



Presidency of Latvia
Council of Europe
MAY – NOVEMBER 2023

Présidence de la Lettonie
Conseil de l'Europe
MAI – NOVEMBRE 2023

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

MED-26(2023)03
14 September 2023

Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education

“The Transformative Power of Education: Universal Values and Civic Renewal”

26th Session

Strasbourg, France

28-29 September 2023

Information on the objectives and the organisation of the Conference

Updated version of 14 September 2023

The 26th session of the [Standing Conference of Ministers of Education](#) is organised by the [Education Department of the Council of Europe](#) in co-operation with the [Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia](#), under the Latvian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

It will be held on September 28 and 29, 2023, in Strasbourg, France.

The following are the main theme and sub-themes of the Conference:

Conference theme: The transformative power of education: universal values and civic renewal.

Conference sub-themes (see documents MED-26(2023)04 – Themes of the Conference - and MED-26(2023)05 – Questions for discussions - for more details)

1. Renewal of the civic mission of education
2. Education in times of emergencies and crisis
3. Harnessing the potential of digital transformation in and through education

Objectives

This 26th session will give Ministers the opportunity to:

- Reaffirm the crucial role of education in promoting the values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law;
- Reaffirm their conviction that decisive action is needed to meet the challenges faced by Europe and the world, and that the right to education, as a fundamental and enabling right for other human rights, is essential for a sustainable future;
- Reaffirm their commitment to strengthening the implementation mechanisms and standards of the Council of Europe, particularly in the field of education for democratic citizenship;
- Decide to engage in the transformation of education with a clear focus on the democratic future for all learners.

The Ministers' resolutions, which will be adopted at the end of the Conference, contain concrete proposals for measures and actions to be undertaken at national and European level by the Council of Europe, as well as in co-operation with other partner organisations, in relation to international issues and the UN 2030 Agenda.

Key proposals

- Launch of the new Council of Europe Education Strategy 2030,
- Launch of a preparatory phase of a European Civic Education Area Framework Convention that would contribute to the renewal of the civic mission of education based on the existing acquis of the Council of Europe,
- Launch of a toolbox to ensure the right to education in times of emergencies and crisis,

- Decision to launch in 2025 the European Year of Digital Citizenship Education,
- Start of the work on a legally binding instrument on the use of artificial intelligence systems in education systems in Europe.

This event will allow participants to guide the development of the Council of Europe's future programme of activities for education and to consider possible coordinated actions at international level beyond the Council of Europe framework.

Impact

All the results of the Conference should contribute to the follow-up on the conclusions of the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, the Council of Europe Education Strategy 2030, the priorities of the Secretary General's Strategic Framework and her Digital Agenda.

A **Pre-Ministerial Session** fostering discussions on the draft Education Strategy's goals through dedicated panels will take place in the morning of 28 September, prior to the Standing Conference.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Dates and venue

Conference venue:

Palais de l'Europe
Council of Europe
Avenue de l'Europe
67000 Strasbourg

The Pre-Ministerial Session will take place on:
Thursday 28 September 2023, 09h00 – 12h30, Room 5

The 26th session of the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education will take place on:
Thursday 28 September 2023, 15h00 – 18h00
Friday 29 September 2023, 09h30 – 15h30

Location:

Committee of Ministers room - Access to the room will be limited to three representatives per Council of Europe member State, from Holy See and Kazakhstan, and to one representative per Observer countries and institutions (see 'Participants' below).

A listening room (**Room 11**) with audio and video transmission of the Standing Conference will be available for the other Delegation members.

Before the start of the Standing Conference, the Ministers will be welcomed in the 'Bar des Parlementaires', from 14h00 to 15h00.

Participants

The Conference will bring together some 200 participants from public education in Council of Europe member States, the Holy See, Kazakhstan, representatives of the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe (OHTE), the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML), the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity and the European Union.

The following will be invited to participate as Observers: the United States of America, Canada, Israel, Japan, Mexico, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and Observers admitted by the Steering Committee for Education (CDEDU) in accordance with the rules governing the Committee's relations with NGOs.

Conference format

The Ministers' discussions will focus on a central theme and several sub-themes chosen by the CDEDU in consultation with the authorities of the country ensuring the presidency of the Committee of Ministers.

Plenary sessions as well as keynotes on the Conference theme by Ministers will give all participants the opportunity to share examples of good practice and provide networking opportunities.

In addition to the official part of the Conference, informal activities may be organised and an exhibition area for publications will be created.

The following dedicated website has been set up to facilitate the registration process for participants and the dissemination of information: <http://www.coe.int/minconf-education>

Registration of participants

See "OPEN REGISTRATION" on the Conference website.

All participants are requested to register by 15 September 2023

Online Registration form (open on the Conference website from 21 August to 15 September 2023)

Each member of the Delegation who has been designated to attend the Conference must register **individually** via the online registration form that will be available as from 21 August.

Non-members of the Delegation, i.e. **accompanying persons (such as partners of Heads of Delegation) and security officers, must also register online.**

Accompanying persons registrations:

Even if they are not accredited to attend the Conference itself, accompanying persons have the opportunity to register online to obtain a badge granting them access to the Palais de l'Europe. This will allow them to participate in the following event:

1. Inauguration of the Exhibition on History Education for Democratic Culture
 - Date: September 28
 - Time: 18h30-19h00
 - Location: Foyer of the Hemicycle of the Parliamentary Assembly

Registration last deadline: 15 September 2023

Accreditation

Permanent Representatives may collect envelopes with badges for Heads of Delegation (**red striped badges**) and for the other members of the Delegation (**blue striped and blue floater badges**) on **27 September (11h00-13h00 et 15h00-17h00)**, at the desk located in the main entrance hall of the Palais de l'Europe.

Delegations who do not have permanent representations will receive badges on the day of the Conference. They are requested to arrive at least two hours before the beginning of the session.

When entering the Council of Europe premises for the Conference, no security control for those participants with red and blue badges is required.

Other participants will have to pass through the security checks to the right of the main entrance to the Palais de l'Europe and collect their badges on this occasion, on presentation of an identity document.

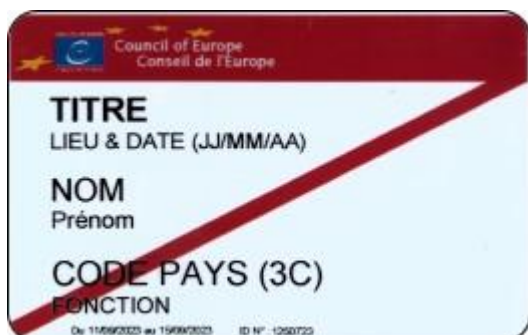
Colour-coded badges bearing the participant's name and affiliation for access to the different areas/rooms will be distributed at the accreditation desks. Participants are required to wear these badges at all times throughout the event on the premises of the Council of Europe.

Badges

There will be different categories of badges that give access to different rooms:

Red striped badges

allowing **access to the Committee of Ministers room to Heads of Delegation**



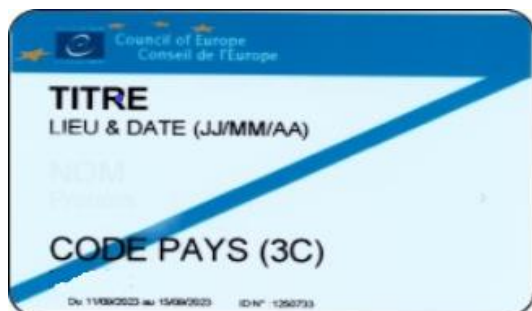
Blue badges

allowing **access to the Listening room to other members of Delegation**



Blue striped badges (floater badges)

Two badges will be distributed to delegations, **allowing access to the Committee of Ministers room**



Publication of the documents

The Conference documents will be available in English and French, the two official languages of the Council of Europe, on the [Conference website](#).

Requests for taking the floor

The Ministers or Heads of Delegations will have the opportunity to take the floor during the Conference and discussions in the four plenary sessions.

Delegations headed by Ministers will be given priority for taking the floor in the list of speakers for each session. Speaking time will be limited to 2-3 minutes, depending on the number of requests for the floor. The Council of Europe Secretariat will prepare a speaker's list indicating the order for taking the floor.

In the registration form, Heads of Delegation are required to fill in the 'Request for the floor' section, by indicating in which session(s) they would like to speak and by which priority order. It is possible to take the floor in all sessions.

The Secretariat of the Conference suggests that delegations take into account the questions asked in the document "Questions for discussion" on the three sub-themes of the Conference, available on the Conference website. Each delegation can choose to take the floor in one or more topics.

The list of speakers will be distributed online and in paper at the beginning of each session.

Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided to and from English, French, German, Italian and Turkish as well as so-called passive interpretation for Spanish (i.e. speeches/ interventions made in Spanish will be interpreted into English, French, German, Italian and Turkish but speeches/ interventions given in English, French, German, Italian and Turkish will not be interpreted into Spanish) during the plenary sessions of the Conference.

During the Pre-Ministerial Session in the morning of 28 September, interpretation will be provided in English, French and Turkish only.

Bilateral meetings

Those delegations who are willing to hold bilateral meetings are free to contact their Permanent Representations in order to organise such meetings.

In addition, meeting room *Berlin* will be available for bilateral meetings. Delegations wishing to book a slot during the Conference are requested to contact the Conference Secretariat by e-mail: DGII.CDEDU@coe.int

Visa

For nationals of countries for which a visa is required, the procedure for obtaining a visa for France can be consulted at the website of the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France](#), where participants will also find the addresses of the competent diplomatic posts in their country. Participants may present the confirmation of their registration for the conference when applying for their visa.

Participants encountering any difficulty during their visa application may send an email request to the Conference Secretariat by email to DGII.CDEDU@coe.int, accompanied by a copy of their passport and travel schedule.

Travel

Getting to Strasbourg by air

Strasbourg-Entzheim International Airport is just 10 km from Strasbourg town centre via the motor- way.

Strasbourg can easily be reached from other nearby international airports such as **Karlsruhe/Baden- Baden airport** (Distance: 58 km), **Basel-Mulhouse airport** (Distance: 130 km) or **Frankfurt airport** (Distance: 210 km).

Getting to Strasbourg by train

Strasbourg is connected to Paris by a high-speed train called TGV (train à grande vitesse). Paris- Strasbourg is 1 hr 40 mins with 16 daily return services (<https://www.sncf-connect.com/en-en/>). There are train connections from Frankfurt Airport with a change in Offenburg or Mannheim (<https://www.deutschebahn.com/en>). There are also several Lufthansa shuttle buses per day, please see link below.

From Frankfurt airport

From Frankfurt airport you may continue by **train** or Lufthansa **shuttle bus** to Strasbourg. The Lufthansa shuttle bus is at **Terminal 1: THE SQUAIRE WEST, near the long-distance train station**. It takes 2 hrs 30 mins - 3hrs to travel to Strasbourg.

There are two stops in Strasbourg: 1) Boulevard de Metz – close to the main train station 2) Hilton Hotel - intersection of Avenue Herrenschmidt and Rue Fritz Kieffer

Lufthansa shuttle buses time schedule: <http://www.lufthansa.com/de/en/Lufthansa-Express-Bus>

Local transport

Member States' Permanent Representations in Strasbourg should be informed of the Delegation's visit and provide local transport for their respective Ministers and Delegations.

Getting to the Council of Europe/Palais de l'Europe



From the city centre

By Tram E (direction Robertsau l'Escale): stop Droits de l'Homme

By bus L6 (Direction Pont Phario), bus **30** (direction Wattwiller), bus **72** (direction La Wantzenau Le Golf): stop 'Droits de l'Homme'

Parking

Please note that there is no public parking at the Council of Europe premises. Metered parking at Parking Relais Tram (allée René Cassin) is an option. Very limited free parking slots are available along the Parc de l'Orangerie.

Accommodation

Please note that accommodation is not provided to the Conference participants. They are required to make their own hotel arrangements or advised to seek assistance from their

Permanent Representations in Strasbourg. Participants are advised to book their hotel accommodations as soon as possible as hotel rooms tend to be booked out quickly.

Hotel Rate Agreement 2023 with the Group Accor / Accord tarifaire 2023 avec le Groupe Accor:

[Discounted hotels rates web page](#)

Business client with contract, Client code: SCP904937

Access code 10 characters: CO765FR396

The codes are valid in Strasbourg outside the European Parliament plenary session weeks and in other cities around the world.

When making the hotel room booking, it is not necessary to create an account with a username and password.

Please note that hotel reservations are confirmed only upon receipt of payment via credit card from the traveler.

A list of hotels and general information about the City of Strasbourg is available on the website of the [Strasbourg Tourist Office](#).

Catering

The Ministers will be welcomed in the Bar of the Parliamentary Assembly, from 14h to 15h, on 28 September.

Coffee and tea will be offered to participants during the Conference breaks.

A dinner offered by the Council of Europe for the Heads of Delegations will take place on 28 September at 19h00 in the Restaurant Bleu of the Council of Europe.

A buffet dinner offered by the Council of Europe for the members of Delegations will take place on 28 September at 19h00 in the Self Service of the Council of Europe.

A luncheon reception hosted by the Latvian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers will be held on 29 September at 13h00.

Group photo

A group photo of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and Heads of Delegations will be taken at the Grand Staircase between the Lobby of the Hemicycle and the Lobby of the Committee of Ministers before lunch on 29 September.

Side event

An exhibition organised by the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe will be inaugurated on 28 September 2023 at 18h30 in the Lobby of the Hemicycle.

Wifi

The Council of Europe offers an open Wifi network, '**Guest**', throughout its premises. No password is needed.

Cloackroom

A cloakroom will remain open in the main hall of the Palais on 28 and 29 September.

Bank

A branch office of the bank Société Générale and an ATM are situated by the main entrance of the Palais de l'Europe.

The bank is open from Monday to Thursday, 8h30 to 17h30 and on Friday, 8h30 to 15h30.

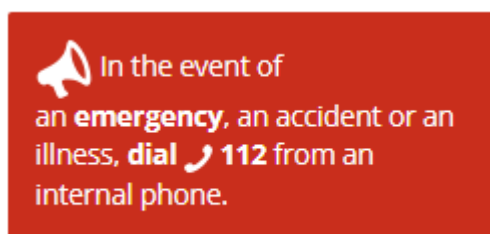
Medical assistance

Infirmery opening times:

Monday to Thursday from 8.30 am to 6.30 pm

Friday from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm

☎2442



Secretariat of the Conference

Mr Villano QIRIAZI

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