



T +33(0)388412560

www.coe.int

pressunit@coe.int

Ref. DC 132(2011)

Committee of Ministers: 2011 Council of Europe Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue sets stage in Luxembourg

Strasbourg. 22.11.2011 - Media, Beliefs and Religions: the 2011 Council of Europe Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue, organised by the Committee of Ministers, will take place at the invitation of the Luxembourgish government at the *Centre Culturel de Rencontre Abbaye de Neumünster* in Luxembourg City, on 28 and 29 November.

The 4th edition (1) will expand on the theme launched in 2010 in Ohrid ("the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"), on "the role of the media in fostering intercultural dialogue, tolerance and mutual understanding: freedom of expression of the media and respect towards cultural and religious diversity", and will focus on three sub-themes:

- 1) Expression in the media of society's religious and non-religious convictions – The respective roles of traditional and new media;
- 2) Place, image and discourse of women with religious and non religious convictions in the media;
- 3) Building bridges based on common values – The role of education to the media and to religious and non-religious convictions (respective contributions).

The event will gather representatives of religious communities and non-religious convictions, mainstream media professionals as well as experts, academics and representatives of international organisations and NGOs.

Background

The Council of Europe has pioneered for closer unity and common understanding in Europe since the [European Cultural Convention](#) signed in 1954. The [White Paper](#) on intercultural dialogue "*Living together as equals in dignity*", of May 2008, recognises the contribution of both religious and secular groups to the European cultural heritage.

Press-conference

During a joint press-conference on **Monday 28 November (11h00)**, at the *Centre Culturel de Rencontre Abbaye de Neumünster*, [Secretary General](#) Thorbjørn Jagland will also present the report "[Living Together](#) - *Combining diversity and freedom in 21st century Europe*" by the [Group of Eminent Persons](#) with the participation of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg, Jean Asselborn, and PACE Luxembourg member, Anne Brasseur.

At the end of the press-conference, Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg, Jean Asselborn will sign the treaty establishing the [Cultural Routes Enlarged Partial Agreement \(EPA\)](#) headquarters in Luxembourg.

Press contacts:

Council of Europe: Giuseppe Zaffuto, Media Officer, giuseppe.zaffuto@coe.int; Tel. +33 3 90 21 56 04; Mobile +33 6 86 32 10 24.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg: Robert Steinmetz, Press Officer, robert.steinmetz@mae.etat.lu; Tel. +352 247 82447; Mobile +352 621 202 773.

(1) Previous editions' set up: Strasbourg (2008 and 2009), Ohrid (2010).