



47 member States

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

31.05.2010

Ethics, transparency and good governance in the Balkans: regional conference

Date: 3-4 June 2010

Place: Hotel Splendid, Budva, Montenegro

Organised by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Public Administration of Montenegro, the Council of Europe and the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, in co-operation with the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro.

Description: From public officials taking bribes to rigged elections, unethical behaviour drains democracy. Especially in a time of economic crisis, citizens across Europe are increasingly conscious that ethical standards must be held to the highest standard if confidence in public authorities is to be sustained.

Along with representatives of the Council of Europe and the OSCE, some 40 conference participants will include senior officials from ministries and local government associations from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo¹, Montenegro, Serbia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Slovenia.

Debates will identify key challenges and possible solutions on the best ways to improve ethical conduct in local government and to fight corruption.

The conference – **which is open to the press** – will officially begin at 9 am Thursday 3 June with statements from the following officials:

- Mr Ivan Brajović, Minister of Internal Affairs and Public Administration of Montenegro
- Ambassador Paraschiva Badescu, Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro
- Mr Childerik Schaapveld, Director of Democratic Institutions, Council of Europe, Strasbourg
- Mr Žarko Pavićević, President of the Governing Board of the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro

At the end of the conference, at 1.30 pm on Friday 4 June, participants are expected to agree a series of recommendations for further action to strengthen the quality of governance, particularly ethics and transparency at the local level throughout the region. A final declaration will be prepared in order to acknowledge the best practice identified and to make suggestions for further action.

Note for editors

The Council of Europe and the OSCE have developed programmes to help national authorities improve the way they exercise public authority and the services they deliver

¹ All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

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to citizens. Specific programmes on strengthening public ethics and transparency at local level are being implemented in several countries.

The Council of Europe's [European Charter of Local Self-Government](#), for example, sets out the principles that underpin local democracy. The Council of Europe has prepared and launched a [Strategy on Innovation and Good Governance at Local Level](#), including among other key principles Openness and Transparency, Ethical Conduct and Accountability.

The [European Committee on Local and Regional Democracy](#) (CDLR) of the Council of Europe has addressed a number of issues relevant to public ethics, and issued a handbook of good practice for staff and elected officials in local government that many countries have used and/or adapted to their national situation.

The [Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform](#) develops and implements a series of programmes and tools aimed at strengthening public ethics at local level.

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