



### DATES



### 3 DECEMBER INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The annual observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3 December, aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

The theme of the Day is based on the goal of full and equal enjoyment of human rights and participation in society by persons with disabilities, established by the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, adopted by General Assembly in 1982.

The official title of the Day was changed from International Day of Disabled Persons to International Day of Persons with Disabilities by General Assembly resolution 62/127 on 18 December 2007.



### 10 DECEMBER HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Human Rights Day is celebrated annually across the world on 10 December.

The date was chosen to honour the United Nations General Assembly's adoption and proclamation, on 10 December 1948, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the first global enunciation of human rights.

The commemoration was established in 1950, when the General Assembly invited all states and interested organisations to celebrate the day as they saw fit.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS



### Africa-Europe Youth Summit

The Africa-Europe Youth Summit, which was organised on the initiative of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, took place in Lisbon (Portugal), from 5 to 7 December 2007. A final declaration was delivered to the Heads of State during the 2nd EU-Africa Summit (Lisbon, 8-9 December 2007).

It is gathering 250 youth representatives of Europe and Africa and 60 observers, representing governments, regional and international organisations and media.

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The Africa-Europe Youth Summit, held under the patronage of H.E. Mr Aníbal Cavaco Silva, President of the Republic of Portugal, was organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, in partnership with the Portuguese Youth Council, the European Youth Forum, the Pan African Youth Union and other national and international youth organisations. The event was supported by the European Commission and the Portuguese government.



### PACE: "Gender Equality Prize"

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) 23 November decided to establish a PACE "Gender Equality Prize", to reward action, schemes or initiatives which have been or are in the process of being carried out by political parties and which have brought about a significant improvement in women's participation in elected assemblies, political parties and their respective executives.

Gender balance in politics is essential if democracy and society are to function more effectively. In awarding this prize, the Assembly is seeking to highlight the importance it attaches to promoting women's access to elected office and decision-making positions in political parties and elected assemblies.



### European Day for Integration and Intercultural Tolerance in 2008

Addressing a conference organised in Aachen in cooperation with the Land of North Rhine-Westphalia, Parliamentary Assembly President René van der Linden on 19 November announced the 2008 inauguration of a European Day for Integration and Intercultural Tolerance as a part of the Assembly's contribution to the European Year of Inter-cultural Dialogue.

### EUROPEAN YOUTH PORTAL NEWS



### Support for European youth: Conclusions of the Education, Youth and Culture Council

During the Education, Youth and Culture Council that took place in Brussels on 15th-16th November, youth was on the agenda of the EU education ministers. On this occasion, a resolution and a set of conclusions were adopted.

The resolution concerns the voluntary activities of young people: until September 2008, Member States are invited to define and implement their strategy regarding the voluntary activities of young people. The provisional text is available at:

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/07/st14/st14425.en07.pdf>

The Council also adopted conclusions underlining that investment in youth must start early and must follow a transversal approach. The aim is to enable young people to fulfill their potential and participate actively in society, including the labour market. The provisional text is available at:

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/07/st14/st14426.en07.pdf>