

Press Release

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Two embassies (Slovakia and Sweden) and an information office on the Council of Europe to be inaugurated inside the Council of Europe Wild Web Woods Game

Strasbourg, 06.05.2008 - Foreign Ministers from Slovakia and Sweden are to mark the handover of the chairmanship of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on Wednesday 7 May by opening virtual "embassies" in the Wild Web Woods children's game. Secretary General Terry Davis will also inaugurate an information office of the Council of Europe in the game, with Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General, introducing the ceremony.

The ceremony will take place at 9.30 am in the Assembly Chamber foyer, when Jan Kubis, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovakia, Carl Bildt, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, and Secretary General Terry Davis will open the doors to the virtual embassies and the Council of Europe Information Office, and raise the respective flags.

The event will be projected on a screen, showing the e-city called "Kometa", the final destination for children playing the game online.

The Wild Web Woods game has been developed to help children learn the rules of internet safety in a fun format, using familiar fairy tales to guide children through a maze of potential dangers to the fabulous "Kometa". The game, mainly for children between 7 and 10, was launched in English at the end of last year, and is hosted on the Council of Europe website in 14 language versions.

The Council of Europe is working with both children and adults to make the internet safe for every age. The 47-nation organisation is at the forefront of efforts to combat internet crime.

The game has been developed in the spirit of the Council's "Building a Europe for and with children" programme, set up to promote children's rights and protect them from all forms of violence - including online dangers. It is also a fundamental step in the Council of Europe's efforts to curb the grooming of children by abusers through the internet, following the principles of the recently-launched Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse.

[Link to the game](#) (14 language versions)

For more on the children's programme see www.coe.int/children

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A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 47 member states.