

# COUNCIL OF EUROPE

## Highlights 2016



Guardian of human rights,  
democracy and  
the rule of law

Activity report

**François Hollande**, President of the French Republic, session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 11 October 2016)

**Erna Solberg**, Prime Minister of Norway, Co-chair of the Sustainable Development Goals Advocacy Group and co-Convenor of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity, during the Opening of the World Forum for Democracy 2016 (Strasbourg, 7 November 2016)

**Nadia Murad**, activist for Human Rights and winner of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2016 (Strasbourg, 10 October 2016)

**Alexis Tsipras**, Prime Minister of Greece, session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 22 June 2016)

**His Holiness the Dalai Lama**, official visit (Strasbourg, 15 September 2016)

#### **French edition**

*Conseil de l'Europe:  
points forts 2016*

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#### Photos

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Layout and cover design:  
Documents and Publications  
Production Department (SPDP),  
Council of Europe

Council of Europe Publishing  
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex  
**www.coe.int**

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Printed at the Council of Europe

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**Thorbjørn Jagland**, Secretary General  
of the Council of Europe

# Foreword

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**Thorbjørn Jagland**

Secretary General of the Council of Europe

**C**ouncil of Europe *Highlights 2016* provides a comprehensive overview of the Organisation's work to promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Some of our activities generate substantial public and media attention, while others can best be described as "quiet diplomacy". But all of our work is aimed at protecting the individual rights enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights. The welfare of human beings lies at the heart of our mission.

— In 2016 more challenges to human rights arose, including discrimination, threats to freedom of expression and risks to justice.

— This publication shows how we are addressing those challenges – and why this work is essential for the future of our continent.



126th Session of the  
Committee of Ministers  
(Sofia, 18 May 2016)  
**Daniel Mitov**, Minister for  
Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria,  
**Marina Kaljurand**, Minister  
of Foreign Affairs of Estonia



Handover of the chairmanship  
of the Committee of Ministers  
of the Council of Europe  
from Estonia to Cyprus.  
**Ioannis Kasoulides**, Minister  
for Foreign Affairs of Cyprus,  
and **Jürgen Ligi**, Minister  
for Foreign Affairs of Estonia  
(Strasbourg, 22 November 2016)

# Committee of Ministers

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*The texts adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2016 can be consulted at: [www.coe.int/t/cm/](http://www.coe.int/t/cm/)*

**The Committee of Ministers acts as the main decision-making body of the Council of Europe. It is made up of member states' foreign ministers or their permanent diplomatic representatives in Strasbourg.**

**During 2016, the Committee of Ministers was chaired by Bulgaria until 18 May, then by Estonia until 22 November and thereafter by Cyprus.**

**T**he committee held its 126th Ministerial Session in Sofia on 18 May 2016, during which it considered major political and other issues requiring the attention of the Organisation. The first of these concerned **the fight against violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism**. The ministers welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the action plan drawn up to this end and urged the work to continue. They also called for the swift signature and ratification of the Council of Europe's conventions in the field of terrorism and their protocols by those member states which have not yet done so and by the European Union, as well as for the expeditious designation of the 24/7 contact points to facilitate the timely exchange of information, as provided for by the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 217). Member states were also invited to ensure the dissemination of the Guidelines for prison and probation services regarding radicalisation and violent extremism.

Another pressing issue concerned the Organisation's response to the **refugee crisis**. In this context, the Committee of Ministers welcomed the preparation before the end of the year of measures to provide member states with concrete tools to prevent and fight people smuggling. It encouraged the Secretary General to propose further priority action to ensure that special measures and safeguards are in place to protect children, often unaccompanied, who have been affected by the migrant and refugee crisis. Member states were invited to ensure the wide dissemination of the General Policy Recommendation No. 16 of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) on safeguarding from discrimination migrants who are irregularly present.

■ **The key role of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in conflict resolution** was the third main issue addressed during the session, including how to ensure the application of Council of Europe standards and instruments in conflict areas. The committee also examined the Secretary General's third report, "**The state of democracy, human rights and the rule of law – a security imperative for Europe**" and tasked the Ministers' Deputies and the Secretary General to provide appropriate follow-up to the report.

■ **Securing the long-term effectiveness of the system of the European Convention on Human Rights was also addressed at the Ministerial Session.** In this context, the ministers reaffirmed the principles set out in the Interlaken, Izmir, Brighton and Brussels Declarations and welcomed the results achieved to date in the reform of the Convention system through the action of all relevant stakeholders, notably as regards the situation before the European Court of Human Rights, the national implementation of the Convention, in particular the effectiveness of domestic remedies, and the execution of the judgments of the Court. The ministers welcomed, in particular, the efforts made by the Court to increase the effectiveness of its work, through the implementation of Protocol No. 14 and other measures, and the resulting substantial decrease in the number of pending cases. The ministers invited all stakeholders to reinforce their action to implement the above-mentioned declarations and called on those states parties to the Convention which have not yet done so to sign and ratify Protocol No. 15 amending the Convention as soon as possible and to consider signing and ratifying Protocol No. 16.

■ In 2016, the Committee of Ministers stepped up its supervision of the execution of judgments of the Court and increased by almost 40% the number of instances in which it intervened to support in different ways the ongoing execution processes. Progress was noted, notably in the adoption of the reforms necessary to remedy structural problems revealed by the Court's judgments, and the number of cases closed reached a new high (2066 cases closed). During the year, the committee held exchanges of views with the President of the European Court of Human Rights and with the Commissioner for Human Rights.

■ The situation in the member states of Ukraine, Georgia and Turkey was of particular concern to the committee and regularly addressed. With regard to **Ukraine**, in April the committee reiterated its commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within internationally recognised borders. It expressed deep concern at the deterioration of the human rights situation on the Crimean peninsula and reiterated its call for full and unrestricted access to the territories which are beyond the control of the Ukrainian authorities, including in Crimea, to all human rights bodies of the Council of Europe, in order that they can carry out their monitoring activities unimpeded and in accordance with their mandates, and, as a next step, to urgently address deteriorations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The committee encouraged the continuation of the reform efforts undertaken by the Ukrainian authorities, aimed at strengthening the implementation of Council of Europe standards in the country concerning the constitutional framework, the functioning of democratic institutions, the rule of law and the effective protection of human rights.

■ With regard to **Georgia**, the Committee of Ministers approved an action plan to provide assistance in the period 2016 to 2019, as well as carry out a pre-electoral assistance programme in support of the 2016 (parliamentary), 2017 (local) and 2018 (presidential) elections to be held in Georgia. In May, the committee adopted several decisions on the conflict in Georgia in light of the latest biennial report of the Secretary General. It reiterated the unequivocal support of the Council of Europe member states for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders. It stated that measures taken by the Russian Federation with regard to the Georgian regions of

**Exchange of views between the delegates of ministers and Ms Federica Mogherini,**  
High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, concerning the co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union (Strasbourg, 11 May 2016)



Abkhazia and Tskhinvali/South Ossetia undermined the ongoing efforts to strengthen security and stability in the region and violated Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and it called upon the Russian Federation to stop and reverse this process and comply with its international law obligations and commitments. The committee regretted again that the Russian Federation continued to install obstacles along the administrative boundary lines. It invited the Secretary General to engage in a dialogue with the Russian Federation and Georgia to grant the existing bodies of the Council of Europe unrestricted access to the territories beyond the control of the Georgian authorities.

Following the coup attempt which took place in **Turkey** in July, the Committee of Ministers and its Chair followed the situation closely, condemning the coup attempt, expressing support for the democratically elected authorities and reiterating the readiness of the Council of Europe to continue to provide assistance to Turkey on the basis of the principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. It was recalled that Turkey is bound by all the commitments deriving from the European Convention on Human Rights and its additional protocols. In early August, the Ministers' Deputies held an informal meeting during which they were informed by the Secretary General of his visit to Ankara and in September the committee held an exchange of views with Mr Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, attended by several foreign affairs ministers and other high-level representatives of member states.

Concerning co-operation with other member states, the committee took note of a progress report on the implementation of a Programmatic Co-operation Document with **Albania** for 2015-2017. It welcomed the progress made in implementing the document and called for the rapid achievement of all the objectives set therein. It reviewed the state of implementation of the commitments entered into by **Armenia**, welcoming the constant progress made by the country in fulfilling statutory obligations and specific commitments entered into as a member of the Council of Europe, as well as the commitment of the Armenian authorities to further reforms aimed at strengthening the protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Having taken note of a progress review report on the implementation of the Action Plan for **Azerbaijan** 2014-2016, the committee decided to extend the action plan until the end of 2017 to enable all the objectives contained therein to be achieved. The Committee of Ministers also approved a pre-electoral assistance programme in support of the local elections scheduled for October 2016 in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**. Later in the year, in the light of a report on respect for the obligations and commitments undertaken by Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Committee of Ministers welcomed the adoption by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina of a series of strategic documents, and called upon them to implement the specific recommendations on the outstanding commitments.

■ The committee also approved an electoral assistance programme for the presidential elections scheduled in the **Republic of Moldova** and noted with satisfaction a final report on the implementation of the Action Plan 2013-2016 for that country. Finally, at the political level, the committee held an exchange of views with Andrzej Duda, President of **Poland**.

■ Throughout the year, the Committee of Ministers, through various decisions and declarations, reiterated its objective to create a death penalty-free zone in Europe and promote a universal moratorium on the use of the death penalty. It deplored and condemned executions carried out in the United States and in Japan, two Council of Europe observer states, as well as in Belarus.

■ Important developments took place in other priority areas in 2016. In the field of anti-terrorism, the committee held a thematic debate entitled "Rising extremism, radicalisation and xenophobia in the **fight against terrorism**: Building inclusive societies as a cure/The need for collective action". It also adopted **Guidelines for prison and probation services regarding radicalisation and violent extremism** and an action plan (2016-2020) on transnational organised crime. In the legal and judicial field, the Committee of Ministers adopted a plan of action, **Strengthening judicial independence and impartiality**. It also endorsed the **Rule of Law Checklist** drawn up by the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) and invited governments, parliaments and other relevant authorities in the member states to make use of the checklist and to disseminate it widely in the relevant circles.

■ Early in the year, the committee approved the Council of Europe **Internet Governance Strategy 2016-2019**, which aims to tackle the challenges facing human rights, democracy and the rule of law in the rapidly evolving online environment. It also approved the Council of Europe Strategy for the **Rights of the Child (2016-2021)** and, in the autumn, the **Council of Europe Disability Strategy 2017-2023**. In the field of Roma, the committee approved a **Thematic Action Plan on the Inclusion of Roma and Travellers (2016-2019)**. It also took a number of decisions endorsing the establishment of a European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture, in particular welcoming the invitation of the German Government to locate the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAN) in Berlin.

■ Several legal instruments were adopted during the year, including the **Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events**, the **Protocol amending the European Landscape Convention** and the **Council of Europe Convention on Cinematographic Co-production (revised)**.

■ The **2016 Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue**, held in early November in Strasbourg, focused on the role of education in the prevention of radicalisation leading to terrorism and violent extremism.



Committee of Ministers Meeting,  
22 November 2016

Co-operation with other international bodies remained an area of attention. At its Ministerial Session, the Committee of Ministers noted with satisfaction the development of co-operation between the Council of Europe and the **European Union**. Exchanges of views also took place during the year with Mr Michael O’Flaherty, Director of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, and Mr Stavros Lambrinidis, EU Special Representative (EUSR) for Human Rights. In February, the committee held its annual exchange of views on **human rights questions within the framework of the United Nations** with international experts, during which a thematic discussion took place on human rights in culturally diverse societies. With regard to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the co-ordination group linking the two organisations held two meetings in 2016 to review co-operation. A number of exchanges of views also took place with representatives of other international bodies.

As regards external relations, 2016 saw positive developments in the Organisation’s policy towards neighbouring regions. At the Ministerial Session, the Committee of Ministers welcomed the progress made in the implementation of its policy and instructed its Deputies to consolidate it on the basis of the Council of Europe’s principles. During the year, the Committee of Ministers took note of an interim report on the implementation of the “Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities for Kazakhstan 2014-2015: co-operation activities on Council of Europe’s conventions in criminal matters”, and instructed the Secretariat to continue to implement these priorities. It also endorsed priorities for co-operation with Palestine<sup>1</sup> for 2016-2017 and took note of an interim progress report on the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnerships for 2015-2017 with Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia, as well as of the interim report on the priorities for co-operation with the Kyrgyz Republic. Finally, the Committee of Ministers approved a Council of Europe Action Plan for Belarus for the period 2016-2017.

1. This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of Council of Europe member states on this issue.

**Pedro Agramunt**  
elected on 25 January  
2016 as President of the  
Parliamentary Assembly  
of the Council of Europe



**Ahmet Davutoğlu**, Prime Minister of Greece  
**Alexis Tsipras**, Prime Minister of Greece  
**Atef Tarawneh**, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Jordan  
**Daniel Mitov**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria  
**François Hollande**, President of the French Republic  
**Frank-Walter Steinmeier**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany  
**Giorgi Kvirikashvili**, Prime Minister of Georgia  
**Harlem Désir**, Secretary of State for European Affairs, France  
**Heinz Fischer**, President of Austria  
**Ioannis Mouzalas**, Minister of Immigration Policy, Greece  
**Jean-Claude Juncker**, President of the European Commission  
**José Manuel García-Margallo**, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Spain  
**Jürgen Ligi**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Estonia  
**Mari Kiviniemi**, Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD  
**Maria Elena Boschi**, Minister for Constitutional Reforms and Relations of the Parliament of Italy  
**Marina Kaljurand**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Estonia  
**Maud Boer-Buquicchio**, Special Rapporteur of the United Nations on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography  
**Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey  
**Nicola Renzi and Lorella Stefanelli**, Captains Regent of San Marino  
**Rossen Plevneliev**, President of Bulgaria  
**Taavi Rõivas**, Prime Minister of Estonia  
**Thomas Bach**, President of the International Olympic Committee

# Parliamentary Assembly

*The functioning of the Parliamentary Assembly, its rules, work, events, calendar, the profiles of its members and their activities within the Assembly, as well as the texts adopted by the Assembly in 2016, can be found on the Assembly website: <http://assembly.coe.int>*

**The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, consisting of representatives from the national parliaments of member states, provides a forum for debate and proposals on Europe's social and political issues. Many Council of Europe conventions originate from the Assembly, including the European Convention on Human Rights.**

**President of the Parliamentary Assembly:  
Pedro Agramunt (Spain) since January 2016.**

**During its four part-sessions and three meetings of the Standing Committee in 2016, the Parliamentary Assembly debated issues of major political relevance in Europe, adopting 56 resolutions, 14 recommendations and two opinions on Council of Europe draft conventions. It also hosted the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament.**

## A PAN-EUROPEAN FORUM TO DEBATE MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUES

At the beginning of its 2016 Ordinary Session, the Assembly elected Pedro Agramunt from Spain as its president. During his first term, President Agramunt launched the initiative #NoHateNoFear, a call to combat terrorism while respecting the standards of human rights, democracy and the rule of law and without giving in to hatred or fear.

Following the decision of the Russian Parliament not to present the credentials of a delegation, throughout the year the Assembly counted on the participation of only 46 delegations of member states. Through declarations adopted by its Bureau and Standing Committee, however, the Assembly reiterated its willingness to rebuild trust among parliamentarians from all 47 member states, and to reaffirm its role as a pan-European forum for interparliamentary co-operation, on a basis of mutual respect.

In 2016, the Assembly debated some of the most pressing political issues on the European agenda, including the prevention and fight against terrorism, the management of migration flows and the need to ensure a humanitarian response to the Syrian refugee crisis. The Assembly also continued to follow developments in Turkey and Ukraine.

Among the high-level personalities who chose the Assembly to deliver important political messages were the Presidents of Austria, Bulgaria, France and the Captains Regent of San Marino; the President of the European Commission; the Prime Ministers of Estonia, Georgia, Greece and Turkey; the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Germany and Turkey; as well as several other ministers and personalities who addressed the Assembly in the context of specific debates.



**European Conference of Presidents of Parliament**  
(Strasbourg, 15 September 2016)

Special mention should be made of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament, which brought together in Strasbourg 60 presidents and vice-presidents of parliament from the 47 Council of Europe member states and a number of partner and observer countries, as well as the heads of several international parliamentary assemblies. The conference addressed three main themes, underlining for each of them the specific role and responsibilities of parliaments: the migration and refugee crisis in Europe; how to work with the Council of Europe to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law; how to mobilise against hate and in support of inclusive and non-racist societies.

For the first time the Assembly awarded the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize to a non-European human rights activist: Nadia Murad, a young Yazidi woman from Iraq who has brought the plight of the Yazidi community, in particular the forced sexual enslavement and human trafficking of women and children captured by ISIS, to the forefront of international attention. The Europe Prize was awarded to the city of Girona (Spain) while the Council of Europe Museum Prize went to the European Solidarity Centre in Gdańsk, Poland.

In 2016, the Assembly observed parliamentary or presidential elections in 10 countries (Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Serbia and “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”). It also ensured a presence on the occasions of the repeat of the vote and the holding of a constitutional referendum in Azerbaijan. In July, in Berlin, in close co-operation with the Venice Commission and the Bundestag, the Assembly organised a parliamentary conference on media freedom as a cornerstone for democratic elections.

The Assembly elected judges to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Slovenia, “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and the United Kingdom.

**Nadia Murad**, winner of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2016 (Strasbourg, 10 October 2016)



## THE PREPARATORY WORK IN COMMITTEES

— The Assembly's committees carried out the preparatory work leading to plenary debates, often enriching and complementing it with the organisation of conferences and other events.

— In 2016, the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy focused on terrorism with the preparation of several reports and the organisation of hearings. It dealt with the situation in Syria and adopted reports on foreign fighters in Syria and Iraq and on the situation in Aleppo. It also addressed major European political challenges, in particular the situation in Ukraine with the adoption of a report on the political consequences of the Russian aggression in Ukraine. Another key issue was the situation in Turkey in the aftermath of the failed July 2016 coup: the committee held several discussions and set up an ad hoc sub-committee which visited the country in November. The committee dealt with other

European issues, including the situation in Kosovo<sup>2</sup> and the role of the Council of Europe. It held a hearing on the state of democracy and the rule of law in Poland. Several hearings were also organised in the context of the preparation of a report on the situation in Belarus. The committee continued to follow the political situation in the neighbouring countries, with a report on the evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Palestinian National Council, and hearings on, and/or rapporteur visits to, Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya and Tunisia. The committee maintained contact with other international organisations, in particular the EU, the OECD and the United Nations, with its Sub-Committee on External Relations holding meetings at the UN headquarters in New York and organising an exchange of views with members of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

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2. All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

■ The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights worked on legal remedies for human rights violations on the Ukrainian territories outside the control of the Ukrainian authorities (Resolution 2133), and on human rights in the North Caucasus. Adopting a report on administrative detention, the committee called on member states to refrain from using administrative detention as a migration management tool or to silence political opponents. In other reports, the committee underlined the importance of the right to the assistance of a defence counsel in criminal cases, expressed concern about the use of excessive force against peaceful demonstrators and restated its full support for the International Criminal Court (ICC). In a report, “Transparency and openness in European institutions”, the committee noted with concern cases of secret and unbalanced lobbying, reports of conflicts of interest and instances of limiting access to official documents within some of the EU institutions. The committee systematically condemned any death penalty sentence or execution, consistently reiterating that the death penalty is cruel, inhuman and degrading and that its abolition is a precondition for membership of the Council of Europe.

■ In 2016, the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development prepared reports on a wide range of areas, such as social rights, children’s rights, public health and environmental issues. Through its dedicated Parliamentary Network, the committee continued its action to stop sexual violence against children and successfully finalised a pilot project implemented in Cyprus which involved, in particular, targeted awareness-raising and training programmes for specific categories of professionals in contact with children. The committee also contributed to the promotion of social rights under the European Social Charter, notably through a parliamentary seminar on the right of children and young people to social, legal and economic protection, held in October 2016 in Paris.

■ The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons prepared reports on different aspects of the unfolding migration and refugee crisis, including focusing on the Mediterranean and the implementation of the EU–Turkey Agreement of 18 March 2016. Its sub-committee on integration prepared, in co-operation with the German Parliament, a conference on integration of newly arrived migrants and refugees. Furthermore, the committee followed developments in other troubled areas, including Ukraine and Gaza. It also prepared reports on general issues including statelessness of children and violence against migrants. The committee continued to manage the Parliamentary Campaign to End Immigration Detention of Children and to organise training sessions for parliamentarians to visit immigration detention centres.

■ Media freedom and the search for adequate responses to the new challenges raised by the information society remained two priorities of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, which finalised its work on the following areas and reports: intellectual property rights in the digital era; online media and journalism: challenges and accountability; parliamentary scrutiny over corruption: parliamentary co-operation with investigative journalism; and attacks against journalists and media freedom in Europe. Furthermore, the committee focused on the role of education, culture and sport in reinforcing adherence to common values and social cohesion; in this context, it finalised reports on culture and democracy; educational and cultural networks of communities living abroad; and sport for all.



With the Terrorism: #NoHateNoFear initiative, PACE President **Pedro Agramunt** wishes to encourage all players in society to stand firm against the terrorist threat by refusing to give in to hatred or fear.

Promoting gender equality, combating violence against women and fighting racism, intolerance and hate speech were at the heart of the activities of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination. The No Hate Parliamentary Alliance continued to engage parliamentarians through thematic hearings and national seminars. It launched its No Hate Certificate, in co-operation with the Council of Europe No Hate Speech Campaign. The Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence continued its awareness-raising activities, reinforced its co-operation with international partners through joint activities and promoted its members as facilitators during the monitoring phase of the Istanbul Convention. Several reports and opinions were debated on various subject matters, such as anti-Semitism, female genital mutilation, political representation of women, the fight against terrorism and radicalisation, and women in the armed forces.

The Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs worked on the status of parliamentarians, reviewing the conditions governing the exercise of the parliamentary mandate and focusing on the issue of parliamentarians' independence and freedom of expression. The committee addressed the challenges to the traditional scope of the immunities enjoyed by national parliamentarians and Assembly members.

The Assembly's Parliamentary Project Support Division (PPSD) develops co-operation programmes at the parliamentary level to ensure better implementation by member states of key Assembly resolutions and to reach out to a greater number of members of national parliaments through "peer-to-peer" parliamentary seminars.

In 2016, a number of seminars were organised in the framework of the Eastern Partnership Programmatic Co-operation Framework (PCF) and the South Programme, dealing with topics such as the development of parliamentary mechanisms for the implementation of European Convention on Human Rights standards and for supervising the execution of European Court of Human Rights judgments; the role of national parliaments in improving freedom and independence of public-service media; and promoting democratic governance and electoral standards.



**Gudrun Mosler-Törnström**  
elected President of the Congress  
(Strasbourg, 19 October 2016)

Meeting of youth delegates with members of  
the Congress, **31st session of the Congress  
of Local and Regional Authorities**  
(Strasbourg, 20 October 2016)



# Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

*The texts adopted by the Congress in 2016 can be found on its website [www.coe.int/t/Congress/](http://www.coe.int/t/Congress/)*

**The Congress is the political assembly responsible for assessing the situation of local and regional democracy in the 47 Council of Europe member states and improving its quality. It implements the local and regional dimension of the Council of Europe's action in the field of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.**

**President of the Congress until October 2016: Jean-Claude Frécon (France)  
President of the Congress from October 2016: Gudrun Mosler-Törnström (Austria)**

## THE CONGRESS, A WATCHDOG OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEMOCRACY

■ The situation of local and regional democracy in each country is monitored on a regular basis (approximately every five years). In 2016, the Congress undertook monitoring visits to Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Iceland, Estonia and Malta. It also conducted a fact-finding mission to Turkey and adopted reports on France, Slovakia, Cyprus and Croatia.

■ Through its monitoring activities and its political dialogue with governments, the Congress aims to strengthen the implementation of the charter. It identifies the recurring issues that come up during the monitoring visits. Passed to the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, these recurring issues can feed into a reflection on how to improve the situation in member states and on how to better implement provisions of the charter in national legislation and policies.

■ Complementing the political monitoring of the charter, the Congress conducts missions to observe local and regional elections. In 2016, it adopted reports on local elections in Ukraine, in Serbia, in Armenia and in the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia in the Republic of Moldova, and is currently preparing a report on the local elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## RENEWAL OF DELEGATIONS AND NEW PRESIDENCY

■ During the session in October 2016, the national delegations and the presidency of the Congress were renewed. The Congress took another step towards gender equality by electing a woman as president for the first time in its history, Gudrun Mosler-Törnström, also Vice-President of the Land of Salzburg in Austria. The new President of the Chamber of Regions is also a female politician, Gunn-Marit Helgesen, from Norway. Altogether, 42% the new delegations are composed of women. Eleven of the 17 members of the new bureau are women.

■ These achievements may well be the result of the policy the Congress has implemented for many years in order to increase the representation of women in politics, and in particular since 2008, when it introduced a quota ensuring at least 30% of the national delegations is made up of the under-represented sex.

■ The Congress will continue to encourage gender equality policies at all levels in order to enable women to access all spheres of leadership in towns and regions.



**Congress local elections  
observation mission**  
(Croatia, 11 September 2016)

## INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Along with its statutory activities, the Congress follows closely the political developments in member states. The integration of migrants and refugees is certainly one of the main challenges for many of the member states. The Congress is convinced that this crisis can be overcome by the pooling of competences and capacities of all parties involved. This means that local and regional authorities can be part of the solution if they are consulted and involved upstream in the drawing up and the implementation of national policies.

In October 2016, the Congress's Current Affairs Committee approved a report entitled "From reception to integration: the role of local authorities facing migration". A reflection group had been set up in May 2016 to delineate the scope and content of a Congress approach to the issue. This approach focuses on the reception of refugees in conditions that respect their human rights and dignity and insists on early integration policies that can facilitate migrants' long-term inclusion in the host communities. The approved resolution and recommendation call on member states to remove administrative and practical barriers encountered by asylum seekers during their application process, to develop clear legal frameworks and to ensure financial support for local and regional governments. The texts were due for adoption by the plenary session in March 2017.

## FIGHTING RADICALISATION AND PROMOTING INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

Another current challenge for European societies is the fight against violent extremism and radicalisation. The Congress is convinced that the involvement of local and regional authorities is indispensable to the drafting of security and prevention policies.

Combating radicalisation requires, among other things, preventive measures that include the promotion of intercultural and interreligious dialogue. The Congress has prepared a toolkit to guide local authorities, associations and NGOs in their efforts to organise intercultural and interreligious activities. The toolkit has been translated into 36 of the languages of the Council of Europe's member states and has been available for download on a new website since October 2016.

Following the Alliance of European cities against violent extremism, launched in November 2015 in Aarhus, the City of Rotterdam, the European Forum for Urban Security (Efus) and the Congress jointly organised a second Summit of Mayors in November 2016 in Rotterdam. Participants embraced the "Rotterdam Declaration", which encapsulates the alliance's approach towards preventing radicalisation at the grassroots level. The third Summit of Mayors will be held in Barcelona in autumn 2017.



Signature of a road map on local democracy between Congress President **Jean-Claude Frécon** and Armenian Minister of Territorial Administration and Development **Davit Loqyan** (Yerevan, 9 June 2016)



Presentation of the toolkit “**Organising Intercultural and Interreligious Activities**” during the Summit of Mayors for the Alliance of European cities against violent extremism (Rotterdam, 9 November 2016)

## PROMOTING PUBLIC ETHICS

— The umbrella theme for the two sessions in 2016 was “ethics and transparency at local and regional levels”. By choosing this theme the Congress underlined the importance of elected representatives at all levels acting as role models and maintaining a high level of integrity. The Congress adopted a road map, including both practical measures and political principles. It includes in particular the preparation of a revised European code of conduct for the political integrity of local and regional elected representatives and the drafting of reports on the misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes, public procurement, transparency, conflicts of interest, the protection of whistle-blowers and nepotism.

## HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

— In 2016 the Congress adopted a Human Rights Action Plan for the local level, which is encapsulated in the Graz Declaration of May 2015 and which underlines the four strategic stages of action that the Congress considers indispensable for effectively promoting human rights at the local and regional level: identifying human rights-related issues, exchanging good/best practices, strengthening co-operation between all levels of government and regularly assessing the outcomes of implemented action.

— In that light, the Congress has set up an Expert Group which is working on a Human Rights Manual for local and regional authorities. An International Colloquium on the Challenges in the Implementation of Human Rights at Local Level will also be organised for the end of 2017.

## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

— The Congress has been carrying out co-operation activities since 2011. These activities have expanded considerably and their development is an opportunity to improve the impact of Congress recommendations, building upon the Congress’s political dialogue within monitoring, post-monitoring activities and elections observations.

— They are organised as part of the democracy pillar of the Council of Europe’s action plans for specific member states, as well as regional programmes in the EU Eastern Partnership, and are funded by voluntary contributions, the European Union and the Council of Europe.

— Five projects are being carried out through bilateral activities with Albania, Armenia and Ukraine, and the regional programme in the EU Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus). They are mainly based on work with local and regional authorities and their associations, with a “bottom-up” perspective to enhance local democracy.

## NEW WORKING PRIORITIES FOR 2017-2020

— The Congress adopted its new work priorities for 2017-2020 during its October 2016 session. The priorities identify two main areas of work: enhancing the quality of local and regional democracy – which covers the good functioning of local and regional communities as well as their level of autonomy and resources and their ability to deliver services to citizens – and building safe and inclusive societies that respect diversity – which covers the current challenges facing communities, the ways to ensure their better functioning and the fight against crises that risk destabilising them. The priorities of the Congress will be reflected in the working programmes of its two chambers and three committees.



**Speech by President Guido Raimondi**  
during the opening of the Judicial Year of  
the Court (Strasbourg, 29 January 2016)

**Meeting with NGOs  
and representatives of applicants**  
(Strasbourg, 2 December 2016)



# European Court of Human Rights

[www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int)

The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights in the 47 Council of Europe member states. Individuals can bring complaints of human rights violations to the Strasbourg Court once all possibilities of appeal have been exhausted in the member state concerned.

**President of the Court: Guido Raimondi (Italy)**

## ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

— Civil society organisations have long been involved, in a very practical way, in the functioning of the Convention system, and in particular in proceedings before the Court. Many NGOs perform the vital function of acting as legal representatives or advisers to applicants, often people who are in a very vulnerable or disadvantaged position and who might not otherwise be able to have access to the services of a lawyer. Through their efforts, NGOs help to ensure that the right of individual application, which is the cornerstone of the Convention mechanism, remains effective, and that access to justice at the European level is not just an aspiration but a reality. A second function fulfilled by NGOs is that of *amicus curiae*, intervening in cases with legal information and analysis so as to aid the Court in its examination of the complaints raised by applicants. This is a practice that goes back almost 30 years, and is today a well-established feature of proceedings before the Court. In 2016 the Court invited civil society organisations to come to Strasbourg for a meeting that focused on both of these important functions. More than 60 NGOs, from across all of Europe, attended. This meeting coincided with the launch at the Court of the European Implementation Network. This is a truly laudable civil society initiative that aims at better execution by states of the Court's judgments. This is a crucial aspect of the Convention system, which has

been rightly emphasised as a key challenge that must be met if there is to be robust protection of individual human rights throughout Europe. All efforts to this end are to be welcomed and encouraged.

## DEEPENING CO-OPERATION WITH NATIONAL COURTS

— A highlight of 2016 was the continuing development of the Superior Court Network, which was created in 2015. There was an initial test phase of the network, with the participation of France's Cour de Cassation and Conseil d'Etat, that involved drawing up operational rules, agreeing on working methods and developing the necessary IT tools. This work was completed by mid-2016, at which point the network was opened for new members to join. The response from national courts has been very positive. By the end of the year, a total of 23 courts from 17 countries had registered as members. In addition, there were expressions of interest in joining from courts in several more countries.

— The network has been created to provide practical and mutual benefit to the Court and its partner institutions through the regular exchange of information. The member courts can take advantage of some of the Court's own resources on Convention case law, including the case law updates prepared by the jurisconsult that



**Visit of a delegation of the Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the European Union**  
(Strasbourg, 2 June 2016)

are made available as soon as significant new judgments or decisions are made public. The members can also submit a request to the Court's Registry if they have a need for more specific information. Another benefit that is available to the member courts is the opportunity for distance training provided by Registry staff in the use of the various information tools and resources. From the perspective of the Court, the network membership represents an especially valuable source of up-to-date information about national law and practice. Research into comparative law is regularly conducted by the Court in relation to pending cases, in particular cases that are before the Grand Chamber. Obtaining the necessary information from such highly authoritative sources is a great advantage for the Court. It ensures that where its reasoning includes elements of comparative law, the accuracy of this information is assured. Another dimension to the network is the exchange among the national members of information about the application of the Convention in their respective domestic systems.

### **JUDICIAL DIALOGUE IN VARIOUS FORMS**

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— It is courts at this level that will be able to request advisory opinions on the interpretation of the Convention when Protocol No. 16 enters into force. While the number of ratifications of the Protocol remained at six in 2016, the Court was informed of progress towards ratification in several states, raising the prospect that the new procedure will come into being in the near future. In anticipation of this, and following consultation with states and civil society, the Court adopted the rules that will govern the procedure.

— Another form of judicial dialogue was the tripartite seminar organised with the Court of Justice of the European Union and the International Association of Refugee Law Judges on the theme of the protecting the best interests of children during the large-scale influx of refugees and migrants into Europe.

■ The Court resumed its dialogue with the Court of Justice of the European Union at a time of significant developments in the case law of both courts: the case of *Avotiņš v. Latvia* in Strasbourg, and the *Caldararu and Aranyosi* ruling in Luxembourg.

■ Going beyond the European context, a joint meeting took place between the Court and the United Nations Human Rights Committee, the body tasked with supervising compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and examining individual complaints against states. It is therefore the principal interlocutor of the Court in the United Nations system, and, in addition to dialogue between the members of the respective bodies, there is also regular contact between the Registry and the committee's Secretariat.

### A GROWING WORKLOAD AND A NEW RESPONSE

■ There was in 2016 a significant increase in the number of new applications lodged with the Court, which rose by about 30% compared to 2015 and meant that by the end of the year there were some 80 000 on the docket. Many of these – more than 28 000 – are Chamber cases, meaning that they are not suitable for treatment using the highly simplified procedures that apply to repetitive cases but require more thorough judicial examination. Given that the Court's capacity to decide such cases is somewhere between 1 000 and 1 500 per year, there is a need to identify new, more efficient approaches to the Chamber backlog. One such approach involves the immediate, simplified communication of applications to the respondent state. This means that instead of drafting a detailed summary of the facts of the case, the Registry forwards to the government concerned the application form. This is accompanied by an indication of the subject matter of the application and the questions that the Court wishes the parties to address. The goal is to speed up the procedure and to reduce the overall duration of proceedings before the Court. Depending on the results obtained, the new procedure can be used more widely in future. For the Court, this new approach should be seen as an expression of the idea of shared responsibility – a key notion in the reform process – for the effective operation of the Convention system.

### RECOGNITION OF THE COURT'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPE

■ Every second year, the Treaties of Nijmegen Medal is awarded in recognition of a significant contribution to the development of Europe. In 2016 the recipient was the European Court of Human Rights. Speaking at the ceremony, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Bert Koenders, stated that it is impossible today to understand Europe without understanding human rights. Of the Court he said that it had contributed greatly – often against the odds – to the development of human rights and the rule of law throughout Europe. Its success as the ultimate guardian of human rights was unparalleled and its role more important than ever. He said that the Court “is truly a last port of call for those whose rights have been disrespected or insufficiently recognised by domestic authorities. It embodies the awareness that human rights are too fundamental to be left entirely to the powers and interests of the nation state. Its existence acknowledges that fair treatment of all individuals is a prerequisite for peace and stability.” It was an important statement of support for the idea of European human rights law and the institutions that serve it, welcome words for the Court in challenging times.



The Treaties of Nijmegen Medal 2016 was awarded to the European Court of Human Rights (Nijmegen, 18 November 2016)



**His Holiness the Dalai Lama** during his official visit to the Council of Europe and **Nils Muižnieks**, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights (Strasbourg, 15 September 2016)

# Commissioner for Human Rights

*Information on the Commissioner's work in 2016 can be found on his website: [www.coe.int/web/commissioner/](http://www.coe.int/web/commissioner/)  
The Commissioner's Twitter account is @CommissionerHR*

**Nils Muižnieks (Latvia) since April 2012**

## COUNTRY MONITORING

■ The Commissioner carried out 14 country visits and missions in 2016. He also published six reports, four memoranda and 18 substantive letters addressed to national authorities of member states.

■ From 17 to 23 January, the Commissioner visited the United Kingdom, focusing on the government's proposals for a British Bill of Rights to replace the Human Rights Act 1998; the human rights of asylum seekers and immigrants; and surveillance and democratic oversight of national security services. The visit was followed by the publication of two memoranda, on 22 March and 17 May. In the first memorandum the Commissioner expressed a number of concerns regarding the trend for restrictive immigration policy and law, while in the second memorandum he expressed concerns about the compatibility of the bulk interception and equipment interference powers, stressing that greater protection should be provided for legal professional privilege and for the communications of politicians and journalists.

■ From 9 to 12 February, the Commissioner carried out a visit to Poland, focusing on the legal and institutional framework for the protection and promotion of human rights; the administration of justice; media freedom; and women's rights and gender equality. In the follow-up report to this visit, published on 15 June, the Commissioner stressed that recent far-reaching changes to Poland's legal and institutional framework threaten human rights and undermine the rule of law, and called on lawmakers and the government to change course.

■ The Commissioner visited Ukraine from 21 to 25 March, travelling to Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk and the city of Donetsk, situated in the territory outside government control. In his report published on 11 July, the Commissioner once again drew attention to the enormous suffering, continued loss of life and severe hardship experienced by ordinary people as a result of the conflict and stressed in particular the need to ensure accountability for serious human rights violations, as well as the need for greater efforts to investigate cases of enforced disappearances.

■ The Commissioner also carried out two visits to Turkey in 2016. In April, he travelled to Istanbul, Diyarbakir and Ankara, focusing on the fight against terrorism and human rights, with particular attention on the situation in south-eastern Turkey, freedom of expression and media freedom, and the administration of justice. In a memorandum on the human rights implications of anti-terrorism operations in south-eastern Turkey published on 2 December, the Commissioner concluded that the legal basis of the round-the-clock curfews imposed and anti-terrorism operations conducted in the region since the summer of 2015 did not satisfy the criteria of legality and proportionality as set out by the European Court of Human Rights and caused significant human rights violations in their own right and due to their very nature.



Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, **Nils Muižnieks**, visiting a shelter for disadvantaged people, in particular refugees, run by Médecins du Monde (Athens, July 2016)

After the coup attempt in Turkey on 15 July, the Commissioner immediately condemned the event and reacted to certain measures taken in its aftermath through two statements issued on 20 July and 26 July. He returned to Turkey in September and published a memorandum on 7 October on the human rights implications of the state of emergency. The Commissioner reiterated his firmest condemnation of the coup attempt of 15 July, paid tribute to the 241 persons who lost their lives and the many more who were injured resisting the coup plotters, and expressed his solidarity with the democratic forces in Turkey. At the same time, he stressed that a series of emergency decrees adopted since July created very far-reaching, almost unlimited discretionary powers for the Turkish executive and administrative authorities. The Commissioner's conclusions included the need to urgently revert to ordinary procedures and safeguards for human rights protection in Turkey, by ending the state of emergency as soon as possible. Until then, he called on the authorities to start rolling back the deviations from such procedures and safeguards as quickly as possible, through a nuanced, sector-by-sector and case-by-case approach.

From 25 to 29 April, the Commissioner visited Croatia, focusing on transitional justice and social cohesion; the human rights of immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers; and freedom of the media. On 5 October, he published his report in which he urged Croatia to enhance awareness raising and the effective implementation of the relevant legislation to curb ethnic intolerance, hate speech and other forms of hate crime targeting members of national minorities. He also called on the authorities to effectively prosecute, try and sanction the perpetrators of wartime crimes and pay more attention to the needs of returnees belonging to national minorities.

In a visit to Andorra from 10 to 11 May, the Commissioner called on the authorities to improve the protection of children and women and bolster human rights structures.

From 8 to 10 June, the Commissioner visited Iceland, focusing on the human rights of persons with disabilities and the human rights protection system. In particular, he urged the authorities to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) – a step subsequently taken by the authorities – and align Iceland's legislation and practice with international standards and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights.

From 3 to 8 July, the Commissioner visited Greece to focus on issues pertaining to racist and homophobic extremism, as well as to the impact of the austerity measures on the enjoyment of human rights, in particular by persons with disabilities and older persons. The Commissioner also tackled issues concerning the human rights of asylum seekers and immigrants. As a follow-up to this visit, the Commissioner published two letters, in August and September, recommending improving the situation of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities and their deinstitutionalisation, and to create an effective law-enforcement complaints mechanism and eradicate hate crime.

■ The Commissioner visited Latvia from 5 to 9 September, focusing on the issue of violence against women; the human rights of children; and the human rights of LGBTI persons. In his report, published on 13 December, the Commissioner encouraged the authorities to reinforce their efforts towards rendering gender equality effective in reality, overcoming stereotypes and prejudices about gender roles, and increasing women's participation in public and political life.

■ From 22 to 25 November he visited Ireland, where he expressed deep concerns at the persisting social exclusion and discrimination Travellers were confronted with in Ireland. He also recommended implementing measures to tackle domestic violence, addressing gender inequalities and building a more inclusive education system. The Commissioner's report following this visit is to be published in 2017.

■ The Commissioner visited Lithuania from 5 to 9 December, focusing on the rights of children; the rights of persons with disabilities; and domestic violence and gender equality. He called on the authorities to intensify their efforts to prevent child neglect, provide support to families who experience difficulties in caring for their children, and establish an effective framework of community-based services for such families and for persons with disabilities. He also urged the authorities to ensure effective protection and justice for victims of domestic violence. The Commissioner's report following this visit is expected in 2017.

■ The Commissioner published in January 2016 his observations related to the visit to Georgia he carried out in November 2015. He stressed that, although judicial reforms have yielded some positive results, long-standing structural problems still require serious attention, particularly with a view to upholding the independence and effective functioning of the judiciary.

■ In January, he also published a report further to his visit to Belgium carried out in September 2015 focusing on the human rights of migrants, asylum seekers, and Roma and Travellers. In particular, the Commissioner recommended speeding up the social inclusion of persons with disabilities, improving the registration of asylum seekers and addressing the marginalisation and destitution of some Roma.

■ In March, he published a report further to his visit to Cyprus in December 2015, in which he recommended enhancing refugee protection and alleviating the effects of austerity measures on vulnerable groups of people.

## THEMATIC WORK

■ The Commissioner covered a wide range of human rights themes in his work in 2016. Particular attention was given to the human rights of immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers; freedom of expression and media freedom; transitional justice and missing persons; children's rights; the human rights of people with disabilities, LGBTI persons and Roma, and women's rights.

■ The Commissioner published two issue papers in 2016. The first one, "Missing persons and victims of enforced disappearance in Europe", outlined recommendations to governments for strengthening human rights protection for victims of past and ongoing conflicts. The second, "Time for Europe to get migrant integration right", tackled the long-term challenges posed by increased arrivals of refugees and migrants in Europe.

■ Also on the issue of migration, the Commissioner intervened as a third party before the European Court of Human Rights in relation to two complaints against Austria concerning the transfer of the applicants from Austria to Hungary under the Dublin III Regulation. He also published five articles in international and European media outlets on migration in Europe. Other articles focused on a draft law on persons with disabilities in Bulgaria; domestic violence; evictions of Roma; youth unemployment; the justice system in the Russian Federation; surveillance; human rights protection in the United Kingdom; and counter-terrorism in France.

■ The Commissioner also continued his work on the situation of human rights defenders. In particular, he submitted three third-party interventions before the European Court of Human Rights on cases relating to human rights defenders in Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation.

■ A series of Human Rights Comments were published, addressing issues as diverse as migration, women's rights, children's rights, torture, the Holocaust, the human rights of the Roma and Travellers, business and human rights, counter-terrorism, enforced disappearances and non-implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights.

■ The Commissioner's work was further highlighted through intense activity on social media, in particular through his Twitter account, @CommissionerHR, and Facebook.



“Speed-dating” event for youth NGOs, summer session (Strasbourg, June 2016)

Human Rights Defender **Intigam Aliyev**, Conference President, **Anna Rurka** and Permanent Representative of Norway **Astrid Helle** talk about challenges that NGOs are facing in a time of shrinking space for civil society (Strasbourg, 6 June 2016)



# Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs)

More can be found on [www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/home](http://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/home)  
Twitter: @CoE\_NGO – Facebook: @CONFINGO

**President of the Conference of INGOs: Anna Rurka (Poland)**

## CIVIL SOCIETY'S VOICE IN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Conference representatives contributed to the work of 25 intergovernmental committees, in particular to the work of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) on “The legal regulation of lobbying activities in the context of public decision making” and the work of the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG) drafting “Guidelines on Civil Participation in Political Decision Making”. The conference participated in the 2016 World Forum for Democracy by sponsoring the participation of 25 young people from around the globe and two innovation labs related to digital civic participation and intercultural learning. Resolution CM/Res(2016)3 governing the participatory status for NGOs emphasises their role in promoting the Council of Europe's values and standards and reinforces the Conference of INGOs' vocation as one of the institutional pillars of the Council of Europe.

## VOICE OF SOLIDARITY WITH EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY

The year 2016 saw the creation or adoption of laws, policies and measures in different corners of Europe which could restrict the ability of NGOs to engage in public policy reform, social activism or international co-operation. The conference responded to these threats in several ways. The President of the Conference led delegations to Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Hungary and Germany to discuss the state of civil participation in decision making and freedom of association. An event dedicated to “NGOs under threat: the shrinking civil society space” reached a wide audience, including representatives of member states. Its conclusions called for stronger protection of freedom of association, promotion of a culture of participation in political decision making and avoidance of excessive restrictions on funding sources for NGOs.

The conference adopted a recommendation on the protection of human rights defenders in the Transnistrian region of Moldova and the president issued statements in support of civil society representatives in the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan and Turkey. Furthermore, the conference invited representatives of 16 Turkish NGOs to Strasbourg for an informal exchange of views in light of the prolonged state of emergency and its impact on freedom of association, expression and assembly.

## VOICING ISSUES OF CONCERN TO EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY

The conference held events to highlight important European issues, most notably a thematic debate focusing on those NGOs responsible for rescuing, registering, housing and feeding refugees. The conference's president issued a statement expressing concern for the refugees and migrants in Turkey under the state of emergency and for the NGOs which help them. The conference's equality expert hosted a multi-faith panel with the Parliamentary Assembly, asking “Are religions a place of emancipation for women?” To highlight civil society's role in preventing radicalisation and promoting intercultural life, the conference visited the area of Molenbeek in Brussels. A fun “speed-dating” exercise encouraged INGOs to get to know each other and to promote youth participation in public life, while other events looked at ageing and health, fighting extreme poverty, building inclusive societies and access to social rights.



**Andrzej Duda**, President of Poland and **Thorbjørn Jagland**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the accession of Poland to the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 16 November 2016)

**Thorbjørn Jagland**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, addresses **the United Nations high-level summit on large movements of refugees and migrants** (New York, 19 September 2016)



**Vladimir Putin**, President of the Russian Federation, and **Thorbjørn Jagland**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe (Moscow, December 2016)

# External relations

[www.coe.int/DER](http://www.coe.int/DER)

## POLICY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE TOWARDS NEIGHBOURING REGIONS

— The policy towards neighbouring regions was carried out in close co-operation with the European Union. The Neighbourhood Partnerships with the three main Council of Europe partners, namely Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia, were further implemented in 2016. These partnerships (for 2015-2017) combine and strengthen the two pillars of the policy – political dialogue and co-operation activities. Co-operation has also further developed with Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Palestine<sup>3</sup> through the Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities. Regional activities also continued. Council of Europe conventions are now more widely adhered to by neighbouring countries.

## RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE UN AND THE OSCE

### European Union

— Co-operation and co-ordination of actions between the two organisations further intensified on the basis of the 2007 Memorandum of Understanding, the implementation of which was regularly assessed by the Ministers' Deputies. The strategic partnership with the EU was further strengthened through its three pillars – political dialogue, legal co-operation and co-operation projects. High-level dialogue was particularly intensive throughout 2016. As in previous years, a substantial part of joint activities was carried out through Joint Programmes in Council of Europe member states and in the neighbouring regions. The Council of Europe Liaison Office in Brussels and the Delegation of the EU to the Council of Europe further facilitated the reinforcement of the co-operation described above.

3. This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of Council of Europe member states on this issue.

### UN

— In November, the UN General Assembly adopted by consensus the Resolution on Cooperation between the UN and the Council of Europe, which illustrates the increasing co-operation between the two organisations in many areas. The Council of Europe also contributed to the discussion on the UN General Assembly's resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty adopted in December. The implementation of Agenda 2030, the Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review and the status of women and migration were the other areas of important co-operation. Co-operation between the two organisations also continued to increase thanks to the Council of Europe Liaison Offices in Geneva and Vienna.

### OSCE

— Relations with the OSCE focused on a broad spectrum of human dimension activities "in the field", at intergovernmental and parliamentary level or between institutions and specialist bodies. The Council of Europe Liaison Offices in Vienna and Warsaw facilitated the co-operation.

## RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS/OTHER COUNTRIES

— The Council of Europe maintained regular contact and relations with other organisations active in the areas of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, such as La Francophonie, the League of Arab States, the Order of Malta and International IDEA. Active preferential relations with the observer states (the Holy See, Canada, Japan, Mexico and the USA) were complemented by relations with more than 70 non-member states and focused on the fields where the Council of Europe's *acquis* presents a global comparative advantage.



**Debate on democratic security with Gilles Kepel**, French political scientist, specialist in the Islamic and contemporary Arab world and Professor at the University of Sciences Po and at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris: "The attacks in Paris and Brussels: Salafism and jihadism in Europe" (Strasbourg, 28 April 2016)



**Debate on democratic security with Christiane Taubira**, former Minister of Justice of France: "Efficiency and independence of the judiciary" (Strasbourg, 12 May 2016)

# Policy planning and political advice

## POLICY PLANNING

— The third annual report of the Council of Europe's Secretary General, *State of democracy, human rights and the rule of law – A security imperative for Europe*, was launched in April 2016 ahead of the May Ministerial Session in Sofia. The report assessed the developments of the past 12 months that pose threats to our shared security, and analysed the weaknesses in checks and balances and the challenges our societies face with regard to the rule of law and the functioning of democratic institutions. Too frequently do the freedoms of expression, assembly and association come under attack.



Third report of the **Secretary General** on the state of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Europe

— The report measured the extent to which the Council of Europe's 47 member states are able to make the five pillars of democratic security a reality, namely: an efficient, impartial and independent judiciary; freedom of expression; freedom of assembly and association; the functioning of democratic institutions; and an inclusive society. The report also identified remedies and addressed a series of recommendations to the member states and the institutions of the Council of Europe. A particular emphasis was placed on the integration of migrants, in response to the migrant and refugee crisis in Europe.

— The Secretary General's third report highlighted a regression as regards the safety of journalists: almost half the Organisation's member states do not satisfactorily guarantee the protection of journalists from violence and threats. As of February 2017, the Platform to promote the protection of journalists and safety of journalism had received over 250 alerts from 34 member states. Five new media organisations and associations of journalists have joined the platform since December 2015. The data collected on the platform have become a staple of the Organisation's work, guiding media freedom issues within the Organisation's bodies. The platform featured prominently at the Parliamentary Assembly sessions, the World Forum for Democracy and several important freedom-of-expression events.

Directors of policy planning from ministries of foreign affairs of Council of Europe member states met in Strasbourg, with the participation of representatives from international organisations such as the EU, the OSCE/ODIHR and the UNHCR, to exchange ideas under the banner of “Democratic security in Europe: human rights and security in the context of the current migration challenge”. A discussion with the Secretary General on his annual report allowed for a deepening of the debate, and suggested that the Organisation needs to intensify its work on human-rights based policies linked to immigration and integration, especially when it comes to the promotion of equality and tolerance, the involvement of Muslim communities and the prevention of and fight against radicalisation.

A new cycle of debates focusing on democratic security was launched. Among the six sessions that took place in 2016, themes addressed by three speakers raised particular interest: “The memory of evil – Cosmopolitanism and the European project” by Professor Natan Sznaider; “Independence and efficiency of the judiciary” by Christiane Taubira (former French Minister of Justice); and “The attacks in Paris and Brussels: Salafism and jihadism in Europe” by Professor Gilles Kepel.

## SCHOOLS OF POLITICAL STUDIES

Entering its 22nd year of activity, the Council of Europe Network of Schools of Political Studies continues to offer high-level training to emerging leaders in 24 countries throughout the European continent and in the Southern Mediterranean region. Information about the schools’ activities is disseminated on a dedicated website. In addition to supporting annual training cycles for each school, the capacity of the network to bring together participants from countries experiencing frozen conflicts, who rarely have an opportunity to communicate with each other, has been further developed. One example is the second exploratory seminar in Cyprus on the scope and prospects of a bi-communal School of Political Studies held with young leaders from both communities on the island.

The schools in Tunisia and Morocco continued to consolidate their foothold as active participants in democratic governance and in the progress made in the region in the framework of the South Programme II.

Several schools continue to experience political barriers which prevent them from carrying out their mission. The Moscow School of Civic Education, which was the first ever School of Political Studies, remains registered under the “foreign agent legislation” by the Russian authorities. The network has supported the school by holding major events, including a joint seminar in Belgrade and a civic forum in Berlin co-organised by the Association of Schools of Political Studies and the Robert Bosch Foundation.

Ilgar Mammadov, Director of the Baku school, has now been imprisoned for over four years while the definitive ruling of the European Court of Human Rights continues to be ignored by the authorities.

Two events gave participants from the entire network an opportunity to meet each other and exchange knowledge and good practices.

A two-session Civic round table was co-organised by the Council of Europe and the European School of Politics in Istanbul. It offered around 30 fellows from different European countries and beyond a platform to study trends and challenges, and to experiment with various ways to improve civics across Europe. During the first session held in Berlin, the participants discussed the prospects for inclusive economic growth, the trends related to inequality and social mobility, Europe’s role in the world, migration challenges and the associated changes to social capital and the social contract. At the Strasbourg session, the participants presented the results of their reflections to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe in a report entitled: “Towards a new European civics”.

The fifth edition of the World Forum for Democracy welcomed more than 500 participants from the Schools of Political Studies network, as well as interested young people and decision makers, to debate and share their opinions on the relationship between education and democracy. They examined the extent to which the two can mutually reinforce each other and provide answers to overcoming new social divisions.



**Meeting of Georgian and Abkhazian Ombudspersons and civil society representatives**  
(Venice, 14-16 December 2016)

## POLITICAL AFFAIRS

Following an in-country Secretariat visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo and Banja Luka) in April 2016, the 18th regular report on the country's compliance with its obligations and commitments towards the Organisation was presented in July 2016 to the Committee of Ministers, which took a decision on the basis of the conclusions and recommendations of the report.

The 13th and 14th consolidated reports of the Secretary General on the conflict in Georgia were presented to, and debated by, the Committee of Ministers on two occasions in 2016. As on previous occasions, the reports took stock of the situation in Georgia following the August 2008 conflict, provided information on the related activities of the Council of Europe and put forward further action for the Organisation in terms of confidence-building measures (CBMs).

The Deputies took a decision on the Council of Europe and the conflict in Georgia in May 2016 as a follow-up to the presentation of the 13th consolidated report.

Regarding the functioning of the Information Point in Minsk, Belarus, the project continued working actively to consolidate the action and visibility of the Organisation in the country through organisation of or support for 45 events (lectures, round tables and conferences). Information on Council of Europe standards and policies was disseminated extensively through the Information Point's participation at dozens of events organised by Belarusian civil society or the international community. Approximately 2 000 local representatives took part in the events under the project. These activities covered a wide range of issues which are of particular relevance for the Council of Europe: the work of national human rights institutions, criminal procedure and human rights; gender equality and participation of women in public life; youth policy and the accession of Belarus to the Bologna Process; cultural

heritage; cybercrime and the fight against drugs; and human rights education. Special attention was given to the issue of the introduction of a moratorium on the abolition of the death penalty through the conference "Abolition of [the] death penalty and public opinion" organised by the Council of Europe via the Information Point in co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus. Likewise, particular attention has been paid to the exchanges between legal professions and co-operation with the mass media and civil society. The activities of the Information Point have a particular added value for the adoption of the first ever Council of Europe Action Plan for the Republic of Belarus for 2016-2017.

The Directorate of Political Affairs (DPA) continued to implement CBMs in post-conflict, frozen or protracted conflict zones. In 2016, this programme supported the dissemination of Council of Europe standards and contributed to the dialogue and capacity building of professionals in the affected regions. The main beneficiaries of the programme are representatives from both banks of the River Nistru/Dniester in the Republic of Moldova, as well as representatives from Georgia, including Abkhazia. In 2016, the dialogue between ombudsmen from Tbilisi and Sukhumi and civil society continued with fruitful discussions on a number of specific topics (healthcare, freedom of movement, rights of prisoners, the fight against domestic violence and violence against women, and human rights awareness raising), which recognised the positive impact of CBMs on the population living in the region and also resulted in further concrete operational proposals for future common action. Also in 2016, a second series of four presentations took place in Sukhumi by Council of Europe experts and officials on human rights-related issues, as well as co-operation between professionals in Tbilisi and Sukhumi on drug prevention and treatment, architectural heritage surveys and teacher training on education in an intercultural environment.



**Opening by Thorbjørn Jagland**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, of the **Octopus Conference** – Co-operation against cybercrime (Strasbourg, 16 November 2016) which marked the 15th anniversary of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime.

**Tomáš Božek**, Special Representative on Migration and Refugees, and **Thorbjørn Jagland**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 26 January 2016)



# Human Rights and the Rule of Law

[www.coe.int/t/dgi/default\\_fr.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dgi/default_fr.asp)

## PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

### Monitoring bodies

#### Execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights

Progress in execution was noted in many cases linked with long-standing structural problems like excessive length of judicial proceedings, non-execution of domestic judgments and excessive length of pre-trial detention. An increase in the number of cases closed was also particularly visible with respect to those linked with such problems. Further detailed information is available in the Committee of Ministers' Annual Report 2016 on its supervision of the execution, available as of April 2017.

#### Prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment (CPT)

In 2016, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) carried out 10 periodic visits – to Azerbaijan, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Spain and the United Kingdom – and nine ad hoc visits – to Belgium, Greece (two visits), the Russian Federation (North Caucasus region), Spain, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Turkey (two visits) and Ukraine – totalling 170 days in the field.

Some of the ad hoc visits were organised at short notice in response to current events, like the visits to Belgium during a strike by prison staff, to Greece to examine the situation in the country's “hotspots” and to Turkey following the failed military coup attempt. The CPT also carried out visits to reassess the situation in Ukraine and in the North Caucasus region of the Russian Federation, and monitored another Frontex-co-ordinated operation to remove foreign nationals by air, this time from Spain.

In addition to the visits, the CPT held high-level talks with the authorities in Belgium, Finland, Sweden and the Russian Federation.

At the request of the national authorities concerned, 18 visit reports and a comparable number of government responses were made public over the year. In its Annual General Report, the CPT published its standards on the situation of life-sentenced prisoners.

A joint statement with the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture was issued on the occasion of the “International Day in Support of Victims of Torture” in June.

The CPT also received official delegations from countries outside Europe such as Brazil, China, Kazakhstan and South Korea, all wishing to learn more about the committee's work, standards and working methods.

#### European Social Charter and the European Code of Social Security

Two major events were held as part of the Turin Process: the Interparliamentary Conference on the European Social Charter and the Forum on Social Rights in Europe (Turin, 17-18 March 2016). The conference, which brought together around a hundred parliamentarians from 25 member states of the Council of Europe, provided an opportunity to discuss the part played by national parliaments in implementing social rights at the national level. The forum enabled participants to assess to what extent these basic rights were being observed in an international context dominated by economic crisis, migration and terrorism. During the course of the forum, the Greek Minister for Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity deposited the instrument of ratification of the European Social Charter (Revised) on behalf of the Hellenic Republic.



**Workshop "Identifying and tackling the conflict of interest"**  
(Kyiv, 12 December 2016)



**Annual HELP Network Conference,**  
Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals  
(Strasbourg, 16-17 June 2017)

Again in the context of the Turin Process, in December 2016 the Secretary General issued his opinion on the European Union initiative to establish a European Pillar of Social Rights. Mindful of the need to consolidate the synergy between standard-setting systems protecting social rights across the continent, the Secretary General requested in the opinion that the provisions of the European Social Charter (Revised) be formally incorporated into the pillar and that the collective complaints procedure be acknowledged for the contribution it has made to the effective realisation of the rights established in the Charter.

## Standards

### Development and promotion of human rights

In 2016, the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) issued an analysis of the legal situation at the domestic and international level on combating and preventing female genital mutilation and forced marriage. The CDDH started new activities on a wide array of topics, including social rights, freedom of expression and links to other human rights, migration and human rights, civil society and national human rights institutions. It started its revision of the Committee of Ministers' guidelines on the protection of victims of terrorist acts (2005). A high-level seminar on the protection and promotion of human rights in culturally diverse societies took place.

### System of the European Convention on Human Rights

The Committee of Experts on the system of the Convention (DH-SYSC) started addressing two major topics relating to the effectiveness of the system: the whole process of selection and election of the judges of the European Court of Human Rights; and the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)2 on efficient domestic capacity for rapid execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, with the aim of compiling a guide to good practice in 2017. An exchange of views on the mechanisms for ensuring the compatibility of legislation with the Convention also took place ([www.coe.int/reformECHR](http://www.coe.int/reformECHR)).

## Co-operation

Removing obstacles to an effective implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights at the national level has remained a priority. In particular, support was provided to national courts to ensure a coherent interpretation of the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, leading to a harmonised body of national case law. For this, innovative mechanisms and tools have been developed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, the Russian Federation and Serbia, such as advisory opinions issued by high courts, special functions conferred on case law/human rights departments, enhancing access to the case law through modern databases, harmonisation panels, and modern judicial training techniques on the Convention and Strasbourg case law undertaken under the HELP umbrella. Focus was also placed on strengthening judicial and non-judicial effective remedies: individual applications before the Constitutional Court in Montenegro and Turkey; the National Preventive Mechanisms (NPM) and *amicus curiae* functions of ombudsperson institutions in Georgia, Kosovo\* and Montenegro; and the anti-discrimination work of ombudsperson institutions and equality bodies in Albania and Moldova. The reform of the criminal justice system was addressed in Moldova and Ukraine. Dialogue with the judiciary was enhanced in the Russian Federation, notably through "HELP in Russia", and in Turkey through a joint EU/Council of Europe project on freedom of expression.

An independent Observatory of National Preventive Mechanisms against torture (NPM Obs) was set up in the form of a new international NGO, with the assistance of the Directorate General of Human Rights and the Rule of Law. After nearly three years of endeavour a National Preventive Mechanism was put in place in Tunisia with intensive support from a joint project with the EU.

## SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

### Media

#### Freedom of expression

National ombudsmen can play an important role in defending freedom of expression and of the media. On 15 December 2016, 30 representatives of national human rights institutions worked on identifying synergies and co-operation opportunities with the Council of Europe during a high-level seminar, “Freedom of Expression – role and powers of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and other national mechanisms”, to promote freedom of expression and protect journalists.

Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors details measures to prevent violations of media freedom and effectively protect journalism as a fundamental function of democracy, and the human rights of journalists in their professional activities.

#### Internet freedom

Internet freedom is not an arbitrary notion but is rooted in the European Convention on Human Rights and other standards. The year 2016 saw this principle reaffirmed in the conference “Internet Freedom: a constant factor of democratic security in Europe” – held in Strasbourg on 9 September 2016 and co-organised with the Estonian Chairmanship of the Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers and the German Chairmanship of the OSCE – and through Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on internet freedom, inciting member states to periodically evaluate their level of internet freedom.

## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

To help the practical translation of the Council of Europe’s adopted standards to member states, over 330 co-operation activities were carried out in respect of freedom of expression and of the media, and internet freedom, in 10 member states, neighbouring countries and in Kosovo.<sup>4</sup> These activities included providing legal expertise, training programmes, seminars, conferences, study visits and events on the rights and responsibilities of journalists and public broadcasting services, the independence of regulatory authorities, internet governance, media self-regulation and the code of journalistic ethics, and were attended by public officials, media professionals and representatives of civil society.

4. All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.



Members of Turkish High Courts attended an **International Workshop on Protecting Freedom of Expression while Countering Terrorism** (Antalya, 6-7 May 2016)



**Annual Conference on Harmonisation of Judicial Practices** (Sarajevo, 21 June 2016)



Launching of **PREDIM support** project for national institutions in Preventing Discrimination in Montenegro (Podgorica, 15 March 2016)



**High-level Seminar “Freedom of expression – role of powers and rights of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and other national mechanisms”**  
(Strasbourg, 15 December 2016)

**European Audiovisual Observatory,**  
Cannes Conference  
(Cannes, 14 May 2016)

## European Audiovisual Observatory (Enlarged Partial Agreement)

Under its Czech Presidency in 2016 the Observatory updated its *Yearbook – Television, cinema, video and on-demand audiovisual services* with new data on the European audiovisual industries. Its flagship market publications included *FOCUS 2016 – World film market trends* and *Key Trends*. Other audiovisual market reports covered subjects such as public financing for film and television content. The Observatory’s in-depth legal analysis focused on smart TV and data protection, regional and local broadcasting in Europe and media ownership (IRIS Special reports). IRIS Plus reports covered online copyright enforcement, on-demand services and the European legislation related to these and audiovisual sports rights. Two IRIS Extra reports dealt with Russian and US copyright law, and public service media in the Transcaucasian countries.

The Observatory made a huge contribution to the updating of European media legislation in 2016 by contributing several reports to the European Commission’s REFIT exercise of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive. These reports were published by the Commission in March 2016.

The Observatory presented two reports at two Russian workshops: the first, “FOCUS on the audiovisual industry in the Russian Federation”, at the CSTB Telecom and Media market in Moscow in January and the second, “Film production and co-production in Russia and the export of Russian films abroad”, at KINO EXPO in St Petersburg in September. The Observatory held its annual Cannes Film Market conference in May, “Ticket to ride – What makes European films travel?” In June, our Czech Presidency workshop in Prague explored the relevance of traditional broadcasting. Our third Brussels autumn conference concentrated on media ownership. [www.obs.coe.int](http://www.obs.coe.int)

## Internet governance

The Council of Europe adopted its Internet Governance Strategy 2016-2019, aimed at people-centred public policies for the internet in order to build democracy online, and protect users and human rights online. This is a transversal work in the Organisation and includes continued international involvement and dialogue with internet companies to encourage greater respect of human rights, the rule of law and democracy on the internet.

The Council of Europe published the report “Applications to ICANN for community-based new generic top level domains (gTLDs) – Opportunities and challenges from a human rights perspective”, analysing the importance of generic top-level domains as means for communities to exercise freedom of expression and to assemble and associate.

## Data protection

The European Court of Human Rights and the EU Court of Justice confirmed the importance of the ongoing modernising of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (ETS No. 108), which remains high on the Council of Europe’s agenda. More countries have signed the convention (Mauritius and Senegal) and new invitations have been made (Cape Verde).

Furthermore, an opinion on the data protection implications of the processing of Passenger Name Records (PNR) was adopted by the Consultative Committee of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data.



## Bioethics

Two recommendations were prepared by the Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO) and adopted by the Committee of Ministers on the processing of personal health-related data for insurance purposes and research on biological materials. Human rights challenges in the biomedical field were discussed at the international conference co-organised with the Russian authorities in Moscow for the 20th anniversary of Russia's membership of the Organisation. An outstanding discussion took place from a judicial perspective at the European Court of Human Rights: "International case law in bioethics: insight and foresight". This seminar paved the way for preparations for the 20th anniversary of the Oviedo Convention (ETS No. 164; the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine), to be celebrated in 2017.

## RULE OF LAW

### Action against Crime

The Committee on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) conducted three first evaluations under the new, 5th-round rules. The new evaluations focus not only on the compatibility of the regulatory framework with international standards, but – first and foremost – on how 34 MONEYVAL members apply the standards in practice.

The 24/7 network of contact points for the exchange of police information about foreign terrorist fighters became operational on 1 December 2016, in line with the decision of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers meeting in Sofia (May 2016) to expedite the setting up of the network pending the entry into force of the Riga Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 217). CODEXTER, the Committee of Experts on Terrorism, reviewed and updated the 2005 Recommendation on Special Investigation Techniques, taking into account the new developments in internet and the social media networks.

Following the March 2016 Council of Europe Guidelines for prison and probation services regarding radicalisation and violent extremism, a practical handbook has been prepared and will be disseminated to facilitate the implementation of best practices.

The European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) started work on a new convention on offences relating to cultural property, with the aim of preventing and punishing through criminal-law measures the intentional destruction and trafficking of cultural property. The convention is expected to be adopted at the next Council of Europe ministerial meeting in May 2017.

A new recommendation on community sanctions and measures was approved by the CDPC and will be adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2017.

In Moscow, the well-established week-long training course "Basic anti-corruption and anti-money laundering concepts" was held in co-operation with the Moscow Institute for International Relations for a fifth successive year. This year, the training was delivered for the first time in Sarajevo. A novel and very successful project on protecting businesses in the Russian Federation from corrupt practices was completed and a follow-up project was launched, this time with a focus on the municipal level. In all, over 3 500 officials (one third of them women) from 19 countries and jurisdictions benefited from more than 110 tailor-made co-operation activities in the economic crime area.

The reform efforts of member states within prison and probation services and the police were supported by technical assistance programmes involving over 4 000 individuals from 38 member states. With six completed, four ongoing and nine new projects, the Criminal Law Co-operation Unit operated with 14.5 million euros of extra-budgetary funds, a record high. The topics included the provision of health care in prisons (Albania, Armenia, Georgia), prison management (Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina) and police relations with the Roma population (Bulgaria and Romania). Overall, these activities made a significant contribution to the execution of the European Court of Human Rights judgments on prisons and police-related issues and to the fulfilment of the CPT recommendations.

### Drug abuse and illicit trafficking

Mexico became the 39th member of the Pompidou Group and other countries expressed interest in joining this drug co-operation platform. The UN General Assembly Special Session on the world drug problem applauded the group's message opposing the death penalty for drug offences and advocating prevention, harm reduction and treatment. The group adopted a policy paper on civil society – government co-operation; worked on the cost and human rights dimension of drug policies; debated



new psychoactive substances; reported on drugs, women and violence; assisted with drug treatment in prisons; promoted drug prevention among Ukraine's internally displaced persons suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder; and facilitated drugs enforcement co-operation: airports, precursors, internet. The Mediterranean Network (MedNET) continued its long-standing assistance (10 years) around the Mediterranean, sharing experience and providing training for substance use disorders. The 7th drug prevention prize was given to innovative projects led by young people from Bosnia, Israel and Portugal.

### Corruption (GRECO)

■ The Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) adopted over 40 evaluation and compliance reports. These reports largely focused on the topics covered under the third and fourth evaluation rounds: incriminations and political party funding; and the prevention of corruption of MPs, judges and prosecutors.

■ Although, in the area of incrimination, member states have criminalised most forms of corruption, there appears to be a tendency to over-rely on the repressive aspects of fighting corruption, too often underestimating the strength and effectiveness of preventive mechanisms. GRECO has called for a range of measures to prevent conflict-of-interest situations. The establishment of codes for ethical conduct and asset declarations by MPs, judges and prosecutors serves such a purpose.

■ Transparency of political financing rules, regulation of the growing phenomenon of "lobbying" and "revolving doors" justice politics are areas of particular concern to GRECO, which issued country-specific recommendations on these issues.

■ GRECO laid the foundations for its 5th evaluation round, starting in 2017. The theme – preventing corruption and promoting integrity in central governments (top executive functions) and law-enforcement agencies – constitutes a logical extension to the 4th round with its implications for shaping citizens' attitudes vis-à-vis their political institutions and democracy in general.

### Cybercrime

■ In 2016, the accession of Andorra, Liechtenstein, Israel and Senegal raised the number of parties to the Budapest Convention (Convention on Cybercrime; ETS No. 185) to 51. Sixteen other countries have either signed it or been invited to accede to it.

■ The Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY) agreed on the need for an additional protocol to the convention to tackle new challenges. It should enhance international co-operation and address necessary rule-of-law safeguards concerning access by criminal justice bodies to evidence in the cloud.

■ Through assessments and guidance notes, the T-CY supports an effective application of the Budapest Convention; a Guidance Note on terrorism was adopted in 2016. Furthermore, over 120 capacity-building activities were supported worldwide. The Octopus Conference 2016 – Co-operation against Cybercrime, held from 16 to 18 November 2016 in Strasbourg – celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Budapest Convention.

## JUSTICE AND LEGAL CO-OPERATION

### Venice Commission

■ The Venice Commission drew up a comprehensive Rule of Law Checklist as a tool for assessing the degree of respect for this major democratic standard in every country. The Committee of Ministers called on member states to use and disseminate the checklist widely.

■ The commission endorsed a constitutional reform of the judiciary in Albania, including a special ad hoc "vetting mechanism" to combat corruption among judges and prosecutors. It examined draft constitutional amendments submitted to referendums in Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan.

■ The opinion on the emergency regime in France concluded that it was essential to enshrine in the constitution not only the declaration (and prolongation) of the state of emergency, but also the formal, material and time limits which govern such regimes. On the emergency regime in Turkey, the commission warned that, although vesting the government with the emergency powers might have been justified after the failed coup d'état of July 2016, the measures taken by the government were unconstitutional and excessive.



**Participants of the 13th  
European Conference of  
Electoral Management Bodies**  
(Bucharest, 14-15 April 2016)



■ In respect of **Turkey**, the commission also adopted opinions on the suspension of the constitutional guarantees for parliamentary immunity, on the legality of the recent curfew measures, on the restrictions to internet access and amendments to the penal code limiting freedom of speech. It adopted opinions on the law of the **Russian Federation** on undesirable activities of foreign and international NGOs, on the 2016 amendments to the Police Act of Poland regarding safeguards and conditions for implementing secret surveillance and on legislation related to combating cybercrime in the **Republic of Moldova**.

■ The commission confirmed its stand on the independence of constitutional courts by issuing critical opinions on amendments to the law on the Constitutional Tribunal of Poland and statements on problems confronting constitutional courts in Turkey, Slovakia, Croatia and Georgia.

■ In the field of elections and political parties, the commission analysed the (draft) electoral codes or relevant amendments in Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, as well as the draft law on political parties of Armenia.

■ The commission held the 13th European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies on new technologies in elections and two campus seminars for high-level civil servants of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

■ Costa Rica joined the commission in 2016, bringing its membership to 61.

### **Division for Legal Co-operation – CDCJ**

■ The European Committee on Legal-Co-operation (CDCJ) approved a draft recommendation on the legal regulation of lobbying activities in the context of public decision making.

■ The Committee of Ministers adopted an action plan for strengthening judicial independence and impartiality in Council of Europe member states.

■ Support was provided to national authorities, judicial bodies and Bar Associations of 10 member and neighbourhood states regarding judicial reforms, self-governance and training.

### **Division for the independence and efficiency of justice**

■ The 2016 European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) evaluation of European judicial systems was used to guide national reforms, as was a thematic report on the use of information technology in European courts. CEPEJ made available an innovative interactive database on the functioning of judicial systems. Providing data on 26 states, CEPEJ also enabled the European Commission to prepare its “Justice scoreboard”.

■ The CEPEJ methodology has been used to guide judicial reforms in nine countries. The SATURN Centre (Study and Analysis of judicial Time Use Research Network) has data on judicial time frames by case category in more than 30 states; indicators for court-case flow management have been defined for the first time on this basis.

■ Newly developed CEPEJ tools concern improving the quality of judicial services, measuring the quality of justice, driving changes towards cyberjustice, and conducting satisfaction surveys for court users.

■ European standards on the role of court presidents and on the quality and efficiency of the work of prosecutors, including in fighting terrorism and serious and organised crime, were developed through the opinions of the CCJE No.19 and the CCPE No.11.



**World Forum for Democracy 2016:**  
"Democracy and Equality: does education matter?"  
(Strasbourg, 7 November 2016)



**Incubator for participatory  
democracy at the European  
Youth Centre (EYC) in the  
framework of the World  
Forum for Democracy 2016  
(6 November 2016)**

# Directorate General Democracy

[www.coe.int/democracy](http://www.coe.int/democracy)

## DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

### World Forum for Democracy

— The World Forum for Democracy 2016, “Democracy and equality: does education matter?”, took place in Strasbourg from 7 to 9 November. Among the key conclusions was that democracy education is needed; not just through theoretical citizenship education but also through democratic schools which enable pupils to produce knowledge together, to critically assess it and make informed choices. Formal education needs to switch from a knowledge-based approach to a competence-based approach. In relation to inequality, education is seen as crucial in bridging geographical and income inequalities, as well as digital divides; 2 000 participants from over 100 countries debated innovative initiatives that could offer concrete solutions in relation to media literacy, intergenerational learning or fighting corruption in education.



**Democracy Innovation Award** in the framework of the World Forum for Democracy awarded to the German initiative Kiron, which gives refugees access to higher education worldwide (Strasbourg, 9 November 2016), by **Snežana Samardžić-Marković**, Director General of Democracy

### Elections and local democracy

— In 2016, specific assistance has been provided to several member states for the conduct of presidential (Moldova), legislative (Georgia) and local (Bosnia and Herzegovina) elections. This assistance consisted of awareness-raising programmes for different categories of citizens/voters, of legal expertise on issues like the financing of electoral campaigns, media monitoring and the settlement of electoral disputes, and of training of electoral administration staff. The updated Recommendation Rec(2004)11 on legal, operational and technical standards for e-voting has been submitted to the Committee of Ministers for adoption.

— The Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform supported reforms in seven countries, focusing on human resource management, leadership skills, public ethics, local finances, amalgamation, inter-municipal co-operation and cross-border co-operation.

### Civil society

— As a result of intensive contact and exchange of information, effective interaction was established between NGOs and public authorities in six Eastern Partnership countries, allowing joint work to advance on the development of a regional strategy for civil participation in decision-making processes and plans to be made for follow-up work. The Civil Society Division and the Media Division joined efforts with external donors in supporting a regional project on media and civil society in the Western Balkans.

## Building inclusive societies

■ A new transversal thematic action plan, Building Inclusive Societies (2016-2019), has been launched. It aims to assist member states in managing Europe's diversity through smart policies fostering mutual understanding and respect. It is organised around activities in the field of education, anti-discrimination and effective integration.

■ The Intercultural Cities (ICC) network, whose activities are part of this action plan, expanded to 105 members, including cities in Australia, Canada, Mexico and Morocco. Activities in 2016 focused particularly on migrants and refugees' social and economic integration, on fighting stereotypes and on valuing diversity as an asset, including in business.

## Culture, nature and heritage

■ The third Council of Europe Platform Exchange on Culture and Digitisation highlighted the challenges of cultural big data and the need for critical internet literacy. The Council of Europe also launched the new Indicator Framework on Culture and Democracy (IFCD), an innovative tool that highlights the connections between a strong, well-functioning democracy and an abundance of cultural opportunities for citizens. The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes enlarged its membership with three new parties to 27.

■ The Bern Convention adopted seven new recommendations and added new areas to the Emerald Network (now spanning nearly 700 000 km<sup>2</sup>).

## Eurimages (Partial Agreement)

■ In 2016, the Eurimages Fund supported 85 European co-productions for a total amount of €21.6 million. Co-productions supported by the fund received awards at the Berlin, Cannes and Venice film festivals and nominations for the 2017 Golden Globes. The fund created two new awards: the Audentia Award, honouring the best female director and awarded for the first time at the Istanbul Festival, and the Eurimages Lab Projects Awards, aimed at encouraging innovative projects.



Poster of the film *Toni Erdmann* directed by Maren Ade, a German-Austrian co-production supported by Eurimages. A multi-award-winning comedy drama, winner at the European Film Awards and nominated for the Golden Globes and Oscars 2017

■ The European Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production (ETS No. 147) of 1992 has been revised by the Committee of Ministers and was opened for signature in January 2017. The revised convention will allow non-European countries to participate in international cinematographic co-productions and offers more flexibility in new digital technologies.

## European and Mediterranean major hazards agreement (EUR-OPA Partial Agreement)

■ The agreement adopted a new medium-term plan for 2016-2020. Work on the integration of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in disaster preparedness and response led to the adoption of a recommendation and the presentation of guidelines and examples of good practice.

## North-South Centre (Partial Agreement)

■ In 2016 the North-South Centre (NSC) was enlarged with the accessions of Bulgaria, Romania and Tunisia. A new three-year joint EU/NSC programme on Global Development Education (“iLEGEND”) has been launched. The decentralised campaign of the Global Education Week on the theme “Acting together for a world of peace” mobilised 1 300 schools, 6 000 teachers and 250 000 pupils in Europe. The XXI North-South Prize was awarded to the former President of Mozambique, Joaquim Chissano, and to the founder of the Greek NGO METAdrasi, Lora Pappa, for their involvement in peace promotion and migrant and refugees protection. “Migration and Human Rights: how to structure effective collective action?” was the core theme of this year’s Lisbon Forum that gathered over 200 participants from 51 countries representing governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities and civil society organisations.

## DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION AND CITIZENSHIP

### Education

■ The Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education welcomed the model for a Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture (CDC) in April. The full framework, including supporting materials, will be launched at the end of 2017. Forty countries responded to the review of the implementation of the Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education, to help inform a conference to be held during 2017.

■ A new co-operation and capacity-building programme supporting member states to implement education reforms has been approved. Completed projects covered human rights and minority protection in South-East Europe and integrity in higher education in Armenia. Seven programmes in the Western Balkans and Turkey on democratic competences and anti-corruption in education were launched.

■ The First ETINED plenary meeting (Platform on Ethics, Transparency and Integrity in Education) identified three priority fields of action related to codes of ethics for all those in education, integrity in higher education and education fraud. Policy guidelines to support national authorities in developing digital citizenship education policies are being developed.

■ The Council of Europe is helping improve access to education for refugees by developing a toolkit to help volunteer language teachers and by facilitating the recognition of undocumented qualifications. With the support of the Greek authorities and the relevant agencies in Greece, Italy, Norway and the United Kingdom, the Council of Europe is launching a pilot project for a qualifications “passport”. Also with the Greek authorities, a summer school for refugee students was organised in Olympia in August 2016.

### Youth

■ Over 2 000 young people were trained at the European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest and the European Youth Foundation received more applications than ever during 2016 – over 200 local, regional and national youth activities received the foundation’s support. The 2016 youth peace camp brought together 58 young people from conflict-affected communities (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kosovo,<sup>5</sup> the Russian Federation and Ukraine) who shared their experiences with their peers in a positive and safe atmosphere and developed together projects for dialogue and peace building.

■ The No Hate Speech Movement Campaign reached 44 countries/territories. Action days were organised to tackle sexist and anti-Semitic hate speech and hate speech targeting refugees and asylum seekers. The Quality Label for Youth Centres was awarded to youth centres in Stara Zagora (Bulgaria) and Kerry (Ireland). The seven existing labelled centres reached out to approximately 140 000 young people.

■ Albania, Romania and Ukraine received assistance under the new flexible and diverse package of youth policy assistance. The Committee of Ministers adopted Recommendation Rec(2016)7 on young people’s access to rights.

5. All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.



**Youth Peace Camp 2016**  
(Strasbourg, 10-18 July 2016)

## HUMAN DIGNITY AND EQUALITY

### Gender equality and violence against women

Three more member states of the Council of Europe ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention; CETS No. 210), bringing the number of states parties to 22. GREVIO, the committee of independent experts, began its monitoring of Austria and Monaco, on the basis of reports submitted both by state authorities and by civil society, state dialogues with government representatives and country visits. GREVIO's first reports will be published in 2017.

Important policy and legislative initiatives have been taken to address gender stereotypes in the education system and the media, increase the participation of women in political decision making, through both compulsory quotas and voluntary measures, and take action to improve women's access to justice.

### Discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI)

Six member states benefited from Council of Europe co-operation activities and expertise on SOGI issues. In addition, several publications were made available to authorities in the member states to support their efforts to address discrimination on the grounds of SOGI.

### Trafficking in human beings (GRETA)

In 2016, GRETA carried out 12 country evaluation visits: nine as part of the second round of evaluation of the Convention on Action against the Trafficking in Human Beings, two as part of the first round and one following an urgent procedure in Italy. GRETA also published an evaluation report on the anti-trafficking legislation, policy and practices in Kosovo.<sup>6</sup> GRETA's 5th General Report focused on the identification and protection of victims of trafficking among asylum seekers, refugees and migrants. A compendium of good practices in the implementation of the Anti-Trafficking Convention was also published.

### Rights of persons with disabilities

The new Council of Europe Disability Strategy (2017-2023), adopted by the Committee of Ministers, aims at achieving equality, dignity and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. The strategy will guide the work and activities aimed at implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities carried out by the Council of Europe and in its member states.

6. All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.



Ceremony for the opening for signature of the **Council of Europe Convention** on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events (Saint-Denis, 3 July 2016)

## Children's rights

— The new Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child encompasses five priority areas: equal opportunities for all children; participation of all children; a life free from violence for all children; child-friendly justice for all children; and rights of the child in the digital environment. The Lanzarote Committee embarked on an urgent monitoring round, "Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse", and is expected to adopt its report in early 2017. The intergovernmental Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF) initiated its standard-setting work on guardianship and age assessment in the context of migration and on guidelines for member states on children's rights in the digital environment. The second edition of the



18 November: **European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse**

European Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse was successfully celebrated on 18 November.

## European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML)

— Seven Committee of Ministers' recommendations and six Committee of Experts' evaluation reports were adopted. Seven country reports were made public. Targeted support was provided to Belarus and Georgia.

## Framework convention for the protection of national minorities (FCNM)

— The Advisory Committee adopted nine opinions and carried out seven visits. During the same time period, the Committee of Ministers adopted eight resolutions. The Advisory Committee also adopted its fourth Thematic Commentary, on the scope of application of the FCNM, entitled "The Framework Convention: a key tool to managing diversity through minority rights".

## European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)

— ECRI published 11 reports and visited eight countries. It published its conclusions on the implementation of the priority recommendations in respect of nine countries and two new general policy recommendations on combating hate speech and on safeguarding irregularly present migrants from discrimination.



**51st Joint Meeting of the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)** on the occasion of its 60th anniversary (Strasbourg, 17 June 2016)

## Sport

■ The new Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events (CETS No. 218) was opened for signature on 3 July 2016, and 22 countries have already signed it. Four countries received targeted advice to improve their anti-doping policy through monitoring visits organised within the framework of the Anti-Doping Convention. Member states also received support in the development of national networks and platforms addressing manipulation of sports competitions.

■ The Conference of Ministers of Sport (Budapest, 29 November) focused on measures to foster good governance in sport, strengthen the international anti-doping system and fight match-fixing. Acknowledging its leadership in these areas, ministers invited the Council of Europe to play a more important co-ordinating role at the global level too.

## Council of Europe Development Bank – Partial Agreement

■ The CEB approved 35 projects for an overall amount of €3.5 billion. Eighteen of those projects (€1.1 billion) concern Target Group countries in central, south-east and eastern Europe. The projects contribute, *inter alia*, to aiding refugees, migrants and displaced persons and managing the environment through measures aimed at its protection, as well as to supporting the creation and preservation of viable jobs.

■ The CEB's Migrant and Refugee Fund (MRF) continued to support its member countries in ensuring that migrants and refugees who arrive on their territory enjoy basic human rights, such as shelter, food and medical aid, as well as personal security. By the end of 2016, donors had contributed nearly €21 million to the fund. The bank approved 14 projects totalling more than €18 million in seven countries, predominantly along what is known as the Balkan route.

■ The CEB pursued its active role in the Regional Housing Programme (RHP), which aims to provide sustainable housing solutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia.

## Roma issues

■ The Council of Europe Thematic Action Plan on the Inclusion of Roma and Travellers (2016–2019), adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 March 2016, provides the framework for the Organisation's work on Roma and Travellers,<sup>7</sup> focusing on three priorities: the fight against discrimination and anti-Gypsyism; protection of the most vulnerable, such as children, young people and women; and promotion of innovative solutions at the local level.

■ The joint European Commission/Council of Europe ROMED programme, through 1 500 mediators trained in 26 member states and 75 community action groups set up in 50 municipalities in seven member states, improved the participation of Roma citizens in decision-making processes in 60 municipalities in 12 member states. The ROMACT joint programme focuses on Roma-related capacity building of local authorities in 61 municipalities in six member states. The EC/Council of Europe joint programme JUSTROM, launched in October 2016, aims to improve access to justice for Roma and Traveller women in five member states.

■ The Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM) adopted five reports on early/child and forced marriages, human trafficking, health mediators, vocational training and political participation, involving 20 member states. It also drafted a recommendation to improve access to justice for Roma and Travellers.

7. The terms "Roma and Travellers" are used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand, a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish and the populations designated under the administrative term "Gens du voyage", as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies.

On 29 June 2016, the Operational Platform on Roma Equality (OPRE), co-ordinated by the Council of Europe with the participation of the OHCHR, the OSCE/ODIHR, the EU agency for fundamental rights (FRA), Equinet and the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI), published a joint statement on evictions of Roma and Travellers, calling on member states to respect human rights standards and to provide alternative accommodation prior to any eviction. The Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller Organisations held two meetings with a total of more than 100 participants from over 20 NGOs.

Co-operation between the Council of Europe's "Dosta!" campaign and the UEFA "RESPECT" campaign to stop anti-Gypsyism started. Four major football games in the UEFA leagues opened with the "Dosta!" campaign, and were seen by at least 11 million viewers.

In 2016, the Committee of Ministers paved the way for setting up the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) in Berlin, Germany. ERIAC aims to promote arts and culture as a means of tackling anti-Gypsyism and discrimination against Roma and to increase their self-esteem. The establishment of the institute is under way.

## EUROPEAN DIRECTORATE FOR THE QUALITY OF MEDICINES & HEALTHCARE (EDQM)

The European Pharmacopoeia (Ph. Eur.) Commission adopted 30 newly devised and 168 revised texts. A total of 164 meetings of Ph. Eur. groups of experts and working parties were organised in 2016 (103 face-to-face meetings and 61 teleconferences). The ninth edition of the *European Pharmacopoeia* was published, encompassing 2 343 monographs, 359 general texts and around 2 650 descriptions of reagents. Some 165 draft texts were published in *Pharmeuropa* (the Ph. Eur. public forum) for public enquiry. The search for alternatives to Ph. Eur. animal tests for biologicals, in collaboration with the European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing (EPAA), an initiative of the European Commission, gave rise to an alternative method for future implementation in the Ph. Eur. Eighty-four new reference standards and 220 replacement batches of existing reference standards necessary to apply the tests described in the Ph. Eur. monographs have been established and adopted by the Ph. Eur. Commission.

The EDQM has received a significant number of applications for the Certification of Suitability Procedure (CEP). A total of 79 manufacturing sites for substances were covered by the EDQM inspection programme. In May 2016, the EDQM hosted the 3rd meeting of the International Generic Drugs Regulatory Programme, which attracted participants from all over the world and was an opportunity to promote the programme and gather feedback on stakeholders' expectations in the field of generic medicinal products. The EDQM has continued to strengthen the exchange of information with authorities worldwide in order to increase acceptance of CEPs.

The fight against counterfeit/illegal medicines continued: a training course for Official Medicines Control Laboratories and several studies for detection of such drugs were organised. The MEDICRIME Convention (CETS No. 211) was promoted, for example through a workshop for inspectors in the pharmaceutical field.

In the area of pharmaceutical care the Committee of Ministers adopted a new resolution on good reconstitution practices in health care establishments for medicinal products for parenteral use. The 1st Symposium on cosmetics testing for Official Cosmetics Control Laboratories and competent authorities focused on optimisation of resources and emerging issues (for example, the use of mineral oils in cosmetics).

The sixth edition of the Guide to the quality and safety of organs for transplantation and two brochures for the public, "Umbilical cord blood banking – A guide for parents" (2nd edition) and "Exercise your way to better post-transplant health", were published. Emerging from a collaboration with the European Commission, the Good Practice Guidelines for blood establishments of the Council of Europe was adopted as a legal instrument in the EU. The symposium "Optimal use of clotting factors and platelets" convened 109 participants from 34 countries. An external quality assessment study for blood establishments proved a commonly used test kit for syphilis markers in blood samples invalid and resulted in its withdrawal.

The EDQM successfully migrated its ISO 9001 certification to the 2015 version of the standard. The EDQM Laboratory ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation was renewed for a new five-year period.



Launching of Action Plan 2016-19 with Daniel Mitov, Chair of the Committee of Ministers, **Mikheil Janelidze**, Foreign Minister of Georgia and **Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni**, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe (Tbilisi, 9 May 2016)

## Office of the Directorate General of Programmes

# Actions in the field and resource mobilisation

### MEMBER STATES

#### Eastern Europe

— The Council of Europe provided support to the **Republic of Moldova**, focusing particularly on the reform of the judiciary and the prosecution service, on enhancing capacities of the Ombudsperson's Office to combat discrimination, and on national multi-stakeholder dialogue on internet governance and the protection of human rights on the internet. Further support was lent to strengthening institutional frameworks for local governance through the piloting of Local Finance Benchmarking in 10 Moldovan municipalities and awareness raising about ethical and transparent local authorities through the "Mayors – leaders for change" workshops.



Workshop, "Mayors – Leaders for change"  
(Chişinău, 2-4 February 2016)

— In **Romania**, the Cybercrime Programme Office (C-PROC) implemented projects on capacity building in countries of the Eastern Partnership region, in South-East Europe and Turkey. Countries in Africa, the Asia-Pacific region and Latin America committed to implementing the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime. Projects focused on strengthening the legislation, training, public/private and international co-operation and financial investigations.



Closing of the GLACY Global Action Conference on Cybercrime  
(Bucharest, 26-28 October 2016)



In the **Russian Federation**, the project Protection of the Rights of Entrepreneurs in the Russian Federation from Corrupt Practices at the Municipal Level – PRECOP II was launched in October 2016 in Tver.

■ In **Ukraine**, through the Action Plan for Ukraine 2015-2017, the Council of Europe contributed to the comprehensive judicial reform defined by the constitutional amendments, which were adopted in June 2016. It supported the implementation of progressive legislation on corruption prevention, which introduced an advanced electronic system for disclosure of assets, income and expenditure by public officials and politicians; for decentralisation and local self-government reform, in particular the voluntary amalgamation process of local communities; and for institutional capacity building and awareness raising regarding the rights of internally displaced persons.

■ Launch of the project Protection of the Rights of Entrepreneurs in the **Russian Federation** from Corruption Practices at the Municipal Level – PRECOP II (Tver, 26 October 2016)

■ A round table, “The implementation of international human rights standards by regional ombudspersons in the Russian Federation”, organised by the Council of Europe and the newly appointed Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation, was held in Vladimir on 16-17 November 2016.



Round table on “International and Human Rights standards by Regional Ombudsmen in the Russian Federation” with **C. Giakoumopoulos**, Director of the Directorate of Human Rights of the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe, **T. Moskalkova**, High-Commissioner of Human Rights in the Russian Federation and **S. Orlova**, Governor of the Region of Vladimir (Vladimir, 16-17 November 2016)

### South Caucasus

■ The Action Plan for **Armenia 2015-2018** was launched by Deputy Secretary General Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni in May 2016 and supported justice sector and local government reforms following the constitutional amendments; penitentiary reform; anti-corruption efforts in the higher education sector; and the strengthening of human rights standards in the armed forces. The impact of the Council of Europe’s assistance was reflected among other things through the adoption by the National Assembly of laws on human rights defenders, on political parties, on local self-government, on local duties and fees, and on financial equalisation, and by the establishment of the Mediators Association of Armenia.



**Philippe Boillat**, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe, during the international conference on shared responsibility of state and non-state actors in implementing the European Convention on Human Rights (Tbilisi, 25 May 2016)

■ In **Azerbaijan**, the Council of Europe continued expert support to the judiciary, anti-corruption framework; media professionals; reinforcing capacities of the Justice Academy and the Collegium of Advocates; the work of pilot courts; and raising in public debates the issues of defamation and civil society regulatory framework. Two new Council of Europe/EU projects were initiated in 2016, addressing civil society dialogue and penitentiary reform.

■ The Action Plan for **Georgia** for 2016-2019 was launched by Deputy Secretary General Gabriella Battaini-Dragnoni and Chairman of the Committee of Ministers Daniel Mitov in May 2016. The action plan, with a total budget of 25 million euros, focused on protecting and promoting human rights, including social rights, ensuring justice and strengthening democratic governance, as well as developing confidence-building measures and countering corruption, money laundering, cybercrime and manipulation of sports competitions.

### South-East Europe and Turkey

■ In **Albania**, the Council of Europe contributed to the government reform agenda mainly through the Co-operation Document 2015-2017. It supported the justice reform following the constitutional amendments; the setting up of a Press Council in Albania; the drafting of the Law on Minorities in Albania; the development of human resource management at the local government level, in view of the implementation of civil service legislation and the public administration reform; and the launch of the action plan for improving quality of life for LGBTI people in Albania.

■ Co-operation with **Bosnia and Herzegovina** gained new momentum with the commencement of the projects under the Council of Europe/EU Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey (HF). The Council of Europe contributed to the prison reform programme and to enhancing the human rights protection for detained and sentenced persons; to the training of legal professionals; to the strengthening the Ombudsman Office's capacities to fight discrimination; and to supporting the judiciary to apply European human rights standards. Following the local elections, the Council of Europe rapidly deployed the Leadership Academy in order to strengthen the capacities of new mayors, councillors and municipal administrators.



The launch event for the Action Plan for LGBTI with **Marja Ruotanen**, Director of Human Dignity and Equality of the Council of Europe (centre) and **Blendi Klosi**, Minister of Social Welfare and Youth in Albania (right) (Tirana, 21 October 2016)

The Turkish Minister of Justice **Bekir Bozdağ** (fifth from the right, standing next to **Verena Taylor**, Director of the Office of the Directorate of Programmes) participated in the launch event for the Council of Europe/EU Joint Project, Strengthening Judicial Ethics (Ankara, 4 May 2016)



■ In **Serbia**, the co-operation was focused on the judiciary, freedom of expression, human and minority rights and local self-government. The new Joint Programme on Human Resources Management at Local Level, which was launched in April, successfully established co-operation with a selected number of municipalities. The HF projects in the field of trafficking in human beings and national minorities started to be implemented.

■ Co-operation with **Turkey** continued through the projects Strengthening the Capacity of Turkish Judiciary on Freedom of Expression and Developing Mediation Practices in Civil Disputes in Turkey. Two new Council of Europe/EU joint projects, Supporting the Individual Application to the Constitutional Court of Turkey and Strengthening Judicial Ethics, were launched in 2016. While the July coup attempt led to a dramatic slowdown of activities in the two months afterwards, there was a full and enhanced resumption of activities in the last three months of the year.

## NON-MEMBER STATES

■ The Action Plan for **Belarus** 2016-2017 was adopted by the Committee of Ministers in October 2016. The action plan is structured around priorities defined jointly between the Council of Europe and the Belarusian authorities. These priorities are in line with those identified by the Secretary General and the Committee of Ministers for Belarus and include, but are not limited to: the abolition of the death penalty; bioethics, gender equality, the fight against corruption; cybercrime; electoral issues; civil society; and regional and minority languages. The action plan, with a total budget of about seven million euros, aims at raising awareness about Council of Europe standards in a given area and at building confidence between the Council of Europe and the Belarusian authorities.

■ In **Kosovo**<sup>8</sup>, the Council of Europe continued to co-operate in the areas of fighting corruption and economic crime; strengthening minorities' protection; supporting the Ombudsperson Institution and freedom of expression; fostering democratic culture and diversity in schools; combating corruption in higher education; fighting cybercrime; combating violence against women/domestic violence; and enhancing the protection of human rights of prisoners.

## Southern Neighbourhood

■ In **Tunisia**, the Council of Europe provided support to the establishment of independent institutions as set out in the 2014 Constitution, and to existing institutions in the field of audiovisual communication and in the fight against corruption. It provided support to the newly elected members of the National Prevention Mechanism against torture, contributed to enhancing the quality of justice, co-operated with the authorities in drafting laws, and their subsequent adoption, on combating violence against women and fighting trafficking in human beings.

■ In **Morocco**, the Council of Europe continued its support in the fields of judiciary reform, anti-corruption, freedom of expression and the media, data protection, combating violence against women and children, and prevention of torture through the establishment of a National Prevention Mechanism. Co-operation was initiated on local and regional matters, notably through the Intercultural Cities Network.

■ The Council of Europe's co-operation with the **Jordanian** authorities continued in the fields of efficiency of justice; the fight against corruption and money laundering, at the local and regional level and with the active involvement of the Jordanian authorities in the Intercultural Cities Network; and awareness raising of Council of Europe conventions.

8. All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

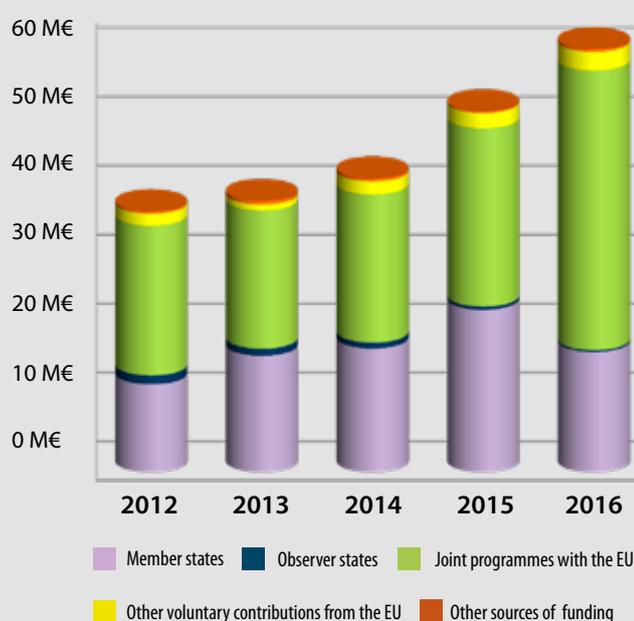
## Central Asia

Co-operation with the **Kazakh** authorities was implemented via an EU–Council of Europe programme. Following the adoption of the Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities for the **Kyrgyz Republic 2015-2017**, co-operation continued mainly in the area of constitutional justice, access to justice and electoral reform.

## RESOURCE MOBILISATION

### Extra-budgetary receipts 2016

EXTRA BUDGETARY RESOURCES PER FUNDING SOURCE 2012-2016

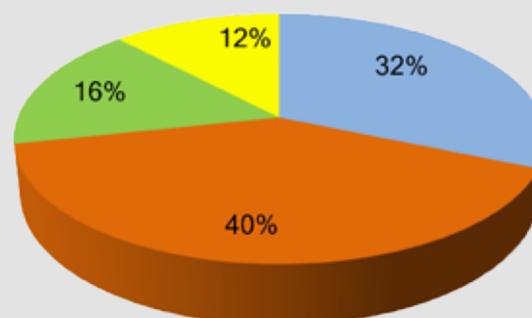


#### 2016 compared to 2015:

- Overall receipts increased by 17% to approximately **€61.2 million** (€52.3 in 2015, €42.5 million in 2014, €39.3 million in 2013, €37.7 million in 2012, €36.4 million in 2011).
- Voluntary Contributions from **member states decreased by 26% to €17.4 million**.
- 38 of the 47 member states contributed in 2016** (36 in 2015). The top ten member states represent 77% of the total receipts from member states (81% in 2015).
- Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom** rank top among member states with contributions of €5.9 million, €2.6 million, €1.2 million and €1 million, respectively. The Human Rights Trust Fund contributed €1.9 million.

- Receipts in the framework of **Council of Europe/ European Union Joint Programmes increased by 57% to €40.5 million** (€25.8 million in 2015) and accounted for 66% of total extra budgetary receipts.
- The EU also made a number of voluntary contributions outside of joint programmes amounting to €2.7 million (€2.5 million to the EDQM, 200K to CEPEJ, 19K to the Bern Convention).
- Contributions from non-member states having observer status decreased to €264K.
- “Other” sources of funding (i.e. not EU, member or observer states) contributed €358K.

2016 Extra budgetary resources per pillar of the Programme and Budget



EXTRA BUDGETARY RESOURCES PER PILLAR	€
HUMAN RIGHTS	19 247 149.12
RULE OF LAW	24 636 012.86
DEMOCRACY	9 944 855.53
ACTION PLAN-LEVEL OR NON-SPECIFIED FUNDING	7 427 951.95
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61 255 969.46</b>



**CAHDI experts during its 52nd meeting**  
(Brussels, 15-16 September 2016)

# Public international law

[www.coe.int/en/web/cahdi](http://www.coe.int/en/web/cahdi)

In a political climate which encourages interdependence between states, international law is increasingly becoming a key factor in the organisation of interstate relations. The Council of Europe is working to co-ordinate its member states' activities in this field of law through the Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI), an intergovernmental committee bringing together legal advisers from the ministries of Foreign Affairs of the member states as well as those of a significant number of observer states and international organisations.

The Declaration on Jurisdictional Immunities of State Owned Cultural Property prepared by CAHDI represents one example among many that illustrate the valuable contribution of CAHDI to the development of public international law. By the end of 2016, the declaration had been signed by the ministers of Foreign Affairs of 18 states.

In its flagship function as The European Observatory of Reservations to International Treaties, CAHDI examines reservations and declarations subject to objection in international treaties prepared within the Council of Europe and the UN. This activity, involving 25 reservations and/or declarations in 2016, contributes to the dialogue on reservations at the international level and has an impact on the subsequent actions of states with regard to the respective reservations and/or declarations.

In 2016, CAHDI submitted to the Committee of Ministers its main findings on the five conventions and one protocol for which it had been given responsibility within the framework of the Ministers' Deputies' decision on the Review of Council of Europe Conventions. These legal instruments related to the peaceful settlement of disputes, state immunity, consular functions and the non-applicability of a statutory limitation to crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The following three new databases became operational in 2016: the immunities of states and international organisations; the organisation and functions of the Office of the Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the implementation of UN sanctions and respect for human rights.

Moreover, CAHDI published two essay collections: *The judge and international custom* and *The CAHDI contribution to the development of public international law: achievements and future challenges*.

Over the year, CAHDI continued and strengthened its co-operation and collaboration with the UN and international tribunals. It held exchanges of views with the President of the International Criminal Court, the Ombudsperson of the UN Security Council to the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, the Chairperson of the International Law Commission and the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel. Furthermore, the Secretariat of CAHDI participated in the debates of the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly and the annual exchanges of views with the UN International Law Commission (ILC).



Press briefing with **Marina Kaljurand**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Estonia and Chair of the Committee of Ministers, **Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey and **Thorbjørn Jagland**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 7 September 2016)

# Communications

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**Working closely with media professionals and European influencers and networks, the Directorate of Communications (DC) generated greater visibility for the values and standards of the Council of Europe in 2016.**

## PRESS RELATIONS

Political communication about the activities of the Organisation and its events generated a total of 128 interviews and 31 opinion articles in international media outlets. The media monitoring team tracked 23 362 articles and new items in print and online that mentioned the Council of Europe during the year.

## ONLINE AND AUDIOVISUAL COMMUNICATIONS

A new video distribution platform – the Human Rights Channel – was launched, together with the first Council of Europe content marketing action to mark 25 November, the End Violence against Women Day, which involved creating 32 promotional videos. Promotional videos were also made to highlight the work of GRECO and its fight against corruption, the work of CEPEJ, and to promote the European Social Charter. Twenty-five interviews were recorded with academics, external experts and politicians, including the Prime Minister of Norway and EU Commissioner Andrus Ansip. The Organisation's first ever webinar on migration issues was organised in collaboration with The European Law Students' Association (ELSA), broadcast from the Council of Europe's TV studio.

Audiovisual content, primarily intended for online distribution, was generated to highlight political messages and illustrate a range of aspects of the Organisation's work. Reports were made on subjects like gender equality in sport and health and genetic data, and to review the content of Parliamentary Assembly sessions. Stories featuring Council of Europe leaders and experts, European Court of Human Rights cases, official visits and formal events, such as the award of the Raoul Wallenberg Prize, were featured in 107 news offers to Europe's largest television news agencies and broadcasters – Eurovision News Networks (EBU), Reuters, Associated Press Television News (APTN) and ENEX (European News Exchange). TV stations received 330 transmissions.

The Council of Europe hub saw a significant 89% increase in the number of pages viewed (according to Directorate for Information Technology – DIT – statistics) while the number of visits and unique visitors went up by approximately 40% – a positive indicator of the impact of search engine optimisation work begun in 2015. The Directorate of Communications supported operational services, developing and updating the Organisation's overall web presence. Training and knowledge sharing was provided to 251 staff members on CMS (content management system), web methodology, search engine optimisation and web resources. Some 26 sites were migrated to the new CMS, Liferay, and 16 new sites were created in co-operation with the DIT, bringing the cumulative total to 167 sites. A website for the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees was created, and the "Council of Europe in brief" website is now available in 36 languages. Work was ongoing on a number of other projects such as E-photo, the Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and the "Octopus" site.

Social media channels continued to grow, with followers of the Council of Europe on Twitter and Facebook numbering over 419 000, more than 86 000 downloads of podcasts and more than 124 000 views of videos on YouTube alone. The "humanrightseurope" blog attracted more than 8 000 visitors per month, increasingly reaching the key 25-34 age demographic.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

PR activities and events were organised to promote the Council of Europe's identity and values among various target groups, in particular on the occasion of Europe Day on 8 May 2016 in Paris (France), at the EYE gathering of 7 500 young people in Strasbourg (France) on 20 and 21 May 2016 and during the Rendez-vous européens in Strasbourg from 21 to 23 November 2016. For all these events, graphics and information material (leaflets, brochures, posters, exhibition panels, etc.) were designed and produced. They were promoted through our contacts database (more than 11 000 addressees) and partner sites.

The Council of Europe was present at the Istanbul Film Festival (Turkey), where the FACE human rights prize was awarded to the film *Mediterranea*. The Organisation's publications were presented at the book fair in Brussels (Belgium), the legal book fair in Paris (France) and the Frankfurt Book Fair (Germany), at the IPSA (International Political Science Association) congress in Poznań (Poland) in July 2016, at the annual ECPR (European Consortium of Political Research) conference in Prague (the Czech Republic) in September and at the Internet Governance Forum in Guadalajara (Mexico) in December 2016.

The Organisation's priorities were reflected in three commercial publications: *Journalism at risk* (in French and Turkish), *Mass surveillance – Who is watching the watchers?* (in French and English) and *Freedom of expression and defamation* (in French and English).

A game booklet on European values, intended for children aged 8 to 12, was translated into four languages and distributed to 20 000 classes in 12 countries. It was, in particular, distributed to all the schools in Cyprus within the framework of the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers. A digital version was also made available on a dedicated website for playing online. The new reference brochure entitled "The Council of Europe – An overview" was published and distributed in five European languages.

The online publications platform continues to expand its range of digital products by offering more than 1 700 PDF, ePub and Mobi formats. Material for the general public (brochures, posters, documents for teachers) can be consulted and downloaded in full and free of charge on [edoc.coe.int](http://edoc.coe.int). Other publications can be ordered online at [book.coe.int](http://book.coe.int), the online bookshop, where excerpts from books can also be consulted. Together, the two sites totalled more than 2 750 000 visitors. In addition, over 4 000 digitised titles are available on Google Play, with 1 111 000 book visits in 2016.

More than 37 600 visitors (1 025 groups) took part in the Council of Europe study tours and guided visits, including 21 900 primary school pupils who attended an Open Day at the Palais de l'Europe and 1 200 who participated in the Themis project as part of the World Forum for Democracy. More than 400 customised talks were given during personalised tours.

The partnership with the ELSA network continued with the holding of the fourth Human Rights Moot Court Competition: more than 100 teams from 30 European countries pleaded in a fictitious case concerning environmental damage and responsibility. The final, involving 16 teams from 12 countries, took place in February at the European Court of Human Rights. The partnership with the University of Strasbourg for the French version of the moot court competition (Concours René Cassin) continued, with 300 students attending the final, which took place on 30 and 31 March 2016 in Strasbourg. The Council of Europe's activities were presented at the ELSA Day, this year focusing on the rights of migrants, during 40 events in 27 countries. The first webinar was organised on the issue of migration and viewed by 14 800 members of the ELSA network.

Visual identity standards were reinforced within the Organisation through harmonised templates for letters, memos and PowerPoint presentations.



Interview with **Erna Solberg**, Prime Minister of Norway (Strasbourg, 7 November 2016)

The Cambridge University team won the 2016 edition of the **European Moot Court Competition** (Strasbourg, 18 February 2016)





# 2016 contributions of Council of Europe member states (in euros)

## MEMBER STATES

Albania	477 412.98		
Andorra	244 819.15		
Armenia	365 104.73		
Austria	5 447 401.46		
Azerbaijan	1 277 189.87		
Belgium	7 521 703.30		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	554 184.62		
Bulgaria	1 157 481.14		
Croatia	1 067 278.05		
Cyprus	504 150.73		
Czech Republic	3 171 728.46		
Denmark	4 469 988.27		
Estonia	483 768.67		
Finland	3 430 698.08		
France	37 597 652.29		
Georgia	535 153.31		
Germany	35 756 081.06		
Greece	3 773 045.13		
Hungary	2 254 794.49		
Iceland	483 768.67		
Ireland	3 066 252.14		
Italy	34 721 576.24		
Latvia	571 860.98		
Liechtenstein	361 689.55		
Lithuania	787 004.70		
		Luxembourg	1 031 360.28
		Malta	380 354.33
		Moldova	344 553.82
		Monaco	351 012.35
		Montenegro	384 063.07
		Netherlands	10 565 947.24
		Norway	6 307 889.62
		Poland	8 178 665.96
		Portugal	3 366 203.51
		Romania	3 534 903.83
		Russian Federation	32 801 563.67
		San Marino	143 932.42
		Serbia	1 111 174.80
		Slovak Republic	1 504 887.85
		Slovenia	785 007.99
		Spain	18 988 445.33
		Sweden	7 133 099.42
		Switzerland	8 250 912.69
		"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	485 861.92
		Turkey	33 557 248.76
		Ukraine	4 404 881.60
		United Kingdom	32 151 875.60
		<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>325 845 634.13</b>

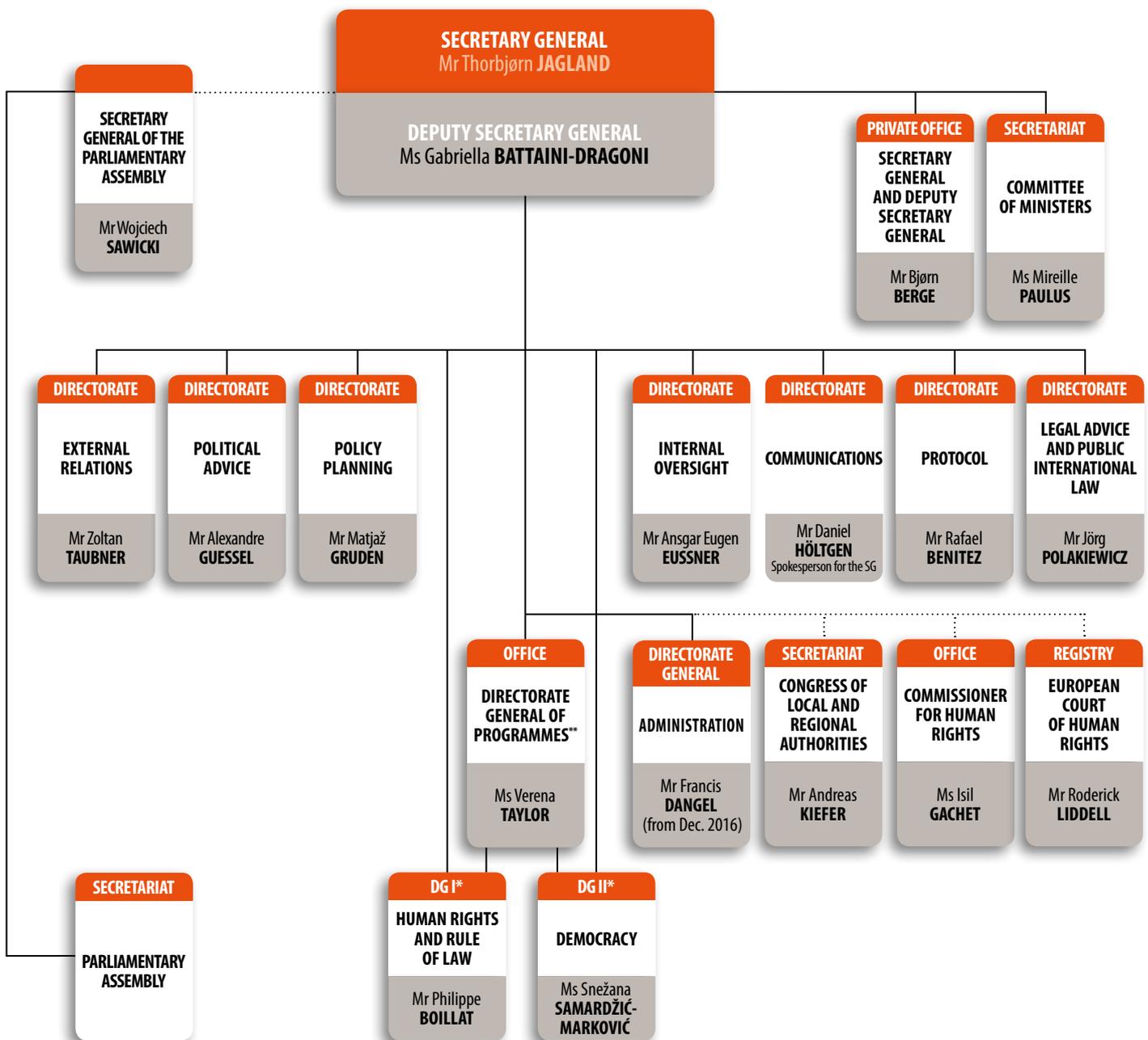
# 2016 voluntary contributions to the Council of Europe (in euros)

MEMBER STATES			
Norway	5 884 900.74	Portugal	115 000.00
Sweden	2 598 196.21	Monaco	83 252.46
Human Rights Trust Fund <sup>1</sup>	1 924 454.44	Czech Republic	71 100.51
Switzerland	1 229 641.33	Estonia	66 717.48
United Kingdom	1 041 539.34	Austria	66 683.98
France	668 912.42	Russian Federation	54 739.23
Luxembourg	492 369.12	Bulgaria	48 423.92
Germany	449 388.50	Hungary	40 344.45
Italy	398 639.58	Croatia	23 563.49
Finland	334 987.80	Andorra	23 356.28
Romania	255 505.43	Malta	22 735.49
Netherlands	237 500.00	Lithuania	20 000.00
European Economic Area (EEA) <sup>2</sup>	218 550.00	Slovenia	19 079.00
Turkey	215 098.23	Serbia	18 829.54
Poland	190 501.38	Cyprus	14 944.08
Ireland	165 021.10	Spain	14 000.00
Belgium	130 228.42	Slovak Republic	12 798.61
Liechtenstein	122 609.60	Latvia	11 172.47
Denmark	121 212.88	Iceland	9 250.18
		Azerbaijan	6 192.31
		Republic of Moldova	724.08
		<b>TOTAL MEMBER STATES</b>	<b>17 422 164.08</b>

1. Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom.
2. Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway.

<b>OBSERVERS</b>			
United States of America	222 750.00	Gibraltar	24 000.00
Japan	41 410.00	Japan Foundation	13 665.75
<b>TOTAL OBSERVERS</b>	<b>264 160.00</b>	University of Nottingham	12 639.32
		Charta 77 Foundation	7 500.00
<b>EUROPEAN UNION</b>		Václav Havel Library	7 500.00
Joint Programmes	40 508 479.34	Cooperative Internationale de Recherche et d'Action en matière de Communication	6 000.00
Voluntary Contributions	2 703 155.00	European Cultural Foundation	4 000.00
<b>TOTAL EUROPEAN UNION</b>	<b>43 211 634.34</b>	Organisation internationale de la Francophonie	2 206.97
<b>OTHERS</b>		International Association of Former Council of Europe Staff Members	2 000.00
Aga Khan Development Network	50 000.00	<b>TOTAL OTHERS</b>	<b>358 011.04</b>
United Nations	43 492.00	<b>GRAND TOTAL 2016</b>	<b>61 255 969.46</b>
Israel	39 945.00		
Isle of Man	36 730.00		
States of Guernsey	36 730.00		
States of Jersey	36 730.00		
A.G. Leventis Foundation	34 872.00		

# Organisation chart of the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe in 2016



\* DGI DGII report to the Secretary General

\*\* Office of the DG PROG co-ordinates intergovernmental activities



This publication  
presents the work  
carried out in 2016  
by the different  
bodies and sectors of  
the Council of Europe,  
highlighting its particular  
strengths and achievements.

PREMS 050417

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.