



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

CONFERENCE TO LAUNCH THE NON-OFFICIAL LANGUAGE VERSIONS OF THE KNOWLEDGE SHARING PLATFORM OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS (ECHR-KS)

Final speech by Gianluca Esposito

27 February 2025

*Secretary General,
Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am honoured to address you here today as we launch the Knowledge Sharing Platform of the European Court of Human Rights in Romanian, Turkish and Ukrainian.

With this latest extension, the reach of the European Convention on Human Rights and the Court's case law now encompasses the mother tongue of a broad and diverse audience covering an impressive geographical area.

Our collective journey is that of bringing the Convention to life in each home in our member states, thus strengthening the principle of subsidiarity.

This platform is more than just a resource. It is a powerful tool that strengthens the very foundations of the Convention system and its living nature.

The success of the Convention system relies on the delicate balance between its national and supranational components.

It functions most effectively when all actors involved share a common vision. For this common vision to be maintained, we must work collaboratively, engage in open and honest dialogue and respect and reconcile diverse positions.

At the heart of this system are national authorities, particularly the domestic courts. They serve as the first line of response to human rights issues, long before cases ever reach Strasbourg.

Here, dialogue is key. For this dialogue to be effective, authorities, courts, and the public at large must be able to access and understand the content of the Convention as interpreted by the Court in its judgments.

The Jurisconsult's Directorate and Registry lawyers have done a remarkable work in analysing, systematising, and consolidating the wealth of knowledge contained in the Court's extensive case law. The fact that this massive work is now shared to the wider world is, indeed, a milestone worthy of celebration.

Since its public launch in 2022, the ECHR-KS platform has seen a steady rise in demand. In 2024 alone, the number of visitors increased by 76% compared to the previous year. This figure will undoubtedly continue to grow with today's launch. With the addition of three new language versions, the platform is now more accessible to over 300 million citizens. This comprises nearly 45% of the population of the Council of Europe's member States.

This is the result of a collaborative effort between the Court Registry, the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, and our dedicated national partners who have worked tirelessly to embrace and disseminate Convention knowledge.

By joining forces, we are bringing the Strasbourg Court's knowledge directly to national judges and other relevant stakeholders, empowering them to be active agents of the Convention system.

In this respect, I would like to specifically encourage the dissemination of the online course on the use of the ECHR-KS. This is now available on the Council of Europe's HELP platform.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the respective authorities in Romania, Türkiye and Ukraine. It is your commitment that has made today's milestone possible.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to France, Ireland and the Human Rights Trust Fund for your voluntary contributions.

Finally, let me extend my gratitude to the Luxembourg Presidency of the Committee of Ministers for all their efforts, and for honouring this initiative by co-hosting today's launch event.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In its 75th year, the European Convention on Human Rights remains a living testimony to our common heritage and our common resolve.

Its success depends on our joint efforts, our perseverance and our daily commitment to the task. Today we mark an important milestone in this joint endeavor.

Thank you for your attention.