

Press Release

Council of Europe Press Division

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Human Rights Commissioner to visit the Russian Federation

Strasbourg, 18.04.2008 – The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Thomas Hammarberg, will carry out a high-level assessment visit to the Russian Federation starting on Saturday 19 April.

Mr Hammarberg will travel to the North Caucasus region, including the Chechen Republic, where he will discuss a wide range of human rights issues with the Republican authorities, in particular the functioning of the police and the judiciary as well as the rights of vulnerable groups of people. Commissioner Hammarberg will also visit various institutions, including prisons, hospitals, centres of social assistance to families and children and an orphanage.

During the visit, the Commissioner will meet representatives of the highest Republican and Federal authorities, as well as the Ombudsman of the Chechen Republic and representatives of civil society.

At the end of the visit to the North Caucasus, the Commissioner will travel to Moscow, where he is due to meet representatives of the Russian authorities. A meeting with the press is due to take place at the end of the visit.

The visit is part of the activities carried out in accordance with the Commissioner's mandate to assess the implementation of human rights commitments by all Council of Europe member states.

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The Commissioner for Human Rights is an independent, non-judicial institution within the Council of Europe, mandated to promote awareness of, and respect for, human rights in the organisation's 47 member states. Elected by the Council's Parliamentary Assembly, the present Commissioner, Thomas Hammarberg, took up his duties on 1 April 2006. For further information on the Commissioner's activities, please visit www.commissioner.coe.int

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