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EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Press release issued by the Registrar

ECHR launches its new Internet site

The European Court of Human Rights is launching its newly-designed Internet site on 5 July 2005 (www.echr.coe.int). The Internet site design was developed by Actweb, a Strasbourg-based design company and implemented by the Court's IT Division. The website of the Court has been completely revamped in order to give users better access to a wider range of information relating to the organisation of the Court and its activities and case-law. New features include special pages for different categories of user, a frequently asked questions section and more comprehensive information on the Court and the Registry. The website will be regularly updated and items will be added or developed over the new few months.

European Court President Luzius Wildhaber said "Given the enormous interest in the Court's work the Internet has to be the focal point of its information activities. Awareness of human rights is constantly growing and in itself has an important preventive effect. By facilitating access to the Court's case-law, not only for specialists, judges, lawyers and academics, but also for the general public, we are helping to reinforce human rights standards in all the countries in which the European Convention on Human Rights applies and even beyond."

The Court had over 57 million hits to its internet site in 2004 – this is expected to increase in 2005.

Registry of the European Court of Human Rights

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The European Court of Human Rights was set up in Strasbourg by the Council of Europe Member States in 1959 to deal with alleged violations of the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights. Since 1 November 1998 it has sat as a full-time Court composed of an equal number of judges to that of the States party to the Convention. The Court examines the admissibility and merits of applications submitted to it. It sits in Chambers of 7 judges or, in exceptional cases, as a Grand Chamber of 17 judges. The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe supervises the execution of the Court's judgments.