



“ALLIANCE OF EUROPEAN CITIES AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM”

SUMMIT OF MAYORS

on the prevention of radicalisation leading to violent extremism

**hosted by the Mayor of Barcelona
15 November 2017 Barcelona, Spain**

Paris, Brussels, Manchester, London... Month after month we witness more extremist attacks throughout Europe, which so far have already taken hundreds of lives. Radicalisation, the process leading up to such manifestations of violent extremism, often starts in the middle of our communities. Whereas repression is of vital importance, prevention of radicalisation through tackling the root-causes of the problem is indispensable for ending extremist attacks. As actors closest to the citizens, local authorities play a strategic role in detecting radicalized behaviour in their community and in shaping and implementing sustainable action to contribute to the prevention of radicalization. The fight against radicalisation requires multi-agency strategies, including the promotion of intercultural and interreligious dialogue, reporting of suspected radicalisation cases and the provision of reintegration programmes to help (potential) extremists to abandon violent extremism. With a view to strengthening local action, there is a need to bring together committed local decision makers, so as to raise awareness on their unique role and provide concrete support through the exchange of best practices.

Since 2015, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the European Forum for Urban Security (Efus) have been bringing together European mayors to make their needs and ideas heard, exchange experiences and strengthen their capacity to prevent and deal with all forms of violent extremism. In order to provide a platform for inter-city exchange at the political and subsequently technical level, and mobilise European local and regional authorities, in 2015 the Congress, Efus and the Cities of Aarhus and Rotterdam launched an **“Alliance of European Cities against Violent Extremism”, which gathers every year in the format of a Summit of Mayors**. After two successful events in Aarhus (2015) and Rotterdam (2016), bringing together over 100 local decision-makers, a third Summit of Mayors will be organized by the Congress, Efus and the City of Barcelona **on 15 November 2017 in Barcelona**. The event will be a unique opportunity to follow-up on the strategy outlined in the Rotterdam Declaration (2016), discuss challenges and perspectives on countering violent extremism with high-level experts, exchange good practices and see first-hand the impact of prevention-projects during several field visits in the city of Barcelona. Further information on the different sessions of the Summit will be sent to you soon.

This event will be followed by Efus’ international conference on 15, 16 and 17 November. Almost 800 participants coming from Europe and beyond are expected, in order to share their knowledge, experiences and practices. Unique in its field, this event is geared towards all those involved in urban security: elected officials, civil servants, national administration, magistrates, law enforcement agencies, social workers, researchers, and representatives of the private sector and civil society. (for more information and registration visit <http://efusconference2017.eu/>).

The Congress invites **mayors from the 47 member states of the Council of Europe** to take part in the Summit. If you wish to participate, please contact the Congress secretariat (email: congress.intercultural@coe.int) by **15 September 2017** at the latest. The Secretariat will inform the elected officials as soon as possible after that date whether or not they are included in the list of participants. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in **English, French and Spanish**.