## Media Advisory

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Ref: MA025a09 Tel. +33 (0)3 88 41 25 60 Fax +33 (0)3 88 41 39 11 Internet: www.coe.int e-mail: pressunit@coe.int

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11.03.2009

## Council of Europe Conference on Family Law: harmonising international family mediation

Date: 16 March 2009

**Place:** Strasbourg (France)

**Description:** Although it exists in many countries, family mediation remains a relatively unknown and costly method of dispute resolution. At international level, cultural and legal differences also lengthen mediation procedures and complicate the settlement of family disputes, especially those involving children.

The 7th European Conference on Family Law aims to raise awareness of existing practices in international family mediation, improve and harmonise cooperation in the area, focusing in particular on the need to train international family mediators, and explore possible synergies between international organisations.

The conference will highlight the mediation methods employed in different parts of the world and will enable the Council of Europe to reassert the need to promote mediation as an alternative to legal proceedings.

**Practical information:** The conference will be open to the press (Agora Building, 1 quai Jacoutot, Room G03).

**More information**: <u>Conference website</u> (including the programme and reference documents).

Press contact: Estelle Steiner Tel: +33 (0)3 88 41 33 35, Mobile +33 (0)6 08 46 01 57, <u>estelle.steiner@coe.int</u>

To receive our press releases by e-mail, contact: Council.of.Europe.Press@coe.int