

Press Release

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Congress to hold the first meeting of European National Associations of Local and Regional Authorities

Strasbourg, 21.02.2006 – The Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is organising the first General Meeting of the National Associations of Local and Regional Authorities of Council of Europe member states and observers, on 23 and 24 February in Strasbourg .

This conference, which will bring together mayors, representatives of regions and National Associations of Local and Regional Authorities, will discuss ways of increasing cooperation between the Congress and the associations, as well as the role of the National Associations in their relations with central governments

A Round Table is planned on the topic: "Congress and Associations : what common cause?".

The Conference will be opened on Thursday 23 February by Giovanni Di Stasi, President of the Congress, José Rodríguez Alvarez, President of the Steering Committee on Local and Regional Democracy (CDLR) and Milenko Doric, Member of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs.

A press conference will be held on **Thursday 23 February at 3.45 pm** in Room 2 of the Palais de l'Europe.

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