

## **European Broadcasting Union and Council of Europe sign joint Memorandum of Understanding**

Bonn, 20.06.2011 – Today the [Council of Europe](#) and the [European Broadcasting Union \(EBU\)](#) signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) at the [Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum](#) in Bonn.

The Memorandum of Understanding defines shared objectives and values, in particular the promotion and protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and creates a framework for strengthening and further developing the existing cooperation between the two organizations. In the media field, these objectives translate into action to promote media freedom and pluralism in order to preserve media's vital role in democracy.

Secretary General of the Council of Europe Thorbjørn Jagland said, "*The Council of Europe and EBU both recognize the important role of public service broadcasters in ensuring media pluralism and diverse content. We acknowledge the growing need in a knowledge-based information society to protect human rights, particularly the freedom of expression and information, and freedom of the media.*"

Director General of the European Broadcasting Union, Ingrid Deltenre said, "*We will be seeking to enhance our partnership and work on future joint activities that will highlight the strategic importance of public service media, increase its understanding by regulators and citizens, and improve the respect of freedom of expression and freedom of the media*"

The organizations will further strengthen their cooperation in the media sector, on standard-setting, capacity-building, partnership in regional and global events, and in disseminating Council of Europe standards and values.

### **Note to editors**

*The aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve greater unity between its member states for the purpose of safeguarding and realizing the ideals and principles that are their common heritage. In pursuit of this objective, the core values for which the Council of Europe stands are human rights, democracy and the rule of law.*

*The [EBU](#) serves 85 national media organizations in 56 countries in and around Europe. It promotes the values and distinctiveness of public service media in Europe and around the world. It brings news, sports, events and music to your home through the Eurovision and Euroradio networks. The EBU develops and shares best practices, media expertise and innovation. It produces and exchanges rich and diverse programmes across all media.*

*The [Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum](#) is a congress with international reach. It draws media representatives from around the world and people from the fields of politics, culture, business, development and science.*

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