

## DATES



### International Day of Peace 21 September

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

This year - on its 30th anniversary - the Day's theme is "Peace and Democracy: make your voice heard".

The Preamble to the United Nations Charter states that the Organization was founded to prevent and resolve international conflicts and help build a culture of peace in the world.

Peace and democracy are inextricably linked. Together, they form a partnership that promotes the well-being of all. Embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, democracy supports an environment for a host of political rights and civil liberties.

There are many ways to participate in democratic practices, including taking part in dialogue on constitutional processes, advocating for civil society empowerment, joining the struggle for gender equality and against discrimination, engaging in civic education and promoting voter registration.

The International Day of Peace offers people globally, a shared date to organize events and undertake deeds celebrating the importance of peace and democracy in realistic and useful ways.

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION NEWS



### Respect for and protection of persons belonging to minorities 2008-2010

Recent developments in European Union (EU) law and the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon in December 2009 make it clear that minority issues have moved to the forefront of the EU's political agenda.

By examining what the Treaty and these new laws mean for the protection of minorities, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) provides analysis and evidence-based research, contributing to more nuanced debates on public policy. This report addresses a variety of concerns regarding minorities, including freedom of movement,

integration, and both ethnic and racial discrimination. It takes an in-depth look at recent developments on the ground and reveals that discrimination is still present in many forms.

[http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/FRA-Report-Respect-protection-minorities-2011\\_EN.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/FRA-Report-Respect-protection-minorities-2011_EN.pdf)



### Evidence-based Policy Conference "Youth and Social Inclusion"

The evidence-based policy conference 'Social inclusion of youth on the margins of society: more opportunities, better access, and higher solidarity.' will take place on 17 – 18 November 2011 in Brussels. The conference is organised by DG Research and innovation of the European Commission.

Researchers, stakeholders and policy-makers will discuss the potential for inclusive educational and labour market policies, activated civil society, and last but not least, social intervention programmes carried out in cooperation and partnerships of public and private sectors supported by social protection measures, together with young people.

Participation to the conference is free of charge (without reimbursement of travel nor subsistence costs), but prior registration is required by e-mail

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### Parliamentarium (Brussels) The European Parliament's Visitors' Centre

Ever wondered what the European Parliament is all about? How it influences your daily life? The Parliamentarium will answer these questions and highlight the practical effect EU-decision making has on our everyday lives. It is the first ever citizens' centre fully accessible in 23 languages. You will be guided through the exhibition by an electronic multimedia guide that will help you to discover the past, present and future of the European Parliament. It is a unique and interactive experience, combining information, education and entertainment.

#### Link to institution

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/visiting/en/parlamentarium.html>