



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

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## **Tribute to Luzius Wildhaber**

Luzius Wildhaber was born in 1937. He studied law at Basle and Yale universities.

In 1977 he was appointed Professor at Basle University. From 1992 to 1994 he was Rector of the University. From 1975 to 1988 he sat as a judge of the Constitutional Court of the Principality of Liechtenstein and from 1989 to 1994 as a judge of the Administrative Tribunal of the Inter-American Development Bank. In 1991 he was elected judge of the European Court. In 1998 he was elected by his colleagues first President of the full-time Court set up under Protocol No. 11 to the Convention and continued as President being twice re-elected until he reached the retirement age of 70 fixed by the Convention. Thus he presided over the new Court in its first difficult years when it was faced with a constantly rising case-load and increasingly serious Convention issues both in terms of gravity and scale. During this period, as well displaying his fine legal and judicial skills he showed calm authority in his leadership.

Those who worked with him remember him with great respect and affection. They will recall his humanity, his sense of humour, his culture and his endlessly enquiring mind.

Today the Court mourns its former President and is proud to have counted him as one of its number.