

The European Union and the Council of Europe

A VALUES-BASED PARTNERSHIP



What are the EU's priorities at the Council of Europe ?



Promote and protect human rights



Defend and consolidate democracy



Uphold and strengthen the rule of law

The EU works closely with and supports the Council of Europe, as part of its efforts to promote effective multilateralism, as well as uphold and extend a rules-based international order.

The European Union is the main institutional partner of the Council of Europe and main contributor to its extraordinary budget.

We both strive to advance our common goals and priorities building on our respective strengths and competences, while avoiding duplication and ensuring synergies.

Three pillars of cooperation

Political dialogue

Coordinate general directions and objectives of cooperation



Regular high-level contacts between EU and Council of Europe leaders



Permanent diplomatic exchange through the EU Delegation in Strasbourg and the Council of Europe Liaison Office in Brussels

Global budget of joint programmes underway in 2022:

€232.9 million

Programmes

Carry out joint actions on the ground



Legal cooperation

Enhance synergies between the two legal systems



Rule of Law



Artificial Intelligence



Gender Equality



Cybercrime



Data Protection

Our joint programmes with the Council of Europe assist countries in the EU and in other regions of strategic importance with policy and legislative expertise, reform implementation and capacity-building. The aim of our technical cooperation is to bring beneficiaries closer to international and European standards on human rights, rule of law and democracy.

Outside the EU

Partnership for Good Governance

Eastern Partnership countries:

- supporting the independence of the judiciary and fighting economic crime
- strengthening anti-discrimination
- combating violence against women.

Horizontal Facility

Western Balkans and Türkiye:

- supporting the EU enlargement process
- assisting the justice reform
- fighting economic crime
- protecting persons in vulnerable situations
- strengthening freedom of expression and of the media.

South Programme

Southern Mediterranean region:

- gradually creating a common legal space between Europe and the region
- fighting trafficking in human beings, protecting personal data and combating economic crime

Within the EU

Technical Support Instrument (TSI)

Structural reform in the Member States on human rights, judicial, institutional and administrative matters, digitalisation, healthcare or the financial sector:

- implementing the Barnahus model/Children's House
- improving the juvenile justice system
- tackling money laundering and terrorism financing
- strengthening access to justice through mediation and legal aid
- implementing recommendations to enhance the capacity of justice systems.

Other joint programmes...

underway in EU member States include action on anti-discrimination, human rights education for legal professionals (HELP), the fight against cybercrime, as well as culture, heritage and youth.

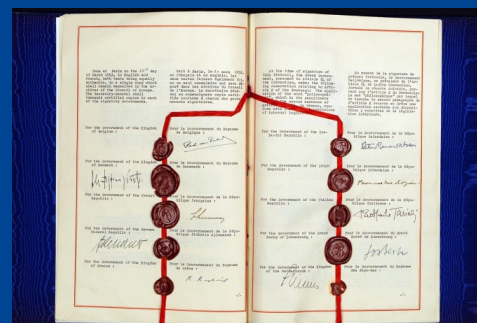
EU ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Accession of the EU to the European Convention on Human Rights has been an objective of the EU for many years, as well as a legal obligation under the Lisbon Treaty.

Negotiations for the accession resumed in September 2020. The European Commission negotiates on behalf of the European Union with the current 46 Member States of the Council of Europe.

Accession will make it possible for the EU to be held accountable for potential violations of human rights, alongside its Member States in situations where an EU Member State implements EU law. Individuals will be able to bring cases before the European Court of Human Rights against the EU.

It is a pivotal step in creating a pan-European legal space. Accession will mark an important milestone in the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of individual citizens across Europe.



European Convention on Human Rights
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Meeting of the Committee of Ministers
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