

Media Advisory

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Communication Division

Ref: MA029a09

Tel. +33 (0)3 90 21 49 36

Fax +33 (0)3 88 41 27 51

Internet: www.coe.int/congress

e-mail: congress.com@coe.int



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"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
Turkey
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Strasbourg, 18.03.2009

Council of Europe Congress to observe local elections in "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

Date: 20-23 March 2009

Location: Skopje, Tetovo, Kumanovo, Struga, Strumica ("The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia")

Description: The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe will observe the local elections in "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", on Sunday 22 March. The Congress delegation will be headed by Ludmila Sfirloaga (Romania, SOC), President of the Congress Chamber of Regions. As part of the co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union, the election observation delegation will include three members of the EU Committee of the Regions.

Prior to election day, the delegation will meet with Musa Xhaferi, Minister of Local Self-Government of "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". There will be encounters with all the candidates running for the election of the Mayor of Skopje. Further discussions are planned with representatives of international organisations, of NGOs monitoring the election campaign and with the media.

This mission is carried out in the framework of a larger Council of Europe election observation action, which includes monitoring of the presidential elections on the same day by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

A joint **press conference** is scheduled on **Monday 23 March at 2 pm in the Alexander Palace Hotel, Skopje**. This press conference will gather all the international organisations involved in the observation of both the presidential and local elections.

Members of the delegation:

Congress

- **Ludmila Sfirloaga**, President of the Chamber of Regions, President of Councillor, Prahova County Council (Romania, SOC, R) – **Head of Delegation**
- **Paolo Rondelli**, Municipal councillor of San Marino, (San Marino, SOC, L) - **Rapporteur**

- **Ott Kazuri**, Mayor of Harku Municipality, (Estonia, ILDG, L)
- **Viacheslav Rogov**, Head, City of Pokrov (Vladimir Region), (Russian Federation, ILDG, L)

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: Yavuz Milden (Turkey, EPP/CD), President of the Chamber of Regions: Ludmila Sfirloaga (Romania, SOC),

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).

- **Hanna Richtermocova**, Deputy Mayor, City of Horice, (Czech Republic, NR, L)
- **Rositsa Yanakieva**, Mayor of Pernik municipality, (Bulgaria, SOC, L)

EU Committee of the Regions

- **Doreen Huddart**, (UK/ALDE), Member of Newcastle City Council
- **Josepy Cordina**, (MT/PES), Mayor of Xaghra
- **Martin Heatley**, (UK/EPP), Member of Warwickshire County Council
- **Uno Silberg**, Vice-President of Committee of the Regions

Congress Secretariat

- **Jean-Philippe Bozouls**, Head of Service I, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Local Authorities
- **Laurence Dadoun**, Deputy to the Head of the Co-ordination and Management Division of the Congress, Co-ordination of election observation
- **Gordana Tetchner**, Assistant

Council of Europe Office in Skopje

Gjorgji Jovanovski, Director, tel. +389 2 3123616, fax +389 2 3123617, www.iocoe.org.mk