

Press Release

Communication Unit of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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Territorial authorities and democratic cohesion focus of Novi Sad conference

Strasbourg, 03.10.2007 - Territorial authorities and democratic cohesion will be the theme of the conference which takes place on Monday, 8 October in Novi Sad, Vojvodina (Serbia). Jointly organised by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, under the Serbian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, the conference will be attended by – among others – local and regional elected representatives and representatives of national associations of local authorities.

The participants will discuss the partnership between the Congress and national associations of local authorities, which play a crucial role in representing towns and regions at national and international level. They will also discuss implementation of the strategy for good governance at local level, which will be presented at the next Conference of European Ministers responsible for Local and Regional Government (Valencia, Spain, 15-16 October 2007).

Speakers at the opening session will include Bojan Kostres, President of the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Milan Markovic, Minister of Public Administration and Local Self-Government of the Republic of Serbia, Zeljko Ozegovic, President of the Standing Conference of Serbian Towns, Halvdan Skard, President of the Congress.

Bojan Kostres and Halvdan Skard will be talking to journalists at a press conference, to be held on Monday, 8 October at 11am. (Office of the President, Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina).

Conference website: www.coe.int/novisad

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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 Halvdan Skard (Norway, SOC), President of the Chamber of Regions: Yavuz Milden (EPP/CD, Turkey),
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**).