

## Conference of European Justice and Peace Commissions NEWSLETTER ON THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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### Introduction

- The Council of Europe (CoE) is putting focus on children. With the program **Building a Europe for and with children** CoE wants to **promote children's rights** and further the **protection of children from violence**.

The program runs over three years (2006-08) and is a response to CoE's mandate to guarantee an integrated approach to promoting children's rights. This program also covers the social, legal, educational and health dimensions relevant to protecting children from various forms of violence.

To learn more go to:  
[www.coe.int/children](http://www.coe.int/children)

- At the end of November 2006 CoE launched a campaign to **stop domestic violence against women**.

During the CoE Third Summit (2005), the heads of state and government of the 46 member countries of the organization reaffirmed their commitment to eradicating violence against women, including domestic violence. The new campaign is an answer to this wish, and it is launched in close co-operation with other European and national actors, including NGOs.

Learn more on:  
[www.coe.int/t/dc/campaign/stopviolence/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dc/campaign/stopviolence/default_en.asp)

- A third campaign to **stop prejudices against Roma** is also carried out by the CoE. It is called **Dosta** (a Romani word meaning "enough"). The Roma form a group of about 10 million people and can be found in almost all CoE member states.

To learn more on the campaign go to:  
[www.dosta.org/](http://www.dosta.org/)

## Trafficking

- In an address to the General Assembly of the NGOs recognized by the CoE held in January 2007 in Strasbourg the **Secretary General of the CoE, Mr Terry Davis**, called for a mobilization to get the CoE member states to sign the **Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**.

*"This very important Convention was adopted by the Ministers in 2005, but so far only three countries have ratified the Convention", Mr Davis said.*

The countries having ratified the Convention are Austria, Moldova and Romania. For the Convention to enter into force ten ratifications are needed, and of them eight by member states.

*"We need this tool to fight trafficking. Help us by influencing your governments to take steps to ratify the Convention", Mr Davis urged the NGOs.*

He added that United Kingdom might become the fourth country to ratify the Convention. Mr Davis has himself addressed the British Parliament on the subject.

Learn more on the CoE campaign to stop trafficking on:  
[www.coe.int/t/DG2/TRAFFICKING/campaign/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/DG2/TRAFFICKING/campaign/default_en.asp)

- To get more information on trafficking you can also consult the web site of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). This organization is an inter-

governmental body with United Nations observer status, created in 1993. More than 30 governments support it, and its purpose is to promote innovative, comprehensive and sustainable migration policies and to function as a service exchange mechanism for governments and organizations in Europe.

The address of ICMPD is:  
[www.anti-trafficking.net](http://www.anti-trafficking.net)

- To answer Secretary General Terry Davis call to act to put pressure on governments to ratify the CoE 2005 Convention against trafficking it is a good thing to tie up with organizations already active in this field. These organizations are numerous. You will find them through a research engine on the net. Just enter the word "trafficking".

In the Catholic church Caritas is working very hard against trafficking. Learn more on this on:  
[www.coatnet.org/en/](http://www.coatnet.org/en/)

- In the CoE a group of parliamentarians have introduced a motion for a recommendation on the **Disappearance of New-born Babies for Illegal Adoption in Europe**.

The rapporteur of the group, Mrs Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold set out for a fact-finding mission on this type of trafficking to Moldova in February. She has already visited the Ukraine for the same purpose.

Read more on this and the motion on:  
<http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/Press/StopPressView.asp?CPID=1866>

## Migration

- At the end of December 2006 the Committee of Ministers (CM) of the CoE gave its formal reply to the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE (PACE) on its Recommendation 1755 (2006). This Recommendation calls for a minimum of **human rights for irregular migrants**.

The CM agrees with the PACE that the European Convention on Human rights provides minimum safeguards of *civil and political rights* that can be applied to irregular migrants.

With regard to *social and economic rights* the CM stresses, that while it is essential to encourage member states to provide irregular migrants with minimum protection, it is up to each member state to adopt specific measures.

The CM also states that a group of experts are assessing the effective access of irregular migrants to minimum rights by evaluating five national policies on these migrants. The European Committee on Migration (CDDH) will examine the results of this work in the spring of 2007. To be followed.

Read the CM's reply on:

<http://assembly.coe.int/main.asp?Link=/documents/workingdocs/doc06/edoc11111.htm>

- **Caritas-Europa** last year published a study on the poverty and the exclusion of immigrants in Europe. The report is called **Migration, a journey into poverty?**

Read this report on:

[www.caritas-europa.org/module/FileLib/Poverty2006ENWeb.pdf](http://www.caritas-europa.org/module/FileLib/Poverty2006ENWeb.pdf)

## Intercultural/-religious Dialogue

- The ambassador of San Marino to the CoE, Mr Guido Belatti Ceccoli, also visited the General Assembly of NGOs. San Marino holds the chair of the CM until May 2007.

Mr Belatti Ceccoli stated that one of the principal priorities of the San Marino chairmanship is to further intercultural and inter-religious dialogue.

He also underlined that **the religious aspect of this dialogue is important**. Therefore the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue will be at the centre of a European conference organized in San Marino on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2007.

This conference will be a follow-up to the CoE-conference *Dialogue between Cultures and Inter-religious Cooperation* that was held in Nizhniy Novgorod in September 2006.

- According to Mr Belatti Ceccoli San Marino will also work actively to support the work with the **White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue** now in progress.

This work has now entered into its consultation phase. The White Paper is expected to be adopted in November 2007.

- The CoE has opened a **new web site devoted to intercultural dialogue**. On this site you will find more information the White Paper, on the conference in San Marino in April 2007, and also on the work of the North-South Center in Lisbon in this field.

To find the web site go to:

[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/intercultural/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/intercultural/default_en.asp)

- In November 2006 the Conference of NGO recognized by the CoE organized a **Forum on Intercultural Dialogue**.

The Forum resulted among other things in a discussion paper. To read this discussion paper go to:

[www.coe.int/t/e/ngo/public/Intercultural%20Dialogue.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/e/ngo/public/Intercultural%20Dialogue.pdf)

## Death Penalty

- The Secretary General of the CoE, Mr Terry Davis, has outlined the Council's priorities in consolidating the legal ban on executions in Europe, based on the European Convention on Human Rights. He did this in a speech at the **3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress Against the Death Penalty**.

In his speech he also gave his full support for an Italian initiative to reopen the debate on the abolition of the death penalty in the United Nations. He also said that *the CoE will work with abolitionist governments in other parts of the world towards a global moratorium and eventually a global ban on capital punishment*.

Read his full speech on:

[www.coe.int/T/DC/Press/news/20070203\\_disc\\_sg\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/T/DC/Press/news/20070203_disc_sg_en.asp)

- The CoE Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Thomas Hammarberg, also addressed the World Congress. Read his speech on:

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1089191&BackColorInternet=FEC65B&BackColorIntranet=FEC65B&BackColorLogged=FFC679>

- At this same World congress the Holy See condemned the death penalty as *an affront to human dignity*. The declaration of the Holy See underlined that the death penalty is *a clear offense against the inviolability of human life ... and, for Christians, an affront to the evangelical teaching of forgiveness*.

Read more on the Holy See's declaration on: [www.zenit.org/english/](http://www.zenit.org/english/)

Find the article on date 2007-02-07.

## How to Find a Document

- The number of documents produced at the CoE during the sessions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) or the Committee of Ministers is impressive. A Newsletter like this one can only skim the surface of all these initiatives.

To better inform yourself on the variety of proposals and adopted texts you can **consult the CoE website**.

First go to [www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int). Choose either *Parliamentary Assembly* or *Committee*

of *Ministers* on the top left-hand side of the page. A new page will open up.

On this second page you will find the heading *Documents* in the left margin of this page. Then choose to look at the list of either *Adopted Texts* or *Working Documents*.

To find a document of which you know the number look on top of the list to find the box *Keyword*. Open to set to *Doc.No.* A new page will open with this and then enter the wanted number, e.g. **10924**, which will get you the document called ***Human Rights of Irregular Migrants***. Or you may choose **10910**, which will give you the document called ***Regularization Programmes for Irregular Migrants***. Or **10964**, which will give you the document, called ***Accelerated Asylum Procedures in Council of Europe Member States***.

Click to open.

## Practical Proposals and Contact

- This very important paragraph will let you easily get in contact with the JPE-representative to the CoE Henrik Alberius. It has become even more important after the change of our status at the CoE to become participatory.

Please send any questions, remarks, ideas, initiatives, and demands for aid to:

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