



## **Council of Europe celebrates European Day of Languages by encouraging common European standards in language learning**

Strasbourg, 23.09.2005 – Marking this year's European Day of Languages (Monday 26 September) the Council of Europe has underlined the importance of having common standards for teaching and measuring linguistic competence. The Council has pioneered a six-level system of assessing a person's ability to understand, speak and write a foreign language. These standards have been adopted by the main certification bodies in Europe, by many member states and by the European Union, in particular as part of its *Europass* scheme, which aims to facilitate mobility for those wishing to work or study abroad.

The European Day of Languages will be celebrated by special events throughout the Council of Europe's 46 member states. The Day aims to encourage language learning among all age groups, to emphasise the importance of diversifying language learning, and to foster respect for all of Europe's languages, including those spoken in regions and by minorities.

The Council of Europe is pleased to note that the main goals of the European Year of Languages 2001, which launched this annual Day, are being taken forward in the celebration of a Year of Languages in the United States in 2005, and in Africa in 2006.

For more information, consult [www.coe.int/edl](http://www.coe.int/edl) - [www.coe.int/portfolio](http://www.coe.int/portfolio)