

About the Council of Europe

The Council of Europe advocates freedom of expression and of the media, freedom of assembly, equality, and the protection of minorities.

Contents

Vision.....	4
Mission.....	4
Values	4
1. Campaigns.....	5
1.1. Children.....	5
1.2. Hate Speech.....	5
1.3. Roma	5
2. Assistance.....	6
2.1. Corruption	6
2.2. Terrorism.....	6
2.3. Judicial Reforms.....	6
3. Human Rights.....	7
3.1. Monitoring.....	7
3.2. Recommendations	7
Administrative Information.....	8



Council of Europe (COE)

Stakeholder(s):

Marija Pejčinović Burić :

Secretary General ~ The Secretary General is elected by the Parliamentary Assembly for a five-year term at the head of the Organisation. She is responsible for the strategic planning and direction of the Council's work programme and budget. She leads and represents the Organisation.

Bjørn Berge :

Deputy Secretary General ~ The Deputy Secretary General is also elected for a five-year term by the Parliamentary Assembly, in an election separate to the one held for the Secretary General.

Committee of Ministers :

This is the Council's decision-making body and is made up of the ministers of foreign affairs of each member state or their permanent diplomatic representatives in Strasbourg. The Committee of Ministers decides Council of Europe policy and approves its budget and programme of activities.

Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) :

The Parliamentary Assembly consists of 306 members of parliament from the 46 member states; the Assembly elects the Secretary General, the Human Rights Commissioner and the judges to the European Court of Human Rights; it provides a democratic forum for debate and monitors elections; its committees play an important role in examining current issues.

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities :

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is responsible for strengthening local and regional democracy in its 46 member states. Composed of two chambers – the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions – and three committees, it brings together 612 elected officials representing more than 150 000 local and regional authorities.

European Court of Human Rights :

This is the permanent judicial body which guarantees for all Europeans the rights safeguarded by the European Convention on Human Rights. It is open to states and individuals regardless of nationality. The 46 member states of the Council of Europe are parties to the Convention.

Dunja Mijatović :

Commissioner for Human Rights ~ The Human Rights Commissioner independently addresses and brings attention to human rights violations.

Conference of INGOs :

The Conference includes some 400 international Non Governmental Organisations (INGOs). It provides vital links between politicians and the public and brings the voice of civil society to

the Council. The Council's work benefits extensively from the INGOs' expertise and their outreach to European citizens.

International Partners :

Global co-operation ~ The Council of Europe works in close partnership with the European Union, and co-operates with the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and with partner countries in its neighbourhood and worldwide.

European Union

United Nations

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Council of Europe Member States :

Council of Europe member states no longer apply the death penalty.

Albania

Andorra

Armenia

Austria

Azerbaijan

Belgium

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bulgaria

Croatia

Cyprus

Czech Republic

Denmark

Estonia

Finland

France

Georgia

— continued next page

Stakeholders (continued)

Germany

Greece

Hungary

Iceland

Ireland

Italy

Latvia

Liechtenstein

Lithuania

Luxembourg

Malta

Monaco

Montenegro :

Netherlands

North Macedonia

Norway

Poland

Portugal

Republic of Moldova

Romania

San Marino

Serbia

Slovak Republic

Slovenia

Spain

Sweden

Switzerland

Türkiye

Ukraine

United Kingdom

Council of Europe Observer States

Canada :

Holy See

Israel :

(Observer to the Parliamentary Assembly)

Japan

Mexico

United States

Vision

Freedom and human rights are protected in Europe

Mission

To advocate freedom of expression and of the media, freedom of assembly, equality, and the protection of minorities

Values

Human Rights

Democracy

Rule of Law

1. Campaigns

Conduct issue campaigns

[Conduct] campaigns on issues such as child protection, online hate speech, and the rights of the Roma, Europe's largest minority.

1.1. Children

Protect children

Stakeholder(s):

Children

1.2. Hate Speech

Combat online hate speech

1.3. Roma

Protect the rights of the Roma

Stakeholder(s):

Roma

2. Assistance

Help member states

Stakeholder(s)

Venice Commission :

offer legal advice to countries throughout the world

The Council of Europe helps member states fight corruption and terrorism and undertake necessary judicial reforms. Its group of constitutional experts, known as the Venice Commission, offers legal advice to countries throughout the world.

2.1. Corruption

Fight corruption

2.2. Terrorism

Fight terrorism

2.3. Judicial Reforms

Undertake judicial reforms

Stakeholder(s):

Judiciary

3. Human Rights

Promote human rights

Stakeholder(s)

Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

Convention on Cybercrime

The Council of Europe promotes human rights through international conventions, such as the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and the Convention on Cybercrime. It monitors member states' progress in these areas and makes recommendations through independent expert monitoring bodies.

3.1. Monitoring

Monitor member states' progress in these areas

Stakeholder(s):

Council of Europe Monitoring Bodies

Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)

European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)

Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA)

Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse :

(Lanzarote Committee)

European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)

Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL)

European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)

European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR)

Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

3.2. Recommendations

Make recommendations through independent expert monitoring bodies

Administrative Information

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