

Press Release

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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Council of Europe Congress: Ian Micallef welcomes rapprochement between Armenia and Turkey

Strasbourg, 01.09.2009 – “I welcome the launch of discussions between Armenia and Turkey on the normalisation of their bilateral relations, which should lead to the establishment of diplomatic ties and the opening of the border between these two member states of the Council of Europe,” Ian Micallef, President a.i. of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, stated today.

“This is very good news for the region as a whole, but first and foremost for these two countries. This reassuring step forward must open new opportunities for Armenian and Turkish communities to reach out to each other for dialogue, exchanges and cooperation across the border, in the light of relevant Council of Europe conventions,” underlined the Congress President a.i.

“The Congress monitors closely the situation of local and regional democracy in Armenia and Turkey, and we are convinced that improving relations between these two countries will further boost democratic processes at all levels. The normalisation of bilateral relations between Armenia and Turkey is pivotal for the overall stability in the region. The momentum created by this initiative must be maintained and strengthened,” concluded Ian Micallef.

Congrès du Conseil de l'Europe : Ian Micallef salue le rapprochement turco-arménien

Strasbourg, 01.09.2009 – « Je me félicite du lancement des discussions entre l'Arménie et la Turquie sur la normalisation de leurs relations bilatérales, qui devraient conduire à l'instauration de liens diplomatiques et à l'ouverture de la frontière entre ces deux Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe » a déclaré aujourd'hui Ian Micallef, Président a.i. du Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe.

« C'est une très bonne nouvelle pour la région dans son ensemble mais avant tout pour ces deux pays. Ce pas en avant réconfortant doit ouvrir, pour les collectivités turques et arméniennes, de nouvelles perspectives transfrontalières de dialogue, d'échanges et de coopération, à la lumière des conventions pertinentes du Conseil de l'Europe » a souligné le Président a.i. du Congrès.

« Le Congrès suit de près la situation de la démocratie locale et régionale en Arménie et en Turquie et nous sommes convaincus que l'amélioration des relations entre ces deux pays donnera une nouvelle impulsion aux processus démocratiques à tous les niveaux. La normalisation des relations bilatérales entre l'Arménie et la Turquie est essentielle pour la stabilité de l'ensemble de la région. La dynamique créée par ces initiatives doit être maintenue et amplifiée » a conclu Ian Micallef.

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).