

# Press Release

## Directorate of Communication

Ref: 481a09

Tel. +33 3 88 41 25 60

Fax +33 3 88 41 39 11

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

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



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## Council of Europe ministers call for family-friendly policy in the face of economic crisis

Vienna (Austria), 17.06.2009 – European ministers responsible for family affairs announced their intention to promote “family friendly societies and children’s rights,” following a two-day family policy conference.

In their final communiqué, the ministers noted as risks related to the current economic crisis, focusing on the lack of job security, expensive housing and difficult reconciliation between work and family life, as obstacles to having children.

In a recommendation to the Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers, conference participants included the following proposed measures:

- Implementing Council of Europe standards related to family law and family policies, in particular concerning reconciliation of work and family life, rights of children without parental care, gender equality and adoption;
- Giving a high priority to the promotion of children’s rights, by including it in all family policies;
- Reflecting on the rights and legal status of children brought up in various family settings;
- Promoting positive parenting and the abolition of corporal punishment of children.

Ministers also agreed on the importance of creating child and family-friendly environments through urban planning and employers. Particular consideration was given to assisting young people in their transition to work and family life through, for example, housing support and access to childcare facilities. Gender equality was also identified as a prerequisite to sustainable family policy. Ministers particularly encouraged equal sharing of parental and other family responsibilities between women and men. The final communiqué can be read on [the conference website](#).

**More information:** [Council of Europe family policy and conference website](#) (including conference programme, reference documents and reports on family policy in Europe).

**Press contact:** Panos Kakaviatos, Directorate of Communication  
Mobile +33 (0)6 65 09 16 07, [panos.kakaviatos@coe.int](mailto:panos.kakaviatos@coe.int)

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

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