



European
Forum for
Urban
Security



Gemeente Rotterdam

The Congress



Le Congrès

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

To Mayors of European cities

Paris/Rotterdam/ Strasbourg

8 July 2016

Subject: Invitation to the Summit of Mayors “Alliance of European cities against violent extremism”

Dear Mayor,

We would like to invite you to participate in the Summit of Mayors “Alliance of European cities against violent extremism”, which will be held on Wednesday **9 November 2016 in Rotterdam**, Netherlands. The Summit is organised by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the European Forum for Urban Security (Efus) and the City of Rotterdam.

The main aim of the Summit is to pursue the “Alliance of European cities against violent extremism”, launched at the “Local authority conference on the prevention of radicalisation leading to violent extremism” on 18 November 2015 in Aarhus, Denmark. This first collaboration between the Congress and Efus, in cooperation with the Mayors of Aarhus and Rotterdam, sought to provide a European space to exchange experiences and information on promising practices, capacity building and training programmes and led to the adoption of the Aarhus declaration.

The meeting in November 2016 in Rotterdam will provide the opportunity to discuss the important developments in the legislation and the security situation that have had an impact at the local level in different European states, since the launch of the Council of Europe Action Plan “The fight against violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism”, and to provide a space of inter-city exchange with regard to local preventive initiatives against radicalisation. In this vein, the city of Rotterdam will organise study visits for participants to present the actions undertaken in its territory.

The Summit is intended to function as an annual event for mayors to evaluate their experiences in their towns and cities, promote the exchange of practices, expertise and foster a culture of social and religious dialogue.

If you wish to participate in the Summit, please contact the Congress secretariat (tel: +333 9021 4223, email: congress.intercultural@coe.int) **as soon as possible**. The Secretariat will confirm the participation of elected officials as soon as possible and their travel and subsistence expenses can be covered upon request. Attached you will find the draft programme and the Aarhus declaration. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in **English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Turkish**.

Sincerely yours,



Guilherme Pinto
Mayor of Matosinhos
President of Efus



Ahmed Aboutaleb
Mayor of Rotterdam



Jean-Claude Frécon
President of the Congress
of Local and Regional
Authorities