

Press Release

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Baku to host first ever ministerial conference on intercultural dialogue

Strasbourg, 25.11.2008 – Intercultural dialogue as a basis for peace and sustainable development in Europe and its neighbouring regions is the focus of the Council of Europe conference of ministers responsible for cultural affairs to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 2-3 December.

The conference is the first ministerial event organised as a follow-up to the Council of Europe's [White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue](#), adopted in May 2008.

It will bring together culture ministers from the 49 signatory countries of the European Cultural Convention, representatives from the Arab League for Education, Culture and Science Organisation (ALECSO) and the Islamic Science, Education and Culture Organisation (ISESCO). Senior officials from the European Commission, UNESCO and other international organisations and foundations will also take part.

The two-day event will allow ministers and high-level policy makers to explore approaches to intercultural dialogue and opportunities for trans-national co-operation, using the unique potential of culture, the arts and heritage.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis will inaugurate the conference at 11.00 am at the Gulustan Palace (Istiglaliyat str., 1, Baku).

A final conference document – the so-called Baku declaration – is due to be adopted on 3 December.

Organised by the Council of Europe Directorate of Culture, Cultural and Natural Heritage and the [Azerbaijani Ministry of Culture and Tourism](#), the conference is **open to the press**.

Two press events at the same venue are also scheduled: a **press briefing** at 10.00 am on 2 December, and a **final press conference** at 12.30 pm on 3 December

Advance accreditation is mandatory. Journalists can request accreditation by supplying the following information (Name and ID number, media outlet and country, email address, mobile number). Accreditation requests should be faxed to + 994 12 493 65 38 or emailed to Ulvi.Akhundlu@coe.int

[For more information on the conference](#)

[For more information on the Council of Europe activities in the field of Culture, Cultural and Natural Heritage](#)

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