PRESS RELEASE
Council of Europe
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
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Ref. CG-PR 007 (2015)

Congress mission to assess elections in the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia, Republic of Moldova

Strasbourg, 17 March 2015 - A delegation of the Congress will carry out an assessment mission of the election of the Governor (Bashkan) and partial elections of the Popular Assembly of the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia (Moldova) to be held on 22 March 2015. Led by Congress Rapporteur Lars O. Molin (Sweden, EPP/CCE), the delegation will include two members of the EU Committee of Regions.

On Friday 20 March, the delegation will hold high-level meetings in Chisinau. They will meet, in particular, Daniela Cujba, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Vasile Batca, Minister of Regional Development and Constructions and Iurie Ciocan, Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Moldova.

In Comrat, the delegation will meet, Mihail Formuzal, the outgoing Governor (Bashkan) of Gagauzia, Dmitry Konstantinov, President of the People's Assembly of Gagauzia, Nicolai Dudoglu, Mayor of Comrat, the President of the CEC of Gagauzia and some candidates.

Finally, meetings are planned with representatives of domestic NGOs and regional media.

Members of the Congress:
Lars O. MOLIN (Suisse, EPP/CCE), Chef of the delegation and rapporteur
Andrée BUCHMANN (France, SOC)
Stewart DICKSON (Royaume-Uni, ILDG)
Line VENNESLAND FRASER, (Norvège, ECR)
Matej GOMBOSI (Slovénie, EPP/CCE)

EU Committee of the Regions:
Doreen HUDDART (United-Kingdom, ALDE)
Karim VAN OVERMEIRE (Belgium, EA)

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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: Jean-Claude Frécon (France, SOC), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities: Anders Knape (Sweden, EPP/CCE), President of the Chamber of Regions: Gudrun Mosler-Törnström (Austria, SOC)
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)