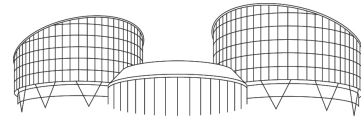




MINISTERUL JUSTIȚIEI



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

**Intervenția domnului Radu Marinescu, ministru al justiției - Strasbourg, 27 februarie 2025, 11:00 - 11:30**

**Conference to Launch the Non-Official Language Versions of the Knowledge Sharing Platform of the European Court of Human Rights**

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank you for the invitation and to congratulate all those involved in the realization of this project.

The Non-Official Language Versions of the Knowledge Sharing Platform of the European Court of Human Rights is the result of an outstanding international partnership between the European Court of Human Rights, the Council of Europe's Directorate General for Human Rights and Rule of Law, and a number of national partners, such as the European Institute of Romania, the Ministry of Justice of Turkey and the Supreme Court of Ukraine. This is a clear example of how collaboration between international institutions and national authorities can lead to a project with a real impact.

Last but not least, the voluntary contributions to the realization of this project offered by France, Ireland and the Human Rights Fund of the Council of Europe are also to be welcomed.

As the previous speakers have already mentioned, the launch of the Non-Official Language Versions of the Knowledge Sharing Platform marks a particularly important moment in the activity of the Court and also a significant step in promoting wider and more effective access to the legal knowledge which is essential for the protection of fundamental rights. The launch of Platform is not only a technological innovation, but also a reaffirmation of our shared commitment to the fundamental principles of the Convention.

This unique Platform provides continuous and easy access to a comprehensive analysis of the Court's jurisprudence, topic by topic and article by article, in key areas.

Moreover, the Platform not only provides legal information, but integrates it in the context of relevant international standards and doctrine, providing a comprehensive and accessible framework for all its users.

An essential aspect of this Platform is its weekly updating, which allows the latest developments in jurisprudence to be reflected. Thus, the Platform responds to current challenges and needs, ensuring that all actors involved in the application of the Convention have the most recent information and resources at their disposal.

This Platform is of particular importance not only for the national courts, but is equally important for the public administration, therefore contributing to the correct and uniform implementation of the Convention standards, as well as to the implementation of the

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principle of subsidiarity<sup>1</sup>, a central element of the Convention and one of the objectives of this project.

The Platform offers the promising possibility of providing access - in the Romanian language - to information on human rights to an even wider audience, including civil servants, members of the civil society and the general public, thus further raising the profile of human rights and, more specifically, of the Convention - based system in Romania and helping to ensure a more widespread and coherent respect of these rights for the benefit of all those concerned.

Respect for human rights is a fundamental pillar of modern democracies and an essential element of the rule of law. In Romania, as a member state of the Council of Europe, respect for the citizens' fundamental rights is regulated not only by national legislation, but also by multiple international instruments, among which the European Convention on Human Rights is of key importance.

The Convention provides a clear legal framework for the protection of citizens' fundamental rights, and compliance with the Convention is essential for maintaining a fair and transparent justice system in line with international standards.

In this context, compliance with the Convention standards in Romania not only ensures the protection of citizens' fundamental rights, but also contributes to strengthening public confidence in state institutions. The effective implementation of the Convention requires that national authorities, including the courts, are well prepared to apply its standards.

In this respect, the training of magistrates plays an essential role. National courts have a responsibility to interpret and apply the Convention in a correct manner, and the continuous training of judges in the field of human rights is crucial to ensure adequate protection of human rights. Therefore, the launch of the Platform will significantly facilitate human rights training.

In Romania, magistrates are familiar with European and international human rights standards, and initial and continuous training include also the application of the Convention standards. These courses are designed to give judges and prosecutors not only the theoretical knowledge but also the practical skills to deal with complex human rights cases, which may involve the interpretation of ECHR jurisprudence. Their training also includes the study of relevant cases and of the evolution of the interpretation of fundamental rights in order to ensure a correct and consistent application of national and international law.

On the occasion of launching the Platform, it is always important to remember other successful initiatives which have provided valuable resources and support to the national authorities involved in upholding the rights enshrined in the Convention. Thus, the Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals, or HELP Program, is a very successful initiative

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<sup>1</sup> The Project aims to strengthen the principle of subsidiarity, which has ever been at the core of the European Convention on Human Rights (the Convention) system and has been inserted into the Preamble of the Convention by Protocol No 15. This principle imposes a shared responsibility between the States Parties, the Court and the Committee of Ministers (which supervises the execution of judgments from the Court), but the primary responsibility to ensure the application and effective implementation of the Convention lies with the States Parties and national authorities and in particular courts, which are the first guardians of human rights, ensuring the full application of the Convention as interpreted by the Court.

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which, in Romania, takes the shape of a collaboration between the Council of Europe and the National Institute of Magistracy, which seeks to provide training materials and on-line resources for judges, prosecutors, lawyers and other professionals in the legal field, helping them to apply more effectively in their daily work the international human rights-related rules and standards.

Thus, investing in the training of magistrates, including through the launch of the Platform in Romanian language, and strengthening their capacity to correctly apply human rights standards not only prevents violations, but also contributes to ensuring a fair justice and the respect for human dignity.

In addition to constantly improving the functioning of justice in Romania, such a project is a harmonious part of the process of supporting the activity of the Court and the proper functioning of the Convention, through its ability to prevent human rights violations from occurring, which implicitly leads to reducing the pressure on the Court caused by the increased number of cases it has faced in recent years.

In conclusion, Romania has made considerable and various efforts to implement the standards of the European Convention on Human Rights, which is reflected in the steady decrease of the number of **cases pending before the Court**.

**With regard to the specific situation in our country, it should be noted that, from the number of cases pending before the ECHR, a large proportion are repetitive cases, especially those concerning detention conditions.**

In order to remedy this situation, Romania adopted an Action Plan for the period 2020-2025 on *the Rezmiveș and Others and Bragadireanu group v. Romania cases* to provide a clear timetable for the implementation of adequate general measures capable of addressing prison overcrowding and inadequate conditions of detention in accordance with the principles of the Convention.

Thus, at the last meeting of the Committee of Ministers in the Human Rights format on December 5, 2024, a decision was adopted welcoming the efforts and progress made by the Romanian authorities. Among the achievements, and which involve the active dissemination and incorporation of the Convention standards and the Court's caselaw into the functioning of the authorities, we can mention:

- the start of the construction of two new prisons and the availability of 3800 new premises for the accommodation of prisoners;
- effective measures taken to combat reoffending and support social reintegration;
- co-operation with the Council of Europe Division for Co-operation in Police and Deprivation of Liberty with support from the Human Rights Trust Fund to strengthen the provision of health and mental health services to prisoners, including by disseminating the principles derived from the Court's rich practice to prison staff;
- as regards the domestic system of remedies, welcomed the consolidation of the jurisprudential effective compensatory remedy and encouraged the authorities to strengthen the role of the post-sentencing judge supervising the execution of sentences which could remedy various aspects related to material conditions of detention, pending the reduction of the prison population to a level which would allow the proper functioning of the preventive remedy.

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The decision also underlines the firm commitment of the Romanian authorities to continue implementing the planned reforms to improve conditions in the prison system.

This development reflects Romania's continued efforts to comply with European human rights standards, which will clearly lead to a significant decrease in the number of cases against Romania.

Recent actions, including the implementation of the Action Plan on Detention Conditions, as well as other measures undertaken, reflect a determined and continuous approach for respecting fundamental human rights on our side.

In this respect, investments in the training of magistrates and in the creation of innovative tools such as the Platform are essential for ensuring better knowledge in the field of human rights.

Romania continues to make significant efforts to comply with international commitments and to protect the fundamental rights of its citizens. These efforts will contribute not only to reducing the number of cases before the European Court of Human Rights, but also to strengthening the rule of law in Romania.

In conclusion, I assure you of our continued commitment to respect and protect human rights, given that this is the basis of a democratic society and a key objective of the Romanian Government.

Thank you for your attention!