

Media Advisory

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Communication Division

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"The former Yugoslav
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13.11.2009

Congress to contribute to key issues of Council of Europe Ministerial Conference in Utrecht

Date: 16-17 November 2009

Location: Utrecht, the Royal Dutch Jaarbeurs, the Netherlands

Challenges for good local and regional governance in times of crises and change are at the center of the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Local and Regional Government on 16 and 17 November 2009 in Utrecht (the Netherlands).

The Council's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, one of the European key players in the field of territorial democracy, will participate in the discussions and contribute, in particular, to the reform debate regarding effective implementation of local and regional policies in the framework of Council of Europe activities, to questions of regionalisation and transfrontier co-operation as well as to awareness raising programmes and measures to activate citizen participation, such as the European Local Democracy Week (ELDW).

The Congress delegation headed by acting President Ian Micallef (Malta) will include Vice-Presidents Dubravka Suica (Croatia), Jean-Claude Frecon (France) and Onno van Veldhuizen (The Netherlands), President of the Institutional Committee Keith Whitmore (United Kingdom), President of the Culture and Education Committee Karl-Heinz Lambertz (Belgium) and Chair of the Working Group on Regions with Legislative Powers Jean-Claude Van Cauwenberghe (Belgium).

Press contact on the spot:

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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).