

Media Advisory

Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights

Communication Unit

Ref: MA153a09

Tel. +33 (0)3 88 41 35 38

Fax +33 (0)3 90 21 50 53

Internet: www.commissioner.coe.int

e-mail: press.commissioner@coe.int



47 member States

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"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
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International Conference 'Sakharov's Ideas Today'

Date: 14-15 December 2009

Location: All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature. Address: LFL, 1 Nikoloyamskaya street, Moscow, Russian Federation.

Organised by the Andrei Sakharov Museum and Public Centre with the support of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, in cooperation with the Information Office of the Council of Europe in Moscow.

Aim of the conference: The conference will commemorate the 20th anniversary of Andrei Sakharov's disappearance. It will address the global agenda in promoting peace, progress and human rights. Over 100 participants and key note speakers will participate, including experts from Russia and abroad, in particular academics, policy makers, NGO leaders and journalists.

Core mission of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights:

The Commissioner for Human Rights is an independent, non-judicial institution within the Council of Europe, mandated to promote awareness of, and respect for, human rights in the 47 member states of the Organisation.

Core mission of the Andrei Sakharov Museum and Public Centre:

The Andrei Sakharov Museum and Public Centre contributes to the preservation of the historic memory of millions of victims of the political repression and crimes of the Soviet regime. It further contributes to the establishment of the values of an open democratic society and State in today's Russia, as advocated by Andrei Sakharov.

Practical information:

Journalists are invited to the press conference taking place at **12.10 pm on 14 December**, in the press room of the conference venue. The following personalities will attend the press conference:

- Mr Thomas Hammarberg, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
- Ms Heidi Hautala, Chair of the Human Rights Sub-Committee, European Parliament
- The 2009 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought awardees:
 - Ms Liudmila Alexeeva, Chair of the Moscow Helsinki Group
 - Mr Sergei Kovalev, Chair of the Board of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation
 - Mr Oleg Orlov, Chair of the Human Rights Centre Memorial

Journalists may request interviews with participants through the press officer Elena Temicheva, whose contacts are below.

For more information: website of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

Press contacts:

In Moscow:

Agency for Social Information: Elena Temicheva: +7(916) 119-8132, glin04@yandex.ru

In Strasbourg:

Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights

Stefano Montanari, +33 (0)6 61 14 70 37; stefano.montanari@coe.int