



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**Decision adopted by the Conference of INGOs on 30 January 2014
CONF/PLE(2014)DEC11**

Combating hate speech

The Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) of the Council of Europe:

Aware of the growing racism and intolerance in Europe,

Aware of the grave and harmful consequences that hate speech can have for democracy, social cohesion and human dignity;

Aware of the role that civil society must play in Europe in tackling this problem;

Recalling that the aim of the Council of Europe and its various bodies, including the Conference of INGOs and the European Commission against racism and intolerance (ECRI), is to promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and consequently to combat all forms of racism and intolerance;

Decides:

To include the fight against hate speech in its 2014-2016 programme;

To work together with ECRI in preparing a “General Policy Recommendation” on combating hate speech for member states of the Council of Europe, and welcomes this opportunity;

To carry out a programme of work, with a view to preparing a “Civil Society White Paper to combat hate speech and prepare a “Civil Society Forum”, together with the media and political parties, for the purposes of launching the White Paper and drawing up a Charter of good conduct for tackling hate speech more effectively;

To instruct its Human Rights Committee to organise the work and report to it regularly.