

Local consequences in the conflict zone in the south Caucasus: Support from European local and regional authorities

29-30 October 2009. Funded by Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

The present event has been conceived by the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies, in order to address its mandate and objectives in Southern Caucasus, as well as to assist the Congress in the implementation phase of the Resolution 272 (2008) on the “Local consequences in the conflict zone in Southern Caucasus and the support from European and regional authorities”. On 29 and 30 October 2009 an international conference, “Local Authority Associations of South Caucasus” was organized. Representatives from National Associations of Local Authorities from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria and Georgia, as well from Congress, ALDA and LDA Georgia participated in the event.

The conference explored present and future opportunities for South Caucasus Local Authorities Associations and analyzed the benefits of networking based on the experience of ALDA in South Caucasus and the LDA in Georgia and by exchanging best practices.

As a result of this conference, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and ALDA decided:

- to strengthen and develop local and regional democracy in the South Caucasus
- to support to the newly established Euroregion South Caucasus programme;
- to support networking and cooperation between associations of local authorities in the South Caucasus region;
- to increase capacity of elected local representatives and civil society actors
- to strengthen the role of the LDA Georgia, as one of the key actor in the region.
- to promote local democracy and cooperation between local authorities and civil society, as well as to conduct a feasibility study on the enlargement of LDAs network with special focus on the opportunities of opening LDAs in Armenia and in Azerbaijan, to improve already existing local democracy mechanisms and tools.