

Media Advisory

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Strasbourg, 10.06.2009

Monitoring of local democracy in Iceland

Dates : from 15 to 17 June 2009

Location : Reykjavík, Borgarbyggð, Arborg and Ölfus (Iceland)

Description : The Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities will carry out a monitoring mission to assess the state of local democracy in Iceland. This will be the first monitoring visit to this country since it ratified the European Charter of Local Self-Government in 1991.

Congress rapporteur Esther Maurer (Switzerland, SOC) will examine the situation of local democracy as well as the consequences of the financial crisis for local authorities in Iceland.

Meetings have been scheduled with Minister of Municipal Affairs Kristjan Möller, Mayor of Reykjavik, Hanna Birna Kristjandottir, as well as with the President of the Parliamentary Committee in charge of Municipal Affairs, representatives of local authorities and academics, among others. In Arborg and Ölfus, the rapporteur will meet with, respectively, Mayors Randy Sigurdson and Ólafur Áki Ragnarsson.

The report of this monitoring mission will be submitted to the Congress Institutional Committee, following which the Congress will examine it in plenary.

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 Sfîrloaga (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).