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Note for the attention of the editors

By means of its activities in the field of organ transplantation, the Council of Europe contributes actively to the implementation of high standards for the protection of public health and the promotion of human rights and dignity. The Council of Europe's objectives are threefold:

- to reinforce legislation to regulate and promote donations while at the same time protecting patients through recommendations, resolutions, conventions such as the Bioethics convention or the Oviedo Convention;
- to share technical and scientific knowledge through the activities of the Steering Committee and its working parties on Organisational Aspects of Cooperation in Organ Transplantation (CD-P-TO), through the publication of the Guide to safety and quality assurance for the transplantation of organs, tissues and cells and through recommendations of the Committee of Ministers on issues related to organ transplantation under the aegis of the EDQM;
- to organise regular media campaigns to raise awareness among the general public.

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IS CELEBRATING THE 10TH EUROPEAN DAY FOR ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION IN SLOVENIA

The Council of Europe will celebrate the 10th European Day for Organ Donation and Transplantation with the collaboration of the Institute for Transplantation of Organs and Tissues of the Republic of Slovenia, Slovenija-Transplant, Slovensko društvo Transplant, Združenje društev dializnih in ledvičnih bolnikov Slovenije. The European Commission (EU) has joined with the Council of Europe to support this initiative and is planning to become an official partner in the near future.

The idea behind this Day, initiated by the Council of Europe, is to help a different member state each year to encourage debate on these social questions and raise awareness there to improve organ donation and transplantation.

This year, Slovenia has offered to host this event, which will take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 18 October 2008 in the presence of the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Mr Danilo Türk, who will make a speech at 9:30 am.

The programme for this day, which is open to the press, will begin with the opening ceremony at 9:30 a.m. during which the Slovenian authorities, representatives of the Council of Europe, the European Commission (EU) and patient associations will address the participants.

The event covers a wide variety of issues and topics, such as donation from the psychological and social point of view and ethical questions related to the donation. The activities of the Council of Europe's EDQM in organ transplantation will be presented by Dr Per Pfeffer, Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee on Organisational Aspects of Cooperation in Organ Transplantation (CD-P-TO), Council of Europe. Organ transplantation activities in Slovenia as well as the results and possibilities of modern treatment will be covered.

One of the highlights of the day will be sporting events for the general public in which transplant patients will take part.

This day will also foster international discussions on matters related to organ donation and transplantation with a view to analysing disparities between European countries.



For the full programme and further information, see the following sites:
www.edqm.eu or www.slovenija-transplant.si

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The Council of Europe is a political organisation founded in 1949 in order to promote democracy and human rights continent wide and to develop common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 47 member States.