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## **Local democracy in Armenia: 200 mayors and municipal councillors come together at seminars in Gyumri and Sisian**

Strasbourg, 3 September 2014 - The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe is holding two seminars on the theme "Fostering local democracy in Armenia" in Gyumri and Sisian on 9 and 11 September 2014. Some 200 mayors and municipal councillors representing all the provinces (*marzes*) of Armenia will take part in four workshops on the principle of subsidiarity, finances and taxation for local authorities, territorial reorganisation and the role of municipal councils.

The aim is to present to participants Recommendation 351 adopted by the Congress in March 2014. This recommendation welcomes the efforts made to implement the provisions of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, in particular through the constitutional changes made in 2005 and the adoption in 2008 of a new law on Local Self-Government of Yerevan. It also invites the Armenian authorities to review the legislation for implementing the principle of subsidiarity, increase local authorities' own resources and allow them to manage a substantial share of public affairs.

The two seminars are being funded by the government of Denmark as part of the "Support for the consolidation of local democracy in Armenia" project. This is a Council of Europe and Congress of Local and Regional Authorities contribution to developing local political governance in Armenia and enhancing citizens' trust in democratic institutions.

The proposals emerging from the seminars will be set out in a document, which the associations representing Armenian local authorities will present to the Armenian government.

*Armenia ratified the European Charter of Local Self-Government on 25 January 2002 and its additional Protocol on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority on 13 May 2013. Countries which have ratified the Charter are bound by its provisions. The Charter imposes compliance with a minimum number of rights, which are the European bedrock of local self-government. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe ensures respect for these principles.*

Congress texts on local democracy in Armenia:

[Recommendation 351 \(2014\)](#)

[Report CPL\(26\)2](#)

[European Charter of Local Self-Government](#)

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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: Herwig Van Staa (Austria, EPP/DC), President of the Chamber of

Local Authorities: Jean-Claude Frécon (France, SOC), President of the Chamber of Regions:

Nataliya Romanova (Ukraine, IDLG)

Political Groups: Socialist Group (SOC), Group of the European People's Party – Christian

Democrats (EPP/CD), Independent and Liberal Democrat Group (ILDG), European

Conservatives & Reformists Group (ECR)