

## **Declaration by the Committee of Ministers on the recent attacks in Paris**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 14 January 2015  
at the 1216th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

Following its Chairman's message dated 7 January, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, meeting today in Strasbourg, condemns in the strongest terms the massacre at the satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo and the anti-Semitic killings at a kosher grocery store in Paris last week.

These attacks were a direct assault on democracy, of which freedom of expression and opinion is a cornerstone. They have sought to destabilise our institutions, radicalise our societies and set the citizens against each other.

Our response to these horrendous acts, which cannot and should not be justified by any religion, must be to stand firm on our shared values: democracy, human rights and the rule of law. It is by upholding a united front around these values and by taking action for freedom, tolerance, mutual understanding and respect towards others, that terrorism will be curbed.

The Committee of Ministers pays tribute to the victims, extends its condolences to their families and proclaims its solidarity with the French Government and people. It is determined to carry on the action of the Council of Europe to strengthen democratic security, based on respect for human rights and the rule of law, in the face of extremism and terrorism.