



Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en
Koninkrijksrelaties

Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

MCL-16(2009)1

Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Local and Regional Government

*“Good local and regional governance in
turbulent times: the challenge of change”*

16th Session, Utrecht, 16 - 17 November 2009

Programme and draft agenda

DRAFT AGENDA

1.	Opening of the 16 th Session
2.	Election of the Chair and Vice -Chair of the Conference
3.	Adoption of the agenda
4.	The Kiviniemi report: <i>How to enhance the work of the Council of Europe in the field of local and regional democracy?</i>
5.	Progress review reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of the Budapest Agenda by the Council of Europe and member States - Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance - European Local Democracy Week - Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform - Co-operation programmes
6.	Exchange of views between the Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
7.	Debate on key topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Impact of the economic crisis on local and regional government: what policy responses by governments?</i> - <i>Transfrontier co-operation: the role of central government in removing obstacles</i>
8.	Debate: <i>What are the most important challenges governments face in local and regional democracy today?</i>
9.	Vote by Ministers to determine the Utrecht Agenda
10.	Exchange of practice and experience on issues of local and regional democracy and good governance <i>Including:</i> Report on developments on citizen participation in member states, covering also the integration of foreigners in local life
11.	Council of Europe Reference Framework for Regional Democracy
12.	Other business
13.	Adoption of the Utrecht Declaration and Final Resolution
14.	Closing of the Session

PROGRAMME

Sunday 15 November 2009	
Afternoon	Arrival of Ministers and other participants
17:00- 18:30	<p><i>Meeting of the European Committee on Local and Regional Democracy (CDLR)</i></p> <p><i>Venue: Jaarbeurs Congres Gebouw, Jaarbeursplein, Utrecht</i></p>
19:00-22:30	<p>Welcome reception and buffet dinner for Delegations hosted by the Province of Utrecht</p> <p><i>Venue: National Museum from Musical Clock to Street Organ Steenweg 6, Utrecht</i></p>
18:45-22:30	<p>Dinner hosted by the Queen's Commissioner in the Province of Utrecht (Ministers only)</p> <p>Fireside chat (Ministers only)</p> <p><i>Venue: Paushuis Kromme Nieuwegracht 49, Utrecht</i></p>

Monday 16 November 2009	
9:00-10:00	<p><i>Venue: Jaarbeurs Congres Gebouw, Jaarbeursplein, Utrecht</i></p> <p>Opening of the 16th session</p> <p>Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Conference</p> <p>Statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretary General of the Council of Europe - Host Ministers of the Kingdom of the Netherlands - Chair of the Committee of Ministers - President of the Parliamentary Assembly - President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities - Mayor of the City of Utrecht - Queen's Commissioner in the Province of Utrecht <p>Adoption of the Agenda</p>
10:00-12:15	<p>The Kiviniemi report: <i>How to enhance the work of the Council of Europe in the field of local and regional democracy?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introductory statement by Minister Mari Kiviniemi - Discussion
11:10-11:40	Break and photograph
11:40-12:15	The Kiviniemi report (continued)
12:15-12:45	<p>Progress review reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of the Budapest Agenda by the Council of Europe and member States - Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance - European Local Democracy Week - Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform - Co-operation programmes

Monday 16 November 2009	
12:55-14:30	<p>Luncheon hosted by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for ministers / heads of delegation, delegations from Congress and Parliamentary Assembly <i>Including an Exchange of views between the Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities</i></p> <p>Luncheon for other participants hosted by the Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations</p>
14:30-16:15	<p>Debate on key topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Impact of the economic crisis on local and regional government: what policy responses by governments?</i> - <i>Transfrontier co-operation: the role of central government in removing obstacles</i>
16:15-16:45	Break
16:45 -17:30	Debate on the Utrecht Agenda: <i>What are the most important challenges governments face in local and regional democracy today?</i>
17:30-18:00	Vote to determine the Utrecht Agenda (2010-2013)
18:00-19:00	<i>Meeting of the European Committee on Local and Regional Democracy (CDLR) (NB: amendments to the draft Utrecht Declaration will be decided upon by the Ministers themselves on the second day).</i>
19:30-19:45	<p><i>Venue: Railway Museum Maliebaanstation, Utrecht</i></p> <p>Ceremony of opening for signature of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority and - Protocol No. 3 to the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities concerning Euroregional Co-operation Groupings
19:50	Press conference by host ministers, open to all ministers and meetings of ministers with the press, subject to prior appointment
19:45-20:30	Cocktail offered by the Mayor of the City of Utrecht
20:30	Dinner hosted by the Mayor of the City of Utrecht

Tuesday 17 November 2009	
9:00-9:30	<p><i>Venue: Jaarbeurs Congres Gebouw, Jaarbeursplein, Utrecht</i></p> <p>Council of Europe Reference Framework for Regional Democracy</p>
9:30-10:45	Discussion of the draft for the Utrecht Declaration and the draft Final Resolution
10:45-11:15	Break
11:15-12:30	<p>Exchange of practice and experience on issues of local and regional democracy and good governance</p> <p><i>Including:</i> Discussion of the Report on developments on citizen participation in member states, covering also the integration of foreigners in local life</p>
12:30-13:00	<p>Adoption of the Utrecht Declaration</p> <p>Adoption of the Final Resolution</p> <p>Other business</p> <p>Closing of the 16th Session</p>
13:00	Press conference by the host Ministers and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
13:00-14:30	Buffet lunch offered by the Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations
Afternoon	<p>Departure of Ministers and other participants</p> <p>Optional events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Geldmuseum & Koninklijke Nederlandse Munt / Money Museum & Royal Dutch Mint - Utrecht and the Dutch Gaming Industry - Theatrical Utrecht Canal Tour - Peace of Utrecht and Domsquare – Origin of the City Tour