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.
Finally, the Commissioner criticised strongly the UK practice of forced returns on the basis of diplomatic assurances, usually sought from countries with long-standing, proven records of torture and ill-treatment. “Freedom from torture and ill-treatment is a fundamental pillar of European societies. It is absolutely crucial that the authorities respect this principle and ensure effective protection of the returnees’ safety and dignity, also by monitoring their reception in the country of origin”.

The memorandum, together with the authorities’ response, is available on the Commissioner’s website.

Presscontact: Stefano Montanari, +33 3 88 41 35 38, stefano.montanari@coe.int