



Strasbourg, 15/09/2009

LET'S CELEBRATE THE 11TH EUROPEAN DAY OF ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION ON 4 OCTOBER 2009 IN BERLIN, GERMANY

(15/09/09) On 4 October the Council of Europe will celebrate the 11th European day of Organ Donation and Transplantation, which will take place in Germany for the first time. This day could not have been organised without the participation of the German Organ Transplantation Foundation, Deutsche Stiftung Organtransplantation (or DSO), the organiser and co-ordinator of this day.

The idea behind this day, conceived by the Council of Europe 11 years ago, is to help a different member state each year to encourage debate on these social questions and raise awareness there to help organ donation and transplantation to progress in Europe.

In 2009, the European Day coincides with the World Day of Organ Donation supported by the Fairtransplant foundation (<http://www.fairtransplant.org>), making this a special event all over the world. The motto for this day is "**You have the power to donate life—be an organ donor**".

In addition, the 10th Organ Donation Congress ISODP 2009 & 16th ETCO will be held on 5-7 October 2009 at the Berliner Congress Centre. A wide variety of topics will be discussed such as: new ideas on how to solve the problem of organ and tissue scarcity; quality and safety aspects of organ donation and transplantation or increasing the size of the live donor pool with expanded criteria for donors, etc.

(www.isodp2009.org)

Summary of the programme for the press:

Press conference for the World / European Day of Organ Donation and Transplantation, Wednesday, 30 September 2009 at 11:00 am.

Location: Tagungszentrum Bundespressekonferenz, Schiffbauerdamm 40/Reinhardtstraße 55, 10117 Berlin

Celebration of the World / European Day of Organ Donation and Transplantation, Sunday 4 October 2009 from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm, a unique event highlighting organ donation has been organised to attract Berliners and visitors to the Brandenburg Gate. Famous artists, bands and celebrities will entertain the audience and promote organ donation; numerous booths will offer information and activities for adults and children.

For the full programme and further information, see the Internet sites:

www.dso.de, www.fuers-leben.de, www.edqm.eu

Press contact:

Birgit Blome, Deutsche Stiftung Organtransplantation (DSO)

Tel.: + 49 69 677328 9400 or -9411; E-mail: press@dso.de

Council of Europe, European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & Health Care (EDQM):

Caroline Larsen Le Tarnec, Public Relations Division

Tel.: + 33 3 88 41 28 15; E-mail: caroline.letarnec@edqm.eu

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 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 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.