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Congress delegation heading for the second part of the monitoring mission to assess grassroots democracy in Italy

Strasbourg, 30.11.2012 - The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe will carry out the second part of the monitoring visit to Italy from 4 to 6 December 2012. Congress Rapporteurs Knud ANDERSEN (ILDG, Denmark) and Marina BESPALOVA (EPP/CD, Russian Federation) will examine the follow-up of the commitments undertaken in the field of territorial democracy and decentralization, particularly in the context of on-going economic and territorial reforms, with regard to Italy's ratification of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in 1990. The last monitoring mission was carried out in 1997.

Meetings will be held in Bari on 4 December with the President of the Apulia Region, the President of the Bari Province Council, the Mayor of Bari, the Prefect of Bari, the authorities of Taranto and Brindisi provinces.

On 5 and 6 December in Rome, high level meetings are scheduled with representatives of the government - including with Filippo PATRONI GRIFFI, Minister for Public Administration and Innovation, , Fabrizio BARCA, Minister for Territorial Cohesion, Saverio RUPERTO, Deputy Secretary of State to the Minister of Interior - as well as with the representatives of the administration of the Minister of Economy and Finance and the Minister for Regional Affairs, Tourism and Sport and the members of the Parliamentary Committees.

The delegation will also hold discussions with members of the Italian delegation to the Congress and representatives of the National Associations of local authorities.

A report on the situation of local and regional democracy in Italy will be submitted for approval at a next meeting of the Congress' Monitoring Committee in February 2013 and subsequently debated at the 24th Plenary Session in March 2013.

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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: Herwig Van Staa (Austria, EPP/DC), President of the Chamber of Regions: Nataliya Romanova (Ukraine, IDLG), 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), European Conservatives & Reformists Group (ECR)