



Conseil de l'Europe  
Congrès des pouvoirs  
locaux et régionaux



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## **"The referendum in Scotland is a victory for democracy and the rule of law"**

### **Statement by the President of the Council of Europe Congress**

Strasbourg, 19.09.2014 – "Following a widespread democratic debate, held peacefully according to the institutional rules of the United Kingdom, the people of Scotland have expressed their views massively and freely. This referendum is a victory for democracy based on the rule of law," stated Herwig van Staa, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

"British democracy is to be congratulated on holding this vast debate, which was, in many aspects, a challenge for all the nations of the kingdom.

The Congress respects the choice made by the Scottish voters. We support strong regional self-government, respecting everyone's traditions. But we hope that this regional self-government can develop within the national framework, in close synergy with central government.

It is in this spirit that we are convinced that, after this referendum, Scotland will continue its path towards stronger autonomy, in the framework of the United Kingdom.

The Congress will hold a debate in its Chamber of Regions on 14 October (afternoon) to discuss the situation in Scotland after the referendum and has invited political representatives from London and Edinburgh."

#### [File 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Congress](#) [Agenda of the Session](#)

Le Congrès se compose de deux chambres, la Chambre des pouvoirs locaux et la Chambre des régions. Il comprend 318 membres titulaires et 318 suppléants, qui représentent plus de 200 000 collectivités territoriales européennes.

Président du Congrès: Herwig Van Staa (Autriche, PPE/CCE), Président de la Chambre des pouvoirs locaux: Jean-Claude Frécon (France, SOC), Présidente de la Chambre des régions: Nataliya Romanova (Ukraine, GILD)

Groupes politiques: Groupe socialiste (SOC), Groupe du Parti populaire européen (PPE/CCE), Groupe indépendant et libéral démocratique (GILD), Groupe Conservateurs & Réformistes européen (CRE)