

Media Advisory

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities Communication Division

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Strasbourg, 30.11.2009

Delegation of the Council of Europe Congress makes pre-electoral visit to Azerbaijan

Date: 7-8 December 2009

Location: Baku (Azerbaijan)

Description: A delegation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, headed by Gaye Doganoglu (Turkey, EPP-CD), will carry out a pre-electoral mission to Azerbaijan, in view of the municipal elections scheduled for 23 December 2009.

The delegation will meet with representatives of government, opposition and electoral bodies, as well as with the Azerbaijani delegation in the Congress. An exchange of views will be held with members of the diplomatic community of Baku, with media representatives and NGOs.

Members of the delegation:

Ms Gaye Doganoglu (Turkey, EPP/CD) – **Head of Delegation**

Mr Nigel Mermagen (UK, ILDG)

Mr Istvan Borbely (Hungary, EPP/CD)

Mr Dobrica Milovanovic (Serbia, NI)

Ms Gudrun Mosler-Törnström (Austria, SOC)

Press contacts 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: 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).