

# Press Release

**Council of Europe Press Division**

**Ref: 924a08**

**Tel: +33 (0)3 88 41 25 60**

**Fax: +33 (0)3 88 41 39 11**

**[pressunit@coe.int](mailto:pressunit@coe.int)**

**internet: [www.coe.int/press](http://www.coe.int/press)**



47 members

Albania  
Andorra  
Armenia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Belgium  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
Georgia  
Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Ireland  
Italy  
Latvia  
Liechtenstein  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Moldova  
Monaco  
Montenegro  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Russia  
San Marino  
Serbia  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
"the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"  
Turkey  
Ukraine  
United Kingdom

## **Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis on the expulsion of a Tunisian national from Italy**

Strasbourg, 17.12.2008 - "I am very disappointed by the decision of the Italian authorities to deport Mr Mourad Trabelsi to Tunisia on 13 December. The Italian authorities expelled Mr Trabelsi, a Tunisian national, in spite of the fact that the European Court of Human Rights asked them not to do so. There are real grounds to fear that Mr Trabelsi is at risk of being tortured.

The European Convention on Human Rights, and the European Court of Human Rights which enforces it, are the pillars of the human rights protection system which Europe has built over the past 60 years and I do not understand why the Italian authorities have ignored the Court's reasonable request."

\*\*\*

Mourad Trabelsi has been released from prison in Italy in November this year, after serving six and a half years on terrorism related charges. In 2005, a military court in Tunisia tried him *in absentia* on similar charges and sentenced him to 20 years in prison. On 18 November, the European Court of Human Rights asked the Italian authorities not to expel the applicant to Tunisia before further notice (interim measure taken according to Rule 39 of the Rules of the Court).

To receive our press releases by e-mail, contact : [Council.of.Europe.Press@coe.int](mailto:Council.of.Europe.Press@coe.int)

**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.**