

Press Release

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47 member States

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Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Moldova
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
San Marino
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
"The former Yugoslav
Republic of
Macedonia"
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom

The Council of Europe engages in the drawing up of an action plan to ensure greater social cohesion

Moscow, 27.02.2009 – The Ministers responsible for social cohesion of the Council of Europe member states met in Moscow on 26 and 27 February and called on the 47-nationwide Organisation to draw up an action plan for social cohesion.

Some 30 Ministers, present at the conference, also committed themselves to:

- **promote social rights** by ratifying the Council of Europe Revised European Social Charter, the European Code of Social Security and its Protocol and the European Convention on Social Security;
- **share responsibilities and strengthen social dialogue**;
- **build confidence in a secure future for all** by providing adequate social protection in the context of the present economic crisis and encouraging social mobility and employment.

The Russian Prime Minister, Vladimir Putin, addressed the conference and underlined the importance of a Europe with no dividing lines. "Lowering social standards or social dumping must not become an anti-crisis tool, because that does not only fail to improve the situation but makes it harder to return to stable economic development," said Prime Minister Putin.

The next Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Social Cohesion should take place in 2012, in Turkey.

[More information](#)

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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.