



EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

Key dates

5 May 1949

Treaty of London setting up the Council of Europe, signed by ten States: Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Sweden

4 November 1950

Signature in Rome of the European Convention on Human Rights, the first international legal instrument guaranteeing the protection of human rights

18 May 1954

Creation of the European Commission on Human Rights

21 January 1959

First election of members of the European Court of Human Rights by the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe

23-28 February 1959

First session of the Court

20 April 1959

Solemn installation of the Court on the occasion of celebrations to mark the 10th anniversary of the Council of Europe

15-16 September 1959

The Court elects its President (Lord McNair), Vice-President (René Cassin) and Registrar (Polys Modinos)

18 September 1959

The Court adopts its Rules of Court

14 November 1960

The Court delivers its first judgment: *Lawless v. Ireland*

20 March 1962

Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights

16 September 1963

Protocol No. 4 to the European Convention on Human Rights, recognising certain rights and freedoms in addition to those already covered by the Convention and the First Protocol to the Convention (046)

18 September 1963

Foundation stone of the first Human Rights Building laid by Pierre Pfimlin

28 September 1965

Inauguration of the first Human Rights Building

20 April 1969

10th anniversary of the former Court

24 April 1983

Protocol No. 6 to the European Convention on Human Rights concerning the abolition of the death penalty (114)

4 May 1992

Foundation stone of the current Human Rights Building laid by François Mitterrand

29 June 1995

Inauguration of the current Human Rights Building

1 November 1998

Setting up in Strasbourg of the new European Court of Human Rights, in the context of Protocol No. 11 to the European Convention on Human Rights. This single Court, sitting on a permanent basis, replaced the previous control system

4 November 2000

Protocol No. 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights, enshrining a general prohibition on discrimination

3 May 2002

Protocol No. 13 to the European Convention on Human Rights, concerning the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances

19 January 2007

Election of the President of the Court, Jean-Paul Costa

18 September 2008

The Court delivers its 10,000th judgment

1 June 2010

Creation of new judicial formations to speed up the processing of cases. Judges' term of office changed to 9 years, non-renewable (entry into force of Protocol No. 14 to the Convention)

25 May 2017

The Court delivers its 20,000th judgment

1 August 2018

Protocol No. 16, allowing the highest courts of a State Party to request advisory opinions from the Court on questions of principle relating to the interpretation or application of the rights and freedoms defined in the Convention or the protocols thereto

9 August 2018

The 850,000th case file is archived

10 April 2019

The Court delivers its first advisory opinion under Protocol No. 16 following an application from the French Court of Cassation