

# Press Release

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## The Secretary General of the Council of Europe very concerned about Belarusian court handing down two new death penalty sentences

Strasbourg, 17.05.2010 - "These sentences add to the urgency to have a moratorium on capital punishment. The use of death penalty continues to be a key obstacle in the relations of Belarus with the Council of Europe. We are ready to provide assistance to resolve this issue and to help Belarus become closer to Council of Europe standards of human rights".

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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.