



Council of Europe ON Forum

High-level conference with Ombudsperson institutions and National Human Rights
Institutions (NHRIs)

12-13 March 2026, Strasbourg, France

Programme

Thursday 12 March, Palais de l'Europe, room 1

9:00 – 9:20 Welcome coffee/ Registration

9:20 – 9:45 Welcoming addresses / Introduction

- Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- Daniela Cujbă, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova, President of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

9:45 – 10:05 Keynote speech

- Egils Levits, Former President of Latvia, Former Judge of the European Court of Human Rights

10:05 – 12:05 Session n°1 – Foreign interference in democratic processes

Moderator: Alexis Fricker, Journalist, ARTE

- Ceslav Panico, People's Advocate (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Moldova
- Alyson Kilpatrick, GANHRI Secretary, Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission
- Dmytro Lubinets, Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights
- Hanne Juncker, Director of Security, Integrity and Rule of Law, DGI, Council of Europe

Young challenger, Orlando Moore, LLM student at the University of Liverpool

12:05 – 14:00 Family picture
Lunch provided by the Council of Europe, Blue Restaurant



14:00 - 15:30 **Session n°2 – Erosion of checks and balances**

Moderator: Clare Ovey, Director of Human Rights, DGI, Council of Europe

- Sirpa Rautio, Director of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
- Rafael Bustos Gisbert, member in respect of Spain, Venice Commission, Council of Europe
- Louise Holck, ENNHRI Chair, Director of the Danish Institute of Human Rights
- Reinier Van Zutphen, Regional Director of International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) Europe, National Ombudsman of the Netherlands

Young challenger, Isaac Clark, LLB student at the University of Liverpool

15:30 – 15:45 Break

15:45 – 17:15 **Session n°3 – Youth involvement**

Moderator: Tobias Flessenkemper, Head of the Youth Department, DGII, Council of Europe

- Claire Hédon, Defender of rights, France
- Liam Herrick, Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC)
- Maurizio Cuttin, Vice-Chairperson of the Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe
- Tigran Manukyan, Coordinator of the Public Council on Children’s and Youth Rights adjunct to the Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia

Young challenger: Maja-Magdalena Klein, Winner of the Council of Europe hackathon “Outsmart disinformation, protect free speech”

17:15 - 17:30 **Concluding remarks of the first day**

- Clare Ovey, Director of Human Rights, DGI, Council of Europe

18:00 – 19:30 **Reception** (*Committee of Ministers foyer, Palais de l’Europe*)

Please turn for the second day



Friday 13 March, European Court of Human Rights, Seminar room

9:30 – 10:10 Opening remarks

- Mattias Guyomar, President of the European Court of Human Rights
- Michael O’Flaherty, Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe
- Louise Holck, ENNHRI Chair, Director of the Danish Institute of Human Rights
- Marialena Tsirli, Registrar, European Court of Human Rights

10:10 – 11:10 Session n°1 – ECtHR caselaw on Freedom of expression with a particular focus on the role of NHRIs and Ombuds Institutions

Moderator: Judge Diana Kovatcheva, European Court of Human Rights

- Judge Oddný Mjöll Arnardóttir, European Court of Human Rights
- Rick Lawson, President of the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights
- Anahit Manasyan, Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia

11:10 – 11:30 Break

11:30 – 12:30 Session n°2 – Third party interventions before the Court and the role of NHRIs and Ombuds Institutions

Moderator: Michael O’Neill, Head of Legal, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

- Judge Vasilka Sancin, European Court of Human Rights
- Andreas Pottakis, Greek Ombudsman
- John Darcy, Grand Chamber Registrar, European Court of Human Rights

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch – Cafeteria of the European Court of Human Rights

14:00 – 15:00 Session n°3 – Dissemination of the caselaw of the ECtHR, the Execution of judgments and the role of NHRIs and Ombuds Institutions

Moderator: Debbie Kohner, ENNHRI Secretary General

- Judge Mykola Gnatovskyy, European Court of Human Rights
- Simona Drenik Bavdek, Human Rights Ombudswoman of the Republic of Slovenia
- Frédéric Dolt, Head of the Department for the Execution of Judgments, DGI, Council of Europe

15:00 - 15:15 Closing remarks

- Judge Diana Kovatcheva, European Court of Human Rights