

Media Advisory

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Communication Division

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03.05.2010

Congress organises Conference on fighting corruption at local and regional level

Date: 7 May 2010

Place: Messina, Italy - Salone delle Bandiere, Palazzo Zanca
Piazza dell'Unione Europea

Description: The conference, organised by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Committee of the Regions of the European Union, Messina City Council and the Region of Sicily, is a starting point for a joint European initiative to tackle corruption at local and regional level. Its findings will be used to lay down the bases of a new code of good administrative practices.

According to a Eurobarometer report of November 2009, the majority of Europeans believe that corruption is a major problem in their country. In fact, combating corruption is not only a legal necessity but must also be seen as a means of improving governance at local and regional level.

The Conference will examine the roles of elected representatives, officials, the media and civil society in this combat. The participants will present examples of good practices and examine ways of fighting corruption at the level of local and regional administrations. The objective is to arrive at concrete initiatives on the ground, throughout Europe, including awareness-raising exercises aimed at public administrators and the private sector.

The Conference will be opened by Ian Micallef, Acting President of the Congress of the Council of Europe, Antti Liikkanen, vice-President of the Committee of the Regions, as well as Giuseppe Buzzanca, Mayor of Messina, and Raffaele Lombardo, President of Sicily Regional Council.

In addition, representatives of the Council of Europe, the European Union, national governments and local and regional authorities as well as representatives of associations of local and regional authorities and civil society will take part in the event.

The Conference will be open to the media and the public, and simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Italian.

On the day before the conference (6 May 2010) a meeting of the *Committee of the Regions / Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe* Contact group will be held, from 2 to 2.30 pm.

Conference website: www.cor.europa.eu/fighting_corruption

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).