

# Press Release

## Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights Communication Unit

Ref: 243a09

Tel. +33 (0)3 88 41 35 38

Fax +33 (0)3 90 21 50 53

Internet: [www.commissioner.coe.int](http://www.commissioner.coe.int)

e-mail: [press.commissioner@coe.int](mailto:press.commissioner@coe.int)



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## Commissioner Hammarberg visits Kosovo<sup>1</sup>

Strasbourg, 23.03.2009 – The state of rule of law, the functioning of the administration and minority rights are the focus of the four-day visit to Kosovo which the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, Thomas Hammarberg, will begin on Tuesday 24 March. Other topics on the Commissioner's agenda include the fight against corruption and impunity, accountability of the international presence, the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons as well as discrimination issues.

During the visit, Commissioner Hammarberg will meet with the highest representatives of international organisations and Kosovo's institutions, members of non-governmental organisations and the local authorities in Pristina and Mitrovica.

Besides visiting a school in Osterode, the Commissioner will also conduct on-site visits to the two notorious lead-contaminated Roma camps in Cesme Luga and Osterode. Commissioner Hammarberg is also due to give a lecture at the Pristina Institute for Political Studies on Wednesday.

The Commissioner will present his preliminary observations on Friday 27 March at 12 a.m. at a press conference held in the premises of the Council of Europe Office in Pristina (UNHCR HQ Building, 3rd floor, Kragujevci 8 Tel: + 381 38 243 749 / 750).

A report with an analysis of the situation and specific recommendations is expected by the summer.

### Press contacts in the Commissioner's Office:

#### In Kosovo:

Berry Kralj, +33 663 48 47 93; [berry.kralj@coe.int](mailto:berry.kralj@coe.int)

#### In Strasbourg:

Stefano Montanari, +33 6 61 14 70 37; [stefano.montanari@coe.int](mailto:stefano.montanari@coe.int)

<sup>1</sup> "All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo."