

Press Release

Council of Europe Press Division

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The Republic of Montenegro becomes 47th Council of Europe member State

Strasbourg, 10.05.2007 – On Friday 11 May, the Republic of Montenegro will join the Council of Europe as its 47th member. The accession ceremony will take place in Strasbourg, just before the 117th session of the Organisation's Committee of Ministers.

The ceremony will begin at **9am**, in the main hall of the Palais de l'Europe, with a statement by Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Milan Rocen, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Montenegro, will sign the *Procès-Verbal* (*), before delivering his speech.

Fiorenzo Stolfi, Chairman-in-Office of the Committee of Ministers and Foreign Minister of the Republic of San Marino, and Bernard Schreiner, Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly, will also take the floor.

The Montenegro flag will be hoisted on the forecourt at **9.30 am**. The national anthem of the Republic of Montenegro and the European anthem will then be played.

Note to editors

The Committee of Ministers' decision to invite Montenegro to accede to the Council of Europe is a follow-up to Opinion 261 (2007) adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly on 17 April 2007, listing a number of commitments the Montenegro authorities agreed to comply with.

There are no restrictions on camera crews or photographers. Television pictures can be transmitted live on request to Sylvain Piron (Tel. +33 3 88 41 25 67 ; Mobile +33 6 96 42 61 69 ; sylvain.piron@coe.int)

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(*) The Government of the Republic of Montenegro declared that it considers itself bound since 6 June 2006 by all the relevant conventions and protocols to which the State United of Serbia and Montenegro had previously been a Party.

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