

Media Advisory

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13.12.2010

Preparation of the 2nd Euro-Arab Cities Forum

Date: 14 December 2010

Venue: Rome, Italy

As part of the preparations for the next Euro-Arab Cities Forum in 2011, an international press conference will take place on 14 December 2010 at 11.30 am, in Rome (Italy). It will be followed at 2 pm by a meeting of the Organizing Committee of the Euro-Arab Cities Forum.

The press conference will be opened by Lucio Battistotti, Director of the Italian representative office of the European Commission, and by Michèle Picciano, President of the Italian Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (AICCIRE).

Among the speakers will also be Antonella Cagnolati, Director of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, Frédéric Vallier, Secretary General of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), Ghassam Samman, Head of International Activities of the Arab Towns Organisation, Carmelo Motta, Secretary General of the Standing Committee for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (COPPEM) and Julio Andrade, representative of the City of Malaga. It will be moderated by Emilio Verrengia, Secretary General of AICCIRE.

Launched in Dubai in 2008 with the aim to pursue dialogue for democracy and development between European and Arab cities, the Euro-Arab Cities Forum is held every three years, with the active participation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

The 2nd Forum will take place in Malaga (Spain) from 25 to 26 February 2011, and will focus on four main themes: the strengthening of local self-government through dialogue between central and territorial authorities; the sustainable development of cities; the protection of cultural heritage and tourism development; as well as the urban economy during the global downturn.

Press conference venue: Italian representative office of the European Commission, Room Lorenzo Natali - Via IV Novembre, 149, Rome, Italy.

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-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).