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Congress adopts guidelines on preventing radicalisation and manifestations of hate at the grassroots level

Strasbourg, 20.10.2015 – Prevention and the reintegration of radicalised individuals are the two main focuses of the “Guidelines on preventing radicalisation and manifestations of hate at the grassroots level” adopted by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities at its 29th session in Strasbourg, France, on 20 October 2015. The resolution presented by rapporteur Leen Verbeek (Netherlands, SOC) stresses that, to ensure respect for human rights, it is essential to approach the issue of safety and security of citizens in a balanced manner, weighing the necessity and proportionality of each action.

“In the face of radicalisation and violent extremism, repression alone is not the solution. To combat these phenomena, it is essential to take preventive action. This is the area of action *par excellence* of local authorities”, stressed the rapporteur.

Countering radicalisation also means implementing an information strategy, with particular emphasis on a cohesive discourse, training for those working in the front line and education, within the family and at school, based on respect for cultural diversity and human rights. The text adopted calls in particular on European cities and regions to design multi-agency strategies involving local stakeholders. Local and regional authorities should also involve civil society and support de-radicalisation programmes by allocating the necessary funds to relevant NGOs. This should become an ordinary budget item with stable long-term financing.

In this connection, the Congress has launched an initiative entitled “Towards an alliance of European cities and regions against violent extremism” which will provide a platform for political and technical exchange. The first event under this initiative, which is being conducted jointly with the European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS), will be a conference of local authorities on the prevention of radicalisation leading to violent extremism, hosted by the Mayors of Aarhus and Rotterdam, which will take place in Aarhus, Denmark, on 18 November 2015.

[29th session file](#)

[Live broadcast, videos and photos](#)

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 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)