

# Press Release

## Communication Unit of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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## International Conference to launch the "Black Sea Euroregion"

Strasbourg, 25.09.2008 - Territorial authorities taking part in the Black Sea Euroregion initiative will meet in Varna (Bulgaria) on 26 September 2008 to sign the Constituent Act and Statutes of the Euroregion.

A result of the initiative launched by the Council of Europe Congress in 2006, the Black Sea Euroregion will be a platform for co-operation complementary to existing national intergovernmental co-operation initiatives, acting in the remit of regional and municipal competencies. It will serve as a launching pad for multilateral initiatives using existing national, European and international financial instruments. The Euroregion will take the shape of a non-profit association designed to facilitate inter-regional and inter-municipal co-operation in the Black Sea basin.

The conference will be opened at 9.30 am, at the Conference Hall of the Riviera Beach Hotel, by Kiril Yordanov, Mayor of the City of Varna, Borislav Gutsanov, Chair of the Varna Municipal Council, Yavuz Mildon, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, Vasil Kuybida, Minister for Regional Development and Construction of Ukraine, Milen Keremedchiev, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bulgaria, Răzvan-Horațiu Radu, Under-Secretary of State within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania and Atanas Stoilov, Chairman of the Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities (UBBSLA).

A **press conference** will be held at 11 am (Conference Hall, II level, Riviera Beach hotel, Varna).

More information is available at [www.coe.int/congress-euroregions](http://www.coe.int/congress-euroregions)

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 Mildon (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**).