

# Media Advisory

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14.10.2010

## European Day for Organ Donation & Transplantation 2010 *Council of Europe supports efforts to promote safe and secure organ donation*

**Date:** 23 October 2010

**Place:** Tbilisi, Georgia and various locations throughout Europe

**Organised by the** [Council of Europe](http://www.coe.int) and the [Georgian Association of Transplantologists \(GAT\)](http://www.gat.ge)

**Description:** Council of Europe celebrations for the 12th [European Day of Organ Donation and Transplantation](http://www.transplantation.ge) will take place in Tbilisi, Georgia for the first time, hosted by the Georgian Health Ministry and the Georgian Association of Transplantologists (GAT). The aim is to help a different member state each year to raise awareness of the importance of organ donation and transplantation. The slogan for the 2010 Day is "Transplanted Organ – Saved Life"

This year's conference on the issue will take place at the Sheraton Metekhi Palace Hotel, 20 Telavi Street, Tbilisi in the presence of Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili. It will be opened at 10 am by the Georgian Association of Transplantologists (GAT), and representatives of the Health Ministry and of the Georgian Parliament Health Commission. A press conference will follow at 11am. The full programme is available at <http://www.transplantation.ge>

A march sets off at 2.30 pm from the Sheraton Metekhi Palace Hotel to Narikala Castle, where a symbolic declaration will be signed. Street activities and entertainment will take place at various locations along the route, featuring famous Georgian artists, bands and celebrities.

### Note for editors

Today, more than 50 000 people in Europe are on waiting lists for a transplant and every day 12 of them die while waiting for an organ. The supply of organs cannot keep pace with the ever-increasing demand. Many national authorities and patients' associations in all European countries are trying to find new and creative ways to promote organ donation. In some countries statistics show that the number of people willing to donate their organs and tissue is increasing, but there is an urgent need for improvement. The Council of Europe has worked on the issue since the 1950s. Its European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM) has developed a campaign and information kit which is available to all European countries to use and help support their local efforts.

GAT is a non-profit, non-governmental, medical organisation, founded in 1997 in Tbilisi and its mission is to support the national development of organ transplantation in Georgia.

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