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Strasbourg, 11.02.2009

Congress to co-organise a seminar on cross border cultural tourism in Europe

Date : 18 February 2009

Location: Ministry of the German Speaking Community of Belgium (Europa Room Gospertstr. 1) Eupen, Belgium

Description: This seminar, which is being organised by the Ministry of the German-Speaking Community of Belgium in co-operation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, will concentrate on the promotion of cultural tourism as a means of uniting the citizens of Europe, and of building cooperation between cross border regions. Participants will also discuss cultural heritage as an economic factor and the protection of cultural diversity in Europe. Examples of best practices will be illustrated. A round table will be held on the theme "cross border regions: driving forces for initiatives and interfaces of co-operation in cultural tourism".

The theme of cultural tourism will also be discussed during the next Congress plenary session (2-5 March, Strasbourg).

Karl-Heinz Lambertz, Minister-President of the German-speaking community of Belgium and President of the Culture and Education Committee of the Congress will open the seminar on Wednesday 18 February, at 10.00 am. The following day, on 19 February, he will present his report on the state of cross border cooperation in Europe during the meeting of the Working Group on Inter-regional Cooperation (GT-CIR) of the Congress. A part of this debate will be dedicated to the importance of communication and of intercultural dialogue in cross border cooperation.

The seminar is **open to the press**.

Contact:

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