

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION



- 46 member States, including all members of the European Union + 6 observer States
- 820 million Europeans
- Headquarters in Strasbourg, France + 18 external offices + 4 liaison offices within other organisations (EU, UN etc.)

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Le Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe



Values

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

- Established on
 - 5 May 1949 (Treaty of London)
- Three main values:
 - Human rights
 - Democracy
 - The rule of law
- Its work is based on the
 - European Convention on Human Rights



Main fields of action and achievements



- Strengthening of human rights
- Abolition of death penalty
- Upholding freedom of expression
- Fighting discrimination and racism
- Election observation
- Defence of cultural diversity
- Gender equality
- Protection of children's rights
- Education in human rights and democracy
- Quality of medicines and health care



Institutions of the Council of Europe



Committee of Ministers
Decision-making body



Parliamentary Assembly
Forum for debates and proposals



Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
Voice of local and regional democracy



Commissioner for Human Rights
Independent voice



Conference of INGOs
Voice of civil society



Secretary General

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Institutions of the Council of Europe



The European Court of Human Rights

- Judiciary body
- 1 judge for each member state
- Accessible to individuals and governments

The European Convention on Human Rights

Signed in 1950 and ratified by all member States

GUARANTEES

- The right to life
- The right to a fair hearing
- Freedom of thoughts, conscience and religion
- Freedom of expression

PROHIBITS

- Death penalty
- Torture and inhuman treatment
- Slavery and forced labour
- Arbitrary and unlawful detention
- Discrimination



The Council of Europe and the European Union

DIFFERENT ROLES

- The **COUNCIL OF EUROPE** works together with its **46 member States** to strengthen human rights and democracy across the continent and beyond.
- The **EU** brings its **27 member States** closer together both economically and politically by harmonizing legislation and practices in certain policy areas.



The Council of Europe and the European Union

COMPLEMENTARY ROLES

- Shared fundamental values
- Close co-operation in areas of common interests
- Mutual benefit

CO-OPERATION IN PRACTICE

- Regular high-level political dialogue
- Co-ordination on the ground

FORMS OF CO-OPERATION

- Promoting European standards
- Sharing expertise
- Monitoring compliance
- Joint programmes



The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

The Congress brings the **local and regional dimension** to the Council of Europe.



Its activities are based on the **core values** of the Council: human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

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