

Press Release

Council of Europe Press Division

Ref: 563a07

Tel: +33 (0)3 88 41 25 60

Fax: +33 (0)3 88 41 39 11

pressunit@coe.int

internet: www.coe.int/press



47 members

Albania
Andorra
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Moldova
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
San Marino
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom

Commissioner Hammarberg visits Azerbaijan

Strasbourg, 31.08.2007 – Thomas Hammarberg, the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, will begin on Monday 3 September a 5-day high-level visit to Azerbaijan to comprehensively assess the human rights situation. He will meet the country's political leaders, several ministers and parliamentarians, the ombudsman as well as leading human rights experts from civil society.

The aim of the visit is to take stock of the Azerbaijani authorities' compliance with their obligations towards the Council of Europe, on a broad range of human rights related issues, including the independence and functioning of the judiciary, conditions of detentions, prohibition of torture and ill-treatment, freedom of expression and treatment of internally displaced people (IDPs) as a result of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. The agenda will also focus on children's rights, violence against women, disability issues, and discrimination.

In addition to Baku, Commissioner Hammarberg will also travel to Ganja and Sumgait. Throughout the visit, he will assess human rights conditions in various police stations, detention centres, shelters for IDPs as well as psychiatric institutions.

On the afternoon of Friday 7 September, the Commissioner will hold a press conference at the Council of Europe's Information office in Baku (39-41, Boyuk Gala Street, Icheri Sheher, Tel. +994 12 497 54 93 or +994 12 497 54 89), where he will discuss the first findings.

His final report on Azerbaijan is expected to be presented towards the end of the year.

Further information regarding the Commissioner's activities can be found at www.coe.int/t/commissioner

Contact:

Ilgar Ibrahimli, Council of Europe, Information Office in Baku
Tel. +994 124 973 156

To receive our press releases by e-mail, contact : Council.of.Europe.Press@coe.int

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 47 member states.