

Media Advisory

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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Strasbourg, 21.05.2010

Monitoring of local and regional democracy in Romania

Dates: from 24 to 26 May 2010

Location: Bucharest, Prahova

Description: The Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities will carry out a general monitoring mission to assess the state of local and regional democracy in Romania. This visit opens the second cycle of monitoring for this country since it ratified the European Charter of Local Self-Government in 1998.

Congress Rapporteurs Jean-Claude Frécon (France, L, SOC) and Mariacristina Spinosa (Italy, R, SOC) will meet Deputy Speaker of the Deputies' Chamber Ioan Oltean, President of the Constitutional Court Ioan Vida, Prefect of Bucharest Mihai-Cristian Atănăsoaei and Mayor of Bucharest Sorin Mircea Oprescu.

Meetings are also scheduled with Deputy Ombudsman Alexander Balanescu, Secretary of State for the Public Administration Reform Marius Tiberiu Martinescu, Secretary of State for Local Communities Gheorghe Emacu, and Secretary of State for Public Finance Gheorghe Gherghina.

In the Parliament, the delegation will have meetings with members of the committees on public administration of both chambers, and parliamentary groups of the majority party and of national minorities. The Rapporteurs will also meet Presidents of several County Councils, mayors and municipal councillors, members of the National Union of County Councils of Romania, the Association of Romanian Municipalities, the Association of Romanian Towns, the Romanian Association of Communities and the Romanian Federation of Local Authorities, as well as members of the Romanian delegation to the Congress.

Following the visit, a report will be submitted to the Congress' Institutional Committee.

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The Congress' latest recommendation on the situation of local democracy in Romania was adopted in May 1995, followed by an information report on local and regional democracy in this country in April 2002 and a follow-up to the information report in April 2003. In March 2006, the Congress held an exchange of views with Liviu Radu, Secretary of State from the Romanian Ministry of Administration and the Interior.

Contact in Romania:

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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).