

Press Release

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Congress President to visit Georgia

Strasbourg, 09.02.2006 – Giovanni Di Stasi, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, will pay an official visit to Tbilisi on 14 February.

During his visit, he will meet Head of the Presidential Administration George Arveladze, Parliament Speaker Nino Burjanadze, Minister of Foreign Affairs Gela Bezhuashvili, Minister of Justice Gia Kavtaradze, President of the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG) Mamuka Abuladze and Mayor of Tbilisi Gigi Ugulava, as well as members of the State Commission on Decentralisation..

Discussions will focus on the development of NALAG since its creation and its role in the institutional dialogue with the central authorities. The preparation of local elections scheduled for the autumn 2006 will be also discussed, including the revised electoral code and the reform of the electoral system at local level. The on-going reforms related to local self-government (administrative territorial reform, supervision of the activities of the local self-government bodies, local budgets) will be considered.

As part of his initiative to launch dialogue among the South Caucasus countries, the President intends to invite the mayors of the three capitals (Baku, Tbilisi, Yerevan) to participate in a roundtable in Strasbourg.

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