The “Security, Democracy and Cities” Manifesto: European cities present their commitments for urban security


Co-production is necessary to make policies more inclusive

Since the 2012 Manifesto of Aubervilliers and Saint-Denis, there has been throughout Europe an increasing diversity of stakeholders taking part in security policies. Indeed, security companies, non-governmental organisations, representatives of civil society and citizens play an increasingly important role in these policies. Local and regional authorities member of Efus thus call for involving all these stakeholders not only in the implementation of security policies but also in their design. They encourage the establishment of co-production mechanisms integrating civil society in all its diversity. Women, young people, seniors and victims of discriminatory violence must not be mere recipients of preventive measures but rather play an active role in security policies.

The indispensable alliance between security and fundamental rights

The terrorist threat and the citizens’ demands are strong constraints for political decision-makers, who can be tempted to act quickly. Efus elected officials proclaim that political action, regardless of its urgent nature, cannot be conducted to the detriment of human rights. Hence, the Manifesto is consistent with the European Fundamental Rights Charter. They recall that all security policies must be founded on the respect and defence of fundamental rights, the rule of law, democratic legitimacy and the welfare state. They stress the importance of acting against social and economic inequalities. Still too prevalent in Europe, these inequalities fuel a resentment that can degenerate in violence, crime, or violent extremism. Furthermore, they recall the importance of prevention as a rational, strategic and cost-effective approach.
Some 800 people gathered for the adoption of the Manifesto

The Manifesto was adopted by all 800 participants in Efus’ sixth “Security, Democracy and Cities” conference, whose central theme was the co-production of urban security policies. During three days, the event gathered local elected officials, representatives of the police and the justice system, workers of the volunteer sector, researchers, academics, civil society members and representatives of the private sector from 130 cities, 47 countries and five continents. Together, they drafted thematic recommendations on some 15 urban security issues, such as the prevention of violent radicalisation, the use of technologies for crime prevention, and the diversification of security stakeholders. All these recommendations will be presented in January when the Manifesto’s final version is published.

“This Manifesto and the work carried out by European local and regional authorities show that it is possible to achieve a European vision of urban security. In January, Efus will present the final version of this manifesto to governments and European and international institutions. Practical and pragmatic, the Manifesto will be a source of inspiration and support for European cities and regions,” said Willy Demeyer, President of the European Forum for Urban Security and Mayor of Liege.

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About Efus

Founded in 1987 in Barcelona under the auspices of the Council of Europe, the European Forum for Urban Security (Efus) is the only European network of local and regional authorities dedicated to urban security. Gathering some 250 local and regional authorities from 16 countries, its objectives are to:

> Promote a balanced vision of urban security combining prevention, sanction and social cohesion;
> Support local and regional authorities in the design, implementation and evaluation of their local security policy;
> Help local authorities get recognition for their role in the development and implementation of national and European policies.

With the support of a network of experts from a number of universities, institutions and NGOs, Efus works on all the issues linked to urban security and crime prevention.

[www.efus.eu](http://www.efus.eu)

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