

# Press Release

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## Council of Europe contributes to fight against obesity in Europe

Strasbourg, 16.11.2006 – In a contribution to the World Health Organisation's Ministerial Conference on Counteracting Obesity – hosted by the Turkish government in Istanbul on 15–17 November – the Council of Europe will organise a satellite event on healthy eating at school.

Statistics show that more children are exposed to junk food at school, either from vending machines or from poor nutrition in the cafeteria – which has contributed to a three-fold increase of obesity in many European countries since the 1980s.

The 17 November event, "Healthy eating in school – policy, evidence and practice," will feature case studies and data compiled on school eating across Europe. It is a follow up to a Council of Europe forum on school eating, which resulted also in a [Resolution](#) adopted by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers in 2005.

Overweight and obesity kill one million people annually in the European region – and contribute to diseases, placing an increasing burden on health systems and adversely affecting quality of life. The epidemic now emerging in children will markedly accentuate the burden of ill health unless urgent steps with novel approaches are taken.

On 15 November, addressing the Conference, the Council of Europe's Director General of Social Cohesion, Alexander Vladychenko, expressed the Council of Europe's strong commitment to co-operate with WHO and the European Commission on efforts to curb the rising trend towards obesity in Europe.

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