

Media Advisory

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Germany
Greece
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Iceland
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Italy
Latvia
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Luxembourg
Malta
Moldova
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
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Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom

Strasbourg, 03.03.2009

International conference in Toledo aims to improve the protection of children in European justice systems

Date: 12-13 March 2009

Location: Hotel Hilton Buenavista, Toledo, Spain

Description: The Council of Europe and the Spanish Ministry of Justice are jointly organising a conference in Toledo to assess the way the protection of children can be improved in the European justice systems. The meeting takes place within the programme of the Spanish Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the organisation.

Under the title "The Protection of Children in European Justice Systems", some 150 participants, including Ministers of Justice, coming from the 47 member states of the Council of Europe will exchange their views and experience. Among other topics, they will discuss the objectives and the implementation of the 2007 Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, which has been signed by 33 states but has not yet entered into force. Workshops will be held on three specific topics:

- How to combat violence against children through a more efficient legal framework
- The role of the private sector in the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse of children, with the participation of representatives from Microsoft and the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism
- A child friendly justice system: protecting children during civil and criminal proceedings

The conference will be opened by Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and Francisco Caamaño, Minister of Justice of Spain at 10.00 on 12 March.

At 9.30 on the same day member states of the Council of Europe are invited to sign or ratify key Council of Europe conventions on the protection of children: the [Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse](#), the [Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings](#), the [European Convention on the Adoption of Children \(revised\)](#) and the [Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights](#).

The conference will agree on conclusions that will include recommendations to the Council of Europe and its member states.

Practical information: The conference is open to the press. Journalists may request an accreditation and interviews with participants to the press officer below.

[Programme](#)

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