

Press Release

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Belgrade hosts the 2007 European Heritage Days

Strasbourg, 11.09.2007 – Events marking the 2007 European Heritage Days (EHD) will be held from 20 to 22 September in Belgrade (Serbia), under the Serbian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

The European Heritage Days, which are a joint Council of Europe and European Commission action, will be marked on Friday 21 September by an International Round Table which will highlight the shared experience of both institutions on heritage rehabilitation projects. The round table will be followed by an official ceremony at the Belgrade Fortress.

Numerous museums and other buildings will be open to the public (Ethnographic Museum, Jewish Museum, Fresco Gallery, National Bank of Serbia, Museum of the Serbian Orthodox Church, Vuk and Dostojevski Museum and Museum of Education) and cultural events will be held throughout the evening at a number of sites on Thursday 20 September.

"Power and Light", an industrial heritage night, will close the events on Saturday 22 September.

Programme for Friday 21 September

At the House of the National Assembly of Serbia

- 9 am to 9.30 am: **press conference** including Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and Vojislav Brajovic, Minister of Culture of Serbia.
- 9.30 am to 1 pm: round table to be opened among others by:
 - Oliver Dulic, President of the House of the National Assembly of Serbia;
 - Vuk Jeremic, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Chairman-in-Office of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe;
 - Vojislav Brajovic, Minister of Culture of Serbia;
 - Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

The countries taking part in the Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South-East Europe will describe their experience, thereby illustrating how the [Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society](#) (the "Faro Convention") can have an impact on the quality of life of citizens. The beneficiaries of the programme are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Kosovo/UNMIK.

- 1 pm: ceremony at which Serbia and possibly other countries will sign/ratify Council of Europe heritage conventions.
- 1.15 pm to 2 pm: celebrations linked to the European Flag Day.

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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.

Journalists are invited to request their accreditation for the press conference and the round table from Dejan Veselinov, mobile +381 64 81 81 007, fax + 381 11 3061 314, e-mail dveselinov@tob.co.yu.

At the Belgrade Fortress (Kalemegdan)

The **official ceremony** to mark the 2007 European Heritage Days will take place **from 6 pm**, in the presence of many personalities. Jan Figel, Member of the European Commission for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, is likely to take part too.

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The Council of Europe launched the European Heritage Days in 1991 with the financial support of the European Commission, to increase European citizens' awareness of the continent's wealth of heritage and cultural diversity. Since 1999, the European Heritage Days have been a joint action of the Council of Europe and European Commission. The 49 states parties to the 1954 European Cultural Convention of the Council of Europe take part in the European Heritage Days.

For the third year running, Thalys (the European high-speed train operator) is involved in the operation, the aim being to encourage its European dimension. There is a special offer on the Thalys network in September, in Cologne, Antwerp, Brussels, Liège, Amsterdam and Paris (www.Thalys.com).

For further information, see www.ehd.coe.int and our [special file](#).

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