

# Media Advisory

## Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Communication Division

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### 47 member States

Albania  
Andorra  
Armenia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Belgium  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
Georgia  
Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Ireland  
Italy  
Latvia  
Liechtenstein  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Moldova  
Monaco  
Montenegro  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Russia  
San Marino  
Serbia  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
"The former Yugoslav  
Republic of  
Macedonia"  
Turkey  
Ukraine  
United Kingdom

## Congress and Committee of the Regions to sign new cooperation agreement

**Date:** 12 November 2009

**Location:** Brussels (Belgium)

**Description:** Ian Micallef, President a.i. of the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, and Congress Secretary General a.i Wojciech Sawicki will meet Luc Van den Brande, President of the EU Committee of the Regions, and Committee Secretary General Gerhard Stahl, for the second meeting of the Presidents of the two institutions assisted by their Secretaries General. This new cooperation practice was launched last year, with the first bipartite meeting held in Brussels on 20 June 2008.

The Presidents will sign the revised Cooperation Agreement between the Congress and the Committee of the Regions, first concluded in April 2005. The new agreement formalises methods of cooperation between the two institutions, taking into account the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Union and the Council of Europe, signed on 23 May 2007.

The agreement confers the leading role in giving policy orientation and defining thematic priorities for cooperation on the Presidents of the Congress and the Committee of the Regions. In this mission, they are assisted by the Secretaries General of the two bodies.

The Contact Group "Congress/Committee of the Regions", meeting twice a year, is charged with establishing, based on priorities mapped out by the annual bipartite meeting, a work programme which is then implemented by respective committees, commissions and working groups. The Contact Group can add more specific activities to meet new needs.

In addition, the revised agreement reaffirms the principle of complementarity between the Congress and the Committee of the Regions and respect for each other's competences and nature. It stipulates that any decision on the lead role within joint projects will be taken on the basis of the specific remits and experiences of both parties.

The signing ceremony is scheduled to take place at 4.30 pm in Room 8065 at the headquarters of the Committee of the Regions (the Jacques Delors Building, 101 rue Belliard, Brussels). The photos of the meeting will be available on the website of the BELGA news agency: <http://picture.belga.be/picture-home/index.html>

### **Press contacts**

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