

# Press Release

## Council of Europe Press Division

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## Council of Europe discusses role of political parties in democracy-building

Strasbourg, 09.10.2006 – The role of political parties in democracy-building will be the focus of the second annual meeting of the Council of Europe Forum for the Future of Democracy, which will take place this year in Moscow on 18 and 19 October.

Participants at the meeting will discuss the role and responsibilities of political parties in finding democratic solutions to contemporary challenges, the interaction between parties and with other actors in the democratic process, and the strengthening of democratic institutions. The Forum will be attended by high-level representatives of national political parties from the 46 Council of Europe member States, representatives of European party networks, a wide range of experts and representatives of the public authorities and civil society from all over Europe.

Boris Gryzlov, President of the State Duma, Sergey Lavrov, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs and current Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and René van der Linden, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, will speak at the opening of the Forum at 10.30 am on Wednesday 18 October (World Trade Center, Krasnopresnenskaya Naberejnaya 12).

The Forum for the Future of Democracy, which is organised this year in co-operation with the Russian Federation State Duma and the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, was established at the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (Warsaw, May 2005). Its mandate is to reinforce and further develop democracy, political liberties and citizen participation by organising exchanges of ideas, information and examples of best practice. The launch meeting of the Forum was also held in the Polish Capital, in November 2005.

A **press conference** will be held at **6.30 pm on Wednesday 18 October** (to be confirmed on the spot) and at the end of discussions at **1.15 pm on Thursday 19 October**.

Press briefings with the main speakers are scheduled from **11.30 pm to 0.15 pm on Wednesday 18 October** and from **11.30 am to 12 noon on Thursday 19 October**.

Journalists requesting **accreditation** should contact the State Duma Press Service, tel. +7 495 692 27 39.

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**A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 46 member states.**