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## **Fighting counterfeit medical products: Council of Europe Medicrime Convention launched**

Strasbourg, 19.10.2011 – The Council of Europe, the Russian Ministry of Public Health and Social Development and the Federal Service on Surveillance in Healthcare and Social Development ([Roszdravnadzor](#)) are looking to give a boost to the fight against counterfeit medical products and similar crimes.

A new Medicrime Convention will be opened for signature at a conference in Moscow on 26 to 28 October. Views will be exchanged on providing the legislative support and practical measures to relevant bodies, the systems and procedures needed to implement the Convention in practice as part of a country's domestic legislation.

The Convention is the first international legal instrument on the subject to require states party to make criminal offences of:

- manufacturing counterfeit medical products;
- supplying, offering to supply or trafficking in counterfeit medical products;
- falsifying documents;
- manufacturing and supplying medical products without authorisation and marketing medicines without complying with industry standards (or so-called "similar crimes").

The Convention offers a framework for national and international co-operation across various administrative sectors. It provides for coordination at national level, preventive measures aimed at both the public and private sectors and protection for victims and witnesses.

The conference will be attended by representatives of the health, judicial, law enforcement and customs authorities of member states of the Council of Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States, senior officials responsible for policy-making, such as chief medical officers, chief pharmaceutical officers and heads of medicines agencies, representatives of international and European institutions and organisations, key stakeholders from the private sector and associations of healthcare professionals, consumers and patients, at both national and international levels.

It will be opened by the President of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, and the Russian Minister of Public Health and Social Development, Tatiana Golikova.

The Medicrime Convention will be opened for signature at **11.00 am on 28 October**.

Programme and additional information: [www.coe.int/medicrime](http://www.coe.int/medicrime) and [www.edqm.eu](http://www.edqm.eu)

### **Practical information:**

- **Opening Press conference at 1.00 pm, Wednesday 26 October** (Izmailovo Concert Hall and Hotel Complex, Izmailovsky highway 71).
- **Press conference to follow signature ceremony, Friday 28 October** (Reception Villa, Spiridonovka 17).
- Accreditation: tel./fax +7 495 624 80 90 or +7 499 578 01 08, [maleva@roszdravnadzor.ru](mailto:maleva@roszdravnadzor.ru)

**Press contact:** Estelle Steiner, Press officer, Council of Europe  
Tel. +33 (0)3 88 41 33 35, mobile +33 (0)6 08 46 01 57, [estelle.steiner@coe.int](mailto:estelle.steiner@coe.int)