

# Copenhagen Declaration on ECHR reform adopted

Fredag 13. april 2018

**Danish Minister of Justice Søren Pape Poulsen announces that Denmark has negotiated a milestone agreement on further reforms of the ECHR system in Copenhagen.**

The Copenhagen Declaration was today formally adopted by all 47 Member States of the Council of Europe following a High-Level Conference in Copenhagen attended by more than 20 European ministers.

**Mr. Pape Poulsen said:**

*I am proud and happy to announce that the Copenhagen Declaration now has been formally adopted by all 47 Member States of the Council of Europe.*

*This is an important day for us, and for Europe. An effective human rights system is a benefit for all of Europe. Having a direct effect on more than 800 million people. The Copenhagen Declaration introduces an ambitious package of reforms leading to a more balanced, focused and effective European Human Rights system.*

*With today's agreement, we strengthen the commitment of all the Member States to respect basic human rights. The Declaration makes it clear that the primary responsibility for guaranteeing human rights rests with the government, the parliament and courts of a country. At the same time, we improve the ability of the Strasbourg Court to do its job in a more effective and balanced way. The Strasbourg Court must be in a position to ensure the highest protection of fundamental rights. And the Copenhagen Declaration will help secure that vital role of the Court.*

*Importantly, we also underline the need for increased dialogue moving forward. Between all stakeholders. On our respective roles. And on development of human rights. This will anchor the development of human rights more solidly in our European democracies. Ensuring stronger support and ownership of human rights.*