

## **CRITERIA FOR THE GRANTING OF OBSERVER STATUS WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 1-2 and 7 July 1999 at the 676<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

### **Observer status with the Council of Europe**

Statutory Resolution (93) 26, on Observer Status, provides that any State may be granted observer status by the Committee of Ministers if it is willing to accept the principles of (i) democracy; (ii) the rule of law; and (iii) the enjoyment by all persons within its jurisdiction of human rights and fundamental freedoms; and (iv) if it is willing to co-operate with the Council of Europe.

In addition to these criteria, others might be added, notably, the requirement that such States should:

- share Council of Europe values, as reaffirmed in particular in the Final Declaration of the Strasbourg Summit (10-11 October 1997)\*, and have a European connection (e.g. political, historical, cultural or economic);
- be willing and able to make a positive contribution to the work of the Council of Europe. The Secretariat should provide an assessment of any assurances given by the applicant in this respect;
- provide evidence of readiness and appropriate means for sustained contacts with the Council of Europe headquarters, preferably through a permanent office in Strasbourg.

As far as the commitments to Council of Europe standards are concerned, an assessment might be made, on the basis of a Secretariat report, of the applicant's performance with regard to United Nations instruments.

Beyond the contributions paid by the States party to Partial Agreements, and/or Funds of the Council of Europe, applicants should also be aware of the possibility to make voluntary contributions of a financial nature to the implementation of specific Council of Europe programmes or activities.

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\* It is recalled in this respect that in this Declaration, the Heads of State and Governments of the Council of Europe member States, inter alia, launched an appeal to "the universal abolition of the death penalty".

