

Press Release

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Pan-European conference on ethics and human rights in the information society

Strasbourg, 05.09.2007 – On 13 and 14 September the Council of Europe will host a pan-European (*) conference on the ethical dimensions of the information society, organised in conjunction with UNESCO and the French Commission for UNESCO.

The aims of the conference are:

- to identify ethical and human rights issues connected with information and communication technologies and the way ICT are used;
- to raise stakeholders' awareness of these issues;
- to contribute to the UNESCO code of ethics project and make operational recommendations;
- to promote the development of regional and inter-regional networks and co-operation.

The Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, the UNESCO Deputy Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, Mogens Schmidt, and the Secretary General of the French Commission for UNESCO, Jean-Pierre Boyer, will open the conference on Thursday 13 September at 9.30 a.m. (Room 9 of the Palais de l'Europe, 2nd floor).

There will be four round tables, devoted to an analysis of the opportunities offered by information and communication technologies, possible conflicts of interest, recommendations designed to contribute to Internet governance founded on the involvement of all stakeholders, and the sharing of responsibilities.

(*) The European region covers the 47 Council of Europe member states, Canada, the United States and Israel.

For further information about the conference, see www.unesco.org/webworld/en/ethics-humanrights-informationssociety.

For further information about the work of the French Commission for UNESCO, see: www.unesco.fr, the work of UNESCO, see: www.unesco.org, the work of the Council of Europe, see: www.coe.int/media.

Journalists are invited to obtain accreditation from Danielle Schreiber-Somoza, Council of Europe Press Division, tel. +33 (0)3 88 41 25 44, danielle.schreiber-somoza@coe.int.

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A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 47 member states.

Note to editors

The Council of Europe will be taking part in the Internet Governance Forum to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 12 to 15 November. While the public service value of the Internet, users' rights and security are at the heart of its concerns, the Organisation is also at the forefront of efforts to combat crime perpetrated via the Internet. Its work is based on key conventions concerning cybercrime, terrorism, the sexual exploitation of children and counterfeit medicines (in the process of being drafted). Link to the [Council of Europe's written contribution to the Forum](#).

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