

Media Advisory

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Strasbourg, 15.04.2009

Protecting minority languages in Europe: Achievements and challenges

Date: 20-21 April 2009

Location: Guggenheim Museum, Avenida Abandoibarra, Bilbao (Spain)

Organised by: The Council of Europe, the Spanish government, the government of the Basque Country and the University of the Basque Country

Description: An international conference focusing on problems and challenges related to the ratification and the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages – and future prospects in the light of its first 10 years of existence. The official opening ceremony on the evening of 20 April – in the presence of leading personalities from the Council of Europe, the Spanish government and the Basque regional government – will set the tone for the conference, highlighting the Council of Europe's contribution to the protection of cultural diversity and minorities in Europe and the important role which Spain plays in the field of linguistic diversity.

Though governments bear the primary responsibility for preparing the ratification and application of the Charter, the Spanish example shows that regional and local authorities also play a very important role, as they are confronted on a daily basis with the use of minority languages.

[Link to the Programme](#)

[For more information on the Council of Europe Charter for Regional or Minority Languages](#)

Practical information: The conference is open to the press.

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