## Media Advisory

## **Directorate of Communication**

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## "Unaccompanied children: what protection at European level?"

Date: 20 October 2010

Venue: Strasbourg

**Organisers:** The Council of Europe joins forces with France Terre d'Asile and Thémis to discuss: "Unaccompanied children: What protection at the European level?"

Description: Opened by Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General Maud de Boer-Buquicchio and EU Commissioner for Home Affairs Cecilia Malmström, the event will bring together around 300 professionals. The aim is to draw attention to the situation of unaccompanied children in Europe and pinpoint action that can be taken at European level to improve their protection.

Under review will be present Council of Europe action, along with a comparative study compiled by France Terre d'asile on the reception and care of unaccompanied minors in eight EU countries (Spain, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Sweden and the United Kingdom).

**Background**: In 2007, the Council of Europe adopted a recommendation aiming to improve reception and assistance of unaccompanied migrant minors and started a two year programme which runs from 2008 to 2010. In December 2009, 250 European organisations signed an *Appeal for European Protection of Unaccompanied Foreign Minors* during an event organised by France Terre. The European Union adopted its first Action Plan in June 2010, to assess the scale of the problem, combat trafficking in human beings and set out measures on reception, return and reintegration.

For more information see: http://www.france-terre-asile.org http://www.coe.int/migration http://www.grainedecitoyen.fr/asso.html

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It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 47 member states

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