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International Conference of Local Authorities on the Prevention of Radicalisation Leading to Violent Extremism

Strasbourg, 13.11.2015 – What role can local elected representatives and local authorities play in preventing radicalisation leading to violent extremism? About one hundred local elected representatives, decision-makers and specialists from 22 European countries will meet in Aarhus, Denmark, on 18 November to discuss this issue. The conference is being held jointly by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the European Forum for Urban Security (Efus) in partnership with the cities of Aarhus and Rotterdam, and forms part of the broader initiative "Towards an alliance of European cities against violent extremism" (*).

It will be opened by Jacob Bundsgaard, Mayor of Aarhus, Leen Verbeek, Vice President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Guilherme Pinto, President of EFUS and – via video message – Ahmed Aboutaleb, Mayor of Rotterdam (Netherlands).

The participants will take part in three working sessions discussing the issues from different perspectives: local elected representatives' views on their role and the contribution of local and regional authorities, how decision-makers see the role of local elected representatives and priority activities and, lastly, local and regional strategies and their link to national and European levels of governance. The results of the conference will be presented at the closing session.

This conference represents the political prelude to the international conference on "Building resilience to radicalisation and violent extremism", to be held afterwards by the City of Aarhus and Aarhus police on 19 and 20 November 2015.

() The aim of the initiative "Towards an alliance of European cities against violent extremism" is to provide a European forum for the exchange of experience and information on promising practices, existing programmes and tools for the prevention of radicalisation leading to violent extremism. The initiative is led by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the European Forum for Urban Security (Efus).*

Interpretation: French, English, German, Italian, Russian and Turkish.

Participants

Local authorities: Germany: Essen, Lower Saxony, Augsburg - Belgium: Liège, Brussels - Denmark: Aarhus - Spain: Government of Catalonia - France: Bagnex, Council of the Département of Val d'Oise, Sarcelles - Finland: Helsinki, Kempele - Georgia: Adjara, Tbilisi - Greece: Alexandroupoli - Hungary: Pilisszentlászló - Italy: Province of Reggio Calabria - Malta: Għargħur - Moldova: Ungheni - Netherlands: Rotterdam, Flevoland - Poland: Gdansk - Portugal: Matosinhos, Porto, Lisbon - Romania: Braşov - Russia: Saint-Petersburg - UK: London Borough of Brent - Serbia: Paraćin, Novi Pazar - Sweden: Malmö, Region of Jämtland Härjedalen - Turkey: Istanbul, Kazan, Osmaniye

Others:

Association of Flemish Towns, Belgian Forum for Urban Security (Belgium), U.S. Department of State, Council of Europe, Centre for the Prevention of Radicalisation leading to Violence (Canada), Office of the Secretary General of the French Interdepartmental

Crime Prevention Committee, Association Onze Janvier, the French National Council for Towns (CNV) – Office of the Commissioner General for the Equality of Territories, Regional Council of the Centre (France)

Press

- The conference is open to the press. Requests for accreditation should be addressed to [Elsa Fontanille](#).
- The MediaBox communication tool will be made available to participants and journalists to conduct video interviews.
- High-resolution photos will be available on the conference website.

Resources:

Conference website: <http://citiesagainstextremism.eu/>

Congress file: <http://bit.ly/congress-aarhus-EN>

EFUS file: <http://bit.ly/EFUS-Aarhus>

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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 – Christian Democrats (EPP/CD), Independent and Liberal Democrat Group (ILDG), European Conservatives & Reformists Group (ECR)