

Press Release

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European NGO conference opens in Moscow

Strasbourg, 12.09.2006 - A two-day European NGO conference, "Ensuring Social Rights – Dialogue and Co-operation between Civil Society and Public Authorities," opens on Friday 15 September in Moscow.

The conference – organised by the Council of Europe, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Regional Development of the Russian Federation – is part of the programme of activities of the Russian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. It aims to exchange information on activities and challenges faced by civil society and to promote access to social rights through dialogue and co-operation between civil society and public authorities.

Participants will include civil society representatives from different Russian Federation regions and representatives of international NGOs which hold participatory status with the Council of Europe.

The Council of Europe's Conference of INGOs (International Non Governmental Organisations) and the International Federation for Peace and Conciliation (IFPC) are co-operating in the organisation of the conference.

On the occasion of the European NGO Conference, Annelise Oeschger, President of the Council of Europe's Conference of INGOs, will meet with Russian NGO representatives and relevant authorities to examine how the new Russian legislation on NGOs is implemented.

The conference takes place at Olympiets International Centre in Moscow Region, Khimki-12, close to the Airport Sheremetievo-2 (www.olympiets.ru/contacts.asp).

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The programme of the conference is available at www.coe.int.

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