



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

Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of the Convention Establishing an International Claims Commission for Ukraine

Speech by Mattias Guyomar

The Hague, 16 December 2025

In my capacity as President of the European Court of Human Rights, I welcome the adoption today of a Convention Establishing an International Claims Commission for Ukraine.

Accountability for violations of human rights and reparation for the victims are two equally important sides of the same coin.

The Court operates under the umbrella of the Council of Europe. The same will be true of the future Commission.

The Court's role is judicial. It continues its mission of holding Russia accountable for human rights violations even after the country's expulsion from the Council of Europe.

Of the 16 000 cases pending before the Court in September 2022, when Russia ceased to be a party to the European Convention on Human Rights, half have already been decided.

The most emblematic example is the Court's recent historic ruling in *Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia*, delivered last July. The Court unanimously held Russia responsible for gross and widespread human rights violations committed in the context of the conflict in Ukraine since 2014 and even February 2022. It also held Russia accountable for the downing of Flight MH17.

The Court is currently the only international judicial body to hold Russia accountable.

The Court's judgments are a historical record, a bill of accountability and a message to future generations: Human dignity cannot be erased. Truth cannot be silenced.

Thank you.