

Media Advisory

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Communication Division

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Strasbourg, 17.12.2009

Council of Europe Congress to observe local elections in Azerbaijan

Date: 20-24 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 observe the municipal elections in Azerbaijan, on 23 December 2009.

Prior to the election day, the delegation will meet with representatives of government, opposition and electoral bodies. An exchange of views with media experts is planned to discuss developments, after the pre-election mission carried out by the Congress on 7 and 8 December.

On election day the observation teams will monitor the vote in different areas of the country.

A **press conference** will be held on **Thursday 24 December at 9.30 am in Baku** (Atropat Hotel, Icheri Sheher, 11-13-79 Magomayev str.).

Members of the delegation:

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

Mr Istvan Borbely (Hungary, EPP/CD)

Mr Jean-Claude Frécon (France, SOC)

Mr Mihkel Juhkami (Estonia, EPP/CD)

Mrs Amy Koopmanschap (Netherlands, SOC)

Mr Francis Lec (France, SOC)

Mr Nigel Mermagen (UK, ILDG)

Mr Dobrica Milovanovic (Serbia, NI)

Mr Christopher Newbury (UK, EPP/CD)

Mr Paolo Rondelli (San Marino, SOC)

Mr Jean-Louis Testud (France, EPP/CD)

Congress Secretariat:

Mr Jean-Philippe Bozouls, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Local Authorities

Mrs Renate Zikmund, Head of the Division of Communication, International Relations and Election Observation

Mrs Lucrezia Titi, Communication Assistant

Mrs Nioucha Ziaemoghadam, Assistant

More information can be found at www.coe.int/congress-azerbaijan2009

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).