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14.04.2010

Secretary General in Rome to discuss key role of Italy in Council of Europe

Date: 15-16 April

Location: Rome

High level visit: Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland will carry out his first official visit to Italy with a series of high-level meetings. The Secretary General will discuss with the Italian authorities a number of important issues of interest to Italy and to the Council of Europe, including intercultural dialogue, EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights, reform of the Court, and his broader reform agenda.

Italy, a founding member of the Organisation, is also an important player in the Council of Europe's North-South Centre, which is behind the initiative "**Action for Women**". The Secretary General will participate in the Prize ceremony of "Action for Women", international cinema competition on violence against women (Sala della Lupa, Palazzo di Montecitorio, April 15th (11h00)).

Personalities: Secretary General will meet with: President of the Republic, Giorgio Napolitano; President of the Parliament, Gianfranco Fini; Minister of Foreign Affairs, Franco Frattini; Minister of Justice, Angelino Alfano; Minister of Interior, Roberto Maroni; Minister of Culture, Sandro Bondi; Undersecretary of State, Gianni Letta; President of the Italian Delegation to the Council of Europe, Luigi Vitali.

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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.