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01.07.2010

Council of Europe and European Union launch mediation week in courts across Ukraine

Date: 5 July 2010

Place: Kyiv (Ukraine)

Description: In the context of the Joint Programme on "Transparency and Efficiency of the Judicial System of Ukraine", the Council of Europe and the European Union will launch the Mediation Week which will take place from 5 to 9 July. Mediation will be introduced in four pilot courts around the country: Bila Tzerkva City Court of Kyiv Region, Vinnitsa Circuit Administrative Court, Appeal Administrative Court of Donetsk Region and Ivano-Frankivsk City Court. During the Mediation Week, each court will for the first time use mediation to settle ten of their cases.

Mediation is a form of alternative dispute resolution procedure. It is confidential and carried out with the help of a third neutral person (a mediator), who helps the parties to achieve a mutually beneficial agreement that take into account interests of both sides of the conflict.

The pilot will start with a conference aimed at introducing the project and discussing means to promote and strengthen mediation.

The purpose of the conference is to focus the authorities' attention on the need and the efficiency of applying mediation in Ukraine as an alternative dispute resolution procedure. It also aims at informing the society of the possibility of using mediation as a way of improving access to justice and resolve conflicts in a way which satisfies all parties.

Members of Parliament, the President of the Supreme Court, the Head of the Council of Judges, the President of the Advocates' Union, representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and the presidents of the pilot courts involved will participate in the conference. The Ministry of Justice, the Ukrainian Centre for Common Ground and the Delegation of the European Union will also be represented.

The **conference** will start at **9.00a.m. on Monday 5 July at the President Hotel** (Conference Centre, section B-D, 12 Hospitalna St.). A **press conference** is scheduled at **11.00a.m.**

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