

Media Advisory

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Communication Division

Ref: MA057a10

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

Strasbourg, 21.05.2010

Council of Europe Congress to observe local elections in Georgia

Date: 27-31 May 2010

Location: Tbilisi (Georgia)

A delegation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe will observe local elections in Georgia, including the first direct elections of the Mayor of Tbilisi, on 30 May 2010.

On 27 and 28 May the delegation will meet with representatives of government and electoral bodies, amongst them the Chairman of the Parliament, Davit Bakradze and the Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Davit Tkeshelashvili. Meetings are scheduled also with media and local NGO representatives. Views will be exchanged with members of the OSCE/ODIHR delegation.

Congress Vice-President Günther Krug (Germany, SOC) will head a delegation, which will include also four members of the European Union's Committee of the Regions. As a part of the cooperation agreement between the two institutions.

A pre-election mission was carried out at the beginning of May in Tbilisi and Rustavi to assess the situation in the country prior to the elections. On this occasion, Congress members met representatives of electoral bodies, representatives of government and Parliament, as well as candidates from the ruling party and from the opposition to the post of Mayor of Tbilisi.

The delegation will present its findings during a **press conference** scheduled for **Monday 31 May at 11 am** (Hotel Ambadori, 13 Shavteli St. – Tbilisi).

The delegation

Congress members:

Mr Günther Krug (Germany, SOC), Congress Vice-President – **Head of Delegation**

Mr Istvan Borbely (Hungary, EPP-CD), Congress Vice-President

Mr Emin Yeritsyan (Armenia, EPP-CD), Congress Vice-President

Mr Fabio Pellegrini (Italy, SOC), Congress Vice-President

Mrs Dusica Davidovic (Serbia, NR)

Mr Beat Hirs (Switzerland, ILDG)

Mr Mihkel Juhkami (Estonia, EPP-CD)

Mr Nigel Mermagen (UK, ILDG)

Mrs Véronique Moreira (France, NR)

Mrs Gudrun Mosler-Törnström (Austria, SOC)

Committee of the Regions members :

Mr Teet Kallasvee (Estonia, EPP-CD)

Mr Uno Silberg (Estonia, EA)

Mrs Sharon Taylor (UK, PSE)

Mrs Jasmina Vidmar (Slovenia, ALDE)

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 Sfîrloaga (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).

Media Advisory

Congress Secretariat:

Mrs Antonella Cagnolati, Director

Mrs Renate Zikmund, Head of the Division of Communication, International Relations and Election Observation

Mrs Lucrezia Titi, Communications Assistant

More information is available at www.coe.int/congress-georgia

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 Tbilisi

Tel: +995 32 91 38 70 or 71 / 72 / 73, Fax: +995 32 91 38 74, informtbilisi@coe.int, www.coe.ge