

Press Release

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"All different - All equal" - European Youth Event for Diversity, Human Rights and Participation in St Petersburg

Strasbourg, 13.09.2006 - 400 representatives of youth organisations from all over Europe will be gathered together in St Petersburg from 21 to 25 September to assess the role played by young people in building a Europe without dividing lines, to foster dialogue of cultures and religions through non-formal youth education, to discuss their participation in decision-making process and to pool experience regarding the protection of human rights and young people's rights and overcoming discrimination.

Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, Andrei Svinarenko; Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio; Director of Youth, Sport and Relations with the Citizens of the European Commission, Pierre Mairesse; Governor of St Petersburg, Valentina Matvienko and other public figures will give speeches welcoming the young people to the Forum from 10 a.m. on Friday 22 September.

The European Youth Forum is being held in connection with the Council of Europe's "All different - All equal" Campaign for Diversity, Human Rights and Participation. It is also part of the programme of the Russian Chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers (May - November 2006).

"All different - All equal" is a political campaign run by young people in the 49 countries covered by the Council's Cultural Convention. The aim is to mobilise young people behind a message – that all people, everywhere, have the right to be themselves and to be treated with fairness and justice.

All events during the Forum, which is being held at the Tavrishesky Palace in St Petersburg, are **open to the press**. Journalists wishing to obtain accreditation have until **21 September** to apply to Oxana Dyshkant, tel.: +7 495.624.36.95.

Additional information on the European Youth Forum and the "All different - all equal" campaign can be found on the campaign web-site <http://alldifferent-allegal.info>.

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