

Media Advisory

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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04.09.2009

Council of Europe Congress: Ian Micallef to visit Azerbaijan

Date: 10 to 14 September 2009

Location: Baku (Azerbaijan)

Description: Ian Micallef, President a.i. of the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, will pay an official visit to Azerbaijan to assess the situation of local democracy in the country after the constitutional referendum of 18 March 2009.

He will meet Speaker of the Parliament Oqtay Asadov, Head of the Presidential Administration Ramiz Mehdiyev, Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov and Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov, as well as members of the Azerbaijani delegations to the Congress and to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE).

There will be an exchange of views with representatives of the opposition parties.

Further background discussions are planned with NGOs, the media and with representatives of the diplomatic community in Baku.

Ian Micallef will report on the results of the visit to the Bureau of the Congress, meeting in Strasbourg on 21 September 2009.

Press contacts

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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: 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).