



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

Seminar

“The articulation between the European Convention of Human Rights and the European Law: past, present and future”

Opening words by Andrius Krivas

Permanent Representative of Lithuania, Chair of the Ministers’ Deputies

Strasbourg, 14 June 2024

Distinguished Madam President of the European Court of Human Rights, Your Honors Judges, my fellow Permanent Representatives, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor to greet organizers and participants of this timely and very topical event on behalf of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which is a proud co-sponsor of this seminar.

The top priority for the Lithuanian Presidency is support to Ukraine in the face of brutal foreign aggression, and accountability for international crimes. Our priorities also include implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, in which we aspire to lead by example and to encourage others.

To us, the ECtHR is a crown jewel of the CoE system of institutions. The practice and judgments of the ECtHR inspire hope with all those oppressed and deprived of rights in the Europe region: Ukrainians defending against a brutal aggression; people in other territories occupied by Russia; Belarusian and Russian human rights defenders in jail or in exile; and so many more.

As all 27 EU Member States are members in the Council of Europe, the two legal and judicial systems closely interact and influence each other. The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) are actively engaged in a judicial dialogue and draw inspiration from each other.

The European Convention on Human Rights plays a specific role in the EU legal order, when it comes to fundamental rights. On occasion, the European Court of Human Rights has referred to the case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) as well. Thus, there already exists a judicial dialogue between the ECtHR and the CJEU. It is important that both courts make a consistent effort to avoid conflict between their respective jurisprudence. Synergy between the two courts would undoubtedly further enhance fundamental rights protection in Europe.

The European Convention on Human Rights has evolved into the most effective human rights protection system supporting our shared values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The Convention represents everything that the Council of Europe and the European Union stand for, thus the strive of the EU to join the Convention system is but natural. The European Union's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights will be an important milestone in the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms across Europe and will contribute to coherence and consistency between EU law and the Convention system.

With this, I wish all participants of today's event an insightful and productive debate.

Thank you.