

# Press Release

## Communication Unit of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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### Four cities awarded the 2008 "Dosta!-Congress Prize for Municipalities"

Strasbourg, 17.12.2008 – The "Dosta! - Congress Prize for Municipalities" for 2008 has been awarded to four cities, as part of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities' contribution to the Council of Europe's Dosta! Campaign(\*). The Prize, established in 2007, rewards municipalities which are distinguished for their participatory and innovative work in combating anti-Gypsyism and promoting the inclusion of Roma in political and social life.

The jury, composed of personalities from the Council of Europe, the European Union and the European Roma and Travellers Forum, has examined 26 applications from Western and Eastern European countries. Speaking at the close of the deliberations, the co-Presidents of the jury – Yavuz Mildon, President of the Congress and Henry Scicluna, Council of Europe Co-ordinator for Roma Issues – expressed the jury's common appreciation, stressing that "much as in 2007, we all were particularly impressed with the quality of the projects sent in."

The winners of the second edition of the "Dosta!-Congress Prize for Municipalities" are the cities of : Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Prijedor (Bosnia and Herzegovina) for the Joint First Prize, Volos (Greece) for the Second Prize and Lom (Bulgaria) for the Third Prize.

Representatives of the winning municipalities will receive the Prize at the ceremony which will take place on 4 March 2009, at the Council of Europe Headquarters in Strasbourg. The ceremony will be attended by the two co-Presidents of the jury and Permanent Representatives from the Council of Europe member states of the prize winners.

The ceremony is open to the Press.

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\* The awareness-raising campaign "Dosta! / Enough! Go beyond prejudice, discover the Roma" is part of a wider Council of Europe/European Commission project for Roma.

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).