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Ref. CG-PR 009 (2011)

1st Statutory Forum of the Congress to discuss Mayors' Summit for Roma in Strasbourg

15.06.2011 - The Statutory Forum of the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities will meet for the first time in Strasbourg (France), on 17 June 2011. Composed of the heads of national delegations and the members of the Congress Bureau, the Statutory Forum was set up in the context of the recent Congress reform. It replaces the former Standing Committee.

Participants will discuss, in particular, the Summit of Mayors for Roma, which will take place on 22 September 2011, at the Palais de l'Europe, in Strasbourg (France) with the participation of Nawel Rafik-Elmrini, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg in charge of International and European relations, town twinnings and decentralised co-operation. Many municipalities and regions have already created active networks on Roma integration. John Warmisham, Congress Rapporteur on Roma, will present the main objectives of the Summit - which aims at drawing together good practices and initiatives already existing in Europe for Roma inclusion - whilst identifying solutions to the problems faced by municipalities. The long-term objective is to link the existing initiatives and networks and to establish a pan-European platform, with the participation of the various actors, which will serve as a framework for providing information and channelling the growing number of local and regional programmes.

Among other items on the agenda will be the reform of the Council of Europe with the participation of Gérard Stoudmann, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Organisational Development and Reform, the renewed Congress dialogue with the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, the preparation of the 17th Conference of Ministers responsible for local and regional government taking place in Kyiv (Ukraine) on 3 and 4 November 2011, and the Council of Europe's neighbourhood policy.

The Statutory Forum will be preceded on 16 June by the meeting of the Congress Bureau.

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).