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## **Adoption of the theme of the European Local democracy Week 2015**

Strasbourg 25 March 2015 - "Living together in multicultural societies: respect, dialogue, interaction" will be the theme for the 2015 Week of Local Democracy, as adopted by the Bureau of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe at its meeting held in Strasbourg, on 23 March 2015 – on the eve of the 28th Session of the Congress.

"This topic echoes recent events, in particular the terrorist attacks of January 2015 in Paris and several other European cities and beyond, and the threat they pose to the common European values" – said Gaye Doganoglu (EPP/CCE, Turkey), Vice-President of the Congress and Political Coordinator of the ELDW.

The new slogan is part of the key theme for 2015 Congress activities devoted to local responses to human rights challenges and will offer the opportunity to promote relevant Congress initiatives, such as the future strategy to combat radicalisation at grass-roots level. It will help create synergies with other Council of Europe activities, for example the 2015 World Forum for Democracy and the Intercultural Cities Programme.

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*The European Local Democracy Week is a voluntary event, co-ordinated by the Congress, which takes place every year around 15 October, the anniversary of the opening for signature of the European Charter for Local Self-Government in 1985. During the ELDW, local and regional authorities and their associations across Europe organise various activities to foster greater citizen awareness of the work of local authorities, promote citizen participation in local governance and stress the importance played by local self-governance in building a united and democratic Europe.*

The Congress has two chambers, the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions. It brings together 318 full and 318 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 Knape (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)