at fostering intercultural and interreligious dialogue at local and regional level, and at promoting transfrontier, intermunicipal and interregional cooperation across our continent and beyond," stated Congress President Yavuz Mildon while presenting the priorities to the Congress' Standing Committee. "Creating the enabling environment for implementing these projects and applying these instruments is the objective of the Congress' priorities for 2009-2010," he said.

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).