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Ref. CG-PR 001(2015)

Jean-Claude Frécon: "Mobilisation needed for rule of law to prevail over terrorism"

Strasbourg, 8 January 2015 – Replying yesterday to a question from a French journalist about the outrage against Charlie Hebdo, Jean-Claude Frécon, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, declared:

"The outrage against Charlie Hebdo is an ignoble act of barbarism which revolts us. The murderers contemptibly killed police officers, journalists, several men and one woman. But they did not act haphazardly; they wanted to silence the free press that is the hallmark of our democracy.

In tribute to the memory of the victims and to their courage, it behoves all believers in democracy to mobilise in order that freedom of expression may remain the cement that bonds our democratic society and rule of law may prevail over terrorism."

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: 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)