

Ref.: C(2007)16

30 October 2007

Dear Sir, Madam, friends and colleagues,

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe has decided to give thought to the institutional relations between political executive bodies and administrative authorities at local level in its member states. This issue arises essentially in connection with the monitoring of the application of Article 6 of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, and will be the subject of a report and a recommendation by the Institutional Committee.

It is one of the fundamental characteristics of local self-government that local authorities have a broad measure of freedom to define their own internal administrative structures, but it is very important to determine the extent of this freedom to adapt these structures with a view to effective management.

Wishing to engage in detailed discussions of this subject, the Congress, with the Federation of Local Government Chief Executive Officers of Europe (UDITE), is to hold a **European conference** entitled "**The elected executive and the local authority chief executive – a delicately balanced and complementary partnership**" at the Palais de l'Europe in **Strasbourg on 17 and 18 January 2008**. The preliminary programme of the conference is appended to this letter.

The aim will be to examine the way in which local authority services are organised and the institutional relations between the executive body, generally political in nature, and the administrative body responsible for putting decisions into practice. The various parties concerned - elected representatives, local authority chief executives and experts - will take part in the discussions.

Another question that will be considered is the political and managerial responsibility of the elected executive in local and regional administration. We shall also be discussing the position of the local authority chief executive between the elected executive and the administration. We should also like to spend some time discussing the synergy between the elected executive and the chief executive in politics and management.

A special conference file (programme, practical information, etc) will be available on the Congress website ([http://www.coe.int/t/Congress/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/Congress/default_en.asp)) in November 2007.

We very much hope that this conference will be of interest to you and that you will be able to take part in person or to be represented.



**Halvdan Skard**  
President of the Congress



**Adrian Mifsud**  
President of UDITE

***Circular letter addressed to the Presidents of the national delegations to the Congress***  
*Copy: Secretaries of the national delegations*