

Nyt fra Europarådet

Opdatering januar og kalender februar
Pressemeddelelse DK 3/06, 1. februar 2006

Brighter Prospects for the European Court of Human Rights

Strasbourg, 23.01.2006 - President of the European Court of Human Rights Luzius Wildhaber said today that he was feeling more optimistic about the Court's future, given an increase in annual productivity and recent support from Europe's governments.

Speaking at his annual press conference in the Human Rights Building in Strasbourg, Mr Wildhaber told journalists that the number of judgments delivered by the Court in 2005 had risen by 54% (from 718 in 2004 to 1105 in 2005) and that the number of cases terminated by a judicial decision had gone up by 36% (from 20,350 to 27,612). For certain months in the year output had even exceeded the number of incoming cases.

Additional support from national governments – another cause for optimism – had led to an increase in the Court's budget, allowing it to recruit around 45 new members of staff.

The situation compares favourably to previous years when the President has expressed serious concerns about the Court's capacity to deal with its ever-growing workload.

He said today: "We have been through a difficult and uncertain period, but, at last, the prospects are starting to look brighter for the Court. This year we have been able to increase substantially our productivity. We have also received useful ideas for making further administrative reforms in the report reviewing the Court's working methods from Lord Woolf, former Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales. Finally we are satisfied that the composition of the Wise Persons Group¹ is a guarantee of a serious and independent study which will lead to concrete proposals. The challenge for us and the Wise Persons Group is to preserve the historic achievements of the Convention machinery and at the same time ensure that the system operates effectively in the Europe of the 21st century. At the beginning of 2006 we are looking to the future, with renewed confidence that this unique system will, with the support of the Council of Europe member governments, confront successfully the challenges facing it."

The Court has also issued its annual table of violations by country for 2005 at today's press conference ([link to table](#)), which reveals that Turkey had the highest number of judgments finding at least one violation recorded against it (270), Ukraine had 119, Greece 100, Russia 81, Italy 67, France 51 and Poland 44. A further 12 countries had between 10 and 30 judgments against them finding at least one violation and 27 had fewer than 10.

Council of Europe Anti-Torture Committee publishes report on [Iceland](#)

Strasbourg, 26.01.2006 - The Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) has published today the [report](#) on its visit to Iceland in June 2004, together with the Icelandic Government's [response](#). These documents have been made public at the request of the Icelandic authorities.

In the report, the CPT reviewed measures taken by the Icelandic authorities in response to the Committee's recommendations made after its 1993 and 1998 visits, in particular as regards the safeguards offered to persons detained by the police, the situation in penitentiary establishments, and the treatment of persons subject to civil involuntary psychiatric hospitalisation and treatment. For the first time, the CPT examined the modalities of the execution of decisions to deport foreign nationals by air.

The CPT's visit [report](#) and the Icelandic Government's [response](#) are available on the Committee's website: <http://www.cpt.coe.int>

Vinter-sessionen i Europarådets parlamentariske forsamling, 23.-27. januar 2006:

Informations-memorandum om hemmelige fængsler og fangetransporter i Europa

Strasbourg, 24.01.2006 - Den schweiziske parlamentariker, Dick Marty, fremlagde tirsdag et nyt informations-memorandum om hemmelige CIA fængsler og fangetransporter i Europa. Ved begyndelsen af en aktualitetsdebat i Europarådets parlamentariske forsamling understregede Dick Marty, at der endnu ikke er beviser i juridisk forstand, men at der nu foreligger en lang række indikatorer fra forskellige kilder. Senest modtog han i går information fra Eurocontrol og EU's satellit center, der i de kommende uger vil blive sammenlignet med de allerede indsamlede oplysninger. Desuden skal regeringerne i Europarådets 46 medlemsstater senest den 21. februar aflevere svar i henhold til Den Europæiske Menneskerettigheds-konventions artikel 52 til Europarådets generalsekretær, Terry Davis, om deres kendskab til CIA's hemmelige aktiviteter.

På et efterfølgende pressemøde oplyste Dick Marty, at den store offentlige opmærksomhed om sagen også har ført til, at flere personer har kontaktet ham og givet ham oplysninger i fortrolighed. Som en veldokumenteret sag fremholdt han en kidnapning i 2003 i Milano af en egyptisk statsborger, som efterfølgende blev transporteret med fly via flere europæiske lande til Egypten til forhør. Dick Marty har fået udleveret alle dokumenter i sagen mod de involverede 25 amerikanske agenter. På grundlag heraf kunne han kun se to mulige forklaringer: Enten blev Italiens nationale suverænitet krænket af USA, eller også var den italienske regering vidende om den ulovlige kidnapning og efterfølgende udlevering.

Tilsammen giver de hidtil indsamlede oplysninger et billede, der er bekymrende, påpegede den schweiziske politiker, som på en senere session i år ventes at fremlægge en endelig rapport for Europarådets parlamentarikere.

Totalitære kommunistiske regimer fordømmes

Strasbourg, 25.01.2006 - Europarådets parlamentariske forsamling vedtog onsdag Göran Lindblads rapport og resolution om "Behov for international fordømmelse af forbrydelser begået af totalitære kommunistiske regimer". Derimod fik en foreslået rekommandation til Ministerkomiteen ikke det fornødne 2/3 flertal.

På et efterfølgende pressemøde udtrykte den svenske rapportør stor tilfredshed med vedtagelsen. Han understregede, at det er meget vigtigt for dem, der led under de totalitære kommunistiske regimer, at en international organisation nu for første gang har fordømt de massive menneskerettighedskrænkelser, som fandt sted i det 20. århundrede i de kommunistiske lande. Göran Lindblad forventede desuden, at resolutionen vil blive flittigt debatteret i de berørte central- og østeuropæiske lande og også i lande, som fortsat har et kommunistisk styre som fx. Kina.

Göran Lindblad var dog skuffet over, at forslagene i rekommandationsforslaget ikke blev vedtaget, herunder et forslag om at nedsætte en Europarådskomit  af uafhængige eksperter, der skulle dokumentere menneskerettighedskrænkelserne i de enkelte kommunistiske lande. Mange af forsamlingens medlemmer vil imidlertid tage aktion i deres egne parlamenter, og debatten vil ogs  forts tte i Europar det, foruds  han.

Enighed om 15 principper for behandlingen af afviste asylans gere

Strasbourg, 26.01.2006 - Europarådets parlamentariske forsamling vedtog torsdag en resolution om Nederlandenes politik med hensyn til hjemsendelse af afviste asylans gere. 15 principper opstilles, som ikke kun Nederlandene men alle medlemsstater b r f lge. Ordf reren for den liberale gruppe, Morten  stergaard, fremh vede i sit indl g f lgende fem punkter:

- Der skal tages hensyn til børns særlige interesser før, under og efter beslutninger er taget for familien som helhed og ikke kun efter beslutningen er taget for hovedpersonen i familien. Morten Østergaard henviste til FN's børnekonvention, som udtrykkelig siger, at børn ikke bør straffes for deres forældres handlinger og juridiske forhold. Vi må sikre os, at børn kan få lov til at afslutte skoleåret inden udvisningen finder sted, mente han;
- Hjemsendelsen af afviste asylansøgere udsættes, når hjemsendelsen skal ske til lande eller regioner med konflikter eller hvor den humanitære situation er dårlig. Dette synes måske selvindlysende, sagde Morten Østergaard, og tilføjede, at realiteten ikke desto mindre er, at nogle lande påtænker eller allerede sender asylansøgere tilbage til det krigshærgede Irak;
- Tilbageholdelse kun må anvendes som en sidste mulighed og i givet fald skal begrænses til en maksimal periode. Det er et tegn på den europæiske humanitets krise, at vi behøver at bekræfte, at asylansøgere bør ikke må indespærres, og at asylansøgere ikke må indespærres i årevis, understregede Morten Østergaard;
- Afviste asylansøgere skal gives en rimelig mulighed for at vise, at de har prøvet at samarbejde om deres hjemsendelse, og at en eventuel tvivl kommer dem til gode. Morten Østergaard kunne her henvise til, at nogle lande kræver håndfaste beviser for, at tilbagevenden ikke er mulig. Og sådanne beviser er yderst svære at fremskaffe;
- Når afviste asylansøgere anmoder om at kunne blive i landet, bør man tage særlig hensyn til længden af den periode, personen har boet der, samt hvor velintegreret den pågældende er. Morten Østergaard nævnte her sagen i Danmark om den vietnamesiske pige Linh, hvis høje grad af integration og tilknytning til samfund og familie burde have bragt hende sikkerhed i stedet for uvished.

Human rights violations in the Chechen Republic: the Assembly calls on the CM 'to confront its responsibilities'

Strasbourg, 25.01.2006 - While regretting that serious human rights violations still occur on a massive scale in the Chechen Republic, the Assembly today urged the Committee of Ministers (CM) "to confront its responsibilities in the face of one of the most serious human rights issues in any of the Council of Europe's member states". According to the parliamentarians, the lack of effective reaction by the Council's executive body has the capacity to seriously threaten the credibility of the whole Organisation.

Presidential election in Belarus: Lukashenko must ensure a free and fair electoral campaign

Strasbourg, 26.01.2006 - In the run-up to the presidential election in Belarus on March 2006, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) today called on the Lukashenko regime to refrain from "obstructing the free and fair running of the electoral campaign", and take "positive action to ensure that pluralist information can be provided".

At the end of an urgent debate, the Assembly deplored that freedom of expression is blatantly flouted, and noted that in the last two years "the situation has not improved but worsened". It called on member states to give "immediate financial and if necessary logistical support to independent broadcasting to Belarus from abroad".

















The Assembly regretted that to date there could be no change in its policy towards the Belarusian regime. In order to renew dialogue, the parliamentarians said they expected "clear and conclusive signs" such as the possibility for all candidates to have the same freedom to campaign.

The adopted text welcomes the recent election of the single candidate of the Unified Democratic Forces, Alexander Milinkevich, who took part in the debate. The members encouraged these forces to maintain their unity, irrespective of ideological differences, in the aftermath of the election, irrespective of its results.

The parliamentarians asked for the immediate release of political prisoners, the repeal of the anti-revolution law, and the conduct of an independent investigation into the fate of disappeared persons.

Vladimir Konoplev, Chairman of the Chamber of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, took also part in the debate.

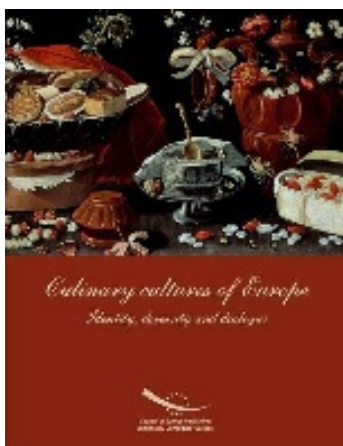
Vedtagelser under vinter-sessionen

23/01/06	 RES. 1476 Resolution Parliamentary dimension of the United Nations
24/01/06	 REC. 1731 Recommendation Europe's contribution to improving water management
24/01/06	 REC. 1732 Recommendation Integration of immigrant women in Europe
24/01/06	 RES. 1477 Resolution Implementation of Resolution 1415 (2005) on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Georgia
24/01/06	 RES. 1478 Resolution Integration of immigrant women in Europe
25/01/06	 RES. 1479 Resolution Human rights violations in the Chechen Republic: the Committee of Ministers' responsibility vis-à-vis the Assembly's concerns
25/01/06	 REC. 1733 Recommendation Human rights violations in the Chechen Republic: the Committee of Ministers' responsibility vis-à-vis the Assembly's concerns
25/01/06	 RES. 1480 Resolution The challenge of still unratified credentials of the parliamentary delegation of Azerbaijan on substantial grounds
25/01/06	 RES. 1481 Resolution Need for international condemnation of crimes of totalitarian communist regimes
26/01/06	 REC. 1734 Recommendation Situation in Belarus on the eve of the presidential election
26/01/06	 RES. 1482 Resolution Situation in Belarus on the eve of the presidential election
26/01/06	 RES. 1483 Resolution Policy of return for failed asylum seekers in the Netherlands
26/01/06	 REC. 1735 Recommendation The concept of "nation"
27/01/06	 RES. 1484 Resolution Relocation of economic activities abroad and European economic development
27/01/06	 RES. 1485 Resolution Implications for Europe of the economic resurgence of China
27/01/06	 OPI. 258 Opinion Draft Protocol on the avoidance of statelessness in relation to state succession

Domme afsagt af Den Europæiske Menneskerettighedsdomstol i nordiske sager

- 11.01.2006 Sørensen and Rasmussen v. Denmark (no. 52562/99 and 52620/99): violation of Article 11 (freedom of association)
- 17.01.2006 Goussev and Marenk v. Finland (no. 35083/97): violation of Article 10 (freedom of expression)
- 17.01.2006 Soini and others v. Finland (no. 36404/97): violation of Article 10 (freedom of expression)
- 17.01.2006 Danell and others v. Sweden (no. 54695/00): Friendly settlement (Article 6 §1 - right to a fair hearing within a reasonable time, and Article 13 - right to an effective remedy)
- 17.01.2006 Elli Poluhas Dödsbo v. Sweden (no. 61564/00): No violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life)
- 17.01.2006 Hagert v. Finland (no. 14724/02): Violation of Article 6 §1 (length of proceedings).

"Culinary Cultures of Europe" wins the award for the best culinary history book



The book [Culinary cultures of Europe-Identity, diversity and dialogue](#), published in November 2005 by Council of Europe Publishing, has won the award for the "best culinary history book" in English. This allows it to compete for the prize for the "best culinary history book in the world", which will be awarded in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 21 May 2006.

Nearly 6,000 books from 65 countries entered the competition in 2005 for the 11th round of the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards. These international prizes, created in 1995 by Edouard Cointreau, are awarded every year to books that foster knowledge of, and respect for, the various food and wine cultures.

Møder i februar

(hvor intet andet er nævnt, holdes mødet i Strasbourg)

- 30/1-1. Konference: Disadvantaged neighbourhoods - what opportunities for children and young people?
1. Ministerkomitéen
6. Konference: to launch the Adriatic Euro-region (Venedig)
- 7.-8. Ministerkomitéen
15. Ministerkomitéen
21. Deadline for regeringerne til at svare Generalsekretæren på hans spørgsmål om hemmelige CIA fængsler og- transporter (resultatet af Generalsekretærens undersøgelse ventes offentliggjort i slutningen af februar eller begyndelsen af marts)
28. 10-års dagen for Ruslands optagelse i Europarådet

**”Nyt fra Europarådet” udgives 11 gange om året af
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