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The Congress monitoring Committee expresses its concern about separatist tensions in eastern European countries

Chisinau, Republic of Moldova 3 July 2014 - In a statement adopted today during its meeting in Chisinau in the Republic of Moldova, the Monitoring Committee of the Council of Europe Congress of local and regional authorities expressed its profound concern at the situation in the countries of the region faced with dangerous separatist tensions. The statement underlines that the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation has unfortunately opened the way to regional destabilisation which threatens the territorial integrity of states.

It recalls that the Congress defends local and regional government all over Europe through implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Government and stresses that "this self-government should serve democratic values and promote respect for difference and diversity in our countries. But local and regional self-government cannot truly develop unless our countries are stable and our societies are at peace".

The Monitoring Committee calls on the Bureau of the Congress to closely follow political developments in the countries of the region and to organise a wide-ranging exchange of views on these questions at its 27th Session in October 2014.

[Chisinau Declaration](#)

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: Herwig Van Staa (Austria, EPP/DC), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities: Jean-Claude Frécon (France, SOC), President of the Chamber of Regions: Nataliya Romanova (Ukraine, IDLG)

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)