

Media Advisory

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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Congress delegation on a monitoring visit to Turkey

Dates: from 10 to 11 May 2010

Location: Ankara

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 Turkey. This visit follows the one in January 2009, under the second cycle of monitoring for this country since it ratified the European Charter of Local Self-Government in 1992.

Congress Rapporteurs Herwig van Staa (Austria, R, EPP/CD) and Anders Knappe (Sweden, L, EPP/CD) will meet Governor of Ankara Kemal Onal, Mayor of Diyarbakir Osman Baydemir, Governor-Director General for Local Authorities Ercan Topaca (Ministry of Interior), Director General for Prisons and Detention Houses Hizmettin Kalaman (Ministry of Justice), as well as Hayrettin GÜNGÖR, Secretary General of the Union of Turkish Municipalities, and Öztürk Türkdogan, President of the Human Rights Association.

Meetings are also scheduled with members of the Turkish delegation to the Congress as well as representatives of the Turkish political parties and of foreign missions to Ankara.

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 and regional democracy in Turkey, in the framework of regular monitoring, was adopted in November 2005. In August 2007, the Congress carried out a fact-finding mission to the country and adopted, in November 2007, a recommendation on local democracy in Turkey, in particular in the light of the situation of mayors and municipal councils in South-East Anatolia. As a follow-up to the monitoring report of 2005, Congress Rapporteurs visited the country in February 2008 and again in January 2009. In March 2008, the Congress held an exchange of views with Zekeriya Sarbak, Deputy Under-Secretary responsible for local and regional authorities in the Turkish Ministry of Interior.

Contact in Ankara:

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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 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).