

Seminar CDDH-PluriCourts

Effective implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights – enhancing domestic dialogue and co-ordination

Speakers / Panellists

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Mr Christophe POIREL

Director of Human Rights, Council of Europe

Christophe Poirel is Director of Human Rights of the Council of Europe since July 2018. He is responsible for the departments in charge of supervising the execution of judgments of the European Court, social rights and the implementation of the European Social Charter, intergovernmental co-operation in the fields of human rights and Bioethics as well as Council of Europe's activities concerning the independence and functioning of judicial systems. He has previously served as Deputy Secretary of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe between 2010 and 2018, with particular responsibility for political and human rights issues, having held various positions in the human rights field since 1989.



Mr Robert SPANO

President of the European Court of Human Rights

Judge Robert Spano was elected to the European Court of Human Rights in 2013 with respect to Iceland and is currently the President of the Court. Before taking up his judicial office he served as Parliamentary Ombudsman of Iceland from 2009–2010 and again in 2013. He served as Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Iceland, from 2010–2013, and was appointed professor of law in 2006. He was chairman of the Standing Committee of Experts in Criminal Law in the Icelandic Ministry of Justice from 2003–2009 and from 2011–2013. He was also the Icelandic delegate to the European Committee on Crime Problems and an Independent Expert to the Lanzarote Committee of the Council of Europe. Judge Spano is a graduate of the University of Iceland and of the University of Oxford.



Mr Morten RUUD

Chair of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH)

Morten Ruud has a law degree from University of Oslo and has held various positions in the Norwegian Ministry of Justice since 1976, including 6 years as Director General of the Polar Affairs Department. He was Secretary General from 1997 to 2012 and Governor of Svalbard 1998-2001. He has represented Norway at a number of international conferences and committees, especially relating to human rights, humanitarian law, fight against terrorism. He chaired the expert committee that drafted Protocol 11 to the ECHR (Merger of the Court and the Commission). He has also chaired the CoE committee of experts on the reform of the Court (DH-GDR) and is now chairing the Steering Committee on Human Rights (CDDH) and the working group on human rights and migration (DH-MIG).

**Ms Clare OVEY**

Head of Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights

Clare Ovey is a UK-qualified lawyer who joined the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights in 1995. She has been working within the execution process since 2016, first in the Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers, and then in the Department for the Execution of the Court's judgments, where she has been Head of Department since July 2020.

**Mr Alfonso BREZMES MARTÍNEZ DE VILLARREAL**

Agent of the Kingdom of Spain before the European Court of Human Rights

Alfonso Brezmes has been a State attorney since 1994. He is currently the agent of the Kingdom of Spain before the European Court of Human Rights and member of the Bureau of the Steering Committee for Human Rights of the Council of Europe (CDDH). He has previously held, among other positions, that of Coordinator of the Contentious-Administrative Jurisdiction in the State Attorney General's Office and that of Deputy Director General of Technical Auditing Standards. In addition to his professional work, he has published numerous books of poetry both in Spain and abroad.

**Mr Jan SOBCZAK**

Agent of the Government of Poland before the European Court of Human Rights

Jan Sobczak is Deputy Director of the Legal and Treaty Department of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Polish Government Agent before the ECtHR. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2002 after having completed legal studies at the European University Viadrina (Germany), the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (Poland) and postgraduate studies at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. Between 2006-2009 he worked as a lawyer at the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in the Secretariat of the Council of Europe. Between 2009-2012 he was co-agent in charge of the execution of judgments of the ECtHR and actively participated in the reform process of the European Court of Human Rights (also as a member of the Polish delegation to high-level conferences in Interlaken, Izmir and Brighton). Between 2012-2018 he served as consul and subsequently consul general of the Republic of Poland in Cologne.

**Ms Debbie KOHNER**

Secretary General of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI)

Debbie Kohner is Secretary General of ENNHRI, the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs). ENNHRI enhances the promotion and protection of human rights across Europe, by supporting, strengthening and connecting NHRIs. Debbie is a qualified solicitor, having practised law in London and Madrid. She also worked in the NGO sector, including co-convening a coalition of equality and human rights organisations in Northern Ireland. Previously, she coordinated a major research project to set up the first reporting system for racist incidents in New Zealand. She has also worked at Westminster, the UK Parliament.

Debbie studied law at Jesus College, Oxford; Université de Paris II; and College of Europe; as well as Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Ulster.



Ms Başak Çalı

Hertie School

Başak Çalı is Professor of International Law at the Hertie School and Co-Director of the School's Centre for Fundamental Rights. She is an expert in international law and institutions, international human rights law and policy. She has authored publications on theories of international law, the relationship between international law and domestic law, standards of review in international law, interpretation of human rights law, legitimacy of human rights courts, and implementation of human rights judgments. Çalı is the Chair of European Implementation Network and a Fellow of the Human Rights Centre of the University of Essex. She has acted as a Council of Europe expert on the European Convention on Human Rights since 2002. She has extensive experience in training members of the judiciary and lawyers across Europe in the field of human rights law. She received her PhD in International Law from the University of Essex in 2003.



Mr Matthew SAUL

Associate Professor in Law at Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences

Matthew Saul is Associate Professor in Law at Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences and a guest researcher at PluriCourts – Centre for the Study of the Legitimate Roles of the Judiciary in the Global Order. He publishes on aspects of general international law, international human rights law, and international adjudication. Saul is the author of 'Shaping Legislative Processes from Strasbourg', *European Journal of International Law* (2021). He is co-editor of *The International Human Rights Judiciary and National Parliaments* (2017). His monograph *Popular Governance of Post-Conflict Reconstruction: The Role of International Law* was published by Cambridge University Press in 2014.



Mr Øyvind STIANSEN

Postdoctoral Fellow at PluriCourts, University of Oslo

Øyvind Stiansen is a Postdoctoral Fellow at PluriCourts, University of Oslo. He holds a PhD in political science from the University of Oslo. His research focuses on compliance with judicial decisions, judicial impact, and judicial decision-making, with a particular emphasis on the European Court of Human Rights.



Mr Philip Leach

Middlesex University London

Philip Leach is Professor of Human Rights Law at Middlesex University, a solicitor, and Director of the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre (EHRAC: ehrac.org.uk), also based at Middlesex University, London. He has extensive experience of representing applicants before the European Court of Human Rights, in particular from the former Soviet region, as well as the UK and Turkey. He researches and publishes widely in the field of international human rights law. He was a member of the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody from 2009–2015 and a member of the Harris Review (2014–2015). He was appointed Specialist Adviser to the Joint Committee on Human Rights for its inquiry into mental health and deaths in prison in 2016–2017. He is Co-Supervisor of the

Turkey Human Rights Litigation Support Project (www.turkeylitigationsupport.com). He is Vice-Chair of the European Implementation Network (EIN), a member of the Advisory Board of the Open Society Justice Initiative, and a former trustee of the Media Legal Defence Initiative and the Human Dignity Trust. He is the author of 'Taking a Case to the European Court of Human Rights', 4th ed., Oxford University Press, 2017. In 2015, Leach was named Human Rights Lawyer of the Year by the Law Society of England and Wales.



Mr Vit Alexander SCHORM

Chair of the Drafting Group on enhancing the national implementation of the system of the European Convention on Human Rights (DH-SYSC-V)

Vít Alexander Schorm has been the Agent of the Government of the Czech Republic before the European Court of Human Rights since 2002 and before the European Committee of Social Rights since 2017. He graduated from the Faculty of Law of Masaryk University in Brno in 1996, studied public comparative law at l'Université de Paris I – Panthéon-Sorbonne (D.E.A. in 1998) and is an alumnus of the French École nationale d'administration (2002). He also worked in the Supreme Court of the Czech Republic (1996–1997) and in the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (1998–2000). In the Council of Europe, he chaired various groups of experts, including the Steering Committee for Human Rights (2014–2015) and most recently a drafting group on enhancing the national implementation of the system of the European Convention on Human Rights (DH-SYSC-V).



Mr Murray HUNT

Director of the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law

Murray Hunt is Director of the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law. From 2004 to 2017, Murray was Legal Adviser to the Joint Committee on Human Rights in the UK Parliament. Before that, he was a practising barrister in London between 1992 and 2004 at Matrix, with a wide-ranging practice in public law and human rights. Murray is currently the U.K.'s alternate member of the Venice Commission, the Council of Europe's Commission for Democracy Through Law. He is Legal Adviser to the All Party Parliamentary Group on the Rule of Law, and a Visiting Professor in Human Rights Law at Oxford University where he leads a long term research project on Parliaments, Rule of Law and Human Rights. He was recently an Independent Member of the Scottish National Taskforce on Human Rights Leadership.



Mr Leif BERG

Head of Knowledge Management – Senior Legal Adviser, Directorate of the Jurisconsult, European Court of Human Rights

Leif Berg is Head of Knowledge Management and a senior legal adviser in the European Court. In this capacity he oversees the functioning of the Superior Courts Network, including its knowledge-sharing platform as well as capacity-building webinars and workshops for the benefit of judges and legal officers from over 90 courts from 40 States. He also oversees the Court's case-law translation programme "Bringing the Convention closer to home" which has transformed the HUDOC case-law database and the Court's website into a one-stop shop for translations of case-law and thematic knowledge material in over 30 languages. Mr Berg has also been a Legal Officer in the Registry as well as Registrar of the Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia-Herzegovina.



Mr Marcin SZWED

Lawyer, Strategic Litigation Programme, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights

Dr. Marcin Szwed is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Warsaw and lawyer at the Strategic Litigation Programme of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights. His research interests include: rights of persons with disabilities, constitutional adjudication, protection of the rule of law. Author of a monograph on the international and constitutional standards in the sphere of involuntary placement in psychiatric establishment (published in Polish) and numerous journal articles. As part of his professional duties in the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights he took part in litigations before the European Court of Human Rights, authored several amicus curiae opinions and monitored implementation of the Court's judgments.



Ms Janneke GERARDS

Professor of fundamental rights law, Utrecht University (Netherlands)

Janneke Gerards is professor of fundamental rights law at Utrecht University, director of the Montaigne Centre for Rule of Law and Administration of Justice, and Dean of the Legal Research Master. Her research focuses on European fundamental rights law, equal treatment, judicial review and new technologies. Her activities outside the university include being a deputy Judge in the Appeals Court of The Hague. She is also a member of the Human Rights Commission of the Dutch Advisory Council on International Affairs and of the Advisory Board of the Netherlands Human Rights Institute. Since 2015, Janneke Gerards is a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.



Mr Fredrik SUNDBERG

Head of Research, Institute of Public and International Law, Stockholm

Fredrik Sundberg is Head of Research, Institute of Public and International Law, Stockholm. Formerly he has been the Head of the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights and held different positions linked with the Committee of Minister's supervision of execution; Secretary to the Committee for the improvement of procedures for the protection of HR; Lawyer in the Secretariat of the former Commission of HR and in the Registry of the Court; Captain in the Swedish naval reserve; Professor in HR protection, College of Europe, Warsaw; Researcher in market regulations, Stockholm University; Assistant judge and police intern, Stockholm; Law degrees from Stockholm University and New York University.



Mr Mikhail LOBOV

Head of Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards, Council of Europe

Mikhail Lobov received his legal degree in 1992 from Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO-University). In 1995, he earned a master's degree (D.E.A) in international law from Robert Schuman University (Strasbourg), and in 2004, a LL.M. from Columbia University Law School (New York). He joined the Council of Europe in 1997 where he served successively as a Legal Officer dealing with the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, Head of Legal Division at the Court's Registry and Head of the Human Rights Policy and Co-operation Department at the Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI). In March 2021 he took the lead of a new Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards. In 1995-1997, he taught constitutional law at Robert Schuman University of Strasbourg. His academic record also includes numerous lectures and publications on the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights.



Mr Pavlo PUSHKAR

Head of Division, Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court, Council of Europe

Pavlo Pushkar is a head of division at the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights of the Directorate General of Human Rights and the Rule of Law of the Council of Europe. He has worked at the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights from 2002 to 2016 as a senior lawyer and a non-judicial rapporteur. He was also a secretary to the Council of Europe mediators from 2009 to 2016. Before joining the Council of Europe, he worked as an advocate in the areas of international litigation and arbitration and as a public servant at the Supreme Court of Ukraine. Mr Pushkar has a PhD in criminal justice. He is a graduate of Kyiv Taras Shevchenko University Law Faculty (BA and MA in Laws, with honours); the Nottingham University School of Law (LLM in International Law); Queens Mary College University of London (International Arbitration). He is currently pursuing his research on compliance with international law at the Max Planck Institute of European Procedural Law in Luxembourg as well as the School of International Relations and International Law in Lviv. He has written extensively on the Convention and the case-law of the Court, execution of Strasbourg judgments, in academic journals in various Council of Europe member states.



Ms Simona GRANATA-MENGHINI

Director/Secretary of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)

Simona Granata-Menghini is the Director/Secretary of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) since 1 February 2021. She was previously Deputy Secretary, since 2010, and Head of the Constitutional Cooperation Division (2001 to 2010). Before joining the Directorate General of Human Rights, she was a legal officer at the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights (1998-2000) and previously at the European Commission of Human Rights (1994-1998). From 1997 to 1999, she was Senior Deputy Ombudsperson for Human Rights of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Sarajevo and Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Mr Hans-Jörg BEHRENS

German Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection

Dr. Hans-Jörg Behrens studied law in Marburg, Göttingen and London (King's College), joining the Federal Ministry of Justice in 1991. He was a member of the German team for the creation of the International Criminal Court and a member of the Drafting Committee at the 1998 Rome Conference. From 2001 to 2005 he was Head of the Cabinet and Parliament Liaison Office in the Ministry. Since 2005 he has been Co-Agent and Agent before the ECHR and Head of the Ministry's Human Rights Office. In 2016/17 he was Vice-Chair and in 2018/19 Chair of the Steering Committee on Human Rights (CDDH); currently he chairs the Committee on the System of the European Convention on Human Rights (DH-SYSC).



Mr Geir ULFSTEIN

University of Oslo

Geir Ulfstein is Professor of International Law at the University of Oslo and Co-Director of PluriCourts – Centre for the Study of the Legitimate Roles of the Judiciary in the Global Order. He has published in different areas of international law, including the law of the sea, international environmental law, international human rights and international institutional law. Ulfstein is Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board, Max Planck Institute for Procedural Law, Luxembourg and has been Co-chair of the International Law Association's Study Group on the 'Content and Evolution of the Rules of Interpretation' (2015–2020). He has been member of the Executive Board of the European Society of International Law (2010–2016). Ulfstein is President of the Norwegian Branch of the International Law Association (ILA).
