

**Europarådets pressekorrespondent i de nordiske lande**  
**Arne Madsen**  
**Bremerholm 6, 4., DK-1069 København K**  
**Tlf. +45 33 14 15 84, Fax +45 33 15 54 84**  
**E-mail: [arm@sm.dk](mailto:arm@sm.dk), Internet: [www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)**

## **E-mail**

**Til: Redaktionen**

**Dato: 9. januar 2006. Antal sider (inkl. denne): 2**

**The European Court of Human Rights**  
**Press release issued by the Registrar**

### **FORTHCOMING GRAND CHAMBER JUDGMENT SØRENSEN & RASMUSSEN v. DENMARK**

The European Court of Human Rights will be holding a public hearing in the Human Rights Building, Strasbourg, on **Wednesday 11 January 2006 at 2.15 p.m.** (local time) to deliver the Grand Chamber judgment in the case of *Sørensen & Rasmussen v. Denmark* (application nos. 52562/99 and 52620/99).

The press release and the text of the judgment will be available after the hearing on the Court's Internet site (<http://www.echr.coe.int>).

#### ***Sørensen & Rasmussen v. Denmark***

The case concerns whether the existence of closed shop agreements in Denmark is in compliance with the right to freedom of association.

The applicants, both Danish nationals living in Denmark, are Morten Sørensen, who was born in 1975 and lives in Aarhus, and Ove Rasmussen, who was born in 1959 and lives in Haderslev.

***Sørensen*** – On 3 June 1999 Mr Sørensen, who was a student about to start at university, began working as a holiday relief worker for the company FDB (*FDB distributionen*). He was dismissed three weeks later for refusing to join the SID, although he was aware at the time of his employment that membership was a condition of employment in the company. He brought proceedings in the High Court of Western Denmark against FDB on the ground that Danish law did not comply with Article 11 (freedom of assembly and association) of the European Convention on Human Rights. He was unsuccessful; on 18 November 1998 the High Court did not find it established that there had been a violation of Article 11. This judgment was upheld on appeal by the Supreme Court on 8 June 1999.

***Rasmussen*** – Mr Rasmussen is a gardener. He was a member of a particular trade union (SID) in the mid-80s. However, as he did not agree with its political affiliations, he resigned from the SID and became a member of the Christian Trade Union. Subsequently, having been unemployed for a while, he was offered a job with his present employer on the condition that he became a member of SID, with which the employer had entered a closed shop agreement. Although he still disagreed with SID's political views, on 17 May 1999 the applicant became a member and accordingly obtained the job.

The applicants complain of a violation of Article 11 (freedom of assembly and association) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

On 25 November 2004 the Chamber dealing with the cases relinquished jurisdiction in favour of the Grand Chamber. The cases were joined in January 2005.

**Registry of the European Court of Human Rights**

**F – 67075 Strasbourg Cedex**

**Press contacts: Roderick Liddell (telephone: +00 33 (0)3 88 41 24 92)**

**Emma Hellyer (telephone: +00 33 (0)3 90 21 42 15)**

**Stéphanie Klein (telephone: +00 33 (0)3 88 41 21 54)**

**Beverley Jacobs (telephone: +00 33 (0)3 90 21 54 21)**

**Fax: +00 33 (0)3 88 41 27 91**

*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.*