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## **Congress participates in High-level Conference on the role of decentralisation on the consolidation of democracy in Albania and European integration**

Strasbourg, 29 October 2012 – The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe will participate in a High-level Conference on the role of decentralisation on the consolidation of democracy in Albania and European integration. The conference - which will take place from 30 to 31 October in Tirana, Albania (Hotel Sheraton) - is organised in the framework of the Albanian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, under the auspices of the Ministry of Interior of Albania, in co-operation with the Council of Europe, in particular the Council of Europe Office in Tirana and the Congress.

It will bring together representatives of the Albanian Government, members of Parliament, EU speakers and representatives of local and regional authorities in Albania and Europe, civil society, business community as well as academics and donors.

The Conference will be opened on 30 October, in the Tirana Sheraton Hotel, at 10 am, by the Prime Minister of Albania, Sali BERISHA. The Congress will be represented by five members and its Secretary General. The members will participate in different thematic sessions: Nataliya ROMANOVA, President of the Chamber of Regions, in "Consolidation of the Regionalisation"; Leen VERBEEK, member of the Chamber of Regions and member of the Monitoring Committee, in "Promotion of human rights at local level and raising awareness among local and regional authorities"; Andreas KIEFER, Secretary General of the Congress, in "Overpassing obstacles in transfrontier cooperation"; Gaye DOĞANOĞLU, Vice-President of the Chamber of Local Authorities, in "Strengthening citizens' democratic participation" and Sevdia UGREKHELIDZE, Vice-Chair of the Governance Committee, in "Good Governance at local level".

On 31 October, Nataliya ROMANOVA, President of the Chamber of Regions and Emilio VERRENGIA, Vice-President of the Chamber of Local Authorities, will take part in the concluding plenary session with the President of Albania, Bujar NISHANI, from 9.30 to 11.30 am, in the Sheraton Hotel.

### [Albania and territorial democracy](#)

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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: Herwig Van Staa (Austria, EPP/DC), President of the Chamber of Regions: Nataliya Romanova (Ukraine, IDLG), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities: Jean-Claude Frécon (France, SOC)  
Political Groups: Socialist Group (SOC), Group of the European People's Party – Christian Democrats (EPP/CD), Independent and Liberal Democrat Group (ILDG), European Conservatives & Reformists Group (ECR)