

Media Advisory

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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47 member States

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"The former Yugoslav
Republic of
Macedonia"
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom

14.09.2010

Building a bridge to territorial communities: Meeting of local and regional authorities' associations

Date: 16 September 2010

Location: Strasbourg (Palais de l'Europe, Room 1)

Description: The 3rd General Meeting of national associations of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe member states, organised by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities on 16 September, will be an occasion for an exchange of views on the Congress' reform and priorities, in the light of the forthcoming session in October 2010.

In 2006, the Congress put in place a mechanism of regular dialogue with national associations of local and regional authorities, which are the structures representing territorial communities in the national setting and therefore Congress partners in relating its action at the national level, as well as in alerting the Congress to possible violations of the principles of local democracy. General meetings of associations, held once every two years, serve as a forum for consultations with local and regional authorities on the Congress' mission and priorities, and on ways of strengthening co-operation to target Congress activities better.

This year, the 3rd General Meeting is taking place in the context of the Council of Europe's and Congress' reform processes, a few weeks before the session during which the Congress membership and leadership will be renewed, and the reform proposals debated.

Acting President of the Congress Ian Micallef and Secretary General Andreas Kiefer will open the meeting, and Congress co-rapporteurs Halvdan Skard and Günther Krug will present the reform proposals. The discussions will feature in particular contributions from Alan Meale, President of the Parliamentary Assembly's Subcommittee on Local and Regional Democracy; Frédéric Vallier, Secretary General of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR); and Refik Rugeja, Vice-President of the Network of Associations of Local and Regional Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS).

Meeting on 17 September, the Congress Bureau will discuss the contribution from national associations and finalise the reform proposals.

For more information: www.coe.int/congress-associations

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).