

Press Release

Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights Communication Unit

Ref: 383a09

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

Fax +33 (0)3 90 21 50 53

Internet: www.commissioner.coe.int

e-mail: press.commissioner@coe.int



47 member States

Albania
Andorra
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
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 response to the economic crisis should lead to more equality" says Commissioner Hammarberg

Strasbourg, 11.05.2009 - "A serious attempt to address the enormous gaps between the wealthy and the destitute is long overdue" commented the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Thomas Hammarberg, today in his latest Viewpoint

The Commissioner points out inequalities and injustices which afflict European societies and calls for better protection of vulnerable groups. "Measures against the economic crisis should not only focus on restoring the banking system and encouraging investment and more spending" he says. "There is also an urgent need to protect the marginalised and restore social justice."

Analysing key instruments to address injustices, such as Protocol 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights, which provides for a general prohibition against discrimination, the Commissioner affirms that "social justice cannot be established only through the traditional human rights instruments, even if updated and modernised. The huge gaps between the haves and have-nots is a major political and ideological challenge the resolution of which will affect profoundly many aspects of our society."

Published fortnightly in English, French and Russian, Viewpoints can be used without prior consent, provided that the text is not modified and the original source is indicated in the following way: "Also available at the Commissioner's website at www.commissioner.coe.int".

Press contacts in the Commissioner's Office:

Stefano Montanari, +33 3 88 41 35 38; stefano.montanari@coe.int