

New Human Rights Building

The Court is identifiable across the world by the image of the building in which it has sat since 1994: the Human Rights Building.

While the Human Rights Building was still being designed the plans had to be changed so that its capacity could cater for the enlargement of the Council of Europe following the fall of the Berlin Wall. One of the wings was thus extended and two extra floors added in relation to the original design.



The new Human Rights Building was inaugurated on 29 June 1995 in the presence of Václav Havel, Jacques Toubon and Catherine Trautmann

In 1992 Queen Elizabeth II visited the building site



On 4 May 1992 French President François Mitterrand laid the building's foundation stone



Catherine Trautmann, Mayor of Strasbourg 1989-1997

"The wider Europe becomes, the more it is important to restate its founding values and legal principles. Our attachment to human rights is indeed the cornerstone of European construction."

Jacques Toubon, French Minister of Justice 1995-1997

"The new Human Rights Building ... is not only a symbol of the work accomplished; it also marks the beginning of a new era. That of a single full-time court, as created by Protocol No. 11 to the European Convention on Human Rights."

Václav Havel, President of the Czech Republic 1993-2003

" ... the Human Rights Building ... , I sincerely hope, will before long become the concrete symbol of our shared values that are driving European integration."



Human Rights Building in figures

Number of offices: Variables (420 offices)
Audiovisual facilities: Press/projection room with seating for 204
Cafeteria/Restaurant: 180 seats

Not forgetting:
 - 490 kilometres of electric cables
 - 5,500 lights
 - 10 km of piping
 - 500 metres of document conveyors
 - 11 lifts/goods lifts

- 450 tonnes of metal frame
 - 1,450 tonnes of concrete reinforcement
 - 15,000 cubic metres of concrete
 - 2,800 metres of plant window boxes
 - 4 heatpumps

- 16 separate air-handling units

As well as:

- 50 contractors with 125 subcontractors
 - 1,500 site workers
 - 800,000 hours of building work