

Press Release

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities Communication Division

Ref: 985a09

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



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

Congress delegation hopes to meet with Azerbaijani opposition leaders before municipal elections on 23 December

Baku, 21.12.2009 - "We regret that the delegation of the Congress did not have the opportunity to meet the opposition parties of Azerbaijan today to discuss the situation before the municipal elections on 23 December.

"The delegation is ready to listen to the opposition at a later stage, it places great importance on a free and open discussion with political leaders of the country.

"Therefore, the delegation regretted not to have been able, during the pre-electoral mission, to hold a meeting with the opposition parties, because we consider that an exchange of views between the opposition and the international community is in the interest of the democratic development of Azerbaijan", said Gaye Doganoglu (Turkey, EPP/CD), Head of the Congress delegation.

On behalf of the Congress delegation, notably of the two Congress Vice-Presidents Jean-Claude Frecon (France, SOC) and Istvan Borbely (Hungary, EPP/CD), Gaye Doganoglu re-issued the invitation to the leaders of the opposition parties to meet with the delegation before 23 December.

Press contacts on the spot:

Renate Zikmund, Head of the Congress Division of Communication, International Relations and Election Observation,
tel. +33 6 59 78 64 55; renate.zikmund@coe.int

Council of Europe Office in Baku,

Tel. +994 124 973 156 – 5 493, fax +994 124 972 395; fieldbaku@coe.int

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).