

Media Advisory

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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

Strasbourg, 31.08.2010

Council of Europe Congress and EU Committee of the Regions co-operation takes a step further

Date: 3 September 2010

Location: Brussels (Jacques Delors Building)

Description: On 3 September 2010, rapporteurs of the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and of the EU Committee of the Regions will hold a first joint meeting in Brussels, taking co-operation between the two institutions a step further. This is a new form of collaboration following annual meetings of the two Presidents and regular meetings of the Contact Group as well as joint action between the two institutions in the field of election observation.

In November 2009, the Presidents of the two bodies signed a revised co-operation agreement, promoting coordinated approach to the same issues of concern between respective committees, commissions and working groups.

In this spirit, Committee of the Regions rapporteurs on local and regional democracy in Eastern Partnership member states (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) will meet Congress rapporteurs on these countries. They will exchange views on the opinions prepared by the Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (CIVEX) of the Committee of the Regions, as well as on the Congress' work with regard to these countries. The aim is to establish a common framework for action in the relevant countries.

The 2009 revised co-operation 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 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).