



T +33(0)390214895

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Ref. CG-PR007(2012)

Jean-Claude Frécon: shooting in Toulouse: "a heinous, cold-blooded crime"

Strasbourg, 19 March 2012 - Following today's attack in Toulouse, Jean-Claude FRECON (SOC), President of the Congress's Chamber of Local Authorities and French Senator, said "I am horrified by the shooting at the school in Toulouse which has claimed the lives of a teacher and three pupils.

This heinous crime, deliberately targeting defenceless children, was very probably driven by anti-Semitic hatred. This further adds to the horror of what has happened.

My thoughts go first of all to the families and friends of the victims. They can be assured that the whole of France stands by them in their grief.

I am deeply touched to see that all our European colleagues meeting here in Strasbourg are expressing the same feelings of sadness and solidarity."

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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).