

Press Release

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"Victims: place, rights and assistance" on the agenda of the 27th Conference of European Ministers of Justice in Yerevan

Strasbourg, 09.10.2006 – The Ministers of Justice of the Council of Europe's 46 member States will meet in Yerevan (Armenia) on 12 and 13 October to find new ways of promoting and developing support and assistance to victims, facilitating their access to justice and ensuring that victims of crime do not also become victims of administrative procedures and bureaucracy.

The President of Armenia, Robert Kocharian, and the Council of Europe's Director General of Legal Affairs, Guy de Vel, will address the participants when the conference opens on Thursday 12 October at 9 am (the meeting will be open to the press until 10.30 am).

During the conference, the ministers present will sign a number of Council of Europe treaties.

The increasing rate of criminality as well as the threat and the acts of terrorism demonstrate the need for member States to promote the individual's security and dignity and respond to violence by devising and implementing social and judicial measures to assist the victims.

The conference will provide an opportunity to review existing standards and practices in the member countries, as well as any shortcomings in them or their implementation, and identify needs for additional instruments.

The Council of Europe adopted a new recommendation on assistance to crime victims ([Rec \(2006\) 8](#)) in June 2006. The Council of Europe has long regarded aid for victims as a priority, having adopted a [Convention on the compensation of victims of violent crimes](#) in 1983 and the [Convention on the prevention of terrorism](#) and the [Convention on action against trafficking in human beings](#) in 2005.

A **press conference** will be held on **Friday 13 October at 12.15 pm** (House of reception, 47 Mashtots Avenue).

Journalists are invited to obtain accreditation from Anahit Voskanyan, Armenian Ministry of Justice, tél. +374 10 582 581, fax +374 10 582 157, e-mail press@justice.am.

For further information on the conference, consult www.coe.int/minjust.

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