



T +33(0)390214895

www.coe.int/congress

congress.web@coe.int

Ref. CG-PR 61 (2015)

Jean-Claude Frécon: "Human Rights must be present at all levels of governance"

Strasbourg, 10 December 2015 – On the occasion of the International Human Rights Day, on 10 December 2015, the President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Jean-Claude Frécon, stated that "this day is not only a commemoration, but it is also a stark reminder for us all, because humanity is still far from the ideal it set for itself in 1948". He addressed in particular the difficult nature of the current situation. "The economic crisis, the refugee crisis, and terrorist threats are all challenges which, if we are not careful, could endanger human rights and fundamental freedoms. Democracy cannot be alive and well without respect for human rights" he added.

He also recalled that the work of the Congress for the coming years will focus on the implementation of concrete actions of awareness-raising and support for local elected representatives, in light of the goals set by the Graz Declaration, adopted in May 2015 after the International Forum "focusing on human rights". "We are proud that the Congress upholds these values through its work because, in order to be meaningful, human rights must be present at all levels of governance so as to create a fairer world for our citizens in all our communities" he concluded.

[Text of the Declaration](#)

The Congress has two chambers, the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions. It brings together 324 full and 324 substitute members representing more than 200 000 European territorial communities.

President of the Congress: Jean-Claude Frécon (France, SOC), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities: Anders Knappe (Sweden, EPP/CCE), President of the Chamber of Regions: Gudrun Mosler-Törnström (Austria, SOC)

Political Groups: Socialist Group (SOC), Group of the European People's Party (EPP/CCE), Independent and Liberal Democrat Group (ILDG), European Conservatives & Reformists Group (ECR)