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Strasbourg, 16.03.2009

Secretary General to address Organisation of American States (OAS) during official visit to Washington D.C.

Date: 18-20 March 2009

Location: Washington D.C.

Description: During an official visit to Washington D.C., Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis will address the OAS on 18 March as an invited guest of the prestigious *Lecture Series of the Americas*. His speech will call on all nations to promote and protect human rights through effective intercultural dialogue. It rejects arguments that certain countries – particularly developing countries – cannot afford human rights because authoritarian rule is more effective for nation building, economic development and reinforcement of state structures.

Before meeting OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza on 20 March, the Secretary General will also meet State Department Assistant Secretary for European Affairs Daniel Fried, Acting Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labour, Ms Karen B. Stewart, US Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (Co-Chairman of the US Helsinki Commission) and Mr Paolo G. Carozza, President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.. He will also take part in a roundtable discussion at the Department of State and is scheduled to hold meetings at The World Bank.

Practical information :

- The Secretary General will deliver his speech at 3 p.m. EST in the OAS Hall of the Americas in Washington, D.C. It will be transmitted live via television, radio and the Internet, in English and Spanish.
- Interested media should contact Irene Klinger, Director, Department of International Affairs, Secretariat for External Relations, OAS: iklinger@oas.org or +1 / 202 458 6072.
- Past *Lecture Series of the Americas* speakers include former US President Jimmy Carter, former Spanish President Felipe Gonzalez and 2001 Nobel Laureate in Economics Joseph Stiglitz.

Additional information

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A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 47 member states.