

11/09/2024

Conference of national associations of local and regional authorities: Building a stronger grassroots democracy together

Organised to mark the 30th anniversary of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe

Under the auspices of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers

Draft programme

Date:	12 – 13 September 2024
Venue:	Palais de l'Europe - Strasbourg
Time:	12 September: 15.00 – 19.00 – Palais de l'Europe, Hemicycle (1 st floor) (19.30 - 21.00 – Townhall Strasbourg) 13 September: 09.30 –16.30 – Palais de l'Europe, Room 1 (2nd Floor)
Languages:	French, English, Ukrainian and Turkish
Time	Programme 12 September 2024 – 15.00 – 19.00 Hemicycle of the Palais de l'Europe
11.00 -14.55	Distribution of participants' badges at the Palais de l'Europe (main entrance)
14.30-14.55	Arrival of the participants (Hemicycle – 1st floor)
15.00-16.20	<u>Opening session</u> <u>Presentations</u> Marc Cools , President of the Congress Arnoldas Abramavičius , Vice-Minister of Interior, on behalf of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers Bjørn Berge , Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe Lisa Cruz Lackner , Youth Delegate from Andorra to the Congress

	<p><u>Debate:</u> What role can national associations play in strengthening territorial democracy and multilevel governance?</p> <p>Ekrem İmamoğlu, President of the Union of Municipalities of Türkiye and Mayor of Istanbul</p> <p>Gunn Marit Helgesen, President of the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, Chair of CEMR and Member of the County Council of Vestfold og Telemark</p> <p>Interventions from the floor</p>
16.20-16.25	<p>Family photo (hemicycle)</p>
16.30-18.15	<p><u>Round Table I: « Resilience, reconstruction and reform of Ukraine »</u></p> <p>Moderated by Bernd Vöhringer, President of the Chamber of Local Authorities of the Congress and Mayor of Sindelfingen (Germany)</p> <p><u>Presentations</u></p> <p>Video message by Svenja Schulze, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany</p> <p>Video message by Vitali Klitschko, President of the Association of Ukrainian Cities and Mayor of Kyiv</p> <p>Vadym Boichenko, Mayor of Mariupol and representative of the Association of Ukrainian Cities</p> <p>Tetiana Yehorova-Lutsenko, President of the Ukrainian Association of District and Regional Councils and Head of the Kharkiv Regional Council</p> <p>Petra Neumann, Legal Adviser, Register of Damage caused by the Russian Federation to Ukraine - Council of Europe</p> <p>Sofiia Bohdanova, Congress Youth Delegate for Ukraine</p> <p><u>Debate</u> Introduced by Liana Liu Ioannides Congress Youth Delegate for Cyprus</p>
18.20-19.00	<p><u>Workshop:</u> The Council of Europe Development Bank and the financing of local projects</p> <p>Moderated by Tunç Soyer, President of the Chamber of Regions of the Congress</p> <p>With Tomáš Boček, Vice-Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank</p>
19.30 -21.00	<p>Reception 30th anniversary of the Congress [Townhall - Strasbourg]</p>

	<p>Programme 13 September 2024 – 09.30 – 16.30</p> <p>Room 1 of the Palais de l’Europe (2nd floor)</p>
<p>09.30-11.00</p>	<p><u>Round Table II "Boosting democracy by engaging all citizens"</u></p> <p>Moderated by Bryony Rudkin, Chair of the Congress Committee on Social Inclusion and Human Dignity and councillor at Ipswich Borough Council (United Kingdom)</p> <p><u>Presentations</u></p> <p>Eirini Dourou, Member of the Greek Parliament and former Congress spokesperson on gender equality <i>Combating sexism in politics</i></p> <p>Stewart Dickson, Chairman of the Council for Democratic Elections - Council of Europe - and Member of the Northern Ireland Assembly (UK) <i>Restoring public confidence in the electoral process</i></p> <p>Tobias Flessenkemper, Head of Youth Department - Council of Europe <i>Promoting young people's involvement in public life</i></p> <p>Maria Markkula, Congress Youth Delegate for Finland <i>Social inclusion and participatory democracy: ensuring fair representation</i></p> <p><u>Debate</u></p> <p>introduced by Boris Lennaertz, Congress Youth Delegate for Belgium</p>
<p>11.00 -11.30</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p>11.35 -12.35</p>	<p><u>Workshop on</u> European labels to support local democracy</p> <p>Moderated by Konstantinos Koukas, Congress Spokesperson on the ELDW and municipal councillor of Mykonos (Greece)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) <u>Presentation</u> Corinne François, Director of the Association Ville et Communes de Bruxelles (Belgium) • The European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE) <u>Presentation</u> Dovile Adamonyte, member of the local council of Birštonas (Lithuania) <p><u>Debate</u></p>
<p>12.45-14.00</p>	<p>Buffet lunch (lobby of the Hemicycle)</p>
<p>14.05 -15.35</p>	<p><u>Round Table III “Local innovation for stronger local authorities”</u></p> <p>Moderated by Melanie Lepoutier, Deputy Permanent Rapporteur on human rights, mayor of Sommervieu and General Councillor for Calvados (France)</p>

	<p><u>Presentations</u></p> <p>Mélanie Lepoultier, Deputy Permanent Rapporteur of the Congress on Human Rights, <i>Promoting and raising awareness on human rights at the local level</i></p> <p>Jakub Mazur, Deputy-Mayor of Wroclav (Poland) <i>The use of AI and digital tools to manage the integration of refugees</i></p> <p>Ji Soo YOON, policy analyst, OECD <i>Local and Regional responses to climate and environmental challenges: the example of decarbonising buildings</i></p> <p>Alicia Ann Blount, Congress Youth Delegate for the United Kingdom <i>Addressing internet safety and cyberbullying: role of local and regional authorities</i></p> <p><u>Debate</u></p> <p>introduced by Elina Rotaru, Congress Youth Delegate for Romania</p>
15.40-16.30	<p><u>Closing of the Conference</u></p> <p>Moderated by Véronique Bertholle, Congress spokesperson on Youth and Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg (France)</p> <p><u>Conclusions</u></p> <p>Fabrizio Rossi, Secretary General of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)</p> <p>Kelmend Zajazi, Executive Director of the Network of associations of local authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)</p> <p>Zsuzsa Vidó, Youth Delegate from Hungary to the Congress</p> <p>Marc Cools, President of the Congress: Adoption of a <u>Joint Declaration</u> and <u>closing</u></p>