

Press Release

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Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner visits Turkey

Strasbourg, 31.10.2006 – Thomas Hammarberg, the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, will tomorrow begin a four-day contact visit to Turkey to discuss human rights issues with senior government leaders, judicial authorities and civil society representatives.

In the course of the visit, he will meet Abdullah Gul, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Murat Baseskioglu, the Minister for Labour and Social Security, and Nimet Cubukcu, the Minister for Family Affairs and Women.

Mr Hammarberg will also hold discussions with the President of the Constitutional Court, the Acting President of the Court of Cassation, and the Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission in the National Assembly. In addition, his agenda includes meetings with religious leaders, legal experts as well as leading human rights NGOs.

The Commissioner will speak to the media at a **press conference** at the Hotel Limak Ambassadors in Ankara (address: Bogaz Sokak, No. 19 Kavaklıdere) **at 17h00 on Friday 3 November**. For accreditation and further information, please contact Zsafia Szilagyi, Email: zsafia.szilagyi@coe.int, Tel: +33 6 61 14 70 37.

The Commissioner is an independent non-judicial institution and plays a preventive role in promoting awareness of and respect for human rights in 46 Council of Europe member states. Thomas Hammarberg, a Swedish national, is the second Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights and has held the post since 1 April 2006.

For further information, please visit www.coe.int/t/commissioner.

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