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## **Congress delegation heading for a monitoring mission to assess grassroots democracy in Belgium**

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe will carry out a monitoring visit to Belgium 8 and 9 October 2013. Congress Rapporteurs Henrik Hammar (Sweden, EPP/ECC) and Urs Wüthrich-Pelloli (Switzerland, SOC) will examine the follow-up to the commitments undertaken in the field of local and regional democracy, with regard to Belgium's ratification of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in 2004.

On 8 October rapporteurs will meet the Belgian delegation of the Congress, also the presidents of different local and provincial associations and unions; including the Association of the City and the Municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region (AVCB), Union of Cities and Municipalities of Wallonia (UVCW), Union of Belgian Cities and Municipalities (UVCB), Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VMSG), Associations of Walloon Provinces (APW) and Associations of Flemish Provinces (VVP) as well as representatives of the municipality of Tervuren.

On 9 October, other meetings are scheduled with the Burgomaster, Freddy Thielemans, the President of Brussels Metropolitan, Emmanuel Van Innis, Burgomasters of Linkebeek, Krainem, Wazembeek-Oppem and the Burgomaster of Flobecq, Phillippe Mettens.

The second part of the monitoring process in Belgium will be scheduled in January 2014. The delegation will meet representatives of the federal and regional levels on this occasion.

A background briefing for the press will be held on Wednesday 9 October at 15h00 at the Council of Europe office in Brussels (Avenue des Nerviens 85, 2nd floor – entry via Rue Sainte Gertrude). Interested journalists are requested to register with Andrew Cutting, Media officer ([Andrew.CUTTING@coe.int](mailto:Andrew.CUTTING@coe.int); mobile: +32 (0)485 21 72 02)

### **Contact on the spot:**

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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)