

Press Release

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Congress rapporteurs on official visit to Turkey

Strasbourg, 08.01.2009 – Anders Knappe (Sweden, SOC) and Herwig van Staa (Austria, EPP/CD), Rapporteurs of the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, will visit Ankara from 12 to 14 January 2009, to examine the situation of local and regional democracy in Turkey, the extent to which the European Charter of Local Self-Government is implemented, as well as to obtain additional information regarding the situation of certain mayors in the country's South-East.

The delegation will meet with Governor of Istanbul Province Muammer Güler, acting President of the Istanbul Municipal Council Ahmet Silamet, Deputy Governor of Ankara Erdogan Aygenc, as well as representatives of the Ministry of Interior, the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, the Union of Turkish Municipalities, and the Turkish delegation to the Congress.

Meetings have also been scheduled with local democracy experts, scholars, human rights groups and representatives of the Council of Europe member states in Turkey.

Contact: Almut Schroeder, Congress Secretariat Mobile: + 33 6 50 39 29 13

Les rapporteurs du Congrès se rendent en Turquie

Strasbourg, 08.01.2009 – Anders Knappe (Suède, SOC) et Herwig van Staa (Autriche, PPE/CD), rapporteurs du Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe, se rendront à Ankara du 12 au 14 janvier 2009, afin d'examiner la situation de la démocratie locale et régionale en Turquie, de vérifier l'application de la Charte européenne de l'autonomie locale et d'obtenir des informations complémentaires concernant la situation de certains maires dans le Sud-Est du pays.

La délégation rencontrera Muammer Güler, Gouverneur de la Province d'Istanbul, Ahmet Silamet, Président en exercice du Conseil municipal d'Istanbul, et Erdogan Aygenc, Gouverneur adjoint d'Ankara, ainsi que les représentants du Ministre de l'Intérieur, de la municipalité d'Ankara, de l'Union des municipalités turques et la délégation turque auprès du Congrès.

Des réunions sont également prévues avec des experts en matière de démocratie locale, des universitaires, des groupes de défense des droits de l'homme et des représentants des Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe en Turquie.

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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**).