

Press Release

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Supreme Courts Presidents of the 46 Council of Europe member States to meet in Paris

Strasbourg, 20.10.2006 - The Presidents of Supreme Courts of the 46 State members of the Council of Europe will meet on 26 and 27 October at the Court of Cassation in Paris (2, boulevard du Palais).

Co-organised by the Council of Europe and the French Court of Cassation, the conference will discuss "Access to the Supreme Court - trends and prospects". The event will provide an opportunity for the highest representatives of the 46 Supreme Courts to exchange experiences and take stock of recent developments concerning not only the functioning of those Courts but also the way in which applicants are dealt with and their level of satisfaction.

The conference will be opened by Pascal Clément, French Minister for Justice, Guy Canivet, First President of the French Cassation Court and Guy De Vel, General Director of Legal Affairs, of the Council of Europe **at 2pm on Thursday 26 October. The opening session will be open to the press.**

A series of Round Table discussions will then consider the following questions:

- How can a Supreme Court use new information technologies?
- Do legal aid mechanisms at Supreme Court level encourage ill-founded applications?
- Is there a need for specialised lawyers in a Supreme Court?
- Is it possible to filter cases without limiting the right of access to the Court?
- Is it advisable and possible to measure user satisfaction?

On Thursday 26 October at 5.30pm, Guy De Vel, Council of Europe Director General for Legal Affairs, will present the [European "Crystal Scales of Justice"](#) prize designed to reward innovative and efficient practices in European courts, in the presence of members of the jury.

Guy Canivet, First President of the Court of Cassation, Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers, Lord Chief Justice and President of the Courts of England and Wales, and Guy De Vel, Council of Europe Director General for Legal Affairs, will give a **press breakfast at 8.30am on Friday 27 October** at the Court of Cassation's Club.

For the full programme, the list of participants and working documents, please see the special file: <http://www.coe.int/supreme-courts>

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