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Cities and regions unanimously recognised as best placed to implement concrete actions against sexual abuse of children

's-Hertogenbosch, 30 June 2015 - Cities and regions are the best placed authorities to implement concrete actions to protect children against sexual abuse. The work done by all stakeholders in the framework of the Council of Europe ONE in FIVE Campaign must be pursued. This was the unanimous message delivered by the participants to the seminar for national associations of local and regional authorities organised by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, in partnership with North-Brabant province, on 30 June 2015, in 's-Hertogenbosch (Netherlands).

Representatives of more than 20 European countries gathered to share good practices and to explore new ways of co-operating for raising awareness on the ONE in FIVE Campaign. They also agreed to encourage local authorities in Europe to sign the Pact of Towns and Regions to Stop Sexual Violence against Children drawn up by the Congress. Discussions focused on the Convention of the Council of Europe on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (the Lanzarote Convention). In their conclusions, participants invited the signatory cities of the Pact to hold a meeting every two years in one of the signatory cities to review progress on this issue. They suggested that local authorities could organise events on the occasion of the European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual exploitation and Sexual abuse on 18 November.

Convinced that access to information is crucial to prevent sexual abuse against children, the participants called on all national associations to encourage the creation of webpages on municipal websites for children's welfare including a check-list of services provided for children and families in cases of sexual abuse.

"The Congress will continue to accompany prospective hosting cities for the proposed meeting of the signatories by putting its Pact website at their disposal for information exchange," stated Johan van den Hout, member of the Provincial Executive of North-Brabant and Congress Thematic Spokesperson on Children.

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For further information:

[Conclusions of the Seminar](#)

[Photo gallery \(Flickr\)](#)

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)