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Council of Europe steps up international co-operation in the fight against cybercrime (Strasbourg, 11-12 June 2007)

Strasbourg, 04.06.2007 – Stepping up international co-operation to combat cybercrime will be the focus of a conference organised by the Council of Europe on 11 and 12 June in Strasbourg.

The conference is aimed at encouraging as many countries as possible, worldwide, to sign up to the [Council of Europe Convention on cybercrime](#) and its [Additional Protocol concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems](#), and improving international co-operation in tackling new forms of cybercrime. The Convention, which entered into force in July 2004, is the only binding international treaty in this area. To date, 21 countries have ratified it (including the United States) and 22 have signed it but not yet ratified it.

The conference will bring together experts from all over the world and representatives of governments, police and the private sector (including Microsoft). Some 120 participants will be looking at:

- the effectiveness of legislation and good practices in this area;
- public-private partnerships;
- international co-operation and the functioning of the 24/7 points of contact network (workshop closed to the press);
- initiatives of other organisations and stakeholders.

The conference will be **opened on Monday 11 June at 9.30 am** by the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio.

Cybercrime is the category of crime that has recorded the biggest increase in the last 10 years. Whether hacking into private or public computer systems or distributing illegal content, or more recently engaging in cyberterrorism, cybercriminals adapt their methods to the advances made by society and pose numerous challenges to our judicial systems. The conference is intended to provide the participants with a platform for co-operation and the possibility of formulating a global response to cybercrime.

For further information on the conference and the Council of Europe's action in this field, go to www.coe.int/cybercrime and www.coe.int/t/dc/files/themes/cybercrime/default_EN.asp.

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