



T +33(0)390214895

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## **Congress pleased by release of Leyla Güven and the other elected representatives detained in Turkey**

Chisinau, Republic of Moldova - 3 July 2014 "Leyla Güven and 30 local elected representatives held in Diyarbakir have just been released. After over four years of detention for Leyla Güven, the judge in Diyarbakir Court has just taken a decision that does credit to Turkey", said the rapporteurs on local and regional democracy in Turkey, Anders Knape, Sweden (L, EPP/CCE), and Leen Verbeek, Netherlands (R, SOC).

For the Congress, the case of Leyla Güven has always been symbolic of the situation of all the local elected representatives detained in Turkey.

"For the Congress, which has been calling for Leyla Güven's release since her first day in detention, it is a great relief. We are delighted for Leyla and for her family and friends, who are being reunited with her at last after so many years of suffering. We realise that the decision is still shaky. It does not end the judicial procedure and, as rapporteurs on local democracy in Turkey, we will continue with the Congress to keep a very close eye on the situation of Leyla Güven and the other elected representatives being detained", they concluded.

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: Herwig Van Staa (Austria, EPP/DC), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities: Jean-Claude Frécon (France, SOC), President of the Chamber of Regions: Nataliya Romanova (Ukraine, IDLG)

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