

Key dates

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Key dates

7–10 May 1948

The Congress of Europe in The Hague proposes the convening of a European assembly and the setting up of a court of justice responsible for ensuring compliance with the Charter of Human Rights.

18 August 1948

In a memorandum addressed to the Governments concerned, the *International Committee of the Movements for European Unity* proposes a specific procedure for the convening of a European Assembly.

26 October 1948

The Consultative Council of the Brussels Treaty Powers sets up a *Committee for the Study of European Unity* which meets in Paris from November 1948 to January 1949.

27–28 January 1949

At a meeting of the Consultative Council of the Brussels Treaty Powers, the Foreign Ministers of the five Powers agree on the establishment of a Council of Europe consisting of a ‘ministerial committee’ and a ‘consultative body’.

3–5 May 1949

The Conference on the establishment of a Council of Europe is held at St James’s Palace, London, and results in the signing of the organisation’s Statute by 10 founding states on 5 May 1949. The Council of Europe establishes a Consultative Assembly and a Committee of Ministers, to be aided by a Secretariat.

3 August 1949

Entry into force of the Statute of the Council of Europe.

4 November 1950

Signing in Rome of the *Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms*. The Convention establishes a judicial instrument for monitoring human rights which consists of a Commission and a Court of Human Rights.

3 September 1953

Entry into force of the European Convention on Human Rights.

13 September 1961

Establishment of the *Conference of Local Authorities of Europe*.

18 October 1961

Signing in Turin of the *European Social Charter*. It enters into force on 26 February 1966.

19 February 1975

The *Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe* replaces the Conference of Local Authorities of Europe. In 1979, it becomes the *Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe*.

15 October 1985

Signing of the *European Charter of Local Self-Government*. It enters into force on 9 September 1988.

26 November 1987

Signing of the *European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*. It enters into force on 1 February 1989.

5 May 1989

To mark the 40th anniversary of the Council of Europe, the Committee of Ministers adopts a declaration which inaugurates the organisation’s policy of openness towards the countries of Central and Eastern

Europe.

6 November 1990

Hungary's accession heralds the first enlargement to include countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

9 October 1993

First Council of Europe Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Vienna, results in the adoption of a new strategy based on the concept of democratic security.

14 January 1994

Establishment of the *Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe*, consisting of two chambers, with the Congress replacing the Standing Conference.

11 May 1994

Signing of Protocol No 11 to the European Convention on Human Rights establishing a single Court of Human Rights.

1 February 1995

Signing of the *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities*. It enters into force on 1 February 1998.

10–11 October 1997

Second Council of Europe Summit of Heads of State and Government in Strasbourg. An action plan, annexed to the Final Declaration, sets out the main tasks facing the organisation in the future, particularly in the run-up to its 50th anniversary on 5 May 1999.

1 November 1998

Entry into force of Protocol No 11 on the new, single Court of Human Rights.