

# Press Release

## Congress of Local and Regional Authorities Communication Division

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### **Ian Micallef: "Adrien Zeller was a staunch defender of decentralisation and regional democracy"**

Strasbourg, 24.08.2009 – "I am deeply saddened by the death of Adrien Zeller, President of the Alsace Region and a member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe," stated Congress President a.i. Ian Micallef.

"Throughout his political career of 36 years, he was a staunch defender of the rights of local and regional communities, a devout European convinced that democracy is at its strongest when it is firmly rooted in our cities and regions. His devotion to the cause of decentralisation and regional democracy, to making territorial communities genuine players in the European process has earned him great respect and a rightful political place not only in his native region, Alsace, but also in France and in Europe. Adrien Zeller will be sorely missed," said Ian Micallef.

On behalf of the Congress, he expressed his condolences to the family of Adrien Zeller and the authorities and people of Alsace.

### **Ian Micallef: "Adrien Zeller était un ardent défenseur de la décentralisation et de la démocratie régionale"**

Strasbourg, 24.08.2009 - «Je suis profondément attristé par la mort d'Adrien Zeller, Président de la Région Alsace et membre du Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe», a déclaré le président a.i du Congrès, Ian Micallef.

«Durant ses 36 ans de carrière politique, il fut un avide défenseur du droit des collectivités locales et régionales, et un fervent européen convaincu que la démocratie est à son plus fort quant elle est solidement ancrée dans nos villes et nos régions. Son dévouement pour la démocratie régionale et pour la décentralisation, ayant contribué à rendre les collectivités territoriales véritablement actrices du processus européen lui a valu un grand respect et une place éminente en politique, non seulement en Alsace, sa région, mais également en France et en Europe. Adrien Zeller nous manquera beaucoup», a déclaré Ian Micallef.

Au nom du Congrès, il a exprimé ses condoléances à la famille d'Adrien Zeller ainsi qu'aux autorités et à la population alsacienne.

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).