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Congress pre-election delegation heads for "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

Strasbourg, 22 February 2013 - A delegation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, headed by Rapporteur Jüri LANDBERG, Estonia (L, ILDG) will carry out a pre-electoral mission to "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" from 24 to 27 February 2013. This mission is organised in view of the local elections to be held in the country on 24 March 2013. At this stage, a larger Congress delegation will be deployed to observe the vote.

On 25 February, meetings are planned, in particular, with the Minister of Justice and the Deputy Minister for Local Self Government, as well as Ambassador Ralf Breth, Head of the OSCE Mission to Skopje.

The delegation will also exchange views with representatives of Associations of Citizens and Journalists.

On 26 February, meetings are planned with members of the State Election Commission as well as the ODIHR Election Observation Mission to "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". The visit also provides an opportunity for the delegation to meet with representatives from the National delegation to the Congress, as well as the Association of Units of Local Self-Governments (ZELS).

Members of the delegation

Congress:

Jüri LANDBERG, Estonia (L, ILDG), Head of Delegation and Rapporteur

Andrée BUCHMANN, France (R, SOC)

Matej GOMBOSI, Slovenia (L, EPP/ CCE)

Hana RICHTERMOCOVA, Czech Republic (L, ERC)

Congress Secretariat

Renate ZIKMUND, Head of the Division of Regional and Local Election Observation

Jane DUTTON-EARLY, Assistant to the Election Observation Mission

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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)