

Press Release

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European Ministers of Justice and of the Interior meet in Moscow to improve European co-operation in the criminal justice field

Strasbourg, 31.10.2006 – The Ministers of Justice and of the Interior of the 46 member states of the Council of Europe will gather together in Moscow on 9 and 10 November to discuss the operation of Council of Europe instruments on European co-operation in criminal justice matters, reinforce their implementation and modernise them where necessary.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, will open the conference at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday 9 November (the event will be open to the media until 10.15 a.m.).

Subjects on the agenda include modernisation of the European extradition and mutual assistance mechanisms, improved settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or the application of the conventions, European co-operation and mechanisms for monitoring and controlling the conventions' operation. These four sessions will be chaired respectively by Vladimir Ustinov, Minister of Justice of the Russian Federation, Kirsti Rissanen, State Secretary at the Ministry of Justice of Finland, Brigitte Zypries, Minister of Justice of Germany, and Lopez Aguilar, Minister of Justice of Spain.

Over a period of more than fifty years the Council of Europe has adopted some thirty treaties in the criminal law field. They form a legal foundation in Europe and beyond. New forms of crime, such as organised crime, corruption, terrorism, cyber-crime, money laundering and trafficking in human beings, call for greater international co-operation and the modernisation of certain parts of the Council of Europe's legal arsenal.

A **press conference** will be held on **Friday 10 November at 11.30 a.m.** (Marriott Grand Hotel, 26/1 Tverskaya).

Journalists have until 8 November to apply to the Russian Ministry of Justice for accreditation: tel. +7 495 955 59 53/54, email: pr@minjust.ru.

For more information on the conference, please consult the web site www.coe.int/minint.

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