

# Media Advisory

## Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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### 47 member States

Albania  
Andorra  
Armenia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Belgium  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
Georgia  
Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Ireland  
Italy  
Latvia  
Liechtenstein  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Moldova  
Monaco  
Montenegro  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Russia  
San Marino  
Serbia  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
"The former Yugoslav  
Republic of  
Macedonia"  
Turkey  
Ukraine  
United Kingdom

## The Congress highlights the 2009 edition of the European Local Democracy Week

**Dates:** 12 – 14 October 2009

**Venue:** Strasbourg

**Description:** The Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, meeting in plenary from 13 to 15 October 2009, is organising a series of events to promote this year's European Local Democracy Week (ELDW).

This annual event, now in its third year, is intended to make citizens in the 47 member countries of the Council of Europe more familiar with local institutions and democratic processes. The aim is also to forge closer links between the population and local elected representatives and to raise awareness of grassroots policy programmes in Europe.

### Information stand at the Palais de l'Europe

On **Monday 12 October (5.45 pm)**, Keith Whitmore (United Kingdom, ILDG), political co-ordinator of the ELDW and Chair of the Congress's Institutional Committee, will officially launch the 2009 Week and inaugurate the **Congress information stand in the Lobby of the Palais de l'Europe's Hemicycle**. This stand will offer brochures for cities and towns interested in taking part, materials from the different municipalities that have already joined the network as well as videos of projects and internet resources.

### Debate on youth participation during the Congress Plenary Session

On **Tuesday 13 October (as of 3 pm)**, debates in the framework of the Council's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary programme will focus on the ELDW and, more specifically, on the role of young people in local democracy. Amongst the speakers are Congress Vice-President Anders Knappe (Sweden, EPP-CD), Robert Herrmann, first Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg with responsibility for local democracy, and the President of the Congress of Russian Municipalities, Stepan Kirichuk.

**At 4pm**, representatives of the French Schiltigheim Children's Council and the Strasbourg Youth Council will share their experiences of active participation in municipal decision-making processes.

Wolfgang Schuster, Mayor of Stuttgart (Germany), founder of the "Cities for Children" network, and Raphael Nisand, Mayor of Schiltigheim, – where France's first Municipal Council for Children was created 30 years ago – will also contribute to this debate.

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).

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## **Round table on foreign residents and local democracy**

**On Wednesday 14 October (8pm)**, a discussion in the Maison des associations (1A, Place des Orphelins, Strasbourg) will be dedicated to foreign residents' participation in neighbourhood projects and political programmes of towns and regions. In 2009, Strasbourg set up a Consultative Council of Foreign Residents to give foreign citizens the opportunity to express their opinions and take part in the life of the community. Deputy Mayor Anne-Pernelle Richardot will present Strasbourg's integration programmes. For the Congress, Mehbooh Khan, Deputy Chair of the Social Cohesion Committee, will take part in the round table discussion organised by the City of Strasbourg together with different stakeholders.

## **Information for media**

Videos of the ELDW stand inauguration on 12 October will be available in Digital Betacam, upon request to [tvcoord@coe.int](mailto:tvcoord@coe.int)

The debate on 13 October will be broadcasted live at <http://tv.coe.int/webcast>. A video in broadcast quality can be downloaded for free at <http://dl.coe.int> around two hours after the event.

Photos of events taking place in the Council of Europe premises will be available for download in professional format at [www.coe.int/congress-session](http://www.coe.int/congress-session)