

*Stronger Voice. Greater Visibility. Clear Direction.
Shaping the future of local democracy.*



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**Candidate for President,
Chamber of Local Authorities of the Congress**

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Dear colleagues,

Born and raised in an island community, in a Mediterranean environment, has shaped my understanding of local governance from an early stage. Experiencing first-hand the challenges of insularity, as well as those faced by remote and peripheral municipalities, guided my decision to engage actively in local public life. This began at a very young age. It was an experience that shaped my political perspective and continues to guide my commitment to ensuring that all local authorities are effectively supported and represented.

I have served local government across all its levels and I am currently in my fourth elected term, as Regional Councillor, Municipal Councillor and Mayor. This experience, combined with my professional background as a lawyer specialised in administrative law, has given me a comprehensive and practical understanding of local governance, from political leadership to administrative responsibility.

In parallel, I have maintained a strong involvement in local government at national level through the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece, where I have held key institutional responsibilities, including positions in the Board, the Supervisory Council and as Vice-President.

Over the past years, serving as Vice-President of the Congress, heading the Greek Delegation and currently serving as its Deputy Head, I have been extensively involved in the work of the Congress at all levels.

I have actively participated in plenary sessions, committees and political processes, served as rapporteur, taken part in missions and represented the Congress in a wide range of institutional and political contexts. This experience has given me a deep understanding of the diverse realities faced by local authorities across Europe, particularly in peripheral and less central regions.

In recent years, through the responsibilities entrusted to me, I have actively contributed to delivering important reforms within the Congress, particularly in strengthening citizen participation and advancing standards of democratic governance, while ensuring that younger generations play an active role in shaping the future of local democracy in Europe. This includes the reform of the European Local Democracy Week and the evolution of the European Label of Governance Excellence, key instruments that enhance the impact of our work at local level. This engagement has given me a comprehensive understanding of the Congress, not only of how it operates but also of how it must evolve.

Today, local democracy is under increasing pressure. Municipalities are called upon to respond to complex challenges, while remaining the closest and most trusted level of governance for our citizens. In this respect, I hereby declare my candidature for the Presidency of the Chamber of Local Authorities of our Congress, bearing in mind that this Chamber must assume a stronger, more visible and more effective role.

My objective is clear: to strengthen the political voice of the Chamber, enhance its visibility, reinforce its connection with local authorities across all member States, and ensure that our work delivers tangible results, with a clear vision of a more inclusive local democracy where younger generations play a central role.

The implementation of the Reykjavik commitments and the New Democratic Pact for Europe at local level must remain at the core of our action. Looking ahead, we will work even more closely with national associations of local authorities and the Congress Secretariat, strengthening cooperation and advancing our shared priorities.

I have served the Congress with consistency, a strong sense of responsibility and a deep commitment to its values and mission.

I am ready to lead the Chamber of Local Authorities with clarity, determination and a strong strategic direction.

Yours sincerely,
Konstantinos Koukas