

Press Release

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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Ian Micallef welcomes election of the Council of Europe Secretary General

Strasbourg, 29.09.2009 – "I welcome the election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on 29 September 2009, which closes a difficult chapter for this Organisation. On behalf of the Congress, I wish to convey my congratulations to Secretary General-elect Thorbjørn Jagland," Ian Micallef, President a.i. of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, stated today.

"The new Secretary General is taking the helm of the Council of Europe at a crucial moment for this Organisation, which is marking its 60th anniversary and begins a new chapter in its history. I am confident that Mr Jagland will assume the political and managerial leadership which is necessary to meet the challenges facing the Council of Europe and European democracy, and will make sure that this Organisation reasserts its role and mission on our continent. He will have the full support of the Congress in his work.

"The Congress is looking forward to establishing close ties of cooperation with the new Secretary General, to advance the objectives of this Organisation in our territorial communities. We are confident that Thorbjørn Jagland, who has had first-hand experience in local government as a former member of the Buskerud County Council in Norway, shares our conviction that strong local and regional democracy on our continent is one of the main achievements of the Council of Europe, and will support the role of the Congress in European construction," he said.

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).