



T +33(0)390214895

www.coe.int/congress

congress.com@coe.int

Ref. CG-PR004(2012)

Council of Europe Congress: seminar to combat sexual exploitation of children at local and regional level

Strasbourg, 03.02.2012 -The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is taking part in the Council of Europe's ONE in FIVE campaign, which seeks to combat the sexual exploitation of children by promoting the Lanzarote Convention – the main legal instrument on the subject – and by raising awareness among all the relevant players.

The Council of Europe Congress is dealing with the local and regional dimensions of the campaign and in 2011 adopted a strategic action plan to encourage local and regional authorities to establish appropriate multidisciplinary bodies and mechanisms and promote a more child-friendly culture at local and regional level. Against this background, a seminar is to be held in Strasbourg, France, on 9 February 2012 (Palais de l'Europe, Room 5).

A panel of experts, grassroots players and local and regional elected representatives will look at issues such as: what can be done to put the best interests of the child first in the bodies set up? What part can be played by local and regional authorities? The seminar will seek to review the practical solutions adopted in various European countries, in particular Croatia, the United Kingdom, Germany and Finland. On the basis of the experience presented, the Congress will propose model bodies to be set up at local and regional level to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and to protect and support victims and their families.

The seminar will be opened by Maud de Boer Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Keith Whitmore, President of the Congress, and Emin Yeritsyan, President of the Congress Current Affairs Committee.

It is being held alongside the meeting of the Congress Current Affairs Committee, which will take place the previous day, on 8 February 2012.

Those wishing to take part in the seminar must register by 6 February 2012 at the latest. The working languages will be English, French, German, Italian and Russian.

[Programme of the seminar](#)
[Participation form](#)

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: Keith Whitmore (United Kingdom, ILDG), President of the Chamber of Regions: Herwig van Staa (Austria, EPP/CD), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities: Jean-Claude Frécon (France, SOC)

Political Groups: Socialist Group (SOC), Group of the European People's Party – Christian Democrats (EPP/CD), Independent and Liberal Democrat Group (ILDG).