

# Media Advisory

## Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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Strasbourg, 25.02.2009

## Roundtable on "Intercultural Cities": the Congress vision for an innovative local policy

**Date:** Wednesday, 4 March as from 3:15 pm, in the framework of the Plenary Session of the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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

**Description:** The "Intercultural Cities Programme" includes experience and best practice from 12 European pilot cities(\*) with regard to the management of diverse populations as a source of innovation, growth and social progress rather than an obstacle or threat. It introduces the concept of **inter-culturalism**, which upholds cultural pluralism within the scope of common values, in particular human rights and fundamental freedoms.

This project, which is an action programme between the Council of Europe and the European Commission, is the subject of a recommendation and a resolution that the Congress is due to adopt at the end of the round table. In addition, on the occasion of this debate, the intercultural dimension of the Urban Charter II - a new policy paper of the Congress for modern urbanity - will be presented by the rapporteur Carlos Alberto Pinto (Portugal, EPP-CD).

**Heinz Buschowsky, Mayor of Berlin-Neukölln (Germany),  
Adam Wasilewski Mayor of Lublin (Poland),  
Dmytro Sychov, Mayor of Melitopol (Ukraine),  
Graziano Delrio, Mayor of Reggio Emilia (Italy),  
Thomas Facchinetti, Commissioner for Foreign Nationals of the Canton of Neuchâtel (Switzerland) and  
Georges Kepenekian, deputy Mayor of Lyon (France)**

will participate in the roundtable debate.

**More information:** [www.coe.int/interculturalcities](http://www.coe.int/interculturalcities), [www.coe.int/urban-charter](http://www.coe.int/urban-charter)

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(\*) The following cities are involved in the network: Berlin-Neukölln (Germany), Craiova (Romania), London-Greenwich (UK), Izhevsk (Russian Federation), Lublin (Poland), Lyon (France), Melitopol (Ukraine), Neuchâtel (Switzerland), Oslo (Norway), Patras (Greece), Reggio Emilia (Italy), Subotica (Serbia).

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).