

Media Advisory

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06.10.2010

"Death is not justice"

Council of Europe exhibition in Minsk to mark the World Day against the Death Penalty

Date: Friday 8 October 2010 (press conference and official opening)

Venue: Belarusian State Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War, Minsk

Organised by the Council of Europe, its Information Point in Minsk and the Delegation of the European Union to Belarus.

Description: Minsk is to host an exhibition of one hundred posters selected as part of the 2010 Poster4Tomorrow (*) competition, which this year is being sponsored by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Thorbjørn Jagland, with the focus on abolition of the death penalty.

"Death is not justice" is also the slogan of the Council of Europe campaign to rally European citizens around the cause of abolition. "Through this exhibition, we want to make the public understand why capital punishment is inhumane and wrong, why it has been abolished in many countries worldwide and why that trend should continue," said the Secretary General.

The Council of Europe has been a driving force in the movement to abolish the death penalty: capital punishment has not been used in Europe since 1997, with the exception, to date, of Belarus. Its abolition in Belarus would allow the country to move closer to Council of Europe human rights standards.

The exhibition follows a round table held on 23 September, where the Council of Europe and the Belarusian authorities discussed the introduction of a moratorium on the death penalty in the country.

The exhibition will be held simultaneously in over 30 cities worldwide (including at the United Nations in New York and the European Parliament in Brussels) to mark World Day against the Death Penalty on 10 October.

In Minsk, the exhibition will be open to the public, free of charge, from 9 October to 11 December 2010.

A **press conference** is scheduled for **Friday 8 October at 3 pm**. It will be followed by an **official opening at 4 pm**, including addresses by:

- Nikolai Samoseiko, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation and Judicial and Legal Matters of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Belarus
- Ferenc Kontra, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Hungarian Republic to the Republic of Belarus
- Jean-Eric Holzapfel, Chargé d'affaires a. i., Delegation of the European Union to Belarus
- Daniil Khochabo, Directorate General of Democracy and Political Affairs of the Council of Europe.

(*) [Poster for tomorrow](#) is an international project to promote active citizenship through design.

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Practical information:

- **Journalists are invited to confirm that they will be attending and to obtain accreditation from the Council of Europe Information Point in Minsk: Ihar Horski, tel./fax: +375 17 259 70 76, Horski@bsu.by;**
- **Media representatives are also requested to present themselves at the museum 15 minutes before the press conference starts so that they can have a brief look at the exhibition.**

Press contacts:

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