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European Union

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JEUN 14  
CULT 10  
SOC 62  
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#### INFORMATION NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Council

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Subject: Conference of Ministers of Education entitled "Securing democracy  
through education" (Nicosia, 22 and 23 March 2017)  
*- Information from the Cyprus delegation*

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Delegations will find attached an information note from the Cyprus delegation on the above subject, which has been put on the agenda under 'Any other business' for the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 17 February 2017.

**Conference of Ministers of Education entitled  
"Securing democracy through education"  
(Nicosia, 22 and 23 March 2017)**

Cyprus has assumed the chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the 22nd of November 2016. In this framework, a Conference of Ministers of Education entitled "Securing Democracy through Education" will be held on the 22 and 23 March 2017 in Nicosia. The Conference which will bring together Ministers of Education from States parties to the European Cultural Convention of the Council of Europe and Ministers of Education from South Mediterranean countries is one of the flagship events of the Cypriot Chairmanship.

The Conference will follow up on the issues agreed upon on the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education held in Brussels from 11 to 12 April 2016. It will create a forum for discussion for some of the major challenges that Education systems are currently facing like Fighting violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism and building inclusive societies.

Three sub-themes, representing some of the major challenges that Education systems are currently facing are proposed for discussion:

- Fighting violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism – implementation of the Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture □ Building Inclusive Societies – valuing diversity and dialogue;
- Education provision for refugees – from short term solutions to long term integration.

In addition, the Conference will allow a broader evaluation of the progress made on the implementation of the Brussels Declaration of Council of Europe Ministers of Education since 12 April 2016 and of the Action Plans adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2015 and 2016. It should also identify implications for further action to be introduced in the new programme of activities of the Council of Europe for the years 2018-2019.

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