

**Europarådets pressekorrespondent i de nordiske lande**

**Arne Madsen**

**Bremerholm 6, 4., DK-1069 København K**

**Tlf. +45 33 14 15 84, Fax +45 33 15 54 84, E-mail: [arm@sm.dk](mailto:arm@sm.dk), Internet: [www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)**

## **E-mail / FAX**

**Pressemeddelelse til redaktionen**

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### **Council of Europe ministers meet to discuss how to tackle violence in Europe Oslo, 7-9 November 2004**

Strasbourg, 29.10.2004 - Ministers and senior officials from the 46 member states of the Council of Europe are to meet in Oslo to discuss how to tackle the problem of violence in everyday life. The meeting, which will take place from 7 to 9 November 2004, marks the culmination of three years' work within the framework of a special project, set up by the Council, to look at all aspects of the problem.

Under the project, the Council's services involved have pooled resources to propose means of preventing violence in homes, towns, schools and at sports events, as well as violence against women and other victims of human trafficking. The conference, whose official title is "Preventing everyday violence in Europe: responses in a democratic society", aims to help make European societies safer by addressing the problem on a European level. It will outline twelve principles that can help reduce violence in any country, and recommend that they be adopted by governments across Europe as part of their national strategies against violence.

The conference is hosted by the Norwegian Minister of Justice and the Police, Odd Einar Dørum, as part of the Norwegian presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. It will open at 5:30 pm, on Sunday 7 November, at Oslo City Hall, with speeches by the Prime Minister of Norway Kjell Magne Bondevik, Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Chairman of the Council's Ministers' Deputies, Torbjørn Frøysnes, and representing the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold. It will continue for the two following days at the Radisson SAS Plaza Hotel on Sonja Henies Plass 3, Oslo.

**All sessions will be open to the press.**

Contact Cathie Burton: + 33 (0)6 85 11 64 93  
+ 33 (0)3 88 41 28 93

For further information: <http://www.coe.int/violence-oslo>

Til orientering vedlægges programmet og en kort orientering om konferencens baggrund og formål. Konferencerapporten kan ses på ovennævnte e-mail adresse.

## ***Preventing everyday violence in Europe: responses in a democratic society***

Ad hoc Conference of European Ministers  
responsible for the prevention of violence in everyday life  
Oslo, Norway, 7-9 November 2004

### **REVISED PROGRAMME**

Registration on arrival at the hotel or at the Conference Venue on Monday morning

#### **Sunday 7 November**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Other</b>
17.00	Official opening	Speeches by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representatives from Norway and City of Oslo</li> <li>• Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe</li> <li>• Representative of the Committee of Ministers</li> <li>• Representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe</li> <li>• Representative of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe</li> </ul>	To be held in Oslo City Hall
	Presentation of the Council of Europe award “Young active citizens”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction by member of the Jury</li> <li>• Five awards presented by the Mayor of Oslo (to be confirmed)</li> <li>• Short comments by Award winners</li> </ul>	“
19.30	Reception for all participants		“

#### **Monday 8 November**

09.30 10.00 10.15	Plenary session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conclusions of the Integrated Project</li> <li>• WHO Global Campaign against violence</li> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul>	Radisson SAS Plaza Hotel
11.15	Coffee		“
11.45		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norway presents a relevant project (Action plan against violence in the family)</li> <li>• Questions</li> </ul>	“
13.00	Lunch for the visiting ministers/heads of delegations	Host: Council of Europe	“
“	Lunch for the rest of the delegates	Host: Norway	Radisson SAS Plaza Hotel
14.30	Group discussions:	3 groups – Chaired by Norway, the	“

	ministers/heads of delegations	Netherlands and Poland with Rapporteurs <i>main topics:</i> inter-ministerial and interagency co-operation for integrated policy development and action plan, proposals for further CoE action	
“	Alternative programme for the rest of the delegates	<i>Topics :</i> - Mediation - Draft resolution	“
18.00	End of programme	(Drafting Group to revise resolution)	“
20.00	Official dinner for all participants	Hosted by the Norwegian Minister of Justice and the Police	“

### **Tuesday 9 November**

09.30	Reports from the discussions	10 minutes per group (Minister or Rapporteur)	Radisson SAS Plaza Hotel
10.15	Statements from International and European organisations and NGO(s)		“
11.00	Coffee		“
11.30	Adoption of the resolution		“
12.00	End of conference		“

# ***PREVENTING EVERYDAY VIOLENCE IN EUROPE: RESPONSES IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY***

***OSLO 7-9 NOVEMBER 2004***

## **What's this Conference about?**

Everyday violence poses a challenge to our fundamental values and therefore has to be met with a determined response. It is not an intrinsic part of the human condition: violence can be prevented and reduced while its consequences can be alleviated. Violence in everyday life is a multifaceted problem with psychological, social, cultural and economic ramifications, therefore it has to be addressed across this wide spectrum of issues, through a broad and co-ordinated partnership.

This ministerial conference will examine how to tackle the problem in a comprehensive and coordinated way, involving inter-ministerial and interagency cooperation as well as the participation of non-governmental organisations in the Council of Europe's 46 member states. The first ever pan-European conference on this subject, it will mark the conclusion of the Council's Integrated Project "Responses to violence in everyday life in a democratic society" (2002-04).

## **Who's organising it?**

The Norwegian Ministry of Justice and the Police under the Norwegian presidency of the Council of Europe together with the National Correspondents of the Integrated Project "Responses to violence in everyday life in a democratic society".

## **What kind of violence will be discussed?**

The Integrated Project has tackled violence in towns, at home, in schools and at sports events as well as violence against women and trafficking in human beings. Also on the agenda: youth policies linked with violence, mediation in penal matters, assistance to victims, structural and contextual factors of violence.

## **Who will attend?**

### Participants:

- Ministers or senior officials from the 46 member States of the Council of Europe;
- Representatives from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- Representatives from the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities of Europe;
- Representatives from the European Commission of the European Union.

### Observers:

- Observer States to the Council of Europe (Holy See, United States, Canada, Japan and Mexico);
- United Nations Agencies (WHO, UNESCO, UNICEF), Nordic Council of Ministers, Commonwealth of Independent States;
- European Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe;
- European Forum for Urban Safety, International Centre for Crime Prevention.

## **What are the aims of the Conference?**

The Conference will provide a platform for discussing responses to everyday violence at the European level. The emphasis will be on inter-ministerial and interagency co-operation in developing national policy against violence to make European societies safer.

The conclusions and results of the Integrated Project “Responses to violence in everyday life in a democratic society”, carried out by the Council of Europe from 2002-04, will also be presented to the Conference. Building on the Council’s earlier work against violence, the Project focused on comprehensive policy development and the preparation of a new set of practical tools to prevent violence in everyday life. Twelve principles for an integrated policy response to violence will be discussed at the Conference.

WHO Global Campaign for preventing violence will also be discussed.

## **What results are expected from the Conference?**

- The Conference will adopt a resolution on the prevention violence in everyday life and recommend further actions to be undertaken by the Council of Europe in this field
- Every country should develop and implement a national policy which sets out the major elements of activities against violence and their co-ordination at different levels
- The Congress of Regional and Local Authorities of Europe is planning to launch a European Observatory on violence and crime in 2005 to improve knowledge about everyday violence

## **What are the key messages for the media?**

- The Council of Europe is playing a leading role in addressing a major problem that affects hundreds of millions of Europeans every year
- There are twelve principles along with a set of guidelines and manuals that can help the fight against everyday violence in any country, and governments should take account of these when formulating their policies
- Further action is needed at European level to combat this problem also in terms of developing common standards for comparable statistics related to violence and crime.

## **What further steps will be taken after the conference?**

- Council of Europe will launch a new three-year inter-disciplinary project on “Children and violence” to improve the protection of children from violence – the project will also contribute to UN Global study on violence against children
- A new Council of Europe Convention on action against trafficking in human beings will open for signature next year
- Development of violence and crime-related statistics and information exchange about promising prevention initiatives will be boosted through the establishment of a European Observatory on crime and violence planned to be launched by the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities of Europe in 2005.