

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Highlights 2014



Guardian of human rights,
democracy and
the rule of law



Activity report

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

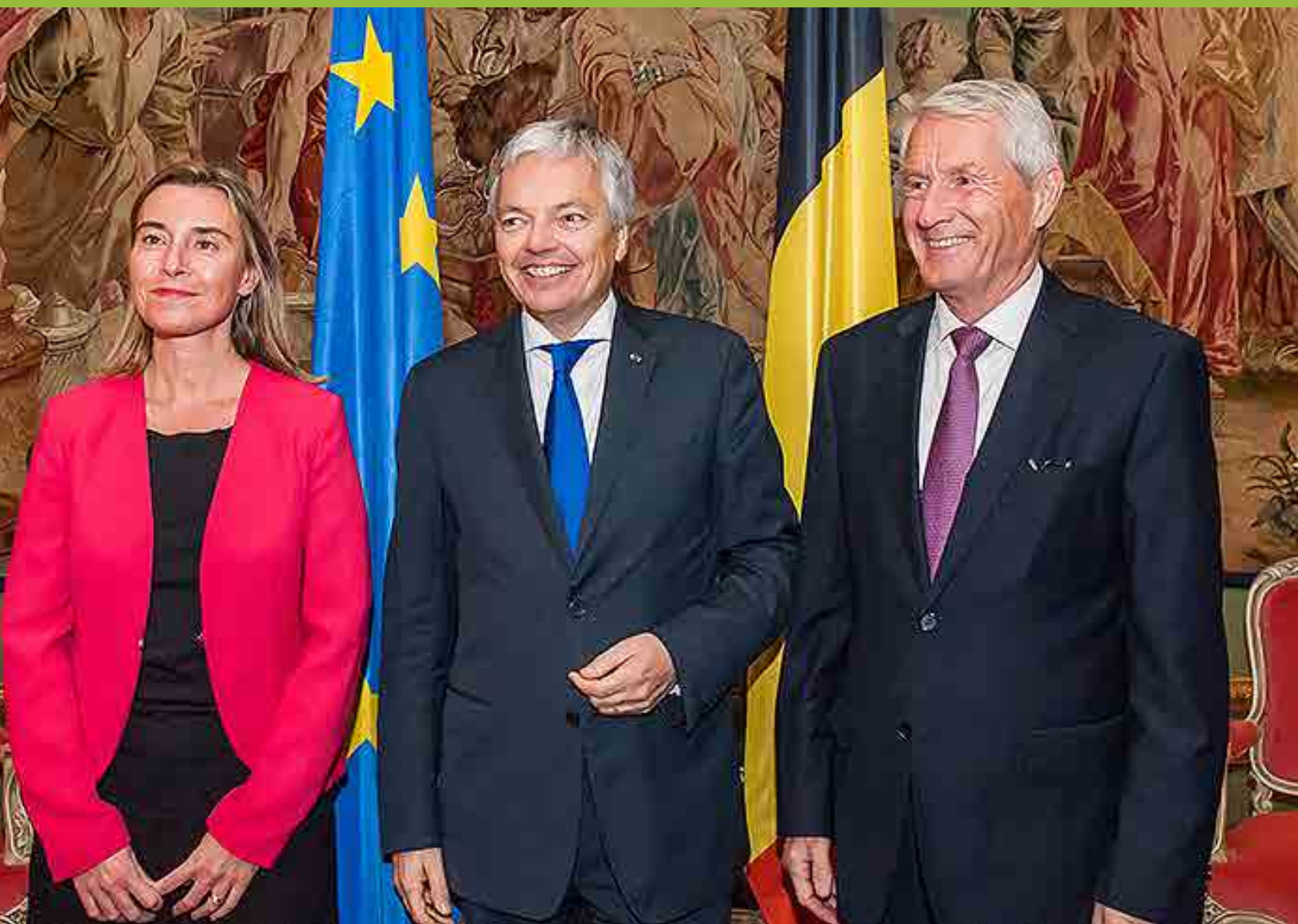
Highlights 2014

Guardian of human rights,
democracy and
the rule of law

Activity report

Contents

FOREWORD	7
COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS	9
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY	13
Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy	14
Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights	15
Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)	15
Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media	15
Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development	15
Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs	16
Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination	16
Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons	17
Inter-parliamentary Co-operation and Election Observation Division	17
Parliamentary Project Support Division	17
CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE	19
EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS	23
Towards improved implementation of the Convention	23
Inter-state cases	24
Important events for the Court in 2014	24
COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS	27
Country monitoring	27
Thematic work	29
Co-operation with other human rights actors	29
EXTERNAL RELATIONS	31
Policy of the Council of Europe towards neighbouring regions	31
Relations with the EU, the UN and the OSCE	31
Relations with other organisations and other countries	31
POLICY PLANNING AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS	33
Policy planning	33
Schools of Political Studies	33
Political affairs	34
HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW	37
Protection and development of human rights	37
Specific human rights issues	39
Rule of law	40
Justice and legal co-operation	42
DEMOCRACY	45
Democratic governance	45
Democratic citizenship and participation	46
Human dignity and equality	47
Roma issues	50
ACTION IN THE FIELD AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION	53
Eastern Europe	54
South Caucasus	54
South-East Europe and Turkey	54
Southern neighbourhood	56
Central Asia	57
Resource mobilisation	57
PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW	59
COMMUNICATIONS	61
Media relations	61
Public relations and publications	62
2014 CONTRIBUTIONS OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEMBER STATES (€)	65
2014 VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (€)	67
ORGANISATION CHART OF THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN 2014	68



Visit to Brussels by the Secretary General **Thorbjørn Jagland** (November 2014). From left to right: **Federica Mogherini**, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, **Didier Reynders**, Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Secretary General

Foreword

We have witnessed great upheaval across our continent in 2014. The crisis in Ukraine and the terror attacks in Paris at the beginning of 2015 illustrate the need for the Council of Europe's expertise and tools. We have much to offer at a time when Europe struggles over questions of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

■ Last year, I released the first annual report on the state of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe, which provided an in-depth analysis of a wide range of issues. Serious violations of human rights – including corruption, immunity from prosecution, impunity, human trafficking, racism, hate speech and discrimination – continue to plague the continent, and this report clearly identifies our priorities and outlines our main lines of action in those areas.

■ In Ukraine, we have taken strong steps in the wake of the violence early in 2014. We firmly support Ukraine's efforts towards constitutional, electoral and judicial reforms. The Venice Commission, our expert legal advisory body, has published its opinions on constitutional issues, in particular Ukraine's lustration law. I appointed a permanent representative to the Verkhovna Rada, and we are working at the highest political levels to encourage Ukraine to bring these issues to a resolution.

■ Many Europeans continue to suffer violations of their freedom of expression, and improvements in this area are a priority for the Council of Europe, especially concerning the protection of journalists. We have launched an Internet platform to promote the protection of journalism and the safety of journalists. It will enable trusted partner organisations to issue alerts when journalists are under threat and will help the Council of Europe to react more effectively to these alerts. In December 2014, the Council of Europe and partner NGOs signed a memorandum of understanding on the creation of this groundbreaking platform.

■ We have also intensified the fight against terrorism. We are strengthening our tools against new threats, especially those concerning terrorist "foreign fighters". Our experts began drafting an additional protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism that will criminalise recruitment, training, preparation and travel for the purpose of committing terrorist acts. We are also drafting guidelines to prevent radicalisation in prisons, and are stepping up our efforts regarding identity papers and travel documents of suspected terrorists.

■ The Council of Europe is increasingly recognised for its role in building democratic culture through sport. Sport plays a distinctive role in social integration, tolerance and understanding, and promotes our key values. The Council of Europe acts against spectator violence and doping, and last year we addressed match-fixing with our Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions, which had a record number of initial signatories and is open to countries worldwide.

■ With major challenges come opportunities. At the Council of Europe, we will continue to drive the changes necessary to bring peace and security to Europe.

Thorbjørn Jagland
Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Handover between outgoing Chairperson **Sebastian Kurz**, Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria, and **Elmar Mammadyarov**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan (Vienna, May 2014)



Handover between outgoing Chairperson **Elmar Mammadyarov**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, and **Didier Reynders**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium (Strasbourg, November 2014)

Committee of Ministers

The texts adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2014 can be consulted at: www.coe.int/t/cm/

The Committee of Ministers acts as the main decision-making body of the Council of Europe. It is made up of member states' foreign ministers or their permanent diplomatic representatives in Strasbourg.

In 2014, the Committee of Ministers was chaired by Austria until 14 May 2014, then by Azerbaijan until 13 November and thereafter by Belgium.

At its **124th Ministerial Session** held in Vienna on 6 May on "Council of Europe values and stability in Europe: current challenges", discussions focused on a report from the Secretary General on the state of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Europe and the current crisis in Europe. The informal session focused on the situation in Ukraine (also see below).

With regard to the long-term effectiveness of the European Convention on Human Rights ("the Convention"), the Ministers welcomed the measures taken by the various stakeholders since its previous session to implement the Brighton Declaration, in particular, and the additional measures taken by the European Court of Human Rights to increase the effectiveness of its work following the entry into force of Protocol No. 14, resulting in a substantial decrease in the number of pending cases. The Committee noted, however, that the backlog of admissible and potentially well-founded cases pending before the Court remains a serious challenge and encouraged member states to continue their efforts to implement the Convention at the domestic level and to fully execute the Court's judgments. Finally, it called on the States Parties to the Convention to sign and ratify Protocol No. 15 amending the Convention as soon as possible.

The Committee of Ministers met on four occasions to supervise **the execution of Court judgments**, with 1501 cases being closed in 2014. In January and July, the Committee held exchanges of views with the President of the Court, Mr Dean Spielmann, on the activities of the Court and the prospects regarding their development during the coming months.

The situation in **Ukraine** was a regular item on the agenda of the Ministers' Deputies in 2014. On several occasions, the Ministers' Deputies reiterated their governments' commitment to the respect for international law, and in particular to the peaceful settlement of disputes and the full respect of the territorial integrity, unity and independence of Ukraine. They condemned the illegal referendum held in March in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sebastopol, as well as the subsequent illegal annexation by the Russian Federation. The Committee urged dialogue between the Russian Federation and the Government of Ukraine in the search for a peaceful and negotiated solution. The Committee also supported the Secretary General's initiative to set up an International Advisory Panel whose task is to ensure that the investigations conducted into the violent events that took place in Maidan and subsequently in Odessa comply with the requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights.



Ministerial Session in Vienna (Austria), May 2014

■ In September, the Ministers' Deputies welcomed the protocol signed in Minsk on 5 September 2014, a first step towards a durable ceasefire and a long-term solution to the crisis in eastern Ukraine. They called on all parties to strictly respect and fully implement all 12 principles contained therein without delay. In this context, they called upon the Russian Federation to use its influence over the separatist movement in eastern Ukraine with a view to de-escalating tensions in the search for a peaceful and negotiated outcome to the crisis. The Deputies also urged the Russian Federation to withdraw all its troops from Ukraine and refrain from any further military interference in Ukraine, and to secure the border to avoid the illegal transfer of such assets.

■ Expressing their deep concern for the persons affected by the conflict, the Ministers' Deputies encouraged the Secretary General to examine the way in which the Council of Europe could address the consequences of military operations in Ukraine in terms of humanitarian needs and human rights. The Ministers' Deputies also had an exchange of views with the Commissioner for Human Rights following his visit to Crimea. They examined in April a report on the situation of national minorities in Ukraine, prepared at their request by the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. They called on the parties concerned to follow up all its conclusions.

■ In April, the Committee of Ministers reviewed the state of co-operation and the progress made by **Montenegro** regarding the fulfilment of its statutory

commitments and, while noting that a number of reforms still needed to be completed, decided to discontinue the procedure aimed at making a regular stocktaking of co-operation with Montenegro. In July, the Committee approved two assistance programmes for the general elections in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** on 12 October 2014 and for the parliamentary elections in the **Republic of Moldova** on 30 November 2014. With regards to **Georgia**, the Committee of Ministers approved an assistance programme for the local elections held in the country on 15 June. In April, the Committee of Ministers received the Secretary General's ninth consolidated report on the conflict in Georgia. In the light of the report, the Committee expressed, *inter alia*, its concern at continued violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of those residing within the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as well as the adjacent areas. It also reiterated its unequivocal support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders.

■ During the year, the Committee of Ministers held four **thematic debates** which gave rise to a number of decisions. The debates were: "Violence against women (co-operation in particular in the context of the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence)"; "The role and functioning of NGOs in the Council of Europe"; "Follow-up to the Report by the Secretary General on the state of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Europe"; and "Ensuring freedom of expression on the Internet".

■ On the subject of **media and freedom of expression**, the Committee of Ministers adopted a declaration on the **protection of journalism and safety of journalists** in which it urged member states to fulfil their obligations to protect journalists and other media actors from any form of attack. In November, the Committee of Ministers approved the text of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Europe and partner organisations on the setting up of a platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists. They authorised the Secretary General to sign it and invited him to evaluate the effectiveness of the platform after an initial test period of one year.

■ The Committee also adopted a **guide to human rights for Internet users** to help them better understand their human rights online and what they can do when these rights are challenged.



Committee of Ministers' room

■ Regarding the **death penalty**, in April and October, the Committee of Ministers reaffirmed its unequivocal opposition to the death penalty in all places and in all circumstances, and reiterated its strong and urgent call on the Russian Federation, as the only member state which has not yet abolished the death penalty, to take without delay all the necessary steps to transform the existing moratorium on the death penalty into a *de jure* abolition of the death penalty and to ratify Protocol No. 6 to the European Convention on Human Rights. During the year, the Committee of Ministers adopted several declarations deploring executions in Belarus and in the United States of America. With regard to Belarus, the Committee of Ministers reiterated its strong call to all authorities of that country to establish without delay a moratorium on executions, a first step towards abolishing the death penalty, and expressed its readiness to provide the authorities with the assistance they may need to do so.

■ In July, the Committee of Ministers adopted two conventions. The first was the **Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions**, which was opened for signature at the 13th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (Magglingen, Switzerland, 18 September 2014). Fifteen member states signed the convention on this occasion. The second was the **Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs**, which will be opened for signature on 25 March 2015 in Santiago de Compostela (Spain).

■ The Council of Europe 2014 Exchange on the **religious dimension of intercultural dialogue** was held in Baku on 1 and 2 September on the theme "Intercultural dialogue: interaction between culture and religion".

■ **Co-operation with other international bodies and external relations** remained an area of attention for the Committee of Ministers. With regard to co-operation with the **European Union**, at the Vienna Ministerial Session ministers noted with satisfaction the development of co-operation on the basis of a report presented on that occasion. As far as relations with the **OSCE** are concerned, the Co-ordination Group between the two organisations met on two occasions to review co-operation. In February, the Committee of Ministers held its annual exchange of views with experts from capitals on the work conducted within the framework of the **United Nations** on issues relating to human rights.

■ With regard to the **policy of the Council of Europe towards neighbouring regions**, a report was submitted to the Committee of Ministers at the Vienna Session. Final reports on the implementation of co-operation priorities with Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan during the period from 2012 to 2014 were submitted to the Committee of Ministers at the end of the year.

Anne Brasseur,
President of the
Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe



Top row, left to right:
Sebastian Kurz, Minister for Europe, Integration
and Foreign Affairs of Austria
Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament
Werner Faymann, Federal Chancellor of Austria
Heinz Fischer, President of Austria
Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan

Bottom row, left to right:
Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan
Petro Porochenko, President of Ukraine
Olemic Thommessen, President of the Parliament of Norway
Angel Gurría, Secretary General of the Organisation for
Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Sir Suma Chakrabarti, President of the European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Parliamentary Assembly

The texts adopted by the Assembly in 2014 can be found on the Assembly website: <http://assembly.coe.int>

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), consisting of representatives from the 47 national parliaments, provides a forum for debate and proposals on Europe's social and political issues. Many Council of Europe conventions originate from the Assembly, including the European Convention on Human Rights.

**President of the Parliamentary Assembly
Anne Brasseur (Luxembourg)**

During its four part-sessions and three meetings of the Standing Committee, the Parliamentary Assembly discussed numerous reports, adopting 29 recommendations, 62 resolutions and 1 opinion on a draft Council of Europe convention.

Topics on the Assembly's agenda included: developing a strategy to prevent racism and intolerance; threats against humanity posed by the terrorist group IS; the organisation of assistance to Syrian refugees; violence in and through the media; the impact of new information technology on democracy; increasing the reporting of suspected sexual abuse of children; and the arrival of mixed migratory flow on Italian shores. An extraordinary meeting of the Enlarged Standing Committee was convened on the occasion of the visit of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Council of Europe on 25 November.

■ Debates on the situation in Ukraine generated controversy among member states, prompting political reactions which included the Assembly's decision to suspend the voting rights of the Russian delegation, as well as its right to be represented in the Assembly's leading bodies and its right to participate in election observation missions.

■ Some of Europe's leading political personalities chose the Assembly as a forum for delivering major political messages (see opposite page).



Anne Brasseur, Assembly President, and **Asaf Mammadov**, father of Anar Mammadli, the laureate of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize, who is currently imprisoned

■ In line with its responsibility for electing judges to the European Court of Human Rights, the Assembly elected Jon Fridrik Kjølbro as judge in respect of Denmark.

■ In June, the Assembly re-elected Mr Thorbjørn Jagland as Secretary General of the Council of Europe for a five-year term.

■ The Assembly awarded its 2014 European Prize to the city of Słupsk (Poland). The 2014 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize went to Mr Anar Mammadli (Azerbaijan). The Council of Europe Museum Prize was awarded to the Baksi Museum (Turkey).

■ In 2014, the Assembly observed elections in eight countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

■ The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy** addressed major European political challenges, preparing reports on the following themes: counteraction to manifestations of neo-Nazism; facing the challenges of a federal Europe; and the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union. It continued to follow the situation in the Middle East and it further pursued its relationship with the Assembly’s partners for democracy: the Palestinian



National Council, the Parliament of Morocco and the Parliament of Jordan. The Committee also presented a report by the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic, requesting partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly, following which the status was granted. It maintained contact with other international organisations, notably the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the United Nations.

■ The **Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights** adopted reports on the following issues: the need to reinforce the training of legal professionals on the European Convention on Human Rights; the protection of minors against excesses of sects; reinforcement of the independence of the European Court of Human Rights; measures to prevent abusive use of the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons; witness protection as an indispensable tool in the fight against organised crime and terrorism in Europe; the

effectiveness of the European Convention on Human Rights: the Brighton Declaration and beyond; and the threats to the rule of law in Council of Europe member states: asserting the Parliamentary Assembly's authority.

■ In addition to its annual progress report, the **Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)** presented reports on: the functioning of democratic institutions in Ukraine; the reconsideration on substantive grounds of the previously ratified credentials of the Russian delegation; the respect of obligations and commitments by Albania; and the functioning of democratic institutions in Georgia. Following fact-finding visits to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine, Monaco, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Turkey, the respective rapporteurs transmitted information notes to the committee, which, in most cases, decided to make them public. The rapporteurs also carried out a fact-finding visit to Paris for the preparation of an opinion on the request from parliamentarians to open a monitoring procedure in respect of France following the protests against the Taubira Law.

■ The **Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media** prepared reports on the following topics: the impact of new information and communication technology on democracy; improving user protection and security in cyberspace; the right to Internet access; violence in and through the media; identities and diversity within intercultural societies; good governance and enhanced quality in education; raising the status of vocational education and training; Europe's endangered heritage; and Assembly opinion on the draft Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions. The Committee also organised a conference on media freedom and the security of journalists.

■ The **Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development** prepared reports on the following issues: child poverty; reporting suspected sexual violence against children; child-friendly juvenile justice; conclusion of the ONE in FIVE Campaign to stop sexual violence against children; well-being of European citizens; decent work for all; social exclusion; challenges for the Council of Europe development bank; breast cancer; millennium development goals; energy diversification; and climate change. The Committee fostered parliamentary dialogue on boosting social investment and better implementation of social rights in Europe. It also organised five meetings of the Parliamentary Assembly's Network of Contact Parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children in the context of the Council of Europe ONE in FIVE Campaign.



His Holiness **Pope Francis**, with the Assembly President **Anne Brasseur**

■ The **Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs** presented reports on the evaluation of the implementation of the reform of the Parliamentary Assembly on Europe's public administrations and on post-electoral shifting in members' political affiliation and its repercussions on the composition of national delegations. It contributed to the debate on the reconsideration on substantive grounds of the credentials of the

Russian delegation by validating in a detailed opinion the proposal to suspend the voting rights, as well as some rights of participation or representation, of its members. The committee also inspired the Parliamentary Assembly's anti-corruption platform, launched in April 2014.

■ The activities of the **Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination** focused on combating violence against women and the promotion of the Istanbul Convention through reports on: perpetrators of violence; prostitution; and trafficking and modern slavery in Europe. Hearings were organised by the



Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence and awareness-raising activities were carried out by the general rapporteur on violence against women. Non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity also featured as a priority, through the work of the general rapporteur on the rights of LGBT persons. The committee presented reports on: the prevention of racism and intolerance in Europe; racism in the police; the situation and rights of national minorities in Europe; the co-operation between national human rights institutions and parliaments; women's rights; and prospects for Euro-Mediterranean co-operation.

■ The **Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons** presented reports with regard to: the management of migration flows; forced displacement; and migrant's rights, refugees and asylum seekers. It closely followed the humanitarian situation of Ukrainian refugees and displaced persons, as well as of Syrian refugees and followed up on the various concerns relating to irregular migration across the Mediterranean Sea. It also dealt with the issues of unaccompanied migrant children, the integration of migrants and the democratic participation of migrant diaspora. The committee continued training for parliamentarians visiting immigration detention centres. Its specialist sub-committee on co-operation with non-European countries of origin and transit countries organised a seminar on Moroccan migration policy and European experience in co-operation with the Moroccan Parliament. Numerous parliamentarians from Mediterranean countries participated.

■ The **Inter-parliamentary Co-operation and Election Observation Division** organised 21 pre-electoral, election observation and post-electoral missions. A total of 255 members of the Assembly were involved in these missions, most of which were organised in collaboration with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR), the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO. All but one of the Parliamentary Assembly delegations were assisted by experts from the Venice Commission.

■ The **Parliamentary Project Support Division** ensures that the Parliamentary Assembly's key recommendations are brought to the awareness of the national parliaments of member states and beyond, and of the parliaments of countries that have observer or partner for democracy status. It mainly focused on three subjects: human rights, especially with regard to the role of national parliaments in the execution of the Court judgments, their role in developing instruments to combat corruption and in ensuring media freedom and reinforcing the safety of journalists. Several human rights initiatives were organised for members of relevant committees of national parliaments and their staff. Moreover, the division has developed the parliamentary dimension of different Council of Europe joint programmes, especially in co-operation with the Directorate of Programmes and the Venice Commission.



Jean-Claude Frécon (France, SOC) was elected President of the Congress for a two-year term of office at the 27th Session in October 2014.



For the first time young delegates, aged 16 to 30 and from 34 different countries, took part in the Congress session in October 2014.

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

The texts adopted by the Congress in 2014 can be found on its website: www.coe.int/t/Congress/

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is the Council of Europe body that represents European local and regional authorities, roughly 200 000 authorities in the 47 member states. The core mission of the Congress is to monitor the state of local and regional democracy in member states by assessing the application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government.

President of the Congress: Jean-Claude Frécon (France)

In 2014, the Congress organised monitoring missions to Belgium, Poland, Norway and Greece and adopted recommendations on local and regional democracy in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Armenia, Sweden and Belgium.

It engaged in regular dialogue with the national authorities of the member states and stepped up this dialogue with the states engaged in post-monitoring in order to ensure that its recommendations were being implemented. In 2014, it continued its post-monitoring dialogue with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Portugal and began post-monitoring dialogue with Georgia, Armenia and Ukraine.

Alongside the political monitoring process, the Congress conducted missions to observe local and regional elections in the Netherlands, Ukraine and Georgia. These missions afforded an opportunity to assess the political system, legal framework and media environment and to examine the electoral campaigns and their financing in the countries concerned. The recommendations produced in the wake of these missions were adopted at the October 2014 session.

In 2014, the Congress continued to develop closer co-operation with the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and its rapporteur groups, in particular the one on democracy. It played an active part in the events organised by the Austrian chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers in Klagenfurt, Salzburg, Vienna and Innsbruck, in the events under the Azerbaijani chairmanship in Baku and in those in Brussels during the Belgian chairmanship.



A delegation from the Congress observed the pre-term local elections held in Ukraine on 25 May 2014

Throughout the year, the situation in Ukraine received considerable attention within the Congress, as it did in other Council of Europe bodies. The Congress accordingly adopted several declarations condemning the holding of an undemocratic referendum in Crimea, the annexation of that autonomous region of Ukraine and Sebastopol by Russia and the presence of Russian troops in eastern Ukraine. It held debates at its two annual plenary sessions on the situation in Ukraine and separatist tensions in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. It also stepped up the existing dialogue with the Ukrainian authorities and took concrete steps to help them on the path to local and regional reforms. In particular, it observed the local elections in May and arranged the first post-monitoring visit. In July, it conducted a high-level visit which enabled it to form a comprehensive picture of the situation in Ukraine and of the major difficulties facing the country. It organised several training seminars on local governance and democracy, including one for young political leaders and mayors elected on 25 May. In December, the first phase of its post-monitoring programme focused on the transfer of powers and responsibilities to local and regional elected representatives.

The Congress also updated its co-operation programmes, notably in Albania and Armenia, and developed its contribution to the Council of Europe's action plans for member states, in particular Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova.

These co-operation activities were conducted in close co-ordination with the authorities of the countries concerned and were supported by voluntary contributions from several member states, including Denmark and Switzerland.

The Congress devoted its two annual sessions in 2014 (March and October) to the theme "Empowering youth: a shared responsibility for cities and regions". The aim was to generate discussion among European local and regional elected representatives about the participation of young people, as actors in local and regional democracy.

For the October 2014 session, for the first time, the Congress invited youth delegates to take part in a Congress session in their own right, alongside the 47 national delegations. The young people, who ranged in age from 16 and 30 and came from 34 countries, thus took an active part in the proceedings and debates. In particular, they prepared and led the debates on co-management and the setting up of joint decision-making bodies and on youth (un)employment. Based on their assessment of this experience, the Congress will develop future activities aimed at promoting active youth participation in the work of the Congress.

■ In the context of the Council of Europe's neighbourhood policy, the Congress implemented specific activities in Morocco and Tunisia. At its October session, it adopted partner for local democracy status, which will enable it to step up this co-operation and support local and regional reforms with the governments and local and regional authorities in Europe's neighbouring countries. Morocco has already expressed an interest in obtaining this status.

■ The Congress celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2014. During the 26th session in March, a special ceremony was held in the presence of the former presidents of the Congress and representatives of the Congress's main institutional partners, in particular the EU's Committee of the Regions. To mark the occasion, the speech made in 1957 at the first ever session of the European Conference of Local Authorities (the forerunner of the Congress) by Jacques Chaban Delmas, the Conference's first President, was broadcast in the debating chamber, reminding participants that the Council of Europe's interest in local and regional democracy dated back nearly 60 years.

■ In November, the Congress and the Committee of the Regions, which was also set up in 1994, held two joint events: a meeting of the Congress Governance Committee and the Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (CIVEX) and a meeting of the contact group between the Committee of the Regions and the Congress. The discussions focused on topics of mutual interest and particular attention was given to the EU candidate countries and the Eastern Partnership countries.

■ At the same time, the Congress continued to work closely with the EU Committee of the Regions, as provided for in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union. It signed a co-operation agreement with the Assembly of European Regions, while agreeing a joint action programme for 2014-2015, with the focus on devolution and promoting regional self-government. It also continued its co-operation with the other institutional partners and European associations of local and regional authorities.

■ The Congress carried out thematic work in the areas identified as priorities by the Council of Europe. As part of the One in Five campaign to combat sexual violence against children, for example, it continued to actively promote the Pact of Towns and Regions which it launched in 2012 and which has already been signed by over 60 towns, regions and associations.

■ The eighth European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) was officially held from 13 to 19 October 2014. The main theme this year was "Participatory democracy: sharing, proposing, deciding", with special emphasis on young people. Some 175 partners from 24 countries organised nearly 450 activities.

■ Since the Summit of Mayors on Roma in September 2011, the Congress has worked with the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to establish a framework for co-operation and discussion for cities and regions wishing to introduce policies for Roma inclusion. It was through this "European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion" that the Congress and the Special Representative launched the ROMACT programme with financial support from the European Commission. The aim of this programme is to reinforce political will and build local and regional authorities' capacity to develop and implement action plans and projects that promote Roma inclusion. ROMACT is currently being implemented in Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and Italy.

■ As in previous years, the Congress was closely involved in the planning and organisation of the World Democracy Forum, the theme in 2014 being "From participation to influence: can youth revitalise democracy?" It took part in various working sessions and organised, alongside the forum, training sessions for young local leaders from Ukraine.



Dean Spielmann, President
of the European Court of Human Rights

European Court of Human Rights

The official website of the European Court of Human Rights: www.echr.coe.int

The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights in the 47 Council of Europe member states. Individuals can bring complaints of human rights violations to the Strasbourg Court once all possibilities of appeal have been exhausted in the member state concerned.

President of the Court: Dean Spielmann (Luxembourg)

TOWARDS IMPROVED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

Continuing a trend that was already very visible in 2013, a series of cases decided by the Court in 2014 established the effectiveness of new remedies introduced in different countries for complaints of violations of Convention rights. A noteworthy example is the response of Italy to the structural problem of prison overcrowding that was identified in the 2013 pilot judgment *Torreggiani v. Italy*. Taking a comprehensive approach, the Italian authorities amended the criminal law so as to permit more frequent use of alternative, non-custodial sentences and to move towards shorter sentences for certain types of crime. Prisoners are now permitted to spend more time outside their cells each day. A new preventive remedy was introduced allowing prisoners to complain about very poor conditions of detention. Any complaints are considered by a judge who has the power to issue a binding order to the

prison administration to improve the prisoner's situation. Along with that, a prisoner who has been held in conditions that breach Article 3 of the Convention (prohibition of torture) can receive compensation, either in the form of a reduction of sentence or, where this is not practicable, financial compensation. In the decision *Stella v. Italy*, the Court examined all of these measures, and took account as well of both the significant decrease in the overall prison population since 2010 and the creation of additional prison places over the same period. Stressing the principle of subsidiarity, it considered that Italy now has in place effective remedies for Article 3 on complaints about prison conditions. This ruling meant that about 3 700 similar applications could be sent back to the national level.

INTER-STATE CASES

■ Romania also took effective remedial action to deal with the structural problem of the restitution of private property that had been confiscated during the communist era. Thousands of such cases have been brought before the Court over the past years, leading to the *Maria Atanasiu* pilot judgment in 2010. In executing this judgment, the Romanian authorities amended domestic law in 2013 in order to bring in a new compensation procedure with clear and foreseeable rules, and binding deadlines for administrative action, with the safeguard of judicial review. In the 2014 judgment *Preda v. Romania*, the Court scrutinised the new remedy and ruled that it must be used by applicants. As a result, about 2 600 similar cases were declared inadmissible for non-exhaustion.

■ The Court reached the same conclusion in relation to excessive delays in the judicial system of Greece. In three pilot judgments adopted in 2010 and 2012, the Court found that the problem was a systemic one that the Greek authorities needed to address. In 2014, Greece adopted a new law making compensation available to those persons affected by the problem of undue length of criminal proceedings. Ruling on the new procedure in the *Xynos* case, the Court endorsed it as an effective remedy that applicants must now make use of.

■ A final example concerns Turkey. A constitutional remedy introduced in Turkey in 2012, and already recognised as effective by the Court in 2013, was assessed again in 2014 in relation to a very different type of complaint. In the case *Koçintar v. Turkey*, the applicant complained under Article 5 of the Convention (right to liberty and security) that he had been held in pre-trial detention for an excessive period. The Court considered in detail the case law of the Constitutional Court in similar cases under the corresponding provision of the Constitution of Turkey. It was satisfied that the constitutional remedy was genuinely accessible to detainees. It was also effective, since a finding by the Constitutional Court that the period of detention is excessive leads to the person's release.

■ Thanks in part to the above developments, the Court was able to deal with a very large volume of cases in 2014, with more than 86 000 applications disposed of. As a result, there was a significant decrease in the number of cases pending, from 100 000 at the start of the year to just under 70 000 at the end.

■ 2014 was a year in which the Court's inter-state jurisdiction (Article 33 of the Convention) featured prominently. The Grand Chamber gave judgment in two cases: *Georgia v. Russia (I)*, which arose out of events in the respondent state in 2006/2007; and *Cyprus v. Turkey*, the Court ruling on just satisfaction after having given its principal judgment on the case in 2001. Three new inter-state proceedings were brought by Ukraine against the Russian Federation. This led the Court to indicate interim measures to both states at the outset of the proceedings. Two of these cases were communicated to the respondent state by the end of the year.

Visit of the Grand Duke of Luxembourg,
Henri Albert Gabriel Félix Marie Guillaume





His Holiness **Pope Francis**, with the President and Vice Presidents of the Court

IMPORTANT EVENTS FOR THE COURT IN 2014

■ The Court received an official visit from the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, who delivered an address at a formal sitting of the Plenary Court, also attended by leading figures of the Council of Europe and representatives of the member states. The Grand Duke spoke of his country's attachment to the values embodied by the Council of Europe, especially respect for human rights, the strengthening of democracy and observance of the rule of law. He stressed the importance of states making the necessary institutional arrangements to prevent violations of human rights and ensure that their legal orders are in conformity with fundamental rights.

■ Switzerland marked the 40th anniversary of its ratification of the Convention by inviting the President of the Court to deliver an address at a joint sitting of the Swiss Parliament. In his speech the President commended Switzerland for the degree to which, from the beginning, it had integrated the Convention into the domestic order, where Convention rights are regarded as having constitutional rank. He emphasised the shared commitment of Switzerland and the Court to the fundamental principles and values of the Convention. He also praised the important initiatives taken by Switzerland – especially the Interlaken conference in 2010 – to strengthen the Convention system.

■ The Court was associated with the visit to the Council of Europe of His Holiness Pope Francis, who met with the President and Vice Presidents of the Court. All of the judges were invited to attend the papal address.

■ Judicial dialogue was pursued with the supreme and constitutional courts of numerous countries. This also had an inter-regional dimension, with the visit to the Court of the judges of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Over several days, the IACHR representatives had lengthy discussions with their European counterparts, and also with other legal and human rights bodies of the Council of Europe. Relations between the two human rights courts have been strengthened through the exchange of legal staff between the respective registries.



The Commissioner for Human Rights, **Nils Muižnieks**, on the plane on the way to his visit to Montenegro

Commissioner for Human Rights

Information on the Commissioner's work in 2014 can be found on his website:

www.commissioner.coe.int

The Commissioner's Twitter account is @CommissionerHR

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

Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muižnieks (Latvia), since April 2012

COUNTRY MONITORING

In 2014, the Commissioner carried out several visits to Ukraine, in order to shed light on the human rights consequences of the violent events of February and the conflict in the east of the country. The report published after his first visit, which took place in February, highlighted a number of long-standing, core human rights challenges to be addressed, in particular as regards the excessive use of force by the police, the independence and impartiality of the judicial system and the lack of a legislative framework governing peaceful assembly. In June, the Commissioner travelled to Kyiv and Odessa, where he stressed the urgent need to ensure that the ongoing investigations into human rights violations meet international human rights standards for thoroughness, promptness, transparency and victim involvement. He met with a number of displaced persons and wrote a letter to the Prime Minister of Ukraine in which he expressed concerns about their situation and called for urgent measures at the central level to strengthen the state's humanitarian response. Following his visit to the east of Ukraine in December, the Commissioner stressed that the armed conflict there has had devastating effects on the human rights of the population and on the humanitarian situation. He also released a short film to help raise awareness about the human suffering caused by the conflict.

In September, the Commissioner carried out a mission to Kyiv, Moscow and Simferopol. He stressed that human rights abuses in Crimea¹ need to be addressed and he drew attention in particular to the need to investigate all cases of serious human rights violations that have occurred since February 2014. The Commissioner also stated that urgent steps must be taken to ensure minority rights and security, as well as media freedom and journalists' safety.

Additional visits were carried out to Armenia, France, Georgia, Hungary, the Netherlands, Montenegro and Romania. The Commissioner also visited Azerbaijan in October to focus on the situation of human rights defenders and to continue his discussion with the authorities in the light of the observations he had published in April on freedom of expression and association. Further to the visit, the Commissioner urged the authorities to end the reprisals against human rights defenders and improve the protection of freedom of expression, assembly and association in the country.

1. The mission of the Commissioner for Human Rights was aimed at fostering the effective enjoyment of human rights. It cannot be interpreted as recognising either the authorities that exercise *de facto* jurisdiction or any altered status of the territory in question.



The Commissioner for Human Rights, **Nils Muižnieks**, discusses the situation of internally displaced people (Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine)

■ Several country reports were published during the year. In his report on Hungary, the Commissioner stressed the need to better ensure media freedom, combat widespread intolerance and discrimination, and improve the protection of the human rights of migrants. Previously, in a letter to the Minister of the Hungarian Prime Minister's Office, the Commissioner had urged the authorities to stop the stigmatising rhetoric used against non-governmental organisations (NGOs) active in the field of promoting human rights and democratic values.

■ Another report that was widely discussed was the one on the Netherlands, in which the Commissioner stressed the need to better protect the human rights of migrants and children. The report was published after a visit carried out in May that had already led to some positive announcements by the government aimed at improving legislation and practice as regards migrant children.

■ In his report on Romania the Commissioner called for a much stronger commitment to effective protection of the human rights of people with disabilities, children and Roma. He underscored that many people with disabilities, including children, are isolated from society in a growing number of institutions where they often face inhumane and degrading treatment and, in some cases, deliberate abuse. He recommended giving priority to deinstitutionalisation, along with effective investigations into all allegations of ill-treatment. In this context, he urged the authorities to set up an efficient national mechanism for the prevention of torture.

■ With regard to Montenegro, the Commissioner's report underlined that the country had an important role to play in regional efforts to establish the truth about serious human rights violations committed during the wars of the 1990s in the region of the former Yugoslavia. However, impunity for wartime crimes and access to adequate reparations for all war victims remained issues to be effectively addressed by the authorities. To this end, the Commissioner recommended developing programmes for systematic professional education and training in international criminal and humanitarian law for prosecutors and judges.

■ In his report on Georgia, the Commissioner recommended continued efforts to enhance public trust in the justice system and to promote equality and minority rights. He also observed that a reduction in the use of pre-trial detention and the increase in acquittal rates by the courts appear to signal a departure from the previous near-automatic endorsement of the prosecution's motions or reasoning in court decisions. However, continued vigilance is needed to reinforce judicial independence and shield judges from undue interference.

■ The report on Denmark mainly focused on the human rights of migrants and asylum seekers. The Commissioner observed that the best interests of the child are not always upheld in the context of asylum and immigration in Denmark and urged the Danish authorities to improve the protection they provide to migrant children. He noted that in spite of positive changes introduced in 2012, further progress was needed, in particular to ensure that family reunification proceedings involving children are dealt with in a positive and humane manner. The Commissioner also stressed that the best interests of the child should prevail over their integration potential, or the integration potential of their parents.

■ The justice system was the main focus of the report on Albania. The Commissioner stressed that the high level of corruption in the judiciary seriously impedes its proper functioning and undermines public trust in justice and the rule of law in Albania. He urged the authorities to step up their efforts to ensure that all cases of corruption in the judiciary are effectively investigated and prosecuted.

THEMATIC WORK

■ The Commissioner pursued his work on some major human rights issues, including migration, freedom of expression and media freedom. On the latter, he also published an issue paper on the rule of law on the Internet and the wider digital world, in which he stressed that standards and principles that apply offline must also be upheld online. Addressing the pressing question of how to ensure that the rule of law is established and maintained on the Internet and in the wider digital world, the Commissioner's issue paper brings the threats derived from interfering in Internet activities without complying with international standards into sharp focus, in particular when it comes to data protection and freedom of expression.

■ He also wrote extensively on the threats and challenges faced by journalists in Europe, both in terms of personal safety and repression of their liberties. In a series of articles, he underlined the necessity to protect a free, diverse and responsible press as a core element of any functioning democracy. He noted with regret that worrying patterns were eroding press freedom in Europe, where violence against journalists, repressive legislation and ownership concentration put a strain on the safety, freedom and independence of journalists.

■ On migration, the Commissioner wrote a number of articles focusing on the need to guarantee access to asylum and reconcile border control measures with human rights protection. He has been particularly active in the context of the Spanish debate on legalising pushbacks of migrants arriving in Ceuta and Melilla, both through interviews and opinion-editorials and through meetings with the Spanish authorities.

■ During the year, the Commissioner published a series of human rights comments addressing issues as diverse as: the human rights of LGBTI persons; children's rights; social rights; missing persons; access to health care; women's rights; youth; police abuse; sex-selective abortion; and combating anti-Semitism.



The Commissioner for Human Rights, **Nils Muižnieks**, while visiting a Roma camp in the 15th district of Marseille

■ The thematic work was further pursued through interviews with the press and intense activity on social media.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ACTORS

■ The Commissioner continued his co-operation with national human rights structures, such as ombudspersons, national human rights institutions and equality bodies both during his visits and through specific activities.

■ Meetings with human rights defenders continued to take place, including through targeted visits and meetings.

■ The Commissioner also continued his regular co-operation and exchanges of information with members of the European Commission and Parliament, the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, UN Rapporteurs and representatives of UN High Commissioner for Refugees.



Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and **Stefan Füle**, EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, signing a new longer-term framework for co-operation

External relations

External Relations website: www.coe.int/DER

POLICY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE TOWARDS NEIGHBOURING REGIONS

The implementation of the policy towards neighbouring regions continued in 2014 in close co-operation with the European Union. Political dialogue continued with the countries of the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia. Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities (NCPs) have been implemented in Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Kazakhstan and concluded with Kyrgyzstan. In addition, Neighbourhood Partnerships – combining co-operation and enhanced political dialogue – have been prepared with Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia for 2015-2017. Council of Europe conventions are more widely adhered to by neighbouring countries and targeted co-operation activities also continued to take place with them, notably through the Venice Commission.

RELATIONS WITH THE EU, THE UN AND THE OSCE

EUROPEAN UNION

Co-operation and co-ordination of action between the two organisations further intensified on the basis of the 2007 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). High-level political dialogue continued and implementation of the MoU was regularly assessed by the Ministers' Deputies. The Committee of Ministers considered that a true strategic partnership had been established in the areas of political dialogue, legal co-operation and concrete co-operation activities. In April, the Council of Europe and the EU signed a "Statement of Intent" putting in place a new framework for co-operation in the EU Enlargement and Neighbourhood Regions for the period 2014-2020. As in previous years, a substantial part of joint activities was carried out through Joint Programmes. The Council of Europe Liaison Office in Brussels and the Delegation of the EU to the Council of Europe further facilitated the reinforcement of the co-operation described above.

UNITED NATIONS

In December, the UN General Assembly adopted by consensus the resolution on co-operation between the UN and the Council of Europe, which illustrates the increasing partnership between the two organisations in many areas, human rights in particular. The co-operative work between the two organisations also continued to increase thanks to the Council of Europe Liaison Offices in Geneva and Vienna.

ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

The Council of Europe continued its close co-operation with the OSCE in 2014. The relations focused on a broad spectrum of human dimension activities "in the field", at the intergovernmental and parliamentary level or between institutions and specialised bodies. The Council of Europe Liaison Offices in Vienna and Warsaw facilitated the co-operation.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER COUNTRIES

The Council of Europe maintained regular contact and relations with other organisations active in the areas of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, such as the Organization of American States, La Francophonie or International IDEA. Study visits were also organised for human rights bodies of the League of Arab States, ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. Active preferential relations with the observer states were complemented by relations with more than 70 non-member states centred on the fields where the Council of Europe's *acquis* presents a global comparative advantage.



Group photograph of the **Schools of Political Studies** at the World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, November 2014)

Policy planning and political affairs

POLICY PLANNING

For the second year running the links between the Council of Europe and the European think-tank community were consolidated through expert meetings, with the fruits of this collaboration published as “The Pursuit of Undivided Europe: experts’ views on the political relevance of the Council of Europe”. This stimulating and provocative report focuses on the fundamental issues facing the Council of Europe: its political relevance, its membership and its *modus operandi*.

The first meeting with University Chairs, “Towards an Enhanced Role of the Council of Europe in University Teaching and Research”, co-organised with the Directorates General of the Council of Europe, opened up a new channel for dialogue between the Organisation and senior representatives from major European universities, particularly from departments teaching and researching human rights, European studies and international relations. The meeting explored the ways in which the Organisation could open up so as to enhance academics’ understanding of its work and how, inversely, the Council of Europe bodies could derive greater benefit from academic research for their standard-setting and monitoring activities. Opportunities to make human rights and democracy a prominent topic in universities’ teaching and research, as well as in their general approach to education, were considered.

The European Identity Debate series, aimed at diplomats, staff and experts with a view to stimulating innovative and open-minded thinking, continued with four presentations by recognised European personalities. The inter-disciplinary debates were organised in co-operation with the Strasbourg-based French *Ecole nationale d’administration*. The ideas and conclusions of the entire cycle of 10 debates have been published as *We need to talk about Europe: European Identity Debates at the Council of Europe 2013-2014*.

The short monthly meetings of ALER-T (Awareness Lab for Early Response Team) continue to offer a space for blue-sky thinking for Council of Europe managers. Secretariat political reflection and in-house knowledge exchange was also encouraged through regular Open Thoughts Papers which analysed recent policy studies and research on issues relevant to the Council of Europe. As in previous years, various briefing memos and relevant texts were prepared for the Secretary General and a Comprehensive Outlook Paper on the prospects for 2015 was disseminated.

SCHOOLS OF POLITICAL STUDIES

The Schools of Political Studies, identified by the Committee of Ministers as a priority activity for the Organisation, act as reliable and active partners functioning as ambassadors and multipliers of the Organisation’s values and standards. In addition to training emerging leaders (over 550 in 2014) in 21 countries, the schools’ network enables bridges to be built between participants from countries experiencing frozen conflicts and who, for this and other reasons, rarely communicate with each other. The schools’ participants also played a key role in the success of the World Forum for Democracy and benefited from additional events organised specifically for them.

As well as holding regional seminars, the schools’ network developed its capacity to organise peer work and knowledge exchange study visits and training; three such events took place in 2014.

The First International Alumni Seminar of the Schools of Political Studies, “Harnessing young people’s potential for building a democratic future”, brought together some 50 alumni from the schools. This event laid the foundations for more sustained co-operation among the alumni community and with the Council of Europe to build a democratic future based on the Council’s *acquis* and values.



Ana Palacio, former Foreign Minister of Spain at the European identity debate: “The core EU challenge: democratic deficit or deficit of trust?” (Strasbourg, March 2014)

For several Schools of Political Studies, 2014 was a difficult year as they experienced political pressure from authorities. On the other hand, the Ukraine School of Political Studies has been able to play a key role in the implementation of activities under the “Ukraine Immediate Measures Package”, set up in response to the political crisis in the country. Moreover, two new schools were opened in Greece and Turkey bringing the total number of schools to 21. In addition to their pilot seminars the two new schools organised a joint seminar on the politics of friendship. Contacts for possible new schools have been developed in Kyrgyzstan and Cyprus. Improved awareness about the schools’ work is provided in four issues of the schools’ newsletter.

POLITICAL AFFAIRS

As in previous years, the Directorate of Political Affairs contributed to the preparation of the ninth and tenth consolidated reports of the Secretary General on the conflict in Georgia, which were presented to, and debated by, the Committee of Ministers. In line with the decisions of the Committee

of Ministers, the reports took stock of the situation in Georgia following the August 2008 conflict, provided information on the related activities of the Council of Europe and put forward further action to be taken in the region affected by the consequences of the conflict.

As regards fulfilment of statutory commitments and democratic processes, and following a fact-finding mission to Montenegro in October 2013, the Directorate finalised the second dialogue-based regular stocktaking report of co-operation and progress. The report was presented to and debated by the Committee of Ministers in 2014. On that occasion, in light of the conclusions reached, the Committee of Ministers notably took a decision to discontinue monitoring with Montenegro on the understanding that the Montenegrin authorities will complete the reforms under way with regard to the recommendations contained in the report.

■ In September 2014, in line with the relevant Committee of Ministers decisions, the Directorate carried out a working visit to Belgrade in view of the second dialogue-based regular stocktaking report of co-operation and progress with regard to the fulfilment of statutory commitments and democratic processes by Serbia. The report, presented to the Rapporteur Group on Democracy (GR-DEM) in January 2015, takes stock of progress made by the country in respect of democratic reforms and co-operation with the Council of Europe since 2011.

■ Regarding co-operation with Belarus, in 2014 the project implemented by the Council of Europe on the Information Point in Minsk, under the general co-ordination of the Directorate, strengthened the action and visibility of the Organisation in the country and disseminated information on Council of Europe standards and policies in its core areas of expertise. Thirty-nine activities, in which around 900 local representatives took part through lectures, round tables and conferences, were organised in the country with the support of the Information Point. These activities organised by the Secretariat covered the following issues which are of particular relevance for the Council of Europe: ways of introducing a moratorium on or abolition of the death penalty; criminal procedure and human rights; the work of national human rights institutions (new topic in 2014); the protection of social rights (new topic in 2014); youth policy (new topic in 2014); trafficking in human beings;

intercultural dialogue and cultural heritage; the fight against corruption and drug addiction (new topic in 2014); gender equality; and human rights education.

■ The Directorate continued to implement confidence-building measures in post-conflict, frozen or protracted-conflict zones. In 2014, this programme supported the dissemination of Council of Europe standards and contributed to dialogue and the capacity building of professionals in the affected regions. The main beneficiaries of the programme are representatives of both banks of the river Nistru/Dniester in the Republic of Moldova, as well as representatives from the South Caucasus, including from Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Particularly fruitful co-operation could be implemented between the media on both sides of the river Nistru/Dniestr, as well as between health professionals in penitentiary institutions to fight tuberculosis and other transmissible diseases. In 2014, the Council of Europe continued to facilitate the renewal of contact between NGOs in Armenia and Azerbaijan in order to assist in building trust and confidence between the populations.

■ Furthermore, the Council of Europe programme of co-operation with the Russian Federation for the Chechen Republic, conducted in partnership with the Office of the Ombudsman of the Russian Federation, continued with the organisation of a training session in Grozny for language teachers working in a multi-cultural environment.



Meeting of the **Schools of Political Studies** at the World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, November 2014)



Her Majesty **Queen Máxima of the Netherlands**, the UN Secretary General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development, addressing the 45th plenary meeting of MONEYVAL (Strasbourg, September 2014)

Directorate General

Human rights and rule of law

Official website of the Directorate General: www.coe.int/en/web/human-rights-rule-of-law/home

PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

▶ MONITORING BODIES

EXECUTION OF JUDGMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2014, the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, which assists and advises the Committee of Ministers in its supervision of execution, registered some 1 396 new cases, 70 more than in 2012. These included 207 cases revealing new structural problems in the countries concerned, the other cases being mainly of a repetitive nature. A new record number of cases closed (1 501 as compared to 1 398 in 2013) led to yet a new decrease in the number of pending cases, from 11 108 in 2013 to 10 896 in 2014. The number of pending cases at the end of 2014 included some 1 500 revealing structural problems.

Supervision activity focused on 349 cases placed under enhanced supervision. This procedure is applied to judgments revealing structural/complex problems (including pilot judgments) deemed important, to inter-state cases and to judgments requiring urgent action in favour of the applicant. Most of the cases related to problems such as prison overcrowding and poor detention conditions, non-enforcement of final domestic judicial decisions, excessive length of judicial proceedings and different issues linked with actions of security forces and criminal procedures. In the context of its examination of these cases, the Committee of Ministers adopted 118 decisions, aimed at supporting or encouraging ongoing execution efforts.

A major purpose of the enhanced supervision procedure, in particular combined with pilot judgments, is to reduce the number of repetitive cases by ensuring the rapid adoption of effective remedies or other measures suited to stop the influx of repetitive applications to the Court. Statistics for 2014 confirm this positive trend, particularly seen in the light of the important efforts deployed by the Court to close the considerable number of repetitive cases pending.

PREVENTION OF TORTURE AND INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT (CPT)

In 2014, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) carried out 10 periodic visits (to Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Ireland, Romania and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”) and seven ad hoc visits (to Armenia, the Caribbean part of the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Spain, twice to Ukraine, and to Gibraltar and the United Kingdom), totalling 159 days in the field.

On 24 September 2014, representatives of the CPT participated in a round table in Moscow organised by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation in co-operation with the CPT. The event was held following the publication of the committee's reports on two visits to the country, namely the 2011 ad hoc visit to the North Caucasian region of the Russian Federation and the 2012 periodic visit to the country. The discussions focused on the implementation by the Russian authorities of the recommendations made by the CPT.

The CPT's 2013-2014 General Report addressed the issue of intimidation and reprisals as a major challenge for the CPT's work. In this report, the CPT also updated its standards regarding juveniles deprived of their liberty under criminal legislation.

At the request of the national authorities concerned, 16 visit reports and a comparable number of government responses were made public over the year.

EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER AND THE EUROPEAN CODE OF SOCIAL SECURITY

The major event in 2014 was the organisation of the High-Level Conference on the European Social Charter organised on 17 and 18 October in Turin, Italy. The conference put the European Social Charter at the centre of the European political scene by demonstrating its potential alongside the European Convention on Human Rights and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in the name of the principles of the indivisibility and interdependence of fundamental rights. Discussions were held by three panels on the following items: austerity measures in a period of crisis: the impact on social rights, the participation of citizens and the contribution of the European Social Charter to the crisis exit phase; the contribution of the collective complaints procedure to the respect of social rights in Europe; and synergies between the law of the European Union and the European Social Charter. The conference was the starting point in the "Turin Process" for the European Social Charter. As part of this process a follow-up conference was held on "The future of the Protection of Social Rights in Europe" in Brussels on 12 and 13 February 2015 under the Belgian Chairmanship of the Council of Europe.

► STANDARDS

In 2014, the Committee of Ministers adopted Recommendation CM/Rec(2014)2 to member states on the promotion of human rights of older persons. This instrument seeks to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights by all older persons, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity. Moreover,

the Committee of Ministers adopted a declaration in support of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and a drafting group met twice in 2014 to negotiate a new Council of Europe non-binding instrument on business and human rights. Further ongoing work concerns human rights in culturally diverse societies, as well as the impact of the economic crisis on human rights in Europe.

In 2014, the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) advanced its work on the longer-term future of the European Court of Human Rights, notably in the light of the Oslo Conference (April 2014). The CDDH also adopted a report containing conclusions concerning the procedure for the amendment of the Rules of Court and the possible "upgrading" of certain provisions of the rules. The toolkit adopted by the Committee of the Ministers to inform public officials about the state's obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights was widely disseminated and published online: <http://echr-toolkit.coe.int>.

► CO-OPERATION

Support to member states through co-operation projects has contributed to enhancing the protection of human rights at the national level. The support of the Council of Europe has borne fruit in Turkey where – two years after the introduction of individual applications – the Constitutional Court issued landmark decisions referring to the case law of the European Court of Human Rights. Ukraine adopted a new law to reform the prosecution service in line with European standards in October 2014. Immediate measures addressed the post-Maidan events as regards effective investigations into allegations of ill-treatment and restrictions of freedom of assembly. The Council of Europe worked with courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia to achieve a harmonised body of case law at the national level.

The European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) continued its expansion and developed new courses as a response to societal challenges, in areas such as on anti-discrimination, hate speech and hate crime and asylum. Through in-depth training, over 4 000 lawyers have been encouraged to bring well-founded discrimination cases to national courts and the European Court of Human Rights.

SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

MEDIA

Recognising the deteriorating safety of journalists in Europe, the Committee of Ministers urged its member states to fulfil their positive obligations to protect them. Round-table talks – Safety of Journalists: “from commitment to action” – considered ways of better addressing the situation. The foundations of an Internet-based platform were laid, allowing organisations working for media freedom to report serious concerns to the Council of Europe. A seminar and inter-regional dialogue on the protection of journalists, “Towards an effective framework of protection for the work of journalists and an end to impunity”, was organised with UNESCO and other partners.

Over 100 co-operation activities were conducted in Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Ukraine, Kosovo² and Morocco, including the monitoring of media coverage of elections, round-table talks on the safety of journalists, conferences on the transparency of media ownership, public broadcasting services, hate speech and the independence of regulatory authorities.

EUROPEAN AUDIOVISUAL OBSERVATORY, ENLARGED PARTIAL AGREEMENT

The European Audiovisual Observatory collects and disseminates market research and legal analysis on the film, broadcasting, video and audiovisual industry and its on-demand services.

Under its Italian presidency in 2014, the Observatory published its *Yearbook – Television, cinema, video and on-demand audiovisual services*, the *FOCUS 2014 – World film market trends* and the monthly IRIS legal newsletter. Other publications addressed the on-demand audiovisual markets in the EU, the Turkish film industry, female directors in European film productions and the theatrical circulation of European children’s films. The Observatory produced four IRIS *plus* reports on EU legislation on film funds, courtroom reporting, barrier-free access to the media, and the

influence of new technologies on copyright. Two IRIS special reports focused on on-demand video services and promoting European works, and big data and new forms of advertising.

In 2014, the Observatory concluded its data research on the Mediterranean countries for the EU’s Euromed Audiovisual III Programme with two final country reports on Algeria and Jordan. The Observatory also continued to update its four free-access databases.

The Observatory held its annual Cannes Film Market conference on the role of women in film making. In June, a workshop in Rome, in conjunction with the Observatory’s Italian presidency, explored the role of new players in film and audiovisual production funding. “Fiscal incentives for film and TV production” and “Cinema in Russia” were topics of reports presented respectively in Brussels and in Moscow. A first-ever Observatory conference was co-organised in Rabat with the Moroccan regulatory authority HACA on the financing of public-service broadcasting. Together with the European Platform of Regulatory Agencies (EPRA), the Observatory organised a workshop on empowering users of audiovisual content.

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

To empower Internet users to exercise their rights, the Council of Europe published a guide to human rights for Internet users to help them better understand human rights online and react when they are challenged. Among other things, this guide, a multi-stakeholder effort, aims to improve national human rights frameworks to enable users to seek redress and remedies. It has been translated into eight languages, and is disseminated through the development of a series of awareness-raising activities.

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe made a significant contribution to the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) High-Level Panel on Global Internet Cooperation and Governance Mechanisms meeting in May 2014, which reaffirmed the Internet governance principles.

DATA PROTECTION

The modernisation work of the Council of Europe’s Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (ETS No. 108), which is the sole international legally binding instrument in the field of data protection, was concluded and will be presented in 2015 for adoption to the Committee of Ministers. The 46 current signatories to the convention adopted an opinion on “the implications for data protection of mechanisms for automatic inter-state exchanges of data for administrative

2. All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

and tax purposes". Morocco was invited to accede to the convention as a new party and Mauritius also requested to be invited.

BIOETHICS

■ The activities concentrated on the challenges to human rights of developments in biomedical research and the increasing importance of banks of biological samples (biobanks) collected from both patients and healthy individuals. While a potential source of great benefit for human health, the storage and use of these samples also raises issues concerning the respect for autonomy and privacy of the persons concerned. A public consultation was held on a draft legal instrument addressing these concerns.

■ Specific work focused on the protection of the fundamental rights of persons with mental disorders, the use of health-related data by insurance companies and the ethical issues raised by emerging technologies.

RULE OF LAW

ACTION AGAINST CRIME

■ The monitoring of the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism prompted the Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER) to propose an additional protocol aimed at criminalising certain acts typically committed by foreign terrorists or their supporters. The new protocol would be in line with the

action required by the recently adopted mandatory UN Security Council Resolutions.

■ CODEXTER worked on applying the Council of Europe standards for the use of special investigation techniques recommended in 2005 to the latest developments in Internet-related technology.

■ The Council of Europe actively participated in the biennial UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review. In addition to that with our traditional partners – the EU, OSCE, UN – co-operation increased with the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF). In recognition of our contribution, the Council of Europe was invited for the first time to the GCTF Coordinating Committee meetings.

■ An international conference in Malaga, Spain, co-organised by CODEXTER and the European Committee on Crime Problems, explored the links between organised crime and terrorism. MONEYVAL (Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism) held a seminar in San Marino bringing together judges and prosecutors from Europe and the US to examine how proceeds of crime are laundered by organised crime.

Opening session of the International Conference on Terrorism and Organised Crime (Málaga, September 2014)



■ Her Majesty Queen Máxima of the Netherlands, who is the UN Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development, addressed the 45th plenary meeting of MONEYVAL.

■ MONEYVAL made the first on-site visit to the UK Crown Dependency of Guernsey.

■ A public statement on the continuing deficiencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina resulted in amendments to the preventative legislation.

■ To promote a common legal space for co-operation in the criminal law field, the Council of Europe continued to engage judges, prosecutors and civil servants in facilitating the implementation of more than 30 Council of Europe conventions. Among the new challenges that came into focus were the involvement of juveniles in urban violence, notably through social networks, and the links between transnational organised crime and terrorism.

■ The recommendation on electronic monitoring (CM/Rec(2014)4) was the focus of our work on prison reform, which retained its overall objectives of reducing prison overcrowding, improving prison management and health care for vulnerable groups. These were supported by technical co-operation with some 35 member states. The reform of police work in order to make it comply better with human rights also received support.

■ Twenty countries benefited from technical co-operation to improve good governance, better prevent corruption, money laundering and terrorism financing, and recover stolen assets. The Council of Europe monitoring and capacity-building methodologies were extended to the southern Mediterranean region – Morocco and Tunisia. For the first time, co-operation started with Jordan. The Council of Europe responded to requests from Ukraine and co-operation was extended to new beneficiaries, the EU members Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Greece.

Visit of a short-term detention centre by Council of Europe experts (Latvia, May 2014)



FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

■ The Pompidou Group welcomed a new member, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and a new observer, Mexico. It helped Ukraine respond to the needs of patients who, because of the conflict, are at risk of relapse into drug use, overdose and of death because their opiate substitution treatment is being discontinued. Capacity building improved drug treatment in prisons in South-East Europe and the response to drug-related problems in the south Mediterranean. The 16th Ministerial Conference confirmed the need for innovative, human rights-sensitive responses to tackle blind spots in drug-related matters.

CORRUPTION (GRECO)

■ The prevention of corruption among members of parliament, judges and prosecutors is the focus of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) in its fourth evaluation round. GRECO's recommendations seek from these professional groups more effective corruption prevention in their own ranks. In 2014 evaluation reports were adopted on Albania, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Malta and Norway that set out examples of good practice and action to be taken and reported on after an 18-month implementation phase. All the countries of the European continent and the United States of America participate in this work. Through its evaluations and monitoring process, GRECO responds to a growing demand from citizens of its member states for transparency in public life.

■ Reviews were also carried out of 29 countries' compliance with third-round recommendations, notably in connection with political funding and key anti-corruption legal concepts.

■ One emerging trend from the fourth round of evaluation was the topic of a conference (International Anti-Corruption Academy, 10-11 April) held under the auspices of the Austrian chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, with financial support from Monaco. The conference concluded that rules and regulations applicable to MPs, judges and prosecutors need to define conflicts of interest, identify situations that pose critical ethical problems, encourage obligatory declarations and ensure that individual guidance on questions of ethics is available.

CYBERCRIME

■ The Convention on Cybercrime (ETS No. 185, "the Budapest Convention") was again confirmed as the most influential international treaty on cybercrime. Additional non-member states became parties to the

convention (Mauritius and Panama) and Tonga was invited to accede. The Convention Committee ensured the quality of implementation. It completed its assessment of the effectiveness of mutual legal assistance and adopted Guidance Notes on spam and transborder access to data. The Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe in Romania became operational in April 2014 and supports capacity building on cybercrime worldwide. Activities in 2014 focused in particular on countries participating in the Eastern Partnership Facility and on the priority countries of the joint project on Global Action on Cybercrime (GLACY), that is, Mauritius, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa and Tonga.

JUSTICE AND LEGAL CO-OPERATION

VENICE COMMISSION

■ The European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) is the Council of Europe's advisory body on constitutional matters. The commission adopted 45 opinions and reports in 2014.

■ Regarding country-specific activities the commission worked on constitutional reforms in Armenia, Georgia, Romania, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Ukraine. The commission examined legal texts on the functioning of the judiciary (courts and prosecution offices) in Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovakia. Recurrent issues were the independence of the judicial councils and the independence and immunity of judges. Following the Maidan events in Ukraine, the expertise of the commission was sought regarding the so-called referendum in Crimea, on the draft law on joining the Russian Federation by a new subject (abandoned following the commission's opinion) and on the "Lustration Law"³ of Ukraine. Following the adoption of an interim opinion on the latter, the Ukrainian authorities acknowledged the need to create an effective lustration framework in line with international standards.

3. Law on government cleansing.

■ The commission proposed criteria and guidelines on the scope and lifting of parliamentary immunity and invited parliaments to modernise their rules. In a joint effort with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the OSCE, the commission adopted the Guidelines on Freedom of Association and on the Legal Personality of Religious or Belief Communities. The commission further stressed the important role of the courts in the implementation of the international treaties. The Commission also provided an overview of the existing constitutional guarantees of children's rights. The 11th European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies, held in Finland, addressed combating the misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes.

■ Seven Arab countries participated in the fourth Intercultural Workshop in Rome on transparency and the rule of law as pre-conditions for equitable and sustainable development. The commission assisted the Tunisian authorities in reforming their electoral legislation and practice. Opinions on draft laws on the judiciary in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and on electoral legislation in Kyrgyzstan were given.

■ The Third Congress of the World Conference on Constitutional Justice addressed the theme of social integration and was co-organised with the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Korea in Seoul at the end of September 2014. Over 300 participants from 97 courts worldwide took part. Kosovo joined the commission on 12 September 2014.

ENSURING JUSTICE – INDEPENDENCE AND EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE

■ The European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) report evaluating judicial systems in 46 states was published in October and widely disseminated. The CEPEJ Study on the functioning of judicial systems in European Union states was forwarded for the EU to be used as the basis for its "EU Justice Scoreboard".

■ CEPEJ findings and methodology were used to guide judicial reforms in many member states, including through CEPEJ co-operation programmes (Albania, Eastern Partnership countries, Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan).

■ Tools for judicial time management were provided. To help improve the quality of judicial systems, new guidelines were offered to policy makers and judicial practitioners on the organisation and accessibility of court premises and on the role of experts in judicial proceedings.

■ The CEPEJ was represented in 43 forums (in 23 states) dealing with the functioning of justice. Innovative practices to improve the functioning of the court systems were highlighted through the success of the European competition "the Crystal Scales of Justice".

■ European standards on the evaluation of judges' work, the quality of justice and respect for judicial independence were provided through the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE) Opinion No. 17 (2014) and through the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE) Opinion No. 9 (2014) on European norms and principles concerning prosecutors. The CCJE provided specific opinions on the status of judges for Turkey, Slovakia and Luxembourg.

LEGAL CO-OPERATION (CDCJ)

■ The Committee of Ministers adopted Recommendation CM/Rec(2014)7 on the protection of whistleblowers on 30 April 2014. An action plan has been developed to promote and implement the recommendation.

■ The European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) approved a draft recommendation on preventing and resolving disputes on child relocation.

■ Legal advice or opinions on legal frameworks and draft laws were provided – some together with the Venice Commission – to several member states: Armenia, Georgia, Greece, the Republic of Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine.



Jeremy Rifkin, president of the Foundation on Economic Trends, at the World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, November 2014)

Directorate General Democracy

Official website of the Directorate General: www.coe.int/en/web/human-rights-rule-of-law/home

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

WORLD FORUM FOR DEMOCRACY

(www.coe.int/en/world-forum-democracy)

The World Forum for Democracy 2014 “From participation to influence: can youth revitalise democracy?” – held in Strasbourg from 3 to 5 November 2014 – demonstrated the role of young people in driving democratic innovation and fostering a more open, participatory democracy, in line with cultural and technological developments in the 21st century. It raised awareness among policy makers of the need to update democratic systems to offer more opportunities for citizens, and particularly the young, to influence public policies and make institutional decision making more transparent and accountable.

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

The new European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG) began its work in 2014 as a platform for high-level exchanges on all issues of democratic participation, territorial reform and administrative modernisation. The 16th session of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional/Spatial Planning (CEMAT), held on 17 June 2014 in Nafplio (Greece), adopted a declaration on promoting territorial democracy in spatial planning.

ELECTIONS

Pre-electoral assistance was provided in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine with a special focus on the capacity building of central election commissions, the media and judges, the training of domestic election observers and awareness raising among first-time voters and women.

INTERCULTURAL CITIES

The evaluation of the project demonstrated the important impact of the Intercultural Cities programme in participating cities, and its relevance for national diversity and inclusion policies in member states. Thematic reports and tools developed in the fields of media and diversity, public perceptions of diversity and migrant entrepreneurship supported this work.

CULTURAL GOVERNANCE

The first Council of Europe Platform Exchange on culture and digitisation was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, attracting some 100 governmental delegates, NGO representatives and cultural practitioners, who identified opportunities and concerns.

LANDSCAPE AND ENVIRONMENT

The Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2014)8 on promoting landscape awareness through education urges governments to initiate or develop landscape education activities and promote landscape awareness among the young. The Bern Convention progressed in the building of ecological networks and in protecting endangered species and natural habitats, thus contributing to fighting climate change.



The film *La Grande Bellezza*, supported by Eurimages, was awarded Best Foreign Language Film Award at the Cannes Festival

CULTURAL ROUTES (ENLARGED PARTIAL AGREEMENT)

■ The cultural routes certified by the Council of Europe now number 29, with the addition of the Art Nouveau Network, the ATRIUM Route of Totalitarian Architecture and the Via Habsburg. With the accession of Slovakia, 23 states are now members of the agreement. Major events during the year were the Third Cultural Routes Summer Seminar in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, and the Annual Advisory Forum in Baku, Azerbaijan.

EURIMAGES (PARTIAL AGREEMENT)

■ Eurimages has granted its support to 74 European co-productions for a total amount of 22.2 million euros. Important prizes have been awarded to co-productions supported by Eurimages such as the Oscar and Golden Globe in Hollywood for *La grande bellezza*, the Golden Palm in Cannes for *Winter Sleep*, the Golden Lion in Venice for *A Pigeon Sat on a Branch Reflecting on Existence*, the Crystal Globe in Karlovy Vary for *Corn Island* and the Golden Giraldis in Seville for *Force Majeure*.

MAJOR HAZARDS (EUR-OPA PARTIAL AGREEMENT)

■ The agreement continued work on protection of the most vulnerable groups in cases of natural disaster, focusing on the needs of people with disabilities. It also identified a set of adapted tools for those with disabilities, and encouraged their concrete involvement in disaster preparedness and response.

NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE (PARTIAL AGREEMENT)

■ The 2014 Lisbon Forum brought together more than 200 high-level participants from Europe, neighbouring regions and other continents to share experience, good practice and expertise on the theme of electoral processes and democratic consolidation in the countries of the southern Mediterranean.

CIVIL SOCIETY AND CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (www.coe.int/t/ngo)

■ In 2014, the assistance activities focused on promoting civil participation in democratic decision making, Ukraine being the main target country. At the regional level, work concentrated on the Eastern Partnership countries.

■ The INGO Conference met twice in 2014 and addressed some of the current challenges facing Europe, which led to the adoption of recommendations on topics such as human rights and religions, hate speech, the protection of human rights defenders, gender-based violence as a political weapon and combating anti-Semitism.

■ The INGO Conference's Code of Good Practice for civil participation in the decision-making process is the main reference for its work with regard to participatory democracy. Several capacity-building and awareness-raising activities on the code took place throughout 2014 in Ukraine's regions and in Romania, Morocco and Tunisia. Supporting an enabling environment for NGOs remains the focus of the work of the Expert Council on NGO Law. Its studies and opinions in 2014 tackled the issues of NGO legislation in Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation and of regulating political activities of NGOs.

DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

EDUCATION

■ In December the 60th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention was celebrated in Brussels with a high-level event on the relevance of the convention to education and culture in the 21st Century.

■ The four-year project "Shared histories for a Europe without dividing lines" was concluded with a conference in Vienna in April. Significant results were achieved regarding joint EU–Council of Europe programmes on inclusive education in South-East Europe, education for democratic citizenship in Turkey and in Kazakhstan, and access to education for forced returnees and Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo. The joint Council of Europe–EU project "Generation Democracy" in Turkey won first prize for innovation at the World Forum for Democracy last November. With the support of Generation Democracy, a million school pupils in Turkey are learning how to be active citizens and to respect human rights.

■ The summer training academies for educators, organised with the European Wergeland Centre, celebrated a fifth anniversary in Warsaw. Cartoons inspired by children were made public along with Russian and German versions of the film *Beat Bullying*, designed to help tackle violence in schools.

YOUTH

■ The No Hate Speech Movement extended its reach across Europe and beyond to Morocco, Mexico and Canada. Now co-ordinated by 42 national campaign committees, it continues to provide young people with the skills and knowledge they need to combat online hate speech, racism and discrimination. Seven action days, two action weeks and a living library were organised. An activists' meeting in Gabala, Azerbaijan, in October adopted a strong message on tackling hate speech, including a code of conduct for Internet users.

■ The Council of Europe co-organised the Global Forum on Youth Policy in Baku in Azerbaijan, with the United Nations and UNESCO. Other important conferences tackled issues including the multiple discrimination faced by young people with disabilities, access to social rights for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, educational responses to Islamophobia and youth participation in democracy in Morocco. The international review of Serbian youth policy was completed and the annual peace camp held in June.

■ Over 2 000 youth leaders were trained in the Strasbourg and Budapest European Youth Centres, representing more than 8 000 training days. Some 205 activities benefited from European Youth Foundation support and 40 international youth organisations received a structural grant.

HUMAN DIGNITY AND EQUALITY

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

■ The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) entered into force in August 2014. The convention creates a global blueprint for a co-ordinated, victim-centred approach to preventing and combating all forms of violence against women and domestic violence. On 14 October, the Istanbul Convention was awarded the World Future Policy award by the Executive Director of UN Women for its vision in policy making. Fifteen Council of Europe member states have so far ratified the Istanbul Convention. Its monitoring mechanism, GREVIO, will start its work in 2015.

GENDER EQUALITY

■ The Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy has increased visibility and awareness about Council of Europe standards and further consolidated its

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women, hands **Marja Ruotanen**, Director of Human Dignity and Equality, the "Vision" Future Policy Award, received for the Istanbul Convention on Preventing Violence against Women (Geneva, October 2014)

leading role as a normative organisation in the field of women's rights and gender equality. The strategy has energised and accelerated work on narrowing the gap between *de jure* and *de facto* gender equality and brought together resources for a greater impact across the Organisation.

DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY (SOGI)

■ Two peer-to-peer learning events were organised on improving protection for transgender persons' human rights, particularly focusing on gender recognition legislation. Capacity building in addressing hate crimes was promoted through the training of trainers of legal and police professionals and sharing of member states' good practices through an online database.

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

■ The Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) completed the first round of evaluation of the convention in respect of 35 parties to the convention and launched the second evaluation round in May 2014. This round will focus on the impact of measures on the prevention of trafficking, the protection of victims and the prosecution of traffickers, as well as on new trends in human trafficking and the vulnerability of children to trafficking.





THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is the cornerstone of Council of Europe activities in this field

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

■ All 47 member states have now signed the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention, CETS No. 201). Of those, 34 have ratified it. With the submission of states' reports on compliance with the convention and in particular on the topic of sexual abuse of children in the circle of trust, the Lanzarote Committee has begun its first monitoring round.

■ A Child Participation Assessment Tool was published. This will enable national stakeholders to measure progress in promoting the right of children and young people to participate in matters of concern to them.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION AGAINST RACISM AND INTOLERANCE (ECRI)

■ ECRI published seven reports (on Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland) and visited eight countries (Albania, Austria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Norway and Poland). ECRI published its conclusions on the implementation of the priority recommendations in respect of nine countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Lithuania, Monaco, Serbia, Spain and Turkey).

EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES (ECRML)

■ Seven Committee of Ministers recommendations and nine evaluation reports were adopted, urging states parties to take measures to promote the use of their regional and/or minority languages in all fields of public life. An ad hoc report on the situation of minority languages in Ukraine was issued. Capacity building on applying the charter's provisions was provided in Germany and Slovakia and assistance activities in Italy and France were organised to prepare accession to the charter.

FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES (FCNM)

■ The framework convention entered the fourth monitoring cycle in 2014. The Advisory Committee conducted an ad hoc visit to Ukraine in March 2014 to assess the situation of national minorities. Subsequent assistance activities were implemented through the project "Promoting Diversity: protection and integration of national minorities in Ukraine".

SPORT

■ The Council of Europe celebrated 25 years of the Anti-Doping Convention (ETS No. 135) and monitoring activities included visits to Albania, the Republic of Moldova and Montenegro. For the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular Football Matches (ETS No. 120), monitoring visits took place in Georgia and Slovakia.

■ The 13th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (18 September, Magglingen, Switzerland) focused on "Corruption in the Governance of Sport". On this occasion, the new Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (CETS No. 215) was opened for signature. Awareness-raising and co-operation activities were carried out on the promotion of diversity in and through sport, focusing notably on the role of sport in prisons. A pan-European conference on this topic was held in Paris on 16 and 17 June.

DISABILITY

■ The human rights of people with disabilities were addressed at two major events organised under the Austrian and Belgian chairmanships of the Committee of Ministers: a symposium on "Human rights and disability" (Vienna, April 2014) and a conference "Including people with disabilities in disaster preparedness and response" (Brussels, December 2014).

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE DEVELOPMENT BANK (CEB) (PARTIAL AGREEMENT)

■ In 2014, the CEB continued to invest in social cohesion across Europe and approved 28 new projects and one donation, for an overall amount of 2.07 billion euros. Twenty-one of those projects (totalling 1.32 billion euros) are aimed at target group countries in central, south-eastern and eastern Europe. Eleven projects will support the creation and preservation of viable jobs through investing in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. One project will finance the construction of two new prisons in France, complying with the principles of the European Prison Rules.

■ The CEB also supported emergency action following the devastating floods in the Western Balkans. A donation of 100 000 euros was approved to address the specific issues in mine-contaminated areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

■ The CEB continued to play an active role in the Regional Housing Programme (RHP), which aims to provide sustainable housing solutions to some 27 000 households in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia. Since the start of the programme, 125 million euros in grants have been approved from the RHP Fund.

EUROPEAN DIRECTORATE FOR THE QUALITY OF MEDICINES AND HEALTHCARE (EDQM)

■ In the context of the 50th anniversary of the Convention establishing a European Pharmacopoeia (ETS No. 50) and the EDQM, a number of events were organised, including an international conference and specialised workshops for journalists, which helped to further increase the visibility of EDQM's activities on a global level.

■ Among the main achievements of the year was the publication of three supplements of the European Pharmacopoeia and the establishment of 300 batches of reference standards (new and replacement batches), necessary to apply the tests described in the Pharmacopoeia.

■ Five projects on the establishment of biological reference standards were concluded. Further alternatives to animal testing of biological medicines were evaluated in accordance with the European Union Directive 2010/63.

■ The number of new applications for the Certification of Suitability Procedure (CEP) has been stable compared to previous years, while the number of requests for revision continued to increase. CEP compliance of 50 manufacturing sites was assessed. The Certification Division continues to develop collaboration with authorities to increase acceptance of CEPs worldwide.

■ The fight against counterfeit and illegal medicines has been intensified with the second Symposium for Official Medicines Control Laboratories in Strasbourg, two training sessions on falsified medicines and a market surveillance study. A new database (Knowx) on confirmed counterfeit cases, also used by enforcement authorities, became operational. The Council of Europe Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health (the MEDICRIME Convention, CETS No. 211) was promoted, *inter alia*, through further development

of the network of Single Points of Contacts outside Europe. In the area of mass serialisation support has been given to the preparation of the future medicines traceability systems.

■ An expert workshop on the classification of medicines was held in Zagreb. A pilot study has been run on pharmaceutical care indicators in four key areas to prepare future deployment of this approach.

■ In the area of consumer health protection, the Committee of Ministers Resolution CM/Res(2013)9 on metals and alloys used in food contact materials and articles was presented at an international symposium in Ljubljana. Market surveillance studies of cosmetics for children, as well as laboratory performance checks related to sunscreens and preservatives were run.

■ External Quality Assessments (in co-operation with the EU Commission) and the Quality Management Programme for blood establishments continued. The newsletter *Transplant*, compiling annual data from 69 countries, was published. The European Organ Donation Day was celebrated on 11 October in Rome.

■ The EDQM has been successfully audited by external certification and accreditation bodies and maintains its ISO 9001:2008 and ISO/IEC 17025:2005 certificates.

ROMA ISSUES

■ The promotion of Roma inclusion remained high on the political agenda in 2014. In the framework of the ROMED1 programme (organised jointly with the European Commission), 1 300 mediators have been trained in 22 member states since 2011. The programme promotes mediation in schools, health institutions and in the labour market, enhancing the co-operation between Roma communities and public institutions. In the framework of the ROMED2

programme, the Council of Europe empowers Roma communities to engage actively in local decision-making processes. The 78 Community Action Groups so far reach out to 84 municipalities in 12 countries, supporting and advising public authorities addressing the social issues faced by Roma.

■ The new ROMACT programme (joint programme with the European Commission) aims at better public services for Roma and an improved responsiveness and accountability of local authorities, by training elected officials and senior civil servants at local and regional level. At the end of 2014, 38 municipalities participated in five member states.

■ Work in the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma Issues (CAHROM) concentrated on new thematic reports on the legalisation of informal settlements, re-housing solutions and alternative measures to (forced) evictions; solutions for the legal status of Roma from ex-Yugoslavia and their lack of identity documents; empowerment of Roma women; and the protection and promotion of languages spoken by Roma. CAHROM organised a thematic visit on pre-school/early childhood education of Roma children in the Czech Republic.

■ Other key activities included the training of trainers for legal professionals from 40 member states on the rights of Roma, as part of the HELP programme (Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals), and an online HELP Roma module went live. Police officers from 20 member states were trained on European case law related to discrimination against Roma, followed by national training events for the Italian police and for lawyers in Albania and Kosovo on housing rights. The online database on Roma-related policies and good practices reached a total of 128 entries.

■ The messages of the *Dosta!* awareness-raising campaign were promoted in 14 member states. Work on the introduction of Roma history into national school curricula started in 2014. The anniversary in January 2014 of the liberation of the concentration and extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau was the occasion to commemorate the genocide of Roma during the Second World War.

Launch of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Georgia 2013-2015 (February 2014)



Mzia Saganelidze (RFE/RL)



Conference "Municipal consolidation in Europe: trends and solutions to amalgamation and co-operation" (Kyiv, September 2014)

Office of the Directorate General of Programmes

Action in the field and resource mobilisation

In April 2014 the European Commission and the Council of Europe signed a statement of intent for a new co-operation framework in the EU Enlargement and Neighbourhood Regions 2014-2020. The agreement is a strategic partnership to help promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law in the countries concerned, based on the Council of Europe's binding conventions, monitoring bodies and co-operation programmes. It implies more co-operation resources and new working methods.

■ The extra-budgetary receipts of the Council of Europe reached an all-time high of 42.5 million euros based on proactive resource mobilisation. This is a strong sign of donor confidence in the Organisation.

■ As a response to the crisis in Ukraine, the Council of Europe developed the Immediate Measures Package (IMP) for the period between April and December 2014. The Council of Europe and the Ukrainian authorities also prepared a large-scale action plan for Ukraine for 2015 to 2017.

■ The co-operation dimension was significantly strengthened through the opening of several new offices: Council of Europe Offices were opened in Rabat and Tunis, a Cybercrime Programme Office (C-PROC) opened in Bucharest, Romania and a Project Office was established in Podgorica, Montenegro.

■ The co-operation dimension took on more importance in the Council of Europe neighbourhood, particularly in the southern Mediterranean and central Asia. Council of Europe co-operation with central Asia was reinforced through a European Union–Council of Europe Joint Programme for Kazakhstan, and Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities for the Kyrgyz Republic between 2015 and 2017 were prepared.

► MEMBER STATES

EASTERN EUROPE

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

■ In March the Council of Europe Action Plan to Support Democratic Reforms 2013-2016 was launched. Some 4.5 million euros of funding was secured for the fight against corruption and money laundering, to promote freedom of the media and for a project in support of the Prosecutor's Office, Ombudsman Institution and Torture Prevention Mechanism.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

■ The steering committee on the implementation of the priorities for co-operation with the Russian Federation took place on 1 December 2014 in Moscow. The Programme Office continued to support ongoing co-operation and funds were secured for two more projects to be launched in 2015.

ROMANIA

■ In April 2014, the Cybercrime Programme Office in Bucharest opened. Activities in 2014 focused in particular on countries participating in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) Facility (project CyberCrime@EAP) and on the priority countries of the project on Global Action on Cybercrime.

UKRAINE

■ As a response to the crisis in Ukraine, the Council of Europe developed the "Co-operation with Ukraine – Immediate Measures Package" (IMP) for April-December 2014. In 2014, the Council of Europe and the Ukrainian authorities prepared a draft action plan for Ukraine 2015-2017. In 2014, the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2011-2014 was completed with impact on the reforms of the judicial system, including criminal justice, the media sector, decentralisation and the establishment of a national preventive mechanism.

SOUTH CAUCASUS

ARMENIA

■ Within the Action Plan for Armenia 2012-2014, tangible results were achieved in human rights, rule of law and democracy. Funding amounting to more than 10.3 million euros was secured for the current programming cycle. Council of Europe co-operation was further enhanced with the Armenian stakeholders and with the donor and international community.

AZERBAIJAN

■ The Action Plan for Azerbaijan 2014-2016 was officially launched in Baku in May. The total budget is 15 million euros. In the course of 2014, the Baku Office played a significant role in supporting events within the Azerbaijani chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers.

GEORGIA

■ The Action Plan for Georgia was launched in Tbilisi in February 2014 and includes 34 projects totalling 17 million euros. Most of the funding was secured by the end of 2014. There was notable progress in programmes in the fields of justice, penitentiary reform, elections and anti-discrimination.

SOUTH-EAST EUROPE AND TURKEY

ALBANIA

■ The Council of Europe continued to respond actively to the government's reform agenda, in particular for justice reform and through the Venice Commission. A Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Justice was concluded on local-level governance, for the coaching of pilot courts for increased efficiency, on cultural heritage, for an assessment of the independence of the Albanian Audiovisual Media Authority (AMA) and to support the Central Election Committee in developing the options for a training platform for election commissioners.



Signature of a new co-operation agreement for Eastern Europe (Brussels, 18 December 2014). From left to right: **Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni**, Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador **Torbjørn Frøysnes**, Head of the Brussels' office, and **Michael Köhler**, representing the European Commission

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

■ The Council of Europe implemented projects on justice reform, higher education, prison reform, freedom of the media, inclusive education and minority rights in 2014. Additionally, a programme of pre-electoral assistance focusing on support to the Central Election Commission and to youth-run voter-education campaigns was implemented ahead of the October 2014 general elections. In close co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Entity governments, an Action Plan of Co-operation was drafted for adoption in 2015.

SERBIA

■ The Council of Europe conducted country-specific and regional co-operation activities, focused on the areas of anti-corruption, the judiciary, inclusive education, media freedom and minority protection. In addition, the Belgrade Office lent active support to broader Council of Europe human rights campaigns.

TURKEY

■ Significant support to Turkey was ensured through six different projects, four of which were joint programmes with the European Union Instrument for

Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA): “Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education”; “Strengthening the Co-ordination of Anti-Corruption Policies and Practices in Turkey”; “Strengthening the Capacity of Turkish Judiciary on Freedom of Expression”; and “Improving the Efficiency of the Turkish Criminal Justice System”. A fifth project, financed by the Human Rights Trust Fund (HRTF), focused on “Supporting the Individual Application to the Constitutional Court of Turkey”. Implementation of a new project financed principally by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) on “Increasing the Efficiency of Turkish Judiciary (Mediation, Time Management and Quality of Services)” began towards the end of the year. The active programme portfolio amounts to 17 million euros.

KOSOVO

Substantial co-operation programmes on the rule of law, governance and democracy were implemented in 2014. A revised Overview of Co-operation document was prepared and welcomed by the Kosovo authorities. The GRETA (Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings) secretariat developed a monitoring process for Kosovo, and steps have similarly been taken to engage the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) tools. In June, Kosovo became the 60th member of the Venice Commission. Later in the year the Committee of Ministers adopted the resolution associated with the third cycle report on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights provided training to the Office of the Prime Minister on best practice in developing a comprehensive human rights strategy. In the area of cultural diversity, sustainable local processes were developed. The Kosovo authorities adopted the second Cycle Assessment Reports on Kosovo's compliance with Anti-Corruption and Anti-Money Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism standards. Activities regarding minority rights and education focused on inclusion and access to education for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities and forced returnees in particular. The year has also seen four legal advisers from the Constitutional Court of Kosovo participate in a professional placement at the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights. Televised debates, university courses and specialist seminars were organised on Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Following the successful conclusion of a human rights-focused joint programme early in the year, a follow-up project formally began in December.

► NON-MEMBER STATES

SOUTHERN NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Council of Europe has further strengthened its involvement in the southern Mediterranean region, mainly via the Council of Europe–European Union joint regional “South Programme”.

In **Tunisia**, the parliament approved the law establishing the Council of Europe Tunis Office. In a year marked by the adoption of the constitution and the successful organisation of legislative and presidential elections, strong co-operation was established between the National Constituent Assembly and the Venice Commission and the Parliamentary Assembly. Significant assistance was provided, through the South Programme and Norwegian bilateral contributions, to support Tunisia's efforts to build democratic institutions and review its legal framework against international human rights standards. Key areas included judicial system reform, the strengthening of the National Anti-Corruption Body, combating human trafficking and support to the drafting of a new law to combat violence against women, based on the standards of the Istanbul Convention.

The Council of Europe's activities in **Morocco** concentrated on the fight against trafficking in human beings and the prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment. Thanks to Norwegian funding, the Organisation strengthened its work on fighting violence against women and children. The country became party to several Council of Europe conventions, including the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, the Convention on Cybercrime and the Data Protection Convention and its additional protocol. The effective enforcement of the 19 organic laws foreseen by the constitution remained a priority. The Council of Europe's assistance aimed at both supporting the preparation of remaining organic laws and at effectively implementing those already approved – such as the reinforcement of the Authority for Parity and the Fight against all Forms of Discrimination (APALD) and the implementation of the Charter of the Reform of the Judicial System. The Council of Europe also supported the new constitutional roles of parliament and civil society. Morocco acceded to the European Audiovisual Observatory, as its 41st – and first non-European – member.

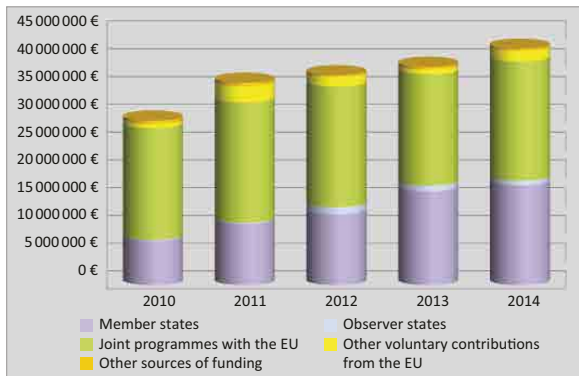
The Council of Europe's co-operation with **Jordanian** authorities has been intensified in the field of efficiency of justice and constitutional justice thanks to the European Union–Council of Europe joint programme, as well as in the field of violence against women and children thanks to the Norwegian contribution. Jordan participated in regional joint programme activities and awareness was raised on the added value that accession to Council of Europe conventions would have for the Jordanian legal system.

CENTRAL ASIA

— A European Union–Council of Europe joint programme was launched and constitutes the main tool for the “Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities for **Kazakhstan** 2014-2015: co-operation activities on Council of Europe conventions in criminal matters”. Exchanges on focused Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities for **Kyrgyz Republic** 2015-2017 have been completed. Co-operation continued mainly in the area of constitutional justice, access to justice and electoral reform via two joint programmes with the EU. The Kyrgyz Parliament was granted partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

EXTRA-BUDGETARY RECEIPTS 2014



2014 COMPARED TO 2013

- ▶ Overall receipts increased by 8% to approximately €42.5 million (€39.3 million in 2013, €37.7 million in 2012, €36.4 million in 2011, €29.6 million in 2010).
- ▶ Voluntary contributions from member states⁴ increased by 6% to €17.9 million.
- ▶ 38 of the 47 member states contributed in 2014 (37 in 2013). The top 10 member states represent 71% of the total receipts from member states (same as in 2013).
- ▶ Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland rank top among member states with contributions of €5.5 million, €1.7 million, €1.5 million and €1.25 million, respectively. The Human Rights Trust Fund⁵ contributed €2.64 million.

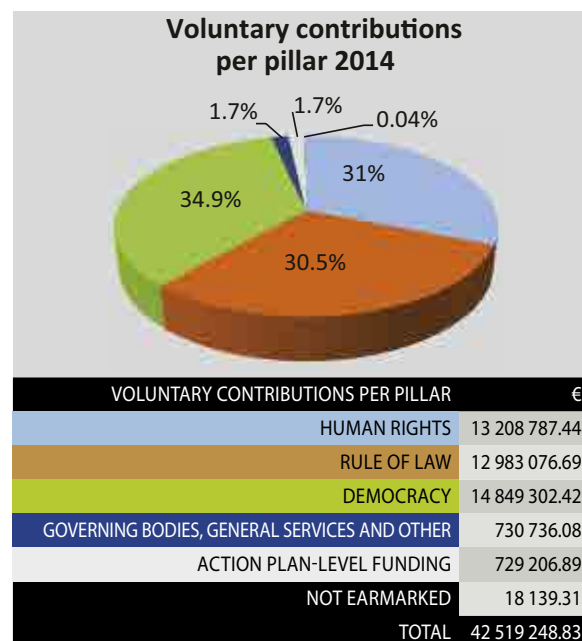
4. Includes Human Rights Trust Fund, EEA Grants and Norway Grants.

5. Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

- ▶ Receipts in the framework of Council of Europe–EU Joint Programmes increased by 7% to €21.5 million (€20 million in 2013) and accounted for 50% of total extra-budgetary receipts.
- ▶ The EU also made a number of voluntary contributions outside of joint programmes amounting to €1.9 million (€1.7 million to the EDQM, €200 thousand to CEPEJ, €19 thousand to the Bern Convention).
- ▶ Contributions from non-member states having observer status decreased by 20% to €841 thousand.
- ▶ “Other” sources of funding (i.e. not EU, member or observer states) contributed €395 thousand.

2014 COMPARED TO 2009

- ▶ Since 2009, the overall receipts have increased by 47%.
- ▶ Voluntary contributions from member states increased by 125%.
- ▶ Receipts in the framework of Council of Europe–EU Joint Programmes increased by 17.5%.





From left to right:
Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court,
Lisbeth Lijnzaad, Chair of the CAHDI,
and **Jörg Polakiewicz**, Jurisconsult, Director of Legal Advice and Public International Law



Members of the **Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI)**

Public international law

www.coe.int/en/web/cahdi

The Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI) contributes to the development of public international law.

In 2014, regarding the issue of immunities, CAHDI contributed to the development of customary law through the preparation of a declaration on “Jurisdictional Immunities of State-Owned Cultural Property” published on the CAHDI website and signed to date by six states. It furthermore examined different issues related to the immunities of states and international organisations, in particular on special missions and service of process. It initiated a debate on the settlement of disputes of a private character to which an international organisation is a party. These overall discussions on immunities allowed both the development and the update of the database on state practice regarding state immunities, which numbers today 35 replies from member and non-member states of the Council of Europe and one reply from an international organisation (European Union).

Another CAHDI database, namely the database on the organisation and functions of the Office of the Legal Adviser in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which constitutes national replies to a questionnaire on the issue, also significantly evolved in 2014. The questionnaire was revised to include additional questions on gender equality in conformity with the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy for 2014-2017. To date, this database numbers 47 replies from member and non-member states of the Council of Europe and one reply from an international organisation (Interpol).

Finally, the CAHDI database on the implementation of UN sanctions and respect for human rights counts 37 replies from member and non-member states of the Council of Europe and one reply from an international organisation (European Union). This database was highly appreciated and contributed in 2014 to the “High Level Review of UN Sanctions” initiative. In this respect, the CAHDI Secretariat participated in and contributed to the preparation of the final report on UN sanctions, which will be submitted for consideration to the UN Security Council sanctions committees.

In its role as European Observatory of Reservations to International Treaties, CAHDI gathered the reactions of the delegations to 20 outstanding reservations and/or declarations. This activity contributes to the reservations dialogue at the international level and has an impact on the subsequent actions of states with regard to the reservations and/or declarations mentioned.

CAHDI also held exchanges of views on topical issues of international law, particularly on the international law aspects of the recent events in Ukraine and the possibility of withdrawing citizenship from persons who have departed for foreign countries in order to join groups involved in armed conflicts there, the so-called foreign terrorist fighters. It furthermore carried out a follow-up of recent developments regarding international humanitarian law, the accession of the EU to the European Convention on Human Rights, the case law of the European Court of Human Rights involving issues of public international law and the International Criminal Court and the international criminal tribunals. On this latter topic, the members of CAHDI held exchanges of views with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Ms Fatou Bensouda. Furthermore, on the sidelines of its two annual meetings, CAHDI also organised two seminars, respectively on “The immunity *ratione materiae* of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction” and “The legal aspects of the role of the host State of international organisations”.

Over the year, CAHDI continued and strengthened its co-operation and collaboration with the UN and other international organisations, in particular through the annual exchanges of views with the UN International Law Commission and the participation in the debates of the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly. The CAHDI Secretariat also participated in the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

CAHDI communicated to the Ministers’ Deputies its opinion on Recommendation 2037 (2014) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on accountability of international organisations for human rights violations.



Meeting between Secretary General **Thorbjørn Jagland** and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, **Sergei Lavrov** (Moscow, September 2014)

Communications

Working closely with media professionals and European multipliers and networks, the Directorate of Communications (DC) generated greater visibility for the values and standards of the Council of Europe in 2014.

MEDIA RELATIONS

A total of 42 interviews and seven opinion articles were placed in quality publications. The media monitoring team tracked 14 080 articles and news items both in print and online that mentioned the Council of Europe during the year. The reports of monitoring bodies, such as the conclusions of the European Committee of Social Rights, the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights, the Parliamentary Assembly sessions, the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention on combating violence against women and the survey on Annual Penal Statistics (SPACE) generated significant coverage as well as statements of the Secretary General and other personalities around specific issues concerning the Council of Europe. Some 1 200 journalists were present in Strasbourg on the occasion of the Pope's visit to the European institutions. His visit to the Council of Europe generated more than 200 articles.

■ The DC supplied Europe's largest television news agencies and broadcasters – Eurovision News Networks (EBU), Reuters, Associated Press Television News (APTN) and ENEX (European News Exchange) – with 138 news offers. Offers covered a wide range of subjects, such as major Court cases, Parliamentary Assembly stories, and visits by VIPs, including Pope Francis. Sixteen video interviews with Council of Europe leaders and experts were supplied to TV stations.

■ Forty-seven editions of the online news programme *Journal* were produced during the year and the broadcast moved to a bi-weekly, shorter, more news-oriented format in order to further boost audiences. Thanks to active marketing, the *Journal* was placed on numerous influential websites, including the Brussels-based site *EU Views*. The Web TV page attracted almost 300 000 views by the end of 2014, with over 40 000 video plays.

■ The DC continued to produce a number of new films on specific areas of the Organisation's work, including five spots for the No Hate Speech campaign, and an Italian version of the film on the Istanbul Convention spot on violence against women, which was shown on RAI television.

■ The number of unique visitors to the Council of Europe hub exceeded 4.6 million. The number of sessions on the Human Rights Europe blog rose to over 96 000. Viewings of videos posted on YouTube increased sevenfold to 870 000. The Organisation's official Twitter following in English more than doubled to 119 000, and the new official Twitter feed in French reached 1 500 followers. Official Facebook followers more than doubled as well, to over 115 000, and the new Facebook profile in Russian obtained 1 000 likes.

■ The Directorate continues its work to migrate Secretariat websites to the new content management system (CMS) Liferay, to create new sites and provide solutions, such as responsive design (mobile devices). In co-operation with the Information Technology Department, the Directorate supported Operational Services in developing and updating the Organisation's overall web presence – with page models, graphic standards, editorial guidelines and best practice for effective web communication. The look and feel of the Organisation's portal was further updated, and training and knowledge sharing was provided to more than 200 staff members on CMS, web methodology, search engine optimisation and web resources.

■ The Directorate continued its programme of media training courses for colleagues around the Organisation. A specific two-day training event was organised for the DC itself, looking to maximise impact in communications work by highlighting the ever-increasing importance of online communication, including social media, and the imperative to generate original and relevant audiovisual content.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

■ Public relations activities and events were organised to promote the Council of Europe's identity and values among various target groups, notably the celebrations for the 60th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention and the European Youth Event Festival in the context of Europe Day from 9 to 11 May 2014.

■ An exhibition marking the 60th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention was produced in 11 different languages and presented at the Youth Forum in Baku, Azerbaijan, at the celebration of the 60th anniversary by the Belgian chairmanship of the Council of Europe in Brussels, at the European Youth Centre in Budapest, at the Council of Europe offices in Tirana, Yerevan, Chişinău and Moscow, at the Film Festival in Sarajevo and outside the Council of Europe's Agora building in Strasbourg.

■ A "Dialogues de Strasbourg" session featuring Bart Wijnberg was held in partnership with the City of Strasbourg on the subject of the risks of counterfeited medical products.

■ The Council of Europe was present at the Istanbul Film Festival for the eighth edition of the FACE prize (Film Award of the Council of Europe) and also at the Sarajevo Film Festival, at the Istanbul Forum on Internet Governance and at Liet International (the international minority languages song contest) in Oldenburg.

■ The Council of Europe's publications were also presented at the legal book fair in Paris, at the Frankfurt Book Fair, at the annual conference of the European Consortium of Political Research in Glasgow and the International Political Science Association in Montreal.

■ For all these events the Directorate designed and produced graphics and information material (leaflets, booklets, posters, exhibition panels, etc.). These were promoted via the contacts database (over 11 000 addressees) and partner sites.

■ The Council of Europe's priorities were reflected in six commercial publications: *Freedom of expression and the Internet* (French and English versions), *The accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights* (in English), *The right to free elections* (French and English versions), *Bookmarks – A manual for combating hate speech online through human rights education* (French and English versions) and *Droit et pratique établis par la Convention européenne révisée en matière d'adoption des enfants* (in French).



European Moot Court Competition on the European Convention on Human Rights, organised by the European Law Students Association (ELSA), in co-operation with the Directorate of Communications: the team of the **City University of London** (UK) winner of the second edition (Strasbourg, February 2014)

■ The new general leaflet about the Organisation is now available in 47 languages. New leaflets on the partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Union and on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages were also published. A DVD on the Council of Europe's activities was produced in the context of the Austrian Chairmanship and the exhibition on the Cultural Convention was translated into German, Azerbaijani and Dutch in the context of the successive chairmanships of Austria, Azerbaijan and Belgium. The "Wear your rights" leaflet on the articles of the European Convention on Human Rights was translated and disseminated in Dutch.

■ The new online publications platform launched in October 2013 is continuing to extend its range of digital products and has offered over 1 500 pdf, epub and mobi files. Material for the general public (leaflets, posters, documents for teachers, etc.) can all be consulted and downloaded free of charge on edoc.coe.int. Other publications can be ordered online at book.coe.int, the Council of Europe's online library, where excerpts from books can also be found.

■ Some 40 000 visitors took part in study programmes and fact-finding visits about the Council of Europe. The partnership with the ELSA (European Law Students Association) continued with the holding of the second European Human Rights Moot Court Competition in English, the first of its type in Europe. A total of 72 teams from 29 European countries pleaded in a fictitious case concerning freedom of expression. The final took place in February at the European Court of Human Rights and 16 teams from 10 different countries took part.

■ The new visual identity was rolled out by the Organisation through the publication of its Visual Identity Manual, incorporating the variations on the official logo and all the harmonised sizes for printed and event material.

2014 contributions of Council of Europe member states (€)

MEMBER STATES' CONTRIBUTIONS	
ALBANIA	475 311.28
ANDORRA	270 746.22
ARMENIA	357 815.74
AUSTRIA	5 419 246.10
AZERBAIJAN	1 131 584.99
BELGIUM	7 016 619.94
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	555 660.80
BULGARIA	1 145 295.78
CROATIA	1 108 727.11
CYPRUS	502 126.35
CZECH REPUBLIC	3 177 849.62
DENMARK	4 385 038.79
ESTONIA	481 552.96
FINLAND	3 450 702.87
FRANCE	38 000 607.04
GEORGIA	509 193.78
GERMANY	35 097 954.55
GREECE	4 569 373.21
HUNGARY	2 325 818.50
ICELAND	481 552.96
IRELAND	3 092 345.58
ITALY	35 094 389.17
LATVIA	563 640.02
LIECHTENSTEIN	353 250.91

LITHUANIA	762 342.21
LUXEMBOURG	891 663.69
MALTA	378 082.91
MOLDOVA	342 362.04
MONACO	345 899.47
MONTENEGRO	381 848.81
NETHERLANDS	11 037 180.01
NORWAY	5 699 028.07
POLAND	8 221 686.95
PORTUGAL	3 629 733.22
ROMANIA	3 519 225.89
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	32 280 879.11
SAN MARINO	141 535.53
SERBIA	1 057 212.29
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	1 461 361.73
SLOVENIA	831 989.04
SPAIN	21 013 628.27
SWEDEN	6 477 212.63
SWITZERLAND	7 456 215.66
"THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA"	483 652.56
TURKEY	13 184 304.30
UKRAINE	4 148 652.67
UNITED KINGDOM	31 806 578.28
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	305 118 679.61

2014 voluntary contributions to the Council of Europe (€)

MEMBER STATES	
1 NORWAY	5 510 488.80
2 HUMAN RIGHTS TRUST FUND ⁶	2 644 075.39
3 DENMARK	1 672 846.61
4 SWEDEN	1 508 388.70
5 SWITZERLAND	1 252 537.70
6 ROMANIA	611 942.31
7 FINLAND	563 030.83
8 GERMANY	476 968.45
9 FRANCE	471 938.84
10 TURKEY	325 934.04
11 UNITED KINGDOM	303 363.73
12 BULGARIA	266 097.54
13 EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA ⁷ (EEA)	265 516.00
14 ITALY	265 037.73
15 AZERBAIJAN	218 880.00
16 CROATIA	183 218.13
17 CZECH REPUBLIC	148 193.50
18 RUSSIAN FEDERATION	118 748.86
19 LUXEMBOURG	116 539.09
20 POLAND	117 481.49
21 NETHERLANDS	107 500.00
22 MONACO	101 000.00
23 LATVIA	93 532.59
24 AUSTRIA	91 500.00
25 LIECHTENSTEIN	88 287.72
26 IRELAND	87 269.14
27 ICELAND	62 048.52
28 ESTONIA	55 000.00
29 BELGIUM	49 753.15
30 MALTA	43 074.60
31 PORTUGAL	41 500.00
32 ANDORRA	22 250.00
33 SLOVAK REPUBLIC	16 870.43
34 HUNGARY	14 206.89
35 SERBIA	13 114.31
36 CYPRUS	2 200.00
TOTAL MEMBER STATES	17 930 335.09

OBSERVER STATES	
1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	426 426.89
2 JAPAN	345 000.00
3 HOLY SEE	69 441.00
TOTAL OBSERVER STATES	840 867.89

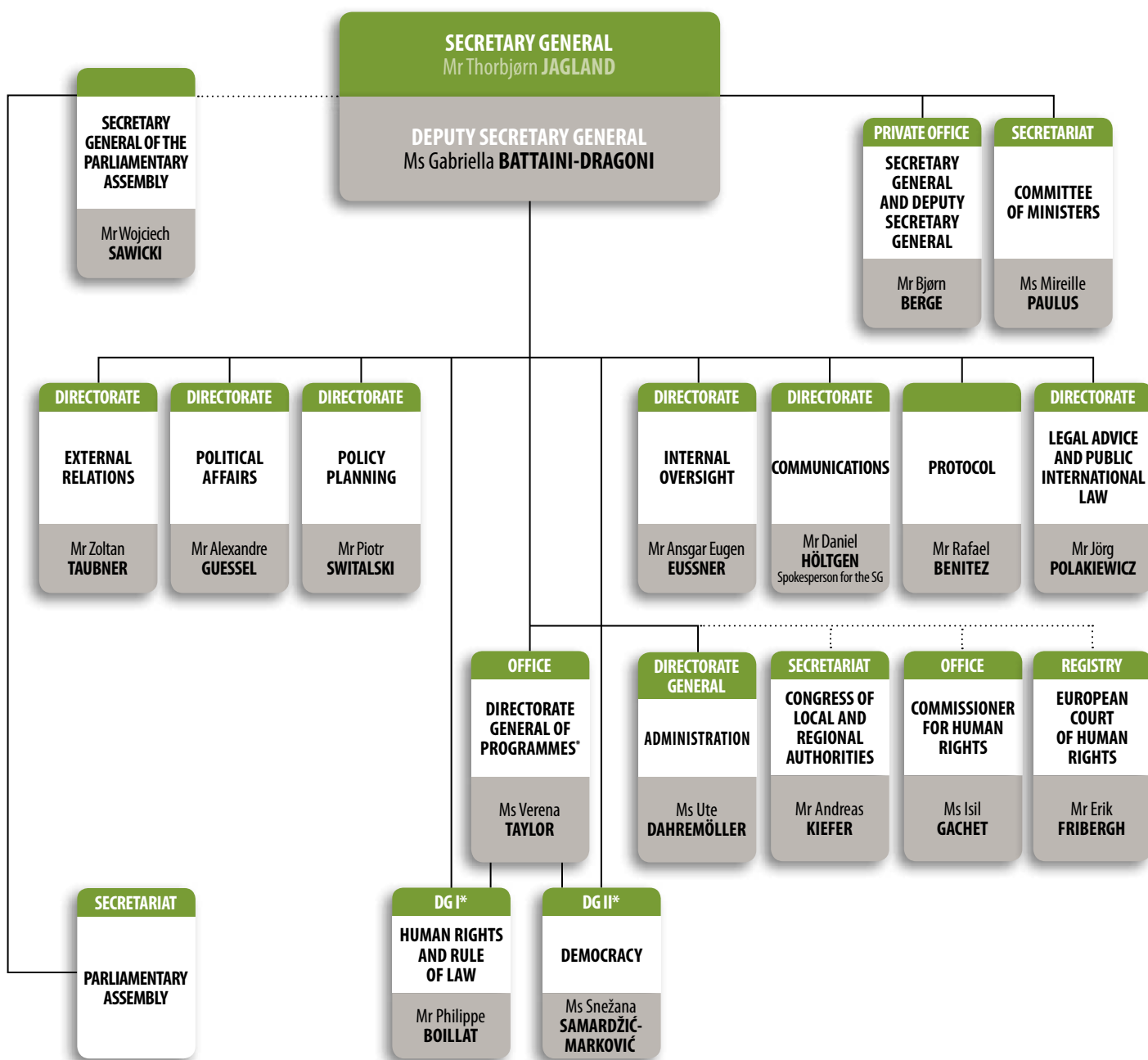
EUROPEAN UNION	
JOINT PROGRAMMES	21 458 623.21
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS	1 894 348.00
TOTAL EUROPEAN UNION	23 352 971.21

OTHERS	
1 A.G. LEVENTIS FOUNDATION	104 616.00
2 ISRAEL	64 920.00
3 MICROSOFT CORPORATION	50 000.00
4 CAIXA FOUNDATION	29 278.40
5 ISLE OF MAN	21 400.00
6 STATES OF GUERNSEY	21 400.00
7 STATES OF JERSEY	21 400.00
8 SUPPORTERS OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN RUSSIA	20 741.71
9 IJAB FACHSTELLE FÜR INTERNATIONALE JUGENDARBEIT DER BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND	20 000.00
10 MOROCCO	10 000.00
11 JAPAN FOUNDATION	9 934.36
12 CHARTA 77 FOUNDATION	7 500.00
13 VÁCLAV HAVEL LIBRARY	7 500.00
14 UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ	2 884.17
15 OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)	2 500.00
16 ANNA LINDH FOUNDATION	1 000.00
TOTAL OTHERS	395 074.64
GRAND TOTAL 2014	42 519 248.83

6. Germany, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

7. Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway.

Organisation chart of the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe in 2014



* DGI and DGII report to the Secretary General.
Office of the DG PROG co-ordinates intergovernmental activities.

This publication
presents the work
carried out in 2014
by the different
bodies and sectors of
the Council of Europe,
highlighting its particular
strengths and achievements.

www.coe.int

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.