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Yerevan, colloquy on migration, challenges for local and regional authorities in Europe

Strasbourg, 28 June 2011 – The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe will examine the issues of migration in Europe, notably the distribution of responsibilities between the different levels of governance, on 30 June 2011 in the “Congress” hotel in Yerevan (Armenia)

The colloquy, “Migration: challenges for local and regional authorities”, will cover the main issues facing local and regional authorities with regard to the accommodation and integration of migrants, as well as to the measures aimed at protecting their rights and guaranteeing their access to public services at local and regional level.

The colloquy will bring together members of the Congress’s Current Affairs Committee and of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, as well as representatives of networks of municipalities, local and regional government associations, international organisations and associations dealing with migration issues.

The speakers will include: Vache TERTERYAN, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Territorial Administration of the Republic of Armenia, Christopher CHOPE, Chair of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population of the Parliamentary Assembly, Rapporteur responsibility- sharing, Petr NOVAK, Deputy Chair of the European Committee on Migration (CDMG), and Damtew DESSALEGNE, representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Armenia.

Emin YERITSYAN, Armenia (L, EPP/CD), Chair of the Current Affairs Committee, will act as moderator of the meeting.

The day before, on 29 June 2011, members of the Congress’s Current Affairs Committee will also meet to discuss priorities for the committee’s work, in particular the Council of Europe’s “ONE in FIVE” Council of Europe Campaign to stop sexual violence against children, the influx of migrants from the southern Mediterranean and the project to promote access to social rights for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The reports on the situation of Roma in Europe, on energy supply at local and regional levels and on “education for democratic citizenship – tools for cities” will also be examined.

The meeting will be opened by Emin YERITSYAN, Armenia (L, EPP/CD), Armen GEVORGYAN, Armenia’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Territorial Development, and Karen KARAPETYAN, Mayor of Yerevan.

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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: 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).