

Media Advisory

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Communication Division

Ref: 156a09

Tel. +33 (0)3 90 21 50 86

Fax +33 (0)3 88 41 27 51

Internet: www.coe.int/congress

e-mail: congress.com@coe.int



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47 member States

Albania
Andorra
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Moldova
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
San Marino
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
"The former Yugoslav
Republic of
Macedonia"
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom

Copenhagen: Congress participates in the Conference on climate change

Date: 14-18 December 2009

Location: Copenhagen, the Bella Centre, Denmark

Description: Negotiations of an international agreement on climate change, which will take over from the Kyoto Protocol after 2012, are at the heart of the UN Conference held in Copenhagen from 7 to 18 December 2009. The Conference offers a historic chance to chart out the common future action on climate – a chance that must be seized by all levels of governance.

Local and regional authorities are indispensable stakeholders in any climate agreement – this is the position of the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, whose delegation will take part in the Conference from 14 to 18 December. The delegation, headed by Vice-President Dubravka Suica (Croatia), will also include Vice-Presidents Günther Krug (Germany) and Knud Andersen (Denmark), and Gaye Doganoglu (Turkey), President of the Congress' Committee on Sustainable Development.

Convinced that member states must take advantage of the competences, capacity, experience and commitment of territorial authorities, the Congress calls for giving local and regional action a higher profile in the forthcoming agreement. While towns and cities are among the biggest polluters in Europe, they are also the first to face the consequences of climate change. As central actors for improving the quality and the sustainability of our life-styles, local and regional authorities have taken resolute action in bringing about a fundamental change in the way daily lives and consumption patterns are organised, leading by example to motivate their communities.

Cities and regions can successfully support the implementation of national strategies to reach the new binding objectives. They represent also the most appropriate level of governance for public awareness-raising and citizens' mobilization, and can assume an even stronger role in combating climate change and adapting to its consequences. But to this end, the necessary political and financial support is needed from both international organisations and national governments.

On 14 October 2009, the Congress adopted a [resolution](#) and a [recommendation](#) calling for the recognition of the role local and regional authorities as fully-fledged partners in this complex issue, and asking for inclusion of the human rights dimension in the new agreement, to ensure a healthy environment as a sustainable response to the challenge.

From 14 to 18 December, the Congress delegation will attend the meetings of the United Nations, meet with representatives of the Local Government Climate Roadmap action group and participate in the Climate Summit for Mayors, to speak with one voice and deliver a strong message to governments at the High-Level segment of the Conference.

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 Mildon (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).