

# United around our values

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

1946

## 19 SEPTEMBER UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH

### “Let Europe arise!” Speech of Winston Churchill

“We must build a kind of United States of Europe [...] The first practical step will be to form a Council of Europe. (...) I say to you: Let Europe arise!”



Listen to the speech

1949

## 5 MAY LONDON

### Signing of the Statute of the Council of Europe

The Treaty of London is signed by Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom, founding members of the Council of Europe.



Read the Statute

Founding members



Belgium



Denmark



France



Ireland



Italy



Luxembourg



The Netherlands



Norway



Sweden



United Kingdom

## 8 AUGUST STRASBOURG

### First meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe



Learn more about the Committee of Ministers

## 10 AUGUST STRASBOURG

### First meeting of the Consultative Assembly (now the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe)



Learn more about the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Accession of



Greece



Türkiye



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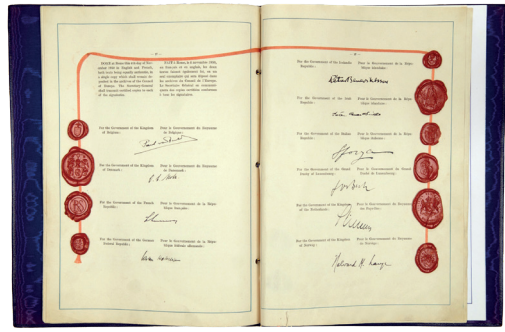


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# 1950

## 4 NOVEMBER ROME

### Signing of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)



Accession of



Iceland



Germany

### Impact of the European Convention on Human Rights

Examples

 RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL	 RIGHT TO A LIBERTY AND SECURITY	 FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING	 RIGHT TO EQUALITY AND FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION	 RIGHT TO FAMILY LIFE	 FREEDOM OF SPEECH	 FREEDOM FROM TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT	 RIGHT TO PRIVACY
 RIGHT TO PROPERTY	 RIGHT TO LIFE	 FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND BELIEF	 FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY	 HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT	 FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMAN	 HUMAN RIGHTS AND HEALTH	



Learn more about the European Convention on Human Rights and its positive impact

# 1954

### Celebrating cultural diversity

The European Cultural Convention is opened for signature, promoting mutual understanding and cultural diversity.



Learn more about the European Cultural Convention

# 1955

## 9 DECEMBER STRASBOURG

### A flag for Europe

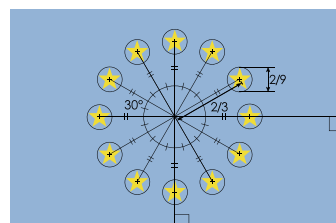
#### Adoption of the European flag by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Created by the Council of Europe in 1955 the European flag was also adopted by the European Parliament in 1983 and subsequently by all European Union institutions.

The twelve yellow stars against a blue background have become a common symbol of European co-operation.



Selection of proposed flags that were not chosen



Learn more about the European flag exhibition

"I see these twelve stars as a reminder that the world could become a better place if, from time to time, we had the courage to look up at the stars."

**Václav Havel**, President of Czechoslovakia (later President of the Czech Republic), speech made to the Parliamentary Assembly, 10 May 1990.



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# 1956

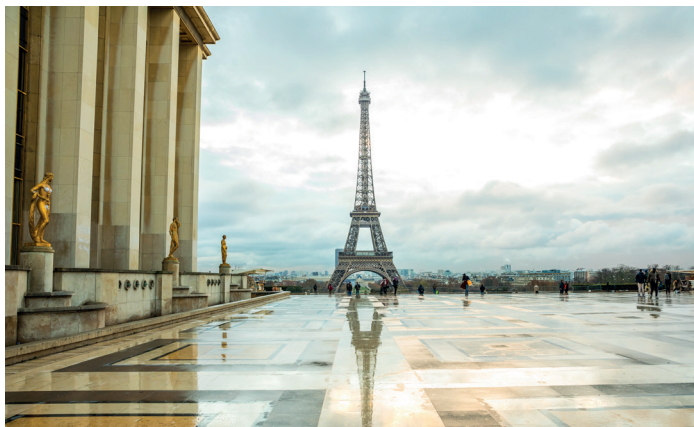
Accession of



Austria

## The Council of Europe Development Bank begins its work in Paris

The Council of Europe Resettlement Fund (now the Council of Europe Development Bank) is set up to provide support for social projects.



Learn more about the Council of Europe Development Bank

# 1957

## Towards local democracy

First session of the Conference of Local Authorities of Europe (now the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities).



Learn more about the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

# 1959



## Establishment of the European Court of Human rights

First members of the European Court of Human Rights elected by the Council of Europe Consultative Assembly (now the Parliamentary Assembly).



## The Human Rights Building, Home of the European Court of Human Rights since 1995.



Learn more about the European Court of Human Rights



Virtual visit of the Human Rights Building

# 1961

## 18 OCTOBER TURIN

### Safeguarding social rights

The European Social Charter is adopted in Turin, Italy, safeguarding citizens' economic and social rights.

Accession of



Cyprus



Learn more about the European Social Charter and its work today



European Social Charter - YouTube

# 1963

Accession of



Switzerland

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1964

## 5 MAY

### Europe Day

The Committee of Ministers decides that 5 May, the anniversary of the founding of the Council of Europe, should be celebrated as Europe Day.



Learn more about Europe Day

### Creation of the European Pharmacopoeia

The European Pharmacopoeia is the primary source of official quality standards for medicines and their ingredients in Europe. It is published by the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and HealthCare (EDQM).



Learn more about the European Pharmacopoeia

1965

Accession of



Malta

## 12 DECEMBER

### Greece withdraws

Following a military coup, Greece withdraws from the Council of Europe. Greece rejoins in 1974.

### An anthem for Europe

The Council of Europe chooses an excerpt from Beethoven's "Ode to Joy", the fourth movement of the composer's ninth symphony, as the European anthem.



Learn more about the European anthem and discover adaptations/ variations in various musical styles



Listen to the anthem (orchestra version)

### The European Youth Centre opens in Strasbourg

A second European Youth Centre opens in Budapest, Hungary in 1995.



Virtual visit of the European Youth Centre

1976

Accession of



Portugal

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# 1977

Accession of



Spain

# 1978

Accession of



Liechtenstein

# 1979

# 1980

# 1981

## Opening of the Palais de l'Europe

Inauguration by French President, Giscard d'Estaing of the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg, France, the home of the Council of Europe.



Virtual visit of the Palais de l'Europe

## A first for nature

Opening of the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats. It is the first international treaty to protect wildlife and the natural environment.



Learn more about the Bern Convention

## The Pompidou Group for drug policies

The Pompidou Group, a European co-operation platform to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking in drugs, becomes an enlarged partial agreement of the Council of Europe.



Learn more about the Pompidou Group

## Protecting privacy

The Council of Europe is a pioneer in data protection with the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to the Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108+).



Learn more about the Convention and data protection

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1983

### Towards a death-penalty free Europe

Opening of Protocol No.6 to the European Convention on Human rights abolishing the death penalty and making it a precondition for Council of Europe membership.



Learn more about death penalty in Europe and worldwide

### Making sports safe

Opening of the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at sport events, the first of four sports conventions of the Council of Europe.



Learn more on sports conventions

1987

### First Council of Europe Cultural Route (the Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes)



Explore 43 cultural routes

### A watchdog against torture

Opening of the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, allowing specialised teams to visit places of detention throughout Europe.



The European Convention for the Prevention of Torture

1988

Accession of



San Marino

# 1989

Accession of



Finland

## 1 JUNE

### First woman to take office as Secretary General

Catherine Lalumière becomes the ninth Secretary General and the first woman to hold the post.



## 6 JULY

### Gorbachev's message to Europe

Mikhail Gorbachev outlines his vision for "a common European home" in a speech to the Parliamentary Assembly.



Listen to the speech

## 9 NOVEMBER

### Fall of the Berlin Wall – Germany



# 1990

Accession of



Hungary

### Constitutional expertise

The Venice Commission, formally known as the European Commission for Democracy through Law, is established as an advisory body of independent constitutional experts. Its opinions help states prepare democratic reforms.



Learn more about the Venice Commission

### Making criminals pay

Opening of the Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime, boosting co-operation in investigations, tracking down, seizing and confiscating the proceeds of crime.



Learn more about Moneyval

# 1991

Accession of



Poland



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# 1992

Accession of



Bulgaria

## Giving a voice to regional and minority languages

Opening of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages



Learn more about European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

## Supporting European film production

Opening of the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production to promote independent filmmaking, with financial support for feature-length films, animation films and documentaries.



Learn more about European Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production

## Launch of the European Audiovisual Observatory

The European Audiovisual Observatory is created to collect and distribute information about the various audiovisual markets in Europe and their financing.



Virtual visit of the European Audiovisual Observatory – Villa Schutzenberger

# 8 OCTOBER VIENNA

## 1st Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe



1st Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe – Final Declaration and Action Plan

# 1993

Accession of



Estonia



Lithuania



Slovenia



Czech Republic



Slovak Republic



Romania

## Fighting racism and discrimination

The first meeting of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) takes place. The Commission specialises in fighting all forms of racism, discrimination, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance.



Learn more about ECRI

**all different**  
**all equal**

Accession of



Andorra

# 1994



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# 1995

Accession of



Latvia



Albania



Ukraine



Republic of Moldova



North Macedonia

## Protecting national minorities against discrimination

Opening of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities



Learn more about the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

# 1996

Accession of



Russian Federation



Croatia

## Children's rights in court proceedings

Opening of the European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights, reinforcing children's protection and giving them the right to be heard and to express their views in court proceedings affecting them.



European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights

# 1997

## 10 OCTOBER STRASBOURG

### 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe



2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe – Final Declaration and Action Plan

# 1999

Accession of



Georgia

## First Commissioner for Human Rights

Establishment of the Commissioner for Human Rights, an independent and impartial non-judicial institution whose mission is to promote awareness of and respect for human rights in member states.



COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

COMMISSAIRE AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME

Álvaro Gil-Robles, first Human Rights Commissioner



Learn more about the Commissioner for Human Rights



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1999

### Protection against corruption

Opening of the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption, criminalising corrupt practices and improving international co-operation for the prosecution of the perpetrators.

Opening of the Civil Law Convention on Corruption, bringing in international rules, asking governments to provide remedies in their domestic law for anyone who has suffered damage as a result of corruption.

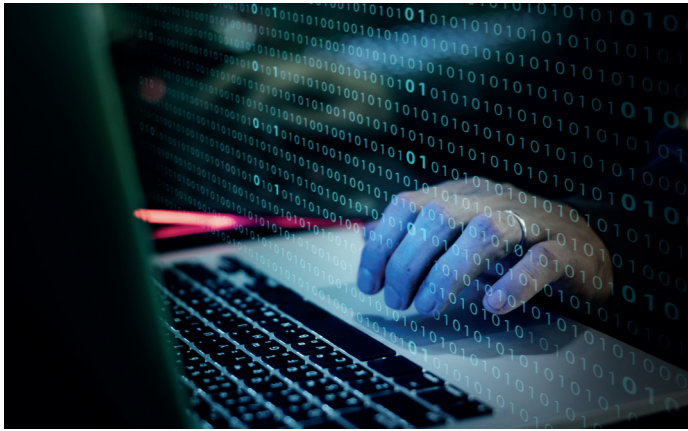


Learn more about the fight against corruption

2001

### Combating cybercrime

Opening of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, the first and only international legal treaty to tackle cybercrime



Cybercrime Convention explained

Accession of



Armenia



Azerbaijan

2002

Accession of



Bosnia and Herzegovina

2003

Accession of



Serbia

2004

Accession of



Monaco

2005

16 MAY WARSAW

### 3rd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe



3rd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe

### Combating human trafficking

Opening of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, pledging assistance for victims, effective investigation and prosecution and stronger international co-operation.



Learn more about human trafficking



Video – Stop Human Trafficking



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2005

### Countering terrorism

Opening of the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, complemented by the Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism.



Learn more about the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism

2007

### Protecting children against sex abuse

Opening of the Lanzarote Convention, the first pan-European treaty to make child sex abuse in the home, in the family or abroad a criminal offence.



Learn more about the Lanzarote Convention



Video – "The Lake" - encouraging young people to break the silence on sexual abuse

Accession of  Montenegro

2008

### Opening of the Agora building

Inauguration of the Agora, the Council of Europe's newest building in Strasbourg, France.



Virtual visit of the Agora Building

2011

### Making drugs safe

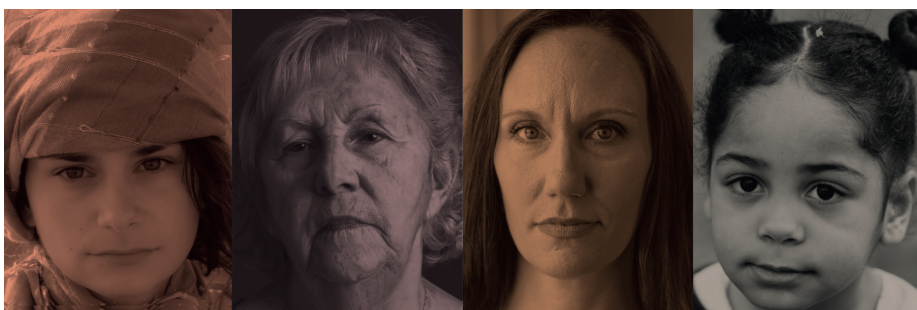
Opening of the Medicrime Convention, aimed at stopping the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes that threaten public health.



The Medicrime Convention

### Ending violence against women

Opening of the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention).



The four pillars of the Istanbul Convention: prevention, protection, prosecution and co-ordinated policies



2015

### Action against organ trafficking

Opening of the Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs



Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs

2017

### Protecting heritage

Opening of the Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property, the first international treaty to stop crimes that are destroying the world's cultural heritage such as theft, intentional damage, unlawful excavation and illegal sales.



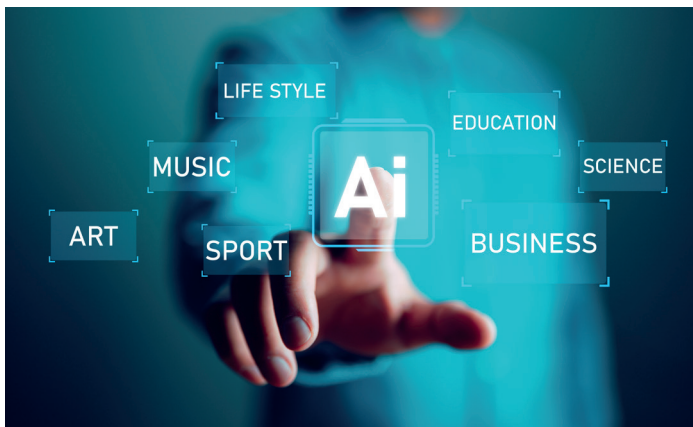
Learn more about cultural property

2019

### Artificial intelligence and human rights

The Council of Europe sets up a task force to pinpoint the threats and opportunities of artificial intelligence for human rights.

Establishment of an intergovernmental committee on artificial intelligence and human rights, tasked with developing an international convention on the development, design and application of artificial intelligence, based on the Council of Europe's standards.

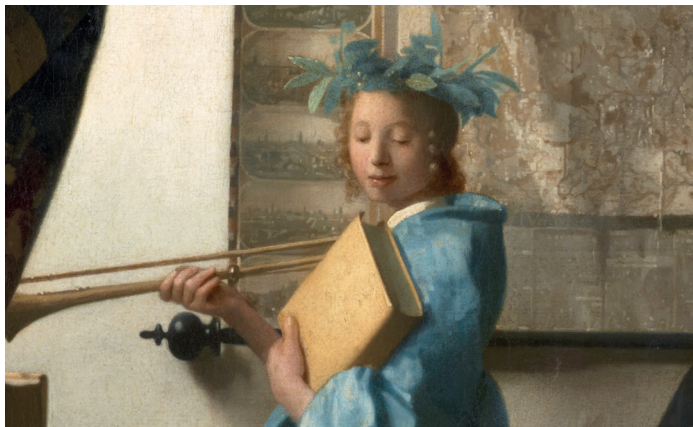


Overview of the Council of Europe activities on AI

2020

### Promoting quality history education

The Observatory on History Teaching in Europe is created to promote quality history education for a better understanding of democracy among young people.



Learn more about the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe



2022

### Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

Following the suspension of Russia's right of representation on 25 February, the Russian Federation is excluded from the Council of Europe on 16 March 2022.



2023

### 16-17 MAY REYKJAVIK

#### United around our values 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe

Standing united against Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.



Reykjavik Declaration

### Setting up of the Register of Damage in Ukraine

The Register of Damage Caused by the Russian Federation's Aggression against Ukraine is created. It is the first step towards the creation of an international compensation mechanism for the victims of Russian aggression.



Learn more about the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Register of Damage

2024

### 5 MAY

#### The Council of Europe celebrates its 75th anniversary

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