Ress Release

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Council of Europe taking part in the Global Forum for Partnerships between Governments and Businesses to Counter Terrorism

Strasbourg, 28.11.2006 – The Director General of Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe, Mr Guy de Vel, will be representing the Organisation at the Global Forum for Partnerships between Governments and Businesses to Counter Terrorism, which is to be held in Moscow from 28 to 30 November 2006 (World Trade Center, Krasnopresnenskaya 12), under the Russian Presidency of G8.

Mr de Vel, who co-ordinates the Council of Europe's activities in the field of combating terrorism, will address the participants at 10.45 am on Wednesday 29 November. He will outline the Council of Europe's past experience in this area as well as its future contribution to the overall international action against terrorism.

The Council of Europe has been prioritising action against terrorism in Europe for many years, as witness its adoption of a <u>Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism</u> in 1977 (updated with a new <u>Protocol</u> in 2003), followed by a <u>Convention for the Prevention of Terrorism</u> and a <u>Convention on Laundering</u>, <u>Search</u>, <u>Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism</u> in 2005.

The message Mr de Vel will be presenting to the 400 or so participants at the Forum will be to the effect that we cannot win the fight against terrorism with methods which deny the very foundations of our democracies and of our justice systems. "It is possible, and indeed vital, to reconcile the fight against terrorism with the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms."

For further information, see the Russian G8 Presidency site http://en.g8russia.ru/ and the Council of Europe anti-terrorism site www.coe.int/gmt/.

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