TEACHING HISTORY, GROUNDING DEMOCRACY

This exhibition draws a parallel between the institutional history of the Council of Europe, its milestones and achievements in history education and the major events of the 20th and 21st centuries. It also shows the efforts of the Council of Europe, the only international organisation to have run programmes in this area since 1949, to promote quality history education.

More than 70 years of experience at the Council of Europe have enabled its 46 member states to bring history teaching into line with the Organisation's core values: human rights, democracy and rule of law.

As you explore this exhibition, guided by the explanatory brochure, you will discover the story behind the construction of the Council of Europe and how it has kept #HistoryAtHeart

Scan to view the exhibition brochure

MILESTONE
RECOMMENDATION

○ MEMBERSHIP
○ REINTEGRATION
○ OBSERVER
○ WITHDRAWAL / EXCLUSION

1949 - 1962

The establishment of initial European co-operation activities in the area of history teaching

In the months following the creation of the Council of Europe in 1949, a recommendation is adopted by the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe (now the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe), encouraging the 10 founding member states to prepare a series of impartial books dealing with geography and history. Successive European conferences on the revision of history textbooks highlight the bonds of solidarity that exist between European peoples, a first step towards close international co-operation.

History education and the Council of Europe

1949

7 SEPTEMBER
Recommendation to the Committee of Ministers, adopted at the first session of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe (10 August - 8 September)

The Assembly recommends a co-operation plan including "the preparation of a series of impartial books dealing with the geography and history of European countries which bring out the links between them"

1951

21 MARCH
Creation of the "Internationales Institut für Schulbuchverbesserung", a regular partner of the Council of Europe in the field of history teaching, it will be renamed the "Georg Eckert Institute" in 1975

1952

19 MARCH
Resolution (52) 17 on history and geography textbooks

"The Committee of Ministers […] recommends […] to give special consideration to the question of **revision of textbooks on history and geography** […]"

1953

4-12 AUGUST
Conference on "The European Idea in History Teaching" in Calw (Germany). This is the first of 6 conferences to be held from 1953 to 1957 by the Committee for General and Technical Education - Study Group on History Teaching

First Council of Europe programme focusing on the content of school textbooks, which continues until 1991

1954

15 DECEMBER
Inauguration of the first exhibition on 15th century humanism

19 DECEMBER
European Cultural Convention signed

"Each Contracting Party shall, insofar as may be possible, encourage the study […] of **the languages, history and civilisation of the other Contracting Parties** […]; and **endeavour to promote the study of its language or languages, history and civilisation in the territory of the other Contracting Parties** and grant facilities to the nationals of those Parties to pursue such studies in its territory" (ETS No. 018)

1957

4 JULY
Spain accedes to the Cultural Convention

1959

21 OCTOBER
Council of the Western European Union (WEU) decides to transfer social and cultural activities to the Council of Europe

History of the European construction

Scan here to listen to the speech

> This agreement lays the foundations of something new and hopeful in European life. We are witnessing today the establishment **of a common democratic institution on this ancient continent of Europe.** No one can tell what will be the future of this experiment which we are undertaking. But we are all fixing our hopes upon it, in the belief that the institutions which we are setting up will achieve the purpose of achieving **greater unity among our peoples** and of realising the ideals which we hold in common.
>
> **Ernest Bevin** at the signing of the Treaty of London

1946

19 SEPTEMBER

> We must recreate the **European family** in a regional structure called, it may be, the United States of Europe, and the first practical step **will be to form a Council of Europe**
>
> **Winston Churchill** in Zurich (Switzerland)

1948

7-11 MAY
The Hague Congress (Netherlands). The first major gathering in the history of European federalism, it leads to the foundation of the European Movement and the College of Europe in Bruges (Belgium) and the European University Institute in Florence (Italy)

1949

5 MAY
Signing of the Treaty of London creating the Council of Europe

8-13 AUGUST
The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe meets for the first time in Strasbourg (France)

Scan here to watch the video

OCTOBER 1949
End of the civil war in Greece, which began in 1946

1950

9 MAY
Robert Schuman issues a declaration leading to the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)

4 NOVEMBER
European Convention on Human Rights signed (ETS No. 005)

1951

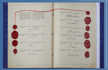
18 APRIL
ECSC established

1952

27 MAY
The signing of the Treaty of Paris instituting the European Defence Community (EDC) marks an unsuccessful attempt to form a European army

1953

3 SEPTEMBER
European Convention on Human Rights enters into force (ETS No. 005)



1955

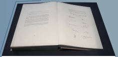
8 DECEMBER
Adoption of the European flag

1956

16 APRIL
Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) established

1957

12 JANUARY
First session of the European Conference of Local Authorities



25 MARCH
Treaty of Rome establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) and Euratom Treaty signed

1959

21 JANUARY
European Court of Human Rights established

1960

4 JANUARY
Stockholm Convention establishing the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) signed

History of international relations

27 JANUARY
Auschwitz liberated by the Red Army

1945

8-9 MAY
Surrender of Nazi Germany

6 & 9 AUGUST
Atomic bombs detonated over Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Japan)

17 AUGUST
Indonesia proclaims independence, marking the start of the wars of decolonisation

1946

5 MARCH

> From Stettin in the Baltic, to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent
>
> **Winston Churchill** in Fulton (United States)

1948

17-25 FEBRUARY
Coup d'état in Prague: Soviet-backed communist regime comes to power in Czechoslovakia

1949

4 APRIL
Signing of the Treaty of Washington establishing the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

1950

25 JUNE
Korean War starts amid growing tension between the two blocs

1954

23 OCTOBER
Creation of the Western European Union (WEU) with responsibilities in the field of education and culture

1955

18-24 APRIL
Bandung Conference (Indonesia) of non-aligned nations

1956

JULY
Start of the Suez Canal crisis

23 OCTOBER - 10 NOVEMBER
Hungarian Uprising

Council of Europe member states

1949 — 1950 — 1956 — 1957

OBSERVATORY ON HISTORY TEACHING IN EUROPE

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

1962 - 1990

Increasingly structured co-operation on history teaching

The period from the early 1960s until the end of the Cold War is a fertile but turbulent one for cultural co-operation and history teaching at the Council of Europe. It begins with the creation of the Council for Cultural Co-operation, a result of the conferences launched in the 1950s and the driving force behind the Council of Europe's work in education and culture. Several symposiums on secondary education are held, and new recommendations and resolutions from the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly adopted. Another feature of this period is growing co-operation with civil society.

1962

10 DECEMBER
Holy See accedes to the Cultural Convention

16 DECEMBER
Council for Cultural Co-operation (CDCC) established

1964

6 OCTOBER
Resolution (64) 11 on "Civics and European education"

"The Committee of Ministers resolves to recommend […] to draw up, with the above considerations in mind, a syllabus which can serve as a model for possible school curricula; […] **to ensure that all disciplines concerned – for instance history,** geography, literature, modern languages – **contribute to the creation of a European consciousness**"

Publication of books based on revised manuals. The first is "Fastes de la liberté" by E. Lousse, which charts the history of political and civil liberty in Europe (1963). The second is "Thèmes européens dans l'Histoire de l'Europe" by E. Lousse, which recounts the history of Europe from a European perspective (1964). Lastly, "Histoire européenne?" summarises all the introductory papers from the Council's conferences on history textbooks (E. Bruley, A. Puttemans and E.H. Dance - 1964)

1965

21 AUGUST-1ST SEPTEMBER
Conference on "History Teaching in Secondary Education" in Elsinore (Denmark), the first of 4 conferences between 1965 and 1983

Resolution (65) 17 on the "Creation of national information and documentation centres for the improvement of history and geography textbooks"

1969

6 MAY
Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (ETS No. 143) signed in London (United Kingdom)

1970

12 JANUARY
European Youth Centre set up in response to the 1968 crisis

1971

8 JULY
European anthem (Ode to Joy) adopted

Scan here to listen to different versions of the anthem

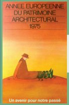
1972

18-23 SEPTEMBER
Symposium on "Religion in history textbooks" in Louvain (Belgium)

European Youth Foundation (EYF) established

EYF
european youth foundation
fonds européen pour la jeunesse

1975


ANNEE EUROPEENNE DU PATRIMOINE ARCHITECTURAL 1975
Un avenir pour notre passé

26 SEPTEMBER
European Charter of the Architectural Heritage signed during European Architectural Heritage Year

1980

1ST OCTOBER
Resolution 743 (1980) of the Parliamentary Assembly on "the need to combat resurgent fascist propaganda and its racist aspects"

4 MARCH
Council of Europe paves the way for the creation of the International Society for History Didactics

ISHD
International Society for History Didactics

1961

18 OCTOBER
European Social Charter signed (ETS No. 035)

1963

14 JANUARY
General de Gaulle vetoes UK membership of the European Economic Community for the first time

1968

24 SEPTEMBER
Consultative Assembly debate on the crisis in society, marking the start of the Council's youth policy

Student and civil protest movements in several countries around the world

1973

1ST JANUARY
United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark join the European Economic Community (EEC)

3 JULY
Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) opens in Helsinki (Finland)

1977

28 JANUARY
"Palais de l'Europe" inaugurated in Strasbourg (France)

24 NOVEMBER
European Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers (ETS No. 093)

1979

7-10 JUNE
First European Parliament elections by direct universal suffrage

19 SEPTEMBER
First environmental protection convention signed in Bern (Switzerland) on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats (ETS No. 104)

1980

22 APRIL
Resolution 727 (1980) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe calling for the abolition of the death penalty

---

1961

2-13 AUGUST
Berlin Wall built

1962

18 MARCH
Evian Accords mark the end of the war in Algeria

16-28 OCTOBER
Cuban missile crisis

1964

7 AUGUST
Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, leading to US intervention in Vietnam

1966

7 MARCH
France withdraws from NATO's integrated command

1967

21 APRIL
Military *coup d'état* in Greece

5-10 JUNE
Six-Day War

1968

5 JANUARY
Start of the Prague Spring which ends on 21 August 1968 with the invasion by Warsaw Pact troops

1971

25 OCTOBER
The People's Republic of China (PRC) replaces Taiwan on the UN Security Council

1972

5 SEPTEMBER
Terrorist attacks at the Olympic Games in Munich (Germany)

1973

6 OCTOBER
Start of the Arab-Israeli War in the Middle East

17 OCTOBER
First oil shock

PUMPS CLOSED

1974

25 APRIL
Carnation Revolution in Portugal

20 JULY
Turkish military intervention in Cyprus

25 JULY
"Regime of the Colonels" collapses in Greece

1975

1ST AUGUST
Signing of the Helsinki Accords (Finland) establishing the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), renamed the OSCE in 1994

1976

JULY
Democratic transition begins in Spain following the death of General Franco

1978

8 SEPTEMBER
Protests in Tehran, start of the Iranian Revolution and second oil shock

1979

27 DECEMBER
Soviet invasion of Afghanistan

1980

19 JULY-3 AUGUST
Moscow Olympic Games (USSR)

12 SEPTEMBER
Military coup in Türkiye

22 SEPTEMBER
Iraq invades Iran

1961 — 1963 — 1965 — 1969 — 1970 — 1974 — 1976 — 1977 — 1978

1983

18 APRIL
Recommendation (83) 4 on the "Promotion of an awareness of Europe in secondary schools"

1985

25 APRIL
Resolution (85) 6 of the Committee of Ministers on European cultural identity

3 OCTOBER
Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, Spain) (ETS No. 121)

1985
Launch of the European Heritage Days: one of the most celebrated participatory cultural events in Europe, co-organised with the European Commission since 1999

1987

7 OCTOBER
Yugoslavia accedes to the Cultural Convention

23 OCTOBER
First Council of Europe Cultural Route established with the Santiago de Compostela Declaration

1988

29 SEPTEMBER
Recommendation (88) 17 of the Committee of Ministers on co-operation with the Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research (history, geography and social studies)

1983

28 APRIL
Protocol No. 6 to the European Convention on Human Rights on the abolition of the death penalty in time of peace (STE No. 114)

1985

15 OCTOBER
Adoption of the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ETS No. 122)

1986

4 MARCH
First ministerial conference of the Council of Europe on equality between women and men in political life

1987

16 JUNE
First agreement between the Council of Europe and the European Economic Community

26 NOVEMBER
European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (ETS No. 126) signed

1988

26 OCTOBER
Eurimages established

7 NOVEMBER
European Campaign on North-South Interdependence and Solidarity launched

1989

1ST JUNE
Catherine Lalumière, first woman elected Secretary General of the Council of Europe

8 JUNE
Council of Europe grants special guest status to Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia and the USSR

6 JULY
Mikhail Gorbachev gives "common European home" speech

16 NOVEMBER
North-South Centre established in Lisbon (Portugal)

1985

11 MARCH
Mikhail Gorbachev becomes leader of the Soviet Union

1986

26 APRIL
Chernobyl disaster

1989

9 NOVEMBER
Fall of the Berlin Wall

Scan here to watch the video

ACHTUNG!
SIE VERLASSEN
wiedenn
WEST-BERLIN

1990 to the present

Teaching history in a pan-European Council of Europe

The period from 1990 to the present day sees the Council of Europe gain increasing prominence, as it becomes the first pan-European organisation to embrace a new dimension of international relations. Over the years, a series of intergovernmental projects on history teaching leads to a number of flagship recommendations. The creation of the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe as an enlarged partial agreement of the Council of Europe in 2020 opens up new opportunities and provides an academic underpinning to debates around history teaching.

1990

9 MAY
Creation of the International Students of History Association (ISHA), a partner of the Council of Europe

11-14 SEPTEMBER
Educational research workshop "History and Social Studies – Methodologies of Textbook Analysis" in Brunswick (Germany) defines what a history textbook should be

1991

9-13 DECEMBER
Bruges symposium: for the first time, history teachers from western and eastern Europe meet to share their views on history teaching as part of the "New Europe" project (1989 – 1998)

1992

16 JANUARY
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised) (Valletta Convention) (ETS No. 143)

5 NOVEMBER
Signing of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, containing a reference to history teaching (ETS No. 148)

1992
European Association of History Educators (EUROCLIO) established with the support of the Council of Europe

EuroClio

1996

22 JANUARY
Recommendation 1283 (1996) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) "History and the learning of history in Europe"

1997

16-19 FEBRUARY
The project "Learning and teaching about the history of Europe in the 20th century" (1997-2001) leads to Recommendation 2001(15) on history teaching in twenty-first century Europe

11 APRIL
Lisbon Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region in collaboration with UNESCO (ETS No. 165)

1998

30 OCTOBER
Decision to launch the "Europe, a common heritage" campaign adopted at the second Council of Europe summit in 1997 in Strasbourg (France)

2001

31 OCTOBER
Recommendation (2001) 15 of the Committee of Ministers on "history teaching in twenty-first Europe"

The Committee of Ministers underlines that **ideological falsifications and manipulations of history are incompatible with the fundamental principles of the Council of Europe** and that history teaching can be one of the fundamental parts of the freely agreed building of Europe

2002
Launch of the project on the European dimension in history teaching (2002-2006)

18 OCTOBER
First ministerial seminar in Strasbourg on remembrance of the Holocaust and prevention of crimes against humanity and official launch of the "Day of Holocaust Remembrance and Prevention of Crimes against Humanity"

1990

10 MARCH
Creation of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)

29 MAY
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) established

1992

7 FEBRUARY
Maastricht Treaty establishing the European Union (EU) signed

2 OCTOBER
Convention on cinematographic co-production signed (ETS No. 147)

15 DECEMBER
European Audiovisual Observatory established

1993

Europe Summit
Conseil de l'Europe
Europaratsgipfel

8-9 OCTOBER
First Council of Europe summit in Vienna (Austria), to redefine the organisation's role after the fall of the Iron Curtain

Creation of the Council of Europe's European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and launch of the youth campaign "All different, all equal"

1994

14 JANUARY
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe established

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

8 APRIL
European Centre for Modern Languages established in Graz (Austria)

1995

1ST FEBRUARY
Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (ETS No. 157) signed

15 DECEMBER
European Youth Centre opens in Budapest (Hungary)

1997

2 OCTOBER
Treaty of Amsterdam (Netherlands) signed, giving the European Union wider powers

10-11 OCTOBER
Second Council of Europe summit in Strasbourg (France)

1998

1ST NOVEMBER
European Court of Human Rights becomes a full-time institution

1999

1ST MAY
Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) established at the Council of Europe

2000

6 APRIL
Voting rights of the Russian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) suspended over the conflict in Chechnya

7 DECEMBER
EU Charter of Fundamental Rights adopted

2001

26 FEBRUARY
Signing of the Treaty of Nice (France) amending the EU Treaty

2002

21 FEBRUARY
Protocol No. 13 to the European Convention on Human Rights, abolishing the death penalty in all circumstances, enters into force (ETS No. 187)

1990

3 OCTOBER
German reunification

19-21 NOVEMBER
Summit of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) and adoption of the Paris Charter for a New Europe

8 DECEMBER
Community of Independent States (CIS) formed from former Soviet republics

1991

JUNE
War breaks out in the former Yugoslavia

25 DECEMBER
Mikhail Gorbachev resigns and the USSR is dissolved

1993

4 OCTOBER
Amid violent political tensions between communists, nationalists and liberals, Boris Yeltsin orders the shelling of the Russian parliament

1995

14 DECEMBER
Dayton Accords end interethnic fighting in Bosnia and Herzegovina

YES
VOTE YES. IT'S THE WAY AHEAD.

1998

10 APRIL
Good Friday Agreement signed in Belfast (United Kingdom)

1999

10 JUNE
UN Resolution 1244 on Kosovo

2000

MARCH
Dot-com bubble bursts

2001

11 SEPTEMBER
Terrorist attacks on the United States

1988 — 1989 — 1990 — 1991 — 1992 — 1993 — 1994 — 1995 — 1996 — 1999 — 2001 — 2002

2003

Publication of "Multiperspectivity in History Teaching: A Guide for Teachers"

2005

4-6 MAY

Second ministerial seminar around the Holocaust and crimes against humanity in Krakow and Auschwitz-Birkenau (Poland)

27 OCTOBER

Faro Convention (Portugal) on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (ETS No. 199) signed

2006

24-25 APRIL

Third ministerial seminar around the Holocaust and crimes against humanity in Prague and Terezin

4 MAY

Release of the first Franco-German history textbook for secondary school pupils: "Europe and the world since 1945"

Launch of Council of Europe intergovernmental project "The image of the other in history teaching"

2007

Publication of "Crossroads of European Histories – Multiple Outlooks on Five Key Moments in the History of Europe" culmination of five conferences held since 2002

2008

5-7 NOVEMBER

Fourth ministerial seminar around the Holocaust and crimes against humanity held in Nuremberg and Dachau (Germany)

2009

MAY

Council of Europe publishes collection of factsheets on Roma history

18 JUNE

Tromsø Convention on Access to Official Documents (CETS No. 205) signed

26 JUNE

Recommendation 1880 (2009) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, "teaching history in conflict and post-conflict areas" which calls for:

> **A multiperspective approach** that assists and encourages students to respect diversity and cultural difference in this increasingly globalised world, **rather than conventional teaching, which can reinforce the more negative aspects of nationalism.**

2010

11 MAY

Recommendation (2010) 7 of the Committee of Ministers to the member states on the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education

8 DECEMBER

Creation of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe based in Luxembourg

2011

6 JULY

Recommendation (2011) 6 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on "intercultural dialogue and the image of the other in history teaching" adopted following the project of the same name (2006-2009)

2014

SHARED HISTORIES
FOR A EUROPE
WITHOUT
DIVIDING LINES

Intergovernmental project "Shared histories for a Europe without dividing lines" (2010-2014) produces an innovative publication for teachers and students

2015

23-24 APRIL

Call of Namur (Belgium) launched by the ministers of the States Parties to the European Cultural Convention, to promote a shared and unifying approach to cultural heritage management

2016

1 & 2 JUNE

Launch of the intergovernmental project "Educating for diversity and democracy: teaching history in contemporary Europe"

2017

22 FEBRUARY

Recommendation (2017) 1 of the Committee of Ministers on the European Cultural Heritage Strategy for the 21st century

2018

SEPTEMBER

"Quality history education in the 21st century – Principles and guidelines" published, with the aim of enhancing the expertise and capability needed if history education is to play its role successfully and reflect the values of democracy and human rights

QUALITY HISTORY
EDUCATION
IN THE 21st CENTURY
PRINCIPLES
AND GUIDELINES

2019

4 OCTOBER

Recommendation 2165 (2019) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the preservation of the Jewish cultural heritage

26 NOVEMBER

Signing of the Paris Declaration aimed at setting up an Observatory on History Teaching in Europe (OHTE) at the Council of Europe

2020

1ST JULY

Adoption of Recommendation (2020) 2 of the Committee of Ministers on the inclusion of the history of Roma and/or Travellers in school curricula and teaching materials

12 NOVEMBER

Observatory on History Teaching in Europe (OHTE) established by 17 member states of the Council of Europe

OBSERVATORY
ON HISTORY TEACHING
IN EUROPE

2022

17 MARCH

Recommendation (2022) 5 of the Committee of Ministers on passing on remembrance of the Holocaust and preventing crimes against humanity

28 APRIL

European Union and Council of Europe joint project HISTOLAB ("Transnational History Education and Co-operation Laboratory") launched to support co-operation and innovation in history education

2023

MARCH

Publication of first OHTE thematic report on "Pandemics and Natural Disasters as reflected in history teaching"

PANDEMICS AND NATURAL
DISASTERS AS REFLECTED
IN HISTORY TEACHING

Scan to view the report

7-8 MARCH

Organisation of the Forum of the Council of Europe's intergovernmental project on history teaching "History teaching in the digital age"

HISTORY
EDUCATION
IN THE DIGITAL AGE

#HISTOLAB
EUROPEAN INNOVATION
DAYS IN HISTORY
EDUCATION
#HistoryldHeart

8-10 MARCH

1st European Days of Innovation in History Teaching, an event organised as part of the HISTOLAB joint project of the European Union and the Council of Europe.

Perspectives for the future

The Council of Europe stands as one of the most active international organisations in this area; setting standards on history education and undertaking initiatives that strengthen intergovernmental co-operation. The greatest challenge today is to confront the instrumentalisation of history – a trend that is magnified in the digital age, and that heightens the risk of conflict within and outside Europe. Central to this effort is the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe. Its mission is to provide a clear picture of the state of history teaching in its member states and acts as a powerful counterbalance against misleading narratives.

How does the Council of Europe intend to pursue the promotion of quality history education?

While one cannot predict how history's waves unfurl – as this exhibition tries to show – our commitment to empowering young people to think critically, understand their past and forge stronger democracies for tomorrow will remain.

2004

1ST MAY

5th eastward enlargement of the European Union

NOVEMBER

Start of the Orange Revolution in Ukraine

2005

16-17 MAY

3rd Council of Europe summit in Warsaw (Poland)

> We pay tribute to all those who have made it possible to **overcome painful divisions and enlarge our area of democratic security.** Today, Europe is guided by a political philosophy of inclusion and complementarity and by a common commitment to multilateralism based on international law

MAY-JUNE

In referenda, France and the Netherlands reject the European Constitution

2007

1ST JANUARY

Romania and Bulgaria join the European Union

15 FEBRUARY

EU's Fundamental Rights Agency established in Vienna (Austria)

13 DECEMBER

Lisbon Treaty signed, reforming the functioning of the European Union

2008

1ST FEBRUARY

Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (ETS No. 197) enters into force

2011

11 MAY

Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CETS No. 210)

2013

1ST JULY

Croatia joins the European Union

2014

10 APRIL

Voting rights of the Russian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe suspended over the invasion of Crimea

28 FEBRUARY

Russian Federation invades the Ukrainian region of Crimea

2016

23 JUNE

Referendum on Brexit with 51.89% voting in favour of the UK leaving the European Union

2017

19 MAY

Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property (CETS No. 221)

2020

1ST FEBRUARY

United Kingdom leaves the European Union (Brexit)

THE PEOPLE HAVE THE POWER
EVERYONE WELCOME HERE

2023

16-17 MAY

4th Council of Europe summit in Reykjavik (Iceland)

> We welcome the Council of Europe's prominent role in international standard-setting on freedom of expression and related issues such as media freedom, access to information and **combatting hate speech and disinformation, including the instrumentalisation of history**, in particular in the light of the increasing impact of digital technologies on these issues. We will continue our collective efforts for the safety of journalists and other media actors.

2003

20 MARCH

US-led coalition invades Iraq

2004

24 APRIL

Referendums involving Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus - UN plan for island reunification fails to materialise

OCTOBER

Worldwide controversy surrounds the publication of Muhammad cartoons by Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten

2008

7-8 AUGUST

War breaks out between Russia and Georgia over the separatist region of South Ossetia

AUTUMN

Global economic crisis

2011

11 MARCH

Nuclear disaster in Fukushima (Japan)

2014

2015

7 JANUARY

Attack on the French newspaper Charlie Hebdo

SUMMER

Europe's migration and humanitarian crisis reaches a peak. In response to this crisis, the Council of Europe appoints a special representative on migration and refugees

2020

FEBRUARY-MARCH

Start of the COVID-19 pandemic

2022

24 FEBRUARY

Russian Federation launches war against Ukraine

16 MARCH

Russian Federation excluded from the Council of Europe

2023

4 APRIL

Finland joins NATO

2003 — **2004** — **2007** — **2022**