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European Day for Organ Donation & Transplantation 2011 Join the Council of Europe to promote organ donation and transplantation

Date: 22 October 2011

Place: Geneva, Switzerland and various locations throughout Europe

Organised by the Fairtransplant Foundation and the Council of Europe



In order to encourage European media interest in this important cause, Council of Europe staff gathered on the lawn of the Organisation to form the shape of a heart, the symbol for Organ Donation Day.

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Description: Council of Europe celebrations for the 13th European Day of Organ Donation and Transplantation will take place in Geneva, Switzerland. This day could not have been organised without the involvement of the Fairtransplant foundation, the organizer and coordinator of this event. Foundations Swiss transplant, AGIR, the Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG) and the association "Footballeurs sans Frontières" were key supporters and partners in the preparation of this event.

The idea behind this Day, initiated by the Council of Europe in 1996 is to help a different member state each year to promote organ donation and transplantation and to encourage debate so that individuals can decide on donation and make their wishes known to their family. The spirit of the European (and the World) Days for Organ donation and Transplantation is to support and stimulate health authorities and all stake-holders involved in organ transplantation to develop and promote organ donation and transplantation as an effective accountable, and ethical procedure for the good of the recipients and in the respect of the donors.

The Programme of the Day, which coincides with the 40th anniversary of transplantation in Geneva, will include:

Conferences and exhibition on the issue (Hôpitaux de Genève, Rue Gabrielle-Perret-Gentil 4, 1205 Genève 9:30 am -2:30 pm, Auditoire Marcel Jenny).

A Gala Football Match "A gift for life" (Stade de Genève, Route des Jeunes 16, 1227 Carouge, Genève at 3:00 pm). Some of football's great legends go head-to-head with famous personalities in a thrilling game of football in support of organ donation.

A Gala Dinner (Hôtel Président Wilson at 7:30 pm).

The full programme is available at www.dondorganes.org

Summary of the programme for the press:

21 October 2011: A **press conference** for European Day for Organ Transplantation & Transplantation will start at 11.15 am (Hôtel Président Wilson, Quai Wilson 47, Genève).
22 October 2011: **Press conference** before the gala football match at 11.00 am (Stade de Genève).

Press Contacts

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

www.fairtransplant.org, www.dondorganes.org, www.edqm.eu

Note for editors

Today, more than 50 000 people in Europe are on waiting lists for a transplant and every day 12 of them die while waiting for an organ. The supply of organs cannot keep pace with the ever-increasing demand. Many national authorities and patients' associations in all European countries are trying to find new and creative ways to promote organ donation. In some countries statistics show that the number of people willing to donate their organs and tissue is increasing, but there is an urgent need for improvement. The Council of Europe has worked on the issue since the 1950s. As a result of the experience gained from organizing the European Donation Day since 1998, the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM, Council of Europe), in collaboration with the European Union, has developed a campaign and information kit which is available to all European countries to support their local efforts (www.europeandonationday.org).

International figures on Donation and transplantation are published in the 2011 issue of Newsletter Transplant ([Newsletter](#))

Fairtransplant is a non-profit, non-governmental, medical organisation, founded in 2005 in Geneva whose aim is to promote organ donation and access to organ transplantation in a transparent, safe, and non-for-profit frame.