

# The institutions of the Council of Europe



# The institutions of the Council of Europe are:

- The Secretary General
- The Committee of Ministers
- The Parliamentary Assembly (PACE)
- The Congress of the Council of Europe
- The European Court of Human Rights The Commissioner for Human Rights
- The Conference of INGOs
- Information Offices of the Council of Europe in many member states
- Semi-autonomous structures known as "Partial Agreements" .

# The Secretary General

The Secretary General is elected for a term of five years by the Parliamentary Assembly and heads the Secretariat of the Council of Europe. The current Secretary General is **Thorbjørn Jagland**



# The Committee of Ministers

The Committee of Ministers comprise the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of all 47 member states who are represented by their Permanent Representatives and Ambassadors accredited to the Council of Europe. Committee of Ministers' presidencies are held in alphabetical order for six months following the English alphabet.



# The Parliamentary Assembly (PACE)

It consists of national parliamentarians from all member states . The Parliamentary Assembly elects its President for a year with the possibility of being re-elected for another year. National parliamentary delegations to the Assembly must reflect the political spectrum of their national parliament, i.e., comprise government and opposition parties. The Assembly appoints members as rapporteurs with the mandate to prepare parliamentary



## The Congress of the Council of Europe

It was created in 1994 and comprises political representatives from local and regional authorities in all member states. The most influential instruments of the Council of Europe in this field are the European Charter of Local Self-Government of 1985 and the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities of 1980.



# The European Court of Human Rights

It created under the European Convention on Human Rights of 1950. The European Court of Human Rights is composed of a judge from each member state elected for a renewable term of six years by the Parliamentary Assembly and is headed by the elected President of the Court.



## The Commissioner for Human Rights

It is elected by the Parliamentary Assembly for a non-renewable term of six years since the creation of this position in 1999.





## The Conference of INGOs

NGOs can participate in the INGOs Conference of the Council of Europe. Since the [Resolution (2003)8] adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 19 November 2003, they are given a "participatory status".

**Information Offices of the Council of Europe in many member states.**

## Semi-autonomous structures

A number of semi-autonomous structures known as "Partial Agreements", some of which are also open to non-member states:

- The Council of Europe Development Bank in Paris
- The European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines with its European Pharmacopoeia
- The European Audiovisual Observatory
- The European Support Fund *Eurimages* for the co-production and distribution of films
- The Pompidou Group – Cooperation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs
- The European Commission for Democracy through Law, better known as the Venice Commission
- The Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO)
- The European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) which is a platform for co-operation between European and Southern Mediterranean countries in the field of major natural and technological disasters.
- The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport, which is open to accession by states and sport associations.
- The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe in Lisbon (Portugal)
- The Centre for Modern Languages is in Graz (Austria)