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Iceland
Ireland
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Latvia
Liechtenstein
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Moldova
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
San Marino
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
"The former Yugoslav
Republic of
Macedonia"
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom

13.10.2010

2010 Forum for the future of democracy on "Democracy in Europe – Principles and challenges"

Dates: 19 to 21 October 2010

Venue: Yerevan, Armenia (*Government Guest House*)

Organised by the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Description: Twenty years on from the end of the Cold War, the Council of Europe bears witness to unprecedented pan-European unity. However, democracy in Europe is constantly challenged. Governments with democratic legitimacy are required to deliver on both the rights and needs of people or they risk losing legitimacy and public support. This means guaranteeing fundamental freedoms whilst fostering sustainable economic development and sustainable communities, social cohesion, education.

Focusing on the principles of democracy in Europe, the 2010 Forum is expected to identify strategic approaches to strengthening good democratic governance in the European space in the face of regional and global challenges, and to formulate proposals for the next phase of the Forum process.

The Forum, bringing together prominent figures from the international and national political scene, civil society, the media and the academic world from the whole of Europe, will focus on the following themes:

- the impact of European law and case-law on shaping democracy;
- should there be a right to democracy?
- democracy and representation;
- democracy and global governance;
- sustainable communities for a vibrant democracy;
- democratic political culture: democracy's oxygen.

Among the personalities attending the debates will be Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Zoran Petrov, Deputy Foreign Minister of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", on behalf of the Committee of Ministers, Ian Micallef, President a.i. of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (for the opening session) and Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe (at the close).

A Democracy Fair will be organised during the Forum. It will be inaugurated by the President of the Council of Europe's Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations, Jean-Marie Heydt.

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Media Advisory

Practical information:

- The Forum will begin on Tuesday 19 October at 2 pm and end on Thursday 21 October at 12.45 pm.
- A **press conference** is scheduled for **Thursday 21 October at 12.45 pm**. Other press briefings will be arranged on the spot.
- **Journalists are asked to obtain accreditation** from the press department of the Armenian Foreign Ministry: Monica Simonian, tel. +374 10 544 041 ext 202 or +374 10 562 546, fax +374 10 565 601, m.simonian@mfa.am

Further information on the Forum and the Council of Europe's work in the field of democracy can be found [here](#).

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