

Architect: Richard Rogers (UK)

Architects Consortium: Richard Rogers Partnership Ltd London, and Claude Bucher, Strasbourg

Cost: FRF 455 million

Usable floor area: 28,000 square metres, including,

- 860 sq. m for the Hearing Room
- 520 sq. m for the small Hearing Room
- 4,500 sq. m of meeting rooms
- 16,500 sq. m of offices

Number of meeting rooms: 18, including,

- the Hearing Room (244 seats + 49 for the judges + 22 for applicants)
- the small Hearing Room (101 seats + 25 for the judges + 12 for applicants)
- the Court Deliberations Rooms (seating space 47-52)
- Meeting rooms (average of 47 seats around the table, plus 52 at the rear)

Number of offices: Variable (535 offices)

Audiovisual equipment: Press room (204 seats), Seminar room (104 seats)

Not forgetting:

- 490 kilometres of electric cables
- 5,500 lights
- 10 km of piping
- 500 metres of document conveyors
- 9 lifts/goods lifts
- 450 tonnes of metal frame
- 1,450 tonnes of concrete reinforcement
- 15,000 cubic metres of concrete
- 2,800 linear metres of fixed plant window boxes
- 4 heatpumps
- 16 separate air-handling units
- 50 firms with 125 subcontractors
- 1,500 site workers
- 800,000 hours of building work

Court of Justice of the European Union

Based in Luxembourg, this Court ensures compliance with EU law and rules on the interpretation and application of the treaties establishing the European Union.

International Court of Justice

Judicial organ of the United Nations, based in The Hague.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Text adopted by the United Nations in 1948 in order to strengthen human rights protection at international level.

Charter of Fundamental Rights

European Union text on human rights and fundamental freedoms, adopted in 2000.

MORE INFORMATION

European Court of Human Rights
Public Relations Unit
67075 Strasbourg Cedex
France

www.echr.coe.int



THE COURT in brief





THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The European Court of Human Rights is an international court set up in 1959. It rules on individual or State applications alleging violations of the civil and political rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights. Since 1998 it has sat as a full-time court and individuals can apply to it directly.

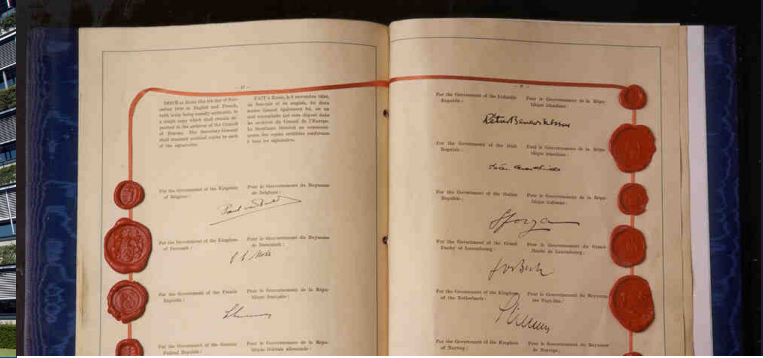
In almost fifty years the Court has delivered more than 10,000 judgments. These are binding on the countries concerned and have led governments to alter their legislation and administrative practice in a wide range of areas. The Court's case-law makes the Convention a powerful living instrument for meeting new challenges and consolidating the rule of law and democracy in Europe.

The Court is based in Strasbourg, in the Human Rights Building designed by the British architect Richard Rogers in 1994 – a building whose image is known worldwide. From here, the Court monitors respect for the human rights of 800 million Europeans in the 47 Council of Europe member States that have ratified the Convention.



KEY DATES

- 5 May 1949**
Creation of the Council of Europe
- 4 November 1950**
Adoption of the Convention
- 3 September 1953**
Entry into force of the Convention
- 21 January 1959**
First members of the Court elected by the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe
- 23-28 February 1959**
The Court's first session
- 18 September 1959**
The Court adopts its Rules of Court
- 14 November 1960**
The Court delivers its first judgment: *Lawless v. Ireland*
- 1 November 1998**
Entry into force of Protocol No. 11 to the Convention, instituting "the new Court"
- 18 September 2008**
The Court delivers its 10,000th judgment
- 1 June 2010**
Entry into force of the Protocol No. 14, whose aim is to guarantee the long-term efficiency of the Court



THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The European Convention on Human Rights is an international treaty under which the member States of the Council of Europe promise to secure fundamental civil and political rights, not only to their own citizens but also to everyone within their jurisdiction. The Convention, which was signed on 4 November 1950 in Rome, entered into force in 1953.

THE GUARANTEES AND PROHIBITIONS

The Convention secures in particular:

- the right to life,
- the right to a fair hearing,
- the right to respect for private and family life,
- freedom of expression,
- freedom of thought, conscience and religion and,
- the protection of property.

The Convention prohibits in particular:

- torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,
- slavery and forced labour,
- death penalty,
- arbitrary and unlawful detention, and
- discrimination in the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set out in the Convention.