



Council of Europe

Note  
to Editors NEWS

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## Conference in Amsterdam on the impact of anti-terrorism laws on freedom of expression since September 11th

Strasbourg, 14.11.2008 – The Council of Europe and the Institute for Information Law of the University of Amsterdam are organising in Amsterdam on 17-18 November a conference on anti-terrorism laws adopted in Europe since 11 September 2001 and their impact on freedom of expression and information.

Hosted by the Dutch government, it will be attended by legal representatives from the media, civil society and governments, and by legal experts.

David Banisar, Director of the Freedom of Information and Project at the INGO Privacy International, will give the keynote speech and present the report “**Speaking of terror - A survey of the effects of counter-terrorism legislation on freedom of the media in Europe**”. The report, which was commissioned by the Council of Europe, gives an overview of legal and policy developments in the context of counter-terror action in Council of Europe member states since 2001 and their impact on freedom of expression and information.

In this report, Banisar states that “freedom of expression has been especially challenged by the adoption of new laws on prohibiting speech that is considered “extremist” or supporting terrorism. These new laws in many jurisdictions are used to suppress political and controversial speech. Web sites are often taken down or blocked”. He also points out that protection of journalist’s sources, although widely recognised in national laws, is often undermined.

The meeting, which is **open to the press**, will take place at The Bazel Conference Centre, Vijzelstraat 32, Amsterdam.

### Programme

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