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Participation of youth delegates in Congress activities

Strasbourg, 18 March 2015 – The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe will hold its 28th Session from 24 to 26 March 2015. On this occasion, it will welcome 15 youth delegates between the ages of 16 and 30, who will be invited to sit alongside the Congress members and take part in all the debates and meetings.

This initiative follows on from the theme “Empowering youth: a shared responsibility for cities and regions” selected for the 2014 sessions, which resulted in particular in one young person being invited to join each of the 47 national delegations to the Congress at its October session.

The Congress’s goal is to create a forum for dialogue between the youth delegates and local and regional elected representatives and hence to fuel the Congress’s debate on ways of fostering youth participation in policy framing and decision-making processes at local and regional level.

The youth delegates will meet at a seminar on 23 March, the day before the session, to discuss ways of setting up a permanent, structured system of dialogue with young people within the Congress.

So that everyone can express their opinions, even outside the session, a special media set-up will be installed for several of the debates, during which comments made via Twitter will be displayed on screens in the Hemicycle and Room 1 of the Palais de l’Europe.

The public are invited to post their questions and comments by following **@youthsessioncoe** and using the hashtag **#youthsession2015**.

Debates which will be followed on Twitter:

Tuesday 24 March

- The United Kingdom: prospects for devolution -**HEMICYCLE- (afternoon)**
- Diversity Advantage Challenge prize-giving ceremony -**HEMICYCLE- (afternoon)**
- Local and regional authorities facing migration flows -**HEMICYCLE- (afternoon)**

Wednesday 25 March

- Jewish cemeteries, the responsibility of local authorities -**ROOM 1- (morning)**
- Cities and towns against terrorism -**ROOM 1- (morning)**
- No Hate Speech campaign -**HEMICYCLE- (afternoon)**
- Guaranteeing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people’s rights: a responsibility for Europe’s towns and regions -**HEMICYCLE- (afternoon)**
- Responses to radicalisation in Europe’s cities and regions: fighting

terrorism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and hate speech –**HEMICYCLE-**
(afternoon)

The live webcast of the session will be available on the Congress's website:
www.coe.int/congress

Comments must comply with Council of Europe principles. Only comments in English or French will be published.

[Session agenda](#)
[28th Session file](#)

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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: Jean-Claude Frécon (France, SOC), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities: Anders Knappe (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)