

Press Release

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Council of Europe marks the 5th anniversary of the CEPEJ Five years of expertise and innovation to improve the efficiency and quality of justice

Strasbourg, 04.12.2007 – The Council of Europe's European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) will celebrate its 5th anniversary in Strasbourg on 5 and 6 December, in the presence of the President of the European Court of Human Rights, several justice ministers, high level judges, parliamentarians and ambassadors.

In the space of five years, the CEPEJ has managed to put in place a system for evaluating European judicial systems. As a result, the 47 member states of the Council of Europe now have access to reliable data in the judicial field, enabling them to consider, in an informed manner, what practical steps might be taken at national level to modernise judicial systems and improve their efficiency and operation.

Other specific tools have been developed by the CEPEJ in order to better manage judicial timeframes and encourage the use of mediation. The quality of justice and judicial time management are among the areas currently being addressed by the CEPEJ.

A special ceremony, open to the press, will be held on Thursday 6 December from 2.30 to 4.30 pm in the Human Rights Building (grand hearing room of the European Court of Human Rights). The focus will be on setting priorities for the CEPEJ's work over the coming five years.

Before the ceremony, the CEPEJ will use its 10th plenary meeting to examine, *inter alia*, the implementation of the new 2006-2008 evaluation cycle, the relevant report being due out in 2008.

The programme for the meeting and further information on the work of the CEPEJ are available on www.coe.int/CEPEJ.

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A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 47 member states.