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Local elections in Albania: Congress carries out a pre-electoral visit in Tirana

Date: 12 - 13 April 2011

Location: Tirana (Albania)

A delegation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, headed by Hana Richtermocova, Czech Republic (ILDG), will carry out a pre-electoral mission to Albania, in view of the upcoming local elections which are scheduled for 8 May 2011.

The delegation will meet Edmond Haxhinasto, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ferdinand Poni, Deputy Minister of Interior as well as Arben Ristani, Chair of the Central Election Commission and Albana Dhimitri, Deputy Mayor of Tirana.

The pre-election delegation will also have encounters with representatives of political parties, members of the Albanian delegation to the Congress as well as representatives of international organisations, NGOs and media.

A larger Congress delegation – including members of the EU-Committee of the Regions – will be in the country from 4 to 10 May to observe the elections.

Members of the Congress pre-election delegation:

Hana Richtermocova, Czech Republic (ILDG) (Head of delegation)

Mamuka Abuladze, Georgia (EPP/CD)

Michel Guegan (France, NR).

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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-Paul 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).