

Media Advisory

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities Communication Division

Ref: MA154a09

Tel. +33 (0)3 90 21 52 40

Fax +33 (0)3 88 41 27 51

Internet: www.coe.int/congress

e-mail: congress.com@coe.int



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09.12.2009

Monitoring of local and regional democracy in Belgium

Dates: from 16 to 18 December 2009

Location: Brussels

Description: The Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities will carry out a monitoring mission to assess the state of local and regional democracy in Belgium. This will be the first general monitoring visit to this country since it ratified the European Charter of Local Self-Government in 2004.

Congress Rapporteurs Michel Guégan (France, L, NR) and Dobrica Milovanovic (Serbia, R, NR) will meet Geert Bourgeois, Vice Minister-President and Interior Minister of Flanders; Charles Picqué, Minister-President of the Brussels-Capital Region; Karl-Heinz Lambertz, Minister-President of the German-Speaking Community; as well as representatives of Minister-President of Wallonia Rudy Demotte and of Walloon Local Authorities Minister Paul Furlan. They will also meet the Presidents and the Secretaries General of national associations of local and regional authorities representing the Brussels-Capital Region, Flanders and Wallonia.

Previously, the Congress adopted two recommendations on the situation of local and regional democracy in Belgium, in May 2003 and in December 2008.

A second monitoring visit is scheduled to take place in spring 2010, following which a report will be submitted to the Congress' Institutional Committee in autumn 2010.

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).