

Press Release

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Council of Europe participation in Internet Governance Forum to assure human rights and rule of law online

Strasbourg, 27.10.2006 - As the key European organisation in the field of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, the Council of Europe will participate in the Internet Governance Forum to be held in Athens (30th October-2nd November 2006) and will organise a workshop on "Human rights and the Internet: How anonymous can and should we be?"

The forum will focus on four main themes: openness, diversity, security and access of the Internet.

Given the huge impact of the Internet on our daily lives, states must remain the ultimate guarantors of our Internet rights and freedoms, and may be held to account for their respect under international law. But to be effective, states must work with key Internet actors to ensure that our rights and freedoms are both practical and effective on the Internet.

The Council of Europe maintains that human rights and rule of law principles and standards should also be respected and protected on line as well as in daily life.

The Council of Europe also adopted a Convention on Cybercrime which is a unique binding document, open to non-European states.

Useful links:

<http://www.coe.int/T/E/Com/Files/Themes/Cybercrime/default.asp>

http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/media/Links/Events/IGFAthens2006Homepage_en.asp#TopOfPage

http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/media/1_Intergovernmental_Co-operation/MC-S-IS/IGFflyer_en.pdf

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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.