

## SUMMARIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE TREATIES

The summaries available hereunder are designed to meet a practical need, that of supplying the public at large with concise descriptions of the Council of Europe treaties. The summaries are necessarily short and can therefore only give a first introduction to the main features of each treaty.

Subject-matter: **PREVENTION TORTURE**

**European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment** ([ETS No. 126](#)), open for signature, in Strasbourg, on 26 November 1987.

Entry into force: 1 February 1989.

The Convention provides for the setting up of an international committee empowered to visit all places where persons are deprived of their liberty by a public authority. The committee, composed of independent experts, may make recommendations and suggest improvements in order to strengthen, if necessary, the protection of persons visited from torture and from inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

This preventive, non-judicial machinery is an important addition to the system of protection already existing under the European Convention on Human Rights (ETS No. 5).

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**Protocol No. 1 to the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment** ([ETS No. 151](#)), open for signature, in Strasbourg, on 4 November 1993.

Entry into force: 1 March 2002.

The first Protocol "opens" the Convention by providing that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe may invite any non-member State to accede to it.

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**Protocol No. 2 to the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment** ([ETS No. 152](#)), open for signature, in Strasbourg, on 4 November 1993.

Entry into force: 1 March 2002.

Protocol No. 2 introduces amendments of a technical nature. Provision is made for members of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) to be placed in one of two groups for election purposes, the aim being to ensure that one half of the Committee's membership is renewed every two years. The Protocol also provides that members of the CPT may be re-elected twice, instead of only once as at present.