



T +33(0)390214895

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4th General Meeting of National Associations of local and regional authorities

Strasbourg, 11 September 2012 - The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe is organising the 4th General Meeting of National Associations of local and regional authorities on 13 September 2012 in Strasbourg (France). This meeting will gather more than 50 participants and representatives of National Associations from 20 European countries. They will examine, in particular, the priorities of the Congress for 2013-2016 - presented by the Rapporteurs Lars O. MOLIN, Sweden (L, EPP/CD) and Karl-Heinz LAMBERTZ, Belgium (R, SOC) - in view of their adoption at the 23rd Session in October.

Three thematic debates will be held to discuss joint actions to be conducted by the Congress and the National Associations: the impact of the world financial recession on local and regional authorities; co-operation programmes with member states and with neighbouring non-member states of the Council of Europe; ethics, transparency and the fight against corruption for good local and regional governance. These debates will be introduced respectively by Jean-Claude FRECON, President of the Chamber of Local Authorities, France (L, SOC), Keith WHITMORE, Congress President, United-Kingdom, (L, ILDG), and Herwig VAN STAA, President of the Chamber of Regions, Austria (R, EPP/CD).

During this General Meeting, a specific debate will also deal with the ONE in FIVE campaign of the Council of Europe to combat sexual violence towards children, with the contribution of Anica DJAMIĆ, Committee of Ministers Thematic Co-ordinator on children and Permanent Representative of Croatia to the Council of Europe, Dusica DAVIDOVIC, Serbia (R), Congress Thematic Rapporteur on children, and Peter TRATTNER, Director of the Child Protection Centre, Salzburg, Austria. The Congress carries the local and regional dimensions of this campaign and encourages local and regional government to develop structures and mechanisms and to promote a more child-friendly culture of towns and regions. The aim of this debate is to illustrate the concrete actions that the national associations and the local and regional authorities can conduct in this field.

[Programme](#)

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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: Keith Whitmore (United Kingdom, ILDG), President of the Chamber of Regions: Herwig van Staa (Austria, EPP/CD), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities: Jean-Claude Frécon (France, SOC)

Political Groups: Socialist Group (SOC), Group of the European People's Party – Christian Democrats (EPP/CD), Independent and Liberal Democrat Group (ILDG).