



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

European Court of Human Rights

Cooperation Charter of the Superior Courts Network

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The member courts of the Superior Courts Network (“the Network”),

Whereas the European Court of Human Rights (“the European Court”) and the national courts of the member States have a shared responsibility for the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights (“the Convention”);

Aware that the achievement of this objective is assisted by the ongoing rich dialogue between the European Court and the superior courts of the member States, and that it would be further advanced by a more structured approach to such dialogue;

Noting the support for the setting up by the European Court of an information exchange network as expressed at certain high-level intergovernmental conferences on the Convention system and as reflected in particular in the Brussels Declaration of March 2015;

Welcoming the official launch of the Network on 5 October 2015 in Strasbourg;

Have agreed the following general principles for the management and development of the Network:

1. The Network shall be set up with a view to ensuring the effective exchange of information, between the European Court and the national courts belonging to the Network, on the case-law of the European Court, Convention law and practice and the domestic law of States whose superior courts are members of the Network. Other forms of cooperation may also be envisaged.

2. The Network’s restricted-access Intranet site shall offer exclusive access to the Network’s member courts as well as a form of access to other international courts which have been granted observer status.

Information exchanged via the Intranet site shall be neither secret nor confidential and must not be liable to harm the interests of any of the Network’s member courts, the observers or of any of the parties to proceedings in the event of its dissemination.

3. The Network shall facilitate bilateral exchanges between the European Court and the national courts belonging to the Network; in principle such exchanges shall not be open to other national courts belonging to the Network or to the observers. The Network’s Intranet site is not intended as a means of managing communication between the Network’s member courts, the member courts and the observers and/or between the observers.

4. The functions, powers, judicial independence and impartiality of the different courts belonging to the Network shall be scrupulously respected.

5. Management of the Network shall be the responsibility of the European Court. To that end, the Court’s Jurisconsult, acting under the authority of the Registrar and the President of the Court, shall draw up the Network’s Operational Rules and, in

consultation with the Network's member courts, shall amend and supplement them where necessary to ensure the smooth running of the Network.