

# COUNCIL OF EUROPE

## Highlights 2013



Guardian of human rights,  
democracy and  
the rule of law

Activity report

Top from left to right:

The **No Hate Speech Movement** was launched by the Council of Europe in March

**Štefan Füle**, European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, during the Parliamentary Assembly session in January

**Joachim Gauck**, President of Germany, during the Parliamentary Assembly session in April

Bottom from left to right:

Secretary General of the Council of Europe **Thorbjørn Jagland**, addressing the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva in February

**Cécile Kyenge Kashetu**, Minister of Integration of Italy, addressing the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in October.

**French edition**

*Conseil de l'Europe:  
points forts 2013*

All rights reserved.  
No part of this publication  
may be translated,  
reproduced or transmitted,  
in any form or  
by any means, electronic  
(CD-Rom, Internet, etc.)  
or mechanical, including  
photocopying, recording  
or any information storage  
or retrieval system,  
without the prior  
permission in writing  
from the Directorate  
of Communications  
(F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex  
or publishing@coe.int).

Photos  
© Council of Europe  
Page 25 ©To Vima

Layout and cover design:  
**SPDP**

Published by the Council of Europe  
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex  
**www.coe.int**

© Council of Europe, May 2014  
Printed at the Council of Europe

# COUNCIL OF EUROPE

## Highlights 2013

Guardian of human rights,  
democracy and  
the rule of law

Activity report



**Thorbjørn Jagland,**  
Council of Europe Secretary General,  
**World Forum for Democracy** (November)

# Contents

<b>COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY</b>	<b>13</b>
Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy	13
Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights	14
Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)	14
Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media	14
Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development	14
Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs	14
Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination	15
Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons	15
Inter-parliamentary Co-operation and Election Observation	15
Parliamentary Projects	15
Communication	15
<b>CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE</b>	<b>17</b>
Monitoring local and regional democracy	17
Targeted co-operation programmes	18
Institutional co-operation	18
The Congress in session	19
Action in the field	19
<b>EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	<b>20</b>
Improved protection at national level: domestic remedies	20
Increasing access to the Court's case law	21
More cases decided, less cases pending	21
Changes in the Court's membership	21
<b>COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	<b>23</b>
Country monitoring	23
Thematic work	25
Co-operation with other human rights actors	25
<b>EXTERNAL RELATIONS</b>	<b>27</b>
Policy towards neighbouring regions	27
Relations with the EU, the UN and the OSCE	27
Relations with other organisations and other countries	27
<b>POLICY PLANNING AND POLITICAL ADVICE</b>	<b>28</b>
Policy planning	28
Schools of political studies	28
Political advice	29
<b>HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW</b>	<b>31</b>
Protection and development of human rights	31
Specific human rights issues	33
Rule of law	34
Justice and legal co-operation	36
<b>DEMOCRACY</b>	<b>39</b>
Democratic governance	39
Democratic citizenship and participation	41
Human dignity and equality	42
Roma issues	45
<b>ACTIONS IN THE FIELD AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION</b>	<b>47</b>
Eastern Europe	47
Southern Caucasus	47
South-Eastern Europe	48
Southern Neighbourhood	48
Resource mobilisation and donor relations	49
<b>PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	<b>53</b>
Media relations	53
Public relations and publications	54
<b>2013 CONTRIBUTIONS OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEMBER STATES</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>2013 VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>2013 ORGANISATION CHART OF THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE</b>	<b>60</b>



Handover between outgoing Chairperson **Gilbert Saboya Sunyé**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Andorra, and **Edward Nalbandian**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia



Handover between outgoing Chairperson **Edward Nalbandian**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, and **Michael Spindelegger**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria

# Committee of Ministers

*The texts adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2013 can be consulted on the following site: [www.coe.int/t/cm](http://www.coe.int/t/cm)*

**During 2013, the Committee of Ministers was chaired by Andorra until 16 May 2013, then by Armenia until 14 November 2013 and thereafter by Austria.**

■ At its 123rd Ministerial Session (16 May 2013), the Committee reiterated its priority to implement the Interlaken, Izmir and Brighton Declarations, the aims of which are to ensure the long-term effectiveness of the supervisory mechanism set up under the European Convention on Human Rights. It adopted Protocol No. 15 amending the Convention, and opened it for signature on 24 June 2013. The Committee of Ministers also welcomed the measures already taken by States Parties to the Convention to implement the European Court of Human Rights' judgments and encouraged them to continue their efforts in this regard, providing special efforts where structural and systemic problems generating repetitive applications to the Court were concerned.

■ The Ministers also invited the Secretary General to present to it on a regular basis an overview of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe, based on the findings of the monitoring mechanisms. This overview will be accompanied by proposals for action to be taken by the Organisation.

■ In the context of the follow-up to the Brighton Declaration, the Committee of Ministers adopted a "toolkit" to inform public officials about the States Parties' obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights and a *Guide to good practice in respect of domestic remedies*.

■ The Committee of Ministers met on three occasions to **supervise the execution of Court judgments**, and closed 780 cases. Regarding the group of cases *Mahmudov and Agazade v. Azerbaijan*, the Ministers expressed, *inter alia*, deep regret that the Parliament of Azerbaijan had adopted amendments to the Criminal Code and the Code of Administrative Offences of Azerbaijan that impose criminal penalties for defamation and insult on the Internet. It urged the Azerbaijani authorities to pursue their co-operation with the Venice Commission with a view to drafting the law on defamation.



#### 123rd Session of the Committee of Ministers

on "Democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Europe: strengthening the impact of the Council of Europe's activities"

■ In the case of ***Sejdić and Finci v. Bosnia and Herzegovina***, the Committee, while noting the intensive efforts of the political leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina to arrive at a consensual solution on the constitutional reform, firmly called upon all authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to ensure that the constitutional and legislative framework is immediately brought in line with the requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights so that the elections in October 2014 are held without any discrimination against those citizens who are not affiliated with any of the "constituent peoples".

■ Regarding ***A., B. and C. v. Ireland***, the Committee noted with satisfaction, *inter alia*, the decision of the authorities to implement the judgment through legislation and regulations. In the execution of the **Străin group of cases/Maria Atanasiu and others**, the Ministers' Deputies welcomed the determination shown by the Romanian authorities, which had allowed the adoption of a new law reforming the reparation mechanism for properties nationalised under the communist regime, with a view to ensuring its effectiveness and viability.

■ With regard to ***Garabayev v. Russia***, the Committee noted that several applications submitted by foreign nationals were currently pending before the Court concerning alleged violations of their rights and non-compliance with interim measures indicated by the Court in relation to their forcible transfer from the territory of the Russian Federation. In this context, it reiterated the call for the Russian authorities to adopt, without delay, the necessary measures to put an end to such incidents. In the case of ***Alekseyev v. Russia***, the Committee reiterated concerns in view of the developments in the law and practice in that country and of the adoption of regional laws in an increasing number of regions prohibiting the "promotion of homosexuality" among minors. It expressed serious concerns about the ongoing legislative work aimed at introducing at federal level a ban on the "promotion of homosexuality".



■ In the case of ***Kurić and Others v. Slovenia***, the Committee welcomed the fact that the Slovenian Parliament had adopted the Act on Compensation for Damage to Persons Erased from the Permanent Population Register and decided to transfer this case from enhanced to standard supervision procedure. The Committee also examined the case of ***Del Río Prada v. Spain***, noting that in response to that judgment the applicant was immediately released following a decision given by the *Audiencia Nacional*. Concerning recourse to the rules for the application of remissions of sentence, it noted that the practice of the criminal courts is now aligning with the Court's findings and thus decided to classify this case under standard procedure. In the case of ***Hirst v. the United Kingdom (no. 2)***, the Committee urged the authorities to rapidly comply with the judgment by adopting legislation to ensure that future elections are held in compliance with the Convention.

■ In the case ***Lutsenko v. Ukraine***, the Committee, *inter alia*, recalled with satisfaction that the applicant had been set free in April and in particular strongly encouraged the Ukrainian authorities to make full use of the co-operation programmes, of which they are beneficiaries, with a view to putting rapidly in place the measures required in the Ukrainian justice system. In the case of ***Tymoshenko v. Ukraine***, the Committee urged the Ukrainian authorities to move forward in their reflection by thoroughly considering all available options with a view to rapidly ensuring that redress is provided to the applicant in an appropriate form, while taking note of the measures underway. Finally, the Committee examined the judgment in the case of ***Oleksandr Volkov v. Ukraine***, urging Ukraine to secure the applicant's reinstatement as judge of the Supreme Court at the earliest possible date and underlining the findings of the Court regarding the serious systemic problems in the functioning of the Ukrainian judiciary.

■ Regarding the **death penalty**, the Committee of Ministers examined the situation in member states, and reiterated its appeal to the Russian Federation to take all necessary steps without delay to move from the current moratorium to *de jure* abolition of the death penalty, and to ratify Protocol No. 6 to the Convention. It took note of the information provided by Armenia and Poland on measures taken regarding the signature and/or ratification of Protocol No. 13 to the Convention and regretted that the other countries concerned had not yet responded to their invitation to provide further information on measures taken to this effect. Finally, it adopted several declarations in 2013 deploring executions in Japan and the United States, both observer states to the Council of Europe.

■ The Committee of Ministers held four **thematic debates** during the year, which gave rise to a number of conclusions. The debates were titled "Ways to improve the impact of the Council of Europe monitoring mechanisms"; "The role of human rights defenders and the Council of Europe's interaction with civil society"; "The role of the Council of Europe in addressing the rise of extremism in evolving societies" and finally "Safety of journalists – Further steps for the better implementation of human rights standards". With regard to the last debate, the Secretary General submitted to the Committee proposals for action aimed at enhancing the protection of journalists.



Committee of Ministers' meeting room

■ In the field of **media**, the Committee adopted a Declaration on Risks to Fundamental Rights stemming from Digital Tracking and other Surveillance Technologies. It also adopted decisions in relation to a report by the Secretary General on the implementation of its Declaration on measures to promote respect of Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. It agreed that this work was to be given continued priority, in particular in relation to the rights of Internet users and Internet freedom and governance, protection of journalism and safety of journalists, and combating hate speech.

■ The Committee adopted a framework setting up and defining the arrangements for the financial participation of non-member states in Council of Europe conventions. The Committee decided to set up a Council of Europe Programme Office on **Cybercrime** in Bucharest, Romania.

■ With regard to **children**, in July the Committee of Ministers welcomed a progress review report on the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015). As regards Roma, the Committee of Ministers examined and took note of the Second Progress Report (May 2011-April 2013) of the Secretary General on the follow-up to the Strasbourg Declaration on Roma and encouraged its continued implementation.

■ In 2013, on the basis of a report on the future of the **North-South Centre**, the Committee agreed that the Centre should continue to operate, setting it a deadline for the end of 2015 to implement, in the framework of its plan of activities, the guidelines set out in the aforementioned report. That deadline should also give more member and non-member states an opportunity to become members of the Centre. In September, the 2013 **Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue** took place in Yerevan, on the theme "Freedom of religion in today's world: challenges and guarantees". In December, the Committee of Ministers adopted a Resolution confirming the establishment of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes and a Resolution revising the rules for the award of the "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" certification. The Committee amended the Resolution setting up the European Cinema Support Fund "**Eurimages**", thus enabling the partial agreement to be extended to include states that are not members of the Council of Europe. In the field of sport, negotiations on a possible Council of Europe convention against **manipulation of sports results** and, notably, match-fixing have continued.

■ In the field of **local democracy**, the Ministers' Deputies examined the annual activity report of the Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform for 2012 and approved the Appendix to Protocol No. 3 to the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities concerning Euroregional Co-operation Groupings (ECGs).

■ As regards specific co-operation with member states, the Committee of Ministers approved a programme of assistance to support the parliamentary elections scheduled for June 2013 in Albania. With regard to **Armenia** and **Azerbaijan**, the Committee agreed that the monitoring of the honouring of commitments by these countries would henceforth take place within the regular work of their Rapporteur Group on Democracy and decided accordingly to end the special procedure that they had put in place in December 2010.

■ In March, the Committee of Ministers reviewed the state of implementation of the commitments made by **Bosnia and Herzegovina** on acceding to the Council of Europe. The Committee welcomed the honouring of all the commitments with regard to conventions and other positive developments such as the adoption of laws on state aid and censuses, the progress made in implementing the strategy for reform of the judicial system and the national strategy on war crimes. At the same time, the Committee called on the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to increase the effectiveness of institutions at all levels (state, entities, local authorities); to put an end to all ethnic segregation issues in schools; to step up measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity; and to continue supporting the process designed to ensure that refugees and displaced persons enjoy an effective right of return.

■ In October, it adopted an action plan for **Georgia** aimed at providing assistance in the form of technical projects to the Georgian authorities for the period 2013 to 2015. Regarding the **Republic of Moldova**, the Committee of Ministers approved a confidence-building programme on both banks of the Nistru/Dniestr River for 2013 and 2014. The aim is to develop contacts and exchanges between people living on the two sides through activities in such fields as education, human rights training, inter-municipal co-operation, cultural heritage and the media. An action plan, intended to support democratic reforms in the Republic of Moldova up to 2016, was approved by the Committee of Ministers in November. With regard to co-operation with the **Russian Federation**, the Committee approved a new plan of activities for the Chechen Republic and took note of the results of the 2012 programme.

■ In February the Committee approved the Council of Europe's programme of activities in **Belarus** for the period 2013 to 2014. It also acceded to the request by **Belarus** for observer status with the Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law on the understanding that the matter will be followed in light of developments in Belarus with respect to Council of Europe values. The Committee has also pointed out that this decision should not be construed as an acknowledgement that the situation concerning respect for the principles of the rule of law in Belarus is satisfactory.

■ Regarding the **Programme and Budget 2014-2015**, the principle of zero nominal growth has been applied to the total of member states' contributions to the Ordinary Budget. In approving the budgetary decisions, the Ministers' Deputies also invited the Secretary General to prepare a document setting out the long-term budgetary sustainability and efficiency of the Organisation, as part of its continuing reform process.

■ A number of exchanges of views took place with pertinent personalities from **European Union** (EU) bodies, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and non-member states from neighbouring regions. Within the framework of preparation of the 123rd Session of the Committee of Ministers, the Ministers' Deputies examined a report on co-operation between the Council of Europe and the EU describing recent developments and confirming the strategic importance of the partnership between the two organisations. In 2013, significant advances were also made with regard to the negotiations at the technical level preparing for the accession of the EU to the European Convention on Human Rights, with the ad hoc negotiation group of the Steering Committee for Human Rights and the European Commission reaching an agreement on the text of a draft accession agreement in April.

■ In February, the Committee of Ministers held its annual exchange of views with experts from capitals on the work conducted within the framework of the **United Nations** (UN) on issues relating to human rights, in the presence of the President of the Human Rights Council of the United Nations, Ambassador Remigiusz Achilles Hencze.

■ Progress continued in 2013 in implementing the **policy of the Council of Europe towards neighbouring regions**, the Ministers' Deputies taking note in particular of interim reports on the implementation of co-operation priorities with Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan. They also decided to set up Council of Europe offices in Rabat and Tunis. In December, the Committee of Ministers approved priorities for co-operation with Kazakhstan for the period 2014 to 2015. Co-operation activities will be carried out in this context with a view to preparing the possible accession of Kazakhstan to the Council of Europe's conventions in the criminal field, in which it has expressed an interest.

**Jean-Claude Mignon,**  
President of the  
Parliamentary Assembly



**Gilbert Saboya Sunyé,**  
Minister for Foreign  
Affairs of Andorra  
**Mikheil Saakashvili,**  
President of Georgia  
**Štefan Füle,**  
European Commissioner for  
Enlargement and European  
Neighbourhood Policy  
**Paola Severino,**  
Minister of Justice for Italy  
**Joachim Gauck,**  
President of Germany  
**Bidzina Ivanishvili,**  
Prime Minister of Georgia  
**Didier Burkhalter,**  
Head of the Federal  
Department of Foreign  
Affairs of Switzerland  
**Victor Ponta,**  
Prime Minister of Romania  
**Antoni Martí,**  
Head of Government  
of Andorra  
**Edward Nalbandian,**  
Minister for Foreign  
Affairs of Armenia  
**Najat Vallaud-Belkacem,**  
French Minister of  
Women's Rights  
**Karim Ghellab,**  
President of the Assembly of  
Representatives of Morocco  
**Sergueï Naryschkine,**  
Speaker of the State Duma  
of the Russian Federation  
**Serge Sarkissian,**  
President of Armenia  
**Tomislav Nikolić,**  
President of Serbia  
**Angel Gurría,**  
Secretary-General of the  
Organisation for Economic  
Co-operation and Development

# Parliamentary Assembly

*The functioning of the Parliamentary Assembly, including its rules, work, events, dates, profiles of its members and their activities within the Assembly as well as the texts it adopted in 2013 can be found on the Assembly website: <http://assembly.coe.int>*

## **President of the Parliamentary Assembly Jean-Claude Mignon (France)**

**During its four part-sessions and three meetings of the Standing Committee, the Parliamentary Assembly discussed 68 reports and adopted 83 texts (25 recommendations, 54 resolutions and four opinions). The Assembly's eight committees held 66 plenary meetings and nearly 90 hearings, exchanges of views and seminars.**

**S**ome of Europe's leading political personalities selected the Assembly as a forum for delivering major political messages (see portraits on the opposite page).

■ In line with the Assembly's responsibility for electing judges to the European Court of Human Rights, elections concerning Iceland, Lithuania and Romania took place in the course of this year.

■ The Assembly observed elections in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Monaco and Montenegro.

■ The Assembly awarded its 2013 Europe Prize jointly to the cities of Altötting (Germany) and Tata (Hungary). The first Václav Havel Human Rights Prize was awarded to Ales Bialiatski (Belarus); the Council of Europe Museum Prize was awarded to the Museum of Liverpool (UK).

■ The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy** addressed major political challenges with reports on popular protest and challenges to freedom of assembly, media and speech; democracy and the limitation of mandates; safeguarding human rights in relation to religion and belief, and protecting religious communities from violence; drug traffic

from Afghanistan as a threat to European security; as well as an opinion on keeping political and criminal responsibility separate. The committee also presented to the Assembly a report on the situation in Kosovo<sup>1</sup> and the role of the Council of Europe and continues to follow this issue. In addition, it produced reports on the activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) from 2010 to 2012 and on the activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) from 2012 to 2013 and maintains regular contacts with both organisations. The committee further pursued its relationship with the Assembly's partners for democracy, and presented in this context a report on the evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco. It also continued to develop its relations with European neighbouring regions and presented to the Assembly reports on the situation in the Middle East, the situation in Syria, the recent developments in Mali and Algeria, and the threat to security and human rights in the Mediterranean region.

1. All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

■ The **Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights** adopted reports on promoting alternatives to imprisonment; the participation of non-member states in Council of Europe conventions; keeping political and criminal responsibility separate; corruption as a threat to the rule of law; national security and access to information; strengthening the institution of ombudsman in Europe; refusing impunity for the killers of Sergei Magnitsky and EU and Council of Europe human rights agendas: synergies not duplication; access to nationality and effective implementation of the European Convention on Nationality; accountability of international organisations for human rights violations; revision of the European Convention on Transfrontier Television; and the urgent need to deal with new failures to co-operate with the European Court of Human Rights.

■ The **Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)**, in addition to its annual progress report, presented to the Assembly full monitoring reports on Azerbaijan and the Republic of Moldova; reports on the post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and Turkey; a report on the functioning of democratic institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and a report on the request to open a monitoring procedure in respect of Hungary. Following fact-finding visits to Albania, Georgia, Montenegro, and in the framework of the file on the consequences of the war between Georgia and the Russian Federation, the respective co-rapporteurs transmitted information notes to the committee, which, in most cases, decided to make them public.

■ The **Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media** prepared reports debated by the Assembly on the state of media freedom in Europe; industrial heritage in Europe; culture and education through national parliaments: European policies; young Europeans, an urgent educational challenge; young people’s access to fundamental rights; and ethics in science and technology.

■ The **Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development** prepared 10 reports on a wide range of topics. The issues covered included a future Council of Europe convention to combat trafficking in organs; fighting “child sex tourism”; the mid-term review of the ONE in FIVE Campaign to stop sexual violence against children; putting an end to coerced sterilisations and castrations; equal access to health care; children’s right to physical integrity; food security; nanotechnology; and good governance of large metropolises. The committee organised six meetings of the 53-member PACE Network of Contact Parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children in the context of the Council of Europe ONE in FIVE Campaign.

■ The **Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs** presented five reports, on the discipline of the members of the Parliamentary Assembly on budgetary issues relating to the biennium 2014 to 2015 and on various procedural issues. It contributed to the debate on corruption as a threat to the rule of law by providing a detailed opinion on the parliamentary dimension of the fight against corruption. Two challenges of still unratified credentials provided the committee with the opportunity to recall the regulatory provisions as regards gender representation and to specify those provisions related to fair political representation within parliamentary delegations, in the case of a replacement of a member of the opposition deprived of his national parliamentary mandate.

■ The **Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination** focused on combating violence against women and the promotion of the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, which remained a priority in 2013 with reports on violence against women in Europe and stalking, meetings held by the Parliamentary Network “Women Free from Violence” and awareness-raising activities carried out by the General Rapporteur on violence against women. It also focused on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people by holding a conference on freedom of expression for LGBT people; supporting the work of the General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBT people; and presenting to the Assembly a report on tackling discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. The committee also presented reports on ending discrimination against Roma children; gender equality and the reconciliation of family and professional life; parental leave as a way to foster gender equality; and combating discrimination against older persons in the labour market.

■ The **Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons** concentrated on the issues of integration of migrants and their families as well as massive flows of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. In the framework of co-operation with the Moroccan Parliament and the partnership for democracy agreement, the committee organised an Inter-Parliamentary Conference with the theme “How can Morocco and Europe face up to the challenges and opportunities of South-North Migration?” The committee also launched a guide and video for parliamentarians visiting immigration detention centres.

■ The **Inter-parliamentary Co-operation and Election Observation Unit** organised election observation missions in Monaco (parliamentary elections of 10 February), Armenia (presidential election of 18 February), Montenegro (presidential election of 7 April), Bulgaria (parliamentary elections of 12 May), Albania (parliamentary elections of 23 June), Azerbaijan (presidential election of 9 October) and Georgia (presidential election of 27 October). During the observation of these elections, the Assembly collaborated closely in the organisation of missions on the spot with its usual partners, such as the European Parliament, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE/ODIHR), the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE (OSCE PA) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO PA).

■ The **Parliamentary Projects Support Division** ensures that the Parliamentary Assembly’s key recommendations are better known by national parliaments of member states and beyond, in parliaments with observer and partner for democracy status. It focused on three main subjects: human rights, media freedom and the fight against corruption. Moreover, in the framework of the Council of Europe’s South Programme, a series of seminars were organised with the Moroccan Parliament to strengthen democratic reform in the country through the peer-to-peer exchange of good practices with parliamentarians from European countries.

■ Significant outcomes of the **Communication Division’s** work included wide coverage of speeches by the German and Georgian Presidents, as well as the Speaker of the Russian State Duma. A resolution on children’s right to physical integrity – examining circumcision from a children’s rights perspective – sparked off a major international debate, while discussions on refusing impunity for the killers of Sergei Magnitsky and a debate on whether or not to monitor Hungary over its constitutional changes also generated headlines. During the year, the Division was involved in the creation of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize; launched a more interactive and user-friendly website; expanded the use of its “mediabox” for recording short online video clips; and grew its social media footprint, in particular on Twitter and Facebook.

24<sup>th</sup> th éric SESSION | 19-21 March / mars 2013

The Congress  
Le Congrès



## EUROPE IN CRISIS

challenges to local  
and regional democracy

## L'EUROPE EN CRISE

les défis de la démocratie  
locale et régionale



The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities | Le Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux



### The 24th and 25th Sessions

of the Congress were held in  
Strasbourg from 19 to 21 March and  
from 29 to 31 October on the general  
theme of "Europe in crisis – Challenges  
to local and regional democracy"



**Signature of the  
European Charter of Local  
Self-Government by  
Pasquale Valentini**, Foreign  
Affairs Minister of San Marino  
on 16 May 2013; the 47 member  
states of the Council of Europe  
are now covered by this text

# Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

*The texts adopted by the Congress in 2013  
can be found on its website: [www.coe.int/t/Congress](http://www.coe.int/t/Congress)*

**President of the Congress: Herwig van Staa (Austria)**

## MONITORING LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEMOCRACY

■ In 2013, the Congress carried out monitoring missions in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Spain, Ireland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Ukraine, as well as two post-monitoring missions in Portugal and Bosnia and Herzegovina and a fact-finding mission in Georgia. It observed the municipal elections in “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and the election of the Municipal Assembly of Yerevan, Armenia. It adopted Resolutions 353 (2013)rev, 306 (2013)rev and 307 (2013)rev, which set out the framework for the continuation of political dialogue with national authorities and the definition of a roadmap to implement the Congress’s recommendations and provide a solid procedural basis to supervise the conduct of these activities.

■ The Congress has identified a number of recurring issues that came to light during the monitoring of the implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, which will continue to be discussed with governments. Two frequently encountered issues concern the low level of financial autonomy of local and regional authorities and the lack of clear, legal and formal consultation procedures between local authorities (and their representative associations) and governments.

■ In October, San Marino became the 47th country to ratify the European Charter of Local Self-Government, which now covers the entire territory of the Council of Europe’s member states. The Congress will continue to encourage member states to ratify the articles they excluded when they initially ratified the Charter. In this regard, Azerbaijan ratified a provision that it had not accepted at the time of ratification of the Charter in 2002 and the Serbian authorities have recently indicated that they would consider this possibility in the near future, in line with the reforms undertaken in co-operation with the Council of Europe.

■ The European Charter of Local Self-Government came into force 25 years ago, in 1988, and in November, the Congress and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) held a joint conference on the current state of decentralisation in Europe, marking this anniversary and that of the European Charter of communal liberties written 60 years ago.

## TARGETED CO-OPERATION PROGRAMMES

— The Congress continued its co-operation activities aiming to strengthen institutions as well as the leadership and administration capacities of local elected officials, particularly in Albania, Armenia and Ukraine – thanks to voluntary contributions by Switzerland and Denmark. It also continued to participate actively in the strengthening of the local and regional dimension of the Council of Europe action plans for other member states (e.g. Georgia and Republic of Moldova).

## INSTITUTIONAL CO-OPERATION

— The Congress has co-operated closely with the Andorran and Armenian Chairs of the Committee of Ministers in the organisation of several meetings and events on themes such as culture and democracy, intercultural dialogue, citizen participation, the fight against racism, intolerance and xenophobia in Europe and the status of capital cities. In response to the latter, Sarajevo plans to host the next Conference of Mayors of Council of Europe capital cities on the occasion of the Bosnian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers in 2015. The Congress will continue its co-operation with the Austrian Presidency, following the first joint conference on integration policies at local level, which was held in December.

— The Congress held regular discussions with the Parliamentary Assembly, to enhance co-operation between the respective secretariats and rapporteurs, in areas of common interest, particularly in the monitoring of democracy and implementation of the ONE in FIVE Campaign.

— It developed a regular dialogue with the Commissioner for Human Rights concerning the promotion of human rights at local level and the inclusion of Roma. Meetings were held in February between Commissioner Nils Muižnieks and the Secretary General of the Congress, and in March between the Commissioner, the President of the Congress, the President of the Monitoring Committee and the Thematic Rapporteur on Roma issues, John Warmisham (UK).

— The Congress works in close co-operation with the Venice Commission, particularly in the field of election observation, monitoring, the implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Government and the co-operation programmes with neighbouring regions. It nominated Jos Wielen (the Netherlands) as Congress Rapporteur on election observation and Pearl Pedergnana (Switzerland) as his substitute. They represent the Congress at the meetings of the Council for Democratic Elections. The Chair of the Monitoring Committee Lars O. Molin (Sweden) represents the Congress at the four annual plenary meetings of the Venice Commission. A high-level working meeting between the Congress and the Commission was held in December at which future co-operation was discussed. The institutional component of the Congress's co-operation activities with Morocco and Tunisia is conducted in close collaboration with the Commission. In this regard, the Congress's comments on Chapter VII of the final draft of the new Tunisian constitution on local authorities were included in the official comments of the Venice Commission, published on 17 July.

— As part of its co-operation with the EU, the Congress participated in several meetings organised by the Committee of the Regions and its Committee for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (CIVEX). On 30 May, the presidents of both institutions held their annual bipartite meeting. They laid the groundwork for future joint activities, in particular the organisation of a joint meeting of the Congress Governance Committee and the CIVEX Commission in 2014, on the occasion of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Congress and the Committee of the Regions.

— The Congress also participated in the meeting of the Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP) held in Vilnius in September, before the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius in December. The Summit also reaffirmed the crucial importance of local democracy and citizen participation for the purposes of the Eastern Partnership and the need to strengthen the role of local and regional authorities. The European Charter of Local Self-Government was expressly mentioned in this regard.



Congress President **Herwig van Staa** meets **Armen Gevorgyan**, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Territorial Administration of Armenia, representing the Armenian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers

## THE CONGRESS IN SESSION

■ The 24th and 25th Sessions of the Congress were held in Strasbourg from 19 to 21 March and from 29 to 31 October on the general theme of “Europe in crisis – Challenges to local and regional democracy”. Reports and recommendations on the state of local democracy and the observation of local elections were adopted. Congress members also held several thematic debates, including the promotion of active citizenship; the fight against social exclusion; “promoting ethics and preventing corruption”; “smart cities: new technologies serving democracy”; the responses of local and regional authorities to the economic crisis; the promotion of entrepreneurship of migrants at local level; the access of migrants to the regional labour market; the prospects for effective cross-border co-operation in Europe; regions and territories with special status; and regionalisation and decentralisation in the context of economic crisis and the fight against political extremism.

■ The 24th Session hosted several representatives from member states, including Valentina Matvienko, Chairman of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Tengiz Shergelashvili, First Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia and Gilbert Saboya Sunyé, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Andorra.

■ During the 25th Session, members of the Congress were able to exchange views with Armenian Vice Prime Minister Armen Gevorgyan, Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Liviu Nicolae Dragnea, the San Marino Interior Minister Giancarlo Venturini, Irish Minister of State Fergus O’Dowd and Maltese Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government and Culture, José Herrera.

## ACTION IN THE FIELD

■ The Congress associated the 2013 edition of the European Local Democracy Week (14 to 20 October) with the general theme “Active citizenship: vote, share, participate”. Some 100 municipalities and associations organised activities and events using the participatory platform developed for this purpose.

■ During the year, the Congress organised various conferences, including on how to change the vision of cultural diversity within local populations and participation based on residency as a new reality of modern democracy. The Congress also played an active part in the World Forum for Democracy. Several of its members participated in the following themes: “Alternatives to representative democracy”, “Towards Democracy 2.0” and “Governing with citizens”.

■ As part of its contribution to the Council of Europe ONE in FIVE Campaign, the Congress worked on the implementation of the Pact of Towns and Regions to Stop Sexual Violence against Children. The Thematic Rapporteur on children, Johan van den Hout (the Netherlands), visited several countries to present the Pact. Through these efforts, more than 20 towns and regions have already committed to joining the Pact since its launch in March, including the *Land* of Berlin, the province of Calabria, the Tyrol, the cities of Nicosia, Limassol and Heraklion, several Swiss and Dutch municipalities (including Rotterdam), and the city of Liverpool. An interactive online platform is aimed at identifying good local and regional practices in the fight against the sexual exploitation of children.

■ The European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion was officially launched by the Congress during the March session. The setting up of this co-operation framework was welcomed by the European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Johannes Hahn, which pledged the support of the European Commission for the project. The Alliance has implemented its activities under the ROMACT Joint Programme between the Council of Europe and the European Commission, as of 1 October 2013. On 18 December, Paris became the 120th city or region to join the Alliance. Also as part of its action in favour of Roma, the 4th Congress Dosta! Prize for municipalities was presented at the October session to the towns of Obrnice in the Czech Republic, Heraklion in Greece, and the Metropolitan Municipality of Kocaeli in Turkey.

# European Court of Human Rights

[www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int)  
[www.echr.coe.int/echr/en/hudoc](http://www.echr.coe.int/echr/en/hudoc)

In 2013 initiatives launched in pursuit of the aims set out in the declarations of Interlaken, Izmir and Brighton were continued and produced favourable results.

## IMPROVED PROTECTION AT NATIONAL LEVEL: DOMESTIC REMEDIES

There were positive developments regarding domestic remedies in a number of states, which were confirmed in a series of decisions taken by the European Court of Human Rights in 2013. The existence of such means of redress at the national level is vital to the proper functioning of the Convention system, which is premised on the protection of human rights first and foremost at national level. As has been stated often in the reform process, the Strasbourg machinery is subsidiary to the domestic system of remedies.

There were significant developments regarding Turkey, which introduced a new right of application to the Constitutional Court in September 2012. The Court examined this remedy in detail in a case decided in April 2013 and found it to be effective (*Uzun* decision, no. 10755/13). All applicants in cases against Turkey complaining of situations arising since the date the new remedy took effect must make use of it before their case can be considered on its merits at Strasbourg. Turkey also created a new remedy for dealing with the problem of delays in its judicial system that has given rise to numerous complaints under Article 6 of the Convention. This was done in response to the *Ümmühan Kaplan* pilot judgment delivered in 2012. The Court reviewed the mechanism introduced and concluded that applicants must make use of it before a case can be brought under the Convention (*Turgut* decision, no. 4860/09 and *Demiroğlu* decision, no. 56125/10). The Court subsequently declared inadmissible more than 2 500 similar applications, which have been redirected to the national level to obtain redress under the new remedy.

Bulgaria also introduced a set of new domestic remedies in response to two pilot judgments delivered by the Court in 2011 concerning the problem of excessive length of legal proceedings. These measures were evaluated by the Court in two decisions issued in June (*Balakchiev*, no. 65187/10 and *Valcheva*, no. 6194/11). It concluded that they were effective, meaning that they must be used by applicants before their case can be considered at Strasbourg.



At the launch of the Polish exhibition on the European Convention on Human Rights, (from left) the Polish Minister of Justice **Marek Biernacki**, Ambassador **Urszula Gacek**, designer of the exhibition **Magda Malczynska-Umeda** and President of the European Court of Human Rights **Dean Spielman** (Strasbourg, November 2013)

■ Greece took similar steps to remedy the problem of lengthy delays before its administrative courts, which was also the subject of a pilot judgment by the Court at the end of 2010. In a decision issued in October, the Court examined the new remedial measures and found them to be adequate (*Techniki Olympiaki A.E.*, no. 40547/10).

■ Alongside legislative reform, effective domestic remedies have also been developed by national courts, making it possible for individuals to obtain adequate redress at national level for violations of their Convention rights. The Court confirmed this in relation to Latvia (*Ignats* decision, no. 38494/05), Lithuania (*Savickas* decision, no. 66365/09) and Sweden (*Ruminski* decision, no.10404/10).

## INCREASING ACCESS TO THE COURT'S CASE LAW

■ It has long been recognised that for judges and legal practitioners in many European states there is a language barrier around the Court's case law, which is published only in the two official languages of the Council of Europe, English and French. Since the Interlaken Conference on the Future of the European Court of Human Rights in 2010 the Court has made it a priority to translate key case law into other European languages. Thanks to co-operation with many different partners at national and European level, the number of translations in the Court's HUDOC database had passed the 10 000-mark by the end of 2013, across 27 languages.

■ Taking this a step further, Turkey funded the development of a Turkish-language interface for HUDOC. This was formally launched at the Court by Turkey's Minister for Justice, Sadullah Ergin, in November.

## MORE CASES DECIDED, FEWER CASES PENDING

■ The Court set a new record of productivity in 2013, with over 93 000 cases decided in total, representing an increase of 6% over the previous year. As before, the great majority of cases were decided at single-judge level, which disposed of just over 80 000 applications. The Court's three-judge committees, responsible for dealing with repetitive cases, more than doubled their



Visit of **Joachim Gauck**, President of Germany (Strasbourg, April 2013)

output compared to the previous year by disposing of more than 7 300 such applications. At Chamber level, the Court gave judgment in just over 900 cases, with a further 4 200 applications declared inadmissible or struck out.

■ With only a small increase in the number of new applications entering the system (65 900 compared to 64 900 the previous year), the effect of the Court's high productivity was to reduce the number of pending cases to 99 900 at the close of 2013.

## CHANGES IN THE COURT'S MEMBERSHIP

■ **Lithuania:** Judge Danutė Jočienė completed her term of office at the Court on 31 October. Her successor, Judge Egidius Kūris, commenced his term on 4 November, assigned to the Court's Second Section.

■ **Iceland:** Judge David Thór Björgvinsson's term of office also ended on 31 October. His successor, Judge Róbert Spanó, commenced on 4 November, assigned to the Court's Fourth Section.

■ **Romania:** Judge Corneliu Bîrsan retired from the Court on 16 December. He was succeeded by Judge Iulia Motoc, who commenced her term of office on 18 December, assigned to the Third Section.



Commissioner **Nils Muižnieks** presents his annual report to the Parliamentary Assembly (Strasbourg, April 2013)

# Commissioner for Human Rights

---

**Nils Muižnieks, since 1 April 2012**

*Information on the Commissioner's work in 2013  
can be found on his website: [www.commissioner.coe.int](http://www.commissioner.coe.int).  
The Commissioner's Twitter account is @CommissionerHR.*

## COUNTRY MONITORING

■ In 2013 the Commissioner carried out country visits to Greece, the Republic of Moldova, Estonia, the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Spain, Turkey, Albania and Denmark. The visits were followed by reports on these countries and an opinion on the legislation of the Russian Federation on non-commercial organisations in light of Council of Europe standards.

■ The report on **Greece**, in which the Commissioner recommended curbing hate crime and combating impunity, triggered a broad national debate. He stressed that as democracy in Greece was seriously threatened by the upsurge of hate crime and a weak state response, sustained and concerted action, notably by the police and the courts, was necessary to protect the rule of law and human rights in the country. Commissioner Muižnieks called on the authorities to use all available means to effectively sanction individuals and organisations that incite or promote intolerance and hate.

■ In his opinion on the legislation of the **Russian Federation** on non-commercial organisations, the Commissioner called on the Russian Federation to revise legislation and practice regarding non-governmental organisations (NGOs). He noted that the legislation regulating their activities in Russia is complex and the excessive discretion in applying it may impede the legitimate exercise of two fundamental human rights: freedom of expression and association. In addition to this opinion, the Commissioner published a report on the administration of justice in Russia, emphasising that substantial reforms were needed in order to remedy systemic deficiencies and strengthen the independence and impartiality of the judiciary. Commissioner Muižnieks recommended in particular improving the procedures and criteria to appoint, dismiss and sanction judges and making changes to the criminal justice system to reinforce the principle of equality of arms and genuine adversarial proceedings.

Another report that was widely discussed was the one on **Spain**, in which the Commissioner stressed that austerity measures have weakened human rights protection in the country. He stressed that cuts in social, health and educational budgets have led to a worrying increase in family poverty and that this has had a particularly negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights by children and persons with disabilities. He called on the Spanish authorities to do more to ensure that the human rights of vulnerable groups are better respected in the context of austerity measures, warning that growing child poverty, malnutrition and inadequate housing are issues of serious concern because of their potentially devastating long-term impact on children and the country.

The police's handling of demonstrations in **Turkey** was also a topic covered by the Commissioner in his report on his visit to Istanbul and Ankara. He stressed that although Turkey has made important progress in the fight against torture and ill-treatment, the Gezi events from May to June 2013 drew attention to the Turkish police's systemic problem of insufficient respect for binding human rights standards, an issue that has been repeatedly condemned by international bodies, in particular by the European Court of Human Rights in the past decade. Noting the serious, consistent and credible allegations of excessive use of force, in particular the excessive and improper use of tear gas and ill-treatment during and after arrests, Commissioner Muižnieks called on the Turkish authorities to establish clearer rules about the proportionate use of force by law enforcement officials in the context of demonstrations, to strengthen safeguards against ill-treatment and to better uphold the right to free assembly. He further emphasised that to meet these needs, a review of the current legal framework concerning demonstrations, which he considered too restrictive in a democratic society, was also necessary.

In his report on **Estonia**, the Commissioner highlighted the human rights of children and called for the elimination of child statelessness. He stressed that although parents can use a simple and accessible procedure to acquire Estonian nationality for their stateless children, the authorities also bear responsibility for preventing statelessness among children. Commissioner Muižnieks suggested that instead of requiring parents to apply for citizenship on behalf of children, Estonia should grant citizenship automatically at birth to children who would otherwise be stateless. The Commissioner recommended that the Citizenship Act be reformed with a view to reflecting the best interests of the child.

In the report following his visit to **Azerbaijan**, the Commissioner focused on the right to freedom of expression and assembly. He called on the authorities to release all persons who are in detention because of their opinions and improve legislation and practice on freedom of expression and assembly. Commissioner Muižnieks recommended the full decriminalisation of defamation and raised concerns about restrictions to the exercise of fundamental freedoms online. The Commissioner also expressed concerns about the limitations imposed on freedom of assembly, notably the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials to disperse demonstrations and the requirement of authorisation to hold public gatherings.

In his report on the **Republic of Moldova**, the Commissioner covered the judicial reform in the country and stressed that the reform process needs to be supported by adequate funding and concrete political measures. Noting that judges are not properly shielded from undue political pressure, he recommended that the five-year initial probationary period be revoked and provisions allowing for their dismissal or disciplinary procedures against them because of the decisions they take be repealed.



The Commissioner meets with migrants during his visit to Greece, January 2013 (photo To Vima)

## THEMATIC WORK

■ The Commissioner pursued his work on some major human rights issues, including migration and the impact of austerity measures on human rights, themes on which he also published two Issue Papers.

■ The first dealt with the deleterious effect that the EU externalisation of border control policies has on human rights, in particular the right to leave a country, which is a prerequisite to the enjoyment of other rights – most importantly, the right to seek asylum. The Commissioner stressed that today's EU approach to border controls and immigration raises serious concerns as it leads to changes in the legislation and practice of third countries that may result in human rights violations, in particular regarding the right to leave a country, the prohibition on collective expulsion and the right to seek and enjoy asylum.

■ The second Issue Paper pointed out that many governments in Europe imposing austerity measures have forgotten about their human rights obligations, especially the social and economic rights of the most vulnerable, the need to ensure access to justice, and the right to equal treatment. It noted that national decisions on austerity measures and international rescue packages have lacked transparency, public participation and democratic accountability. In some cases, onerous conditions have prevented governments from investing in essential social protection and health and education programmes.

■ During the year, the Commissioner published a series of Human Rights Comments addressing issues as diverse as children's rights, press freedom, accountability in CIA torture cases, the fight against racism, the risks of secret surveillance, and the Syrian refugee crisis. On this last issue the Commissioner also undertook a thematic mission to Turkey, Bulgaria and Germany to assess the response of some European countries to the refugee crisis. In a press conference in Berlin he urged member states to step up their efforts in providing protection to the more than one million Syrian refugees in Europe. The Commissioner recommended in particular that European countries increase their intake of resettled Syrian refugees, give them protection, stop pushing them back, keep their borders open and improve reception conditions. A video of the visit was produced and made public both at a press conference and on the Commissioner's website.

■ The thematic work was further pursued through interviews with the press and intense activity on social media. In particular, the Commissioner's Twitter account, @CommissionerHR, has seen a steep increase in followers and interactions.

## CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ACTORS

■ The Commissioner continued his co-operation with national human rights structures, such as ombudspersons, national human rights institutions and equality bodies both as part of his visits and of specific activities.

■ Meetings with human rights defenders continued to take place, including through a round-table organised by the Commissioner to assess human rights challenges, including abuses, stemming from the work of state security sectors.

■ Further meetings and exchanges of information took place with members of the European Commission and Parliament, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, and UN Rapporteurs and representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.



**Navi Pillay**, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Council of Europe Secretary General **Thorbjørn Jagland** on the occasion of the signature of the Joint Declaration on the reinforcement of co-operation between the two organisations on 26 September in New York

# External relations

*www.coe.int/DER*

## POLICY TOWARDS NEIGHBOURING REGIONS

— The implementation of the policy towards neighbouring regions continued in 2013 in close co-operation with the EU. Political dialogue continued with the countries of the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia. Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities (NCPs) have been implemented in Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia and were concluded with Kazakhstan. Relevant negotiations are ongoing with Kyrgyzstan. This policy was reflected by a wider membership to Council of Europe conventions by neighbouring countries and by participation in targeted co-operation activities, notably with the Venice Commission.

## RELATIONS WITH THE EU, THE UN AND THE OSCE

### EUROPEAN UNION

— High-level political dialogue continued and implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of 2007 was regularly assessed by the Ministers' Deputies. The latter confirmed that the existing MoU remains a sound basis to guide and structure co-operation. Negotiators from the Council of Europe and EU member states have finalised the draft accession agreement of the EU to the European Convention on Human Rights, on which the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg has now to decide.

— As in previous years, a substantial part of joint activities was carried out through joint programmes. The Council of Europe Liaison Office in Brussels and the Delegation of the EU to the Council of Europe further facilitated the reinforcement of the co-operation described above.

### UN

— Following an address by the Secretary General to the Human Rights Council in February, a joint declaration on the reinforcement of co-operation between the Council of Europe Secretariat and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights was signed in September. Thanks to the Council of Europe Offices in Geneva and Vienna, the co-operation between the two organisations in many areas increased further.

### OSCE

— The Council of Europe and the OSCE continued to work together on a broad spectrum of human dimension activities "in the field", at the intergovernmental and parliamentary level or between the institutions and specialised bodies. Dialogue on ways to further enhance relations, initiated in 2012, continued.

## RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER COUNTRIES

— The Council of Europe maintained regular relations and contacts with other organisations active in the areas of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, such as the Organization of American States (OAS), the Community of Democracies and the International Organisation of La Francophonie. Active preferential relations with observer states were complemented by relations with more than 70 states centred on the fields where the Council of Europe's *acquis* presents a global comparative advantage.

# Policy planning and political advice

## POLICY PLANNING

■ The Directorate of Policy Planning has developed new networks, in particular with ministries of foreign affairs through work with policy planners. The annual policy planning seminar was held in April 2013 with the academic community through brainstorming meetings with European think tanks, and with the American academic community through the first Joint Council of Europe/Harvard University Conference, Divided by a Common Heritage: Human Rights in Europe and the United States.

■ Secretariat political reflection and in-house knowledge exchange was encouraged through 14 Open Thoughts Papers that analyse recent policy studies and research on issues relevant to the Council of Europe. The first issues of the Directorate of Policy Planning newsletter and the Academic Thoughts Brief, which summarises recent academic publications on the work of the Council of Europe, were produced.

■ Six Debates on European Identity and three Open-Ended Debates, aimed at diplomats, staff and experts, were presented by recognised European personalities with a view to stimulating innovative and open-minded thinking. Four Closed Informal Seminars to facilitate transversal exchanges between staff about a specific country or region were organised.

■ As in previous years, various briefing memos and relevant texts were prepared for the Secretary General and a Comprehensive Outlook Paper on 2014 prospects was disseminated.

## SCHOOLS OF POLITICAL STUDIES

■ The Schools of Political Studies (SPS) are functioning as ambassadors and multipliers of the Organisation's values and standards. As a well-functioning network the SPS enable bridges to be built between participants from countries experiencing frozen conflicts and who for this and other reasons rarely communicate with each other.

■ The first regionally based SPS was opened in the Visegrád countries. Indeed, regional networks between SPS are now well established, for example in the Western Balkans.

■ Throughout the year some 500 emerging leaders received high-level training to build a modern, democratic political culture. They also played a key role in the success of the World Forum for Democracy and benefited from additional events organised specifically for them.



**Daniel Cohn-Bendit** introduced the sixth European Identity Debate "Quo vadis Europa...?" in Strasbourg on Monday, 18 November 2013



The directors of the Schools of Political Studies at the **World Forum for Democracy** (Strasbourg, November 2013)

■ The SPS network has also been strengthened through activities to involve alumni, many of whom are now in positions of authority, in their own country or internationally. The professionalism of the SPS has been fostered, in particular with the development of a common evaluation manual.

■ Contacts for possible new SPS have been developed in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Greece and Turkey. Improved communication about the value-added nature of the SPS, including four issues of the newly created SPS newsletter, has led to an increase in voluntary funding.

## POLITICAL ADVICE

■ The Directorate of Political Advice contributed to the preparation of the seventh and eighth consolidated reports of the Secretary General on the conflict in Georgia, which were debated by the Committee of Ministers. As in previous years, the reports took stock of the situation in Georgia following the August 2008 conflict, provided information on the related activities of the Council of Europe, and put forward further action for the Organisation in terms of confidence-building measures in the region affected by the consequences of the conflict.

■ Regarding co-operation with Belarus, the project on the Council of Europe Information Point in Minsk helped strengthen the action and visibility of the Organisation in the country and disseminate information on Council of Europe standards and policies in its core areas of expertise. For the first time, more than 40 activities were organised in the country and around 1 000 local representatives took part in lectures,

round-tables and conferences. These activities covered the following issues: ways of introducing a moratorium or abolition of the death penalty; criminal procedure and human rights; students' initiatives and student governance; trafficking in human beings; intercultural dialogue; the fight against corruption; gender equality; and human rights education.

■ Following a stock-taking mission to Chişinău, a report adopted by the Committee of Ministers in October provided an overview of co-operation as well as recommendations for further action in view of an action plan of co-operation to support democratic reforms in the Republic of Moldova. A fact-finding mission took place in Montenegro in October with a view to preparing a second dialogue-based stock-taking report of co-operation and progress in the fulfilment of statutory commitments and democratic processes by Montenegro.

■ The directorate continued to implement confidence-building measures in post-conflict zones as well as frozen or protracted conflict zones. In 2013, this programme supported the dissemination of Council of Europe standards and contributed to dialogue and capacity-building of professionals in the affected regions. The main beneficiaries of the programme are representatives from both banks of the river Nistru/Dniester in the Republic of Moldova as well as representatives from the Southern Caucasus. In 2013, the Council of Europe facilitated the renewal of contacts between NGOs in Armenia and Azerbaijan that will be continued in 2014 in order to assist in building trust and confidence between the populations. The Council of Europe programme of co-operation with the Russian Federation for the Chechen Republic, conducted in partnership with the Office of the Ombudsman of the Russian Federation, was revisited in 2013 to address the issues of youth and social rights in line with the needs of societies in the North Caucasus Federal District. Two out of four activities were held in Grozny for the first time.



Negotiators of the 47 Council of Europe member states and the EU finalising the draft accession agreement of the EU to the European Convention on Human Rights (Strasbourg, April 2013)

## Directorate General

# Human Rights and Rule of Law

[www.coe.int/t/dgi/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dgi/default_en.asp)

### PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

#### ▶ MONITORING BODIES

#### EXECUTION OF JUDGMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

■ In 2013, the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, which assists and advises the Committee of Ministers in its supervision of execution, registered some 1 283 new cases, 150 less than in 2012. These included 201 reference cases revealing new structural problems in the countries concerned, the other cases being mainly repetitive cases. For the first time ever, the total number of cases pending at the end of the year decreased, albeit slightly, to approximately 10 100, including almost 1 500 reference cases. This positive trend is linked to a new record number of cases closed (some 1 398 compared to 1 035 in 2012).

■ Supervision activity was focused on cases placed under enhanced supervision (which applies to judgments requiring urgent individual measures), pilot judgments, judgments revealing important structural/complex problems and interstate cases, and concerned

some 319 reference cases in December. Most of these cases address prison overcrowding, non-enforcement of final domestic judicial decisions, excessive length of judicial proceedings and poor conditions of detention. Following their examination, the Committee of Ministers adopted 117 decisions, aiming at supporting or encouraging the ongoing efforts of execution.

■ A major purpose of the enhanced supervision procedure is to contribute to a limitation of the number of repetitive cases by close supervision of the rapid adoption of effective remedies or other measures suited to provide individual redress to victims and stop the influx of cases to the Court. Recent years have also seen many positive developments regarding the effectiveness of domestic remedies and in the solution of a number of important structural problems. The statistics for 2013 illustrate this progress.

### PREVENTION OF TORTURE AND INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT (CPT)

■ In 2013, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) carried out 10 periodic visits (to Belgium, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Montenegro, Poland, San Marino, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine) and eight ad hoc visits (to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Germany, Latvia, the Netherlands, Portugal, the Russian Federation and Turkey), logging some 153 visit days in the field. Furthermore, the CPT carried out four sessions of high-level talks with national authorities during the year (in Belgium, Republic of Moldova and twice in Ukraine).

■ The ad hoc visit to the Netherlands marked the CPT's first examination of the treatment of foreign nationals during a removal operation by air coordinated and co-financed by Frontex ("return flight" to Lagos, Nigeria).

■ Documenting and reporting medical evidence of ill-treatment form a substantive section of the CPT's 23rd General Report, published on 6 November.

■ At the request of the national authorities concerned, 19 visit reports and a comparable number of government responses were made public over the year. Special mention should be made of the publication of the two most recent visit reports to the Russian Federation.

### EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER AND THE EUROPEAN CODE OF SOCIAL SECURITY

■ Since 2009, when the financial and economic crisis began, the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) has observed a general increase in poverty in Europe. In national reports from 2013, the ECSR identified 180 violations of the European Social Charter's provisions on access to health care and social protection. These violations are linked to growing pressure on health care systems and inadequate levels of social benefits – disproportionately affecting the poor, the unemployed, the elderly and the sick. Against this background, the ECSR emphasises that the social rights must be protected, in particular under conditions of budgetary austerity. The ECSR called on member states to effectively guarantee the protection of social rights at a period when vulnerable people need this protection most.

### ► STANDARDS

■ Work on emerging human rights challenges concentrated on the promotion of human rights and dignity of older persons as there is an increasing need, in ageing societies, to address their position in society by promoting their autonomy and ensuring protection of their human rights. New activities were launched on human rights in business, in culturally diverse societies and on the impact of the economic crisis and austerity measures on the enjoyment of human rights. The negotiations on the accession of the EU to the European Convention on Human Rights were successfully concluded, and the draft instruments have now been submitted for opinion to the Court of Justice of the EU.

■ In 2013, changes in the Convention were designed to maintain the effectiveness of the European Court of Human Rights, in particular by facilitating the dismissal of trivial matters and by shortening the delays for depositing a complaint. A stronger insistence on national responsibilities should improve implementation of the Convention at national level as well as recalling the margin of appreciation of national courts. The dialogue with national courts will be strengthened through advisory opinions that the European Court of Human Rights may issue in future.

### ► CO-OPERATION

■ In order to help member states reform their criminal justice systems, the Council of Europe has supported states in bringing their criminal procedure codes and their legislation on the public prosecution service in line with European standards through tailor-made projects. One of the 14 large-scale projects was extremely successful in supporting the Constitutional Court of Turkey in introducing the right to individual application.

■ The European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) continues to be the unique Council of Europe platform to support judges, lawyers and prosecutors in better applying European human rights standards in their daily work. In order to better reach the actors of the justice chain, HELP has so far introduced national webpages in 22 countries. HELP also improved the quality of the training delivered in distance learning and face-to-face courses via national focal points. HELP's performance was recognised by its main donor, the Human Rights Trust Fund, which will continue to support the programme.

## SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

### MEDIA

■ At the Ministerial Conference on Media and Information Society (Belgrade, November 2013), the 300 participants (including the responsible Ministers and other stakeholders) set the following objectives for the Council of Europe: protect journalism, ensure journalists' safety and preserve the essential role of media in the digital age. These goals were confirmed by the Committee of Ministers, which also discussed the "Safety of journalists – Further steps for the better implementation of human rights standards". Hate speech was a recurring subject of discussion at both technical and political levels.

■ The need for gender equality in all aspects of the media was reaffirmed by a recommendation of the Committee of Ministers. It was highly commended by both media professionals and organisations working for freedom of expression and gender equality.

■ Council of Europe work in the field of media translated into many purposeful co-operation activities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Hungary, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. A regional network of self-regulatory bodies for journalists, including press councils from the Southern Caucasus, Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Tajikistan, was set up with Council of Europe support.

### INTERNET GOVERNANCE

■ According to the Ministerial Conference in Belgrade, the core of the Council of Europe's further work on Internet freedom will deal with how security agencies should gather and process electronic communications data on individuals while respecting human rights. To start with, a guide on the rights of Internet users has been developed.

■ At the invitation of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the Secretary General now participates in a multi-stakeholder high-level panel on Internet governance that should propose a blueprint for international co-operation.

■ For the first time, the Council of Europe agreed on a co-operation project with Ukraine containing a significant Internet governance component.

### DATA PROTECTION

■ The Russian Federation and Uruguay – the first non-European country to do so – joined the Council of Europe convention on data protection ("Convention 108") and Morocco was invited to accede to it. The 46 member states to Convention 108 are currently modernising the sole international legally binding instrument in this field in order to enhance the protection of individuals. The Committee of Ministers adopted a declaration alerting member states to the risks digital tracking and other surveillance technologies represent for fundamental rights.

### GENDER EQUALITY AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

■ The adoption of the Council of Europe Strategy on Gender Equality (2014-2017) marked an important step in advancing the Organisation's efforts to achieve de facto gender equality and support the implementation of standards in member states. Two major events, the conference Media and the Image of Women and the hearing "Access to justice for women victims of violence", provided a platform for exchange of ideas and good practices and promotion of Council of Europe standards.

■ The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ("Istanbul Convention") is increasingly accepted as "the gold standard" by international organisations, governments, civil society organisations and the general public. Six new countries signed the convention in 2013 and an additional seven ratified, bringing the treaty close to its entry into force. The fourth round of monitoring the implementation of the Committee of Ministers recommendation on the protection of women against violence was successfully completed, receiving the highest number of replies to date – from 46 out of 47 member states.



# A LIFE WITHOUT VIOLENCE IS EVERY WOMAN'S RIGHT

**International Day** for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November)

Strategic partnerships were reinforced with the EU, UN, OSCE, OAS and the World Bank, as well as networks of women's organisations (European Women's Lobby, WAVE Network, Women's Aid) and international NGOs. Co-operation and partnerships were developed and strengthened with the Southern Mediterranean countries.

## CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

With six new ratifications last year, there are now 29 Contracting Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse ("Lanzarote Convention"). The Lanzarote Committee started to collect information, experience and good practices from member states by means of two questionnaires addressed to both governments and civil society on how states' legislation and policies comply in general with the provisions of the convention, and more specifically on sexual violence in the "circle of trust".

## BIOETHICS

Activities focused on the protection of the human rights of particularly vulnerable persons in end-of-life situations. A guide on the decision-making process regarding medical treatment in end-of-life situations was approved by the Committee on Bioethics. It provides reference points for health care professionals as well as for patients and families seeking to understand the issues and their respective role in the process.

Specific work also addressed human rights issues raised by new developments in the biomedical field, in particular concerning biobanks, as well as genetic testing and emerging technologies.

## RULE OF LAW

### ACTION AGAINST CRIME

In the **criminal law field**, the rehabilitation of former prisoners into normal life should be improved by the annual exchange of good practices by prison administrations and SPACE, the annual penal statistics of the Council of Europe, which help member states improve detention conditions and broaden the use of probation. Through technical co-operation, 20 member states received support in developing probation services, improving prison management, delivering better health care (including for prisoners with mental health problems) and improving police complaints systems.

In **countering terrorism**, work focused on special investigative techniques and recruitment for terrorism, where a first assessment report was adopted by the parties to the Convention on the prevention of terrorism. More broadly, member states identified as priority areas radicalisation and receiving of training for terrorism including through the Internet, terrorists acting alone, and the assessment of eventual gaps in the relevant legal instruments.

■ Sixteen countries benefited from technical co-operation in implementing reforms to improve good governance, better prevent corruption, money laundering and terrorism financing, and recover stolen assets. In addition to more traditional capacity-building methods, in some cases the methodologies of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) were applied to assess the legal and institutional framework and identify areas for improvement (e.g. in Kosovo and Morocco). Elsewhere, co-operation moved into new areas, such as anti-corruption reforms in the judiciary or the protection of entrepreneurs from corrupt practices. In 2013, three major new joint programmes were begun.

#### MONEY LAUNDERING (MONEYVAL)

■ The MONEYVAL Committee welcomed the Holy See's rapid progress in meeting most of the recommendations of the 2012 report, which attracted unprecedented media coverage and encouraged the Vatican authorities to further develop their financial supervisory remit. The three UK Crown Dependencies of Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man presented their first progress reports, thereby strengthening the global anti-money laundering framework.

■ In the banking sector of Cyprus, MONEYVAL conducted a special assessment of the effectiveness of know-your-customer requirements. Its recommendations were incorporated into the action plan, which is part of the MoU between Cyprus and the EU Troika institutions. Cyprus presented a first report on its progress.

#### FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

■ One of the most important outcomes of the work of the **Pompidou Group** in 2013 was the adoption of the declaration on protecting public health by ensuring essential services in drug policy under austerity measures (Athens Declaration). The Declaration urged the reversal of the correlation between economic crisis, worrying public health trends and the risk of discrimination. It notes that the global financial and economic crisis in Europe and the related austerity measures have already brought about and may imminently exacerbate challenges related to the health and human rights of the individual and the population as a whole.

#### CORRUPTION (GRECO)

■ Prevention of corruption in respect of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors is the focus of **GRECO** in its Fourth Evaluation Round. GRECO's recommendations push for reform in areas such as ethical rules and codes of conduct, the prohibition or restriction of certain incompatible activities and the declaration of assets and income. In 2013 Finland, France, Iceland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" were each the subject of an evaluation report highlighting examples of good practice, challenges identified and recommendations for action to be taken and to be reported on after an 18-month implementation phase.

■ Political funding and legislation against corruption were the focus of GRECO's Third Evaluation Round. Here, GRECO reviewed the array of measures taken by its member states, for example, the ratification by Austria and Italy of the Council of Europe's seminal Criminal Law Convention on Corruption.

■ To raise awareness of the direct and negative impact of corruption on vulnerable groups and deepen understanding of gender-specific manifestations of corruption, GRECO held the first pan-European Conference on "Gender Dimensions of Corruption" in Prague.



GRECO Conference on "Gender Dimensions of Corruption" in Prague



**Intercultural workshop in Morocco on drawing up constitutions** (Marrakech, May 2013)

## CYBERCRIME

■ The reach of the Budapest Convention was further extended with the Dominican Republic and Mauritius adhering to this treaty. Almost 300 cybercrime experts from more than 80 countries participated in the global Octopus Conference on Cybercrime in December. The **Cybercrime Convention Committee** continued its assessment of the implementation of the Budapest Convention and adopted a number of Guidance Notes. Some 60 technical co-operation activities involved nearly 100 countries worldwide. Further to an offer by the Prime Minister of Romania, the Committee of Ministers decided to establish a Cybercrime Programme Office in Bucharest, Romania, with responsibility for the Council of Europe's capacity-building activities on cybercrime worldwide. The new joint project on Global Action on Cybercrime (GLACY) was launched in November.

## TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (GRETA)

■ In the framework of the implementation of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, **GRETA** carried out assessment visits to 10 countries and published another 10 final country evaluation reports, including recommendations. The implementation of recommendations was discussed in round-table

meetings that took place in eight countries. A workshop for legal professionals in South-Eastern Europe was organised in Belgrade with a view to increasing capacity to provide legal assistance to victims of trafficking and promoting networks between legal practitioners and victim support organisations. The need to enhance the protection of the rights of victims of trafficking prompted the organisation of a conference in Warsaw that allowed experts to clarify the content of the obligations under the convention and to exchange information on measures to protect victims.

■ The convention was ratified by one more Council of Europe member state as well as by Belarus, bringing the total number of ratifications to 41.

## JUSTICE AND LEGAL CO-OPERATION

### VENICE COMMISSION

■ The European Commission for Democracy through Law – the Venice Commission – adopted some 40 opinions and reports in 2013.

■ Regarding country-specific activities, Iceland adopted a simplified procedure for constitutional revision, which also allows for a more speedy adoption of constitutional amendments. The Commission concluded that the Fourth Amendment to the Hungarian Constitution perpetuated the problematic position of the President of the National Judicial Office in terms of the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, and undermined the constitutional review and the system of checks and balances. In response, Hungary introduced significant improvements when adopting the Fifth Amendment.

■ The Commission adopted two opinions concerning legislation on defamation. It welcomed the Italian draft law abolishing imprisonment for defamation and encouraged its final adoption. It urged Azerbaijan to remove prison sentences for defamation or limit such sanctions to the exceptional circumstances highlighted by the Strasbourg Court – hate speech or incitement to violence. High fines, which also have a chilling effect on the freedom of journalists, should be applied with care.

■ Regarding the relationship between political and criminal ministerial responsibility, the Commission stressed that criminal procedures should not be used to penalise political mistakes and disagreements. Addressing lobbying, a report provided an overview of strategies to strengthen the role of lobbyists in supporting democracy and contributed to the Committee of Ministers' assessment of the feasibility of a legal instrument in this field. The Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters and its potential development was addressed at the 10th European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies, which the Commission co-organised with the Central Election Commission of Moldova.

■ Eleven Arab countries were involved in two intercultural workshops on constitution drafting and on the political parties in societies in transition. Following fruitful exchanges with the Tunisian National Constituent Assembly throughout 2012 and 2013, the Commission adopted in October an opinion on the draft constitution of Tunisia. A number of key recommendations were integrated into the final draft. There were 800 participants at an international conference on the domestic implementation of human rights treaties, focusing on the Latin American experience, co-organised with the Federal Electoral Tribunal of Mexico.

■ The United States joined the Venice Commission as a full member on 15 April.

#### EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE (CEPEJ)

■ To improve the efficiency and quality of judicial systems in Europe and beyond is the core task of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ). In 2013 CEPEJ also agreed on continued co-operation with the European Commission in this field, based on its own methodology and findings. Policy makers and justice professionals were provided with concrete tools for improving judicial time management in courts, reforming their judicial maps to support access to justice within a quality judicial system, and strengthening the use of court user satisfaction surveys. On the basis of CEPEJ's methodology, tools and expertise, Turkey was supported in the reform of its court management system; court performance was assessed in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine; and Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia were supported in improving the efficiency and quality of their judicial systems through joint programmes with the EU.

■ The corpus of Council of Europe standards on justice was strengthened by the adoption of an opinion on the relations between judges and lawyers by the Consultative Council of European Judges as well as an opinion on the relations between prosecutors and the media by the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors.

#### WHISTLE-BLOWERS

■ A draft recommendation providing a legal framework for the protection of whistle-blowers was prepared and completed by the European Committee on Legal Co-operation in 2013. It also approved in December a draft recommendation on the fight against corruption and on strengthening transparency in the management of public bodies and private enterprises.



World Forum for Democracy  
(Strasbourg, November 2013)



The Democracy Innovation Award went to the **Women of Uganda Network** at the World Forum for Democracy

## Directorate General Democracy

[www.coe.int/democracy](http://www.coe.int/democracy)

### DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

#### WORLD FORUM FOR DEMOCRACY

[www.coe.int/en/web/world-forum-democracy](http://www.coe.int/en/web/world-forum-democracy)

■ The second Strasbourg World Forum for Democracy “Re-wiring Democracy: connecting institutions and citizens in the digital age” brought together 1 400 participants from 100 countries for a debate on the potential of e-technologies for fostering citizen participation in policy making and increasing the transparency and responsiveness of democratic institutions. The themes considered during the Forum were “Alternatives to representative democracy?”, “Towards Democracy 2.0?” and “Governing with citizens, envisioning the future”. The Forum’s conclusions highlighted the need for a greater openness of political parties to grassroots input; better regulation of e-participation schemes to ensure transparency and the protection of privacy; and an investment in media literacy to enable citizens to make full use of the opportunities of digital technology to influence political processes. The Forum highlighted the leading role of the Council of Europe in the field of democratic innovation.

#### LOCAL DEMOCRACY

■ Work on the implementation of local and regional democracy standards and good governance focused on the impact on local budgets of policies aimed at tackling the economic downturn, the strengthening of local democratic governance and its human rights dimension, and the enhancement of transfrontier co-operation. The Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform implemented 22 capacity-building programmes in 14 countries. Peer reviews were conducted in Albania, Armenia and Finland; legal and policy advice prior to reform measures were requested from Albania, Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine.

#### ELECTIONS

■ Pre-electoral assistance was provided in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, with a special focus on party financing; capacity-building of Central Election Commissions, media and Voters’ List Verification Commissions; the training of political parties and domestic election observers; and awareness-raising activities aimed at first-time voters and women, conducted on a large scale with encouraging results in terms of turnout.

#### THE INGO CONFERENCE ([www.coe.int/ngo](http://www.coe.int/ngo))

■ In 2013 the Conference of INGOs (international NGOs) kept a watchful eye on developments on the so-called “foreign agents law” in the Russian Federation, by providing an opinion on the law and a comparative study on political activities. These were presented to representatives of NGOs and the authorities in Moscow in November.

■ The Conference of INGOs’ Code of Good Practice for civil participation in the decision-making process is the main reference for work on participatory democracy. Its implementation was tested through a number of initiatives: the launching in March of a joint project with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities to map the implementation and use of the Code by local authorities; a debate in June on “NGO participation in political decision making processes”; and a seminar in Kyiv in November on “Civil participation in political decision-making processes: the Ukrainian path to European Standards”.

Concerning neighbourhood policy, the Conference of INGOs' action focused on women and their role in the Arab Spring. Civil society activists from Egypt and Tunisia participated in a round-table in January which highlighted the role played by women in bringing about regime change in a number of Arab countries but questioned what role they now played in political and public life.

A workshop organised to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 17 October, emphasised the reality of the economic crisis on the lives of people living in poverty.

#### CULTURAL GOVERNANCE AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

Moscow hosted the 10th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers of Culture, which looked into the impact of digitisation on cultural institutions and the question of how to measure the impact of culture on democracy.

The impact of the Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society ("Faro Convention") was tested in the northern districts of Marseilles, which demonstrated how citizens and local authorities can come together to improve their immediate living environment in a peaceful and mutually enriching way.

#### INTERCULTURAL CITIES

The Intercultural Cities network supported over 60 cities in Europe and beyond, in developing and implementing diversity management strategies for community cohesion and diversity advantage. This was complemented by the Mediane project, which encouraged a large range of media professionals to include diversity in their work structures and practice of content production. A milestone event on "making diversity work for cities" took place in Dublin from 6 to 8 February 2013, bringing together more than 250 participants including ministers, mayors, senior city officials, members of parliament, academics, civil society leaders and representatives of business and media organisations.

#### CULTURAL ROUTES (ENLARGED PARTIAL AGREEMENT)

Enabling and promoting human encounters on cultural routes criss-crossing the continent, the Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA) on Cultural Routes boosted its membership to 22 with the accession of Germany, Monaco, Switzerland, Hungary and Romania, with one observer (Armenia). Two projects were certified (the European Route of Megalithic Culture and the European Route of Huguenot and Waldeser Culture), bringing the total number of routes to 26. Major events during the year were the Second Summer Seminar in Selinunte, Sicily and the Annual Advisory Forum in Innsbruck, hosted by Austria in the framework of its Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers. In December the EPA was confirmed indefinitely.

#### EURIMAGES (PARTIAL AGREEMENT)

The Eurimages Partial Agreement supported 72 European co-productions at a total cost of €22.5 million. Films supported by Eurimages were extremely successful at the major international festivals – winning, for example, the Palme d'Or at Cannes for *La Vie d'Adèle*, the People's Choice Award in Berlin for *The Broken Circle Breakdown* – and broke box-office records (*Niko*, *Family Affair*, *Amour*, *Kon-Tiki*, *A Royal Affair*, etc.). These results confirm Eurimages' role as a driving force spreading the richness and cultural diversity of European cinema. The Partial Agreement is now open to non-member states.

#### LANDSCAPE AND ENVIRONMENT

In the field of biodiversity, States Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats ("Bern Convention") increased to 51, following the accession of Belarus, which became effective on 1 June.

#### MAJOR HAZARDS (EUR-OPA PARTIAL AGREEMENT)

The European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) recommended focusing on the inclusion of people with disabilities in disaster preparedness and response and adopted guidelines for the treatment of people with disabilities during emergency, crisis and disaster situations.

#### EUROPEAN AUDIOVISUAL OBSERVATORY (PARTIAL AGREEMENT)

The European Audiovisual Observatory collects and distributes market and legal analysis of the film, broadcasting, home video and on-demand audiovisual service industries. The number of member states rose to 41 as Morocco joined the Observatory in December. Bulgaria held the Observatory's Presidency in 2013.

■ The Observatory published its *Yearbook – Television, cinema, video and on-demand audiovisual services, FOCUS 2013 – World film market trends* (also translated into Arabic) and the monthly IRIS legal newsletter. It also maintained its four free access databases. Other publications include reports on TV news channels in Europe and a study of the Russian television and on-demand industry. On the legal side, the Observatory produced six IRIS plus reports on subjects such as the switchover to digital television in the Russian Federation, open journalism and the privacy of personal data in a digital world.

■ The Observatory continued to co-ordinate data research on the Mediterranean countries for the EU's Euromed Audiovisual III Programme. This collaboration resulted in country reports on Morocco, Egypt and Lebanon. In addition, a high-level expert meeting established the founding principles for a possible future South Mediterranean Audiovisual Observatory. The Observatory organised its annual conference during the Cannes Film Market on the intimate relationship between the film industry and the Internet, which offers a myriad of distribution possibilities.

## DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

### EDUCATION

■ At the end of the Ministerial Conference in Helsinki in April, 43 Ministers and high-level officials responsible for education backed the creation of a Europe-wide platform to tackle corruption and fraud in education and an ethical code for teachers. The platform and ethical code were part of a five-point plan agreed by the Ministers responsible for education to ensure access to quality education for every student in Europe, including Roma and other disadvantaged children.

■ The conference *Competences for a Culture of Democracy and Intercultural Dialogue: a Political Challenge and Values* was held in Andorra la Vella in February under the Andorran Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers. The participants laid the foundation for a new activity on developing competences for democracy and intercultural dialogue, included in the Council of Europe programme for 2014 to 2015.

■ The regional meeting of Ministers of Education on the implementation of the European Higher Education Area, held in Yerevan under the Armenian Chairmanship in October, allowed a broad discussion on different parts of the Bologna higher education structural reform process.

■ Through joint EU/Council Europe programmes in Turkey, a new elective secondary curriculum on human rights and democracy and a democratic school competence framework were piloted and finalised, and a compulsory fourth grade course on human rights and democracy was begun. A regional initiative in South-Eastern Europe to foster inclusive education was launched in Tirana in November with 49 pilot schools.

■ Strengthening competences for democracy is also the purpose of the Pestalozzi Programme, which in 2013 reached out to over 2 000 teachers, teacher trainers and educational professionals.

### YOUTH

■ The youth project on combating hate speech online, launched in March, aims at fighting racism and discrimination on the Internet, by equipping young people and youth organisations with the competences necessary to recognise and act against such human rights violations. The campaign is co-ordinated by national committees in 36 member states. The launch was followed by a workshop for national campaign co-ordinators and seven Action Days. Seven national training courses on human rights education with young people were organised, enabling over 300 trainers and youth workers across Europe to integrate human rights education in their activities.



The **No Hate Speech** Movement is co-ordinated by national committees in 36 member states

■ The Youth Peace Camp brought together young people from opposing sides in conflict-stricken communities and supported their commitment for change. The “Enter!” project on the access of all young people to social rights associated new youth work partners and local authorities in shaping local projects for social inclusion. The 4th Arab-Euro Youth Forum was organised in Qatar in co-operation with the League of Arab States, providing a new impetus to co-operation programmes on human rights, youth participation and intercultural dialogue. A training programme on democratic youth participation was set up with a specific focus on the Maghreb region.

■ In other activities, the international review of Greek youth policy was successfully implemented; preparations were made for a second review of Romanian youth policy. The “Villa Elba” youth centre (Kokkola, Finland) was awarded the Council of Europe label for youth centres. The “living library” was implemented in 10 Hungarian schools. The European Youth Foundation supported 380 youth projects.

#### NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE (PARTIAL AGREEMENT)

■ The Committee of Ministers entrusted the North-South Centre with the mission to contribute to the Council of Europe’s neighbourhood policy with the Southern Mediterranean countries, focusing on civil society, and in particular youth and women. In line with this decision, the 2013 Lisbon Forum focused on strengthening civil society as an actor of good governance in the Southern Mediterranean countries. The Forum formulated operational conclusions and proposals, the implementation of which should be followed up on.

■ The North-South Prize ceremony highlighted the achievements of two women: Dr Monika Hauser (Italy) and Asma Jahangir (Pakistan).

■ National and regional seminars were organised in Montenegro, the Visegrád countries, and the South-Eastern European and Mediterranean region (over 210 participants). Africa-Europe youth co-operation was further strengthened through training, policy and action plan follow-up. Eleven projects were granted seed funding and an Online Resource Centre was launched. Andorra joined the North-South Centre in April.



**North-South Centre:** Debate on “Reconciling political Islam and democracy: illusion or reality?” with two civil society leaders from Tunisia, **Saïda Ounissi** and **Faïza Zouaoui Skandrani** (Lisbon, November 2013)

## HUMAN DIGNITY AND EQUALITY

### EUROPEAN COMMISSION AGAINST RACISM AND INTOLERANCE (ECRI)

■ ECRI published nine new reports (on Finland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Malta, the Republic of Moldova, the Netherlands, Portugal, the Russian Federation and San Marino). Seven countries were visited (Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland). ECRI also published its conclusions on the implementation of the priority recommendations in respect of eight countries (Albania, Austria, Estonia, France, Georgia, Poland, the United Kingdom and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”).



### EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

■ Ten evaluation reports urging states to take measures to promote the use of their minority languages in all fields of public life were adopted. Several states, including France, Georgia, Italy and Lithuania, took concrete measures concerning ratification of the charter.

### FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES

■ In November, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the entry into force of the Framework Convention, a conference on the achievements and outstanding challenges of minority protection in Europe was organised. Speakers placed particular emphasis on the continued exclusion of persons belonging to Roma communities and the re-emergence of nationalism and racism in many parts of Europe and called on states to recommit themselves to ensuring that persons belonging to minorities are adequately protected and valued as active members of European society.

### MIGRATION

■ Guidelines for the Linguistic Integration of Adult Migrants were adopted and a feasibility study for the codification of European Immigration Detention Rules was drafted.

### SPORT

■ Morocco ratified the European Convention on Spectator Violence (ETS No. 120), bringing the total number of accessions to 42. The Ad Hoc European Committee for the World Anti-Doping Agency (CAHAMA) took part in revising the World Anti-Doping Code, the definitive version of which was adopted in Johannesburg, South Africa.

### ENLARGED PARTIAL AGREEMENT ON SPORT (EPAS)

■ The EPAS focused on a draft convention against the manipulation of sports competitions, notably match-fixing. Malta and Israel joined the agreement, increasing the number of member states to 35. Awareness-raising and co-operation activities were carried out on the promotion of diversity in and through sport, focusing notably on the protection of children: a European conference titled Inclusion and Protection of Children in and through Sport was held in Budapest from 7 to 8 October, in co-operation with the Council of Europe's ONE in FIVE Campaign.

### SOCIAL COHESION

■ The Council of Europe Action Plan for Social Cohesion (2010) was extended to Morocco and Tunisia. Two anti-poverty projects in co-operation with the European Commission (Human Rights and Poverty and Responding Together: Engaging Citizens in Combating Poverty and Precariousness) culminated in two major conferences in Strasbourg (February and November 2013) with over 600 participants.

■ The "Wikispiral" and "Responding Together" websites, which make European statistics on the well-being of citizens available in real time, received an average of 15 000 page visits per day.

### THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE DEVELOPMENT BANK (CEB) (PARTIAL AGREEMENT)

■ The CEB pursued its commitment to promoting social cohesion, in particular in the Target Group countries in Central, South-Eastern and Eastern Europe. It approved 38 projects worth a total of €2.27 billion (27 in the Target Group countries, totalling approximately €1.1 billion). Following Kosovo's accession on 4 November, CEB membership now stands at 41 with a subscribed capital of €5.5 billion. The majority of the projects (totalling €1.3 billion) were approved in the sectorial line of action "strengthening social integration".

■ The CEB continued to play an active role in the Sarajevo Process, in particular in the Regional Housing Programme.

### DISABILITY

■ The Committee of Ministers adopted new recommendations on ensuring full inclusion of children and young persons with disabilities into society, and on ensuring full, equal and effective participation of persons with disabilities in culture, sports, tourism and leisure activities. Capacity-building and co-operation activities were organised in Armenia, Belgium, Finland, Republic of Moldova, Poland, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, drawing on the Disability Action Plan 2006-2015 and other relevant texts.

### EUROPEAN DIRECTORATE FOR THE QUALITY OF MEDICINES AND HEALTHCARE (EDQM) (PARTIAL AGREEMENT)

■ The European Pharmacopoeia is now available in its eighth edition, including two supplements (2 240 monographs and 346 general texts). Eighty new reference standards and 220 replacement batches of existing reference standards necessary to apply the tests described in the monographs were established.

■ Under the joint Biological Standardisation Programme (BSP) with the European Commission, five projects on the establishment of biological reference standards were concluded. The BSP also plays a key role in the European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing, an initiative of the European Commission and industry.

■ Awareness of the Council of Europe Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving public health ("MEDICRIME Convention") was raised by an international conference in Strasbourg. The eTACT project for an anti-counterfeiting traceability service for medicines using mass serialisation has further evolved.

■ Specific protocols were elaborated for validating pharmaceutical care indicators in four key areas and presented to senior health policy makers from Europe and abroad.

■ The Committee of Ministers Resolution CM/Res(2013)9 on metals and alloys used in food contact materials and articles was adopted and a practical guide for manufacturers and regulators was published. Thirty-four member states contribute to the Consumer Health Protection Committee.

Updated editions of the guides on blood transfusion, organ transplantation and tissues and cells for human application (first edition) were published. Two resolutions on transplantation and one on blood transfusion were adopted. In co-operation with the European Commission, an External Quality Assessment Programme for blood establishments was conducted. The “European Day for Organ Donation & Transplantation” was celebrated on 12 October in Brussels.

For information on EDQM activities relating to biological standardisation, the Network of Official Medicines Control Laboratories, the Certification of Suitability Procedure and the Quality Management System, consult [www.edqm.eu](http://www.edqm.eu).

**The European Pharmacopoeia** covers, *inter alia*, active substances, excipients and preparations of chemical, animal, human or herbal origin, homoeopathic preparations and homoeopathic stocks and antibiotics



## ROMA ISSUES ([www.coe.int/roma](http://www.coe.int/roma))

In 2013, the Council of Europe continued to implement the Declaration on Roma adopted at a High Level Meeting on Roma in Strasbourg in 2010.

The Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma Issues (CAHROM) endorsed thematic reports on the following topics: school enrolment of Roma children, and Roma girls in particular; encampment areas for Travellers; social housing for Roma and legalisation of their settlements; and combating anti-Gypsyism, hate speech and hate crime against Roma. The CAHROM's work also resulted, *inter alia*, in the elaboration of a draft declaration on the genocide of Roma during the Second World War, which was transmitted to the Committee of Ministers for adoption in 2014.

The online database on Roma-related policies and good practices has been further enriched and now contains 85 entries.

The Organisation's work to increase the capacity of local and regional authorities to develop Roma integration policies led to two new partnership agreements with the European Commission: the ROMED 2 Programme on democratic governance and participation of the Roma community through mediation, and the ROMACT Programme, aiming at drafting and implementing plans and projects for Roma inclusion. ROMACT was launched in 2013 in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia.

The awareness-raising campaign Dosta! was launched in Lithuania, the Slovak Republic and Spain.



Commissioner **Štefan Füle** at the start-up conference of the Council of Europe/EU programme (Belgrade, Serbia, 26 April 2013)



**Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni**, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and **Rafik Abdesslem**, Tunisian Minister for Foreign Affairs, signed an MoU, the first with a non-member state of the Council of Europe (Tunis, January 2013)

# Actions in the field and resource mobilisation

---

## EASTERN EUROPE

With an overall budget of over €18 million, the action plan for the **Republic of Moldova** for 2013 to 2016 addresses the following priority areas: improvement of the constitutional framework and co-operation on electoral matters; the fight against corruption; reforms of the judiciary and of the Public Prosecutor's Service; coherent application of the European Convention on Human Rights at the national level; supporting the observance of the rights of the Roma population; assistance to the Ombudsman's office; combating ill-treatment and trafficking in human beings; promoting media freedom and pluralism; and strengthening of local democracy and support through the implementation of the National Decentralisation Strategy.

The Programme Office of the Council of Europe in the **Russian Federation** was opened in Moscow in October. The overall budget for co-operation activities amounts to €11.5 million (of which €4 million has already been secured for the period 2013 to 2015). In 2013, projects were launched on the protection of the rights of entrepreneurs against corrupt practices and the strengthening of capacity for domestic implementation of the Convention and the revised European Social Charter.

The revised action plan for **Ukraine** for 2011 to 2014 adopted in November includes 57 projects, with a total budget of over €34 million (of which €21 million has already been secured). Six new co-operation projects began in 2013 in the fields of domestic application of European human rights standards, criminal justice, women's and children's rights, the judiciary and the media.

## SOUTHERN CAUCASUS

The action plan for **Armenia** includes 19 projects with an overall budget of over €15 million (of which €9.5 million has been secured). In the course of the year three new large-scale projects were launched, supported by Denmark and Norway, as well as one regional joint programme with the EU. The new co-operation activities cover priority areas such as strengthening the application of the Convention and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, consolidating local democracy and promoting penitentiary reform. In April, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia signed an MoU at the Council of Europe office in Yerevan.

During 2013, in the framework of the negotiations on an action plan for **Azerbaijan** (to be adopted in 2014), priority fields for co-operation were jointly identified: freedom of assembly; freedom of expression and association; media freedom; action against corruption; free and fair elections; functioning of political parties; penitentiary system; pre-trial and administrative detention; independence and efficiency of the judiciary; local democracy; action against cybercrime; and intercultural dialogue. Ongoing co-operation activities have a budget of over €1.3 million. In 2013, two regional joint programmes with the EU were implemented in Azerbaijan as well as one country-specific project (funded by Norway).

With a total budget of €17 million, the action plan for **Georgia** for 2013 to 2015 includes 34 projects aimed to support the country's reform agenda in a number of key areas such as the domestic implementation of the Convention and its case law; further judiciary and penitentiary reforms; police reform; liberalisation of criminal justice policies and practice; promoting media independence and professionalism; and electoral standards.

### SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

The main thrusts of co-operation with **Bosnia and Herzegovina** included support to judiciary and penitentiary reforms; freedom of expression and media tolerance and professionalism; promoting a democratic and a tolerant society through efforts to promote inclusiveness in education; as well as enhanced participation of civil society, women and youth in the political process.

The ongoing co-operation activities in **Serbia** are budgeted at €6 million (mainly joint programmes with the EU and a few voluntary contributions). In 2013, new projects were launched in the areas of anti-corruption, judiciary, inclusive education, media freedom, and human rights awareness-raising activities were actively implemented (ONE in FIVE Campaign, LGBT Project, etc.).

The funding secured for ongoing co-operation activities in **Turkey** amounts to more than €27 million, mainly through joint programmes with the EU. In 2013, important projects were implemented in the fields of justice, anti-corruption, ethics and human rights education. The Council of Europe also carried out a project in the field of freedom of expression/media freedom in Turkey.

Action in **Kosovo** includes, *inter alia*, work in the field of non-judicial human rights protection mechanisms; economic crime, corruption and anti-money laundering; minority rights; and freedom of expression and information and the media. During 2013, the Council of Europe expanded its actions through "interaction on the basis of functional capacity"<sup>2</sup>

2. That is, direct interaction with the relevant and competent authorities for the effective implementation of current and future activities in Kosovo while at the same time explicitly and formally reflecting the Council of Europe's neutral position and compliance with UNSCR 1244.

### SOUTHERN NEIGHBOURHOOD

In 2013 the Council of Europe strengthened its involvement in the Southern Mediterranean mainly via the regional joint programme with the EU, Strengthening Democratic Reform in the Southern Neighbourhood, and has organised several regional events in which representatives from a number of countries from the region participated.

**Morocco** was granted observer status to CEPEJ in June. The Council of Europe was also active in evaluating the Moroccan anti-corruption legislative and institutional framework and preparing specific recommendations for the authorities. Activities as regards human rights concentrated on the fight against trafficking in human beings and thanks to Norwegian funding the Organisation strengthened its work on fighting violence against women and children. The Council of Europe was also supportive of the new constitutional roles of the Moroccan Parliament and civil society (a Moroccan SPS was inaugurated in March 2013).

In January, the Deputy Secretary General signed the first MoU with a non-member state of the Organisation, in order to establish a Council of Europe office in **Tunis**.

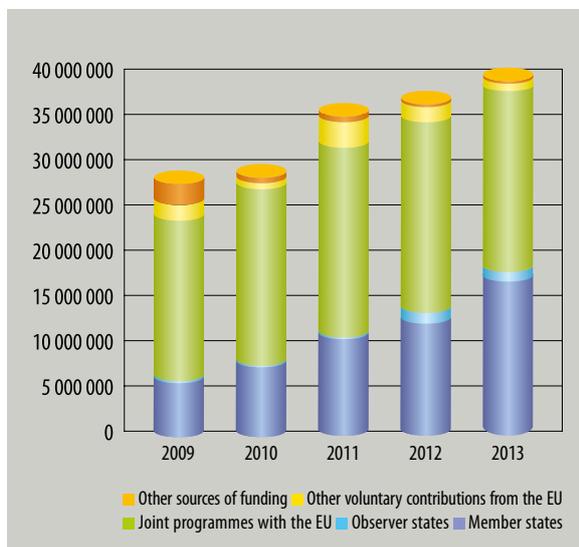
In July, a joint programme with the EU, Support to the **Jordanian** Authorities in Improving the Quality and Efficiency of the Jordanian Justice System, was launched with a budget of €500 000.

In December, the document "Neighbourhood co-operation priorities for **Kazakhstan** 2014-2015: co-operation activities on Council of Europe's conventions in criminal matters" was approved. Kazakhstan was invited to join the enlarged partial agreement GRECO.

In 2013 relations between the **Kyrgyz Republic** and the Council of Europe intensified and discussions on a focused Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities for the Kyrgyz Republic for 2014 to 2016 were initiated.

## RESOURCE MOBILISATION AND DONOR RELATIONS

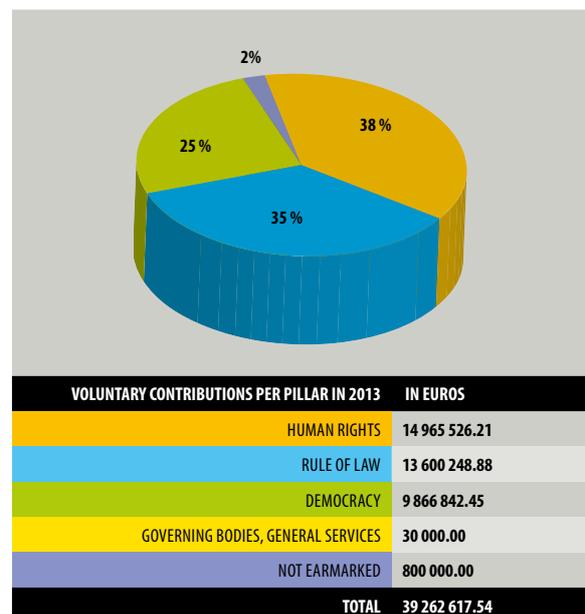
### EXTRA BUDGETARY RECEIPTS 2013



#### 2013 COMPARED TO 2012:

- ▶ Overall receipts increased by 4% to approximately €39.3 million (€37.7 million in 2012, €36.4 million in 2011, €29.6 million in 2010).
- ▶ Voluntary contributions from member states increased by 32.3% to €16.8 million.
- ▶ 37 of the 47 member states contributed in 2013 (33 in 2012). The top 10 member states represent 71% of the total receipts from member states (88% in 2012).
- ▶ Norway, Denmark and Switzerland top the member states with contributions of €4.4 million, €3 million and €1.1 million respectively. The Human Rights Trust Fund contributed €2.6 million.
- ▶ Receipts for Council of Europe/EU joint programmes have decreased by 8% to €20 million (€21.7 in 2012) and accounted for 51% of total extra budgetary receipts.
- ▶ The EU also made a number of voluntary contributions (that is, outside of joint programmes) amounting to €866 000.

- ▶ Contributions from non-member states having observer status decreased by 17% to €1.1 million.
- ▶ “Other” sources of funding (that is, not EU, member or observer states) contributed €491 000.
- ▶ Voluntary contributions from all sources, but excluding receipts for Council of Europe/EU joint programmes, totalled €19.3 million and represent a 20% increase.





Meeting of the **Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI)**

# Public international law

*www.coe.int/en/web/cahdi*

**T**he Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI) held exchanges of views on immunities of states and international organisations, in particular on service of process and special missions, as well as on sanctions of the UN. The CAHDI also served as a forum for the promotion of a draft declaration on immunities of state-owned cultural property on loan. The follow-up of various working subjects allowed both the development and the update of the databases regarding state immunities, the Organisation and functions of the Office of the Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and national implementation of UN sanctions. The new website of the CAHDI has been online since November 2013.

■ The CAHDI carried out a follow-up of recent developments regarding international humanitarian law, the International Criminal Court and the international criminal tribunals, the accession of the EU to the European Convention on Human Rights and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights involving issues of public international law. Furthermore, a conference on the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, held in March 2013 on the initiative of Liechtenstein, was co-organised by the CAHDI.

■ In its role as European Observatory of Reservations to International Treaties, the CAHDI gathered the reactions of the delegations on 27 outstanding reservations. This activity contributes to the reservations dialogue on the international level and has an impact on the subsequent actions of states with regard to the reservations mentioned.

■ Over the year, the CAHDI continued its cooperation with the lawyers and legal services of other international organisations, in particular through the annual exchange of views with the International Law Commission. The collaboration with the UN was strengthened by the presence of the CAHDI Secretariat in the debates of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Finally, the members of the CAHDI held an exchange of views with the Senior Legal Adviser of the OSCE, which was granted participant status within the CAHDI with effect from 1 January 2014.

■ The CAHDI communicated to the Ministers' Deputies the results of its exchange of views on the request for observer status within the CAHDI submitted by Belarus, which was granted on 3 July 2013. Furthermore, the CAHDI adopted an opinion on Recommendation 2027 (2013) of the Parliamentary Assembly, European Union and Council of Europe human rights agendas: synergies not duplication.



(from left) **Gilbert Saboya Sunyé**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Andorra and Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers, **Thorbjørn Jagland**, Council of Europe Secretary General, and **Daniel Höltgen**, Spokesperson for the Secretary General, at a press conference (May 2013)

# Communications

**Working closely with media professionals and European multipliers and networks, the Directorate of Communications (DC) generated greater visibility for the values and standards of the Council of Europe in 2013.**

## MEDIA RELATIONS

**T**he year 2013 was a challenging year for media relations, with a major shift away from events-based communication to a more strategic approach.

■ Nineteen major interviews with the Organisation's leaders were placed in quality publications. The media monitoring team tracked 13 395 articles and news items in print and online that mentioned the Council of Europe during the year. The reports of monitoring bodies, such as the MONEYVAL Committee's report on the Holy See, decisions of the European Court of Human Rights, and Parliamentary Assembly sessions generated significant coverage as well as statements of the Secretary General and other personalities around specific Council of Europe subjects. Almost 2 000 articles were published in international media, and significant numbers were published in Italy (1 084), France (1 063), Russia (1 037), Spain (955), the UK (849) and Germany (707).

■ DC supplied Europe's largest television news agencies and broadcasters with 120 news feeds on a wide range of subjects, from major Court stories, such as the ETA terrorism case, to visits by VIPs including German President Joachim Gauck and Russian Duma Speaker Sergey Naryshkin. Of these, 108 went to agencies and networks such as Reuters, APTN, ENEX and Eurovision. The remainder were used by broadcasters such as the BBC, ARD, Channel One Russia and NTV Turkey. Of the news feeds, 17 concerned stories from the Parliamentary Assembly, and 16 covered the Court.

■ DC modernised its television studio and control room, and installed an internal server network to speed up the editing and distribution of audiovisual products and images. A new project, the weekly *Journal*, brought news and views from all parts of the Organisation to an audience of decision makers and special interest groups via the Internet. It was hosted by a number of websites, including that of *Der Standard*, the leading Austrian daily paper, and *EU Reporter*, the Brussels-based news organisation. Thirty-one editions of the *Journal* were produced during the year, including a special edition focusing on the conference in Moscow of Council of Europe Ministers of Culture. With its short format of approximately 8 to 10-minute clips, interviews, news items and topical video footage, the programme quickly attracted a loyal following and achieved more than 750 000 views by the end of 2013.

■ The number of unique visitors to the Council of Europe hub increased by 10% to over 2.5 million. The number of unique visitors to the Human Rights Europe blog trebled to 96 000. Viewings of videos posted on YouTube increased by 152%. The Organisation's official Twitter following in English increased by 67% to almost 51 000, and an official Twitter feed in French was started. Official Facebook followers increased by 38% to over 53 000, and a new Facebook profile in Russian was launched.

■ Serious progress was made in migrating Secretariat websites to the new content management system Liferay. Web editorial guidelines were completed and used in targeted training sessions.

■ The directorate also continued its programme of media training courses, which for the first time included a special course on how to film and edit video images using smartphones and tablets.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

■ The Organisation's identity and values were promoted to target groups through public relations activities and events, particularly the celebration of the European Year of Citizens on Europe Day and during the "month of Europe" in May.

■ An exhibition on the subject of democratic citizenship, translated into five languages, was staged at several venues in Alsace, Paris, Moscow and Sarajevo, and was also distributed in poster form to schools in France, Germany and Austria. A "Strasbourg Dialogue" session featuring Martin Hirsch, head of France's civic service agency, was held in partnership with the City of Strasbourg on the theme of civic commitment. Arranged in partnership with Strasbourg's multimedia centre, a "living library" also illustrated the theme of citizenship and human rights. The Council of Europe was represented at the Istanbul Film Festival, for the seventh FACE award ceremony, and at the Sarajevo Film Festival.

■ On the occasion of all those events, graphic lines and information material (leaflets, brochures, posters, exhibition panels, etc.) were designed and produced. These were promoted through the contacts database (over 11 000 addressees) and to partner sites. The Andorran, Armenian and Austrian Chairmanships of the Committee of Ministers also provided occasion for greater communication efforts vis-à-vis those countries.

■ Five commercial publications reflected the Organisation's priorities: on the ROMED network (participation of Roma communities through mediation); the convention on adoption; the English versions of the *History of the Council of Europe* and *Freedom of expression and the Internet*; and the French translation of *The accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights*. A new general leaflet about the Organisation was published in paper form in five languages, and in electronic form in another 10 languages. Among the large number of translations into non-official languages were the human rights fact sheets, published and disseminated in Armenian, and the leaflet about key articles of the European Convention on Human Rights in German, Italian, Russian and Armenian.

■ A new online publications platform was introduced in October. This incorporates both the updated online bookshop ([book.coe.int](http://book.coe.int)) and a selection of free documentation for the general public ([edoc.coe.int](http://edoc.coe.int)), which can be viewed in user-friendly form (flipBook) or downloaded (e.g. as booklets, posters, documents for teachers, extracts from books).

■ Over 40 000 visitors took part in study programmes and fact-finding visits about the Council of Europe. The partnership with the European Law Students' Association network was consolidated with the first European Human Rights Moot Court Competition in English. Thirty-one European countries were represented by 120 teams pleading a fictitious case for the purpose of the competition. The final was held at the Court in February, with 16 teams from 13 countries competing.

■ A new visual identity was rolled out by the Organisation from June onwards. This incorporates the revised official logo and all the harmonised sizes for printed and event material through a new graphic charter.



The team from **Trinity College Dublin** (Ireland), winner of the first edition of the European Human Rights Moot Court Competition on the European Convention on Human Rights (Strasbourg, February 2013)



An exhibition on **democratic citizenship** presented in Strasbourg (May 2013)





# 2013 contributions of Council of Europe member states

## MEMBER STATES' CONTRIBUTIONS

ALBANIA	477 428.62
ANDORRA	262 681.40
ARMENIA	357 175.01
AUSTRIA	5 406 491.62
AZERBAIJAN	1 058 227.03
BELGIUM	6 914 332.29
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	557 599.56
BULGARIA	1 138 089.74
CROATIA	1 133 994.18
CYPRUS	503 838.58
CZECH REPUBLIC	3 172 310.14
DENMARK	4 349 842.49
ESTONIA	483 457.01
FINLAND	3 477 525.48
FRANCE	38 358 207.97
GEORGIA	505 342.93
GERMANY	35 329 663.91
GREECE	4 837 83.91
HUNGARY	2 378 661.23
ICELAND	493 351.01
IRELAND	3 254 275.03
ITALY	35 467 297.91
LATVIA	585 252.50
LIECHTENSTEIN	332 631.99

LITHUANIA	784 088.34
LUXEMBOURG	858 796.14
MALTA	372 652.97
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	344 442.42
MONACO	341 691.97
MONTENEGRO	383 688.89
NETHERLANDS	11 187 095.76
NORWAY	5 541 935.95
POLAND	8 300 125.53
PORTUGAL	3 672 735.80
ROMANIA	3 571 191.85
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	32 356 877.51
SAN MARINO	139 337.80
SERBIA	1 083 671.83
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	1 459 436.88
SLOVENIA	841 891.73
SPAIN	21 623 647.99
SWEDEN	6 234 236.67
SWITZERLAND	6 822 774.20
"THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA"	485 593.28
TURKEY	13 096 073.00
UKRAINE	4 179 370.60
UNITED KINGDOM	32 042 886.94

**TOTAL**

**306 559 755.59**



# 2013 voluntary contributions to the Council of Europe (€)

MEMBER STATES	
1 NORWAY	4 364 762.00
2 DENMARK	3 031 472.23
3 HUMAN RIGHTS TRUST FUND <sup>3</sup>	2 620 000.00
4 SWITZERLAND	1 108 550.17
5 GERMANY	810 996.16
6 FRANCE	730 877.71
7 FINLAND	593 203.18
8 EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA <sup>4</sup> (EEA)	449 710.81
9 LUXEMBOURG	372 308.33
10 AUSTRIA	361 500.00
11 NETHERLANDS	277 050.00
12 SWEDEN	257 507.04
13 BULGARIA	184 125.00
14 BELGIUM	178 134.38
15 UNITED KINGDOM	174 635.42
16 IRELAND	150 000.00
17 POLAND	145 000.00
18 HUNGARY	125 094.49
19 LIECHTENSTEIN	117 962.92
20 RUSSIAN FEDERATION	111 234.14
21 ITALY	108 404.88
22 TURKEY	100 000.00
23 ROMANIA	65 281.58
24 MONACO	64 967.62
25 ICELAND	60 468.74
26 SPAIN	56 500.00
27 ANDORRA	53 833.87
28 PORTUGAL	31 500.00
29 ARMENIA	30 000.00
30 CZECH REPUBLIC	30 000.00
31 SLOVAK REPUBLIC	20 953.16
32 ESTONIA	20 000.00
33 CROATIA	12 979.38
34 GREECE	11 005.70
35 SERBIA	8 474.54
36 AZERBAIJAN	6 656.62
37 MALTA	5 000.00
38 CYPRUS	3 221.00
39 LITHUANIA	1 000.00
<b>TOTAL MEMBER STATES</b>	<b>16 854 371.07</b>

OBSERVER STATES	
1 CANADA	914 425.06
2 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	90 812.81
3 JAPAN	45 000.00
<b>TOTAL OBSERVER STATES</b>	<b>1 050 237.87</b>

EUROPEAN UNION	
JOINT PROGRAMMES	20 001 635.67
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS	865 519.78
<b>TOTAL EUROPEAN UNION</b>	<b>20 867 155.45</b>

OTHERS	
1 SUPPORTERS OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN RUSSIA	136 849.12
2 A.G. LEVENTIS FOUNDATION	70 000.00
3 MOSCOW STATE LINGUISTIC UNIVERSITY	40 000.00
4 ISRAEL	36 630.00
5 ISLE OF MAN	35 000.00
6 STATES OF GUERNSEY	35 000.00
7 STATES OF JERSEY	35 000.00
8 OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS	15 720.44
9 "LA CAIXA" FOUNDATION	15 000.00
10 CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI FIRENZE	15 000.00
11 UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ	12 000.00
12 ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE	10 880.00
13 CHARTA 77 FOUNDATION	7 500.00
14 VÁCLAV HAVEL LIBRARY	7 500.00
15 NORDIC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS	6 979.62
16 JAPAN FOUNDATION	5 841.83
17 INDIVIDUAL DONORS	3 056.54
18 UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA	2 895.60
<b>TOTAL OTHERS</b>	<b>490 853.15</b>

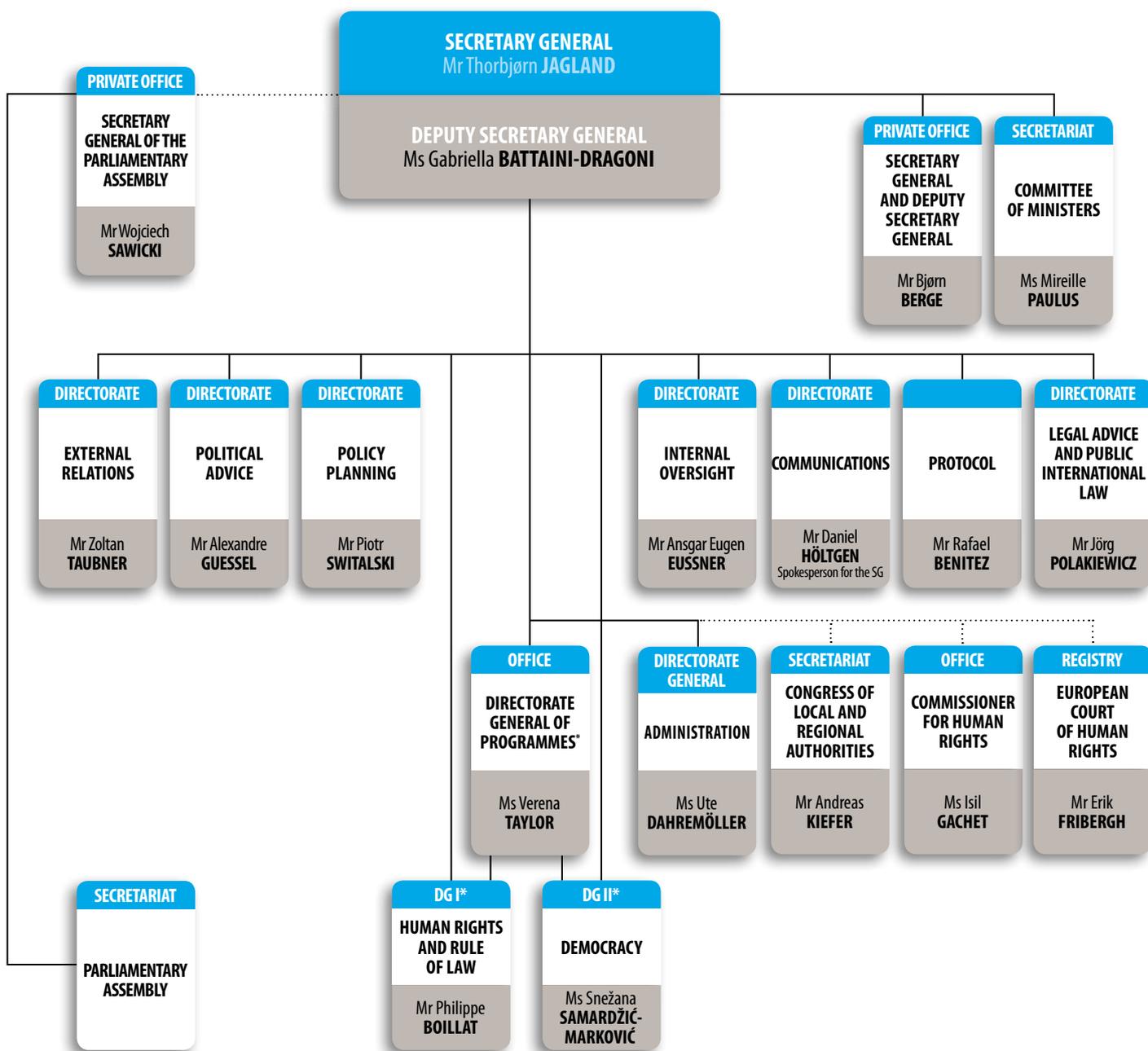
  

<b>GRAND TOTAL 2013</b>	<b>39 262 617.54</b>
-------------------------	----------------------

3. Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom.

4. Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway.

# Organisation chart of the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe in 2013



\* DGI DGII report to the Secretary General  
Office of the DG PROG co-ordinates intergovernmental activities



This publication presents the work carried out in 2013 by the different bodies and sectors of the Council of Europe, highlighting its particular strengths and achievements.

[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.