Press release

Paris, 27 June 2019

Efus makes recommendations for the European Union in order to ensure “free, safe and just cities” and chooses Nice for the 2020 European “Security, Democracy and Cities” conference

On the occasion of its General Assembly, in Augsburg on 26 June 2019, the European Forum for Urban Security adopted the Augsburg Declaration "Free, safe and just cities - a European success story and its future." containing a series of recommendations for the European Union and MEPs. It also chose the city of Nice to host the 2020 edition of its international conference "Security, Democracy and Cities". Finally, the Executive Committee was renewed.

Declaration of Augsburg “Free, safe and just cities - a European success story and its future”

Adopted at the General Assembly, the Declaration of Augsburg restates that European cities “must play an important role in ensuring security” because they have “the skills, knowledge and instruments to guarantee the security of citizens”.

In this Declaration, Efus member cities call on the European Union and European parliamentarians to:

- recognize the fundamental role of cities and regions in building European security policy through the creation of an intergroup on security led by Efus and its members
- promote and encourage co-production-based security and prevention policies, in particular with strong involvement and participation of citizens;
• give priority to crime prevention and rebalance the other EU priorities set out in its security agenda;
• affirm the key role of cities and regions in governance in terms of security and offer new funding lines and management methods for 2021-2027 European programming period that are better adapted to the needs and constraints of local authorities;
• develop integrated security policies for all groups in society, respecting human rights;
• continue to support the role of cities and regions in the fight against terrorism, including the development of local initiatives to prevent violent radicalisation and support victims;
• recognise in the new urban agenda the correlation between security, prevention and urban spaces in terms of planning but also management and animation;
• provide structural funding for Efus to enable the only network of European cities and regions operating in urban security to expand and develop in all the countries of the European Union.

The City of Nice will host the “Security, Democracy and Cities” conference in the autumn of 2020

Cross-sectoral and focused on the exchange of practices, experience and knowledge on urban security and crime prevention in Europe and the world, the conference “Security, Democracy and Cities” is aimed at all security and urban life stakeholders: elected representatives, local authority staff, magistrates, law enforcement agencies, social workers, researchers, private sector representatives and members of civil society. Key event in the life of the Network, the conference is the moment where the new Efus Manifesto “Security, Democracy and Cities” is written.

The city of Nice is actively involved on various topics relating to insecurity and prevention. It is leading the European project PACTESUR, of which Efus is a partner, which aims to build the capacities of cities and local actors in order to secure urban public spaces in the face of threats, particularly terrorist threats. It is also coordinating with the Efus and the city of Madrid, the European Union Urban Agenda on the security of public spaces. It enables local authorities, Member States and European institutions to work together to strengthen the role of cities in European security policies, to increase the sharing of knowledge and good practices, and to advocate, at the European level, legislative reform and new funding frameworks.

Renewal of Efus Executive Committee

The city of Nice, member of Efus since 2017, and the Tuscany Region, member of Efus since 2001, join Efus Executive Committee.

The city of Stuttgart, member of Efus since 2008, becomes Vice-president.
About Efus
Created in 1987 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. It includes nearly 250 local and regional authorities from 16 countries. It aims to:

- Promote a balanced vision of urban security, combining prevention, sanctions and social cohesion
- Support local and regional authorities in the conception, implementation and evaluation of their local security police
- Help local elected officials get recognition for their role in the development and implementation of national and European policies

With a network of experts from universities, institutions and NGOs behind it, Efus works on all themes linked to urban security and crime prevention. Its expertise and influence are recognised both at the European and international level. www.efus.eu

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