



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

Ministerial Session of the Committee of Ministers

Speech by Mattias Guyomar

Chisinau, 14-15 May 2026

Your Excellencies,
Dear participants,

In today's uncertain times, with the grave reality of war on European soil, the Court acts as a pillar of stability.

This is evidenced by its rulings holding Russia accountable for its human rights violations in Ukraine.

This is evidenced by its judicial pragmatism, interpreting the Convention in light of the specific context of each case.

This is evidenced by its constructive written contribution to the work of the CDDH on its migration-related case-law and practice.

The Court remains *firmly committed* to the principle of subsidiarity and shared responsibility, embodied into today's Ministerial session.

Firmly attuned to present-day conditions.

Firmly committed to institutional dialogue which is to be encouraged notably through third party interventions.

Last year alone, increased efficiency has brought the stock of pending cases before the Court to the lowest level in 20 years and has reduced the average length of case-processing.

Increased visibility, on- and offline, shows a Court that is open and accessible. A Court for all.

The Court's judgments do not simply protect human rights.

They ensure accountability.

Certify truth.

Protect democracy and the rule of law

Defend State sovereignty.

Provide effective redress to victims.

Solidify peace.

This work will go on, in full complementarity with other bodies, existing and future ones such as the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine.

Let me congratulate Minister Mr Mihai Popșoi and his team for Moldova's outstanding presidency of the Committee of Ministers and underline how much the Court is looking forward to working together with Monaco for the next six months.

More than ever, the integrity of the Convention system has to be supported.

A system which defends values that remain as relevant today as they were in 1950.

A Convention which, as a *living instrument*, safeguards rights which should remain practical and effective.

A Convention to be interpreted by the Court together with national judges.

The Court's judicial role, entrusted to it by the member States, rests on its full independence and autonomy.

This judicial independence must be preciously guarded, at all times.

The Court's **credibility** depends upon it.

Its **legitimacy** depends upon it.

Its **viability** depends upon it.

Thank you.