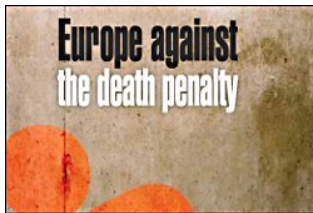


DATES



EUROPEAN DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY 10 OCTOBER

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe decided on 26 September 2007, to declare a 'European Day against the Death Penalty,' which will be held annually on 10 October.

The Council of Europe has been a pioneer in the abolition process which has made Europe a de facto death-penalty-free zone since 1997.

The day will be a European contribution to the World Day against the Death Penalty, which is held annually on the same day.

"The European Day against the Death Penalty is an opportunity to support the movement for a worldwide moratorium on executions," Terry Davis, Council of Europe Secretary General, declared on 10 October 2008.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS



European Youth Centre: inauguration after renovation work

The European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, a permanent structure of the Council of Europe responsible for implementing the organisation's youth policy and programmes, is to reopen its doors following a safety upgrade and renovation work.

Since it was set up in 1972, the Strasbourg EYC has played host to more than 72,000 young people from all over Europe, through dozens of annual activities. Among the many who have benefited from these activities are numerous prominent European politicians (such as Alfred Gusenbauer, Chancellor of Austria, Anna Lindh, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Antonio Luis dos Santos da Costa, Mayor of Lisbon, and Miguel Angel Martinez, former president of the PACE).

Promoting a culture of democracy and human rights through teacher education

Highlighting the role of teachers and other educational staff in promoting a culture of human rights and democracy, the Assembly on 3 October called on European governments to promote "a lifelong learning perspective in respect of teacher education", in order to help teachers adapt to the needs of rapidly-changing democratic societies.

Council of Europe Youth Ministers adopt declaration of youth policy development 2020

Ministers responsible for Youth from 49 participating states of the European Cultural Convention have adopted October 11 in Kyiv a Declaration of the Youth Policy Development of the Council of Europe.

The declaration became a final document of the 8th European Conference of Youth Ministers entitled "The Future of the Council of Europe Youth Policy: Agenda 2020".

The instrument adopted particularly envisages a strategy of the development of the Council of Europe youth policy and action plan in three directions: human rights and democracy, youth co-existence in various societies and young people's social inclusion.

Ukraine's Minister for Family, Youth and Sports Yuriy Pavlenko appreciated the forum outcome. "The Declaration we have adopted will surely become an excellent thesaurus of the Council of Europe youth policy achievements. We have plenty of time to put it into practice both at the national and European levels. I am sure with common efforts we will fulfill this task as Europe's future belongs to youth," he underscored.

The next youth ministerial conference will be held in 2012.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION NEWS



Conference "Continuing the Diversity Journey - Business Practices, Perspectives and Benefits"

11-12 December 2008, Brussels

The upcoming conference is being organised for the European Commission (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities) by Focus Consultancy Limited in partnership with the European Academy of Business in Society, EIM Business Policy & Research and the European Institute for Managing Diversity.

The theme of the conference shows the way in which inclusion and diversity present dynamic business opportunities for all companies in their search for greater competitiveness and talent regardless of how far they have travelled on their own diversity journeys.

Over the 15 days of its duration, the conference will present the results of 12 months' research with thousands of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and hundreds of multinational enterprises, business schools, and business intermediaries across Europe.

New EU web portal on social affairs

A new website on employment, social affairs and equal opportunities has been launched by the European Commission (<http://ec.europa.eu/social>). The site aims to explain how European Union policies benefit citizens. It also provides more detailed and technical information for specialised audiences including policy-makers, stakeholder organisations, the media and experts.

The features offered by the new website include regularly updated news and features, improved navigation, a dedicated search engine, an e-library gathering together important documents and publications, and a multimedia section.

The website was launched in English, French and German on 2 July 2008 to coincide with the Commission's adoption of a renewed social agenda for the EU. It will be available in all official EU languages from mid-October 2008.

The Commission welcomes comments and suggestions from users of the website. (empl-webmaster@ec.europa.eu)