

Press Release

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Implementation of human rights by local and regional authorities in the centre of discussions in Stockholm

Strasbourg, 01.10.2008 - Local and regional authorities have an increasingly important role to play in the implementation of human rights at all level of society. This theme will be at the heart of the debate during a seminar on "Systematic Work for Human Rights – a challenge to local/regional politics" which will be held in Stockholm, Sweden, on 6 October.

The aim of this seminar, which is jointly organised by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR), the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, is to provide a platform for discussions between local and regional decision-makers, representatives of the Council of Europe and national authorities on the place of the local and regional level in the human rights protection system and ways of improving coordination of action on human rights between different tiers of governance. The seminar's conclusions will provide an input to the Conference on Human Rights, organised in Stockholm on 6 and 7 November by the Swedish Chairmanship of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers as part of the human rights implementation process.

SALAR President and Congress Vice-President Anders Knappe will open the seminar on Monday 6 October at 9.00 am at the SALAR headquarters, followed by keynote speeches of Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Thomas Hammarberg and Yavuz Milden, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

The seminar is open to the press.

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