

The Council of Europe

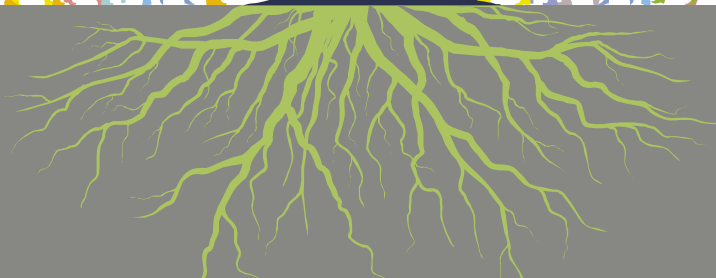


47 Member States
800 million Europeans

HUMAN RIGHTS
DEMOCRACY
RULE OF LAW



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The Council of Europe in brief



- Established in 1949 by 10 states
- Comprises 47 member states
- Based in Strasbourg, France
- An international intergovernmental organisation
- Main bodies:
 - Committee of Ministers*
 - Parliamentary Assembly*
 - Congress of Local and Regional Authorities*
 - European Court of Human Rights*
 - The Commissioner for Human Rights*
 - The Conference on International NGOs*



47 member states



Member states



Candidate state: Belarus

Member states

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom

Observers

Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, USA



The Council of Europe's main goals

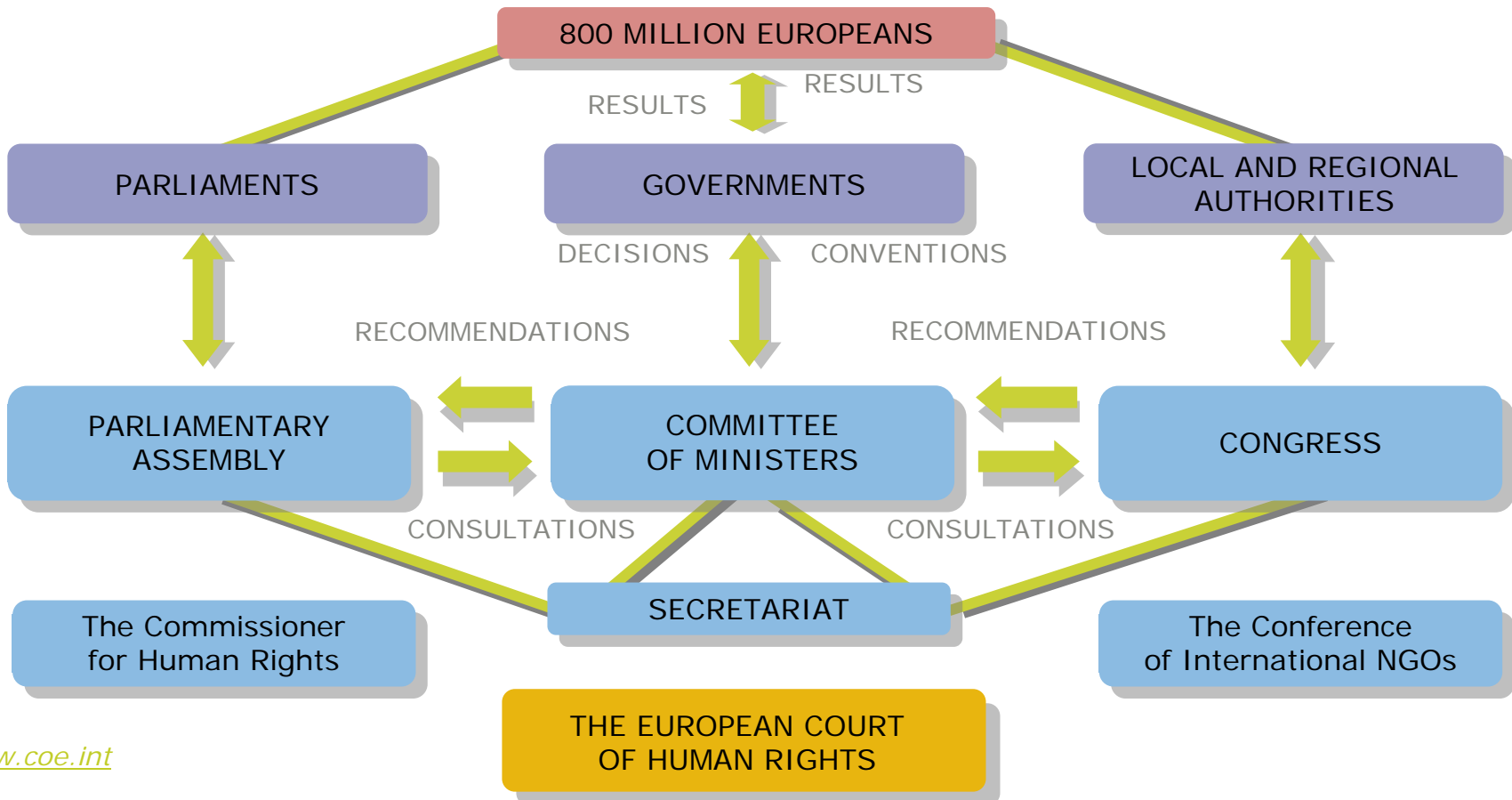


- Safeguarding human rights, democracy and the rule of law
- Promoting social and economic rights
- Combating racism, xenophobia and intolerance
- Promoting cultural diversity in Europe
- Finding common solutions to society's problems
- Developing democratic citizenship through educational, youth, sport and heritage initiatives



How it works?

- Dialogue between the Council of Europe's main bodies
- The Secretariat is divided into directorates covering main activities
- Results take various forms: conventions, recommendations, conferences and reports





The Committee of Ministers



- Is the decision-making body
- Comprises the 47 foreign affairs ministers of the member states or their permanent representatives “ambassadors” in Strasbourg
- Decides the Council of Europe’s policy and programme of action
- Approves the annual budget
- Meets annually at ministerial level and several times a month at ambassadorial level



The Parliamentary Assembly



- Deliberative body, representing the parliaments of member states
- Comprises 318 members (and 318 deputies) together with delegations from non-member states
- Makes recommendations to the Committee of Ministers in key areas
- Meets in plenary sessions four times a year
- Sessions are open to the public



Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly



- The number of representatives per member state (between 2 and 18) is proportional to the population of the country
- The representatives are members of their own national parliaments of all 47 Council of Europe countries and are not directly elected to the Parliamentary Assembly



The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities



- A consultative body
- Comprises two chambers: one each for local and regional authorities
- Advises the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly on all aspects of local and regional policy
- Co-operates closely with new member states on the practical aspects of establishing effective local and regional government structures



The European Court of Human Rights



- Examines violations of the European Convention on Human Rights
- Supervises implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights in member states
- Is based permanently in Strasbourg
- Is accessible to individuals as well as groups and governments
- Judgments are binding on the state concerned



The Commissioner for Human Rights



- Has responsibility for promoting education, awareness and respect for human rights
- Ensures compliance with the Council of Europe's conventions and recommendations
- Thomas Hammarberg (Sweden) was elected in April 2006 for a six-year non-renewable term



The Conference of International NGOs



- Comprises some 400 international non-governmental organisations
- Provides a vital link between politicians and the general public
- Brings the voice of civil society to the Council of Europe
- The Council benefits extensively from international NGOs' expertise and their ability to speak on behalf of European citizens



The Secretary General



- Manages the Secretariat and co-ordinates the activities of the Organisation
- Holds responsibility for the strategic planning and the administration of the Council of Europe's operational programme
- Is elected for a five-year term by the Parliamentary Assembly
- The post is currently held by Terry Davis (United Kingdom), who took office in 2004



The Council of Europe is active in all areas affecting European society with the exception of defence...

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|----------------------|
| democracy | ● | culture and heritage |
| human rights | ● | natural heritage |
| rule of law | ● | education |
| legal co-operation | ● | youth |
| social cohesion | ● | sport |
| public health | ● | media |



... and leads public awareness campaigns



Campaign to combat trafficking in human beings



Campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence



Campaign: Dosta! Go beyond prejudice, discover the Roma



Campaign: Raise your hand against smacking!

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Campaign: Europe against the death penalty



Campaign: Speak out against discrimination



Partial agreements

- CEB: Council of Europe Development Bank
- EDQM
- The Pompidou Group
- EUR-OPA
- EURIMAGES
- The North-South Center (Lisbon)
- “Venice Commission”
- Partial Agreement on Youth Card
- European Audiovisual Observatory
- European Centre for Modern Languages (Graz)
- Group of States against Corruption
- EPAS: Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport



Note the difference

Council of Europe

European Council (EU)

Parliamentary Assembly

European Parliament (EU)

**European Court
of Human Rights**

International Court of Justice
(UN, The Hague)

Court of Justice of the European
Communities (EU, Luxemburg)

**European Convention
on Human Rights**

Universal Declaration
of Human Rights (UN)



European symbols

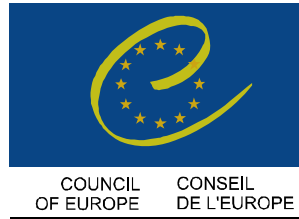


The European flag

- A circle of 12 gold stars on a blue background
- The circle of stars represents the union of the peoples of Europe
- Adopted by the Council of Europe in 1955

The European anthem

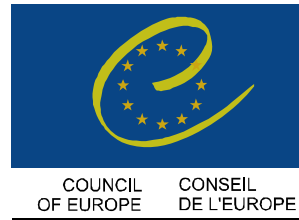
- A musical arrangement by Herbert von Karajan of the prelude to the "Ode to Joy" from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony
- Adopted by the Council of Europe in 1972



For further information
about the Council of Europe

www.coe.int

Back-up slides





The Council of Europe in everyday life

- Work on intercultural and inter-religious dialogue aims to reconcile different outlooks and views in pursuit of common European values
- Decisions of the European Court of Human Rights create a point of reference for lawyers in all member states to argue new cases in defence of human rights and fundamental freedoms
- The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance combats racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance throughout greater Europe
- European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment prevents the occurrence of inhuman treatment or torture





Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly



Number of
representatives

Member States

- 2 Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino
- 3 Cyprus, Estonia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Iceland, Latvia, Luxemburg, Malta, Montenegro, Slovenia
- 4 Albania, Armenia, Ireland, Lithuania
- 5 Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Moldova, Norway, Slovakia
- 6 Austria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Sweden, Switzerland
- 7 Belgium, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, Portugal, Serbia
- 10 Romania
- 12 Poland, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine
- 18 France, Germany, Italy, Russian Federation, United Kingdom





The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities



Number of representatives

Member States

- 2 Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino
- 3 Cyprus, Estonia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Iceland, Latvia, Luxemburg, Malta, Montenegro, Slovenia
- 4 Albania, Armenia, Ireland, Lithuania
- 5 Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Moldova, Norway, Slovakia
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Council of Europe – Milestones

Treaty of London establishes the Council of Europe

Signing of the European Cultural Convention

Establishment of the European Court of Human Rights

Signing of the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture

Installation of the Commissioner for Human Rights

05.05.1949

04.11.1950

19.12.1954

12.01.1957

18.09.1959

18.10.1961

26.11.1987

06.11.1990

07.05.1999

05.05.2009

Signing of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

Establishment of the Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (now Congress)

The Council's European Social Charter comes into force

Accession of Hungary, the first country to join after fall of Berlin Wall

60th Anniversary of the Council of Europe





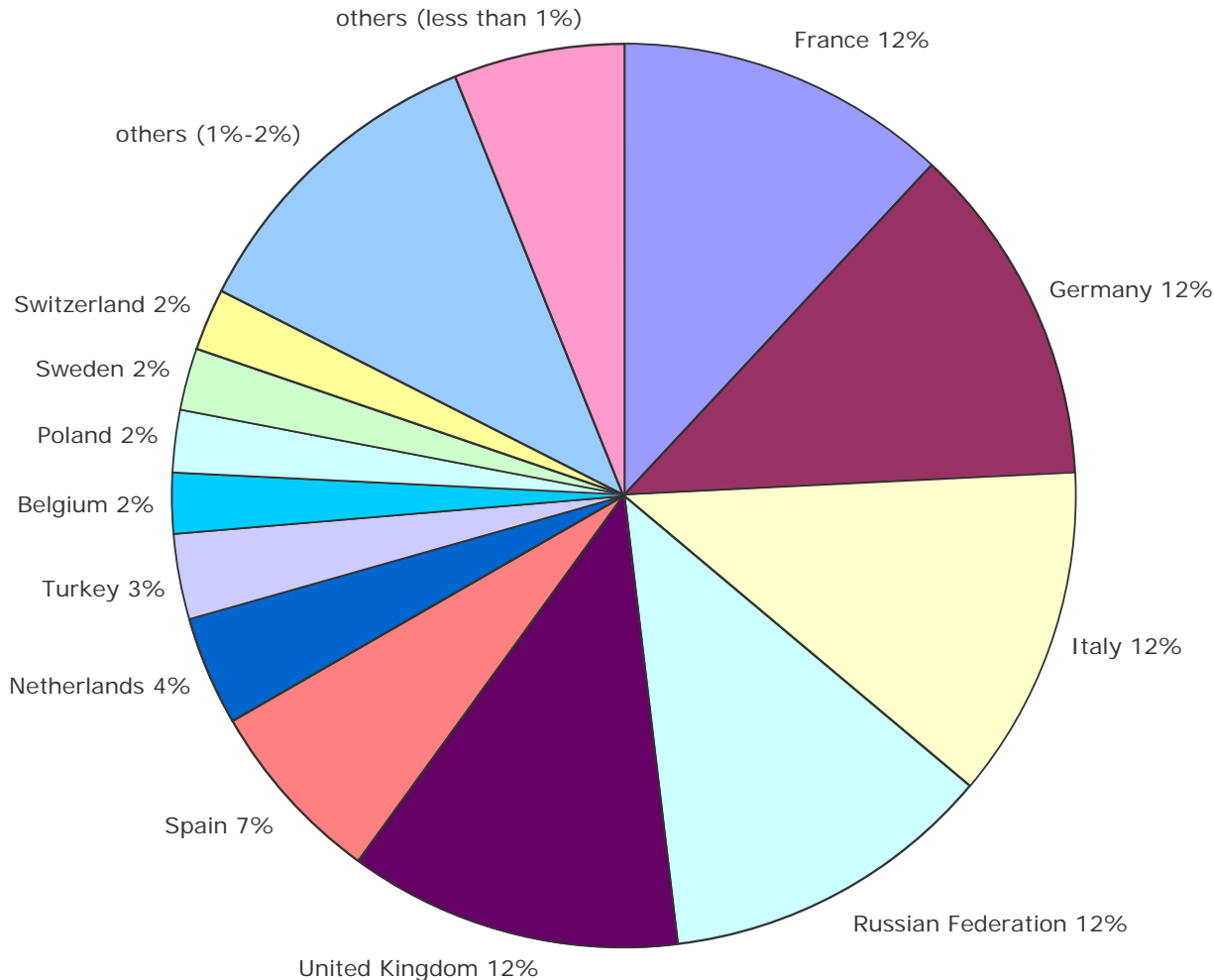
Council of Europe – timeline of member state accession

10.05.1949	Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom	1991	Poland
09.08.1949	Greece, Turkey	1992	Bulgaria
1950	Iceland, Germany	1993	Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia
1956	Austria	1994	Andorra
1961	Cyprus	1995	Albania, Latvia, Moldova, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Ukraine
1963	Switzerland	1996	Croatia, Russian Federation
1965	Malta	1999	Georgia
1976	Portugal	2001	Armenia, Azerbaijan
1977	Spain	2002	Bosnia and Herzegovina
1978	Liechtenstein	2003	Serbia*
1988	San Marino	2004	Monaco
1989	Finland	2007	Montenegro
1990	Hungary		





2009 Council of Europe budget contribution



12%:
France, Germany, Italy,
Russian Federation, United Kingdom

7% - 2%:
Belgium, Netherlands, Poland, Spain,
Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey,

2% - 1%:
Austria, Denmark, Finland, Greece,
Ireland, Norway, Portugal, Ukraine

Less than 1%:
Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan,
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria,
Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic,
Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Iceland,
Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania,
Luxemburg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco,
Montenegro, Romania, San Marino,
Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, "the former
Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

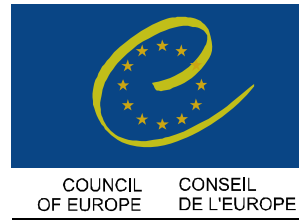




Council of Europe Budget – contribution breakdown

The calculation of member states' contribution to the Council of Europe's budget is based on two factors:

- Population
- Gross domestic product in US dollars



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