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01.02.2010

Thorbjørn Jagland to speak in Madrid at seminar on EU accession to European Convention on Human Rights

Date: 2 February 2010

Location: Madrid, Museo Reina Sofía (Santa Isabel, 52)

Description: The Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Thorbjørn Jagland, will speak at the opening of a seminar on "Fundamental rights in the European Union in view of the accession of the Union to the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms" to be held on 2-3 February.

The seminar is organised by the Spanish Presidency of the European Union and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. The participants will discuss EU accession to the Convention, the potential benefits for people of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, and the protection of fundamental rights before the European Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Justice.

Francisco Caamaño, Minister of Justice of Spain, Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, Minister of Justice of Germany, Francisco Fonseca, Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Spain, Ilze Brands Kehris, Chairperson of the Management Board of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, and Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Chairman of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament, will also speak at the opening, which starts at 9.30.

The Secretary General will also hold a bilateral meeting with the Spanish minister of Justice.

Note to editors:

The Lisbon Treaty, which entered into force on 1 December 2009, commits the EU to acceding to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Protocol No. 14 to the ECHR, which will soon enter into force after its recent ratification by the Russian Parliament, provides for the possibility of EU accession. The exact accession modalities will have to be agreed upon by all Council of Europe member states, as well as the EU.

EU accession to the Convention will allow any individual to bring a complaint about the infringement of ECHR rights by the EU before the European Court of Human Rights.

For more information: [Fact sheet](#)

Only the opening of the conference is open to the media.

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