

Media Advisory

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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Strasbourg, 18.02.2009

Four cities to be awarded the 2008 Dosta!-Congress Prize for Municipalities

Date: Wednesday 4 March 2009 as from 12 pm

Location: Hemicycle of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg (France)

Description: Ian Micallef, President ad interim of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, and Henry Scicluna, Council of Europe Co-ordinator on Roma activities, will award the Dosta!-Congress Prize for municipalities, during an official ceremony.

Mostar and Prijedor (Bosnia and Herzegovina) for the joint first prize, Volos (Greece) for the second prize and Lom (Bulgaria) for the third prize are the winning municipalities of the 2008 edition, for their creative and innovative initiatives, which most effectively ensure diversity in community life and the active democratic participation of the Roma.

**Mayor of Mostar Ljubo Beslic,
Mayor of Prijedor Marko Pavic,
Mayor of Volos Alekos Voulgaris and
Mayor of Lom Penka Penkova**

will be present to receive the prize.

At the end of the award ceremony, artist **Simona Jovic** will perform a traditional Roma dance from the Balkans.

The ceremony is open to the press.

The Dosta!-Congress Prize for Municipalities is part of the Council of Europe awareness-raising campaign to fight prejudice against Roma. "**Dosta**" is a Romani word meaning "enough".

More information: www.coe.int/congress-dosta
www.simonajovic.com

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).